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(54) **REMOTE IMAGE CAPTURE WITH CENTRALIZED PROCESSING AND STORAGE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... None
See application file for complete search history.

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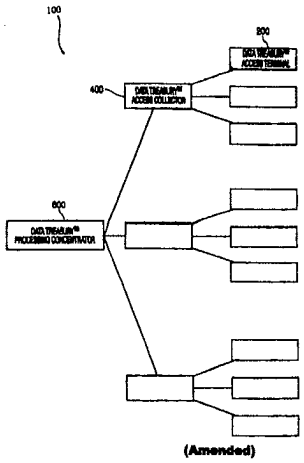
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for remote data acquisition and centralized processing and storage is disclosed called the DataTreasury™ System. The DataTreasury™ System provides comprehensive support for the processing of documents and electronic data associated with different applications including sale, business, banking and general consumer transactions. The system retrieves transaction data at one or more remote locations, encrypts the data, transmits the encrypted data to a central location, transforms the data to a usable form, performs identification verification using signature data and biometric data, generates informative reports from the data and transmits the informative reports to the remote location(s). The DataTreasury™ System has many advantageous features which work together to provide high performance, security, reliability, fault tolerance and low cost. First, the network architecture facilitates secure communication between the remote location(s) and the central processing facility. A dynamic address assignment algorithm performs load balancing among the system's servers for faster performance and higher utilization. Finally, a partitioning scheme improves the error correction process.



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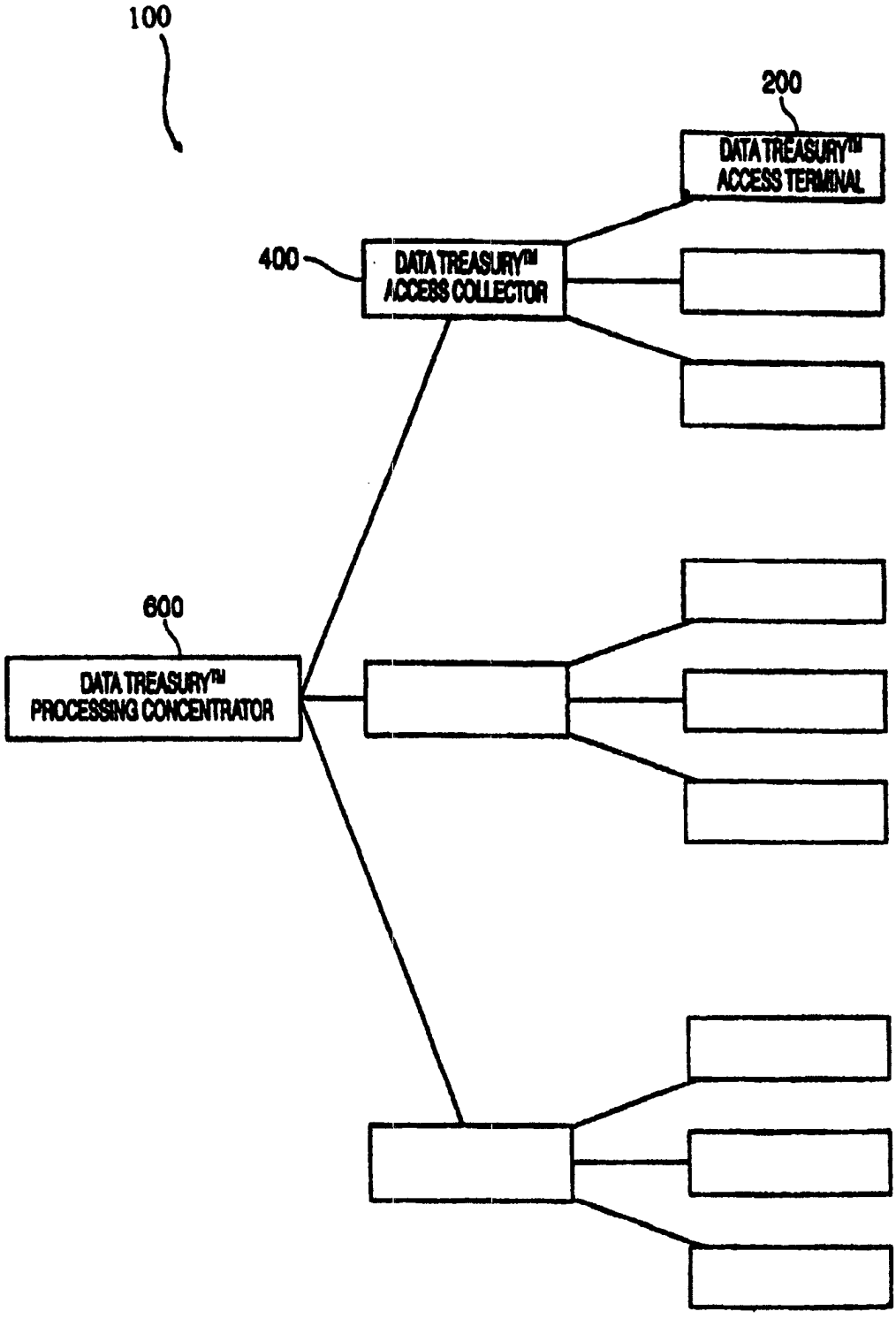

FIG. 1 (Amended)

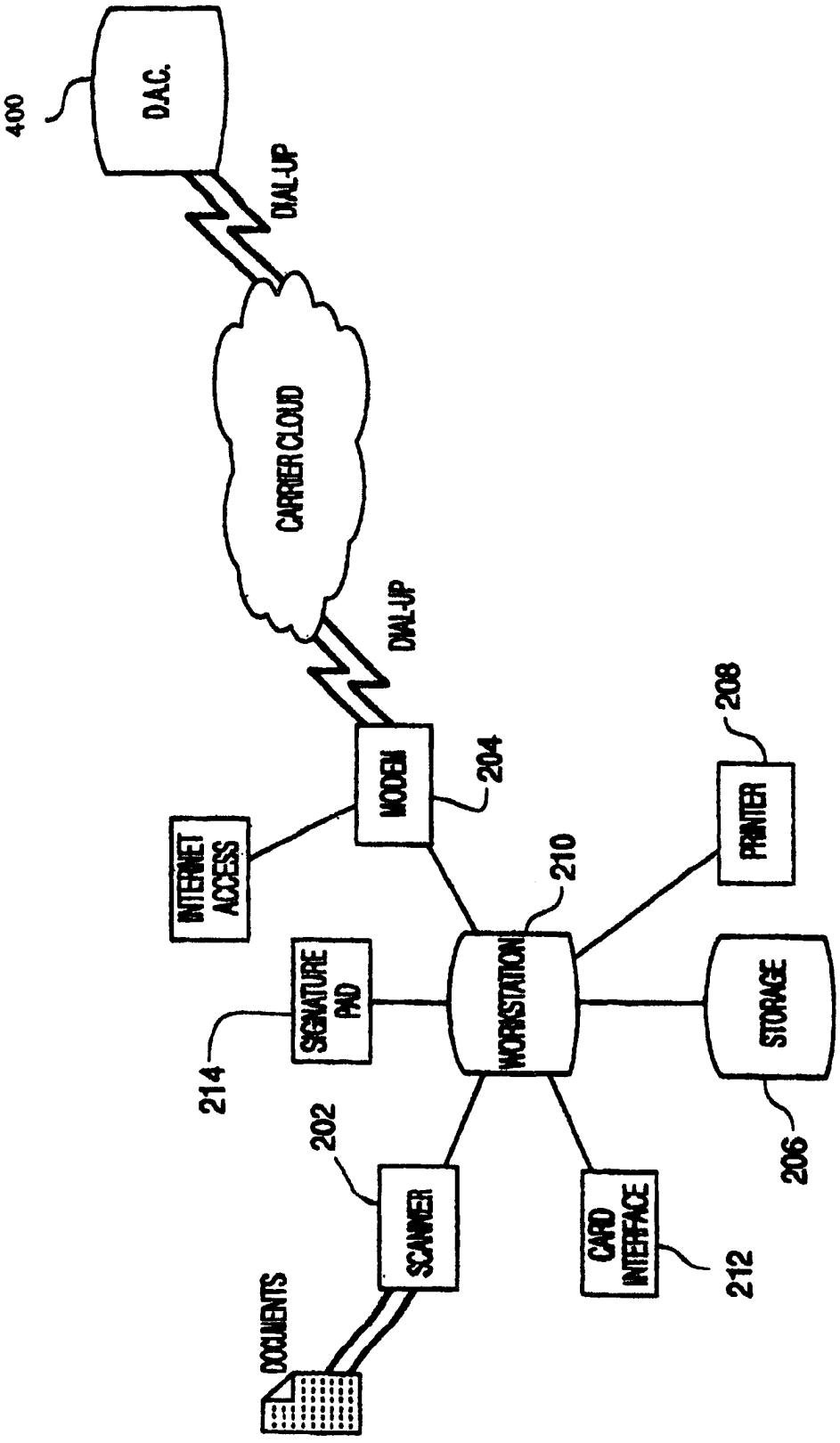

FIG. 2 (Amended)

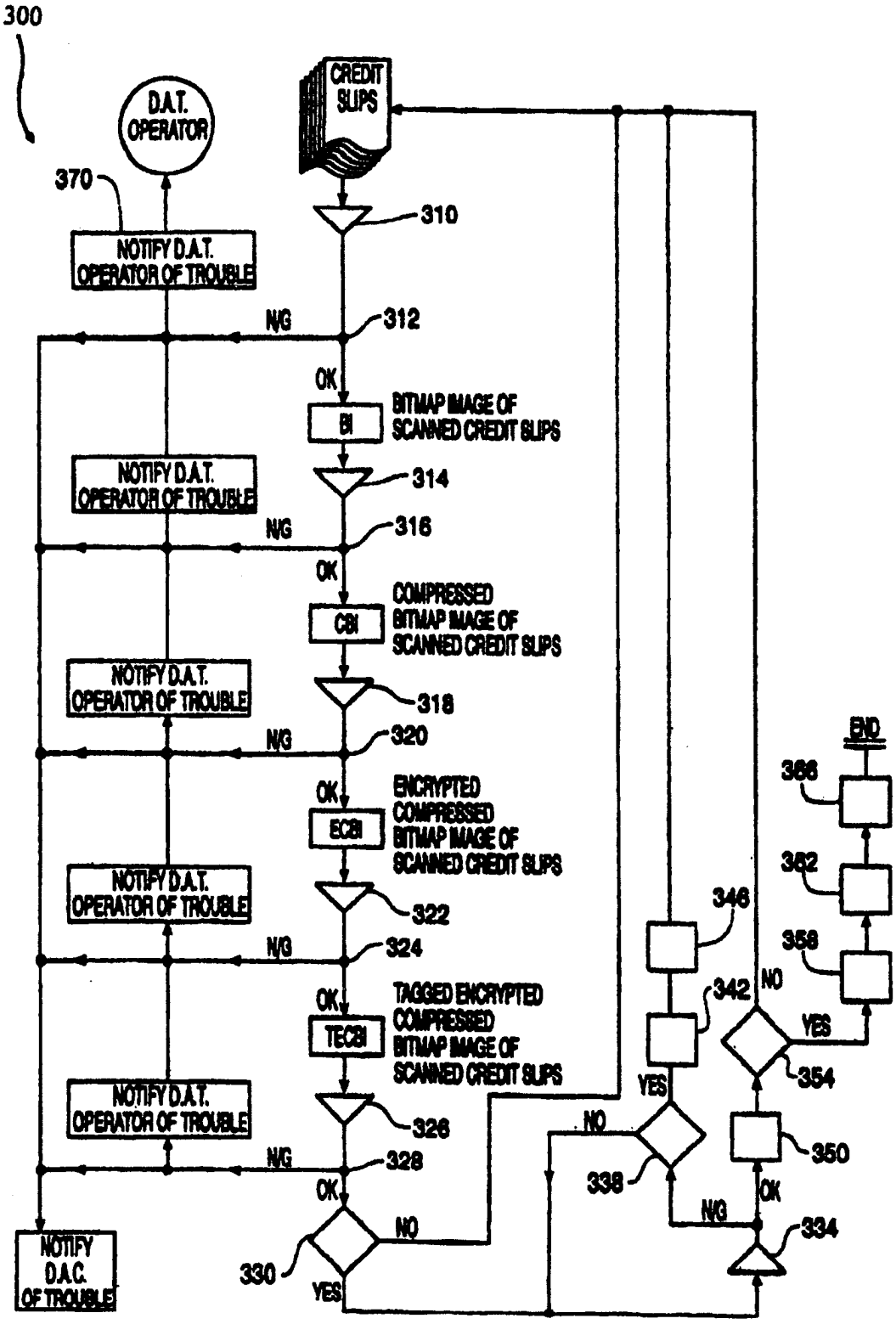

FIG. 3A (Amended)

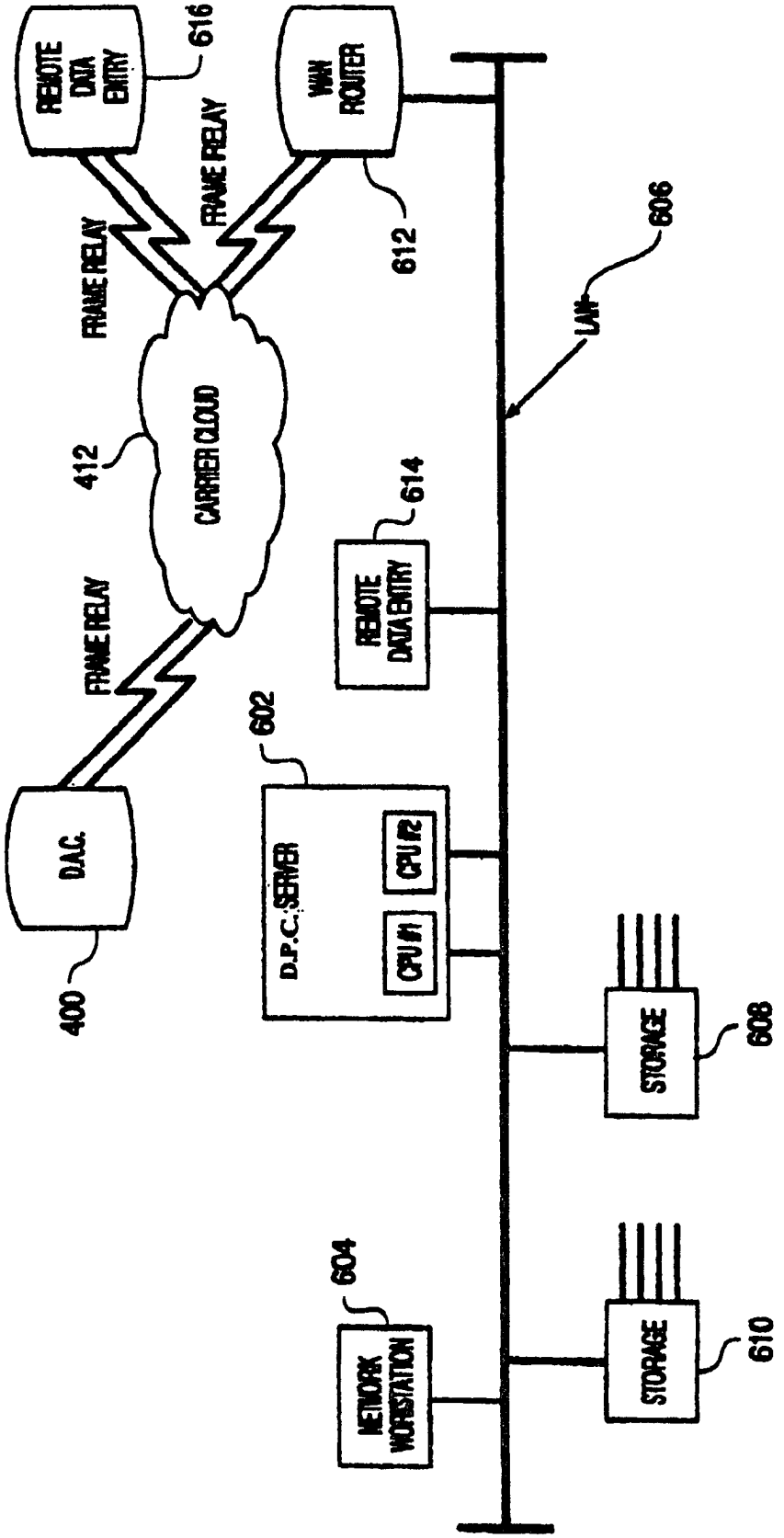

FIG. 6 (Amended)

EX PARTE REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 307

THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS INDICATED BELOW.

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appeared in the patent, but has been deleted and is no longer a part of the patent; matter printed in italics indicates additions made to the patent.

ONLY THOSE PARAGRAPHS OF THE SPECIFICATION AFFECTED BY AMENDMENT ARE PRINTED HEREIN.

Column 6, lines 7–19:

The use of glyph technology in the DataTreasury™ System **100** improves the accuracy, cost and performance of the system. Xerox DataGlyph™ Technology includes error correction codes which can be referenced to correct scanning errors or to correct damage to the document caused by ink spills or ordinary wear. DataGlyph™ Technology also leads to decreased system cost since the system will require less manual intervention for data entry and correction because of the improved accuracy associated with DataGlyph™ elements. Since DataGlyph™ elements represent a large amount of information in a small amount of space, the DAT scanner **[100]** *202* will require a small amount of time to input a large amount of information.

Column 15, lines 53–62:

A DPC LAN **606** facilitates communication among the devices which are connected to the LAN **606** including the DPC server **602** and the network workstation **604**. In the preferred embodiment, the DPC LAN **606** uses a switched 100BaseT/10BaseT communication hardware layer protocol like the DAC LAN **406** discussed earlier. In the preferred embodiment, the DPC LAN **[406]** *606* is a high speed OC2 network topology backbone supporting TCP/IP. The CISCO Catalyst 5500 Network Switch supports the DPC LAN **606** connectivity among the devices connected to the LAN **606**.

Column 20, lines 11–20:

FIG. **7** is a flow chart **700** describing the polling of the DACs **[300]** *400* by a DPC **600** and the transmission of the TECBIs from the DACs **[300]** *400* to the DPC **600**. In step **702**, the DPC **600** reads the address of the first DAC **[300]** *400* in its region for polling. In step **704**, the DPC **600** connects with a DAC **[300]** *400* for transmission. The DPC **600** determines whether the connection to the DAC **[300]** *400* was successful in step **706**. If the call to the DAC **[300]** *400* was unsuccessful, the DPC **600** will record the error condition in the session summary report and will report the error to the DPC **600** manager in step **722**.

Column 20, lines 21–25:

If the connection to the DAC **[300]** *400* was successful, the DPC **600** will verify that the DAC **[300]** *400* is ready to transmit in step **708**. If the DAC **[300]** *400* is not ready to transmit, the DPC **600** will record the error condition in the session summary report and will report the error to the DPC **600** manager in step **722**.

Column 20, lines 26–33:

If the DAC **[300]** *400* is ready to transmit in step **708**, the DAC **[300]** *400* will transmit a TECBI packet header to the DPC **600** in step **710**. The DPC **600** will determine whether the transmission of the TECBI packet header was successful

in step **712**. If the transmission of the TECBI packet header was unsuccessful, the DPC **600** will record the error condition in the session summary report and will report the error to the DPC **600** manager in step **722**.

Column 20, lines 34–41:

If the transmission of the TECBI packet header was successful in step **712**, the DAC **[300]** *400* will transmit a TECBI package to the DPC **600** in step **714**. The DPC **600** will determine whether the transmission of the TECBI packet was successful in step **716**. If the transmission of the TECBI packet header was unsuccessful, the DPC **600** will record the error condition in the session summary report and will report the error to the DPC **600** manager in step **722**.

Column 20, lines 49–59:

If the TECBI packet header matched the TECBI packet in step **718**, the DPC **600** will set the status of the TECBI packet to indicate that it was received at the DPC **600** in step **720**. The DPC **600** will also transmit the status to the DAC **[300]** *400* to indicate successful completion of the polling and transmission session in step **720**. Next, the DPC **600** will determine whether TECBIs have been transmitted from all of the DACs **[300]** *400* in its region in step **724**. If all DACs **[300]** *400* in the DPC's **600** region have transmitted TECBIs to the DPC **600**, the DPC **600** will compile a DAC **[300]** *400* status report in step **728** before terminating the session.

Column 20, lines 60–65:

If one or more DACs **[300]** *400* in the DPC's **600** region have not transmitted TECBIs to the DPC **600**, the DPC **600** will get the address of the next DAC **[300]** *400* in the region in step **726**. Next, control returns to step **704** where the next DAC **[300]** *400* in the DPC's **600** region will be polled as previously discussed.

THE DRAWING FIGURES HAVE BEEN CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

Reference number **100** added to FIG. **1**.

Reference number **300** changed to **400** in FIG. **2**.

Reference number **300** added to FIG. **3A**.

Text "D.A.C." changed to "D.P.C." in box **602** of FIG. **6**.

AS A RESULT OF REEXAMINATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT:

The patentability of claims **26–50** is confirmed.

Claim **1** is determined to be patentable as amended.

Claims **2–25**, dependent on an amended claim, are determined to be patentable.

New claims **51–123** are added and determined to be patentable.

1. A system for central management, storage and report generation of remotely captured paper transactions from documents and receipts comprising:

one or more remote data access subsystems for capturing and sending paper transaction data and subsystem identification information comprising at least one imaging subsystem for capturing the documents and receipts and at least one data access controller for managing the capturing and sending of the transaction data;

at least one central data processing subsystem for processing, sending, verifying and storing the paper

transaction data and the subsystem identification information comprising a management subsystem for managing the processing, sending and storing [of the] of the transaction data; and

at least one communication network for the transmission of the transaction data within and between said one or more data access subsystems and said at least one data processing subsystem, with the data access subsystem providing encrypted subsystem identification information and encrypted paper transaction data to the data processing subsystem.

51. A system as in claim 1 wherein said one or more data access subsystems also capture electronic transactions from at least one of credit cards and debit cards.

52. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one card interface for capturing electronic transaction data.

53. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one signature interface for capturing an electronic signature.

54. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one biometric interface for capturing biometric data.

55. A system as in claim 1 wherein the system automatically generates at least one of credit card statements, bank statements, and tax reports.

56. A system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one central data processing subsystem polls said one or more remote data access subsystems for transaction data.

57. A system as in claim 1 wherein said transaction data comprises more than one type of transaction data.

58. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one data collecting subsystem for collecting and sending electronic transaction data and paper transaction data, the at least one data collecting subsystem further comprising a management subsystem for managing the collecting and sending of the electronic transaction data and the paper transaction data.

59. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one data collecting subsystem for collecting and sending at least electronic transaction data, the at least one data collecting subsystem further comprising a management subsystem for managing the collecting and sending of the at least electronic transaction data.

60. A system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one data collecting subsystem for collecting and sending at least the paper transaction data, the at least one data collecting subsystem further comprising a management subsystem for managing the collecting and sending of at least the paper transaction data.

61. A method as in claim 26 further comprising capturing electronic transaction data.

62. A method as in claim 26 further comprising capturing an electronic signature.

63. A method as in claim 26 further comprising capturing biometric data.

64. A method as in claim 26 further comprising automatically generating at least one of credit card statements, bank statements, and tax reports.

65. A method as in claim 26 wherein said transaction data comprises more than one type of transaction data.

66. A method as in claim 26 wherein said capturing and sending occurs at a plurality of remote locations; said collecting, processing, sending and storing occurs at a plurality of central locations; and further comprising:

collecting and sending transaction data at a plurality of intermediate locations;

managing the collecting and sending of the transaction data; and

transmitting the transaction data within the intermediate locations and between the intermediate locations and the remote locations and the central locations.

67. A method as in claim 26 wherein said capturing and sending occurs at a plurality of remote locations; said collecting, processing, sending and storing occurs at a plurality of central locations; and further comprising:

collecting and sending the paper transaction data at a plurality of intermediate lcoations;

managing the collecting and sending of the paper transaction data; and

transmitting the paper transaction data within the intermediate locations and between the intermediate locations and the remote locations and the central locations.

68. A method as in claim 26 wherein said capturing and sending occurs at a plurality of remote locations; said collecting, processing, sending and storing occurs at a plurality of central locations; and further comprising:

collecting and sending electronic transaction data at a plurality of intermediate locations;

managing the collecting and sending of the electronic transaction data; and

transmitting the electronic transaction data within the intermediate locations and between the intermediate locations and the remote locations and the central locations.

69. A method as in claim 26 wherein said capturing and sending occurs at a plurality of remote locations; said collecting, processing, sending and storing occurs at a plurality of central locations; and further comprising:

collecting and sending electronic transaction data and the paper transaction data at a plurality of intermediate locations;

managing the collecting and sending of the electronic transaction data and the paper transaction data; and

transmitting the paper transaction data and the electronic transaction data within the intermediate locations and between the intermediate locations and the remote locations and the central locations.

70. A communcation network as in claim 42 wherein said at least one central data processing subsystem automatically generates at least one of credit card statements, bank statements, and tax reports.

71. A communication network as in claim 42 wherein said at least one central data processing subsystem polls said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem for transaction data.

72. A communication network as in claim 42 wherein the said data comprises more than one type of transaction data.

73. A communication network as in claim 42 wherein said one or more remote data processing subsystems comprise a plurality of remote data processing subsystems and said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem comprises a plurality of intermediate data collecting subsystems.

74. A communication network as in claim 42 wherein said one or more remote data processing subsystems comprise a plurality of remote data processing subsystems, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem comprises a plurality of intermediate data collecting subsystems, and said at least one central subsystem comprises a plurality of central subsystems.

75. A method as in claim 46 further comprising automatically generating at least one of credit card statements, bank statements, and tax reports.

76. A method as in claim 46 further comprising automatically generating credit card statements.

77. A method as in claim 46 further comprising automatically generating bank statements.

78. A method as in claim 46 further comprising automatically generating tax reports.

79. A method as in claim 46 further comprising polling the remote locations.

80. A method as in claim 46 further comprising polling the intermediate locations.

81. A method as in claim 46 wherein said data comprises more than one type of transaction data.

82. A method as in claim 46 wherein said one or more remote subsystems comprise a plurality of remote subsystems and said at least one intermediate subsystem comprises a plurality of intermediate subsystems.

83. A method as in claim 46 wherein said one or more remote subsystems comprise a plurality of remote subsystems, said at least one intermediate subsystem comprises a plurality of intermediate subsystems and said at least one central subsystem comprises a plurality of central subsystems.

84. A communication network for the transmission of data within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems that provide remote data processing subsystem identification information, at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and at least one central data processing subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said remote data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of documents and receipts, comprising:

at least one first local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said one or more remote data processing subsystems;

at least one second local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one third local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one central data processing subsystem; and

at least one wide area network for transmitting data between said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and said at least one central data processing subsystem.

85. A communication network as in claim 84 further comprising:

at least one first modem for connecting said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems to a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network through said at least one wide area network;

at least one bank of modems for connecting said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to a corresponding some of said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems through said at least one wide area network;

at least one first wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to said at least one wide area network; and

at least one second wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one third local area network of said at least one central data processing subsystem to said at least one wide area network.

86. A communication network as in claim 85 wherein said at least one first wide area network and said at least one second wide area network comprise a carrier cloud which utilizes a frame relay method for transmitting the transaction data.

87. A communication network as in claim 86 wherein said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network further comprise a corresponding one of at least one network switch for routing data within said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network; and further wherein said data comprises at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from credit cards, smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, and (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

88. A method for transmitting data within and between one or more remote subsystems that provide remote subsystem identification information, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with at least one intermediate subsystem and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one remote subsystems comprising:

capturing an image of documents and receipts and extracting data therefrom;

transmitting data within remote locations;

transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations;

transmitting data within the intermediate locations;

transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data within the central locations.

89. A method as in claim 88 wherein said transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations step comprises:

connecting each remote location to a corresponding intermediate location; and

connecting the intermediate locations to corresponding remote locations.

90. A method as in claim 89 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations comprises:

connecting each intermediate location to an external communication network; and connecting the corresponding central locations to the external communication network.

91. A method as in claim 90 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations step further comprises:

packaging the transaction data into frames; and

transmitting the frames through the external communication network.

92. A method as in claim 88 wherein said data is obtained from at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from credit cards, smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, and (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

93. A communication network for the transmission of data within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems, at least one intermediate data collecting sub-

system and at least one central data processing subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said remote data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of documents and receipts, comprising:

at least one first local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said one or more remote data processing subsystems;

at least one second local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one third local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one central data processing subsystem; and

at least one wide area network for transmitting data between said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and said at least one central data processing subsystem;

wherein the at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem calls the one or more remote data processing subsystems.

94. A communication network as in claim 93 further comprising:

at least one first modem for connecting said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems to a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network through said at least one wide area network;

at least one bank of modems for connecting said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to a corresponding some of said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems through said at least one wide area network;

at least one first wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to said at least one wide area network; and

at least one second wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one third local area network of said at least one central subsystem to said at least one wide area network.

95. A communication network as in claim 94 wherein said at least one first wide area network and said at least one second wide area network comprise a carrier cloud which utilizes a frame relay method for transmitting the data.

96. A communication network as in claim 95 wherein said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network further comprise a corresponding one of at least one network switch for routing data within said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network; and further wherein said data comprises at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from credit cards, smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, and (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

97. A method for transmitting data within and between one or more remote subsystems, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with at least one intermediate subsystem and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one remote subsystems comprising:

capturing an image of documents and receipts and extracting data therefrom;

transmitting data within remote locations;

transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations;

transmitting data within the intermediate locations;

the intermediate locations calling the remote locations;

transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data within the central locations.

98. A method as in claim 97 wherein said transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations step comprises:

connecting each remote location to a corresponding intermediate location; and

connecting the intermediate locations to corresponding remote locations.

99. A method as in claim 98 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations comprises:

connecting each intermediate location to an external communication network; and

connecting the corresponding central locations to the external communication network.

100. A method as in claim 99 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations further comprises:

packaging the data into frames; and

transmitting the frames through the external communication network.

101. A method as in claim 97 wherein said data is obtained from at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from credit cards, smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, and (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

102. A communication network for the transmission of data comprising data from credit card transactions within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems, at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and at least one central data processing subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said remote data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of documents and receipts, comprising:

at least one first local area network that transmits data comprising data from credit card transactions within a corresponding one of said one or more remote data processing subsystems;

at least one second local area network that transmits data comprising data from credit card transactions within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one third local area network that transmits data comprising data from credit card transactions within a corresponding one of said at least one central data processing subsystem; and

at least one wide area network that transmits data comprising data from credit card transactions between said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and said at least one central data processing subsystem.

103. A communication network as in claim 102 further comprising:

at least one first modem for connecting said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems to a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network through said at least one wide area network;

at least one bank of modems for connecting said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate subsystem to a corresponding some of said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems through said at least one wide area network;

at least one first wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to said at least one wide area network; and

at least one second wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one third local area network of said at least one central data processing subsystem to said at least one wide area network.

104. A communication network as in claim 103 wherein said at least one first wide area network and said at least one second wide area network comprise a carrier cloud which utilizes a frame relay method for transmitting the data.

105. A communication network as in claim 104 wherein said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network further comprise a corresponding one of at least one network switch for routing data within said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network; and wherein said transmitted data further comprises data from at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, or (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

106. A method for transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions within and between one or more remote subsystems, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with at least one intermediate subsystem and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one remote subsystems, comprising:

capturing an image of documents and receipts and extracting data comprising data from credit card transactions therefrom;

transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions within remote locations;

transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations;

transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions within the intermediate locations;

transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data comprising data from credit card transactions within the central locations.

107. A method as in claim 106 wherein said transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations step comprises:

connecting each remote location to a corresponding intermediate location; and

connecting the intermediate locations to corresponding remote locations.

108. A method as in claim 107 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations comprises:

connecting each intermediate location to an external communication network; and

connecting the corresponding central locations to the external communication network.

109. A method as in claim 108 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations step further comprises:

packaging the data into frames; and

transmitting the frames through the external communication network.

110. A communication network for the transmission of data comprising data from internet transactions within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems, at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and at least one central data processing subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said remote data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of documents and receipts, comprising:

at least one first local area network that transmits data comprising data from internet transactions within a corresponding one of said one or more remote data processing subsystems;

at least one second local area network that transmits data comprising data from internet transactions within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one third local area network that transmits data comprising data from internet transactions within a corresponding one of said at least one central data processing subsystem; and

at least one wide area network that transmits data comprising data from internet transactions between said one or more remote data processing subsystems, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and said at least one central data processing subsystem.

111. A communication network as in claim 110 further comprising:

at least one first modem for connecting said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems to a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network through said at least one wide area network;

at least one bank of modems for connecting said at least one second local area network of said at least one

intermediate data collecting subsystem to a corresponding some of said at least one first local area network of said one or more remote data processing subsystems through said at least one wide area network;

at least one first wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one second local area network of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem to said at least one wide area network; and

at least one second wide area network router for connecting a corresponding one of said at least one third local area network of said at least one central data processing subsystem to said at least one wide area network.

112. A communication network as in claim 111 wherein said at least one first wide area network and said at least one second wide area network comprise a carrier cloud which utilizes a frame relay method for transmitting the data.

113. A communication network as in claim 112 wherein said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network further comprise a corresponding one of at least one network switch for routing data within said at least one second local area network and said at least one third local area network; and wherein said transmitted data further comprises data from at least one of, (a) electronic transactions from credit cards, smart cards and debit cards, signature data or biometric data, and (b) paper transactions from documents and receipts.

114. A method for transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions within and between one or more remote subsystems, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with at least one intermediate subsystem and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one remote subsystems comprising:

capturing an image of documents and receipts and extracting data comprising data from internet transactions therefrom;

transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions within remote locations;

transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations;

transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions within the intermediate locations;

transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data comprising data from internet transactions within the central locations.

115. A method as in claim 114 wherein said transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations comprises:

connecting each remote location to a corresponding intermediate location; and

connecting the intermediate locations to corresponding remote locations.

116. A method as in claim 115 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations comprises:

connecting each intermediate location to an external communication network; and

connecting the corresponding central locations to the external communication network.

117. A method as in claim 116 wherein said transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations step further comprises:

packaging the data into frames; and

transmitting the frames through the external communication network.

118. A communication network for the transmission of data in a secure manner comprising:

at least one remote data processing subsystem;

at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one central data processing subsystem;

said at least one remote data processing subsystem, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem, and said at least one central data processing subsystem forming a tiered architecture;

said data being transmitted in a secure manner within and between said at least one remote data processing subsystem, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem, and said at least one central data processing subsystem;

wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one remote data processing subsystem;

said remote data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of documents and receipts;

said communication network further including:

at least one first local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one remote data processing subsystem;

at least one second local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem;

at least one third local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one central data processing subsystem; and

at least one wide area network for transmitting data between said at least one remote data processing subsystem, said at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and said at least one central data processing subsystem.

119. A communication network as in claim 118 wherein said at least one remote data processing subsystem uniquely identifies the remote data processing subsystem used by a customer.

120. A communication network as in claim 118 wherein said at least one remote data processing subsystem uniquely identifies the remote data processing subsystem used by a customer and at least one of, encrypts and tags the data.

121. A method for transmitting data in a secure manner within and between at least one remote subsystem, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem, said method comprising:

arranging said at least one remote subsystem, said at least one intermediate subsystem, and said at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner;

each of said at least one central subsystem communicating with said at least one intermediate subsystem;

each of said at least one intermediate subsystem communicating with said at least one remote subsystem;

capturing an image of documents and receipts and extracting data therefrom;

transmitting data within remote locations;

transmitting data from each remote location to corresponding intermediate locations;

transmitting data within the intermediate locations;

transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data within the central locations.

122. The method as in claim 121 further comprising uniquely identifying the at least one remote subsystem used by a customer.

123. The method as in claim 121 further comprising:

uniquely identifying the at least one remote subsystem used by a customer; and

at least one of, encrypting and tagging data.

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