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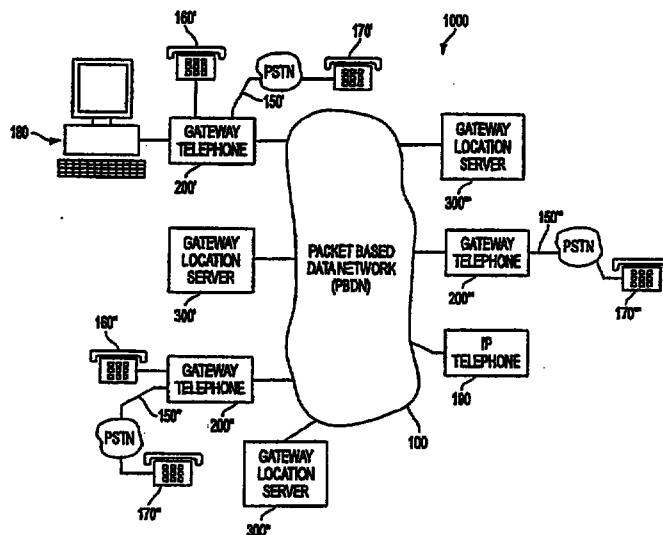
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION



(57) Abstract: A system for IP telephony that utilizes distributed gateways instead of centralized gateways for communication between IP Telephones on a Packet Based Digital Network (PBDN) and Telephones on a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). The system is based on the use of IP Telephone apparatuses ("Gateway Telephones") wherein each is connected both to the PBDN and a PSTN and includes a built-in gateway between the two network connections. The gateway capacity of the system thus increases automatically with the number of Gateway Telephones. Gateway Location Servers facilitate the selection of a Gateway Telephone to serve as a gateway for a specific telephone call.

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