



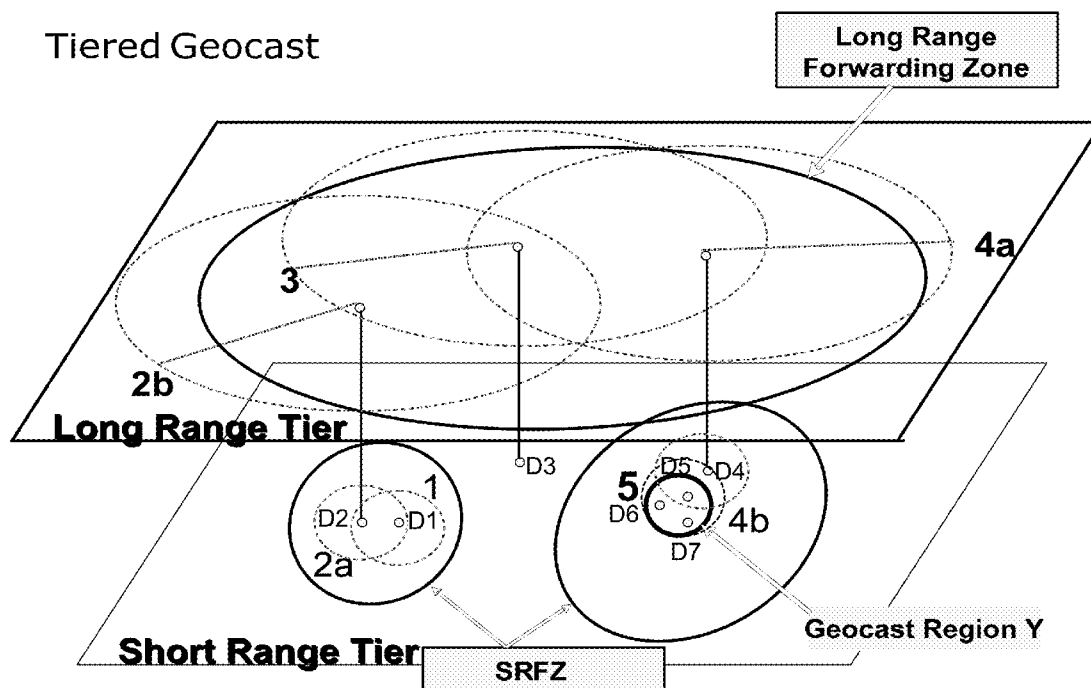
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Hall(10) **Pub. No.: US 2014/0161006 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 12, 2014**(54) **GEOCAST-BASED FILE TRANSFER**(71) Applicant: **AT&T INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**
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(57)

ABSTRACT

Geocast-based file transfer may be implemented via use of a Geocast File Transfer (GFT) protocol. A sending device may parse a file into multiple chunks. Respective multiple geocast packets comprising the chunks may be geocast. The sending device may geocast all packets sequentially. Upon geocasting all packets, the sending device may wait a predetermined amount of time. During the period of time, any receiving device that did not receive a chunk of the file may geocast a request for the missing chunk. Receiving devices also may wait various respective amounts of time before geocasting requests. Other receiving devices that may have missed a chunk may hear that the chunk it missed is being requested. And that device need not make a request for the chunk. Rather, that device may wait for the sending device to retransmit a geocast packet that contains the missing chunk.



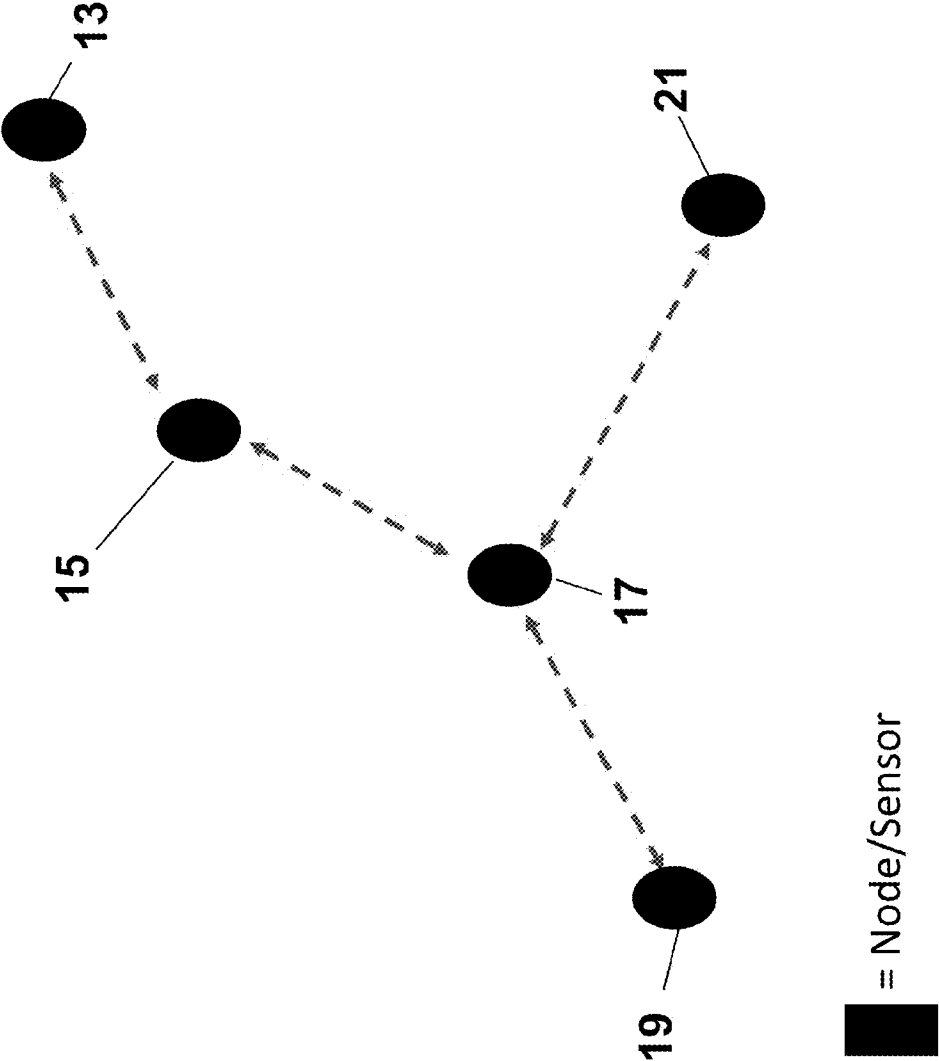


FIGURE 1

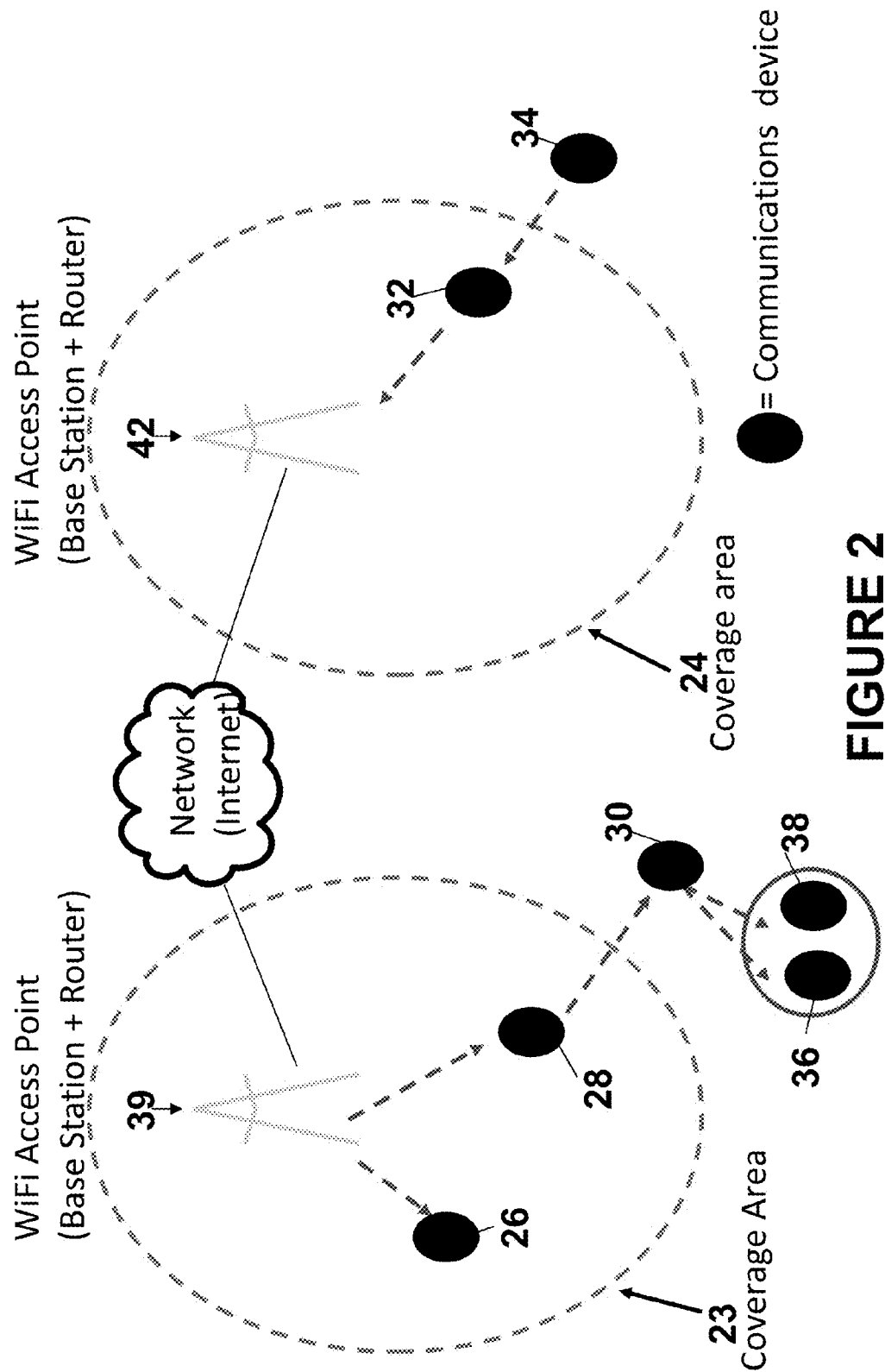


FIGURE 2

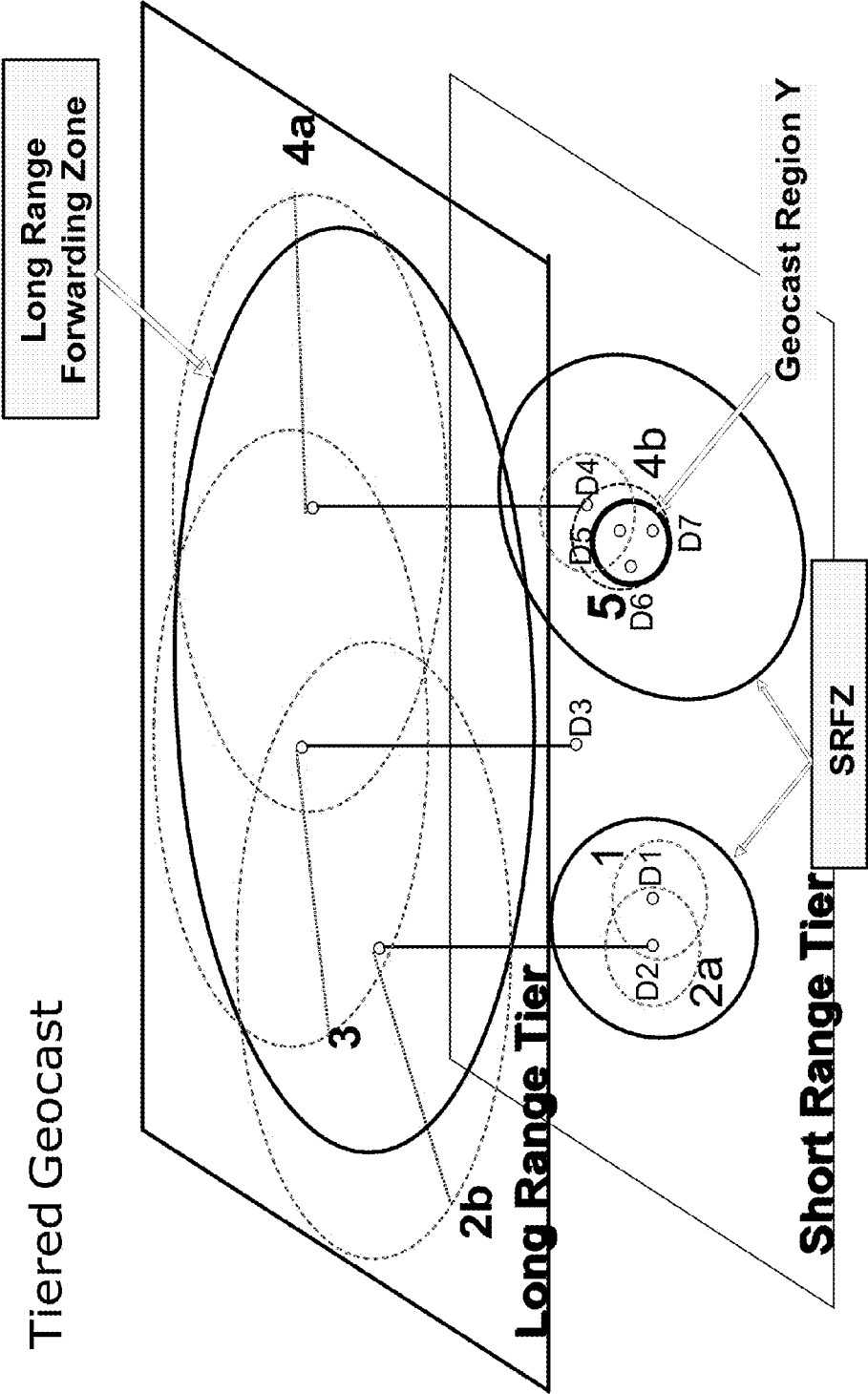


FIGURE 3

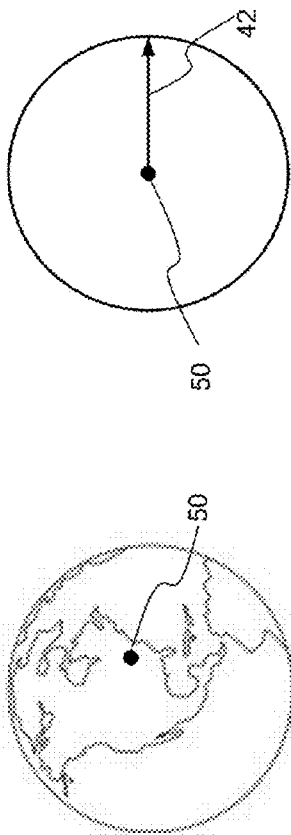


Figure 4B

Figure 4A

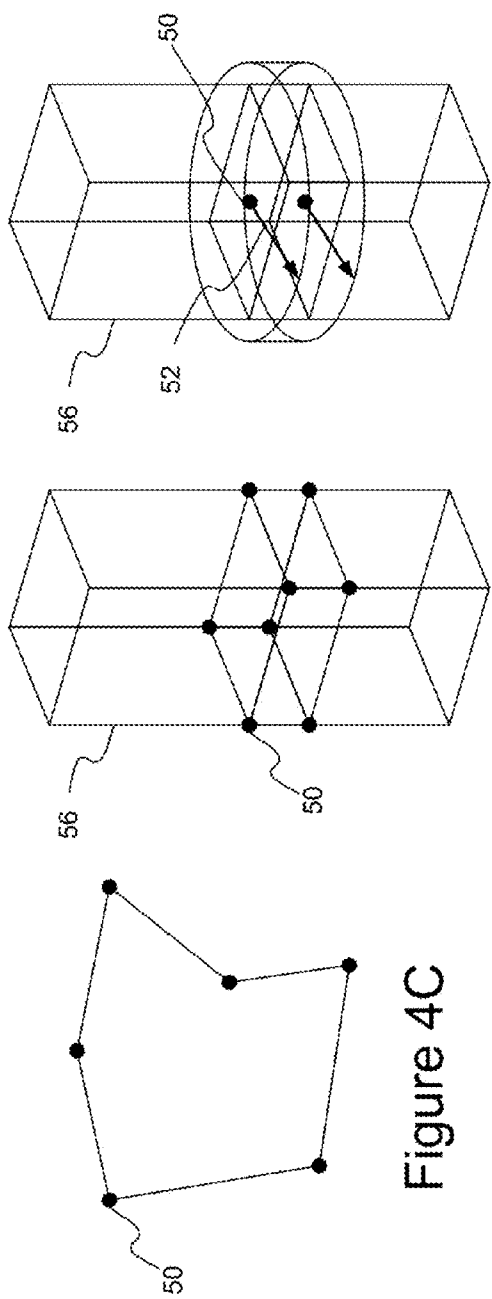


Figure 4C

Figure 4D

Figure 4E

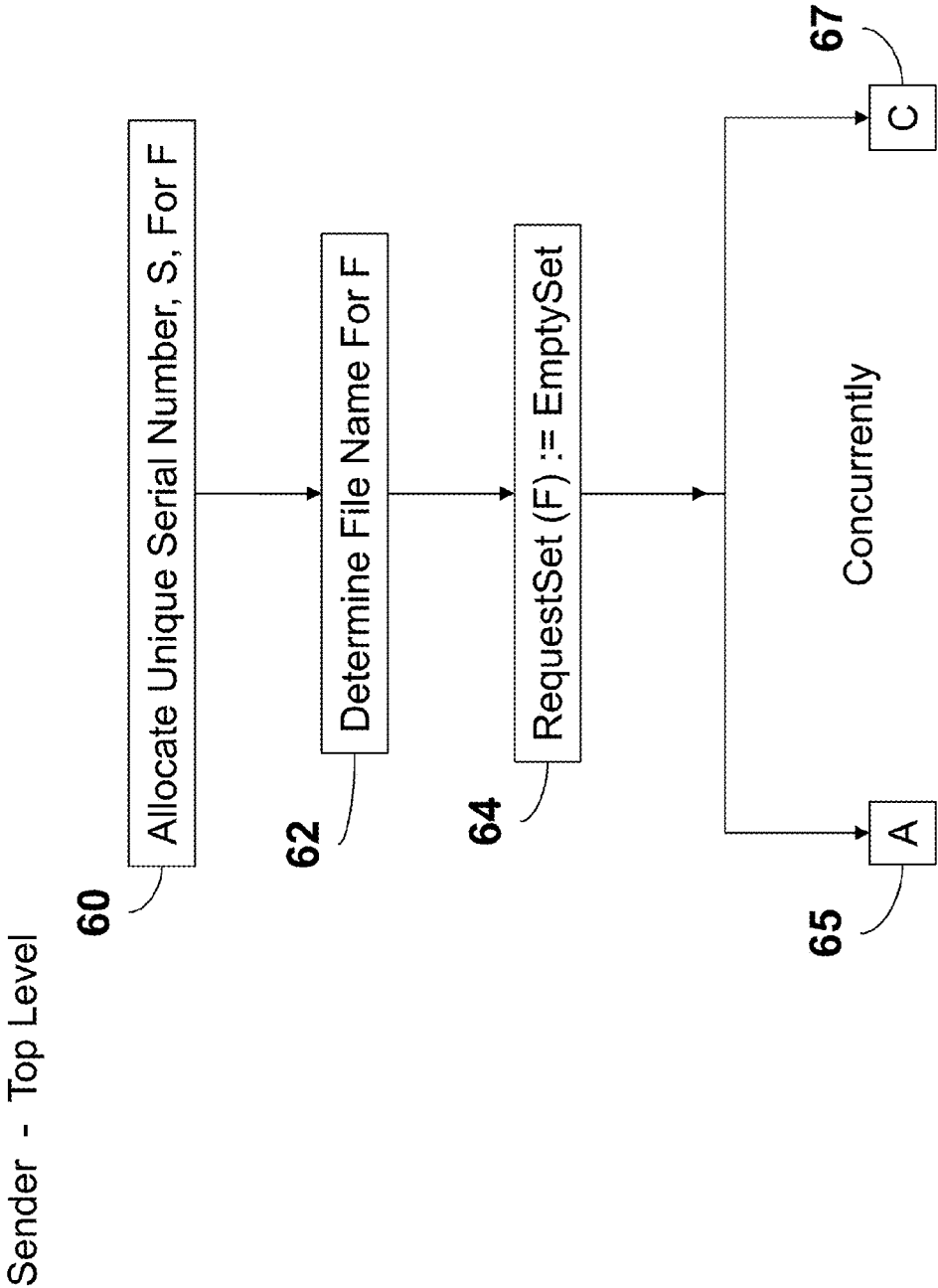


FIGURE 5

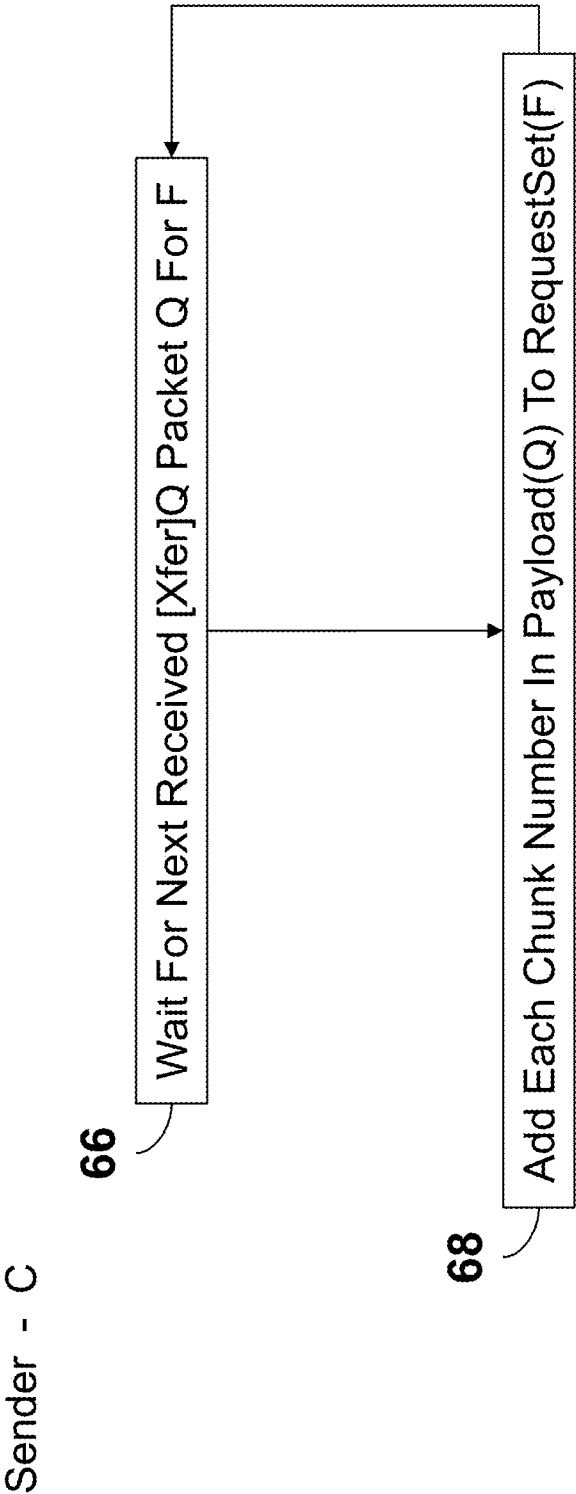


FIGURE 6

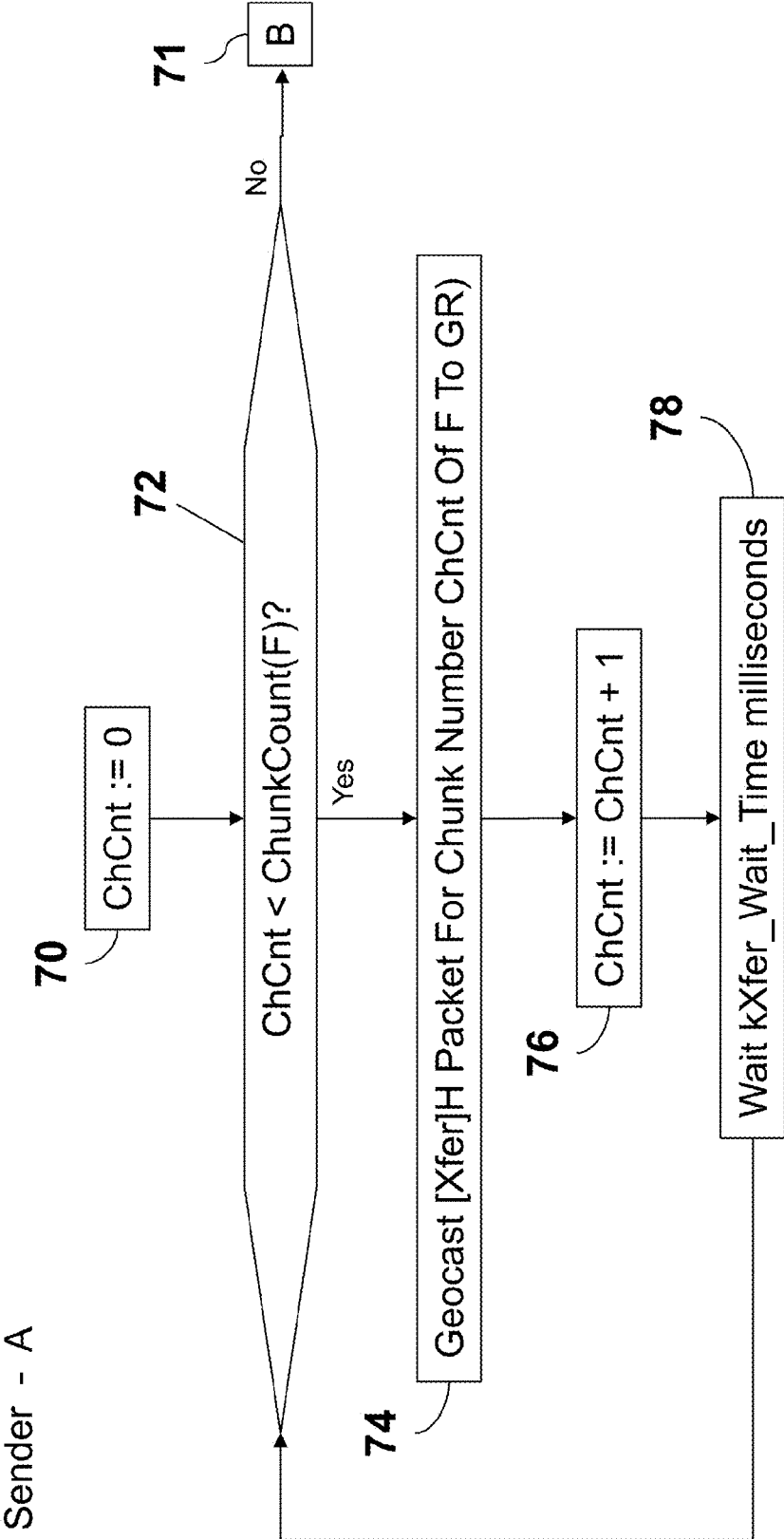
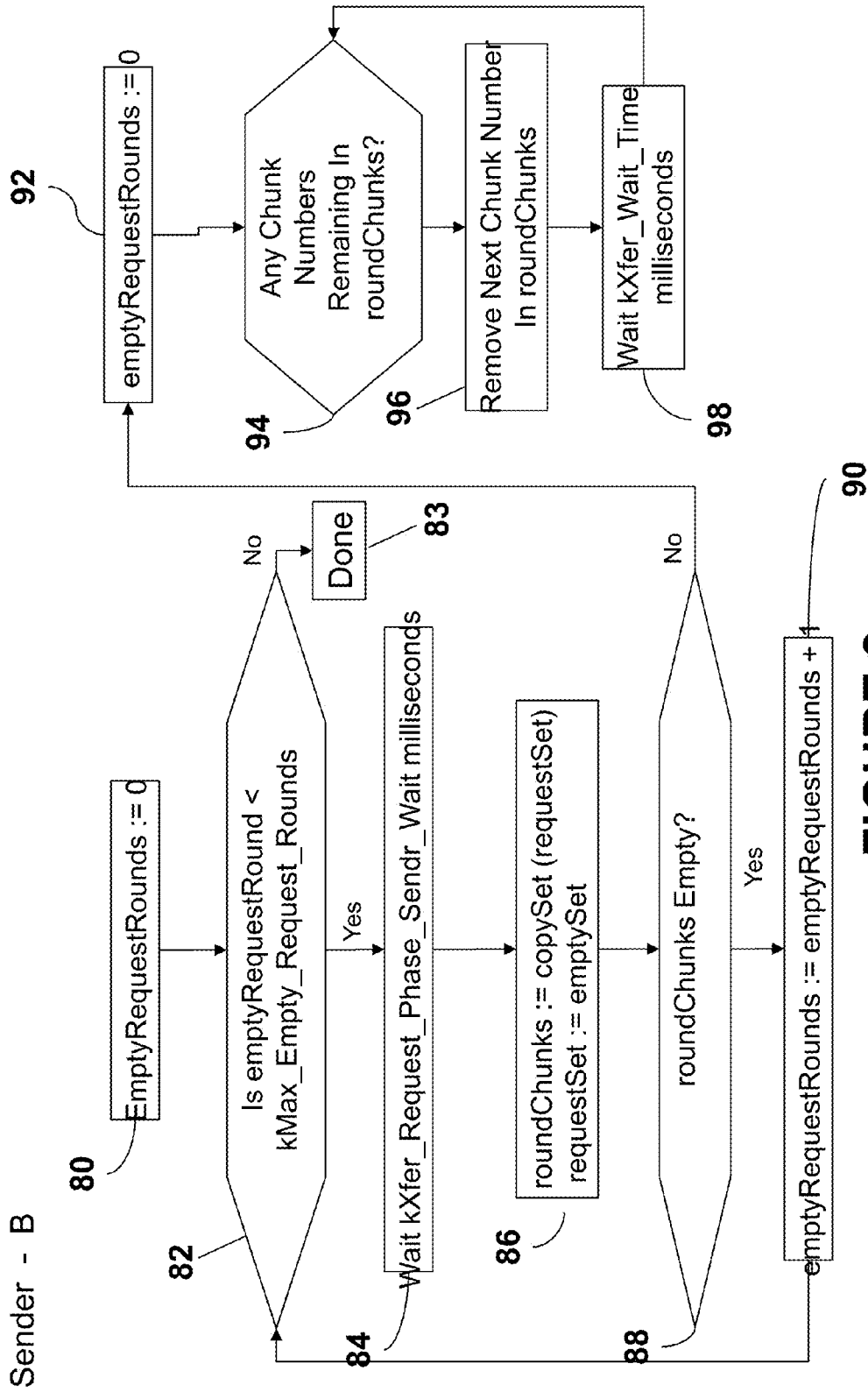


FIGURE 7



Recipient - Top Level

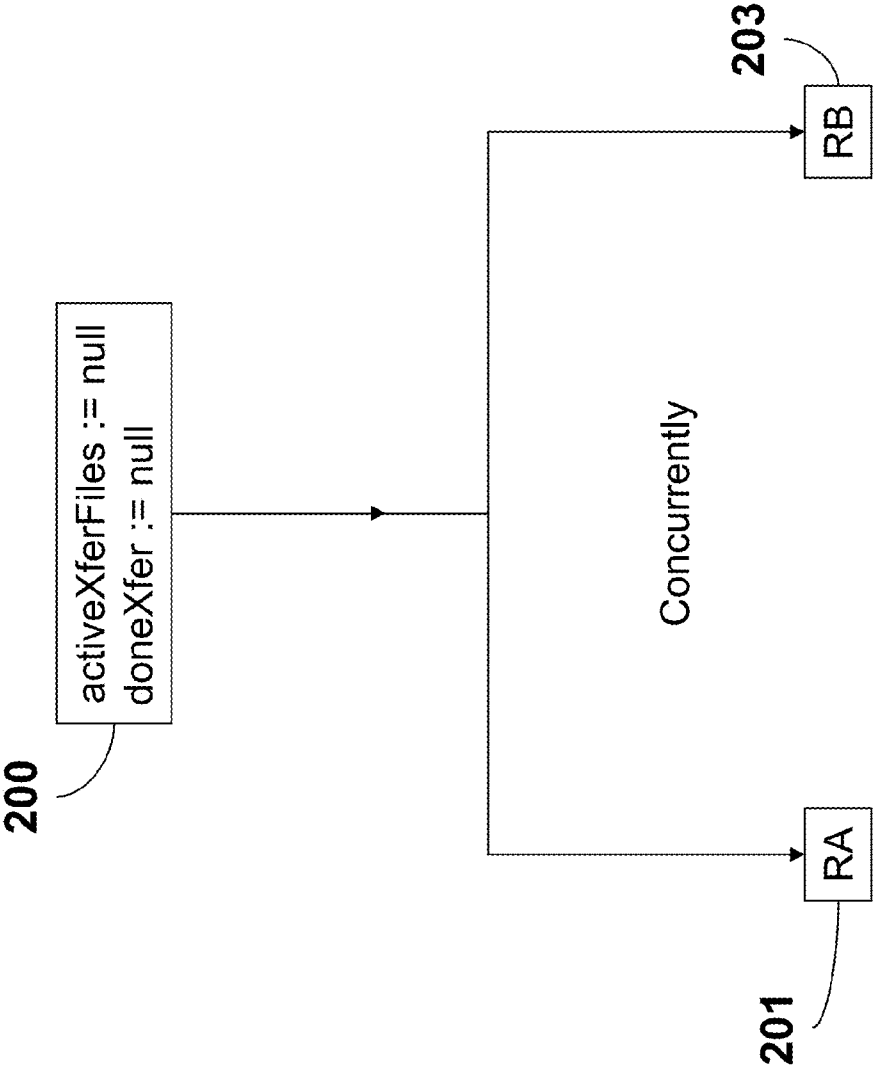


FIGURE 9

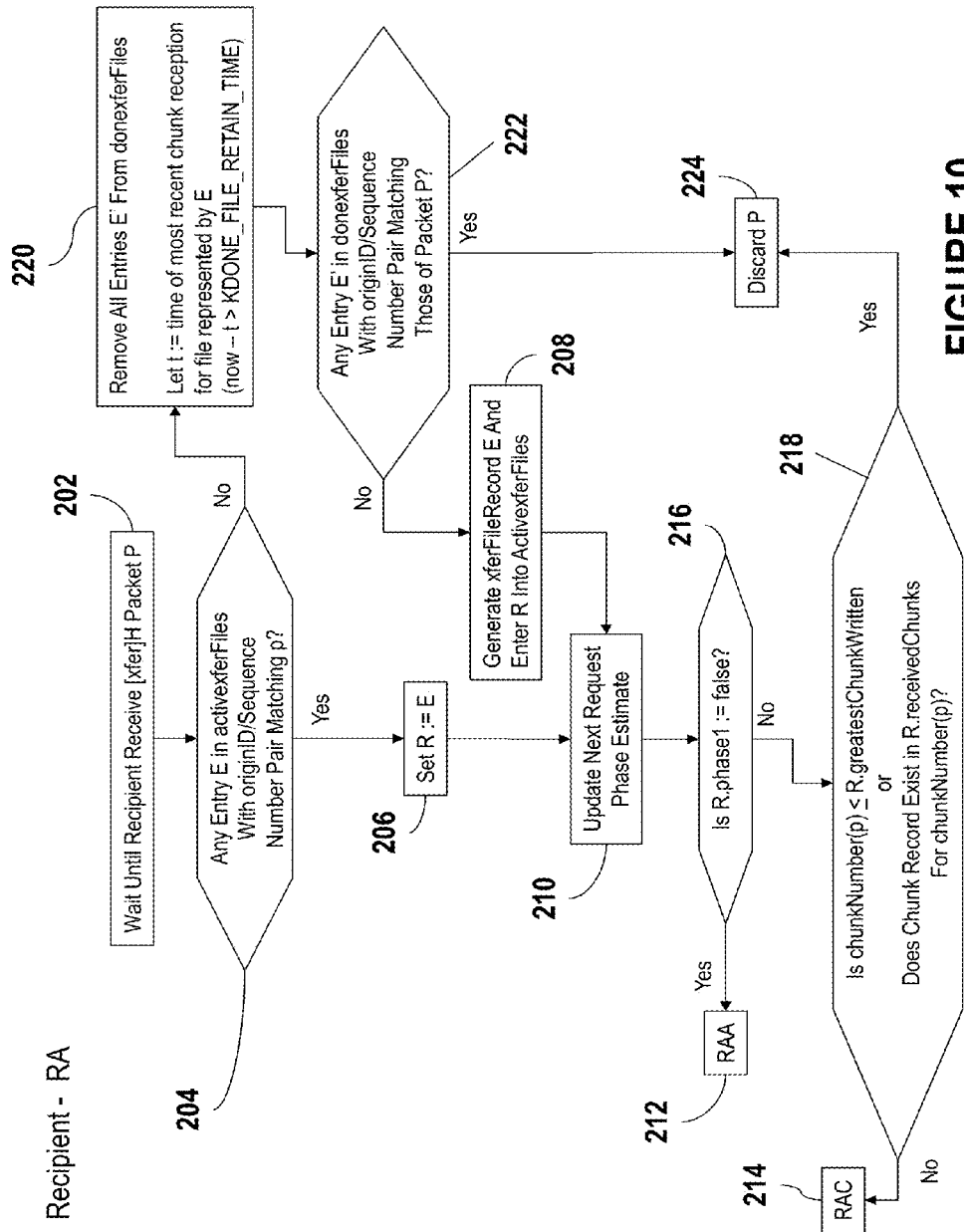


FIGURE 10

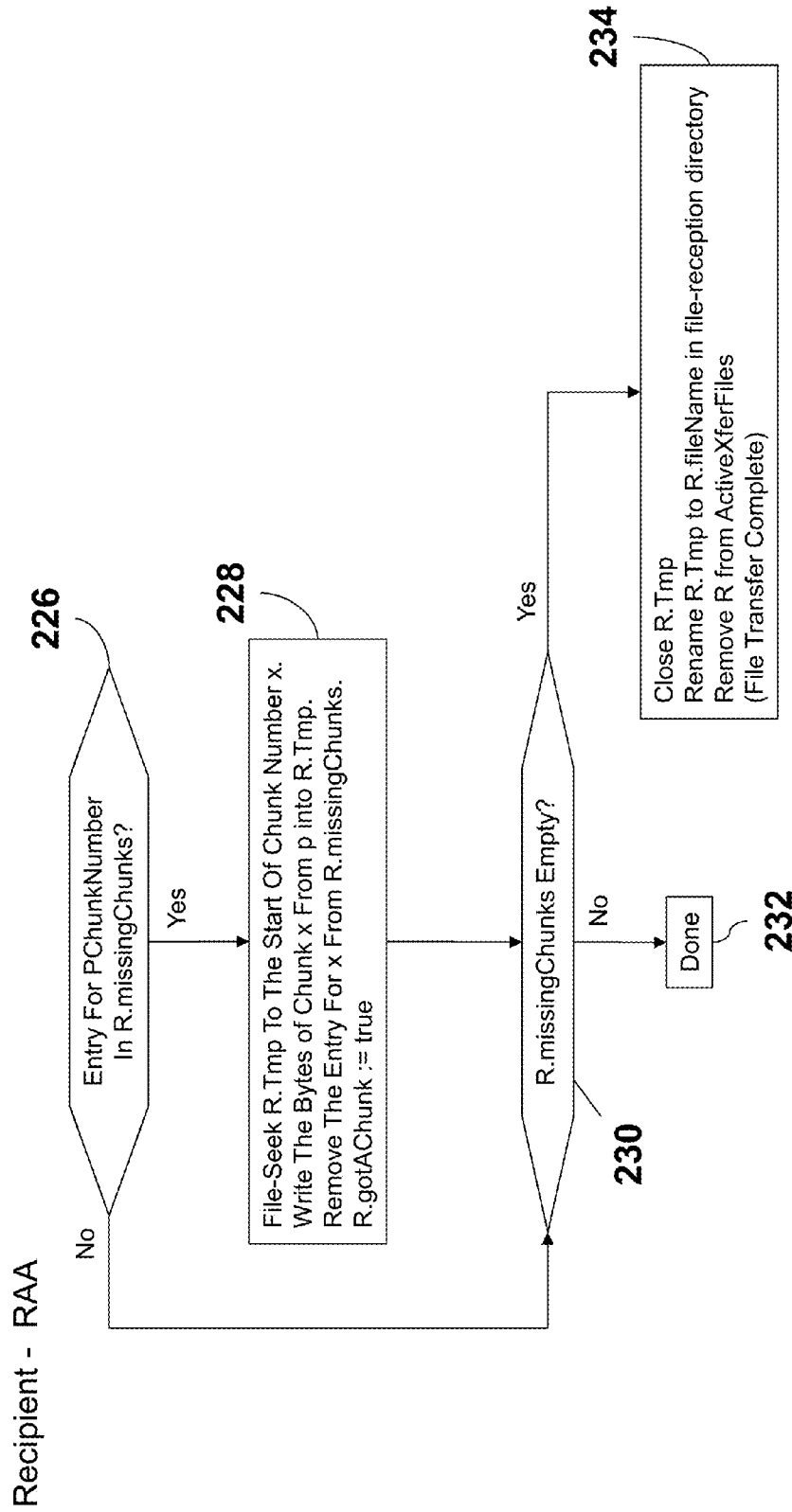
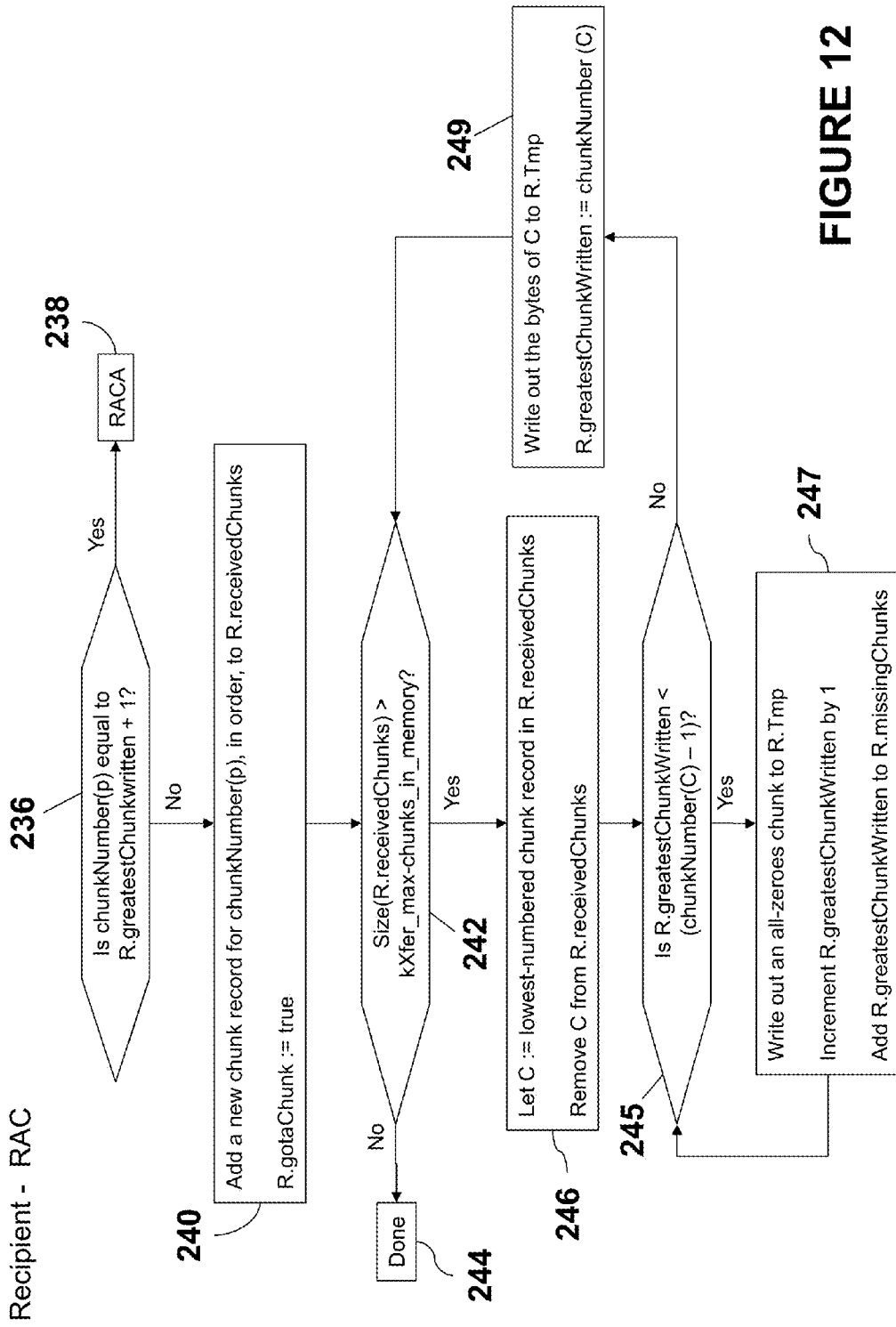


FIGURE 11



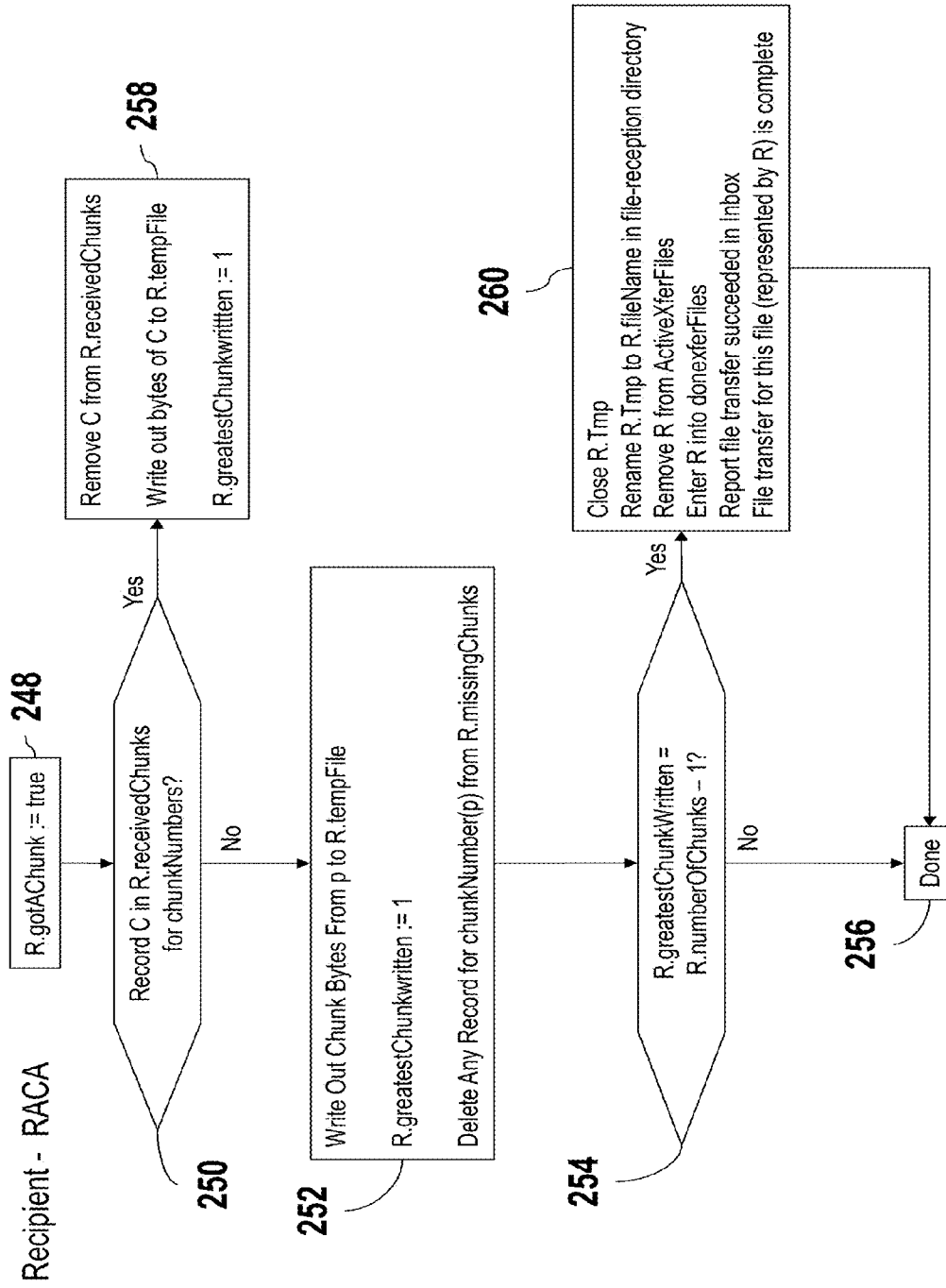


FIGURE 13

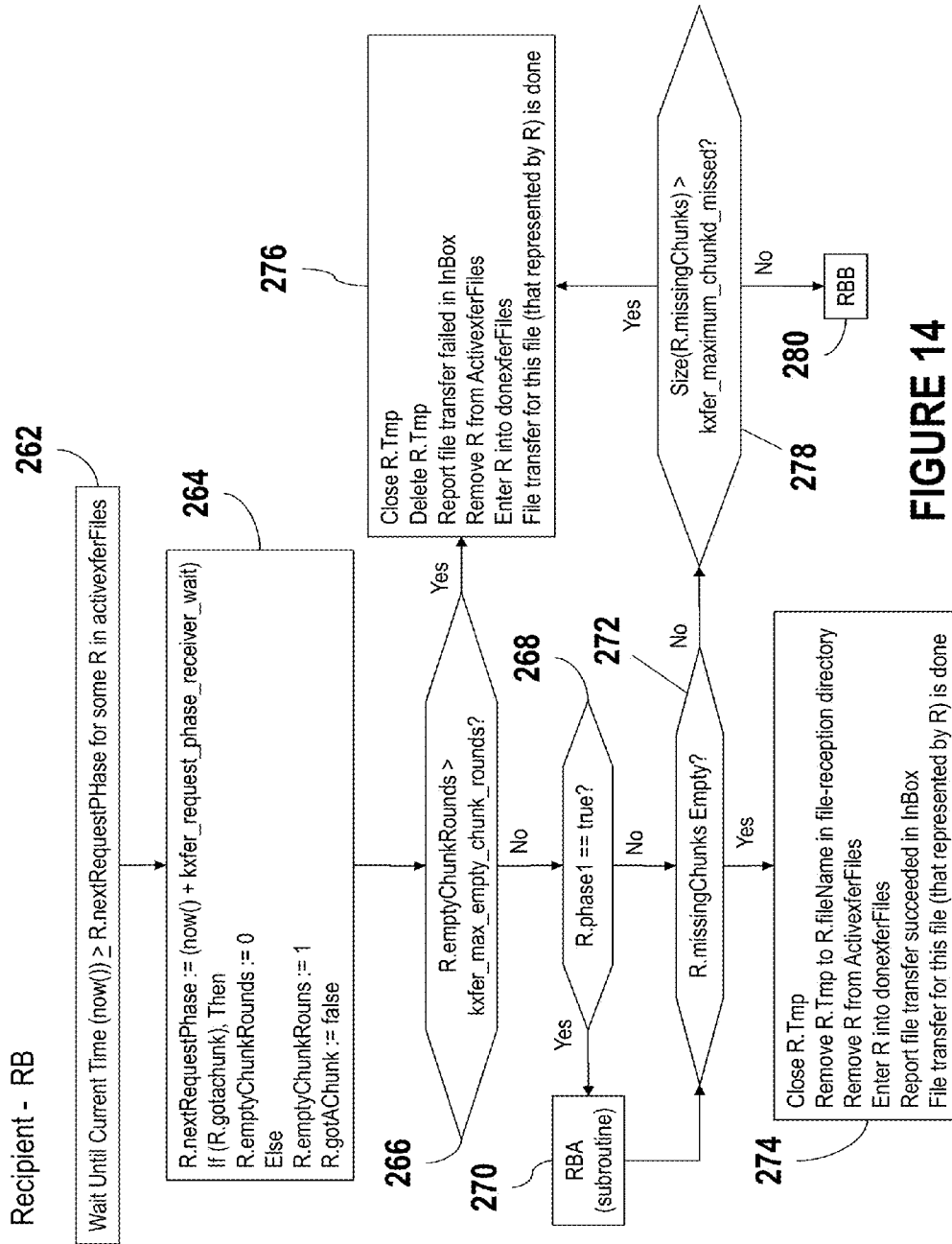


FIGURE 14

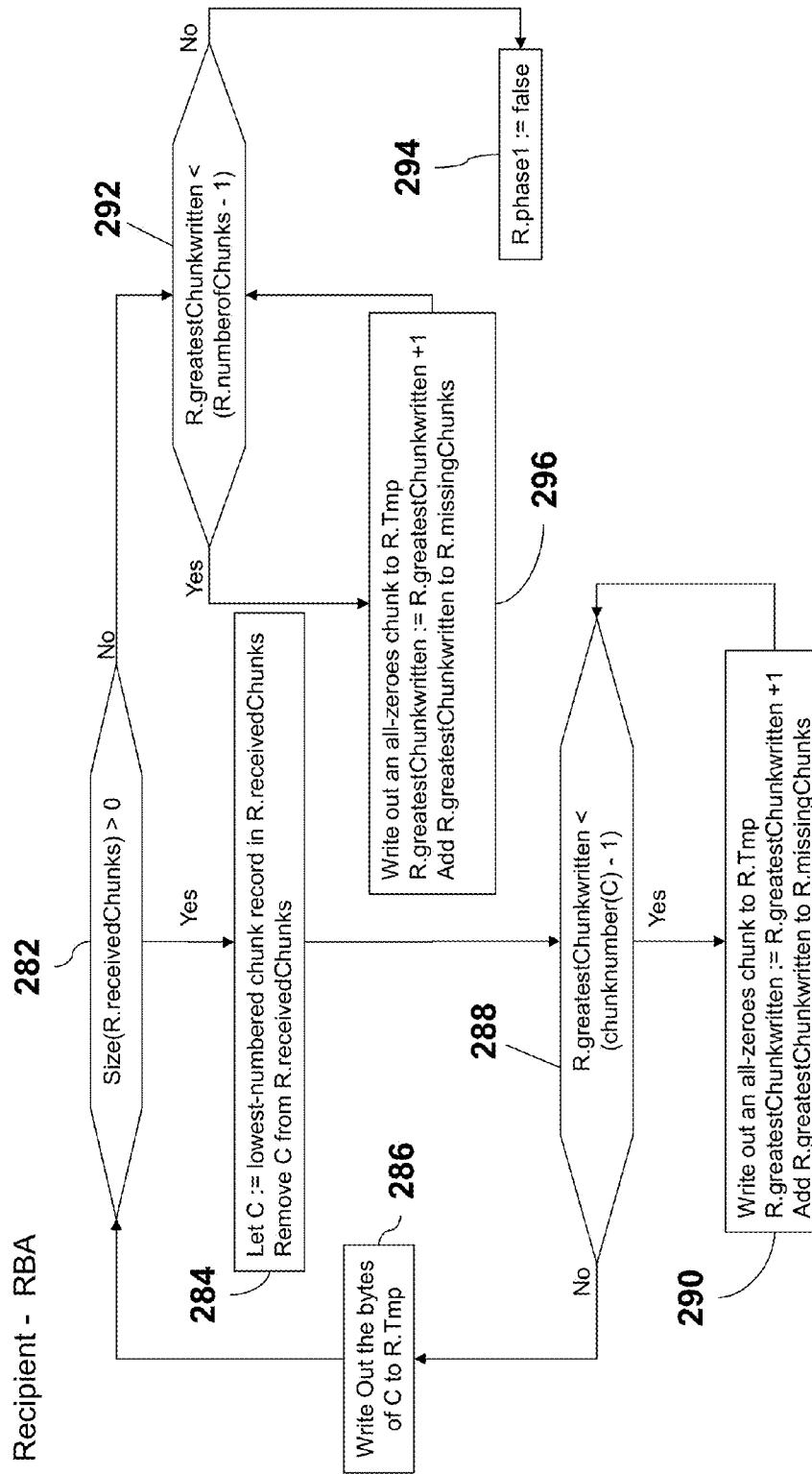


FIGURE 15

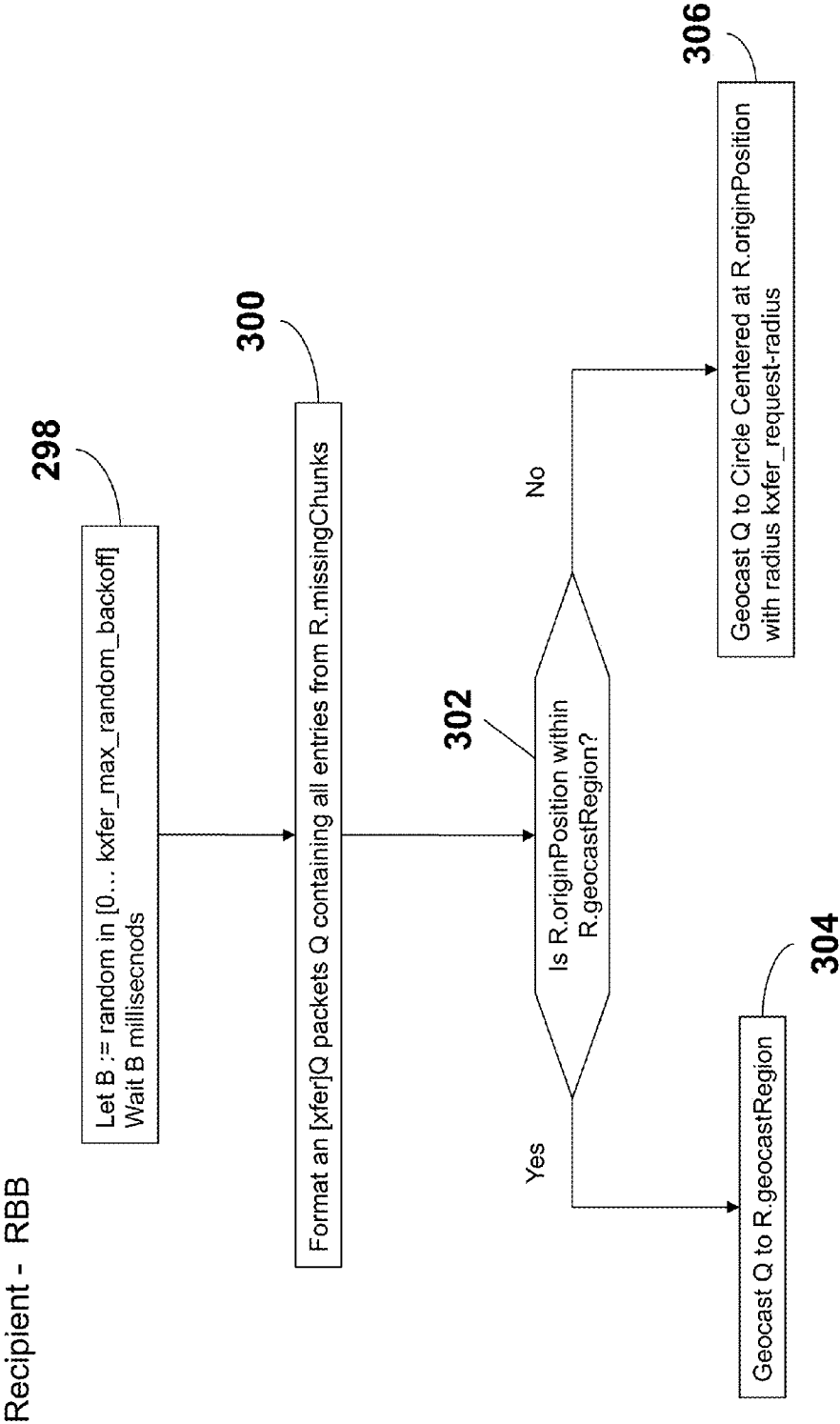


FIGURE 16

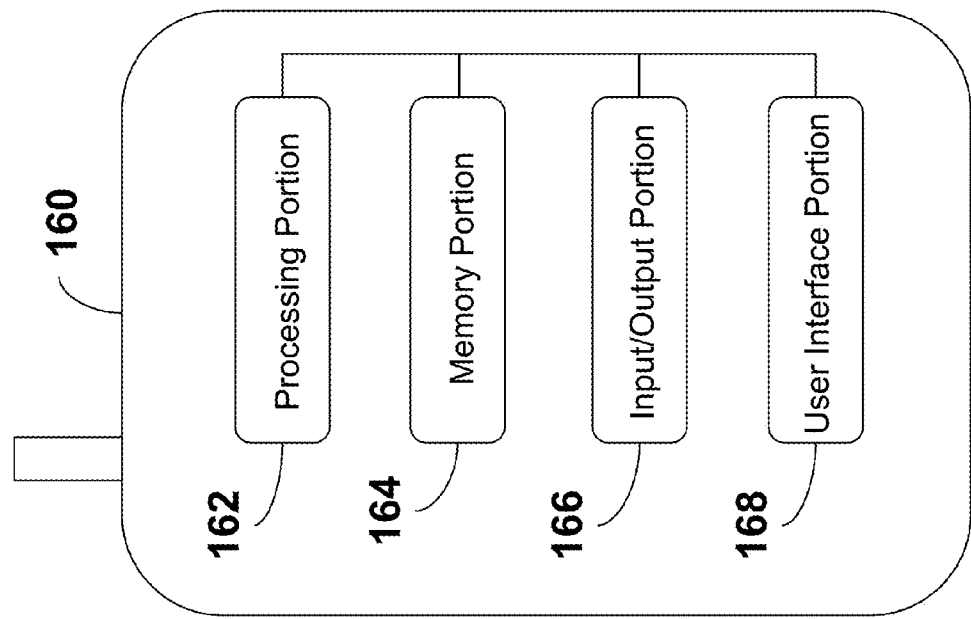


FIGURE 17

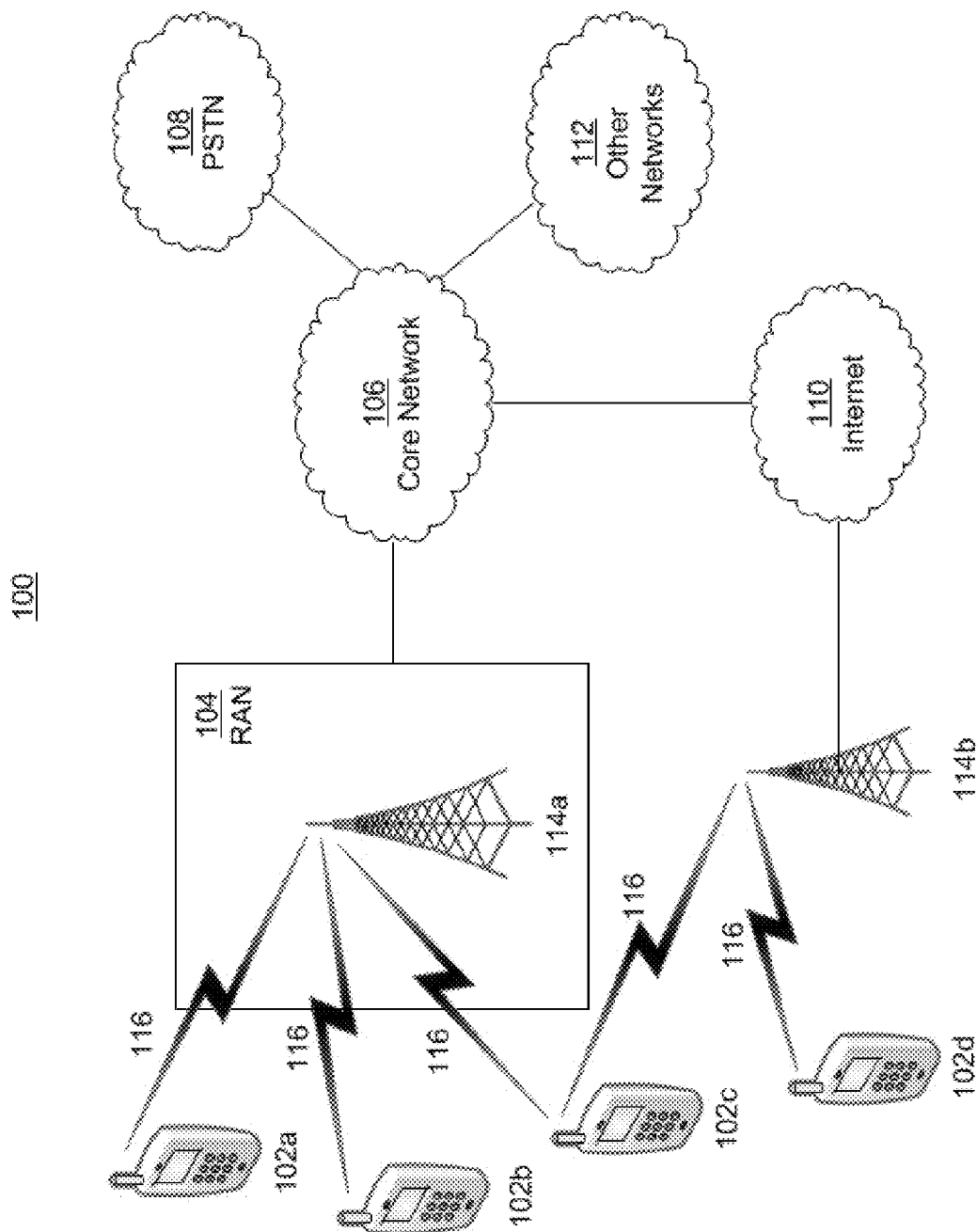
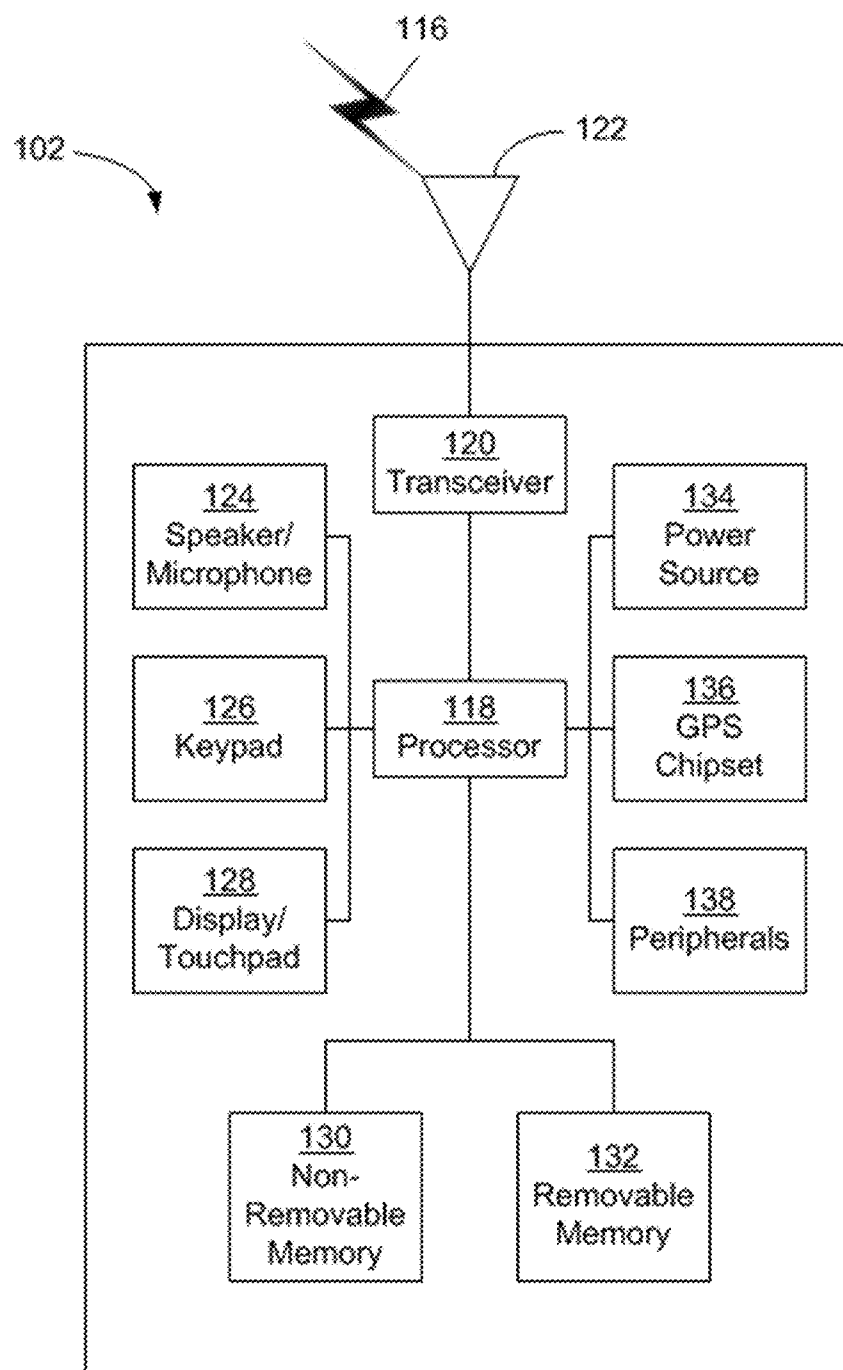


FIGURE 18

**FIGURE 19**

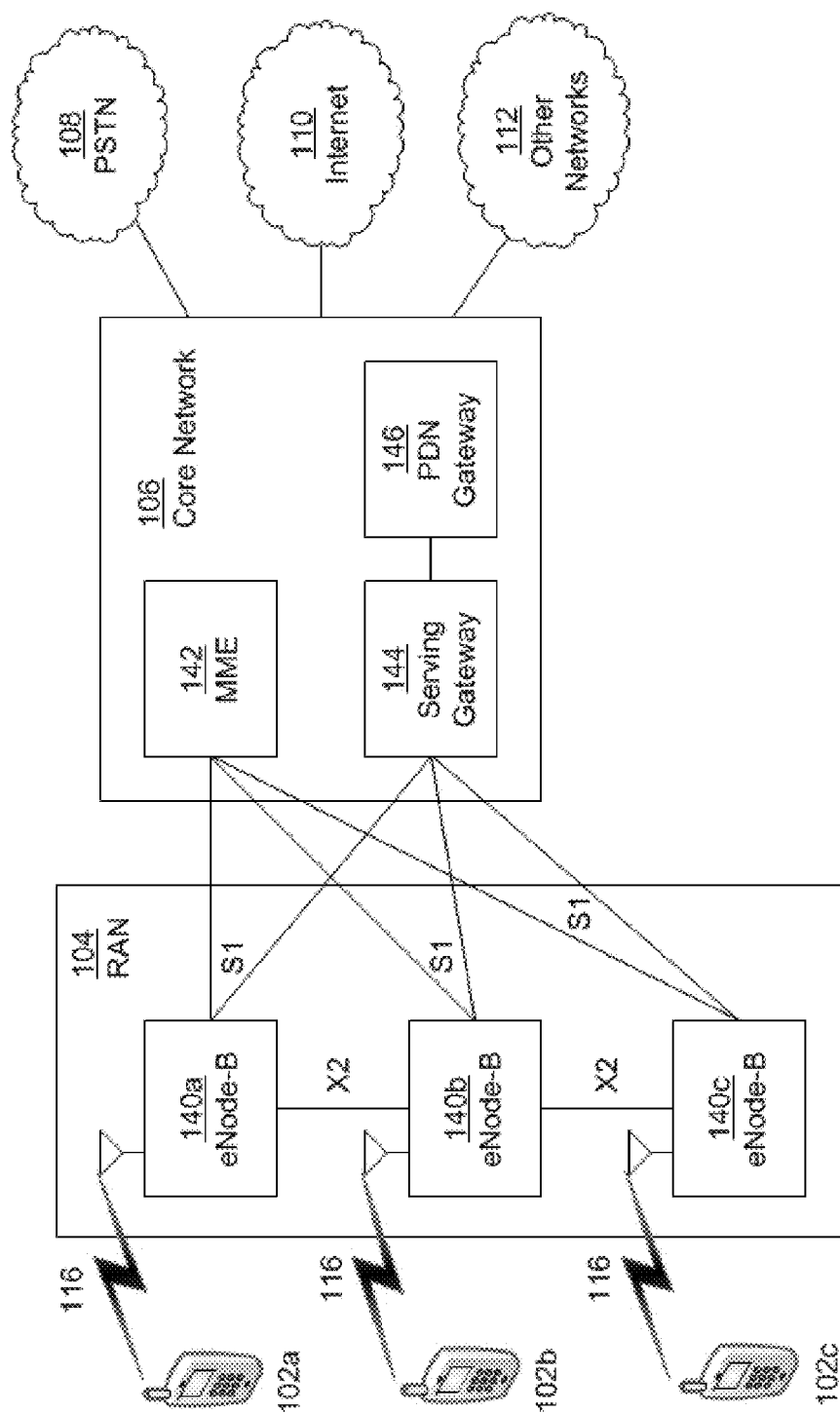


FIGURE 20

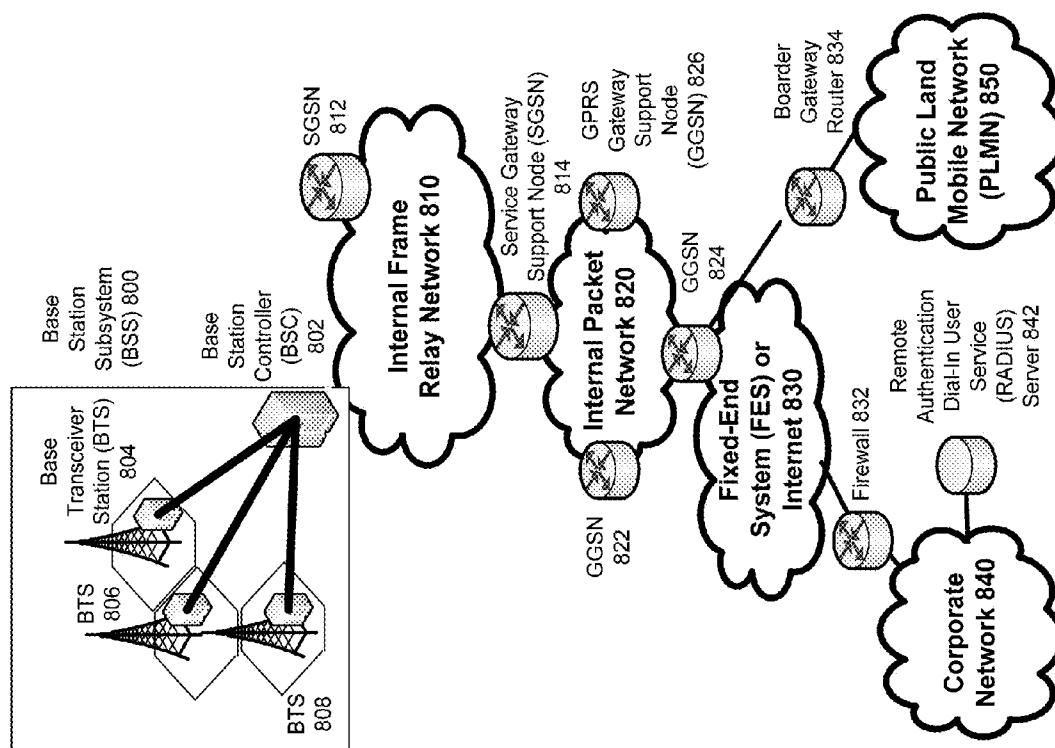


FIGURE 21

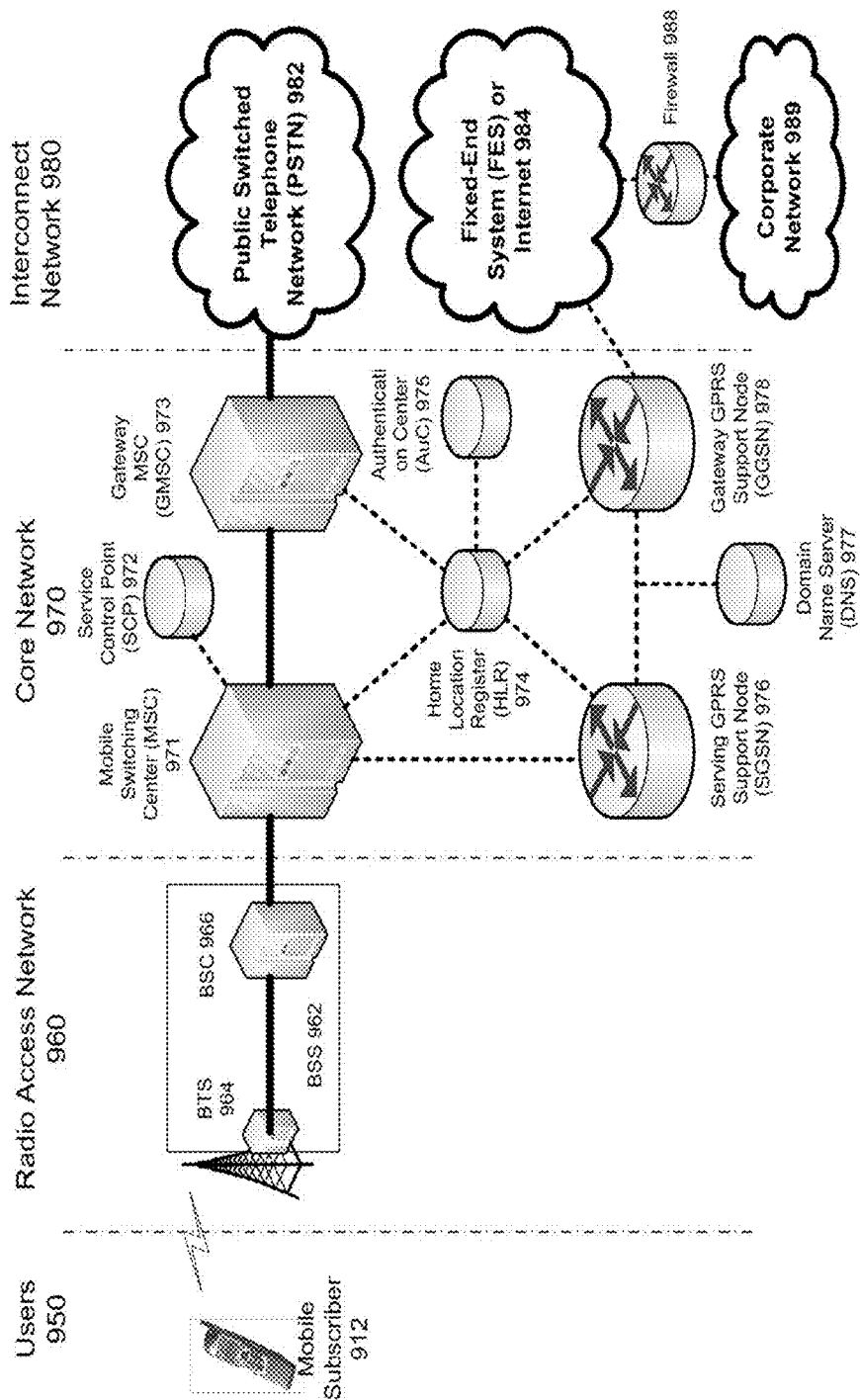


FIGURE 22

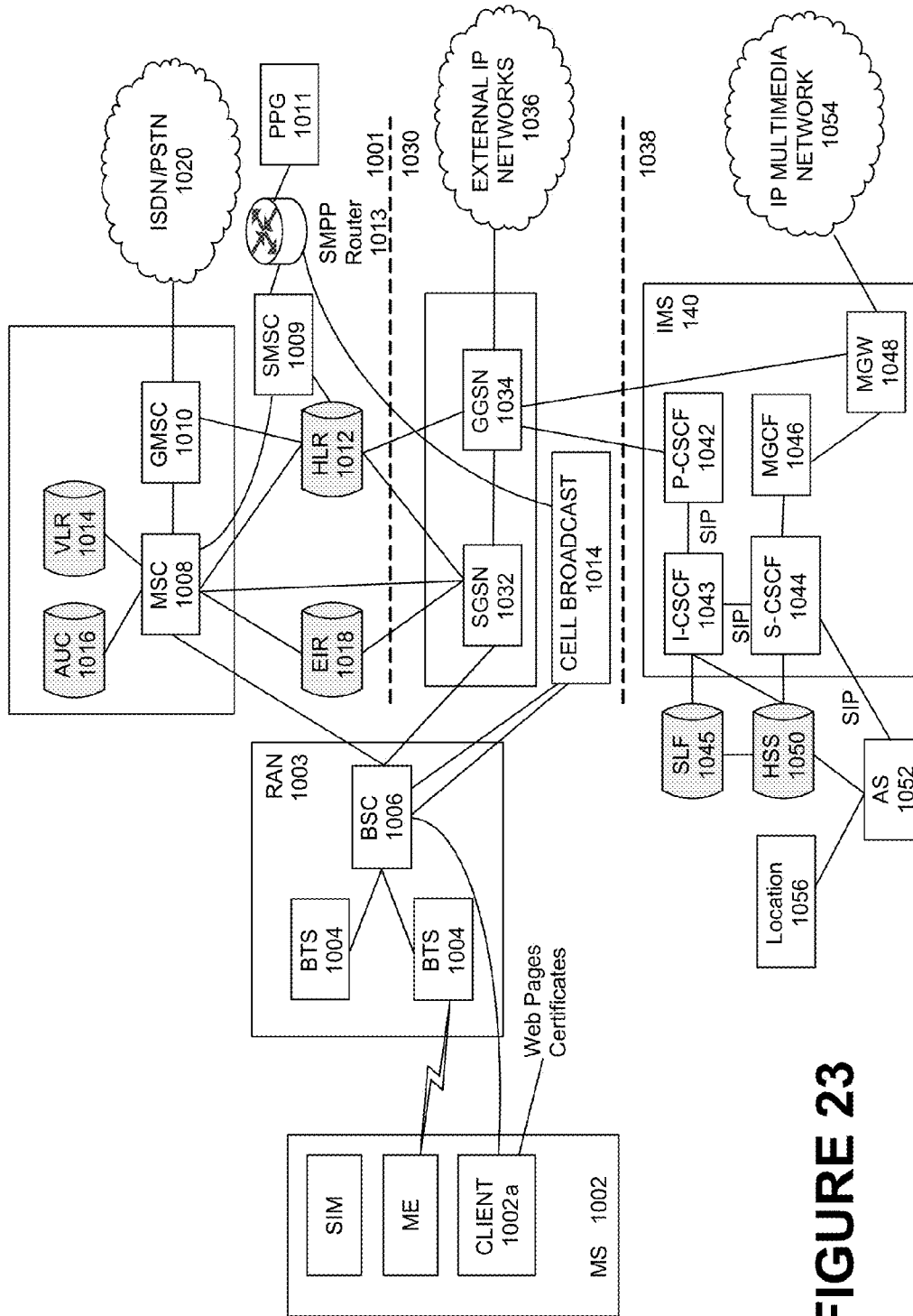
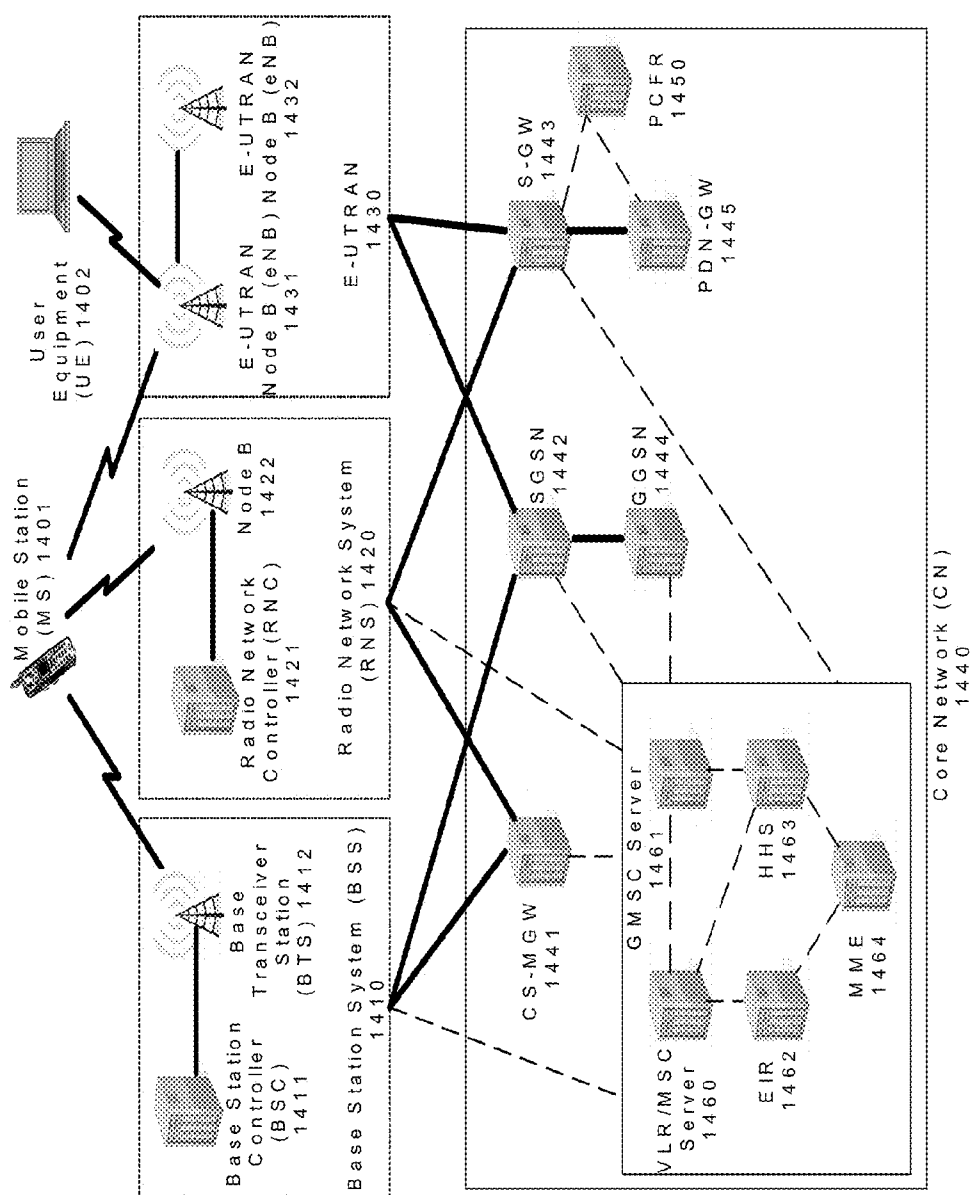


FIGURE 23



NOTE Solid Lines represent user traffic signals while dashed lines represent support signaling

FIGURE 24

GEOCAST-BASED FILE TRANSFER

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The technical field generally relates to wireless communications, and more specifically to geographic broadcasting of large files of data.

BACKGROUND

[0002] It may be desirable to transfer data files from one sender device to a group of devices in a given geographic area. For example, a military operator may wish to transfer a picture to team members nearby. In scenarios where there is no network infrastructure coverage, this may be problematic. Cloud resources are not available. In addition, it may be highly inefficient to send the same file to many devices in an area by unicasting sequentially the entire file to each recipient. This may result in wasteful use of scarce wireless bandwidth resources and may take a long time.

SUMMARY

[0003] The following presents a simplified summary that describes some aspects or embodiments of the subject disclosure. This summary is not an extensive overview of the disclosure. Indeed, additional or alternative embodiments of the subject disclosure may be available beyond those described in the summary.

[0004] A scalable geographic multicast (geocast) protocol, also referred to herein as the Geocast File Transfer (GFT) protocol, may be utilized to transfer a file to devices in a geographic area. The file may be segmented and multiple packets comprising segments may be geocast. A unique messaging protocol, (e.g., the GFT protocol) may be utilized to control geocast tries and retries, with mutual cross-suppression of redundant messages and random time backoffs.

[0005] For example, when a file of data is too large to fit into a single geocast packet, the file may be transmitted (e.g., geocast) using multiple packets comprising different parts of the data (referred to as chunks). In an example embodiment chunks may be contiguous strings of bytes of data from the file. A sender of the file may first send a geocast packet that notifies recipients of the file's name and size and that file data will follow. In an example embodiment, file data may be included in the first geocast packet. Subsequently, the sender may send one chunk at a time, each chunk in its own geocast packet. Once all chunks are sent the first time, a special packet may be sent to notify recipients that a first phase (e.g., phase 1) is complete and that the recipients may commence sending requests back to the sender for chunks that may not have been received during phase 1. Devices may listen to others devices' requests and avoid sending redundant requests. After a pre-determined amount of time, the file sender may respond to requests by repeating chunk geocast packets for the requested chunks. Once any recipient has received all chunks of a file, it may terminate the process.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Reference is made here to the accompanying drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale.

[0007] FIG. 1 illustrates an example mobile ad hoc network in which a mobile device configured to implement the GFT protocol may be implemented.

[0008] FIG. 2 illustrates an example ad hoc network utilizing a Wi-Fi access point.

[0009] FIG. 3 illustrates an example mobile ad hoc network in which the GFT protocol may be implemented utilizing tiered geocasting and forwarding zones.

[0010] FIG. 4, comprising FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, FIG. 4C, FIG. 4D, and FIG. 4E depicts example geocast regions or boundaries.

[0011] FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device.

[0012] FIG. 6 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device.

[0013] FIG. 7 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device.

[0014] FIG. 8 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device.

[0015] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0016] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0017] FIG. 11 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0018] FIG. 12 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0019] FIG. 13 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0020] FIG. 14 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0021] FIG. 15 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0022] FIG. 16 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device.

[0023] FIG. 17 is a block diagram of an example communications device (also referred to as a node) 160 configured to facilitate geocast-based file transfer.

[0024] FIG. 18 is a diagram of an example communications system in which in which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented.

[0025] FIG. 19 is a system diagram of an example WTRU 102.

[0026] FIG. 20 is an example system diagram of RAN and core network.

[0027] FIG. 21 depicts an overall block diagram of an example packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a GPRS network, within which the geocast-based file transfer may be implemented.

[0028] FIG. 22 illustrates an architecture of a typical GPRS network within which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented.

[0029] FIG. 23 illustrates an example block diagram view of a GSM/GPRS/IP multimedia network architecture within which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented.

[0030] FIG. 24 illustrates a PLMN block diagram view of an example architecture in which geocast-based file transfer may be incorporated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0031] Aspects of the instant disclosure are described more fully herein with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which example embodiments are shown. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide an understanding of the various embodiments. However, the instant disclosure may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the example embodiments set forth herein. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

[0032] Various embodiments of geocast file transfer, and implementation mechanisms for geocast file transfer are described herein. The described embodiments are merely examples that may be embodied in various and alternative forms, and combinations thereof. As used herein, for example, “exemplary,” and similar terms, refer expansively to embodiments that serve as an illustration, specimen, model, or pattern, and should not be construed to mean preferred or advantageous over other aspects or designs, nor is it meant to preclude equivalent exemplary structures and techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The figures are not necessarily to scale and some features may be exaggerated or minimized, such as to show details of particular components. In some instances, well-known components, systems, materials, or methods have not been described in detail in order to avoid obscuring the instant disclosure. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but rather as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art how to employ the teachings instant application in various ways.

[0033] While the descriptions include a general context of computer-executable instructions, geocast file transfer also may be implemented in combination with other program modules and/or as a combination of hardware and software. The term “application,” or variants thereof, may be used expansively herein to include routines, program modules, programs, components, data structures, algorithms, and the like. Applications can be implemented on various system configurations, including single-processor or multiprocessor systems, minicomputers, mainframe computers, personal computers, hand-held computing devices, microprocessor-based, programmable consumer electronics, combinations thereof, or the like.

[0034] In an example embodiment, geocast file transfer may be implemented via a scalable, wireless, geographic multicast (“geocast”) protocol. Geocast file transfer may be implemented over an ad hoc network of mobile communications devices (nodes), eliminating the need for traditional mobile communications infrastructure and central servers. Because no network infrastructure is required, geocast file transfer may be implemented in remote areas with little or no network access. The scalable nature of the geocast protocol can enable implementation of geocast file transfer equally well in both remote areas and crowded areas containing members of a field operations team and other users of mobile communications devices. Geocast file transfer also may be implemented using tiered geocasting which may span great distances. For example, geocast file transfer may span separate continents.

[0035] Nodes taking part in geocast file transfer may be programmed with a geocast file transfer application, which uses geolocation information obtained from a locating system, such as, for example, a global positioning system (GPS),

or the like. The geocast file transfer application of each node may use movement data from an inertial unit, or the like, of the node.

[0036] The scalable tiered geocast communication protocol may be programmed into each node taking part in geocast file transfer, and any node that operates to relay communications to or from the nodes taking part in geocast file transfer. The nodes taking part in geocast file transfer may share changed situation conditions, such as node geolocation, between them via geocast data packets transmitted over one or both of a first tier, short-range, network, and a second tier, long-range, network according to transmission heuristics of the tiered geocast protocol.

[0037] In an example embodiment, each node taking part in geocast file transfer may be programmed with the scalable tiered geocast communication protocol. One example of a type of scalable protocol is the mobile ad hoc network geocast protocol. Using the tiered geocast protocol, the Geocast File Transfer (GFT) protocol may be occasioned in all types of network scenarios, including those in which relevant areas are densely populated with participating nodes, those in which areas are sparsely populated, and even in areas long-range infrastructure such as cell towers, Wi-Fi hotspot or other internet router are not reachable by the nodes.

[0038] Geocast protocols differ from a traditional Internet protocol (IP) such as the uniform datagram protocol (UDP) in that messages are addressed to a destination geocast region instead of an IP address, such as an UDP address. Utilizing the geocast protocol, nodes in a target region do not need to register to a group address, as required of some other protocols. In some example embodiments, each geocast data packet can be assigned, at origination, a globally unique packet serial number. The unique packet serial number can be read by participating devices according to the protocol to, for example, determine whether a particular data packet is being received for a first time or has been received before. The packet serial number and all other packet information may be positioned in a header or body of the data packet.

[0039] The geocast file transfer application may be, in some embodiments, configured to store pre-set or previously identified geocast destination, locations, boundary, region, or the like.

[0040] Geocast data packets may be transmitted according to heuristics of a tiered geocast protocol, which is described in more detail herein, to a destination geocast region for reception by all devices located in the region that are programmed with the geocast protocol, i.e., participating devices.

[0041] Although basic geocasting over only a single network (e.g., long-range network) may enable communications in some situations where traditional networking is impractical or inadequate, it may be that, in some embodiments, one may selectively geocast over one or more of two or more networks (i.e., tiers) versus the flat configuration of a single network. The tiered geocast protocol of the present disclosure improves on single-network geocasting by providing the heuristics, or decision rules, for selectively propagating geocast data packets within a relatively short-range, peer-to-peer network, and bridging packets onto a long-range network for long-distance transport depending on various circumstances. Each participating node and other nodes (e.g., Wi-Fi access point or other router) can have forwarding rules, including geographical parameters, and a look-up table for use in implementing the rules.

[0042] In an example embodiment, the geocast system can be configured such that a transmitting node receives a confirmation that a geocast data packet was transmitted successfully. For example, it is contemplated that at least one of the nodes in a geocasting destination region, even if not a node actively participating, could return geocast a confirmation data packet indicating that the packet was received by a node in the region. In one contemplated embodiment, although the protocol is based on a geographical address and not a device-specific address, a device-specific address of a target node participating is included in a geocast and the target node initiates inclusion in a return geocast data packet of a confirmation of receipt message to the originating node.

[0043] In addition, in some embodiments, a geocast data packet can include one or more fields, such as in a header or body of the packet, in which information related to a path taken by a packet is recorded. For example, a receiving node (e.g., node or Internet router) receiving a geocast can retrieve data from the geocast header to identify an ordered list of the nodes whose transmissions led to the receiving node receiving it. In this way, path discovery may be integrated into the transmission process. Any node can also use this information to send a source-routed unicast back to any node along the path, which is termed reverse-path forwarding (RPF).

[0044] Although a two-tiered communication system, including a first short-range peer-to-peer network and a long-range network, is described herein, the GFT protocol may be implemented in connection with a protocol and communication system using other types of networks as well as or instead of those described herein, and in connection with more than two network tiers.

[0045] Propagations over the short-range network may be made between devices programmed with the scalable tiered geocast protocol, whereby adjacent devices are within range of each other, such as radio range (e.g., 100 meters). The nodes and tiered geocast protocol can be configured to transmit geocast data packets over one or more short-range networks, including existing wireless local area networks (WLANs), such as an IEEE 802.11 network. As an example, when a first node is about 900 meters from an edge of a geocasting region including a second node, a geocast data packet from the first device could be broadcasted and participating intermediate devices could receive and retransmit the geocast data packet until it reached the geocast region, without need for transmission over an Internet router or other base station. In this example, depending on the location of a retransmitting device, the geocast data packet can be broadcast to the geocast region in one or two hops.

[0046] Geocast file transfer may be particularly suited to highly mobile devices without requiring connection to an infrastructure-based communications network. A mobile ad hoc network is an example of such a set of devices. Mobile ad hoc networks can extend the reach of data networking into areas and scenarios in which infrastructure-based networking is impossible or impractical. For example, mobile ad hoc networks can allow first responders to use networked messaging and information applications in a zone where the network infrastructure has been destroyed by a disaster. Mobile ad hoc networks can provide military units operating in battlefield situations lacking infrastructure the same types of benefits as infrastructure-based networks. Mobile ad hoc networks can allow networking among low resource nodes, such as man-worn devices powered by lightweight wearable bat-

teries, by allowing units to relay each other's short-range transmissions, instead of each unit transmitting long range directly to the destination.

[0047] To better understand the GFT protocol and applications thereof, a description of mobile ad hoc networks is provided. In is to be understood however, that applications of the GFT protocol are not limited to mobile ad hoc networks. Rather, the GFT protocol is applicable to any appropriate device or group of devices.

[0048] A mobile ad hoc network may comprise communications devices (also referred to as nodes) that communicate with each other via geographical broadcasting, referred to as geocasting. Geocasting is described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,525, 933, entitled "System And Method For Mobile Ad Hoc Network," filed Nov. 30, 2005, issued Apr. 28, 2009, and is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Geocasting can use a protocol in which an IP address is replaced with a geographic address. Thus, each geocast message can comprise an indication of a location of a geographic region of intended reception of the geocast message. Generally, a packet may be sent to every communications device located within a specific geographic region. The packet can contain an indication of the location of the sender, an indication of the geographic region, a payload, or a combination thereof, or the like. The communications devices in the geographic region, and any other communications devices that can communicate with them, are referred to, collectively, as a mobile ad hoc network. No registration need be required to become a member of the mobile ad hoc network. Any communications device in the mobile ad hoc network can send a message to any or every communications device in the mobile ad hoc network. As communications devices move within communications range of any member of the mobile ad hoc network, they can become members of the mobile ad hoc network without requiring registration. The communications devices of the ad hoc network of communications devices may communicate with each other. The ad hoc network of communications devices does not require base station terminals to control communications between the mobile devices. In example embodiments, base stations or routers may be used to relay messages between different mobile ad hoc networks, or to use other network transports such as other traditional internet protocol networks, such as the internet, to bridge messages between mobile ad hoc networks. Each communications device may be capable of receiving and/or transmitting data packets to and/or from other communications devices in the mobile ad hoc network.

[0049] In an example embodiment, a communications device can transfer packets to other communications devices according to heuristic decision rules that determine whether a receiving device will re-transmit a received packet. These rules can effectively guide packets to their destinations and control communication traffic within the ad hoc network. The decision rules can achieve this control by using statistics obtained and recorded by a communications device as it receives packets transmitted within reception range within its environment. This distributed packet transfer mechanism can result in packets "flowing" to and throughout the geocast region specified in each packet. The communications devices in the geocast region can receive and process each distinct packet, typically rendering the content to the user via a user interface of a communications device. Two packets may be distinct if they contain distinct geocast identifiers. However, a

re-transmitted copy of a packet generally will contain the same geocast identifier as the original packet.

[0050] FIG. 1 illustrates an example mobile ad hoc network in which a mobile device configured to implement geocast-based transfer may be implemented. Communications devices, also referred to herein as devices, mobile devices, or nodes, in the mobile ad hoc network can communicate via RF encoded with geographic information, via Bluetooth technology, via Wi-Fi (e.g., in accordance with the 802.11 standard), or the like, or any combination thereof. For example, as depicted in FIG. 1, communication devices (nodes) 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21 can form a mobile ad hoc network. As shown in FIG. 1, communication device 13 can communicate with communication device 15 directly (e.g., via Bluetooth). Communication device 15 can communicate with communication device 17, and thus can retransmit information received from communication device 13 to communication device 17, and vice versa (retransmit information received from communication device 17 to communication device 13). Communication device 17 can communicate with communication devices 19 and 21, and can relay information from/to communication devices 19 and/or 21 to/from communication devices 13 and/or 15.

[0051] Although not depicted in FIG. 1, it is possible, in a mobile ad hoc network, that, for a pair of nodes (A and B for example), node A can receive from node B but node B cannot receive from node A. In an example embodiment, this asymmetric style of communication may be potentially likely in a mobile ad hoc network.

[0052] In an example embodiment, communications devices that receive a message can retransmit the message in accordance with the scalable wireless geocast protocol. For example, a communication device's ability to retransmit a message can be based on the number of times the message was previously received, the communication device's proximity with respect to the communications devices from which the message was sent, and/or the communication device's proximity to the geocast region. This can be implemented as a three step location-based approach, which is described in detail in the aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 7,525,933. First, in accordance with the location-based approach, the receiving communication device determines whether it has previously received the same query/response at least a predetermined number (N) of times. If not, it retransmits the query/response over the ad hoc network of communications devices. If so, the communications device progresses to the second step and determines whether the sending communications device is closer than some minimum distance away. If no prior transmitter of the query/response was closer than some minimum distance away, the communications device retransmits the query/response over the ad hoc network of communications devices. Otherwise, the communications device progresses to the third step and determines whether it is closer to the center of the geocast region than any sending communications device from which the query/response was received. If so, the communications device transmits the query/response over the ad hoc network of communications devices. If not, the communications device does not retransmit the query/response.

[0053] This location-based approach prevents the receiving communications device from retransmitting a message that was most likely already retransmitted by another communications device located close to it (and thus most likely reaching the same neighboring communications devices that it can

reach). In addition, this location-based approach reduces the chance that the communications device will retransmit the same message multiple times to the same neighboring communications devices.

[0054] As mentioned above, a mobile ad hoc network does not require a communications network infrastructure or a Wi-Fi access point. However, in an example configuration, a mobile ad hoc network can utilize Wi-Fi access points and/or a communications network infrastructure.

[0055] FIG. 2 illustrates an example ad hoc network utilizing a Wi-Fi access point. As depicted in FIG. 2, communication devices 26, 28, 30, 36, and 38 form a mobile ad hoc network and communication device 32 and 34 form another mobile ad hoc network. Coverage area 23, which is the area covered by a Wi-Fi access point 39, covers communication devices 26 and 28. Coverage area 24, which is the area covered by another Wi-Fi access point 42 covers communication device 32. As shown in FIG. 2, communication device 34 transmits to communication device 32 directly (e.g., via Bluetooth). Communication device 32 retransmits to a Wi-Fi access point 42 which in turn may retransmit to the other Wi-Fi access point 39 via a network such as the Internet, for example. Communication devices 26 and 28 receive the transmission from the Wi-Fi access point 39, and communication device 28 retransmits directly to communication device 30. And, as depicted, communication device 30 retransmits to other communication devices 36 and 38.

[0056] FIG. 3 illustrates an example mobile ad hoc network in which geocast-based transfer may be implemented utilizing tiered geocasting and forwarding zones. Tiered geocasting uses long range (LR) transmitters (such as communications devices, etc.), infrastructure, a communications network, a cellular tower, or a combination thereof, when available. Tiered geocasting assumes that at least one tier is usable by at least one of the communications devices. A long range tier is a tier wherein characteristic message transfers between devices occur over a longer physical range than those over some other tier. A long range tier can be wireless, wired, or a combination thereof.

[0057] A forwarding zone can be utilized to implement tiered geocasting. A common forwarding zone can be defined for all geocast packets or different forwarding zones can be defined for each type of geocast packet. Forwarding zones (as shown in FIG. 3, for example and without limitation) can be defined differently in different tiers, even for the same packet type or even same packet. Thus, forwarding heuristics can be applied independently per tier, with bridging at multi-tier capable nodes. In an example embodiment, a communications device retransmits a packet only if the communications device is located within the forwarding zone defined for the packet's type. This determination is in addition to the determinations described above and, if the communications device is not in the forwarding zone, the packet will not be retransmitted, even if one or more of the above conditions would otherwise have caused a retransmission hold.

[0058] As depicted in FIG. 3, nodes (e.g., communications devices) D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, and D7, are at various locations within short range (SR) and long range (LR) tiers. All of devices D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, and D7 together form a mobile ad hoc network, with devices D5, D6, and D7 being located in geocast region Y, hence being targets of a message sent by D1. Each communications device D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, and D7 can determine its own geographical location through any type of location determination system including,

for example, the Global Positioning System (GPS), assisted GPS (A-GPS), time difference of arrival calculations, configured constant location (in the case of non-moving nodes), any combination thereof, or any other appropriate means. Each communications device is operable to transmit and receive packets on a mobile ad hoc network. In addition, at any given time, some subset (possibly all) of the communications devices may be operable to transmit and receive packets over the long range tier network. For example, though not a limitation, in FIG. 3, devices D2, D3, and D4 can transmit and receive messages over both the short and long range tiers. Note that this latter fact is indicated visually in the diagram by D2, D3, and D4 each having two dots (one in the short range tier and one in the long range tier) connected by a vertical line. The long-range tier network can be any network in which packets can be transmitted from one long range capable communications device to another long range capable communications device. Such packet networks can include, for example, an infrastructure-based network comprising wireless base stations (for up- and down-link) operating on a separate frequency from that used by an ad hoc network. In addition, the long range tier network also could be implemented simply as another instance of an ad hoc network using distinct radio frequencies and possibly longer radio ranges.

[0059] Communications device D1 transmits the message, and communications device D2 receives the transmission from communications device D1. Communications device D2 retransmits (transmission 2a), within the short range tier and in accordance with the heuristics for the short range forwarding zone (SRFZ) as well as within the long range tier (transmission 2b). Communications D2, with long range transmission capability (in the long range tier) retransmits in the long range tier as well (transmission 2b). Communications device D3 receives the transmission 2b from communications device D2 and retransmits (as transmission 3) in the long range tier only. Communications device D4 receives the transmission 3 from communications device D3 and retransmits both on the long and short range tiers, resulting in transmission 4a in the long range tier and 4b in the short range tier. Communications device D5, within geocast region Y, receives the transmission 4a, and in turn retransmits (transmission 5) within the geocast region Y. Transmission 5 is received by the other devices in geocast region Y, namely devices D6 and D7, thus completing the geocast message transfer.

[0060] Geocast origination, destination, and termination regions can be defined by geographic parameters and may have any size and shape. As examples, the regions may be defined by three or more bounding geographic coordinates, forming a triangle, rectangle, or other shape, or a single geographic coordinate and a radius or diameter, forming a geocast region.

[0061] FIG. 4, comprising FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, FIG. 4C, FIG. 4D, and FIG. 4E depicts example geocast regions or boundaries. A geocast region may be defined to be a single point 50, as depicted in FIG. 4A. A point geocast region may be defined by a longitude value and a latitude value (not shown). A point above the surface of the earth could be defined by providing an altitude value in addition to longitude and latitude values. A geocast region may also comprise multiple single points (not shown) such as the single point 50. Location points such as point 50 may be used as the building blocks for more complex geocast region geometries, as described herein. FIG. 4B depicts a geocast region defined by a point 50 in combi-

nation with a radius 52. The geocast region of this example may comprise the area enclosed by the radius, and may include the space above the area as well. A geocast region could also be defined as the overlap region between two or more circular geocast regions (not shown). FIG. 4C depicts a more complex geometry formed from a series of points 50 interconnected with straight boundary lines. This technique of geocast region definition is similar to the techniques typically used in the definition of parcels of real property. FIGS. 4D and 4E depict the creation of one or more geocast regions within a single geographic footprint. FIG. 4D depicts creating a geocast region for a specific floor of a building 56. The single floor geocast region is defined as the volume of space between upper and lower areas, each formed using a series of points 50 set at corners of the buildings. FIG. 4E depicts an alternate technique for defining a single floor geocast region in building 56. Upper and lower points 50 are defined in the middle of the ceiling and the floor of the geocast region respectively. The single floor geocast region is then defined as the volume of space between an upper area and a lower area defined by a pair of radii 52 extending from the middle points. Geocast regions may also be defined to change in size, geographic location, etc. with time (not shown), essentially allowing the creation of geocast regions in four dimensions. For example a region may be defined to change size, shape, and/or geographic location over time as the number of participating nodes fluctuates. Information defining a particular geocast region (e.g., a series of points) can be communicated in an addressing portion of a geocast message. Geocast sub-regions may be defined within a particular geocast region using the above techniques. It should be noted that the techniques described with reference to FIGS. 4A-4E are merely examples, and the scope of the instant disclosure should not be limited thereto. Other region geometries and techniques for defining regions may be recognized by those skilled in the art, and are meant to be included within the scope of the instant disclosure.

[0062] In some embodiments, a geocast region can be selected by making one or more selections on a map and/or from a list. A region can be selected from a list displayed on a mobile communications device, or the like. The list can comprise real world locations. For example, one can scroll through a list by touching the display surface of a mobile communications device, or the like, by providing a voice command (e.g., "Scroll List"), by entering text on which to search, by moving the device, or any appropriate combination thereof. In another example embodiment, the selection of a region, or the like can be made by selecting a location on the map by a finger, fingers, and/or any other appropriate device, and, for example, dragging away or gesture-pinching, from the selected location to create the size of the a circle, oval, rectangular, square, polygon, or any appropriate shape (two dimensional or three dimensional) representing a destination, termination, boundary, region, or the like. In various example embodiments, locations, such as addresses, and/or region dimensions, building names, institution names, landmarks, etc. may be input in other ways by a player, such as by typing, gesture, and/or voice input. Indeed, many variations of textual, graphical, and audio inputs, either alone or in combination, may be utilized for selecting a geocast region in accordance with example embodiments of the present disclosure.

[0063] As described above, geocast-based file transfer may be implemented via use of a Geocast File Transfer (GFT) protocol. In accordance with the GFT protocol, sending

devices and receiving devices may perform various functions. For example, a sending device may parse a file into multiple chunks. Respective multiple geocast packets comprising the chunks may be geocast. In an example embodiment, the first geocast packet may comprise information about the file (e.g., file name, identification number, total number of chunks in the file, the number of a chunk incorporated in a packet, etc.). In an example embodiment, all geocast packets may comprise information about the file (e.g., file name, identification number, total number of chunks in the file, the number of a chunk incorporated in a packet, etc.). The sending device may geocast all packets sequentially. Upon geocasting all packets, the sending device may wait a predetermined amount of time (referred to as backoff). During the period of time, any receiving device, or devices that did not receive a chunk of the file, may request missing chunk or chunks. The request may be in the form of a geocast message. Receiving devices also may wait various respective amounts of time (backoffs) before geocasting a request for a chunk or chunks. Other receiving devices that may have missed a chunk or chunks, may hear (e.g., receive the geocast request) that the chunk it missed is being requested. If so, that device need not make a request for the chunk or chunks. Rather, that device may wait for the sending device to retransmit (e.g., geocast again) a geocast packet, or packets, containing the missing chunk, or missing chunks.

[0064] FIG. 5, FIG. 6, FIG. 7, FIG. 8, FIG. 9, FIG. 10, FIG. 11, FIG. 12, FIG. 13, FIG. 14, FIG. 15, and FIG. 16 depict example processes by which sending and/or receiving devices may implement geocast-based file transfer. The Figures depict an example implementation. However, it is to be understood that the implementation depicted by the Figures is merely an example, and should not be limited thereto.

[0065] FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device. FIG. 5 illustrates example behavior of a sender of a file (F) which is to be transferred to a geocast region (GR). At step 60, the sending device may allocate a unique serial number (depicted as "S" in FIG. 5) to a file (depicted as "F" in FIG. 5). The sending device may determine a file name for the local file, F, at step 62. In an example embodiment, the file name may include ancillary information and/or information identifying the file originator. An indication of the set of requests pending for chunks of the file F (depicted as "RequestSet(F)" in FIG. 5) may be set (initialized) to the empty set at step 64. Steps 65 and 67 may be performed concurrently. The letter "A" at step 65 indicates example processes as depicted in FIG. 7. The letter "C" at step 67 indicates example process as depicted in FIG. 6. Processes A and C may operate concurrently as depicted in FIG. 5.

[0066] FIG. 6 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device. The process depicted in FIG. 6 may operate concurrently with the process depicted in FIG. 7. At step 66, the sending device may wait until the embodying device receives the next message tagged as [Xfer]Q for the file F. The [Xfer]Q message may contain fields indicating the file to which it pertains. At step 68, the sending device may add each chunk number extracted from the [Xfer]Q message payload to requestSet(F).

[0067] FIG. 7 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device. The process depicted in FIG. 7 may operate concurrently with the process depicted in FIG. 6. ChCnt represents

an integer variable counting the chunks sent so far by sender. At step 70, the sending device may initialize ChCnt to 0. At step 72, the sending device may test whether ChCnt is still less than the number of chunks in F. If not, the process may proceed to process "B". That is, if ChCnt is not less than the number of chunks in F (determined at step 72), the process depicted in FIG. 7 may proceed to the process depicted by the letter "B". The letter "B" indicates an example process as depicted in FIG. 8. If ChCnt is less than the number of chunks in F (determined at step 72), the sending device may geocast an [Xfer]H packet for chunk number ChCnt of F to the geocast region GR to which F is to be sent. This geocast packet may be formatted according to the [Xfer]H packet format and may include bytes taken from F comprising the ChCntth chunk of F. At step 76, ChCnt may be incremented by 1. At step 78, the sending device may wait a fixed (e.g., predetermined) duration of length kXFER_WAIT_TIME milliseconds. In an example embodiment, kXFER_WAIT_TIME may be an integer constant. The value of kXFER_WAIT_TIME may comprise any appropriate value, such as, for example, 100 milliseconds. At the end of the wait time (kXFER_WAIT_TIME), e.g., when kXFER_WAIT_TIME has elapsed, the process may proceed to step 72 and continue therefrom.

[0068] FIG. 8 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a sending device. The process depicted in FIG. 8 may operate concurrently with the process depicted in FIG. 7 and/or concurrently with the process depicted in FIG. 6. At step 80, the sending device may initialize an integer variable emptyRequestRounds to 0. At 72 the sending device may determine if the value of emptyRequestRounds is less than the value of kMAX_EMPTY_REQUEST_ROUNDS. If the value of emptyRequestRounds is not less than the value of kMAX_EMPTY_REQUEST_ROUNDS (determined at step 82), the process may end at step 83. If the value of emptyRequestRounds is less than the value of kMAX_EMPTY_REQUEST_ROUNDS (determined at step 82), at step 84, the sending device may wait for a fixed (e.g., predetermined) duration of time equal to kXFER_REQUEST_PHASE_SENDER_WAIT milliseconds. The value of kXFER_REQUEST_PHASE_SENDER_WAIT may comprise any appropriate value, such as, for example, 3000 milliseconds. At step 86, (at the end of the wait period in 84) the sending device may initialize the set-valued variable roundChunks to a copy of the set in requestSet(F). The sending device also may then subsequently change the value of requestSet(F) to empty. At step 88, the sending device may determine if roundChunks is empty. If roundChunks is determined, at step 88, to be empty (the test passes), the sending device may increment a variable represented as emptyRequestRounds, at step 90. If roundChunks is determined, at step 88, not to be empty (the test failed), the sending device may, at step 92, set emptyRequestRounds to 0. At step 94, the sending device may determine if any chunk numbers remain in roundChunks. If it is determined, at step 94, that there are chunk numbers remaining in roundChunks (e.g., the test passed), at step 96 the sending device may remove a chunk number from roundChunks and may format and geocast an [Xfer]H packet appropriately for that chunk number to the geocast region GR to which F is to be transferred. At step 98, the sending device may wait a fixed (e.g., predetermined) duration of kXFER_WAIT_TIME milliseconds. The value of kXFER_WAIT_TIME may comprise

any appropriate value, such as, for example, 100 milliseconds. From step 98, the process may proceed to step 94 and continue therefrom.

[0069] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. The process depicted in FIG. 9 illustrates an example process for a recipient device (also referred to as a receiving device) located in the geocast region GR to which the file F is to be transferred. At step 200, the recipient device may initialize to empty two lists of data structures representing files either being received or already having been received, respectively. Recipient devices may concurrently execute process RA, depicted as step 201 and process RC, depicted as step 203. Steps 201 and 203 may be performed concurrently. The label “RA” at step 201 indicates an example process as depicted in FIG. 10. The label “RB” at step 203 indicates an example process as depicted in FIG. 14. Processes RA and RB may operate concurrently as depicted in FIG. 9.

[0070] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device (also referred to as a recipient device). The process depicted in FIG. 10 may operate concurrently with the process depicted in FIG. 14. At step 202, the recipient device may wait until the embodying device receives a message or packet P tagged as [Xfer]H. (It is to be understood that a geocast message may comprise a single packet or may, in alternative embodiments, comprise other than a single packet. For definiteness in this description, we refer to it as a packet with the understanding that such is not intended to be limiting.) At step 204, the recipient device may determine whether any entry E exists in activeXferFiles such that E’s origin ID and sequence number match those exposed in the received packet P. If it is determined at step 204 that an entry E exists in activeXferFiles such that E’s origin ID and sequence number match those exposed in the received packet P (the test passed), the recipient device may initialize a variable R to point to entry E. If it is determined at step 204 that no entry E exists in activeXferFiles such that E’s origin ID and sequence number match those exposed in the received packet P (the test failed), the recipient device, at step 220, may remove all entries E’ in doneXferFiles that are older than a fixed age threshold. At step 222, the recipient device may determine whether any entry E’ still remaining in doneXferFiles has matching origin ID and sequence number to those extracted from P. If it is determined, at step 222, that an entry is still remaining in doneXferFiles that has a matching origin ID and sequence number to those extracted from P (test passed), the recipient device may, at step 224, discard the packet P. If it is determined, at step 222, that no entry is still remaining in doneXferFiles that has a matching origin ID and sequence number to those extracted from P (test failed), the recipient device may generate, at step 208, a new file data structure for the file to be received and may set R to it. And the recipient device may enter R into the activeXferFiles list. In an example embodiment, R’s fields may be initialized as follows.

[0071] R.receivedChunks: empty list—this is a list of chunks received but not yet written to permanent storage

[0072] R.greatestChunkWritten: -1—integer chunk number of greatest one written to permanent storage

[0073] R.Tmp: operating system file temporary file. Recipient initializes by opening new, uniquely named temporary file

[0074] R.missingChunks: empty list—list of chunks not received (gaps in sequence)

[0075] R.phasel: true—boolean flag representing whether process is in first phase

[0076] R.originPosition: origin latitude/longitude values from packet P

[0077] R.geocastRegion: center, radius of geocast region from packet P

[0078] R.nextRequestPhase: time:=now+estimate contained in P from sender

[0079] R.gotAChunk: false—boolean flag indicating whether received chunk in current phase

[0080] R.emptyChunkRounds: 0—number of chunk rounds gone through without receiving a chunk

[0081] R.filename: file name in packet P determined by sender.

[0082] At step 210, the recipient device may update its estimate of the beginning of the next request phase by first adding estimate value from P to current time, then if the result is greater than R.nextRequestPhase then set R.nextRequestPhase to it. At step 216, the recipient device may determine if R.phasel is false. If it is determined, at step 216, that R.phasel is false, the process may proceed to process RAA at step 212. The process RAA is depicted in FIG. 11. If it is determined, at step 216, that R.phasel is not false (“No” branch), the recipient device may determine, at step 218, if the chunk number contained in P is less than or equal to R.greatestChunkWritten or if a chunk record already exists in R.receivedChunks for it. If it is determined, at step 218, that a chunk number contained in P is not less than or equal to R.greatestChunkWritten or a chunk record does not already exist in R.receivedChunks for it, the process may proceed to process RAC at step 214. Process RAC is depicted in FIG. 12. If it is determined, at step 218, that a chunk number contained in P is less than or equal to R.greatestChunkWritten or a chunk record does already exist in R.receivedChunks for it, the recipient device may, at step 224, discard the packet P.

[0083] FIG. 11 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 11 depicts the process RAA depicted in FIG. 10. At step 226, the recipient device may determine if there is an entry for the chunk number extracted from P within the R.missingChunks list. If it is determined, at step 226, that there is an entry for the chunk number extracted from P within the R.missingChunks list (test passes), the recipient device, at step 228, may seek the file write pointer for R.Tmp to the starting position of chunk number extracted from P. The recipient device may then copy the bytes of the chunk from P’s payload into the file R.Tmp. The recipient device also may remove the entry for this chunk number from R.missingChunks. If it is determined, at step 226, that there is no entry for the chunk number extracted from P within the R.missingChunks list (test failed), the recipient device, at step 230, may determine if R.missingChunks is empty. If it is determined, at step 230, that R.missingChunks is not empty, the process may terminate at step 232. If it is determined, at step 230, that R.missingChunks is empty, the recipient device, at step 234, may conclude file transfer successfully by closing R.Tmp, renaming R.Tmp to the filename R.filename and removing R from activeXferFiles and entering it into doneXferFiles.

[0084] FIG. 12 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 12 depicts the process RAC depicted in FIG. 10. At step 236, the recipient device may determine if the chunk number in packet P is one greater than R.greatestChunkWritten. If it is determined, at step 236, that the

chunk number in packet P is one greater than R.greatestChunkWritten (test passed), the process may proceed to process RACA at step 238. Process RACA is depicted in FIG. 13. If it is determined, at step 236, that the chunk number in packet P is not one greater than R.greatestChunkWritten (test failed), the recipient device, at step 240, may add a new chunk record for the chunk number from packet P, in order, to R.receivedChunks, and may set R.gotAChunk to true. At step 242, the recipient device may determine if the R.receivedChunks set is now greater than the constant limit kXFER_MAX_CHUNKS_IN_MEMORY. If it is determined, at step 242, that the R.receivedChunks set is not greater than the constant limit kXFER_MAX_CHUNKS_IN_MEMORY (test failed), the process may terminate at step 244. If it is determined, at step 242, that the R.receivedChunks set is greater than the constant limit kXFER_MAX_CHUNKS_IN_MEMORY (test passed), the recipient device, at step 246, may set a variable C to the lowest-numbered chunk record in R.receivedChunks, and may remove C from that list. At step 245, the recipient device may determine if R.greatestChunkWritten is less than (chunk number C)-1. If it is determined, at step 245, that R.greatestChunkWritten is less than (chunk number C)-1 (test passed), the recipient device, at step 247, may write out an all-zeroes chunk to R.Tmp, may increment R.greatestChunkWritten by one, and may add R.greatestChunkWritten to R.missingChunks. From step 247, the process may proceed to step 245 and continue therefrom. If it is determined, at step 245, that R.greatestChunkWritten is not less than (chunk number C)-1 (test failed), the recipient device, at step 249, may write out the bytes of C to R.Tmp, and may set R.greatestChunkWritten to (chunk number C). From step 249 the process may proceed to step 242 and continue therefrom.

[0085] FIG. 13 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 13 depicts the process RACA depicted in FIG. 12. At step 248, the recipient device may set R.gotAChunk to true. At step 250, the recipient device may determine if there exists a record C in R.receivedChunks for the chunk number extracted from P. If it is determined, at step 250, that there exists a record C in R.receivedChunks for the chunk number extracted from P (test passed), the recipient device, at step 258, may remove C from R.receivedChunks, may write out the bytes of C to R.Tmp, and may increment R.greatestChunkWritten by one. If it is determined, at step 250, that there does not exist a record C in R.receivedChunks for the chunk number extracted from P (test failed), the recipient device, at step 252, may write the bytes from packet P out to R.Tmp, may increment R.greatestChunkWritten by one, and may delete any record present in R.missingChunks corresponding to the chunk number in P. At step 254, the recipient device may determine if R.greatestChunkWritten is one less than R.numberOfChunks, i.e. the number of chunks in the file, determined when R is initialized from the information in the [Xfer]H packet. If it is determined, at step 254, that R.greatestChunkWritten is one less than R.numberOfChunks determined when R is initialized from the information in the [Xfer]H packet (test passed), the recipient device, at step 260, may conclude file transfer successfully by closing R.Tmp, renaming R.Tmp to the filename R.filename and removing R from activeXferFiles and entering it into doneXferFiles. From step 260, the process may terminate at step 256. If it is determined, at step 254, that R.greatestChunkWritten is not one less than R.numberOfChunks determined when R is ini-

tialized from the information in the [Xfer]H packet (test failed), the process may terminate at step 256.

[0086] FIG. 14 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 14 depicts the process RB depicted in FIG. 9. The process (RB) depicted in FIG. 14 may operate concurrently with the process (RA) depicted in FIG. 10. At step 262, the recipient device may wait until the current time is greater or equal to R.nextRequestPhase for some R in activeXferFiles. At step 264, the recipient device may (once the wait period at step 262 has elapsed) update fields of R as follows. R.nextRequestPhase may be set to the current time plus the constant kXFER_REQUEST_PHASE_RECEIVER_WAIT; R.emptyChunkRounds may be set either to 0, if R.gotAChunk is true, or may be set to one greater than its previous value (i.e. incremented) otherwise; and in any case R.gotAChunk may be set to false. At step 266, the recipient device may determine if R.emptyChunkRounds is greater than kXFER_MAX_EMPTY_CHUNK_ROUNDS. If it is determined, at step 266, that R.emptyChunkRounds is not greater than kXFER_MAX_EMPTY_CHUNK_ROUNDS (test failed), the recipient device, at step 268, may determine if R.phasel is true. If it is determined, at step 268, that R.phasel is true (test passed), the recipient device, at step 270, may perform process RBA. Process RBA is depicted in FIG. 15. Upon performance of the process RBA, the process depicted in FIG. 14 may proceed to step 272. If it is determined, at step 268, that R.phasel is not true (test failed), the recipient device, at step 272, may determine if R.missingChunks is empty. If it is determined, at step 272, that R.missingChunks is empty (test passed), the recipient device, at step 274, may conclude file transfer successfully by closing R.Tmp, renaming R.Tmp to the filename R.filename and removing R from activeXferFiles and enter it into doneXferFiles. If it is determined, at step 266, that R.emptyChunkRounds is greater than kXFER_MAX_EMPTY_CHUNK_ROUNDS (test passed), the recipient device, at step 276, may conclude file transfer unsuccessfully by closing R.Tmp and deleting R.Tmp, removing R from activeXferFiles, and entering R into doneXferFiles. If it is determined, at step 272, that R.missingChunks is not empty (test failed), the recipient device, at step 278, may determine if the size of the R.missingChunks set is greater than the constant kXFER_MAXIMUM_CHUNKS_MISSED. If it is determined, at step 278, that the size of the R.missingChunks set is greater than the constant kXFER_MAXIMUM_CHUNKS_MISSED (test passed), the process may proceed to step 276 and continue therefrom. If it is determined, at step 278, that the size of the R.missingChunks set is not greater than the constant kXFER_MAXIMUM_CHUNKS_MISSED (test failed), the process may proceed to process RBB at step 280. The process RBB is depicted in FIG. 16.

[0087] FIG. 15 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 15 depicts the process RBA depicted in FIG. 14. At step 282, the recipient device may determine if the size of the R.receivedChunks set is greater than 0. If it is determined, at step 282, that the size of the R.receivedChunks set is greater than 0 (test passed), the recipient device, at step 284, may set a new variable C to be the lowest-numbered chunk record in R.receivedChunks, and may remove C from it. At step 288, the recipient device may determine if R.greatestChunkWritten is less than (chunk number in C)-1. If it is determined, at step 288, that R.greatestChunkWritten is not

less than (chunk number in C)−1 (test failed), the recipient device, at step 286, may write out the bytes of C to R.Tmp. If it is determined, at step 288, that R.greatestChunkWritten is less than (chunk number in C)−1 (test passed), the recipient device, at step 290 may write out an all-zeroes chunk to R.Tmp; may add R.greatestChunkWritten to R.missingChunks; and may increment R.greatestChunkWritten by one; and may add R.greatestChunkWritten to R.missingChunks. If it is determined, at step 282, that the R.receivedChunks set is not greater than 0 (test failed), the recipient device, at step 292, may determine if R.greatestChunkWritten is less than R.numberOfChunks−1. If it is determined, at step 292, that R.greatestChunkWritten is not less than R.numberOfChunks−1 (test failed), the recipient device, at step 294, may set R.phasel to false. If it is determined, at step 292, that R.greatestChunkWritten is less than R.numberOfChunks−1 (test passed), the recipient device, at step 296, may write out an all-zeroes chunk to R.Tmp; may increment R.greatestChunkWritten by one; and may add R.greatestChunkWritten to R.missingChunks. From step 296 the process may proceed to step 292 and continue therefrom.

[0088] FIG. 16 is another flow diagram of an example process for geocast-based file transfer implemented by a receiving device. FIG. 16 depicts the process RBB depicted in FIG. 14. At step 298, the recipient device may select a random integer between 0 and kXFER_MAX_RANDOM_BACK-OFF and waits that many milliseconds before proceeding. At step 300, the recipient device, upon waiting the amount of time determined at step 298, may format an [Xfer]Q packet Q containing entries from R.missingChunks. At step 302, the recipient device may determine if R.originPosition lies within R.geocastRegion. If it is determined, at step 302, that R.originPosition lies within R.geocastRegion (test passed), the recipient device, at step 304, may geocast Q to R.geocastRegion. If it is determined, at step 302, that R.originPosition does not lie within R.geocastRegion (test failed), the recipient device, at step 306 may geocast Q to a circle centered at R.originPosition and with radius kXFER_REQUEST_RADIUS.

[0089] Values of variables and/or constants depicted in FIG. 5 through FIG. 16 may comprise any appropriate values or values. For example, kXFER_WAIT_TIME may be 100 msec, kMAX_EMPTY_REQUEST_ROUNDS may be 4, kXFER_REQUEST_PHASE_SENDER_WAIT may be 2000 msec, kXFER_REQUEST_PHASE_RECEIVER_WAIT may be 3000 msec, kDONE_FILE_RETAIN_TIME may be 60000 msec, kXFER_MAX_CHUNKS_IN_MEMORY may be 120, kXFERMAX_EMPTY_CHUNK_ROUNDS may be 4, kXFER_MAXIMUM_CHUNKS_MISSED may be 120, kXFER_MAX_RANDOM_BACKOFF may be 1000 msec, and kXFER_REQUEST_RADIUS may be 100 meters. It is to be understood that these values are merely examples and values should not be limited thereto.

[0090] Formats for messages may comprise any appropriate format. For example a format for the [Xfer]H message may be as follows.

```
[Xfer]H -- file chunk
// payload length:
// 6 + 1 + 4 + 4 + 2 + <length-of-file-name> + 4 + 2 + 4 + <chunkLength>
// [Xfer]H<seqNum><number_of_bytes><length_of_file_name>
```

-continued

```
<fileNameBytes>
// <chunkNum><chunkLength><checksums[4]><chunkBytes>
// Note: origID for file is geocast origin ID
// Sent by sender of file to recipient geocast region
// Fields:
"[Xfer]H" // geocast tag. Must be accepted in all case mixes
<seqNum> (4) // file sequence number assigned by file-sender
<number_of_bytes> (4) // #bytes in file; can be −1 for delete-this-file
<length_of_file_name> (2) // number of bytes in file name
<fileNameBytes> // <length-of-file-name>bytes file name
<nextRequestPhase> (4) // msec from [this pkt orig. time] until
// start of next request phase
<chunkNum>>(4) // sequence number of this chunk within file
<chunkLength>>(2) // length of this chunk in bytes
<checksums>>(4) // 4 1-byte checksums (see spec)
<chunkContents> // chunk-length bytes; contents of this chunk of file
```

[0091] And an example format for the [Xfer]Q message may be as follows.

```
[Xfer]Q -- resend request
// [Xfer]Q<origID><seqNum><number_of_requests><chunkNum>
// <chunkNum>...
// payload length: 6 + 1 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4* <number_of_requests>
// Note: origID for file is now within payload (!= geocast origin ID)
// Sent by a file-recipient after missing one or more chunks
// Fields:
"[Xfer]Q" // geocast tag. Must be accepted in all case mixes
<origID> (4) // originID of file-sender
<seqNum> (4) // file sequence number assigned by file-sender
<number_of_requests> (4) // number of chunks being requested here
<chunkNum> (4) // number of one requested chunk
<chunkNum> (4) // number of another requested chunk
... (as many as <number_of_requests>) ...
```

[0092] It is to be understood that these formats are merely examples and formats should not be limited thereto.

[0093] FIG. 17 is a block diagram of an example communications device (also referred to as a node) 160 configured to facilitate geocast-based file transfer. In an example configuration, communications device 160 comprises a mobile wireless device. The communications device 160, however, may comprise any appropriate device, examples of which include a portable computing device, such as a laptop, a personal digital assistant ("PDA"), a portable phone (e.g., a cell phone or the like, a smart phone, a video phone), a portable email device, a portable gaming device, a TV, a DVD player, portable media player, (e.g., a portable music player, such as an MP3 player, a Walkman, etc.), a portable navigation device (e.g., GPS compatible device, A-GPS compatible device, etc.), or a combination thereof. The communications device 160 can include devices that are not typically thought of as portable, such as, for example, a public computing device, a navigation device installed in-vehicle, a set top box, or the like. The mobile communications device 160 may include non-conventional computing devices, such as, for example, a kitchen appliance, a motor vehicle control (e.g., steering wheel), etc., or the like. As evident from the herein description, a node, and thus a communications device, is not to be construed as software per se.

[0094] The communications device 160 may include any appropriate device, mechanism, software, and/or hardware for facilitating geocast based file transfer as described herein. In an example embodiment, the ability to facilitate geocast based file transfer is a feature of the communications device 160 that may be turned on and off. Thus, in an example

embodiment, an owner of the communications device **160** may opt-in or opt-out of this capability.

[0095] In an example embodiment, the communications device **160** may comprise a processor and memory coupled to the processor. The memory may comprise executable instructions that when executed by the processor cause the processor to effectuate operations associated with geocast based file transfer.

[0096] In an example configuration, the communications device **160** may comprise a processing portion **162**, a memory portion **164**, an input/output portion **166**, and a user interface (UI) portion **168**. Each portion of the mobile communications device **160** may comprise circuitry for performing functions associated with each respective portion. Thus, each portion may comprise hardware, or a combination of hardware and software, and thus is not to be construed as software per se. It is emphasized that the block diagram depiction of communications device **160** is exemplary and not intended to imply a specific implementation and/or configuration. For example, in an example configuration, the communications device **160** may comprise a cellular phone and the processing portion **162** and/or the memory portion **164** may be implemented, in part or in total, on a subscriber identity module (SIM) of the mobile communications device **160**. In another example configuration, the communications device **160** may comprise a laptop computer. The laptop computer can include a SIM, and various portions of the processing portion **162** and/or the memory portion **164** can be implemented on the SIM, on the laptop other than the SIM, or any combination thereof.

[0097] The processing portion **162**, memory portion **164**, and input/output portion **166** may be coupled together to allow communications therebetween. In various embodiments, the input/output portion **166** may comprise a receiver of the communications device **160**, a transmitter of the communications device **160**, or a combination thereof. The input/output portion **166** may be capable of receiving and/or providing information pertaining to geocast based file transfer as described herein. In various configurations, the input/output portion **166** may receive and/or provide information via any appropriate means, such as, for example, optical means (e.g., infrared), electromagnetic means (e.g., RF, WI-FI, BLUE-TOOTH, ZIGBEE, etc.), acoustic means (e.g., speaker, microphone, ultrasonic receiver, ultrasonic transmitter), or a combination thereof.

[0098] The processing portion **162** may be capable of performing functions pertaining to geocast based file transfer as described herein. In a basic configuration, the communications device **160** may include at least one memory portion **164**. The memory portion **164** may comprise a storage medium having a tangible physical structure. Thus, the memory portion **164** is not to be construed as a transient signal per se. Further, the memory portion **164** is not to be construed as a propagating signal per se. The memory portion **164** may store any information utilized in conjunction with geocast based file transfer as described herein. Depending upon the exact configuration and type of processor, the memory portion **164** may be volatile (such as some types of RAM), non-volatile (such as ROM, flash memory, etc.), or a combination thereof. The mobile communications device **160** may include additional storage (e.g., removable storage and/or non-removable storage) including, but not limited to, tape, flash memory, smart cards, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices,

universal serial bus (USB) compatible memory, or any other medium which can be used to store information and which can be accessed by the mobile communications device **160**.

[0099] The communications device **160** also may contain a user interface (UI) portion **168** allowing a user to communicate with the communications device **160**. The UI portion **168** may be capable of rendering any information utilized in conjunction with the geographic based file transfers and the GFT protocol as described herein. The UI portion **168** may provide the ability to control the communications device **160**, via, for example, buttons, soft keys, voice actuated controls, a touch screen, movement of the mobile communications device **160**, visual cues (e.g., moving a hand in front of a camera on the mobile communications device **160**), or the like. The UI portion **168** may provide visual information (e.g., via a display), audio information (e.g., via speaker), mechanically (e.g., via a vibrating mechanism), or a combination thereof. In various configurations, the UI portion **168** may comprise a display, a touch screen, a keyboard, an accelerometer, a motion detector, a speaker, a microphone, a camera, a tilt sensor, or any combination thereof. The UI portion **168** may comprise means for inputting biometric information, such as, for example, fingerprint information, retinal information, voice information, and/or facial characteristic information.

[0100] The UI portion **168** may include a display for displaying multimedia such as, for example, application graphical user interfaces (GUIs), text, images, video, telephony functions such as Caller ID data, setup functions, menus, music, metadata, messages, wallpaper, graphics, Internet content, device status, preferences settings, map and location data, routes and other directions, points of interest (POI), and the like.

[0101] In some embodiments, the UI portion may comprise a user interface (UI) application. The UI application may interface with a client or operating system (OS) to, for example, facilitate user interaction with device functionality and data. The UI application may aid a user in entering message content, viewing received messages, answering/initiating calls, entering/deleting data, entering and setting user IDs and passwords, configuring settings, manipulating address book content and/or settings, interacting with other applications, or the like, and may aid the user in inputting selections and maneuvers associated with geocast based file transfer as described herein.

[0102] Although not necessary to facilitate the use and/or implementation of geocast based file transfer and the GFT protocol, a communications device can be part of and/or in communications with various wireless communications networks. Some of which are described below.

[0103] FIG. **18** is a diagram of an example communications system in which in which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented. The communications system **100** may comprise a multiple access system that provides content, such as voice, data, video, messaging, broadcast, etc., to multiple wireless users. The communications system **100** may enable multiple wireless users to access such content through the sharing of system resources, including wireless bandwidth. For example, the communications systems **100** may employ one or more channel access methods, such as code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), frequency division multiple access (FDMA), orthogonal FDMA (OFDMA), single-carrier FDMA (SC-FDMA), and the like. A communications system such as that shown in FIG. **18** may also be referred to herein as a network.

[0104] As shown in FIG. 18, the communications system 100 may include wireless transmit/receive units (WTRUs) 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d, a radio access network (RAN) 104, a core network 106, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) 108, the Internet 110, and other networks 112, though it will be appreciated that the disclosed embodiments contemplate any number of WTRUs, base stations, networks, and/or network elements. Each of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d may be any type of device configured to operate and/or communicate in a wireless environment. For example, a WTRU may comprise intended recipient(s) 32, communications device 80, or the like, or any combination thereof. By way of example, the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d may be configured to transmit and/or receive wireless signals and may include user equipment (UE), a mobile station, a mobile device, a fixed or mobile subscriber unit, a pager, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a smartphone, a laptop, a netbook, a personal computer, a wireless sensor, consumer electronics, and the like.

[0105] The communications systems 100 may also include a base station 114a and a base station 114b. Each of the base stations 114a, 114b may be any type of device configured to wirelessly interface with at least one of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d to facilitate access to one or more communication networks, such as the core network 106, the Internet 110, and/or the networks 112. By way of example, the base stations 114a, 114b may be a base transceiver station (BTS), a Node-B, an eNode B, a Home Node B, a Home eNode B, a site controller, an access point (AP), a wireless router, and the like. While the base stations 114a, 114b are each depicted as a single element, it will be appreciated that the base stations 114a, 114b may include any number of interconnected base stations and/or network elements.

[0106] The base station 114a may be part of the RAN 104, which may also include other base stations and/or network elements (not shown), such as a base station controller (BSC), a radio network controller (RNC), relay nodes, etc. The base station 114a and/or the base station 114b may be configured to transmit and/or receive wireless signals within a particular geographic region, which may be referred to as a cell (not shown). The cell may further be divided into cell sectors. For example, the cell associated with the base station 114a may be divided into three sectors. Thus, in an embodiment, the base station 114a may include three transceivers, i.e., one for each sector of the cell. In another embodiment, the base station 114a may employ multiple-input multiple output (MIMO) technology and, therefore, may utilize multiple transceivers for each sector of the cell.

[0107] The base stations 114a, 114b may communicate with one or more of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d over an air interface 116, which may be any suitable wireless communication link (e.g., radio frequency (RF), microwave, infrared (IR), ultraviolet (UV), visible light, etc.). The air interface 116 may be established using any suitable radio access technology (RAT).

[0108] More specifically, as noted above, the communications system 100 may be a multiple access system and may employ one or more channel access schemes, such as CDMA, TDMA, FDMA, OFDMA, SC-FDMA, and the like. For example, the base station 114a in the RAN 104 and the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may implement a radio technology such as Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) Terrestrial Radio Access (UTRA) that may establish the air interface 116 using wideband CDMA (WCDMA).

WCDMA may include communication protocols such as High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) and/or Evolved HSPA (HSPA+). HSPA may include High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) and/or High-Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSUPA).

[0109] In another embodiment, the base station 114a and the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may implement a radio technology such as Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA), which may establish the air interface 116 using Long Term Evolution (LTE) and/or LTE-Advanced (LTE-A).

[0110] In other embodiments, the base station 114a and the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may implement radio technologies such as IEEE 802.16 (i.e., Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX)), CDMA2000, CDMA2000 1X, CDMA2000 EV-DO, Interim Standard 2000 (IS-2000), Interim Standard 95 (IS-95), Interim Standard 856 (IS-856), Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), GSM EDGE (GERAN), and the like.

[0111] The base station 114b in FIG. 18 may comprise a wireless router, Home Node B, Home eNode B, or access point, for example, and may utilize any suitable RAT for facilitating wireless connectivity in a localized area, such as a place of business, a home, a vehicle, a campus, and the like. In one embodiment, the base station 114b and the WTRUs 102c, 102d may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.11 to establish a wireless local area network (WLAN). In another embodiment, the base station 114b and the WTRUs 102c, 102d may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.15 to establish a wireless personal area network (WPAN). In yet another embodiment, the base station 114b and the WTRUs 102c, 102d may utilize a cellular-based RAT (e.g., WCDMA, CDMA2000, GSM, LTE, LTE-A, etc.) to establish a picocell or femtocell. As shown in FIG. 18, the base station 114b may have a direct connection to the Internet 110. Thus, the base station 114b may not be required to access the Internet 110 via the core network 106.

[0112] The RAN 104 may be in communication with the core network 106, which may be any type of network configured to provide voice, data, applications, and/or voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services to one or more of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d. For example, the core network 106 may provide call control, billing services, mobile location-based services, pre-paid calling, Internet connectivity, video distribution, etc., and/or perform high-level security functions, such as user authentication. Although not shown in FIG. 18, it will be appreciated that the RAN 104 and/or the core network 106 may be in direct or indirect communication with other RANs that employ the same RAT as the RAN 104 or a different RAT. For example, in addition to being connected to the RAN 104, which may be utilizing an E-UTRA radio technology, the core network 106 may also be in communication with another RAN (not shown) employing a GSM radio technology.

[0113] The core network 106 may also serve as a gateway for the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d to access the PSTN 108, the Internet 110, and/or other networks 112. The PSTN 108 may include circuit-switched telephone networks that provide plain old telephone service (POTS). The Internet 110 may include a global system of interconnected computer networks and devices that use common communication protocols, such as the transmission control protocol (TCP), user datagram protocol (UDP) and the internet protocol (IP) in the TCP/IP internet protocol suite. The networks 112 may

include wired or wireless communications networks owned and/or operated by other service providers. For example, the networks 112 may include another core network connected to one or more RANs, which may employ the same RAT as the RAN 104 or a different RAT.

[0114] Some or all of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d in the communications system 100 may include multi-mode capabilities, i.e., the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, 102d may include multiple transceivers for communicating with different wireless networks over different wireless links. For example, the WTRU 102c shown in FIG. 18 may be configured to communicate with the base station 114a, which may employ a cellular-based radio technology, and with the base station 114b, which may employ an IEEE 802 radio technology.

[0115] FIG. 19 is a system diagram of an example WTRU 102. As shown in FIG. 19, the WTRU 102 may include a processor 118, a transceiver 120, a transmit/receive element 122, a speaker/microphone 124, a keypad 126, a display/touchpad 128, non-removable memory 130, removable memory 132, a power source 134, a global positioning system (GPS) chipset 136, and other peripherals 138. It will be appreciated that the WTRU 102 may include any sub-combination of the foregoing elements while remaining consistent with an embodiment. For example, the WTRU 102 may comprise a node, a mobile device, the communications device 160, or the like, or any appropriate combination thereof.

[0116] The processor 118 may be a general purpose processor, a special purpose processor, a conventional processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in association with a DSP core, a controller, a microcontroller, Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGAs) circuits, any other type of integrated circuit (IC), a state machine, and the like. The processor 118 may perform signal coding, data processing, power control, input/output processing, and/or any other functionality that enables the WTRU 102 to operate in a wireless environment. The processor 118 may be coupled to the transceiver 120, which may be coupled to the transmit/receive element 122. While FIG. 19 depicts the processor 118 and the transceiver 120 as separate components, it will be appreciated that the processor 118 and the transceiver 120 may be integrated together in an electronic package or chip.

[0117] The transmit/receive element 122 may be configured to transmit signals to, or receive signals from, a base station (e.g., the base station 114a) over the air interface 116. For example, in one embodiment, the transmit/receive element 122 may be an antenna configured to transmit and/or receive RF signals. In another embodiment, the transmit/receive element 122 may be an emitter/detector configured to transmit and/or receive IR, UV, or visible light signals, for example. In yet another embodiment, the transmit/receive element 122 may be configured to transmit and receive both RF and light signals. It will be appreciated that the transmit/receive element 122 may be configured to transmit and/or receive any combination of wireless signals.

[0118] In addition, although the transmit/receive element 122 is depicted in FIG. 19 as a single element, the WTRU 102 may include any number of transmit/receive elements 122. More specifically, the WTRU 102 may employ MIMO technology. Thus, in one embodiment, the WTRU 102 may

include two or more transmit/receive elements 122 (e.g., multiple antennas) for transmitting and receiving wireless signals over the air interface 116.

[0119] The transceiver 120 may be configured to modulate the signals that are to be transmitted by the transmit/receive element 122 and to demodulate the signals that are received by the transmit/receive element 122. As noted above, the WTRU 102 may have multi-mode capabilities. Thus, the transceiver 120 may include multiple transceivers for enabling the WTRU 102 to communicate via multiple RATs, such as UTRA and IEEE 802.11, for example.

[0120] The processor 118 of the WTRU 102 may be coupled to, and may receive user input data from, the speaker/microphone 124, the keypad 126, and/or the display/touchpad 128 (e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) display unit or organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display unit). The processor 118 may also output user data to the speaker/microphone 124, the keypad 126, and/or the display/touchpad 128. In addition, the processor 118 may access information from, and store data in, any type of suitable memory, such as the non-removable memory 130 and/or the removable memory 132. The non-removable memory 130 may include random-access memory (RAM), read-only memory (ROM), a hard disk, or any other type of memory storage device. The removable memory 132 may include a subscriber identity module (SIM) card, a memory stick, a secure digital (SD) memory card, and the like. In other embodiments, the processor 118 may access information from, and store data in, memory that is not physically located on the WTRU 102, such as on a server or a home computer (not shown).

[0121] The processor 118 may receive power from the power source 134, and may be configured to distribute and/or control the power to the other components in the WTRU 102. The power source 134 may be any suitable device for powering the WTRU 102. For example, the power source 134 may include one or more dry cell batteries (e.g., nickel-cadmium (NiCd), nickel-zinc (NiZn), nickel metal hydride (NiMH), lithium-ion (Li-ion), etc.), solar cells, fuel cells, and the like.

[0122] The processor 118 may also be coupled to the GPS chipset 136, which may be configured to provide location information (e.g., longitude and latitude) regarding the current location of the WTRU 102. In addition to, or in lieu of, the information from the GPS chipset 136, the WTRU 102 may receive location information over the air interface 116 from a base station (e.g., base stations 114a, 114b) and/or determine its location based on the timing of the signals being received from two or more nearby base stations. It will be appreciated that the WTRU 102 may acquire location information by way of any suitable location-determination method while remaining consistent with an embodiment.

[0123] The processor 118 may further be coupled to other peripherals 138, which may include one or more software and/or hardware modules that provide additional features, functionality and/or wired or wireless connectivity. For example, the peripherals 138 may include an accelerometer, an e-compass, a satellite transceiver, a digital camera (for photographs or video), a universal serial bus (USB) port, a vibration device, a television transceiver, a hands free headset, a Bluetooth® module, a frequency modulated (FM) radio unit, a digital music player, a media player, a video game player module, an Internet browser, and the like.

[0124] FIG. 20 is an example system diagram of RAN 104 and core network 106. As noted above, the RAN 104 may employ an E-UTRA radio technology to communicate with

the WTRUs 102a, 102b, and 102c over the air interface 116. The RAN 104 may also be in communication with the core network 106.

[0125] The RAN 104 may include eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, 140c, though it will be appreciated that the RAN 104 may include any number of eNode-Bs while remaining consistent with an embodiment. The eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, 140c may each include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c over the air interface 116. In one embodiment, the eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, 140c may implement MIMO technology. Thus, the eNode-B 140a, for example, may use multiple antennas to transmit wireless signals to, and receive wireless signals from, the WTRU 102a.

[0126] Each of the eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, and 140c may be associated with a particular cell (not shown) and may be configured to handle radio resource management decisions, handover decisions, scheduling of users in the uplink and/or downlink, and the like. As shown in FIG. 20, the eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, 140c may communicate with one another over an X2 interface.

[0127] The core network 106 shown in FIG. 20 may include a mobility management gateway or entity (MME) 142, a serving gateway 144, and a packet data network (PDN) gateway 146. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of the core network 106, it will be appreciated that any one of these elements may be owned and/or operated by an entity other than the core network operator.

[0128] The MME 142 may be connected to each of the eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, 140c in the RAN 104 via an S1 interface and may serve as a control node. For example, the MME 142 may be responsible for authenticating users of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, bearer activation/deactivation, selecting a particular serving gateway during an initial attach of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, and the like. The MME 142 may also provide a control plane function for switching between the RAN 104 and other RANs (not shown) that employ other radio technologies, such as GSM or WCDMA.

[0129] The serving gateway 144 may be connected to each of the eNode-Bs 140a, 140b, and 140c in the RAN 104 via the S1 interface. The serving gateway 144 may generally route and forward user data packets to/from the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c. The serving gateway 144 may also perform other functions, such as anchoring user planes during inter-eNode B handovers, triggering paging when downlink data is available for the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, managing and storing contexts of the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c, and the like.

[0130] The serving gateway 144 may also be connected to the PDN gateway 146, which may provide the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c with access to packet-switched networks, such as the Internet 110, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c and IP-enabled devices.

[0131] The core network 106 may facilitate communications with other networks. For example, the core network 106 may provide the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c with access to circuit-switched networks, such as the PSTN 108, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c and traditional land-line communications devices. For example, the core network 106 may include, or may communicate with, an IP gateway (e.g., an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) server) that serves as an interface between the core network 106 and the PSTN 108. In addition, the core network 106 may provide the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c with access to the

networks 112, which may include other wired or wireless networks that are owned and/or operated by other service providers.

[0132] FIG. 21 depicts an overall block diagram of an example packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a GPRS network, within which the geocast-based file transfer may be implemented. In the example packet-based mobile cellular network environment shown in FIG. 21, there are a plurality of Base Station Subsystems (“BSS”) 800 (only one is shown), each of which comprises a Base Station Controller (“BSC”) 802 serving a plurality of Base Transceiver Stations (“BTS”) such as BTSs 804, 806, and 808. BTSs 804, 806, 808, etc. are the access points where users of packet-based mobile devices become connected to the wireless network. In example fashion, the packet traffic originating from user devices is transported via an over-the-air interface to a BTS 808, and from the BTS 808 to the BSC 802. Base station subsystems, such as BSS 800, are a part of internal frame relay network 810 that can include Service GPRS Support Nodes (“SGSN”) such as SGSN 812 and 814. Each SGSN is connected to an internal packet network 820 through which a SGSN 812, 814, etc. can route data packets to and from a plurality of gateway GPRS support nodes (GGSN) 822, 824, 826, etc. As illustrated, SGSN 814 and GGSNs 822, 824, and 826 are part of internal packet network 820. Gateway GPRS serving nodes 822, 824 and 826 mainly provide an interface to external Internet Protocol (“IP”) networks such as Public Land Mobile Network (“PLMN”) 850, corporate intranets 840, or Fixed-End System (“FES”) or the public Internet 830. As illustrated, subscriber corporate network 840 may be connected to GGSN 824 via firewall 832; and PLMN 850 is connected to GGSN 824 via boarder gateway router 834. The Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (“RADIUS”) server 842 may be used for caller authentication when a user of a mobile cellular device calls corporate network 840.

[0133] Generally, there can be a several cell sizes in a GSM network, referred to as macro, micro, pico, femto and umbrella cells. The coverage area of each cell is different in different environments. Macro cells can be regarded as cells in which the base station antenna is installed in a mast or a building above average roof top level. Micro cells are cells whose antenna height is under average roof top level. Micro-cells are typically used in urban areas. Pico cells are small cells having a diameter of a few dozen meters. Pico cells are used mainly indoors. Femto cells have the same size as pico cells, but a smaller transport capacity. Femto cells are used indoors, in residential, or small business environments. On the other hand, umbrella cells are used to cover shadowed regions of smaller cells and fill in gaps in coverage between those cells.

[0134] FIG. 22 illustrates an architecture of a typical GPRS network within which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented. The architecture depicted in FIG. 22 is segmented into four groups: users 950, radio access network 960, core network 970, and interconnect network 980. Users 950 comprise a plurality of end users. Note, device 912 is referred to as a mobile subscriber in the description of network shown in FIG. 22. In an example embodiment, the device depicted as mobile subscriber 912 comprises a communications device (e.g., communications device 160). Radio access network 960 comprises a plurality of base station subsystems such as BSSs 962, which include BTSs 964 and BSCs 966. Core network 970 comprises a host of various network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 22, core network 970 may comprise

Mobile Switching Center (“MSC”) 971, Service Control Point (“SCP”) 972, gateway MSC 973, SGSN 976, Home Location Register (“HLR”) 974, Authentication Center (“AuC”) 975, Domain Name Server (“DNS”) 977, and GGSN 978. Interconnect network 980 also comprises a host of various networks and other network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 22, interconnect network 980 comprises Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) 982, Fixed-End System (“FES”) or Internet 984, firewall 988, and Corporate Network 989.

[0135] A mobile switching center can be connected to a large number of base station controllers. At MSC 971, for instance, depending on the type of traffic, the traffic may be separated in that voice may be sent to Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) 982 through Gateway MSC (“GMSC”) 973, and/or data may be sent to SGSN 976, which then sends the data traffic to GGSN 978 for further forwarding.

[0136] When MSC 971 receives call traffic, for example, from BSC 966, it sends a query to a database hosted by SCP 972. The SCP 972 processes the request and issues a response to MSC 971 so that it may continue call processing as appropriate.

[0137] The HLR 974 is a centralized database for users to register to the GPRS network. HLR 974 stores static information about the subscribers such as the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (“IMSI”), subscribed services, and a key for authenticating the subscriber. HLR 974 also stores dynamic subscriber information such as the current location of the mobile subscriber. Associated with HLR 974 is AuC 975. AuC 975 is a database that contains the algorithms for authenticating subscribers and includes the associated keys for encryption to safeguard the user input for authentication.

[0138] In the following, depending on context, the term “mobile subscriber” sometimes refers to the end user and sometimes to the actual portable device, such as a mobile device, used by an end user of the mobile cellular service. When a mobile subscriber turns on his or her mobile device, the mobile device goes through an attach process by which the mobile device attaches to an SGSN of the GPRS network. In FIG. 22, when mobile subscriber 912 initiates the attach process by turning on the network capabilities of the mobile device, an attach request is sent by mobile subscriber 912 to SGSN 976. The SGSN 976 queries another SGSN, to which mobile subscriber 912 was attached before, for the identity of mobile subscriber 912. Upon receiving the identity of mobile subscriber 912 from the other SGSN, SGSN 976 requests more information from mobile subscriber 912. This information is used to authenticate mobile subscriber 912 to SGSN 976 by HLR 974. Once verified, SGSN 976 sends a location update to HLR 974 indicating the change of location to a new SGSN, in this case SGSN 976. HLR 974 notifies the old SGSN, to which mobile subscriber 912 was attached before, to cancel the location process for mobile subscriber 912. HLR 974 then notifies SGSN 976 that the location update has been performed. At this time, SGSN 976 sends an Attach Accept message to mobile subscriber 912, which in turn sends an Attach Complete message to SGSN 976.

[0139] After attaching itself with the network, mobile subscriber 912 then goes through the authentication process. In the authentication process, SGSN 976 sends the authentication information to HLR 974, which sends information back to SGSN 976 based on the user profile that was part of the user’s initial setup. The SGSN 976 then sends a request for

authentication and ciphering to mobile subscriber 912. The mobile subscriber 912 uses an algorithm to send the user identification (ID) and password to SGSN 976. The SGSN 976 uses the same algorithm and compares the result. If a match occurs, SGSN 976 authenticates mobile subscriber 912.

[0140] Next, the mobile subscriber 912 establishes a user session with the destination network, corporate network 989, by going through a Packet Data Protocol (“PDP”) activation process. Briefly, in the process, mobile subscriber 912 requests access to the Access Point Name (“APN”), for example, UPS.com, and SGSN 976 receives the activation request from mobile subscriber 912. SGSN 976 then initiates a Domain Name Service (“DNS”) query to learn which GGSN node has access to the UPS.com APN. The DNS query is sent to the DNS server within the core network 970, such as DNS 977, which is provisioned to map to one or more GGSN nodes in the core network 970. Based on the APN, the mapped GGSN 978 can access the requested corporate network 989. The SGSN 976 then sends to GGSN 978 a Create Packet Data Protocol (“PDP”) Context Request message that contains necessary information. The GGSN 978 sends a Create PDP Context Response message to SGSN 976, which then sends an Activate PDP Context Accept message to mobile subscriber 912.

[0141] Once activated, data packets of the call made by mobile subscriber 912 can then go through radio access network 960, core network 970, and interconnect network 980, in a particular fixed-end system or Internet 984 and firewall 988, to reach corporate network 989.

[0142] FIG. 23 illustrates an example block diagram view of a GSM/GPRS/IP multimedia network architecture within which geocast-based file transfer may be implemented. As illustrated, the architecture of FIG. 23 includes a GSM core network 1001, a GPRS network 1030 and an IP multimedia network 1038. The GSM core network 1001 includes a Mobile Station (MS) 1002, at least one Base Transceiver Station (BTS) 1004 and a Base Station Controller (BSC) 1006. The MS 1002 is physical equipment or Mobile Equipment (ME), such as a mobile phone or a laptop computer that is used by mobile subscribers, with a Subscriber identity Module (SIM) or a Universal Integrated Circuit Card (UICC). The SIM or UICC includes an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), which is a unique identifier of a subscriber. The BTS 1004 is physical equipment, such as a radio tower, that enables a radio interface to communicate with the MS. Each BTS may serve more than one MS. The BSC 1006 manages radio resources, including the BTS. The BSC may be connected to several BTSs. The BSC and BTS components, in combination, are generally referred to as a base station (BSS) or radio access network (RAN) 1003.

[0143] The GSM core network 1001 also includes a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) 1008, a Gateway Mobile Switching Center (GMSC) 1010, a Home Location Register (HLR) 1012, Visitor Location Register (VLR) 1014, an Authentication Center (AuC) 1018, and an Equipment Identity Register (EIR) 1016. The MSC 1008 performs a switching function for the network. The MSC also performs other functions, such as registration, authentication, location updating, handovers, and call routing. The GMSC 1010 provides a gateway between the GSM network and other networks, such as an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or Public

Switched Telephone Networks (PSTNs) **1020**. Thus, the GMSC **1010** provides interworking functionality with external networks.

[**0144**] The HLR **1012** is a database that contains administrative information regarding each subscriber registered in a corresponding GSM network. The HLR **1012** also contains the current location of each MS. The VLR **1014** is a database that contains selected administrative information from the HLR **1012**. The VLR contains information necessary for call control and provision of subscribed services for each MS currently located in a geographical area controlled by the VLR. The HLR **1012** and the VLR **1014**, together with the MSC **1008**, provide the call routing and roaming capabilities of GSM. The AuC **1016** provides the parameters needed for authentication and encryption functions. Such parameters allow verification of a subscriber's identity. The EIR **1018** stores security-sensitive information about the mobile equipment.

[**0145**] A Short Message Service Center (SMSC) **1009** allows one-to-one Short Message Service (SMS) messages to be sent to/from the MS **1002**. A Push Proxy Gateway (PPG) **1011** is used to "push" (i.e., send without a synchronous request) content to the MS **1002**. The PPG **1011** acts as a proxy between wired and wireless networks to facilitate pushing of data to the MS **1002**. A Short Message Peer to Peer (SMPP) protocol router **1013** is provided to convert SMS-based SMPP messages to cell broadcast messages. SMPP is a protocol for exchanging SMS messages between SMS peer entities such as short message service centers. The SMPP protocol is often used to allow third parties, e.g., content suppliers such as news organizations, to submit bulk messages.

[**0146**] To gain access to GSM services, such as speech, data, and short message service (SMS), the MS first registers with the network to indicate its current location by performing a location update and IMSI attach procedure. The MS **1002** sends a location update including its current location information to the MSC/VLR, via the BTS **1004** and the BSC **1006**. The location information is then sent to the MS's HLR. The HLR is updated with the location information received from the MSC/VLR. The location update also is performed when the MS moves to a new location area. Typically, the location update is periodically performed to update the database as location updating events occur.

[**0147**] The GPRS network **1030** is logically implemented on the GSM core network architecture by introducing two packet-switching network nodes, a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) **1032**, a cell broadcast and a Gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) **1034**. The SGSN **1032** is at the same hierarchical level as the MSC **1008** in the GSM network. The SGSN controls the connection between the GPRS network and the MS **1002**. The SGSN also keeps track of individual MS's locations and security functions and access controls.

[**0148**] A Cell Broadcast Center (CBC) **14** communicates cell broadcast messages that are typically delivered to multiple users in a specified area. Cell Broadcast is one-to-many geographically focused service. It enables messages to be communicated to multiple mobile phone customers who are located within a given part of its network coverage area at the time the message is broadcast.

[**0149**] The GGSN **1034** provides a gateway between the GPRS network and a public packet network (PDN) or other IP networks **1036**. That is, the GGSN provides interworking functionality with external networks, and sets up a logical

link to the MS through the SGSN. When packet-switched data leaves the GPRS network, it is transferred to an external TCP-IP network **1036**, such as an X.25 network or the Internet. In order to access GPRS services, the MS first attaches itself to the GPRS network by performing an attach procedure. The MS then activates a packet data protocol (PDP) context, thus activating a packet communication session between the MS, the SGSN, and the GGSN.

[**0150**] In a GSM/GPRS network, GPRS services and GSM services can be used in parallel. The MS can operate in one of three classes: class A, class B, and class C. A class A MS can attach to the network for both GPRS services and GSM services simultaneously. A class A MS also supports simultaneous operation of GPRS services and GSM services. For example, class A mobiles can receive GSM voice/data/SMS calls and GPRS data calls at the same time.

[**0151**] A class B MS can attach to the network for both GPRS services and GSM services simultaneously. However, a class B MS does not support simultaneous operation of the GPRS services and GSM services. That is, a class B MS can only use one of the two services at a given time.

[**0152**] A class C MS can attach for only one of the GPRS services and GSM services at a time. Simultaneous attachment and operation of GPRS services and GSM services is not possible with a class C MS.

[**0153**] A GPRS network **1030** can be designed to operate in three network operation modes (NOM1, NOM2 and NOM3). A network operation mode of a GPRS network is indicated by a parameter in system information messages transmitted within a cell. The system information messages dictates a MS where to listen for paging messages and how to signal towards the network. The network operation mode represents the capabilities of the GPRS network. In a NOM1 network, a MS can receive pages from a circuit switched domain (voice call) when engaged in a data call. The MS can suspend the data call or take both simultaneously, depending on the ability of the MS. In a NOM2 network, a MS may not receive pages from a circuit switched domain when engaged in a data call, since the MS is receiving data and is not listening to a paging channel. In a NOM3 network, a MS can monitor pages for a circuit switched network while received data and vice versa.

[**0154**] The IP multimedia network **1038** was introduced with 3GPP Release 5, and includes an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) **1040** to provide rich multimedia services to end users. A representative set of the network entities within the IMS **1040** are a call/session control function (CSCF), a media gateway control function (MGCF) **1046**, a media gateway (MGW) **1048**, and a master subscriber database, called a home subscriber server (HSS) **1050**. The HSS **1050** may be common to the GSM network **1001**, the GPRS network **1030** as well as the IP multimedia network **1038**.

[**0155**] The IP multimedia system **1040** is built around the call/session control function, of which there are three types: an interrogating CSCF (I-CSCF) **1043**, a proxy CSCF (P-CSCF) **1042**, and a serving CSCF (S-CSCF) **1044**. The P-CSCF **1042** is the MS's first point of contact with the IMS **1040**. The P-CSCF **1042** forwards session initiation protocol (SIP) messages received from the MS to an SIP server in a home network (and vice versa) of the MS. The P-CSCF **1042** may also modify an outgoing request according to a set of rules defined by the network operator (for example, address analysis and potential modification).

[**0156**] The I-CSCF **1043**, forms an entrance to a home network and hides the inner topology of the home network

from other networks and provides flexibility for selecting an S-CSCF. The I-CSCF **1043** may contact a subscriber location function (SLF) **1045** to determine which HSS **1050** to use for the particular subscriber, if multiple HSS's **1050** are present. The S-CSCF **1044** performs the session control services for the MS **1002**. This includes routing originating sessions to external networks and routing terminating sessions to visited networks. The S-CSCF **1044** also decides whether an application server (AS) **1052** is required to receive information on an incoming SIP session request to ensure appropriate service handling. This decision is based on information received from the HSS **1050** (or other sources, such as an application server **1052**). The AS **1052** also communicates to a location server **1056** (e.g., a Gateway Mobile Location Center (GMLC)) that provides a position (e.g., latitude/longitude coordinates) of the MS **1002**.

[0157] The HSS **1050** contains a subscriber profile and keeps track of which core network node is currently handling the subscriber. It also supports subscriber authentication and authorization functions (AAA). In networks with more than one HSS **1050**, a subscriber location function provides information on the HSS **1050** that contains the profile of a given subscriber.

[0158] The MGCF **1046** provides interworking functionality between SIP session control signaling from the IMS **1040** and ISUP/BICC call control signaling from the external GSTN networks (not shown). It also controls the media gateway (MGW) **1048** that provides user-plane interworking functionality (e.g., converting between AMR- and PCM-coded voice). The MGW **1048** also communicates with other IP multimedia networks **1054**.

[0159] Push to Talk over Cellular (PoC) capable mobile phones register with the wireless network when the phones are in a predefined area (e.g., job site, etc.). When the mobile phones leave the area, they register with the network in their new location as being outside the predefined area. This registration, however, does not indicate the actual physical location of the mobile phones outside the pre-defined area.

[0160] FIG. 24 illustrates a PLMN block diagram view of an example architecture in which geocast-based file transfer may be incorporated. Mobile Station (MS) **1401** is the physical equipment used by the PLMN subscriber. In one illustrative embodiment, communications device **200** may serve as Mobile Station **1401**. Mobile Station **1401** may be one of, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, a cellular telephone in combination with another electronic device or any other wireless mobile communication device.

[0161] Mobile Station **1401** may communicate wirelessly with Base Station System (BSS) **1410**. BSS **1410** contains a Base Station Controller (BSC) **1411** and a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) **1412**. BSS **1410** may include a single BSC **1411**/BTS **1412** pair (Base Station) or a system of BSC/BTS pairs which are part of a larger network. BSS **1410** is responsible for communicating with Mobile Station **1401** and may support one or more cells. BSS **1410** is responsible for handling cellular traffic and signaling between Mobile Station **1401** and Core Network **1440**. Typically, BSS **1410** performs functions that include, but are not limited to, digital conversion of speech channels, allocation of channels to mobile devices, paging, and transmission/reception of cellular signals.

[0162] Additionally, Mobile Station **1401** may communicate wirelessly with Radio Network System (RNS) **1420**. RNS **1420** contains a Radio Network Controller (RNC) **1421**

and one or more Node(s) B **1422**. RNS **1420** may support one or more cells. RNS **1420** may also include one or more RNC **1421**/Node B **1422** pairs or alternatively a single RNC **1421** may manage multiple Nodes B **1422**. RNS **1420** is responsible for communicating with Mobile Station **1401** in its geographically defined area. RNC **1421** is responsible for controlling the Node(s) B **1422** that are connected to it and is a control element in a UMTS radio access network. RNC **1421** performs functions such as, but not limited to, load control, packet scheduling, handover control, security functions, as well as controlling Mobile Station **1401**'s access to the Core Network (CN) **1440**.

[0163] The evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN) **1430** is a radio access network that provides wireless data communications for Mobile Station **1401** and User Equipment **1402**. E-UTRAN **1430** provides higher data rates than traditional UMTS. It is part of the Long Term Evolution (LTE) upgrade for mobile networks and later releases meet the requirements of the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) Advanced and are commonly known as a 4G networks. E-UTRAN **1430** may include of series of logical network components such as E-UTRAN Node B (eNB) **1431** and E-UTRAN Node B (eNB) **1432**. E-UTRAN **1430** may contain one or more eNBs. User Equipment **1402** may be any user device capable of connecting to E-UTRAN **1430** including, but not limited to, a personal computer, laptop, mobile device, wireless router, or other device capable of wireless connectivity to E-UTRAN **1430**. The improved performance of the E-UTRAN **1430** relative to a typical UMTS network allows for increased bandwidth, spectral efficiency, and functionality including, but not limited to, voice, high-speed applications, large data transfer and IPTV, while still allowing for full mobility.

[0164] An example embodiment of a mobile data and communication service that may be implemented in the PLMN architecture described in FIG. 24 is the Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE). EDGE is an enhancement for GPRS networks that implements an improved signal modulation scheme known as 8-PSK (Phase Shift Keying). By increasing network utilization, EDGE may achieve up to three times faster data rates as compared to a typical GPRS network. EDGE may be implemented on any GSM network capable of hosting a GPRS network, making it an ideal upgrade over GPRS since it may provide increased functionality of existing network resources. Evolved EDGE networks are becoming standardized in later releases of the radio telecommunication standards, which provide for even greater efficiency and peak data rates of up to 1 Mbit/s, while still allowing implementation on existing GPRS-capable network infrastructure.

[0165] Typically Mobile Station **1401** may communicate with any or all of BSS **1410**, RNS **1420**, or E-UTRAN **1430**. In an illustrative system, each of BSS **1410**, RNS **1420**, and E-UTRAN **1430** may provide Mobile Station **1401** with access to Core Network **1440**. The Core Network **1440** may include of a series of devices that route data and communications between end users. Core Network **1440** may provide network service functions to users in the Circuit Switched (CS) domain, the Packet Switched (PS) domain or both. The CS domain refers to connections in which dedicated network resources are allocated at the time of connection establishment and then released when the connection is terminated. The PS domain refers to communications and data transfers that make use of autonomous groupings of bits called packets.

Each packet may be routed, manipulated, processed or handled independently of all other packets in the PS domain and does not require dedicated network resources.

[0166] The Circuit Switched-Media Gateway Function (CS-MGW) **1441** is part of Core Network **1440**, and interacts with Visitor Location Register (VLR) and Mobile-Services Switching Center (MSC) Server **1460** and Gateway MSC Server **1461** in order to facilitate Core Network **1440** resource control in the CS domain. Functions of CS-MGW **1441** include, but are not limited to, media conversion, bearer control, payload processing and other mobile network processing such as handover or anchoring. CS-MGW **1440** may receive connections to Mobile Station **1401** through BSS **1410**, RNS **1420** or both.

[0167] Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) **1442** stores subscriber data regarding Mobile Station **1401** in order to facilitate network functionality. SGSN **1442** may store subscription information such as, but not limited to, the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), temporary identities, or Packet Data Protocol (PDP) addresses. SGSN **1442** may also store location information such as, but not limited to, the Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN) **1444** address for each GGSN where an active PDP exists. GGSN **1444** may implement a location register function to store subscriber data it receives from SGSN **1442** such as subscription or location information.

[0168] Serving Gateway (S-GW) **1443** is an interface which provides connectivity between E-UTRAN **1430** and Core Network **1440**. Functions of S-GW **1443** include, but are not limited to, packet routing, packet forwarding, transport level packet processing, event reporting to Policy and Charging Rules Function (PCRF) **1450**, and mobility anchoring for inter-network mobility. PCRF **1450** uses information gathered from S-GW **1443**, as well as other sources, to make applicable policy and charging decisions related to data flows, network resources and other network administration functions. Packet Data Network Gateway (PDN-GW) **1445** may provide user-to-services connectivity functionality including, but not limited to, network-wide mobility anchoring, bearer session anchoring and control, and IP address allocation for PS domain connections.

[0169] Home Subscriber Server (HSS) **1463** is a database for user information, and stores subscription data regarding Mobile Station **1401** or User Equipment **1402** for handling calls or data sessions. Networks may contain one HSS **1463** or more if additional resources are required. Example data stored by HSS **1463** include, but is not limited to, user identification, numbering and addressing information, security information, or location information. HSS **1463** may also provide call or session establishment procedures in both the PS and CS domains.

[0170] The VLR/MSC Server **1460** provides user location functionality. When Mobile Station **1401** enters a new network location, it begins a registration procedure. A MSC Server for that location transfers the location information to the VLR for the area. A VLR and MSC Server may be located in the same computing environment, as is shown by VLR/MSC Server **1460**, or alternatively may be located in separate computing environments. A VLR may contain, but is not limited to, user information such as the IMSI, the Temporary Mobile Station Identity (TMSI), the Local Mobile Station Identity (LMSI), the last known location of the mobile station, or the SGSN where the mobile station was previously registered. The MSC server may contain information such as,

but not limited to, procedures for Mobile Station **1401** registration or procedures for handover of Mobile Station **1401** to a different section of the Core Network **1440**. GMSC Server **1461** may serve as a connection to alternate GMSC Servers for other mobile stations in larger networks.

[0171] Equipment Identity Register (EIR) **1462** is a logical element which may store the International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEI) for Mobile Station **1401**. In a typical embodiment, user equipment may be classified as either “white listed” or “black listed” depending on its status in the network. In one embodiment, if Mobile Station **1401** is stolen and put to use by an unauthorized user, it may be registered as “black listed” in EIR **1462**, preventing its use on the network. Mobility Management Entity (MME) **1464** is a control node which may track Mobile Station **1401** or User Equipment **1402** if the devices are idle. Additional functionality may include the ability of MME **1464** to contact an idle Mobile Station **1401** or User Equipment **1402** if retransmission of a previous session is required.

[0172] While example embodiments of geocast-base file transfer have been described in connection with various computing devices/processors, the underlying concepts may be applied to any computing device, processor, or system capable of implementing the GFT protocol. The various techniques described herein may be implemented in connection with hardware or software or, where appropriate, with a combination of both. Thus, the methods and apparatuses for using and implementing geocast-base file transfer may be implemented, or certain aspects or portions thereof, may take the form of program code (e.g., instructions) embodied in tangible storage media having a tangible physical structure. Examples of tangible storage media include floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, DVDs, hard drives, or any other tangible machine-readable storage medium (computer-readable storage medium). Thus, a computer-readable storage medium is not a transient signal per se. Further, a computer-readable storage medium is not a propagating signal per se. When the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an apparatus for implementing geocast-based file transfer. In the case of program code execution on programmable computers, the computing device will generally include a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device, and at least one output device. The program(s) can be implemented in assembly or machine language, if desired. The language can be a compiled or interpreted language, and combined with hardware implementations.

[0173] The methods and apparatuses for using and implementing geocast-based file transfer also may be practiced via communications embodied in the form of program code that is transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via any other form of transmission, wherein, when the program code is received and loaded into and executed by a machine, such as an EPROM, a gate array, a programmable logic device (PLD), a client computer, or the like, the machine becomes an apparatus for implementing geocast-based file transfer. When implemented on a general-purpose processor, the program code combines with the processor to provide a unique apparatus that operates to invoke the functionality of geocast-based file transfer.

[0174] While geocast-based file transfer has been described in connection with the various embodiments of the various

figures, it is to be understood that other similar embodiments can be used or modifications and additions can be made to the described embodiments for implementing geocast-based file transfer without deviating therefrom. For example, one skilled in the art will recognize that geocast-based file transfer as described in the present application may apply to any environment, whether wired or wireless, and may be applied to any number of such devices connected via a communications network and interacting across the network. Therefore, geocast-based file transfer should not be limited to any single embodiment, but rather should be construed in breadth and scope in accordance with the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A device comprising:
a processor; and
memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising executable instructions that when executed by the processor cause the processor to effectuate operations comprising:
parsing a file into a plurality of chunks;
incorporating each of the plurality of chunks into a respective plurality of geocast messages;
incorporating into at least one geocast message of the plurality of geocast messages an indication of a total number of chunks in the plurality of chunks;
geocasting the plurality of geocast messages;
waiting a predetermined amount of time;
if a request for a chunk of the plurality of chunks is received prior to expiration of the predetermined amount of time:
incorporating the requested chunk into a second geocast message; and
geocasting the second geocast message.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the indication of the total number of chunks comprises information from which the total number of chunks may be inferred.
3. The device of claim 1, the operations further comprising:
incorporating an indication of the total number of chunks into each remaining geocast message of the plurality of geocast messages;
4. The device of claim 1, further comprising:
generating a name for the file; and
incorporating into the first geocast message an indication of a name of the file.
5. The device of claim 4, the operations further comprising:
incorporating an indication of the name of the file into each remaining geocast message of the plurality of geocast messages.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein:
the first geocast message is geocast to a geographic region of an intended recipient.
7. A device comprising:
a processor; and
memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising executable instructions that when executed by the processor cause the processor to effectuate operations comprising:
receiving at least one geocast message, each geocast message of the at least one geocast message comprising a respective chunk of a plurality of chunks of data of a file, wherein at least one geocast message of the at

least one geocast message comprises an indication of a total number of chunks in the plurality of chunks;
determining if all chunks of the plurality of chunks have been received; and

when it is determined that all chunks of the plurality of chunks have not been received, geocasting a geocast message comprising a request for a missing chunk.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the indication of the total number of chunks comprises information from which the total number of chunks may be inferred.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein at least one geocast message of the at least one geocast message comprises a name of the file.

10. The device of claim 7, wherein each geocast message of the at least one geocast message comprises a name of the file.

11. The device of claim 7, the operations further comprising wherein each geocast packet of the at least one geocast packet comprises an identification of the file.

12. The device of claim 7, wherein:

the geocast message is geocast to a geographic region of an intended recipient.

13. A computer readable storage medium comprising executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to effectuate operations comprising:

parsing a file into a plurality of chunks;

incorporating each of the plurality of chunks into a respective plurality of geocast messages;

incorporating into at least one of the plurality of geocast messages an indication of a total number of chunks in the plurality of chunks;

geocasting the plurality of geocast messages;

waiting a predetermined amount of time;

if a request for a chunk of the plurality of chunks is received prior to expiration of the predetermined amount of time:

incorporating the requested chunk into a second geocast message; and

geocasting the second geocast message.

14. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the indication of the total number of chunks comprises information from which the total number of chunks may be inferred.

15. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the operations further comprising:

incorporating an indication of the total number of chunks into each remaining geocast packet of the plurality of geocast packets;

16. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising:

generating a name for the file; and

incorporating into the first geocast packet an indication of a name of the file.

17. The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising:

incorporating an indication of the name of the file into each remaining geocast packet of the plurality of geocast packets;

18. The device of claim 13, wherein:

the first geocast message is geocast to a geographic region of an intended recipient.

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