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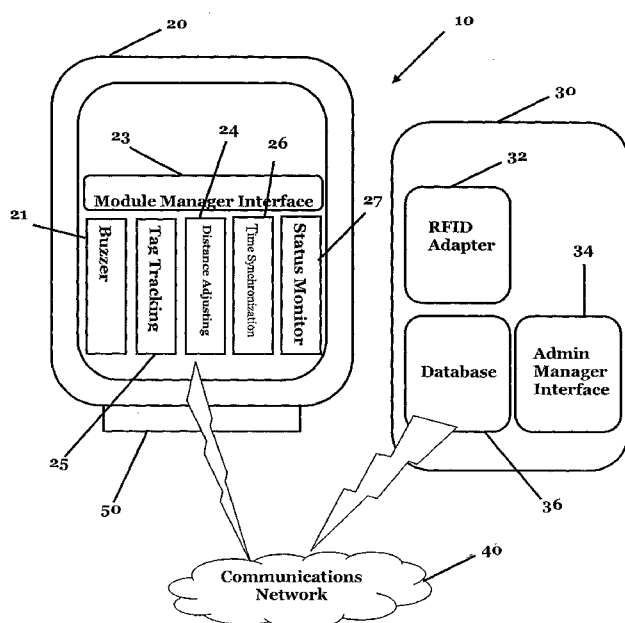
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(54) Title: MONITORING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF RECOVERING AN ARTICLE



(57) Abstract: A proximity monitoring alarm system for monitoring an article includes a tag attached to the article, which transmits a validation signal in a predetermined time interval to a monitoring unit that can be received by a handheld unit. The monitoring unit communicates with the tag by receiving the tag validation signal. A server communicates with the handheld unit via a network and an alarm is activated on the handheld unit and the server when the monitoring unit fails to receive the validation signal. A method of recovering an article tagged with a radio frequency identification tag includes the steps of confirming that the tag communicating with a monitoring unit is not within a monitoring distance of the monitoring unit, activating an alarm on a handheld unit, activating monitoring unit to allow a validation signal from the tag to be received, approximating the distance of the article from the monitoring unit.