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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
AMADEUS S.A.S. [FR/FR]; 485 Route du Pin Montard,
Les Bouillides BP 69, F-06902 Sophia Antipolis Cedex
(FR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CORDESSES, Joel**
[FR/FR]; Les Roseaux, B222, 71 avenue de Nice, F-06600
Antibes (FR). **TCHENG, Christophe** [FR/FR]; Val
d'Azur, 2 Place des Santolines, F-06560 Valbonne (FR).
RIBAUT, Mathieu [FR/FR]; 76 Chemin de l'Orme,
F-06130 Grasse (FR). **MONBEL, Stephane** [FR/FR];
Residence les Jardins de la Corniche, 127 Avenue de
la Corniche Fleurie, F-06200 Nice (FR). **DOR, Pierre**
[FR/FR]; 1019 Route de Grasse, F-06140 Vence (FR).

(74) Agent: **Murgitroyd & Company**; Scotland House,
165-169 Scotland Street, Glasgow Central Scotland G5
8PL (GB).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING PRINTING DEVICES IN A LOCAL AREA NETWORK

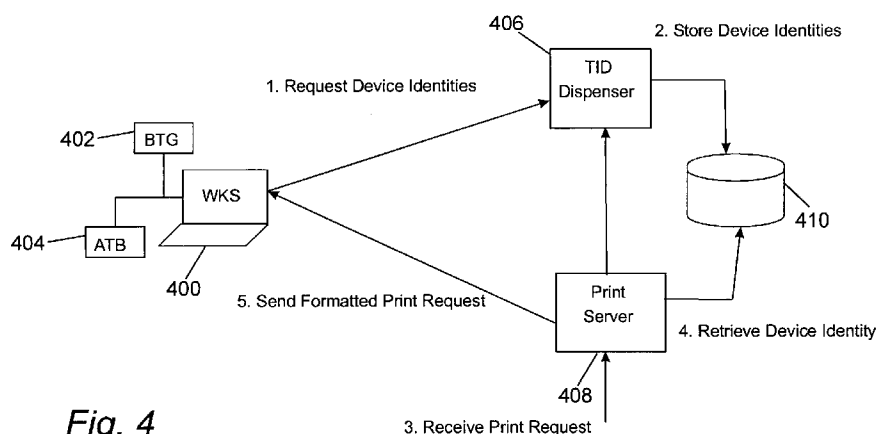


Fig. 4

(57) Abstract: A method of managing printing in an environment with a plurality of workstations and a plurality of printers in one or more networks and wherein the network also includes a document server and an identification generator, the method comprising:
- polling a workstation when it connects to the network to determine what printers are connected thereto; - determining a unique ID of the workstation; - determining the type of printer; - determining the configuration of the printer from the type of printer and workstation location; - determining an ID code for each printer connected to the connected workstation using the identification generator; - developing a look up table with the unique ID of the workstation; type, configuration and ID code of each printer; - receiving a print request from a workstation at the document server; - identifying the configuration of a printer from the look up table in response to the print request; - sending the print request to the identified printer with the appropriate ID code, as identified by the look up table.



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