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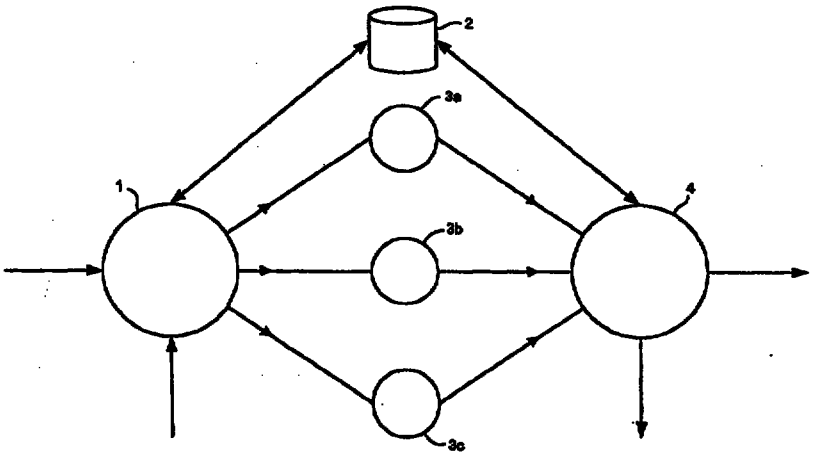
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(57) Abstract

An interactive media system comprises a user interface (113, 116; 203; 306, 307, 308, 309) and a server (101; 204; 301). The user interface comprises an output device having a visual output user interface part (115, 118; 205; 306, 307) located for private use and user input means (115, 118; 206; 308, 309) located for use by a user concurrently with the output user interface part. The server (101; 204; 301) comprises a state machine (3a, 3b, 3c; 5, 6a, 6b, 6c; 7a, 7b, 7c, 9a, 9b, 9c), an input routing means (1; 5; 8) for receiving a message from the user input means, the message comprising a session reference and data, and for routing at least the data part a received message to the state machine in dependence on the session reference, and output routing means (4; 5; 8) for routing messages, comprising at least a destination reference and control data for the output device, and for routing said control data to the output device in dependence on said destination reference. The state machine is responsive to data routed to it by the input router to generate a message, comprising at least a destination reference. The system can be used *inter alia* for providing HTML-based communication using short message service messages, electronic commerce and interactive television.