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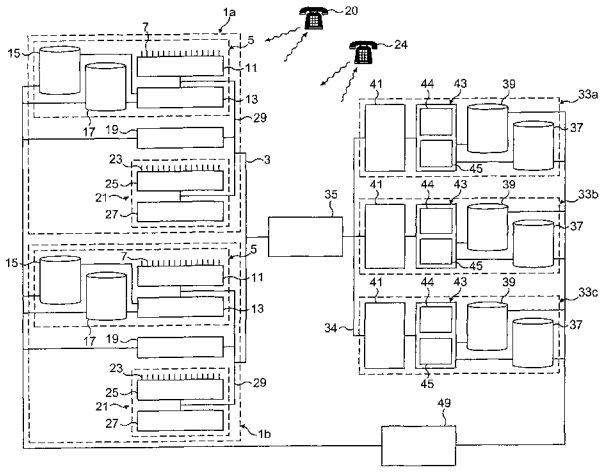
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(54) Title: REQUEST MATCHING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A real-time request matching system for and method of matching free-format requests of users, as requestors, to providers in servicing the requests, each of the requestors having at least one communicator for making requests and addressing replies thereto and each of the providers having at least one communicator for addressing requests and respective replies thereto, the method comprising the steps of: receiving requests from requestors; for each request, providing for the request to be relayed to selected providers as addressed thereby; receiving replies from selected providers, the replies received being made by the respective providers based on the respective requests; and one or both of supplying, for each request, information regarding the respective requestor to any providers having provided a positive reply to the respective request, with a positive reply indicating that a provider is able to meet a request, and information regarding replies from selected providers to the respective request to the respective requestor.

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