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(54) **MULTI-SENSOR SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR DERIVING HUMAN STATUS INFORMATION**

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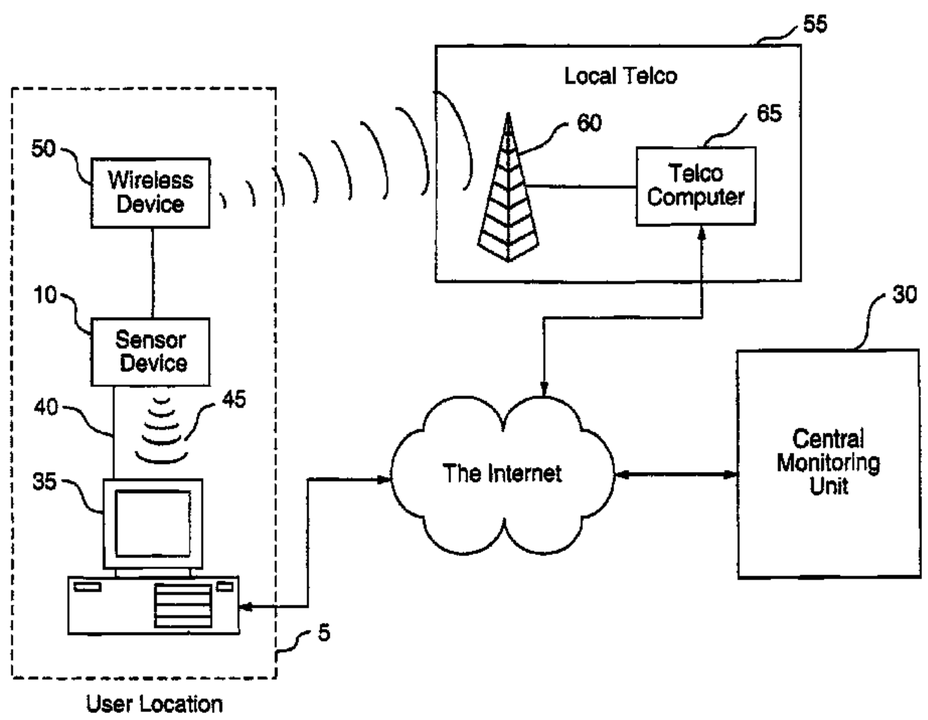
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention is a wireless communications device, such as a cellular telephone, having sensors to generate data indicative of a physiological or contextual parameters of a user. A processor on the wireless communications device is adapted derive physiological state information of the user from the contextual or physiological parameters. The apparatus may include a central monitoring unit remote from the sensors for storing data and transmitting data to a recipient.

7 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



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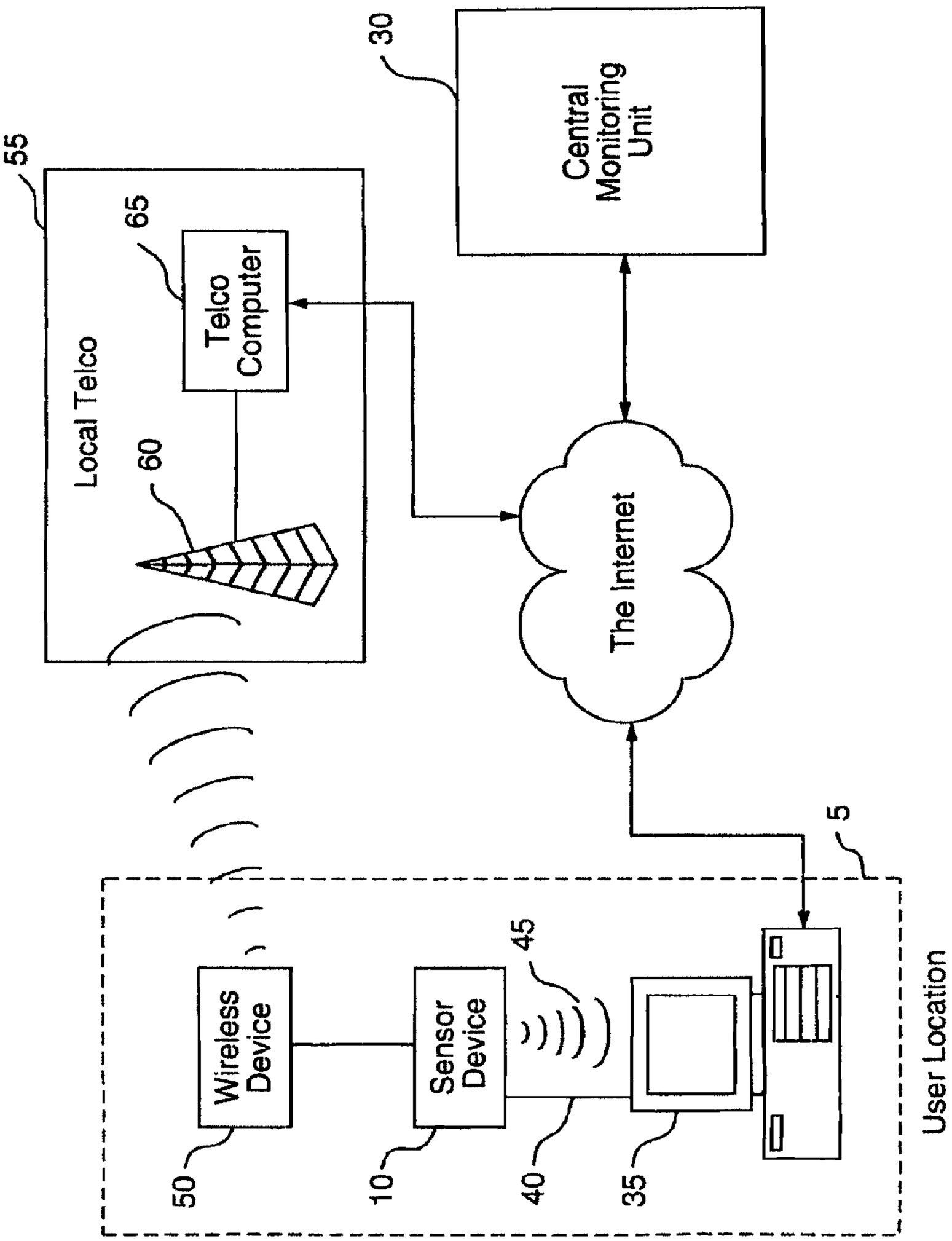

30
Central Monitoring Unit
55
Local Telco
65
Telco Computer
60
The Internet
5
User Location
Wireless Device
Sensor Device
45
50
10
40
35

FIG. 1

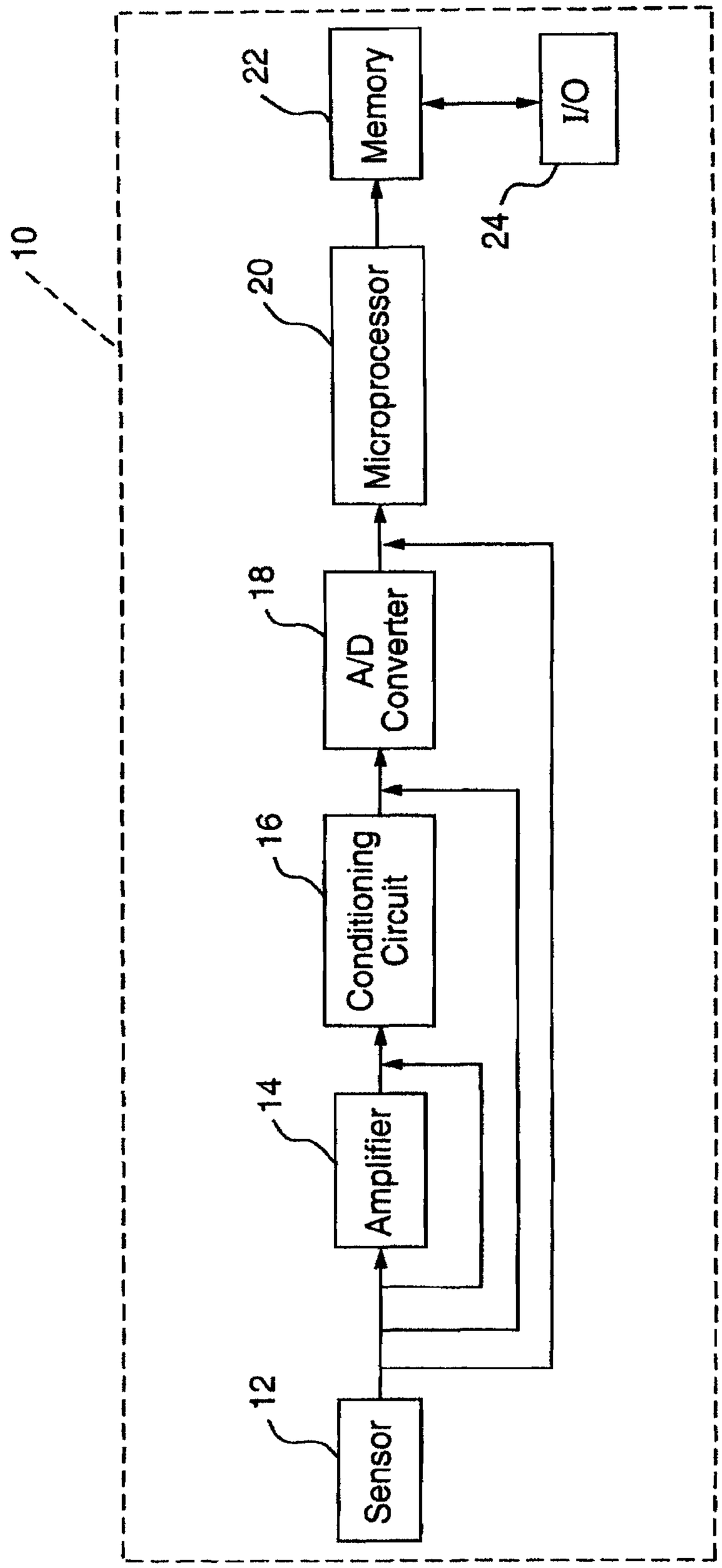

10
12
Sensor
14
Amplifier
16
Conditioning Circuit
18
A/D Converter
20
Microprocessor
22
Memory
24
I/O

FIG. 2

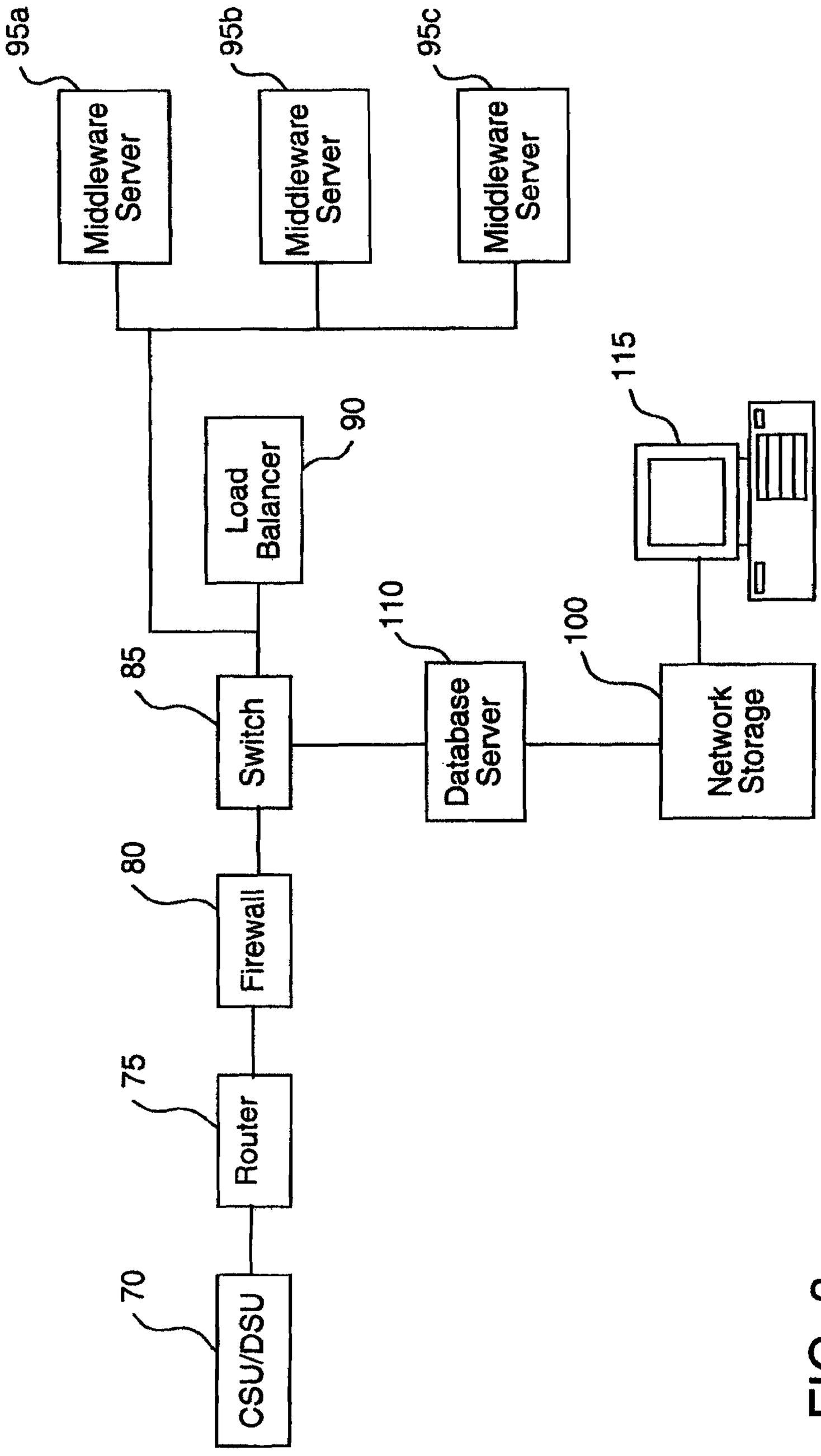

95a
95b
95c
Middleware Server
Middleware Server
Middleware Server
115
90
Load Balancer
110
85
Switch
Database Server
100
Network Storage
80
Firewall
75
Router
70
CSU/DSU

FIG. 3

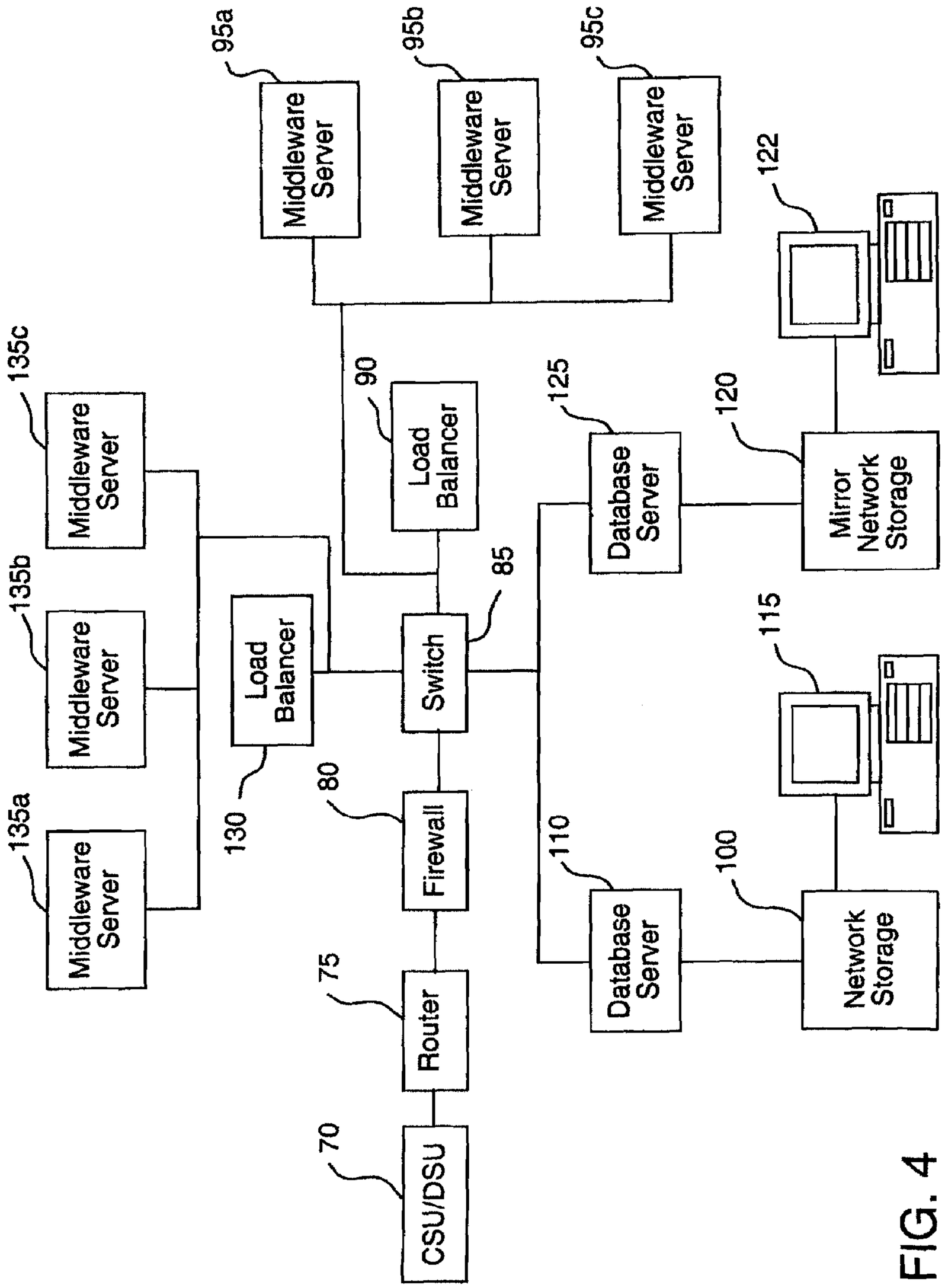

95a
Middleware Server
95b
Middleware Server
95c
Middleware Server
122
135c
Middleware Server
135b
Middleware Server
135a
Middleware Server
90
Load Balancer
125
Database Server
120
Mirror Network Storage
130
Load Balancer
85
Switch
115
80
Firewall
110
Database Server
100
Network Storage
75
Router
70
CSU/DSU

FIG. 4

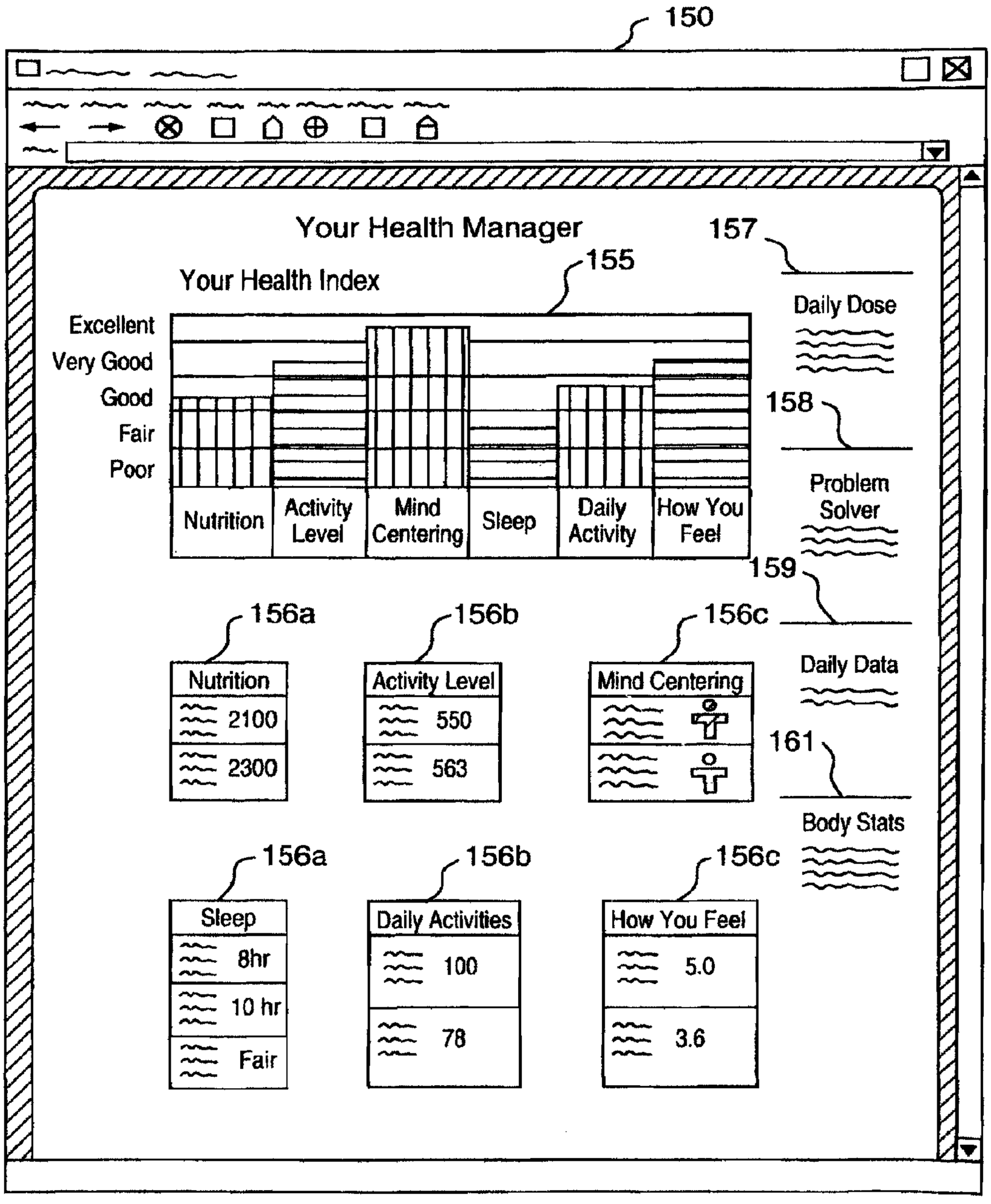

150
Your Health Manager
157
Your Health Index
155
Excellent
Very Good
Good
Fair
Poor
Nutrition
Activity Level
Mind Centering
Sleep
Daily Activity
How You Feel
Daily Dose
158
Problem Solver
159
156a
Nutrition
2100
2300
156b
Activity Level
550
563
156c
Mind Centering
Daily Data
161
Body Stats
156a
Sleep
8hr
10 hr
Fair
156b
Daily Activities
100
78
156c
How You Feel
5.0
3.6

FIG. 5

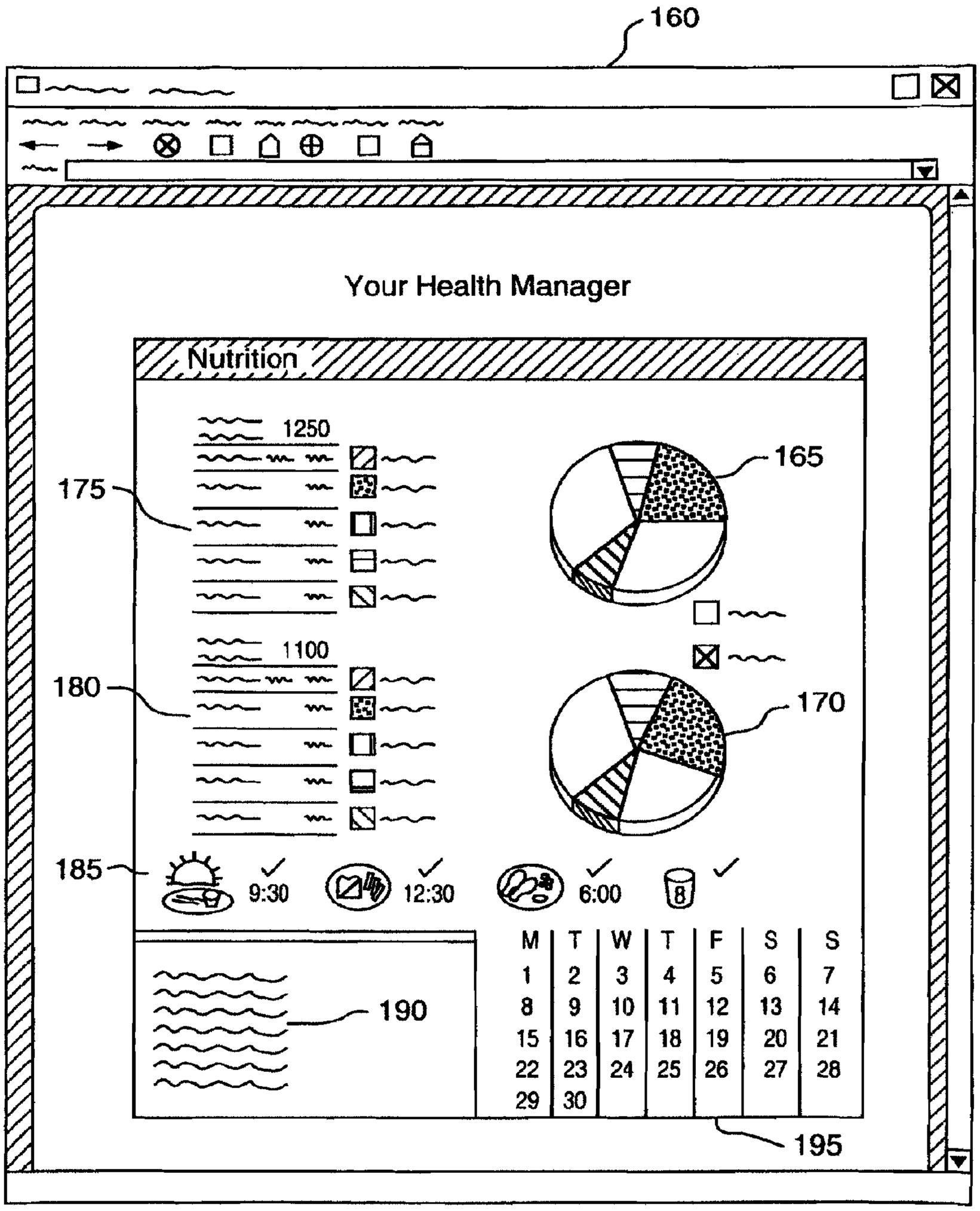

160
Your Health Manager
Nutrition
1250
175
1100
180
165
170
185
9:30
12:30
6:00
190
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
195

FIG. 6

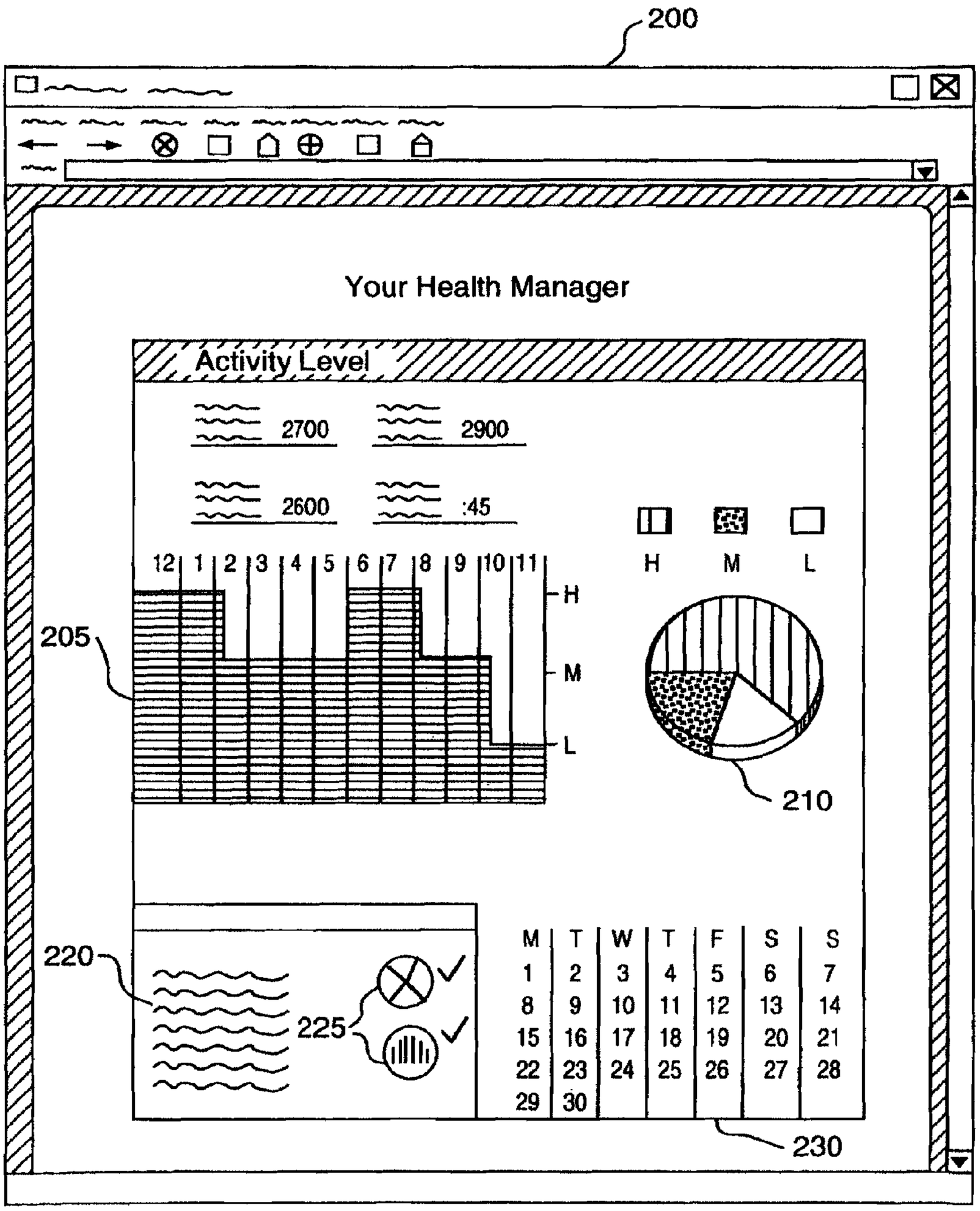

200
Your Health Manager
Activity Level
2700
2900
2600
:45
12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
H
M
L
205
H
M
L
210
220
225
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
230

FIG. 7

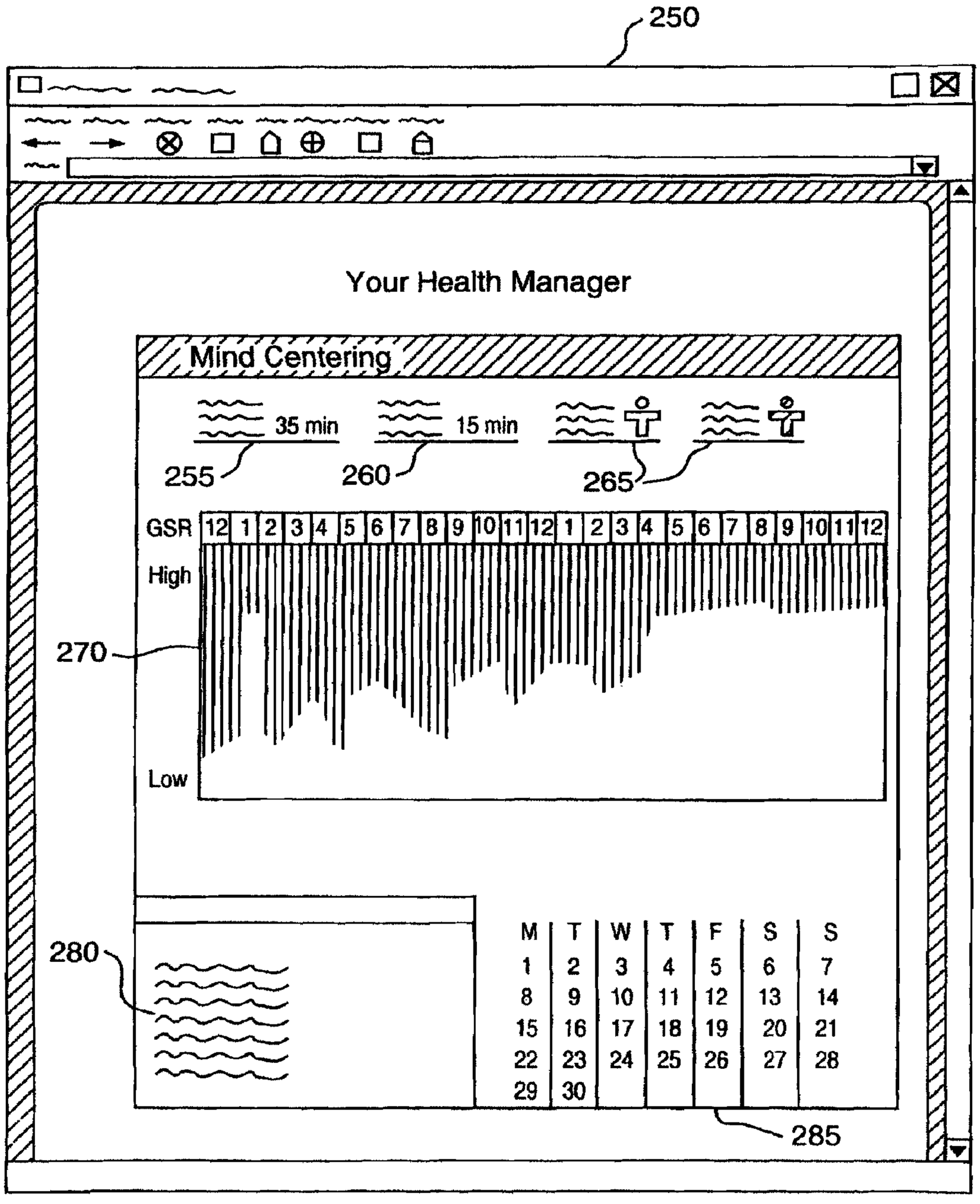

250
Your Health Manager
Mind Centering
35 min
15 min
255
260
265
GSR
12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
High
Low
270
280
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
285

FIG. 8

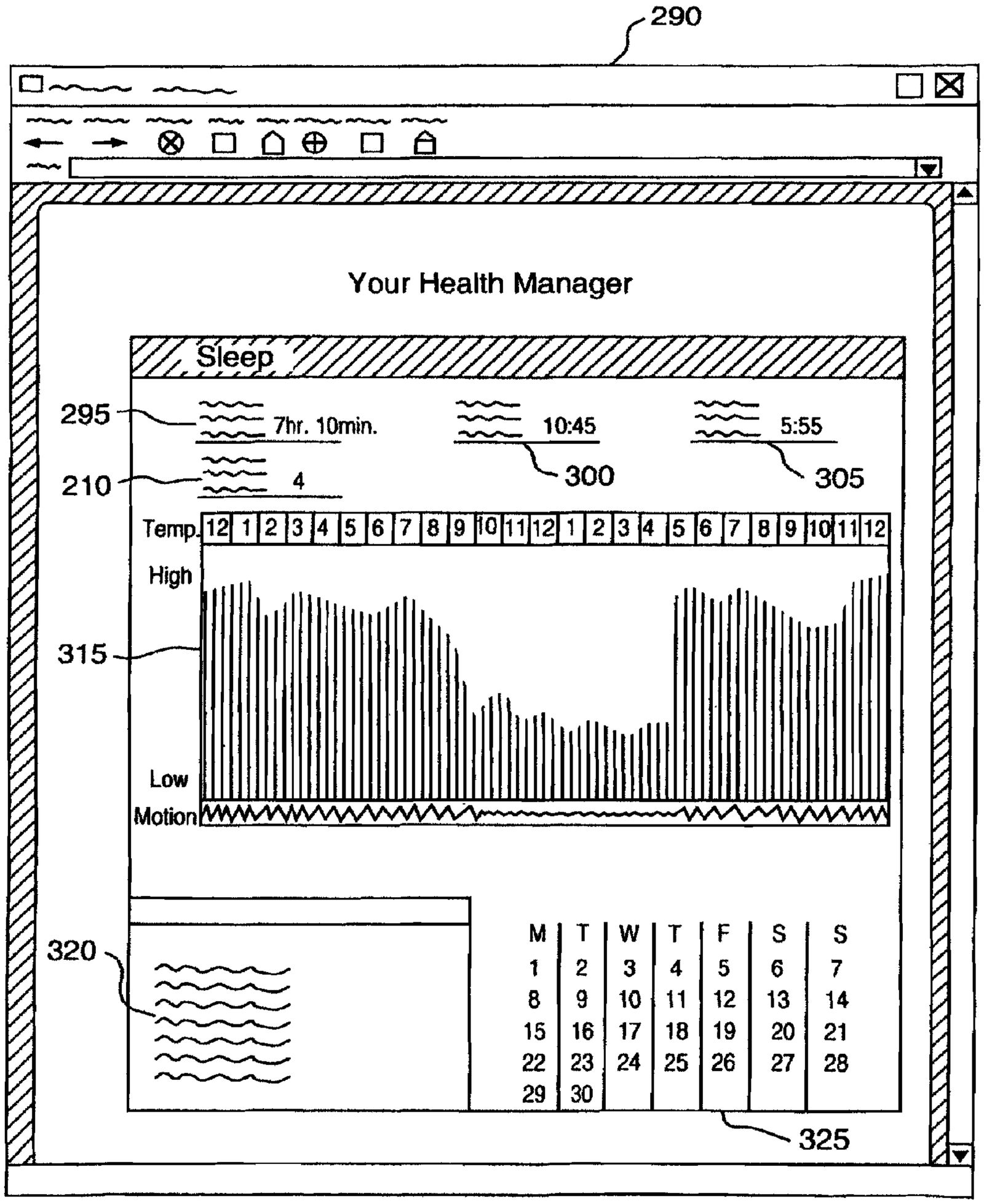

290
Your Health Manager
Sleep
295
7hr. 10min.
10:45
5:55
210
4
300
305
Temp.
12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
High
315
Low
Motion
320
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
325

FIG. 9

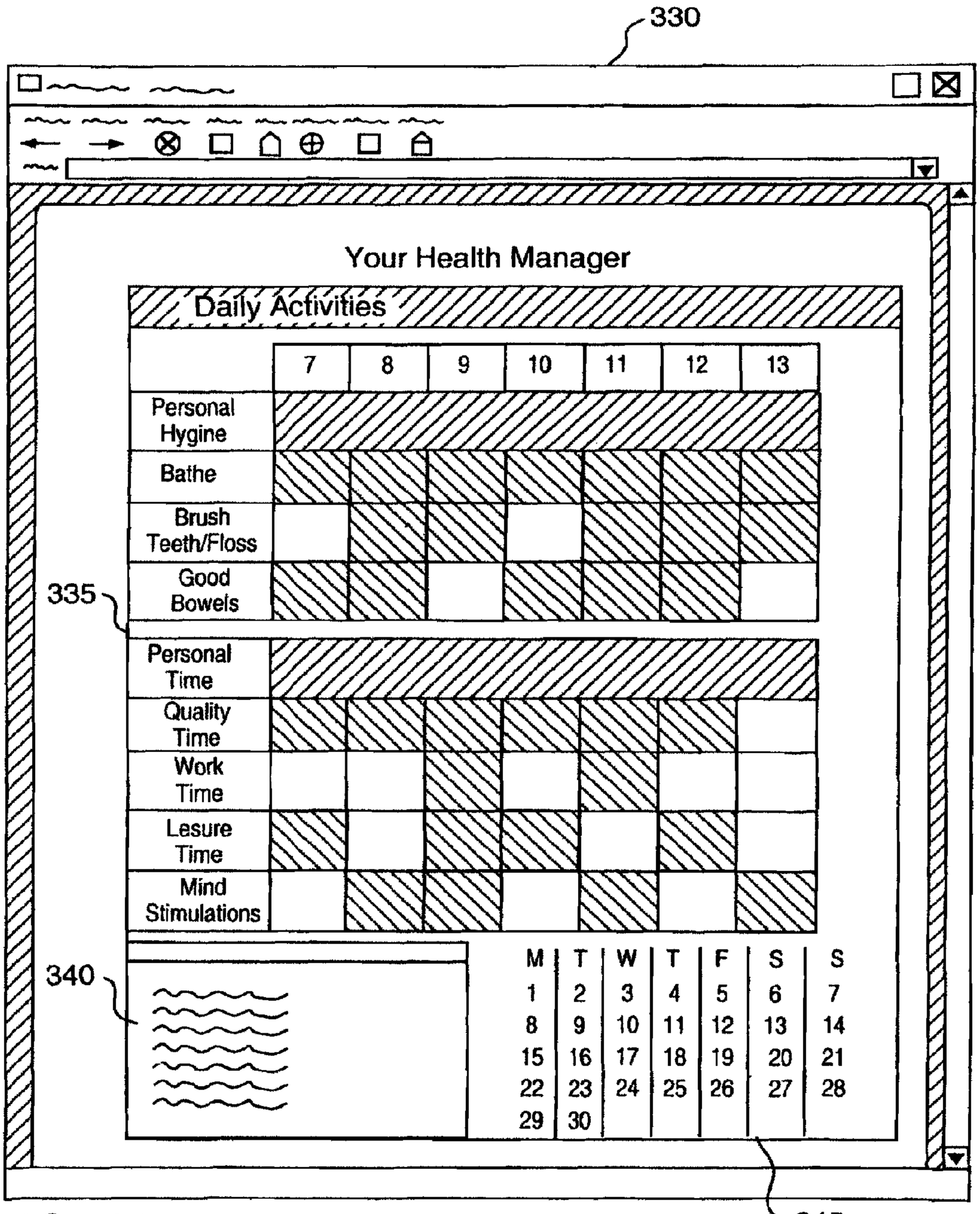

330
Your Health Manager
Daily Activities
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
Personal Hygine
Bathe
Brush Teeth/Floss
Good Bowels
335
Personal Time
Quality Time
Work Time
Lesure Time
Mind Stimulations
340
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
345

FIG. 10

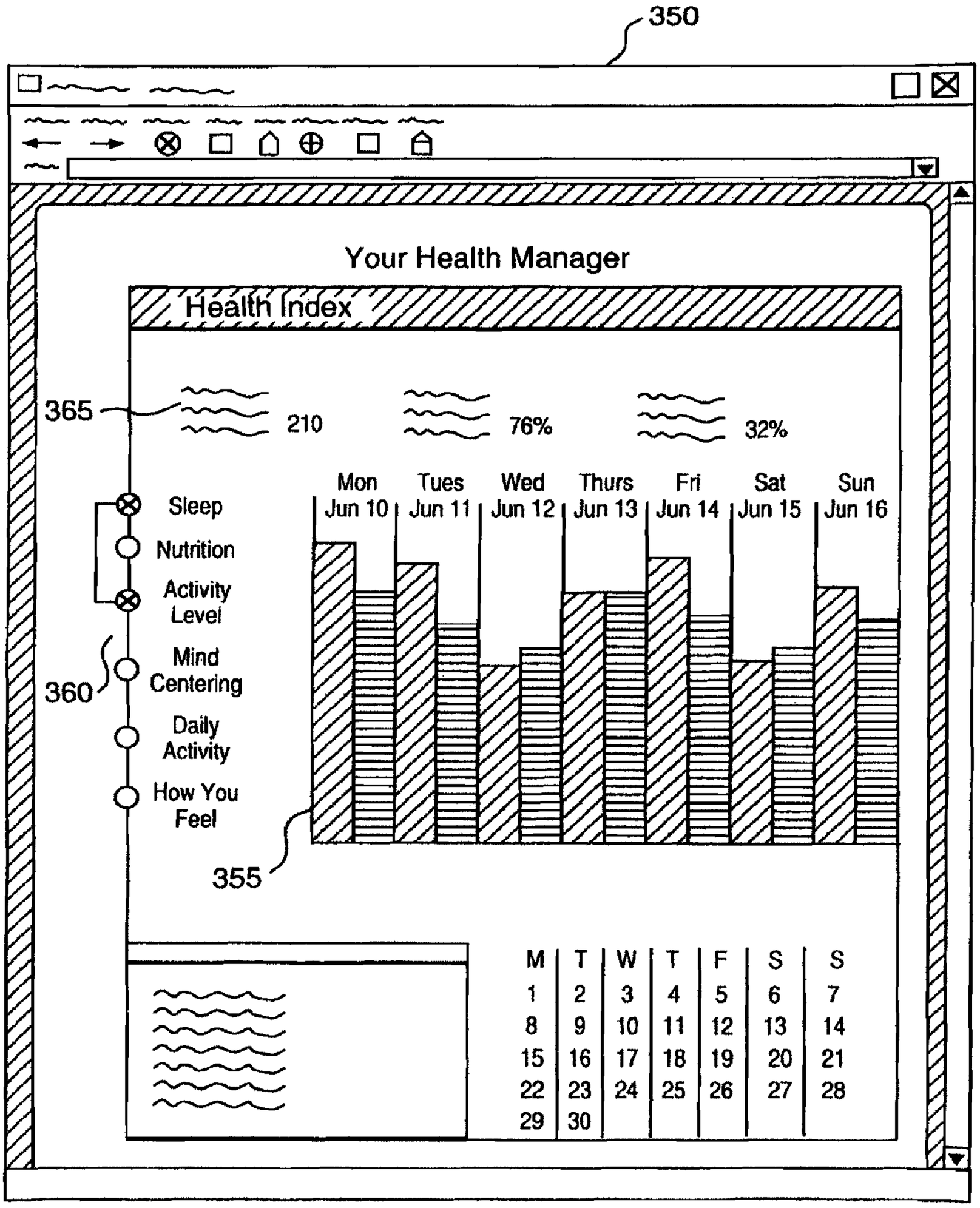

350
Your Health Manager
Health Index
365
210
76%
32%
Mon Jun 10
Tues Jun 11
Wed Jun 12
Thurs Jun 13
Fri Jun 14
Sat Jun 15
Sun Jun 16
Sleep
Nutrition
Activity Level
Mind Centering
360
Daily Activity
How You Feel
355
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

FIG. 11

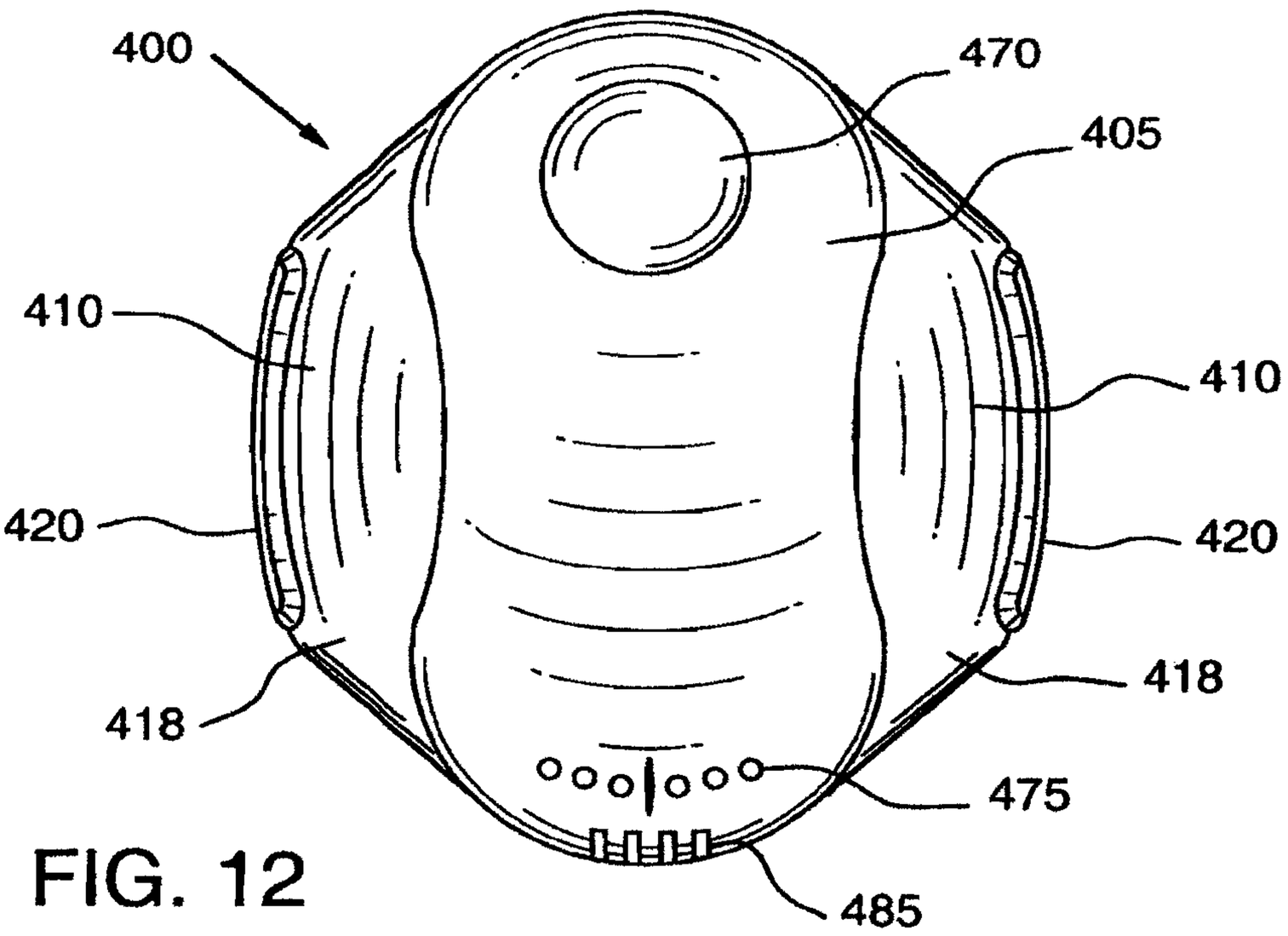

400
470
405
410
410
420
420
418
418
475
485

FIG. 12

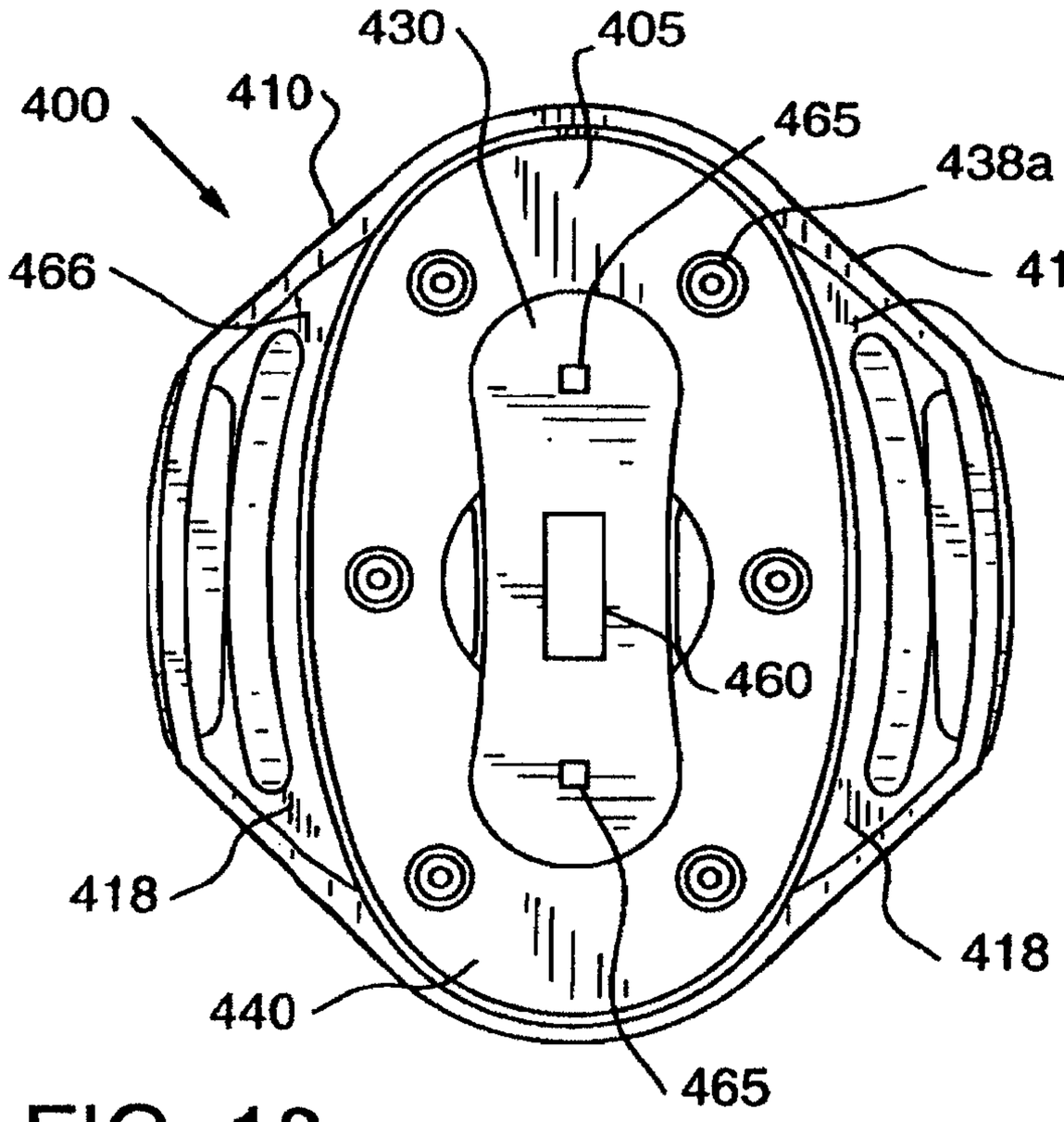

430
405
400
410
465
438a
466
410
466
460
418
418
440
465

FIG. 13

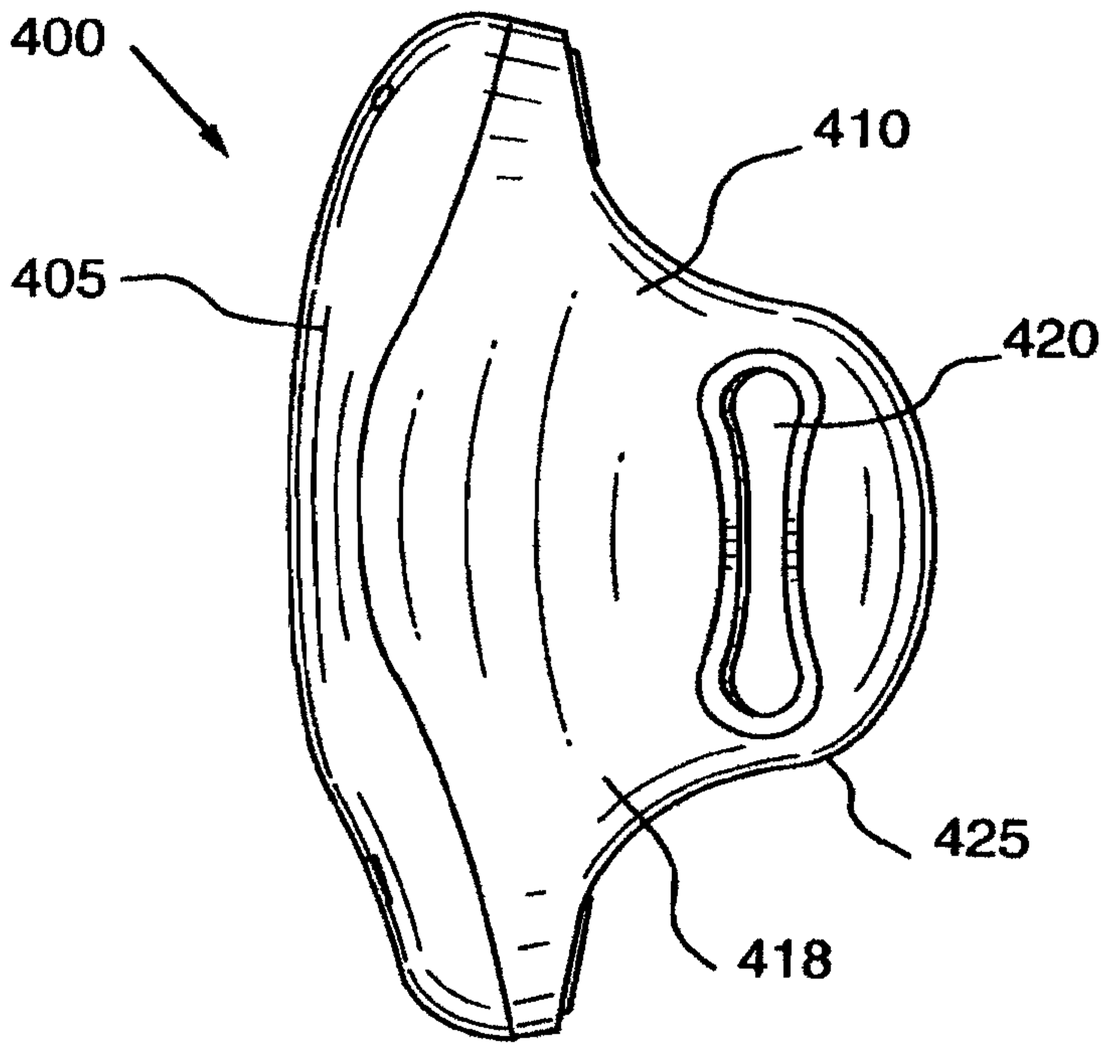

400
405
410
420
425
418

FIG. 14

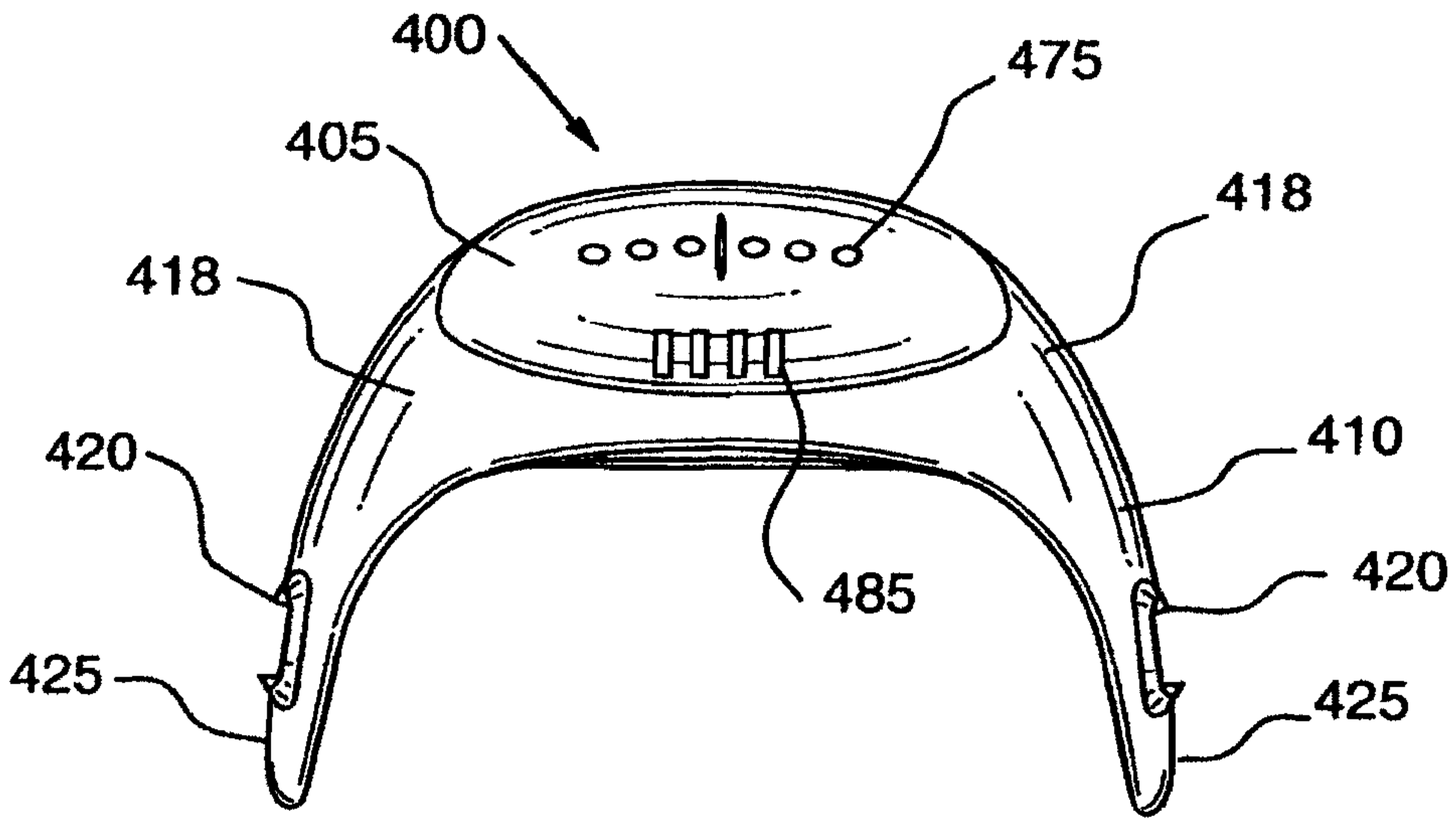

400
475
405
418
418
420
410
485
420
425
425

FIG. 15

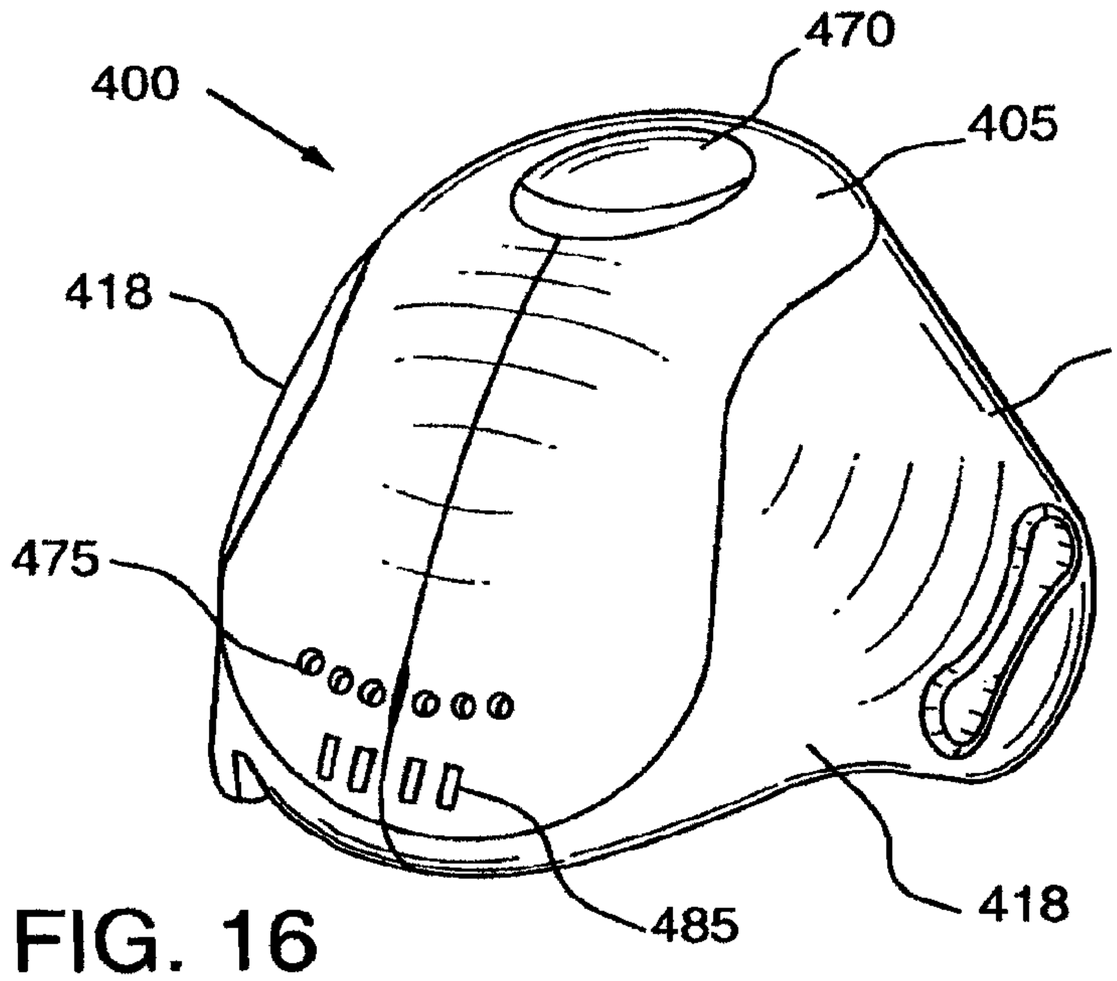

400
470
405
418
410
475
485
418

FIG. 16

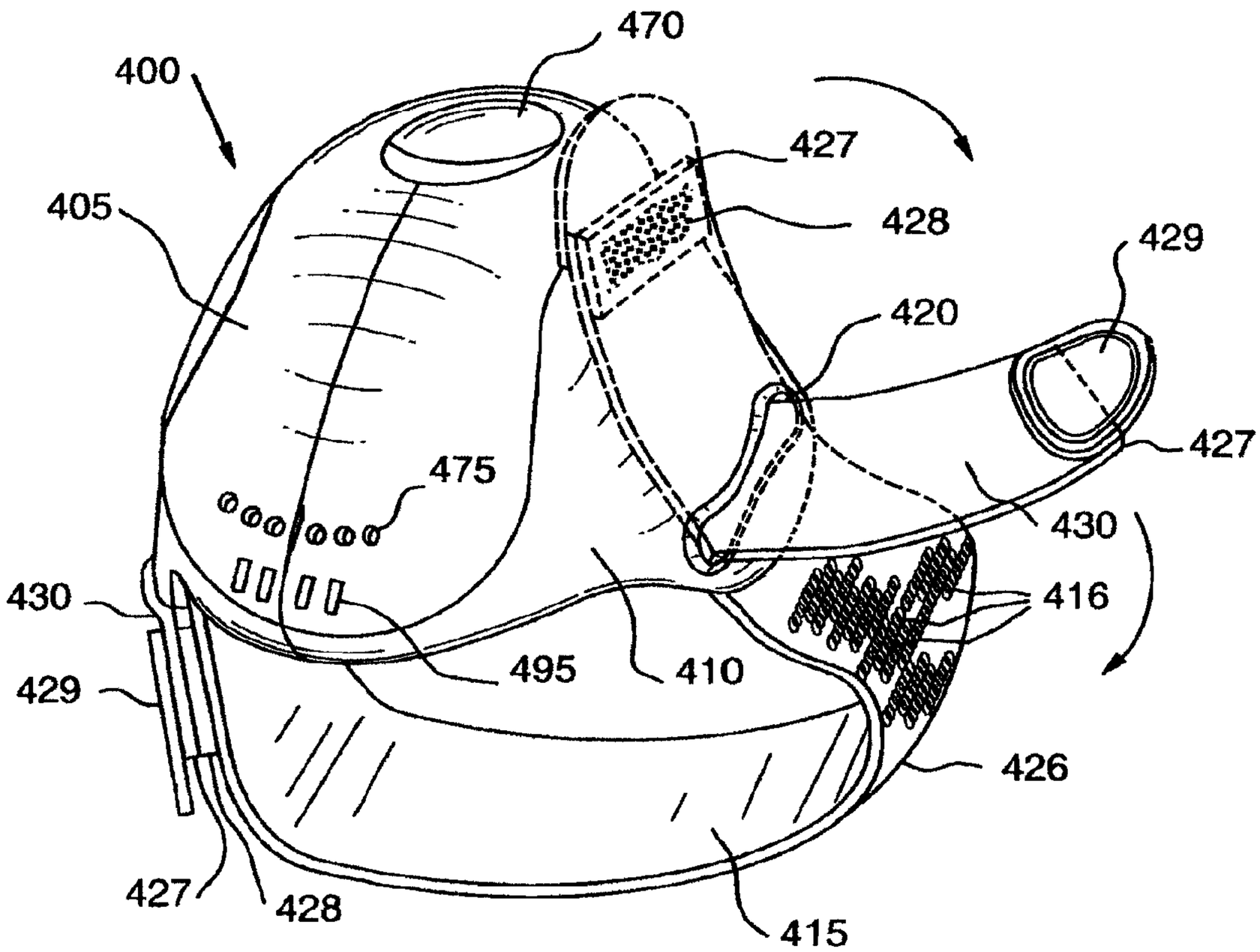

400
470
427
405
428
429
420
475
427
430
416
430
495
410
429
426
427
428
415

FIG. 17

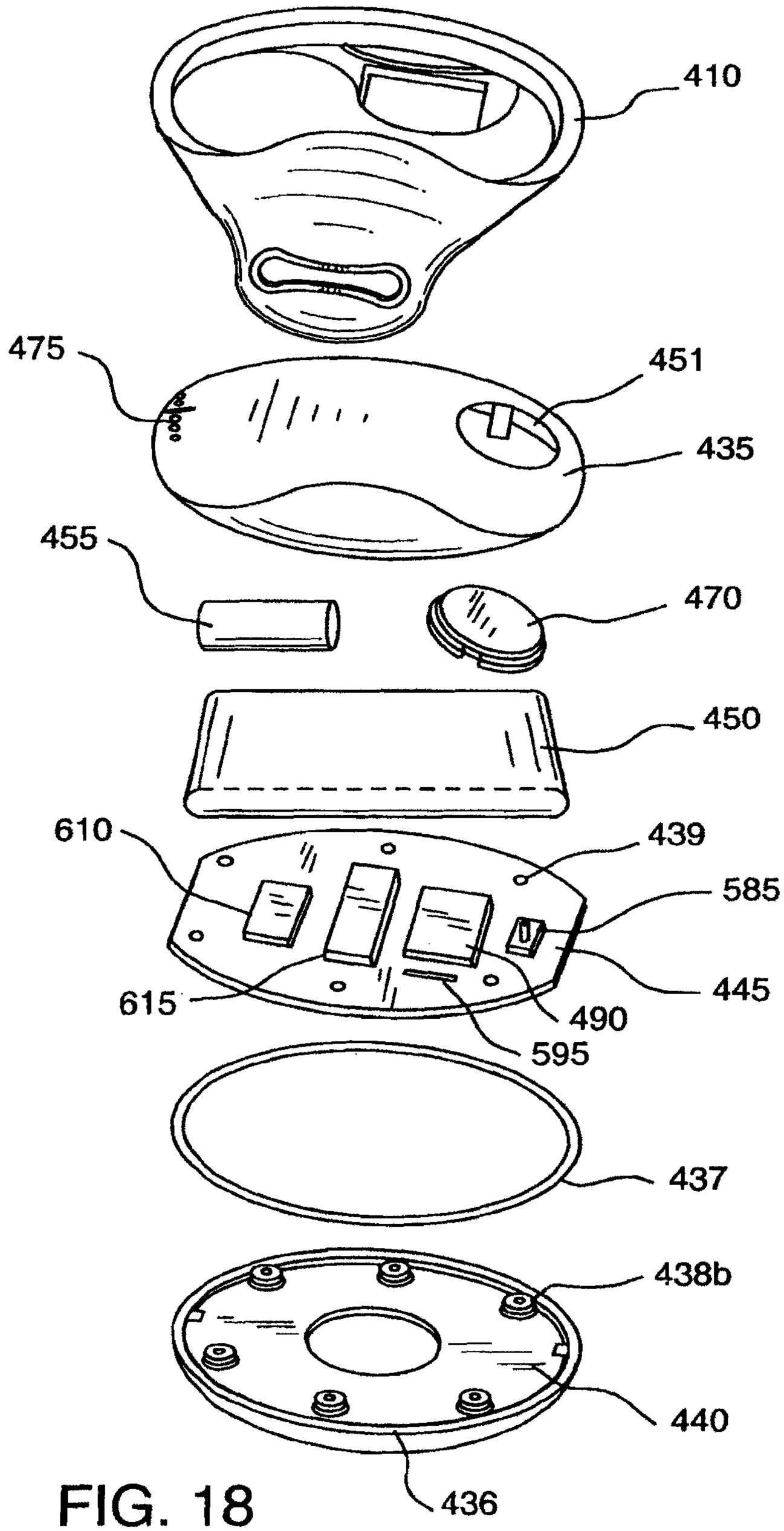

410
475
451
435
455
470
450
610
439
585
615
445
490
595
437
438b
440
436

FIG. 18

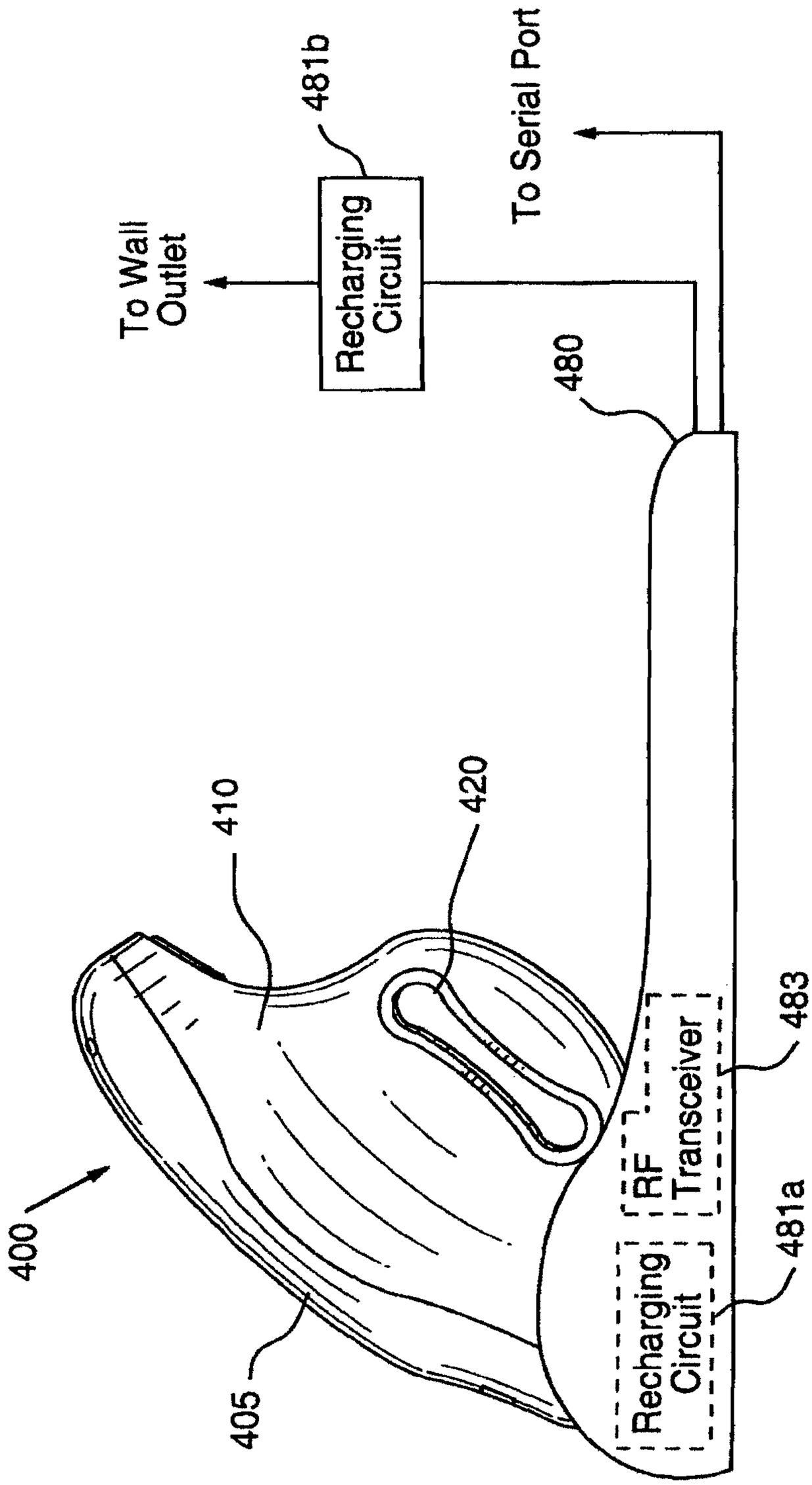

400
410
420
405
481b
Recharging Circuit
To Wall Outlet
To Serial Port
480
483
481a
Recharging Circuit
RF Transceiver

FIG. 19

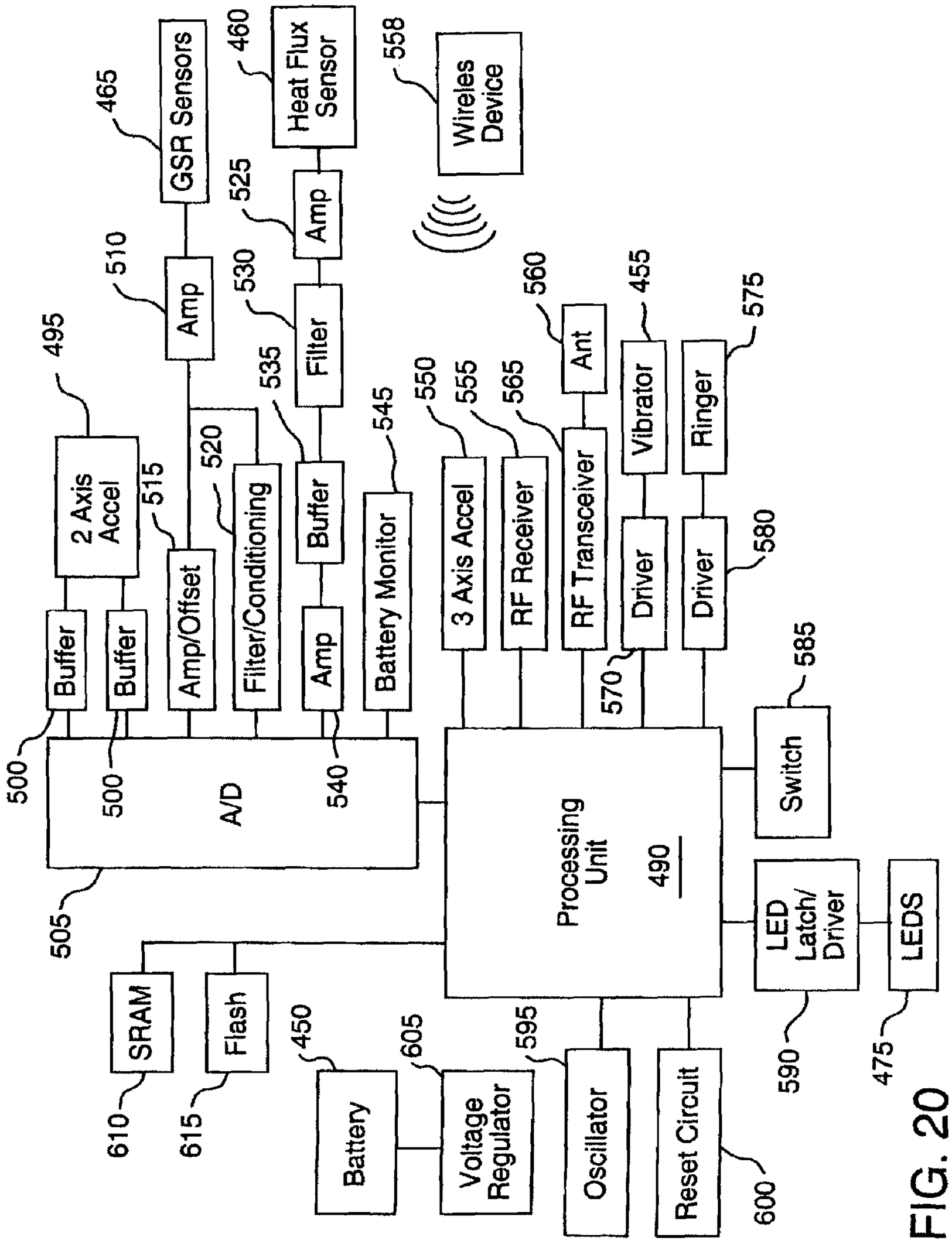

465
GSR Sensors
460
Heat Flux Sensor
558
Wireles Device
525
Amp
510
Amp
530
Filter
535
Buffer
545
Battery Monitor
550
3 Axis Accel
555
RF Receiver
565
RF Transceiver
560
Ant
455
Vibrator
575
Ringer
495
2 Axis Accel
515
520
Amp/Offset
Filter/Conditioning
Buffer
Amp
500
500
A/D
540
505
Processing Unit
490
570
Driver
Driver
580
585
Switch
LED Latch/ Driver
LEDS
590
475
SRAM
Flash
610
615
450
Battery
605
Voltage Regulator
595
Oscillator
Reset Circuit
600

FIG. 20

MULTI-SENSOR SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR DERIVING HUMAN STATUS INFORMATION

CROSS REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 10/638,588 filed Aug. 11, 2003, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 09/602,537, filed Jun. 23, 2000, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,605,038. U.S. application Ser. No. 09/602,537 was a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 09/595,660, filed Jun. 16, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system for monitoring health, wellness and fitness, and in particular, to a system for collecting, using a sensor device, and storing at a remote site data relating to an individual's physiological state, lifestyle, and various contextual parameters, and making such data and analytical information based on such data available to the individual, preferably over an electronic network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Research has shown that a large number of the top health problems in society are either caused in whole or in part by an unhealthy lifestyle. More and more, our society requires people to lead fast-paced, achievement-oriented lifestyles that often result in poor eating habits, high stress levels, lack of exercise, poor sleep habits and the inability to find the time to center the mind and relax. Recognizing this fact, people are becoming increasingly interested in establishing a healthier lifestyle.

Traditional medicine, embodied in the form of an HMO or similar organizations, does not have the time, the training, or the reimbursement mechanism to address the needs of those individuals interested in a healthier lifestyle. There have been several attempts to meet the needs of these individuals, including a perfusion of fitness programs and exercise equipment, dietary plans, self-help books, alternative therapies, and most recently, a plethora of health information web sites on the Internet. Each of these attempts are targeted to empower the individual to take charge and get healthy. Each of these attempts, however, addresses only part of the needs of individuals seeking a healthier lifestyle and ignores many of the real barriers that most individuals face when trying to adopt a healthier lifestyle. These barriers include the fact that the individual is often left to himself or herself to find motivation, to implement a plan for achieving a healthier lifestyle, to monitor progress, and to brainstorm solutions when problems arise; the fact that existing programs are directed to only certain aspects of a healthier lifestyle, and rarely come as a complete package; and the fact that recommendations are often not targeted to the unique characteristics of the individual or his life circumstances.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An apparatus for monitoring human status parameters is disclosed which includes at least two sensors adapted to be worn on an individual's body. At least one of the sensors is a physiological sensor selected from the group consisting of respiration sensors, temperature sensors, heat flux sensors, body conductance sensors, body resistance sensors, body potential sensors, brain activity sensors, blood pressure sensors, body impedance sensors, body motion sensors, oxygen consumption sensors, body chemistry sensors, body position sensors, body pressure sensors, light absorption sensors, body sound sensors, piezoelectric sensors, electrochemical sensors, strain gauges, and optical sensors. The sensors are adapted to generate data indicative of at least a first parameter of the individual and a second parameter of the individual, wherein the first parameter is a physiological parameter. The apparatus also includes a processor that receives at least a portion of the data indicative of the first parameter and the second parameter. The processor is adapted to generate derived data from at least a portion of the data indicative of a first parameter and a second parameter, wherein the derived data comprises a third parameter of the individual. The third parameter is an individual status parameter that cannot be directly detected by either of the at least two sensors.

In an alternate embodiment, an apparatus for monitoring human status parameters is disclosed that includes at least two sensors adapted to be worn on an individual's body selected from the group consisting of physiological sensors and contextual sensors, wherein at least one of the sensors is a physiological sensor. The sensors are adapted to generate data indicative of at least a first parameter of the individual and a second parameter of the individual, wherein the first parameter is physiological. The apparatus also includes a processor for receiving at least a portion of the data indicative of at least a first parameter and a second parameter, the processor being adapted to generate derived data from the data indicative of at least a first parameter and a second parameter. The derived data comprises a third parameter of the individual selected from the group consisting of ovulation state, sleep state, calories burned, basal metabolic rate, basal temperature, physical activity level, stress level, relaxation level, oxygen consumption rate, rise time, time in zone, recovery time, and nutrition activity. The third parameter is an individual status parameter that cannot be directly detected by any of the at least two sensors.

In either embodiment of the apparatus, the at least two sensors may be both physiological sensors, or may be one physiological sensor and one contextual sensor. The apparatus may further include a housing adapted to be worn on the individual's body, wherein the housing supports the sensors or wherein at least one of the sensors is separately located from the housing. The apparatus may further include a flexible body supporting the housing having first and second members that are adapted to wrap around a portion of the individual's body. The flexible body may support one or more of the sensors. The apparatus may further include wrapping means coupled to the housing for maintaining contact between the housing and the individual's body, and the wrapping means may support one or more of the sensors.

Either embodiment of the apparatus may further include a central monitoring unit remote from the at least two sensors that includes a data storage device. The data storage device receives the derived data from the processor and retrievably stores the derived data therein. The apparatus also includes means for transmitting information based on the derived data from the central monitoring unit to a recipient, which recipient may include the individual or a third party authorized by the individual. The processor may be supported by a housing adapted to be worn on the individual's body, or alternatively may be part of the central monitoring unit.

The apparatus may be further adapted to obtain life activities data of the individual, wherein the information transmitted from the central monitoring unit is also based on the life activities data. The central monitoring unit may also be adapted to generate and provide feedback relating to the

degree to which the individual has followed a suggested routine. The feedback may be generated from at least a portion of at least one of the data indicative of at least a first parameter and a second parameter, the derived data and the life activities data. The central monitoring unit may also be adapted to generate and provide feedback to a recipient relating to management of an aspect of at least one of the individual's health and lifestyle. This feedback may be generated from at least one of the data indicative of a first parameter, the data indicative of a second parameter and the derived data. The feedback may include suggestions for modifying the individual's behavior.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description of the present invention, taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which like reference characters refer to like parts, and in which:

FIG. **1** is a diagram of an embodiment of a system for monitoring physiological data and lifestyle over an electronic network according to the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of an embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an embodiment of the central monitoring unit shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a block diagram of an alternate embodiment of the central monitoring unit shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the Health Manager web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **6** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the nutrition web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **7** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the activity level web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **8** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the mind centering web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **9** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the sleep web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **10** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the daily activities web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **11** is a representation of a preferred embodiment of the Health Index web page according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. **12** is a front view of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **13** is a back view of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **14** is a side view of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **15** is a bottom view of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIGS. **16** and **17** are front perspective views of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **18** is an exploded side perspective view of a specific embodiment of the sensor device shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **19** is a side view of the sensor device shown in FIGS. **12** through **18** inserted into a battery recharger unit; and

FIG. **20** is a block diagram illustrating all of the components either mounted on or coupled to the printed circuit board forming a part of the sensor device shown in FIGS. **12** through **18**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In general, according to the present invention, data relating to the physiological state, the lifestyle and certain contextual parameters of an individual is collected and transmitted, either subsequently or in real-time, to a site, preferably remote from the individual, where it is stored for later manipulation and presentation to a recipient, preferably over an electronic network such as the Internet. Contextual parameters as used herein means parameters relating to the environment, surroundings and location of the individual, including, but not limited to, air quality, sound quality, ambient temperature, global positioning and the like. Referring to FIG. **1**, located at user location **5** is sensor device **10** adapted to be placed in proximity with at least a portion of the human body. Sensor device **10** is preferably worn by an individual user on his or her body, for example as part of a garment such as a form fitting shirt, or as part of an arm band or the like. Sensor device **10**, includes one or more sensors, which are adapted to generate signals in response to physiological characteristics of an individual, and a microprocessor. Proximity as used herein means that the sensors of sensor device **10** are separated from the individual's body by a material or the like, or a distance such that the capabilities of the sensors are not impeded.

Sensor device **10** generates data indicative of various physiological parameters of an individual, such as the individual's heart rate, pulse rate, beat-to-beat heart variability, EKG or ECG, respiration rate, skin temperature, core body temperature, heat flow off the body, galvanic skin response or GSR, EMG, EEG, EOG, blood pressure, body fat, hydration level, activity level, oxygen consumption, glucose or blood sugar level, body position, pressure on muscles or bones, and UV radiation exposure and absorption. In certain cases, the data indicative of the various physiological parameters is the signal or signals themselves generated by the one or more sensors and in certain other cases the data is calculated by the microprocessor based on the signal or signals generated by the one or more sensors. Methods for generating data indicative of various physiological parameters and sensors to be used therefor are well known. Table 1 provides several examples of such well known methods and shows the parameter in question, the method used, the sensor device used, and the signal that is generated. Table 1 also provides an indication as to whether further processing based on the generated signal is required to generate the data.

TABLE 1

Parameter	Method	Sensor	Signal	Further Processing
Heart Rate	EKG	2 Electrodes	DC Voltage	Yes
Pulse Rate	BVP	LED Emitter and Optical Sensor	Change in Resistance	Yes

TABLE 1-continued

Parameter	Method	Sensor	Signal	Further Processing
Beat-to-Beat Variability	Heart Rate	2 Electrodes	DC Voltage	Yes
EKG	Skin Surface Potentials	3-10 Electrodes	DC Voltage	No
Respiration Rate	Chest Volume Change	Strain Gauge	Change in Resistance	Yes
Skin Temperature	Surface Temperature Probe	Thermistors	Change in Resistance	Yes
Core Temperature	Esophageal or Rectal Probe	Thermistors	Change in Resistance	Yes
Heat Flow	Heat Flux	Thermopile	DC Voltage	Yes
Galvanic Skin Response	Skin Conductance	2 Electrodes	Change in Resistance	No
EMG	Skin Surface Potentials	3 Electrodes	DC Voltage	No
EEG	Skin Surface Potentials	Multiple Electrodes	DC Voltage	Yes
EOG	Eye Movement	Thin Film Piezoelectric Sensors	DC Voltage	Yes
Blood Pressure	Non-Invasive Korotkuff Sounds	Electronic Sphygromarometer	Change in Resistance	Yes
Body Fat	Body Impedance	2 Active Electrodes	Change in Impedance	Yes
Activity in Interpreted G Shocks per Minute	Body Movement	Accelerometer	DC Voltage, Capacitance Changes	Yes
Oxygen Consumption	Oxygen Uptake	Electro-chemical	DC Voltage Change	Yes
Glucose Level	Non-Invasive	Electro-chemical	DC Voltage Change	Yes
Body Position (e.g. supine, erect, sitting)	N/A	Mercury Switch Array	DC Voltage Change	Yes
Muscle Pressure	N/A	Thin Film Piezoelectric Sensors	DC Voltage Change	Yes
UV Radiation Absorption	N/A	UV Sensitive Photo Cells	DC Voltage Change	Yes

The types of data listed in Table 1 are intended to be examples of the types of data that can be generated by sensor device **10**. It is to be understood that other types of data relating to other parameters can be generated by sensor device **10** without departing from the scope of the present invention.

The microprocessor of sensor device **10** may be programmed to summarize and analyze the data. For example, the microprocessor can be programmed to calculate an average, minimum or maximum heart rate or respiration rate over a defined period of time, such as ten minutes. Sensor device **10** may be able to derive information relating to an individual's physiological state based on the data indicative of one or more physiological parameters. The microprocessor of sensor device **10** is programmed to derive such information using known methods based on the data indicative of one or more physiological parameters. Table 2 provides examples of the type of information that can be derived, and indicates some of the types of data that can be used therefor.

TABLE 2

Derived Information	Data Used
Ovulation	Skin temperature, core temperature, oxygen consumption
Sleep onset/wake	Beat-to-beat variability, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, skin temperature, core temperature, heat flow, galvanic skin response, EMG, EEG, EOG, blood pressure, oxygen consumption
Calories burned	Heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, heat flow, activity, oxygen consumption
Basal metabolic rate	Heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, heat flow, activity, oxygen consumption
Basal temperature	Skin temperature, core temperature
Activity level	Heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, heat flow, activity, oxygen consumption
Stress level	EKG, beat-to-beat variability, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, skin temperature, heat flow, galvanic skin response, EMG, EEG, blood pressure, activity, oxygen consumption
Relaxation level	EKG, beat-to-beat variability, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, skin temperature, heat flow, galvanic skin response, EMG, EEG, blood pressure, activity, oxygen consumption

TABLE 2-continued

Derived Information	Data Used
Maximum oxygen consumption rate	EKG, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, heat flow, blood pressure, activity, oxygen consumption
Rise time or the time it takes to rise from a resting rate to 85% of a target maximum	Heart rate, pulse rate, heat flow, oxygen consumption
Time in zone or the time heart rate was above 85% of a target maximum	Heart rate, pulse rate, heat flow, oxygen consumption
Recovery time or the time it takes heart rate to return to a resting rate after heart rate was above 85% of a target maximum	Heart rate, pulse rate, heat flow, oxygen consumption

Additionally, sensor device **10** may also generate data indicative of various contextual parameters relating to the environment surrounding the individual. For example, sensor device **10** can generate data indicative of the air quality, sound level/quality, light quality or ambient temperature near the individual, or even the global positioning of the individual. Sensor device **10** may include one or more sensors for generating signals in response to contextual characteristics relating to the environment surrounding the individual, the signals ultimately being used to generate the type of data described above. Such sensors are well known, as are methods for generating contextual parametric data such as air quality, sound level/quality, ambient temperature and global positioning.

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of an embodiment of sensor device **10**. Sensor device **10** includes at least one sensor **12** and microprocessor **20**. Depending upon the nature of the signal generated by sensor **12**, the signal can be sent through one or more of amplifier **14**, conditioning circuit **16**, and analog-to-digital converter **18**, before being sent to microprocessor **20**. For example, where sensor **12** generates an analog signal in need of amplification and filtering, that signal can be sent to amplifier **14**, and then on to conditioning circuit **16**, which may, for example, be a band pass filter. The amplified and conditioned analog signal can then be transferred to analog-to-digital converter **18**, where it is converted to a digital signal. The digital signal is then sent to microprocessor **20**. Alternatively, if sensor **12** generates a digital signal, that signal can be sent directly to microprocessor **20**.

A digital signal or signals representing certain physiological and/or contextual characteristics of the individual user may be used by microprocessor **20** to calculate or generate data indicative of physiological and/or contextual parameters of the individual user. Microprocessor **20** is programmed to derive information relating to at least one aspect of the individual's physiological state. It should be understood that microprocessor **20** may also comprise other forms of processors or processing devices, such as a microcontroller, or any other device that can be programmed to perform the functionality described herein.

The data indicative of physiological and/or contextual parameters can, according to one embodiment of the present invention, be sent to memory **22**, such as flash memory, where it is stored until uploaded in the manner to be described below. Although memory **22** is shown in FIG. **2** as a discrete element, it will be appreciated that it may also be part of microprocessor **20**. Sensor device **10** also includes input/output circuitry **24**, which is adapted to output and receive as input certain data signals in the manners to be described herein. Thus, memory **22** of the sensor device **10** will build up, over time, a store of data relating to the individual user's body and/or environment. That data is periodically uploaded from sensor device **10** and sent to remote central monitoring unit **30**, as shown in FIG. **1**, where it is stored in a database for subsequent processing and presentation to the user, preferably through a local or global electronic network such as the Internet. This uploading of data can be an automatic process that is initiated by sensor device **10** periodically or upon the happening of an event such as the detection by sensor device **10** of a heart rate below a certain level, or can be initiated by the individual user or some third party authorized by the user, preferably according to some periodic schedule, such as every day at 10:00 p.m. Alternatively, rather than storing data in memory **22**, sensor device **10** may continuously upload data in real time.

The uploading of data from sensor device **10** to central monitoring unit **30** for storage can be accomplished in various ways. In one embodiment, the data collected by sensor device **10** is uploaded by first transferring the data to personal computer **35** shown in FIG. **1** by means of physical connection **40**, which, for example, may be a serial connection such as an RS232 or USB port. This physical connection may also be accomplished by using a cradle, not shown, that is electronically coupled to personal computer **35** into which sensor device **10** can be inserted, as is common with many commercially available personal digital assistants. The uploading of data could be initiated by then pressing a button on the cradle or could be initiated automatically upon insertion of sensor device **10**. The data collected by sensor device **10** may be uploaded by first transferring the data to personal computer **35** by means of short-range wireless transmission, such as infrared or RF transmission, as indicated at **45**.

Once the data is received by personal computer **35**, it is optionally compressed and encrypted by any one of a variety of well known methods and then sent out over a local or global electronic network, preferably the Internet, to central monitoring unit **30**. It should be noted that personal computer **35** can be replaced by any computing device that has access to and that can transmit and receive data through the electronic network, such as, for example, a personal digital assistant such as the Palm VII sold by Palm, Inc., or the Blackberry 2-way pager sold by Research in Motion, Inc.

Alternatively, the data collected by sensor device **10**, after being encrypted and, optionally, compressed by microprocessor **20**, may be transferred to wireless device **50**, such as a 2-way pager or cellular phone, for subsequent long distance wireless transmission to local telco site **55** using a wireless protocol such as e-mail or as ASCII or binary data. Local telco site **55** includes tower **60** that receives the wireless transmission from wireless device **50** and computer **65** connected to tower **60**. According to the preferred embodiment, computer **65** has access to the relevant electronic network, such as the Internet, and is used to transmit the data received in the form of the wireless transmission to the central monitoring unit **30** over the Internet. Although wireless device **50** is shown in FIG. **1** as a discrete device coupled to sensor device **10**, it or a device having the same or similar functionality may be embedded as part of sensor device **10**.

Sensor device **10** may be provided with a button to be used to time stamp events such as time to bed, wake time, and time of meals. These time stamps are stored in sensor device **10** and are uploaded to central monitoring unit **30** with the rest of the data as described above. The time stamps may include a digitally recorded voice message that, after being uploaded to central monitoring unit **30**, are translated using voice recognition technology into text or some other information format that can be used by central monitoring unit **30**.

In addition to using sensor device **10** to automatically collect physiological data relating to an individual user, a kiosk could be adapted to collect such data by, for example, weighing the individual, providing a sensing device similar to sensor device **10** on which an individual places his or her hand or another part of his or her body, or by scanning the individual's body using, for example, laser technology or an iStat blood analyzer. The kiosk would be provided with processing capability as described herein and access to the relevant electronic network, and would thus be adapted to send the collected data to the central monitoring unit **30** through the electronic network. A desktop sensing device, again similar to sensor device **10**, on which an individual places his or her hand or another part of his or her body may also be provided. For example, such a desktop sensing device could be a blood pressure monitor in which an individual places his or her arm. An individual might also wear a ring having a sensor device **10** incorporated therein. A base, not shown, could then be provided which is adapted to be coupled to the ring. The desktop sensing device or the base just described may then be coupled to a computer such as personal computer **35** by means of a physical or short range wireless connection so that the collected data could be uploaded to central monitoring unit **30** over the relative electronic network in the manner described above. A mobile device such as, for example, a personal digital assistant, might also be provided with a sensor device **10** incorporated therein. Such a sensor device **10** would be adapted to collect data when mobile device is placed in proximity with the individual's body, such as by holding the device in the palm of one's hand, and upload the collected data to central monitoring unit **30** in any of the ways described herein.

Furthermore, in addition to collecting data by automatically sensing such data in the manners described above, individuals can also manually provide data relating to various life activities that is ultimately transferred to and stored at central monitoring unit **30**. An individual user can access a web site maintained by central monitoring unit **30** and can directly input information relating to life activities by entering text freely, by responding to questions posed by the web site, or by clicking through dialog boxes provided by the web site. Central monitoring unit **30** can also be adapted to periodically send electronic mail messages containing questions designed to elicit information relating to life activities to personal computer **35** or to some other device that can receive electronic mail, such as a personal digital assistant, a pager, or a cellular phone. The individual would then provide data relating to life activities to central monitoring unit **30** by responding to the appropriate electronic mail message with the relevant data. Central monitoring unit **30** may also be adapted to place a telephone call to an individual user in which certain questions would be posed to the individual user. The user could respond to the questions by entering information using a telephone keypad, or by voice, in which case conventional voice recognition technology would be used by central monitoring unit **30** to receive and process the response. The telephone call may also be initiated by the user, in which case the user could speak to a person directly or enter information using the keypad or by voice/voice recognition technology. Central monitoring unit **30** may also be given access to a source of information controlled by the user, for example the user's electronic calendar such as that provided with the Outlook product sold by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Wash., from which it could automatically collect information. The data relating to life activities may relate to the eating, sleep, exercise, mind centering or relaxation, and/or daily living habits, patterns and/or activities of the individual. Thus, sample questions may include: What did you have for lunch today? What time did you go to sleep last night? What time did you wake up this morning? How long did you run on the treadmill today?

Feedback may also be provided to a user directly through sensor device **10** in a visual form, for example through an LED or LCD or by constructing sensor device **10**, at least in part, of a thermochromatic plastic, in the form of an acoustic signal or in the form of tactile feedback such as vibration. Such feedback may be a reminder or an alert to eat a meal or take medication or a supplement such as a vitamin, to engage in an activity such as exercise or meditation, or to drink water when a state of dehydration is detected. Additionally, a reminder or alert can be issued in the event that a particular physiological parameter such as ovulation has been detected, a level of calories burned during a workout has been achieved or a high heart rate or respiration rate has been encountered.

As will be apparent to those of skill in the art, it may be possible to Adownload@data from central monitoring unit **30** to sensor device **10**. The flow of data in such a download process would be substantially the reverse of that described above with respect to the upload of data from sensor device **10**. Thus, it is possible that the firmware of microprocessor **20** of sensor device **10** can be updated or altered remotely, i.e., the microprocessor can be reprogrammed, by downloading new firmware to sensor device **10** from central monitoring unit **30** for such parameters as timing and sample rates of sensor device **10**. Also, the reminders/alerts provided by sensor device **10** may be set by the user using the web site maintained by central monitoring unit **30** and subsequently downloaded to the sensor device **10**.

Referring to FIG. **3**, a block diagram of an embodiment of central monitoring unit **30** is shown. Central monitoring unit **30** includes CSU/DSU **70** which is connected to router **75**, the main function of which is to take data requests or traffic, both incoming and outgoing, and direct such requests and traffic for processing or viewing on the web site maintained by central monitoring unit **30**. Connected to router **75** is firewall **80**. The main purpose of firewall **80** is to protect the remainder of central monitoring unit **30** from unauthorized or malicious intrusions. Switch **85**, connected to firewall **80**, is used to direct data flow between middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c* and database server **110**. Load balancer **90** is provided to spread the workload of incoming requests among the identically configured middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c*. Load balancer **90**, a suitable example of which is the F5 ServerIron product sold by Foundry Networks, Inc. of San Jose, Calif., analyzes the availability of each middleware server **95***a* through **95***c*, and the amount of system resources being used in each middleware server **95***a* through **95***c*, in order to spread tasks among them appropriately.

Central monitoring unit **30** includes network storage device **100**, such as a storage area network or SAN, which acts as the central repository for data. In particular, network storage device **100** comprises a database that stores all data gathered for each individual user in the manners described above. An example of a suitable network storage device **100** is the Symmetrix product sold by EMC Corporation of Hopkinton,

Mass. Although only one network storage device **100** is shown in FIG. **3**, it will be understood that multiple network storage devices of various capacities could be used depending on the data storage needs of central monitoring unit **30**. Central monitoring unit **30** also includes database server **110** which is coupled to network storage device **100**. Database server **110** is made up of two main components: a large scale multiprocessor server and an enterprise type software server component such as the 8/8i component sold by Oracle Corporation of Redwood City, Calif., or the 506 7 component sold by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Wash. The primary functions of database server **110** are that of providing access upon request to the data stored in network storage device **100**, and populating network storage device **100** with new data. Coupled to network storage device **100** is controller **115**, which typically comprises a desktop personal computer, for managing the data stored in network storage device **100**.

Middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c*, a suitable example of which is the 22OR Dual Processor sold by Sun Microsystems, Inc. of Palo Alto, Calif., each contain software for generating and maintaining the corporate or home web page or pages of the web site maintained by central monitoring unit **30**. As is known in the art, a web page refers to a block or blocks of data available on the World-Wide Web comprising a file or files written in Hypertext Markup Language or HTML, and a web site commonly refers to any computer on the Internet running a World-Wide Web server process. The corporate or home web page or pages are the opening or landing web page or pages that are accessible by all members of the general public that visit the site by using the appropriate uniform resource locator or URL. As is known in the art, URLs are the form of address used on the World-Wide Web and provide a standard way of specifying the location of an object, typically a web page, on the Internet. Middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c* also each contain software for generating and maintaining the web pages of the web site of central monitoring unit **30** that can only be accessed by individuals that register and become members of central monitoring unit **30**. The member users will be those individuals who wish to have their data stored at central monitoring unit **30**. Access by such member users is controlled using passwords for security purposes. Preferred embodiments of those web pages are described in detail below and are generated using collected data that is stored in the database of network storage device **100**.

Middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c* also contain software for requesting data from and writing data to network storage device **100** through database server **110**. When an individual user desires to initiate a session with the central monitoring unit **30** for the purpose of entering data into the database of network storage device **100**, viewing his or her data stored in the database of network storage device **100**, or both, the user visits the home web page of central monitoring unit **30** using a browser program such as Internet Explorer distributed by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Wash., and logs in as a registered user. Load balancer **90** assigns the user to one of the middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c*, identified as the chosen middleware server. A user will preferably be assigned to a chosen middleware server for each entire session. The chosen middleware server authenticates the user using any one of many well known methods, to ensure that only the true user is permitted to access the information in the database. A member user may also grant access to his or her data to a third party such as a health care provider or a personal trainer. Each authorized third party may be given a separate password and may view the member user's data using a conventional browser. It is therefore possible for both the user and the third party to be the recipient of the data.

When the user is authenticated, the chosen middleware server requests, through database server **110**, the individual user's data from network storage device **100** for a predetermined time period. The predetermined time period is preferably thirty days. The requested data, once received from network storage device **100**, is temporarily stored by the chosen middleware server in cache memory. The cached data is used by the chosen middleware server as the basis for presenting information, in the form of web pages, to the user again through the user's browser. Each middleware server **95***a* through **95***c* is provided with appropriate software for generating such web pages, including software for manipulating and performing calculations utilizing the data to put the data in appropriate format for presentation to the user. Once the user ends his or her session, the data is discarded from cache. When the user initiates a new session, the process for obtaining and caching data for that user as described above is repeated. This caching system thus ideally requires that only one call to the network storage device **100** be made per session, thereby reducing the traffic that database server **110** must handle. Should a request from a user during a particular session require data that is outside of a predetermined time period of cached data already retrieved, a separate call to network storage device **100** may be performed by the chosen middleware server. The predetermined time period should be chosen, however, such that such additional calls are minimized. Cached data may also be saved in cache memory so that it can be reused when a user starts a new session, thus eliminating the need to initiate a new call to network storage device **100**.

As described in connection with Table 2, the microprocessor of sensor device **10** may be programmed to derive information relating to an individual's physiological state based on the data indicative of one or more physiological parameters. Central monitoring unit **30**, and preferably middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c*, may also be similarly programmed to derive such information based on the data indicative of one or more physiological parameters.

It is also contemplated that a user will input additional data during a session, for example, information relating to the user's eating or sleeping habits. This additional data is preferably stored by the chosen middleware server in a cache during the duration of the user's session. When the user ends the session, this additional new data stored in a cache is transferred by the chosen middleware server to database server **110** for population in network storage device **100**. Alternatively, in addition to being stored in a cache for potential use during a session, the input data may also be immediately transferred to database server **110** for population in network storage device **100**, as part of a write-through cache system which is well known in the art.

Data collected by sensor device **10** shown in FIG. **1** is periodically uploaded to central monitoring unit **30**. Either by long distance wireless transmission or through personal computer **35**, a connection to central monitoring unit **30** is made through an electronic network, preferably the Internet. In particular, connection is made to load balancer **90** through CSU/DSU **70**, router **75**, firewall **80** and switch **85**. Load balancer **90** then chooses one of the middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c* to handle the upload of data, hereafter called the chosen middleware server. The chosen middleware server authenticates the user using any one of many well known methods. If authentication is successful, the data is uploaded to the chosen middleware server as described above, and is ultimately transferred to database server **110** for population in the network storage device **100**.

Referring to FIG. **4**, an alternate embodiment of central monitoring unit **30** is shown. In addition to the elements shown and described with respect to FIG. **3**, the embodiment of the central monitoring unit **30** shown in FIG. **4** includes a mirror network storage device **120** which is a redundant backup of network storage device **100**. Coupled to mirror network storage device **120** is controller **122**. Data from network storage device **100** is periodically copied to mirror network storage device **120** for data redundancy purposes.

Third parties such as insurance companies or research institutions may be given access, possibly for a fee, to certain of the information stored in mirror network storage device **120**. Preferably, in order to maintain the confidentiality of the individual users who supply data to central monitoring unit **30**, these third parties are not given access to such user's individual database records, but rather are only given access to the data stored in mirror network storage device **120** in aggregate form. Such third parties may be able to access the information stored in mirror network storage device **120** through the Internet using a conventional browser program. Requests from third parties may come in through CSU/DSU **70**, router **75**, firewall **80** and switch **85**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **4**, a separate load balancer **130** is provided for spreading tasks relating to the accessing and presentation of data from mirror drive array **120** among identically configured middleware servers **135***a* through **135***c*. Middleware servers **135***a* through **135***c* each contain software for enabling the third parties to, using a browser, formulate queries for information from mirror network storage device **120** through separate database server **125**. Middleware servers **135***a* through **135***c* also contain software for presenting the information obtained from mirror network storage device **120** to the third parties over the Internet in the form of web pages. In addition, the third parties can choose from a series of prepared reports that have information packaged along subject matter lines, such as various demographic categories.

As will be apparent to one of skill in the art, instead of giving these third parties access to the backup data stored in mirror network storage device **120**, the third parties may be given access to the data stored in network storage device **100**. Also, instead of providing load balancer **130** and middleware servers **135***a* through **135***c*, the same functionality, although at a sacrificed level of performance, could be provided by load balancer **90** and middleware servers **95***a* through **95***c*.

When an individual user first becomes a registered user or member, that user completes a detailed survey. The purposes of the survey are to: identify unique characteristics/circumstances for each user that they might need to address in order to maximize the likelihood that they will implement and maintain a healthy lifestyle as suggested by central monitoring unit **30**; gather baseline data which will be used to set initial goals for the individual user and facilitate the calculation and display of certain graphical data output such as the Health Index pistons; identify unique user characteristics and circumstances that will help central monitoring unit **30** customize the type of content provided to the user in the Health Manager's Daily Dose; and identify unique user characteristics and circumstances that the Health Manager can guide the user to address as possible barriers to a healthy lifestyle through the problem-solving function of the Health Manager.

The specific information to be surveyed may include: key individual temperamental characteristics, including activity level, regularity of eating, sleeping, and bowel habits, initial response to situations, adaptability, persistence, threshold of responsiveness, intensity of reaction, and quality of mood; the user's level of independent functioning, i.e., self-organization and management, socialization, memory, and academic achievement skills; the user's ability to focus and sustain attention, including the user's level of arousal, cognitive tempo, ability to filter distractions, vigilance, and self-monitoring; the user's current health status including current weight, height, and blood pressure, most recent general physician visit, gynecological exam, and other applicable physician/healthcare contacts, current medications and supplements, allergies, and a review of current symptoms and/or health-related behaviors; the user's past health history, i.e., illnesses/surgeries, family history, and social stress events, such as divorce or loss of a job, that have required adjustment by the individual; the user's beliefs, values and opinions about health priorities, their ability to alter their behavior and, what might contribute to stress in their life, and how they manage it; the user's degree of self-awareness, empathy, empowerment, and self-esteem, and the user's current daily routines for eating, sleeping, exercise, relaxation and completing activities of daily living; and the user's perception of the temperamental characteristics of two key persons in their life, for example, their spouse, a friend, a co-worker, or their boss, and whether there are clashes present in their relationships that might interfere with a healthy lifestyle or contribute to stress.

Each member user will have access, through the home web page of central monitoring unit **30**, to a series of web pages customized for that user, referred to as the Health Manager. The opening Health Manager web page **150** is shown in FIG. **5**. The Health Manager web pages are the main workspace area for the member user. The Health Manager web pages comprise a utility through which central monitoring unit **30** provides various types and forms of data, commonly referred to as analytical status data, to the user that is generated from the data it collects or generates, namely one or more of: the data indicative of various physiological parameters generated by sensor device **10**; the data derived from the data indicative of various physiological parameters; the data indicative of various contextual parameters generated by sensor device **10**; and the data input by the user. Analytical status data is characterized by the application of certain utilities or algorithms to convert one or more of the data indicative of various physiological parameters generated by sensor device **10**, the data derived from the data indicative of various physiological parameters, the data indicative of various contextual parameters generated by sensor device **10**, and the data input by the user into calculated health, wellness and lifestyle indicators. For example, based on data input by the user relating to the foods he or she has eaten, things such as calories and amounts of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and certain vitamins can be calculated. As another example, skin temperature, heart rate, respiration rate, heat flow and/or GSR can be used to provide an indicator to the user of his or her stress level over a desired time period. As still another example, skin temperature, heat flow, beat-to-beat heart variability, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, core temperature, galvanic skin response, EMG, EEG, EOG, blood pressure, oxygen consumption, ambient sound and body movement or motion as detected by a device such as an accelerometer can be used to provide indicators to the user of his or her sleep patterns over a desired time period.

Located on the opening Health Manager web page **150** is Health Index **155**. Health Index **155** is a graphical utility used to measure and provide feedback to member users regarding their performance and the degree to which they have succeeded in reaching a healthy daily routine suggested by central monitoring unit **30**. Health Index **155** thus provides an indication for the member user to track his or her progress. Health Index **155** includes six categories relating to the user's health and lifestyle: Nutrition, Activity Level, Mind Center-

ing, Sleep, Daily Activities and How You Feel. The Nutrition category relates to what, when and how much a person eats and drinks. The Activity Level category relates to how much a person moves around. The Mind Centering category relates to the quality and quantity of time a person spends engaging in some activity that allows the body to achieve a state of profound relaxation while the mind becomes highly alert and focused. The Sleep category relates to the quality and quantity of a person's sleep. The Daily Activities category relates to the daily responsibilities and health risks people encounter. Finally, the How You Feel category relates to the general perception that a person has about how they feel on a particular day. Each category has an associated level indicator or piston that indicates, preferably on a scale ranging from poor to excellent, how the user is performing with respect to that category.

When each member user completes the initial survey described above, a profile is generated that provides the user with a summary of his or her relevant characteristics and life circumstances. A plan and/or set of goals is provided in the form of a suggested healthy daily routine. The suggested healthy daily routine may include any combination of specific suggestions for incorporating proper nutrition, exercise, mind centering, sleep, and selected activities of daily living in the user's life. Prototype schedules may be offered as guides for how these suggested activities can be incorporated into the user's life. The user may periodically retake the survey, and based on the results, the items discussed above will be adjusted accordingly.

The Nutrition category is calculated from both data input by the user and sensed by sensor device **10**. The data input by the user comprises the time and duration of breakfast, lunch, dinner and any snacks, and the foods eaten, the supplements such as vitamins that are taken, and the water and other liquids consumed during a relevant, pre-selected time period. Based upon this data and on stored data relating to known properties of various foods, central monitoring unit **30** calculates well known nutritional food values such as calories and amounts of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, etc., consumed.

The Nutrition Health Index piston level is preferably determined with respect to the following suggested healthy daily routine: eat at least three meals; eat a varied diet consisting of 6-11 servings of bread, pasta, cereal, and rice, 2-4 servings fruit, 3-5 servings of vegetables, 2-3 servings of fish, meat, poultry, dry beans, eggs, and nuts, and 2-3 servings of milk, yogurt and cheese; and drink 8 or more 8 ounce glasses of water. This routine may be adjusted based on information about the user, such as sex, age, height and/or weight. Certain nutritional targets may also be set by the user or for the user, relating to daily calories, protein, fiber, fat, carbohydrates, and/or water consumption and percentages of total consumption. Parameters utilized in the calculation of the relevant piston level include the number of meals per day, the number of glasses of water, and the types and amounts of food eaten each day as input by the user.

Nutritional information is presented to the user through nutrition web page **160** as shown in FIG. **6**. The preferred nutritional web page **160** includes nutritional fact charts **165** and **170** which illustrate actual and target nutritional facts, respectively as pie charts, and nutritional intake charts **175** and **180** which show total actual nutritional intake and target nutritional intake, respectively as pie charts. Nutritional fact charts **165** and **170** preferably show a percentage breakdown of items such as carbohydrates, protein and fat, and nutritional intake charts **175** and **180** are preferably broken down to show components such as total and target calories, fat, carbohydrates, protein, and vitamins. Web page **160** also includes meal and water consumption tracking **185** with time entries, hyperlinks **190** which allow the user to directly access nutrition-related news items and articles, suggestions for refining or improving daily routine with respect to nutrition and affiliate advertising elsewhere on the network, and calendar **195** for choosing between views having variable and selectable time periods. The items shown at **190** may be selected and customized based on information learned about the individual in the survey and on their performance as measured by the Health Index.

The Activity Level category of Health Index **155** is designed to help users monitor how and when they move around during the day and utilizes both data input by the user and data sensed by sensor device **10**. The data input by the user may include details regarding the user's daily activities, for example the fact that the user worked at a desk from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and then took an aerobics class from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Relevant data sensed by sensor device **10** may include heart rate, movement as sensed by a device such as an accelerometer, heat flow, respiration rate, calories burned, GSR and hydration level, which may be derived by sensor device **60** or central monitoring unit **30**. Calories burned may be calculated in a variety of manners, including: the multiplication of the type of exercise input by the user by the duration of exercise input by the user; sensed motion multiplied by time of motion multiplied by a filter or constant; or sensed heat flux multiplied by time multiplied by a filter or constant.

The Activity Level Health Index piston level is preferably determined with respect to a suggested healthy daily routine that includes: exercising aerobically for a pre-set time period, preferably 20 minutes, or engaging in a vigorous lifestyle activity for a pre-set time period, preferably one hour, and burning at least a minimum target number of calories, preferably 205 calories, through the aerobic exercise and/or lifestyle activity. The minimum target number of calories may be set according to information about the user, such as sex, age, height and/or weight. Parameters utilized in the calculation of the relevant piston level include the amount of time spent exercising aerobically or engaging in a vigorous lifestyle activity as input by the user and/or sensed by sensor device **10**, and the number of calories burned above pre-calculated energy expenditure parameters.

Information regarding the individual user's movement is presented to the user through activity level web page **200** shown in FIG. **7**, which may include activity graph **205** in the form of a bar graph, for monitoring the individual user's activities in one of three categories: high, medium and low intensity with respect to a pre-selected unit of time. Activity percentage chart **210**, in the form or a pie chart, may also be provided for showing the percentage of a pre-selected time period, such as one day, that the user spent in each category. Activity level web page **200** may also include calorie section **215** for displaying items such as total calories burned, daily target calories burned, total caloric intake, and duration of aerobic activity. Finally, activity level web page **200** may include at least one hyperlink **220** to allow a user to directly access relevant news items and articles, suggestions for refining or improving daily routine with respect to activity level and affiliate advertising elsewhere on the network. Activity level web page **200** may be viewed in a variety of formats, and may include user-selectable graphs and charts such as a bar graph, pie chart, or both, as selectable by Activity level check boxes **225**. Activity level calendar **230** is provided for selecting among views having variable and selectable time periods. The items shown at **220** may be selected and customized

based on information learned about the individual in the survey and on their performance as measured by the Health Index.

The Mind Centering category of Health Index **155** is designed to help users monitor the parameters relating to time spent engaging in certain activities which allow the body to achieve a state of profound relaxation while the mind becomes focused, and is based upon both data input by the user and data sensed by the sensor device **10**. In particular, a user may input the beginning and end times of relaxation activities such as yoga or meditation. The quality of those activities as determined by the depth of a mind centering event can be measured by monitoring parameters including skin temperature, heart rate, respiration rate, and heat flow as sensed by sensor device **10**. Percent change in GSR as derived either by sensor device **10** or central monitoring unit **30** may also be utilized.

The Mind Centering Health Index piston level is preferably calculated with respect to a suggested healthy daily routine that includes participating each day in an activity that allows the body to achieve profound relaxation while the mind stays highly focused for at least fifteen minutes. Parameters utilized in the calculation of the relevant piston level include the amount of time spent in a mind centering activity, and the percent change in skin temperature, heart rate, respiration rate, heat flow or GSR as sensed by sensor device **10** compared to a baseline which is an indication of the depth or quality of the mind centering activity.

Information regarding the time spent on self-reflection and relaxation is presented to the user through mind centering web page **250** shown in FIG. **8**. For each mind centering activity, referred to as a session, the preferred mind centering web page **250** includes the time spent during the session, shown at **255**, the target time, shown at **260**, comparison section **265** showing target and actual depth of mind centering, or focus, and a histogram **270** that shows the overall level of stress derived from such things as skin temperature, heart rate, respiration rate, heat flow and/or GSR. In comparison section **265**, the human figure outline showing target focus is solid, and the human figure outline showing actual focus ranges from fuzzy to solid depending on the level of focus. The preferred mind centering web page may also include an indication of the total time spent on mind centering activities, shown at **275**, hyperlinks **280** which allow the user to directly access relevant news items and articles, suggestions for refining or improving daily routine with respect to mind centering and affiliate advertising, and a calendar **285** for choosing among views having variable and selectable time periods. The items shown at **280** may be selected and customized based on information learned about the individual in the survey and on their performance as measured by the Health Index.

The Sleep category of Health Index **155** is designed to help users monitor their sleep patterns and the quality of their sleep. It is intended to help users learn about the importance of sleep in their healthy lifestyle and the relationship of sleep to circadian rhythms, being the normal daily variations in body functions. The Sleep category is based upon both data input by the user and data sensed by sensor device **10**. The data input by the user for each relevant time interval includes the times the user went to sleep and woke up and a rating of the quality of sleep. As noted in Table 2, the data from sensor device **10** that is relevant includes skin temperature, heat flow, beat-to-beat heart variability, heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, core temperature, galvanic skin response, EMG, EEG, EOG, blood pressure, and oxygen consumption. Also relevant is ambient sound and body movement or motion as detected by a device such as an accelerometer. This data can then be used to calculate or derive sleep onset and wake time, sleep interruptions, and the quality and depth of sleep.

The Sleep Health Index piston level is determined with respect to a healthy daily routine including getting a minimum amount, preferably eight hours, of sleep each night and having a predictable bed time and wake time. The specific parameters which determine the piston level calculation include the number of hours of sleep per night and the bed time and wake time as sensed by sensor device **10** or as input by the user, and the quality of the sleep as rated by the user or derived from other data.

Information regarding sleep is presented to the user through sleep web page **290** shown in FIG. **9**. Sleep web page **290** includes a sleep duration indicator **295**, based on either data from sensor device **10** or on data input by the user, together with user sleep time indicator **300** and wake time indicator **305**. A quality of sleep rating **310** input by the user may also be utilized and displayed. If more than a one day time interval is being displayed on sleep web page **290**, then sleep duration indicator **295** is calculated and displayed as a cumulative value, and sleep time indicator **300**, wake time indicator **305** and quality of sleep rating **310** are calculated and illustrated as averages. Sleep web page **290** also includes a user-selectable sleep graph **315** which calculates and displays one sleep related parameter over a pre-selected time interval. For illustrative purposes, FIG. **9** shows heat flow over a one-day period, which tends to be lower during sleeping hours and higher during waking hours. From this information, a person's bio-rhythms can be derived. Sleep graph **315** may also include a graphical representation of data from an accelerometer incorporated in sensor device **10** which monitors the movement of the body. The sleep web page **290** may also include hyperlinks **320** which allow the user to directly access sleep related news items and articles, suggestions for refining or improving daily routine with respect to sleep and affiliate advertising available elsewhere on the network, and a sleep calendar **325** for choosing a relevant time interval. The items shown at **320** may be selected and customized based on information learned about the individual in the survey and on their performance as measured by the Health Index.

The Activities of Daily Living category of Health Index **155** is designed to help users monitor certain health and safety related activities and risks and is based entirely on data input by the user. The Activities of Daily Living category is divided into four sub-categories: personal hygiene, which allows the user to monitor activities such as brushing and flossing his or her teeth and showering; health maintenance, that tracks whether the user is taking prescribed medication or supplements and allows the user to monitor tobacco and alcohol consumption and automobile safety such as seat belt use; personal time, that allows the user to monitor time spent socially with family and friends, leisure, and mind centering activities; and responsibilities, that allows the user to monitor certain work and financial activities such as paying bills and household chores.

The Activities of Daily Living Health Index piston level is preferably determined with respect to the healthy daily routine described below. With respect to personal hygiene, the routine requires that the users shower or bathe each day, brush and floss teeth each day, and maintain regular bowel habits. With respect to health maintenance, the routine requires that the user take medications and vitamins and/or supplements, use a seat belt, refrain from smoking, drink moderately, and monitor health each day with the Health Manager. With respect to personal time, the routine requires the users to

spend at least one hour of quality time each day with family and/or friends, restrict work time to a maximum of nine hours a day, spend some time on a leisure or play activity each day, and engage in a mind stimulating activity. With respect to responsibilities, the routine requires the users to do household chores, pay bills, be on time for work, and keep appointments. The piston level is calculated based on the degree to which the user completes a list of daily activities as determined by information input by the user.

Information relating to these activities is presented to the user through daily activities web page **330** shown in FIG. **10**. In preferred daily activities web page **330**, activities chart **335**, selectable for one or more of the sub-categories, shows whether the user has done what is required by the daily routine. A colored or shaded box indicates that the user has done the required activity, and an empty, non-colored or shaded box indicates that the user has not done the activity. Activities chart **335** can be created and viewed in selectable time intervals. For illustrative purposes, FIG. **10** shows the personal hygiene and personal time sub-categories for a particular week. In addition, daily activities web page **330** may include daily activity hyperlinks **340** which allow the user to directly access relevant news items and articles, suggestions for improving or refining daily routine with respect to activities of daily living and affiliate advertising, and a daily activities calendar **345** for selecting a relevant time interval. The items shown at **340** may be selected and customized based on information learned about the individual in the survey and on their performance as measured by the Health Index.

The How You Feel category of Health Index **155** is designed to allow users to monitor their perception of how they felt on a particular day, and is based on information, essentially a subjective rating, that is input directly by the user. A user provides a rating, preferably on a scale of 1 to 5, with respect to the following nine subject areas: mental sharpness; emotional and psychological well being; energy level; ability to cope with life stresses; appearance; physical well being; self-control; motivation; and comfort in relating to others. Those ratings are averaged and used to calculate the relevant piston level.

Referring to FIG. **11**, Health Index web page **350** is shown. Health Index web page **350** enables users to view the performance of their Health Index over a user selectable time interval including any number of consecutive or non-consecutive days. Using Health Index selector buttons **360**, the user can select to view the Health Index piston levels for one category, or can view a side-by-side comparison of the Health Index piston levels for two or more categories. For example, a user might want to just turn on Sleep to see if their overall sleep rating improved over the previous month, much in the same way they view the performance of their favorite stock. Alternatively, Sleep and Activity Level might be simultaneously displayed in order to compare and evaluate Sleep ratings with corresponding Activity Level ratings to determine if any day-to-day correlations exist. Nutrition ratings might be displayed with How You Feel for a pre-selected time interval to determine if any correlation exists between daily eating habits and how they felt during that interval. For illustrative purposes, FIG. **11** illustrates a comparison of Sleep and Activity Level piston levels for the week of June 10 through June 16. Health Index web page **350** also includes tracking calculator **365** that displays access information and statistics such as the total number of days the user has logged in and used the Health Manager, the percentage of days the user has used the Health Manager since becoming a subscriber, and percentage of time the user has used the sensor device **10** to gather data.

Referring again to FIG. **5**, opening Health Manager web page **150** may include a plurality of user selectable category summaries **156***a* through **156***f*, one corresponding to each of the Health Index **155** categories. Each category summary **156***a* through **156***f* presents a pre-selected filtered subset of the data associated with the corresponding category. Nutrition category summary **156***a* displays daily target and actual caloric intake. Activity Level category summary **156***b* displays daily target and actual calories burned. Mind Centering category summary **156***c* displays target and actual depth of mind centering or focus. Sleep category summary **156***d* displays target sleep, actual sleep, and a sleep quality rating. Daily Activities category summary **156***e* displays a target and actual score based on the percentage of suggested daily activities that are completed. The How You Feel category summary **156***f* shows a target and actual rating for the day.

Opening Health Manager web page **150** also may include Daily Dose section **157** which provides, on a daily time interval basis, information to the user, including, but not limited to, hyperlinks to news items and articles, commentary and reminders to the user based on tendencies, such as poor nutritional habits, determined from the initial survey. The commentary for Daily Dose **157** may, for example, be a factual statement that drinking **8** glasses of water a day can reduce the risk of colon cancer by as much as 32%, accompanied by a suggestion to keep a cup of water by your computer or on your desk at work and refill often. Opening Health Manager web page **150** also may include a Problem Solver section **158** that actively evaluates the user's performance in each of the categories of Health Index **155** and presents suggestions for improvement. For example, if the system detects that a user's Sleep levels have been low, which suggest that the user has been having trouble sleeping, Problem Solver **158** can provide suggestions for way to improve sleep. Problem Solver **158** also may include the capability of user questions regarding improvements in performance. Opening Health Manager web page **150** may also include a Daily Data section **159** that launches an input dialog box. The input dialog box facilitates input by the user of the various data required by the Health Manager. As is known in the art, data entry may be in the form of selection from pre-defined lists or general free form text input. Finally, opening Health Manager web page **150** may include Body Stats section **161** which may provide information regarding the user's height, weight, body measurements, body mass index or BMI, and vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure or any of the identified physiological parameters.

Referring to FIGS. **12-17**, a specific embodiment of sensor device **10** is shown which is in the form of an armband adapted to be worn by an individual on his or her upper arm, between the shoulder and the elbow. The specific embodiment of sensor device **10** shown in FIGS. **12-17** will, for convenience, be referred to as armband sensor device **400**. Armband sensor device **400** includes computer housing **405**, flexible wing body **410**, and, as shown in FIG. **17**, elastic strap **415**. Computer housing **405** and flexible wing body **410** are preferably made of a flexible urethane material or an elastomeric material such as rubber or a rubber-silicone blend by a molding process. Flexible wing body **410** includes first and second wings **418** each having a thru-hole **420** located near the ends **425** thereof. First and second wings **418** are adapted to wrap around a portion of the wearer's upper arm.

Elastic strap **415** is used to removably affix armband sensor device **400** to the individual's upper arm. As seen in FIG. **17**, bottom surface **426** of elastic strap **415** is provided with velcro loops **416** along a portion thereof. Each end **427** of elastic strap **415** is provided with velcro hook patch **428** on

bottom surface **426** and pull tab **429** on top surface **430**. A portion of each pull tab **429** extends beyond the edge of each end **427**.

In order to wear armband sensor device **400**, a user inserts each end **427** of elastic strap **415** into a respective thru-hole **420** of flexible wing body **410**. The user then places his arm through the loop created by elastic strap **415**, flexible wing body **410** and computer housing **405**. By pulling each pull tab **429** and engaging velcro hook patches **428** with velcro loops **416** at a desired position along bottom surface **426** of elastic strap **415**, the user can adjust elastic strap **415** to fit comfortably. Since velcro hook patches **428** can be engaged with velcro loops **416** at almost any position along bottom surface **426**, armband sensor device **400** can be adjusted to fit arms of various sizes. Also, elastic strap **415** may be provided in various lengths to accommodate a wider range of arm sizes. As will be apparent to one of skill in the art, other means of fastening and adjusting the size of elastic strap may be used, including, but not limited to, snaps, buttons, or buckles. It is also possible to use two elastic straps that fasten by one of several conventional means including velcro, snaps, buttons, buckles or the like, or merely a single elastic strap affixed to wings **418**.

Alternatively, instead of providing thru-holes **420** in wings **418**, loops having the shape of the letter D, not shown, may be attached to ends **425** of wings **418** by one of several conventional means. For example, a pin, not shown, may be inserted through ends **425**, wherein the pin engages each end of each loop. In this configuration, the D-shaped loops would serve as connecting points for elastic strap **415**, effectively creating a thru-hole between each end **425** of each wing **418** and each loop.

As shown in FIG. **18**, which is an exploded view of armband sensor device **400**, computer housing **405** includes a top portion **435** and a bottom portion **440**. Contained within computer housing **405** are printed circuit board or PCB **445**, rechargeable battery **450**, preferably a lithium ion battery, and vibrating motor **455** for providing tactile feedback to the wearer, such as those used in pagers, suitable examples of which are the Model 12342 and 12343 motors sold by MG Motors Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

Top portion **435** and bottom portion **440** of computer housing **405** sealingly mate along groove **436** into which O-ring **437** is fit, and may be affixed to one another by screws, not shown, which pass through screw holes **438***a* and stiffeners **438***b* of bottom portion **440** and apertures **439** in PCB **445** and into threaded receiving stiffeners **451** of top portion **435**. Alternately, top portion **435** and bottom portion **440** may be snap fit together or affixed to one another with an adhesive. Preferably, the assembled computer housing **405** is sufficiently water resistant to permit armband sensor device **400** to be worn while swimming without adversely affecting the performance thereof.

As can be seen in FIG. **13**, bottom portion **440** includes, on a bottom side thereof, a raised platform **430**. Affixed to raised platform **430** is heat flow or flux sensor **460**, a suitable example of which is the micro-foil heat flux sensor sold by RdF Corporation of Hudson, N.H. Heat flux sensor **460** functions as a self-generating thermopile transducer, and preferably includes a carrier made of a polyamide film. Bottom portion **440** may include on a top side thereof, that is on a side opposite the side to which heat flux sensor **460** is affixed, a heat sink, not shown, made of a suitable metallic material such as aluminum. Also affixed to raised platform **430** are GSR sensors **465**, preferably comprising electrodes formed of a material such as conductive carbonized rubber, gold or stainless steel. Although two GSR sensors **465** are shown in FIG. **13**, it will be appreciated by one of skill in the art that the number of GSR sensors **465** and the placement thereof on raised platform **430** can vary as long as the individual GSR sensors **465**, i.e., the electrodes, are electrically isolated from one another. By being affixed to raised platform **430**, heat flux sensor **460** and GSR sensors **465** are adapted to be in contact with the wearer's skin when armband sensor device **400** is worn. Bottom portion **440** of computer housing **405** may also be provided with a removable and replaceable soft foam fabric pad, not shown, on a portion of the surface thereof that does not include raised platform **430** and screw holes **438***a*. The soft foam fabric is intended to contact the wearer's skin and make armband sensor device **400** more comfortable to wear.

Electrical coupling between heat flux sensor **460**, GSR sensors **465**, and PCB **445** may be accomplished in one of various known methods. For example, suitable wiring, not shown, may be molded into bottom portion **440** of computer housing **405** and then electrically connected, such as by soldering, to appropriate input locations on PCB **445** and to heat flux sensor **460** and GSR sensors **465**. Alternatively, rather than molding wiring into bottom portion **440**, thru-holes may be provided in bottom portion **440** through which appropriate wiring may pass. The thru-holes would preferably be provided with a water tight seal to maintain the integrity of computer housing **405**.

Rather than being affixed to raised platform **430** as shown in FIG. **13**, one or both of heat flux sensor **460** and GSR sensors **465** may be affixed to the inner portion **466** of flexible wing body **410** on either or both of wings **418** so as to be in contact with the wearer's skin when armband sensor device **400** is worn. In such a configuration, electrical coupling between heat flux sensor **460** and GSR sensors **465**, whichever the case may be, and the PCB **445** may be accomplished through suitable wiring, not shown, molded into flexible wing body **410** that passes through one or more thru-holes in computer housing **405** and that is electrically connected, such as by soldering, to appropriate input locations on PCB **445**. Again, the thru-holes would preferably be provided with a water tight seal to maintain the integrity of computer housing **405**. Alternatively, rather than providing thru-holes in computer housing **405** through which the wiring passes, the wiring may be captured in computer housing **405** during an overmolding process, described below, and ultimately soldered to appropriate input locations on PCB **445**.

As shown in FIGS. **12**, **16**, **17** and **18**, computer housing **405** includes a button **470** that is coupled to and adapted to activate a momentary switch **585** on PCB **445**. Button **470** may be used to activate armband sensor device **400** for use, to mark the time an event occurred or to request system status information such as battery level and memory capacity. When button **470** is depressed, momentary switch **585** closes a circuit and a signal is sent to processing unit **490** on PCB **445**. Depending on the time interval for which button **470** is depressed, the generated signal triggers one of the events just described. Computer housing **405** also includes LEDs **475**, which may be used to indicate battery level or memory capacity or to provide visual feedback to the wearer. Rather than LEDs **475**, computer housing **405** may also include a liquid crystal display or LCD to provide battery level, memory capacity or visual feedback information to the wearer. Battery level, memory capacity or feedback information may also be given to the user tactily or audibly.

Armband sensor device **400** may be adapted to be activated for use, that is collecting data, when either of GSR sensors **465** or heat flux sensor **460** senses a particular condition that indicates that armband sensor device **400** has been placed in

contact with the user's skin. Also, armband sensor device **400** may be adapted to be activated for use when one or more of heat flux sensor **460**, GSR sensors **465**, accelerometer **495** or **550**, or any other device in communication with armband sensor device **400**, alone or in combination, sense a particular condition or conditions that indicate that the armband sensor device **400** has been placed in contact with the user's skin for use. At other times, armband sensor device **400** would be deactivated, thus preserving battery power.

Computer housing **405** is adapted to be coupled to a battery recharger unit **480** shown in FIG. **19** for the purpose of recharging rechargeable battery **450**. Computer housing **405** includes recharger contacts **485**, shown in FIGS. **12**, **15**, **16** and **17**, that are coupled to rechargeable battery **450**. Recharger contracts **485** may be made of a material such as brass, gold or stainless steel, and are adapted to mate with and be electrically coupled to electrical contacts, not shown, provided in battery recharger unit **480** when armband sensor device **400** is placed therein. The electrical contacts provided in battery recharger unit **480** may be coupled to recharging circuit **481***a* provided inside battery recharger unit **480**. In this configuration, recharging circuit **481** would be coupled to a wall outlet, such as by way of wiring including a suitable plug that is attached or is attachable to battery recharger unit **480**. Alternatively, electrical contacts **480** may be coupled to wiring that is attached to or is attachable to battery recharger unit **480** that in turn is coupled to recharging circuit **481***b* external to battery recharger unit **480**. The wiring in this configuration would also include a plug, not shown, adapted to be plugged into a conventional wall outlet.

Also provided inside battery recharger unit **480** is RF transceiver **483** adapted to receive signals from and transmit signals to RF transceiver **565** provided in computer housing **405** and shown in FIG. **20**. RF transceiver **483** is adapted to be coupled, for example by a suitable cable, to a serial port, such as an RS 232 port or a USB port, of a device such as personal computer **35** shown in FIG. **1**. Thus, data may be uploaded from and downloaded to armband sensor device **400** using RF transceiver **483** and RF transceiver **565**. It will be appreciated that although RF transceivers **483** and **565** are shown in FIGS. **19** and **20**, other forms of wireless transceivers may be used, such as infrared transceivers. Alternatively, computer housing **405** may be provided with additional electrical contacts, not shown, that would be adapted to mate with and be electrically coupled to additional electrical contacts, not shown, provided in battery recharger unit **480** when armband sensor device **400** is placed therein. The additional electrical contacts in the computer housing **405** would be coupled to the processing unit **490** and the additional electrical contacts provided in battery recharger unit **480** would be coupled to a suitable cable that in turn would be coupled to a serial port, such as an RS R32 port or a USB port, of a device such as personal computer **35**. This configuration thus provides an alternate method for uploading of data from and downloading of data to armband sensor device **400** using a physical connection.

FIG. **20** is a schematic diagram that shows the system architecture of armband sensor device **400**, and in particular each of the components that is either on or coupled to PCB **445**.

As shown in FIG. **17**, PCB **445** includes processing unit **490**, which may be a microprocessor, a microcontroller, or any other processing device that can be adapted to perform the functionality described herein. Processing unit **490** is adapted to provide all of the functionality described in connection with microprocessor **20** shown in FIG. **2**. A suitable example of processing unit **490** is the Dragonball EZ sold by Motorola, Inc. of Schaumburg, Ill. PCB **445** also has thereon a two-axis accelerometer **495**, a suitable example of which is the Model ADXL210 accelerometer sold by Analog Devices, Inc. of Norwood, Mass. Two-axis accelerometer **495** is preferably mounted on PCB **445** at an angle such that its sensing axes are offset at an angle substantially equal to 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of PCB **445** and thus the longitudinal axis of the wearer's arm when armband sensor device **400** is worn. The longitudinal axis of the wearer's arm refers to the axis defined by a straight line drawn from the wearer's shoulder to the wearer's elbow. The output signals of two-axis accelerometer **495** are passed through buffers **500** and input into analog to digital converter **505** that in turn is coupled to processing unit **490**. GSR sensors **465** are coupled to amplifier **510** on PCB **445**. Amplifier **510** provides amplification and low pass filtering functionality, a suitable example of which is the Model AD8544 amplifier sold by Analog Devices, Inc. of Norwood, Mass. The amplified and filtered signal output by amplifier **510** is input into amp/offset **515** to provide further gain and to remove any bias voltage and into filter/conditioning circuit **520**, which in turn are each coupled to analog to digital converter **505**. Heat flux sensor **460** is coupled to differential input amplifier **525**, such as the Model INA amplifier sold by Burr-Brown Corporation of Tucson, Ariz., and the resulting amplified signal is passed through filter circuit **530**, buffer **535** and amplifier **540** before being input to analog to digital converter **505**. Amplifier **540** is configured to provide further gain and low pass filtering, a suitable example of which is the Model AD8544 amplifier sold by Analog Devices, Inc. of Norwood, Mass. PCB **445** also includes thereon a battery monitor **545** that monitors the remaining power level of rechargeable battery **450**. Battery monitor **545** preferably comprises a voltage divider with a low pass filter to provide average battery voltage. When a user depresses button **470** in the manner adapted for requesting battery level, processing unit **490** checks the output of battery monitor **545** and provides an indication thereof to the user, preferably through LEDs **475**, but also possibly through vibrating motor **455** or ringer **575**. An LCD may also be used.

PCB **445** may include three-axis accelerometer **550** instead of or in addition to two-axis accelerometer **495**. The three-axis accelerometer outputs a signal to processing unit **490**. A suitable example of three-axis accelerometer is the μPAM product sold by I.M. Systems, Inc. of Scottsdale, Ariz. Three-axis accelerometer **550** is preferably tilted in the manner described with respect to two-axis accelerometer **495**.

PCB **445** also includes RF receiver **555** that is coupled to processing unit **490**. RF receiver **555** may be used to receive signals that are output by another device capable of wireless transmission, shown in FIG. **20** as wireless device **558**, worn by or located near the individual wearing armband sensor device **400**. Located near as used herein means within the transmission range of wireless device **558**. For example, wireless device **558** may be a chest mounted heart rate monitor such as the Tempo product sold by Polar Electro of Oulu, Finland. Using such a heart rate monitor, data indicative of the wearer's heart rate can be collected by armband sensor device **400**. Antenna **560** and RF transceiver **565** are coupled to processing unit **490** and are provided for purposes of uploading data to central monitoring unit **30** and receiving data downloaded from central monitoring unit **30**. RF transceiver **565** and RF receiver **555** may, for example, employ Bluetooth technology as the wireless transmission protocol. Also, other forms of wireless transmission may be used, such as infrared transmission.

Vibrating motor **455** is coupled to processing unit **490** through vibrator driver **570** and provides tactile feedback to

the wearer. Similarly, ringer **575**, a suitable example of which is the Model SMT916A ringer sold by Projects Unlimited, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio, is coupled to processing unit **490** through ringer driver **580**, a suitable example of which is the Model MMBTA14 CTI darlington transistor driver sold by Motorola, Inc. of Schaumburg, Ill., and provides audible feedback to the wearer. Feedback may include, for example, celebratory, cautionary and other threshold or event driven messages, such as when a wearer reaches a level of calories burned during a workout.

Also provided on PCB **445** and coupled to processing unit **490** is momentary switch **585**. Momentary switch **585** is also coupled to button **470** for activating momentary switch **585**. LEDs **475**, used to provide various types of feedback information to the wearer, are coupled to processing unit **490** through LED latch/driver **590**.

Oscillator **595** is provided on PCB **445** and supplies the system clock to processing unit **490**. Reset circuit **600**, accessible and triggerable through a pin-hole in the side of computer housing **405**, is coupled to processing unit **490** and enables processing unit **490** to be reset to a standard initial setting.

Rechargeable battery **450**, which is the main power source for the armband sensor device **400**, is coupled to processing unit **490** through voltage regulator **605**. Finally, memory functionality is provided for armband sensor device **400** by SRAM **610**, which stores data relating to the wearer of armband sensor device **400**, and flash memory **615**, which stores program and configuration data, provided on PCB **445**. SRAM **610** and flash memory **615** are coupled to processing unit **490** and each preferably have at least 512K of memory.

In manufacturing and assembling armband sensor device **400**, top portion **435** of computer housing **405** is preferably formed first, such as by a conventional molding process, and flexible wing body **410** is then overmolded on top of top portion **435**. That is, top portion **435** is placed into an appropriately shaped mold, i.e., one that, when top portion **435** is placed therein, has a remaining cavity shaped according to the desired shape of flexible wing body **410**, and flexible wing body **410** is molded on top of top portion **435**. As a result, flexible wing body **410** and top portion **435** will merge or bond together, forming a single unit. Alternatively, top portion **435** of computer housing **405** and flexible wing body **410** may be formed together, such as by molding in a single mold, to form a single unit. The single unit however formed may then be turned over such that the underside of top portion **435** is facing upwards, and the contents of computer housing **405** can be placed into top portion **435**, and top portion **435** and bottom portion **440** can be affixed to one another. As still another alternative, flexible wing body **410** may be separately formed, such as by a conventional molding process, and computer housing **405**, and in particular top portion **435** of computer housing **405**, may be affixed to flexible wing body **410** by one of several known methods, such as by an adhesive, by snap-fitting, or by screwing the two pieces together. Then, the remainder of computer housing **405** would be assembled as described above. It will be appreciated that rather than assembling the remainder of computer housing **405** after top portion **435** has been affixed to flexible wing body **410**, the computer housing **405** could be assembled first and then affixed to flexible wing body **410**.

The terms and expressions which have been employed herein are used as terms of description and not as limitation, and there is no intention in the use of such terms and expressions of excluding equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, it being recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention claimed. Although particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated in the foregoing detailed description, it is to be further understood that the present invention is not to be limited to just the embodiments disclosed, but that they are capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions.

We claim:

1. A wearable apparatus for monitoring and reporting the physical activity of an individual, comprising:

a) a first sensor that continuously measures the resistance of said individual's skin to an electric current;

b) a second sensor that continuously measures a motion-related parameter of said individual;

c) a processing unit that receives said continuously measured resistance of said individual's skin to an electric current and said continuously measured motion-related parameter to derive data about the physical activity of said individual, and that generates feedback to said individual wherein said feedback is based on said data about the physical activity of said individual, wherein said feedback relates to at least one of the taking of medication, the engaging in a particular activity, the ingestion of a food or water, and the occurrence of a physiological condition;

d) an output facility in electronic communication with said processing unit to provide said feedback to said individual; and

e) a housing, wherein at least one of said first sensor and said second sensor are entirely supported by or entirely located within said housing.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said first sensor is a galvanic skin response sensor.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said second sensor is at least one of an accelerometer, a global-positioning sensor, and a body-position sensor.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said data about the physical activity of said individual is said individual's activity level.

5. A method of monitoring and reporting the physical activity of an individual with a wearable device having a housing, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously measuring the resistance of said individual's skin to an electric current with a first sensor, said first sensor being entirely supported by or entirely located within the housing of said wearable device;

b) continuously measuring a motion-related parameter of said individual with a second sensor, said second sensor being entirely supported by or entirely located within the housing of said wearable device;

c) the processor utilizing said continuously measured resistance of said individual's skin to an electric current and said continuously measured motion-related parameter to automatically derive data about the physical activity of said individual; and

d) the processor automatically generating and communicating feedback to said individual, wherein said feedback is based on said data about the physical activity of said individual, wherein said feedback relates to at least one of the taking of medication, the engaging in a particular activity, the ingestion of a food or water, and the occurrence of a physiological condition.

6. The method of claim **5** further comprising the step of the processor acquiring a subjective indication from the individual of how the individual feels.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of the processor correlating said data about the physical activity of said individual to said subjective indication.

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