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(54) **TAGGING DIGITAL MEDIA**

**Publication Classification**

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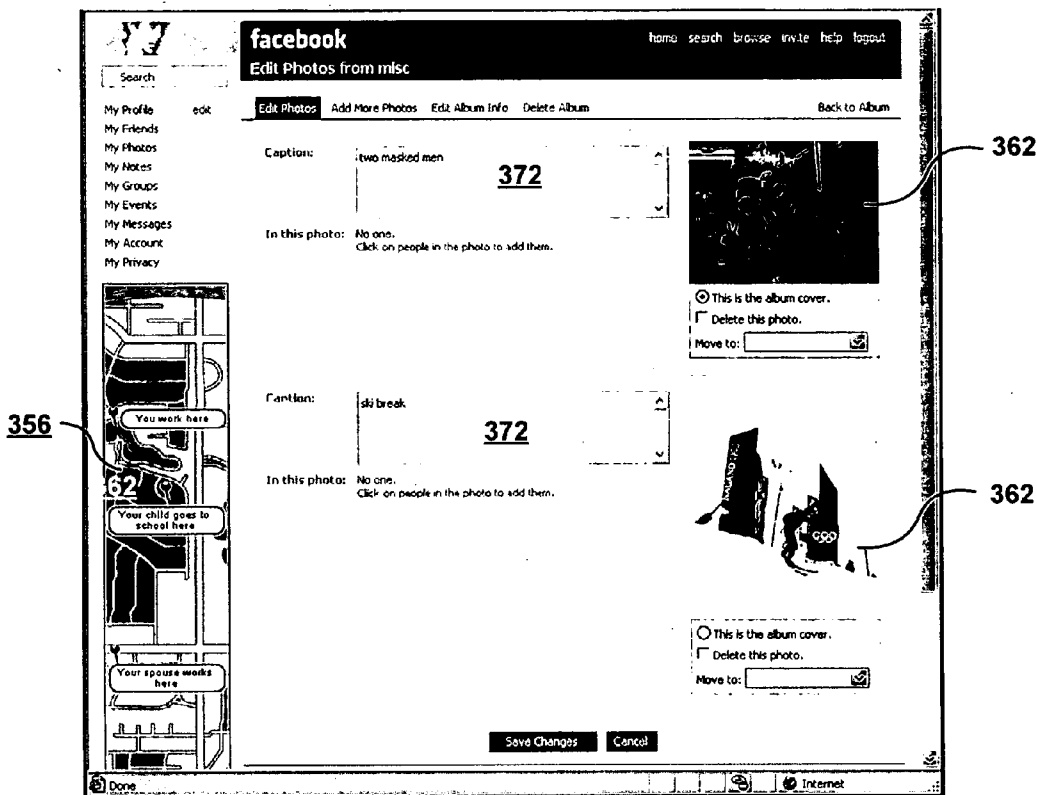
(57) **ABSTRACT**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/092,443, filed on Apr. 22, 2011, which is a continuation of application No. 11/580,210, filed on Oct. 11, 2006, now Pat. No. 7,945,653.

A method for tagging digital media is described. The method includes selecting a digital media and selecting region within the digital media. The method may further include associating a person or entity with the selected region and sending a notification of the association the person or entity or a different person or entity. The method may further include sending advertising with the notification.

370



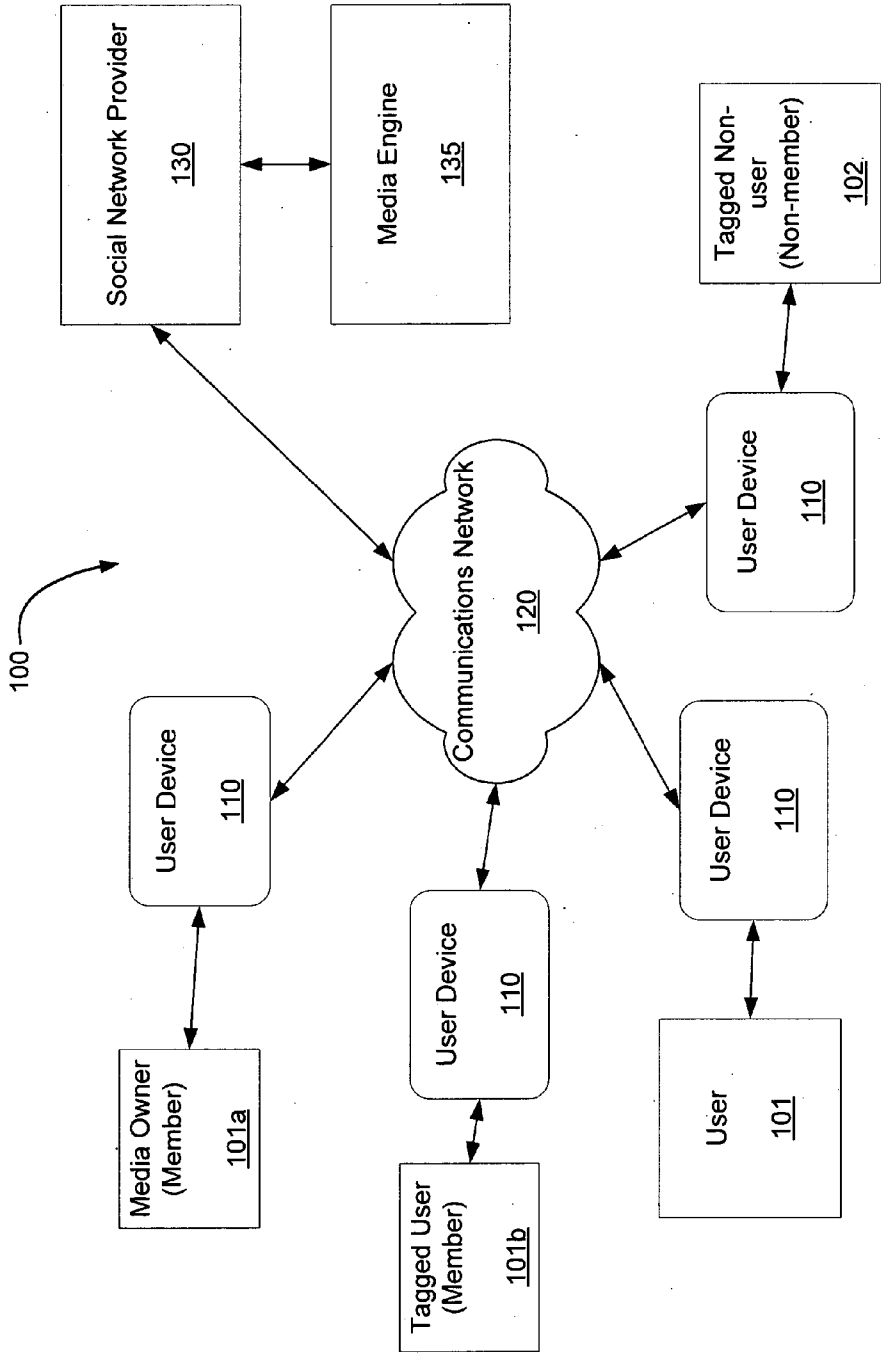


FIG. 1

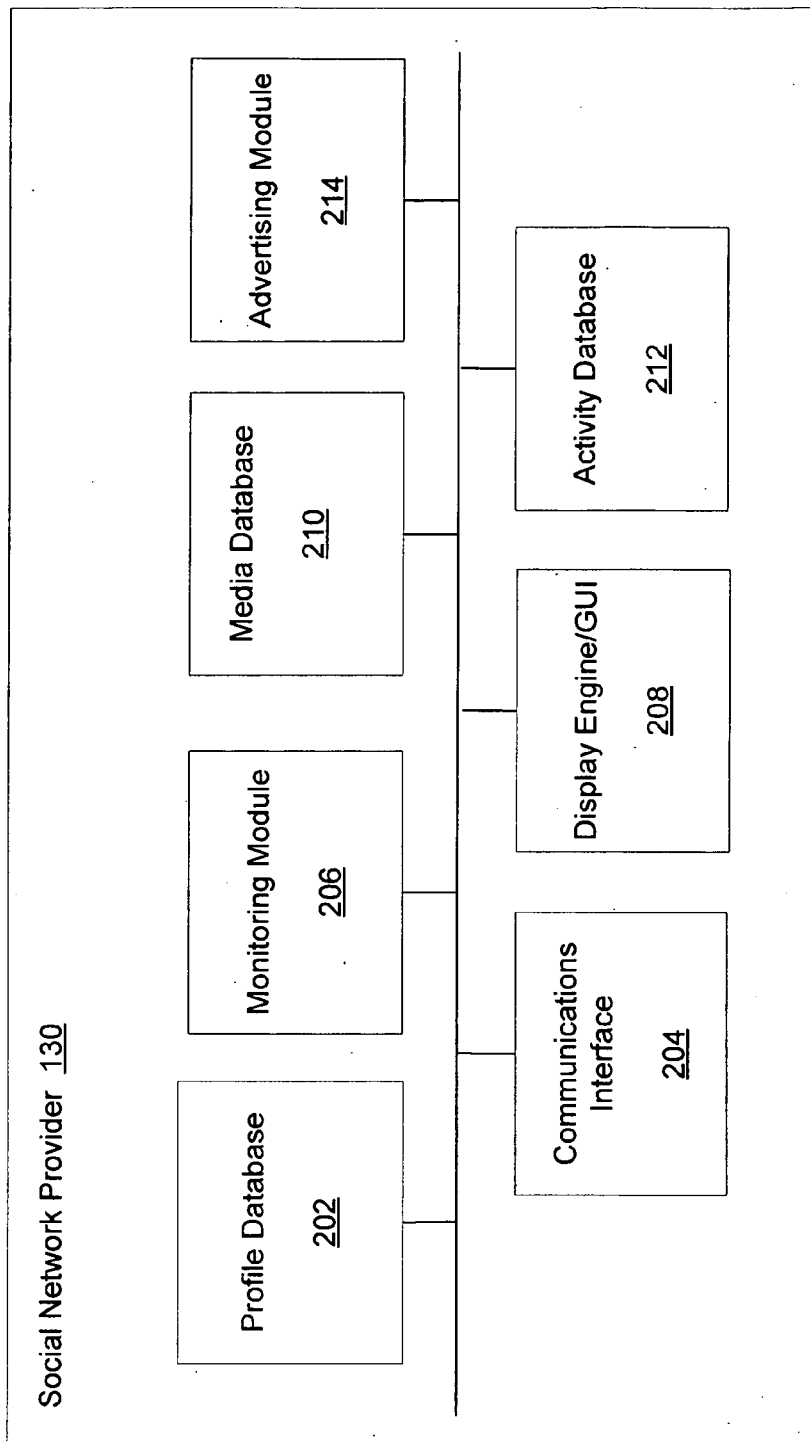
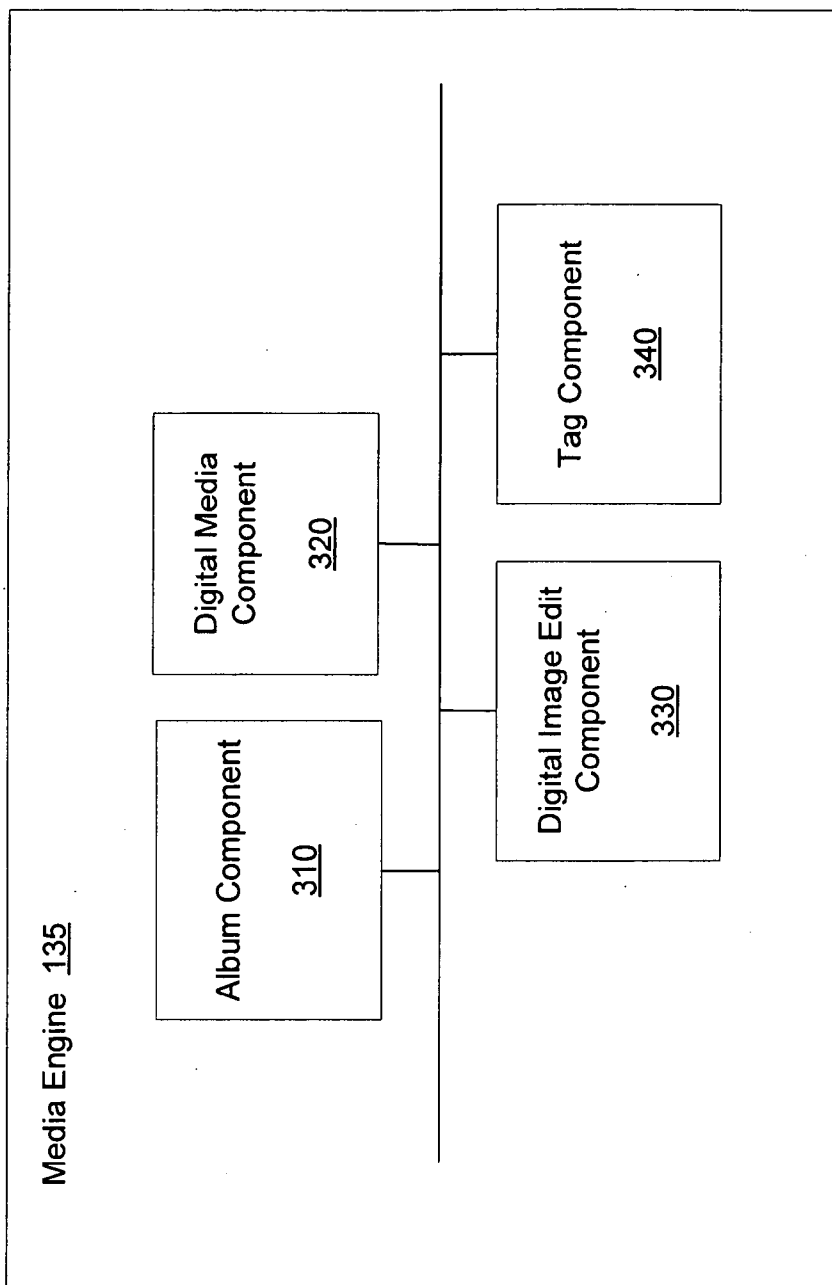


FIG. 2



**FIG. 3A**

350

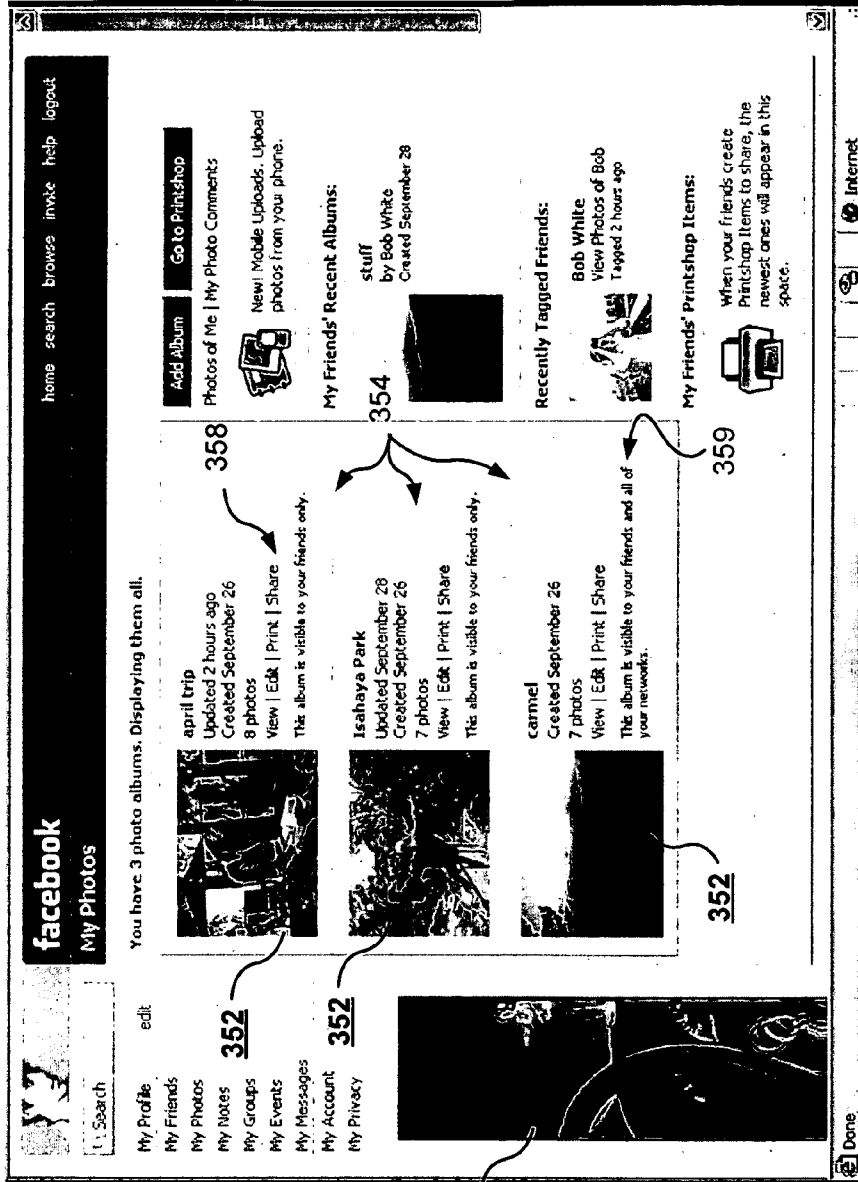


FIG. 3B

360

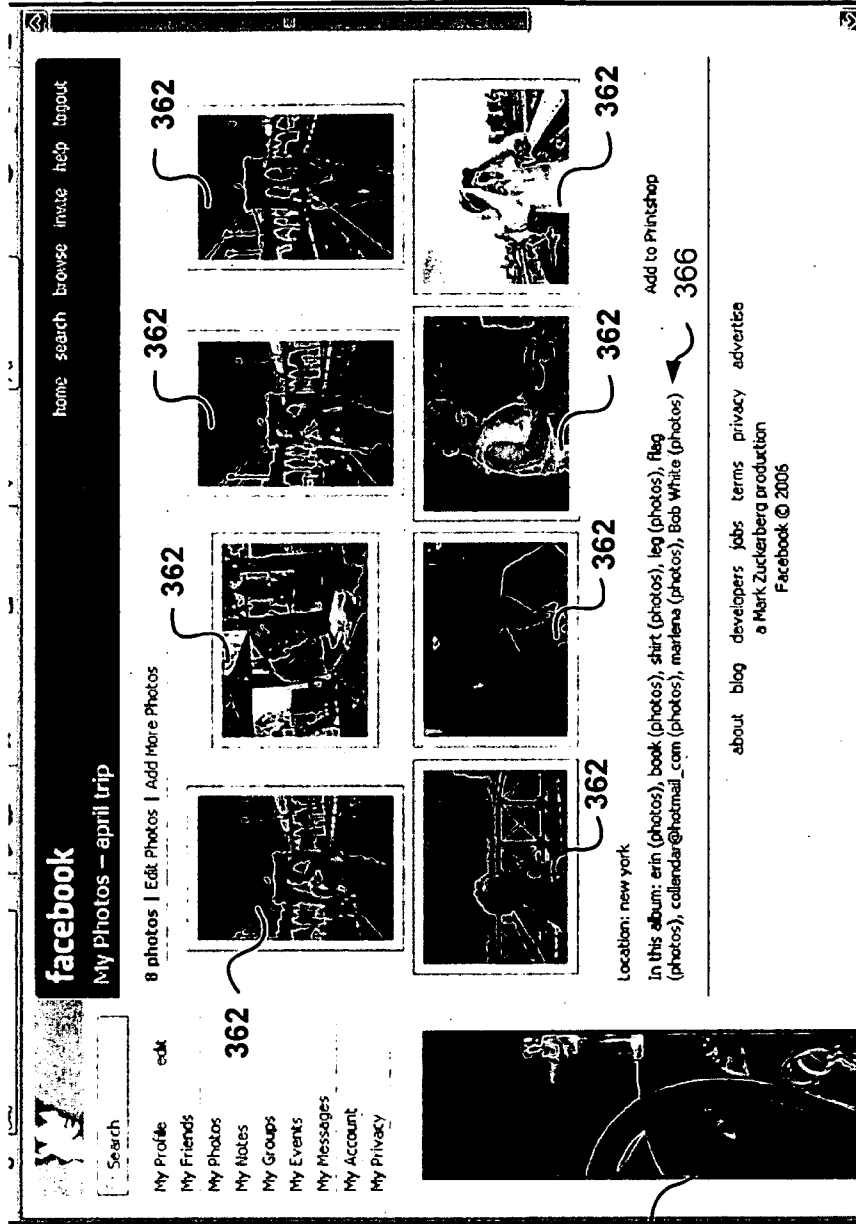


FIG. 3C

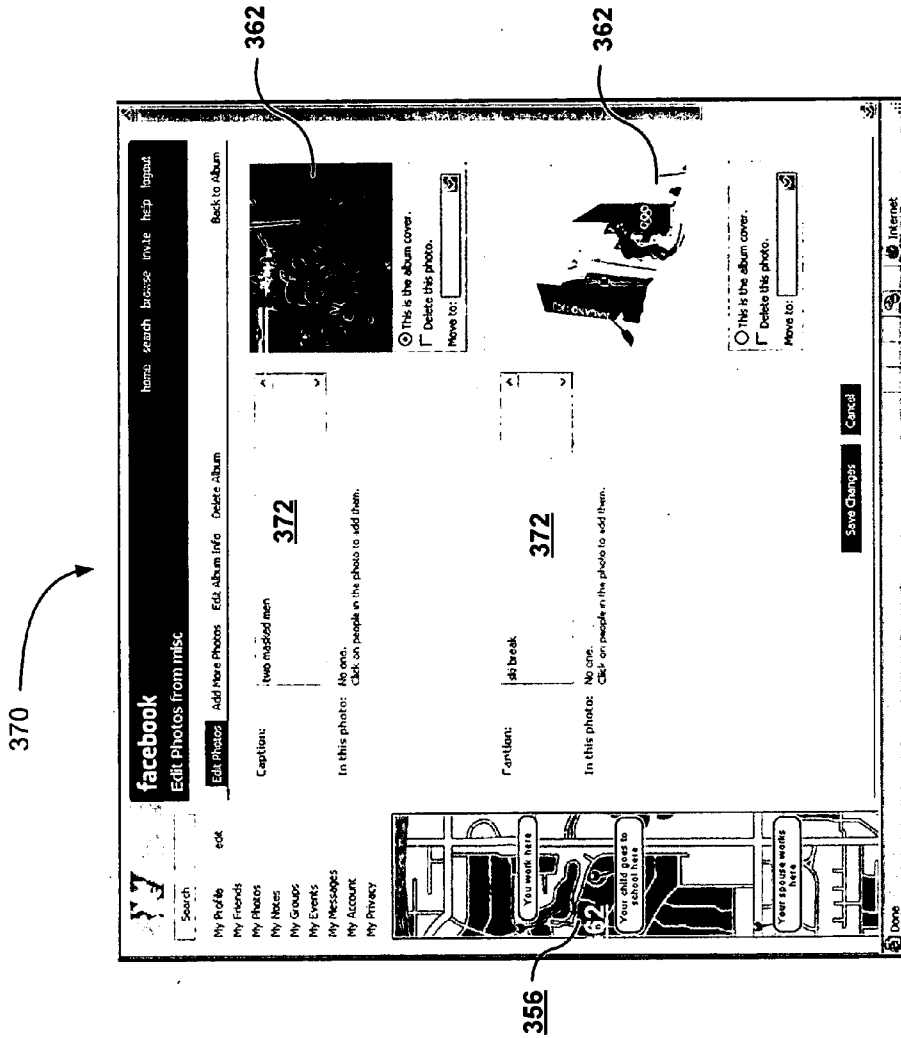


FIG. 3D

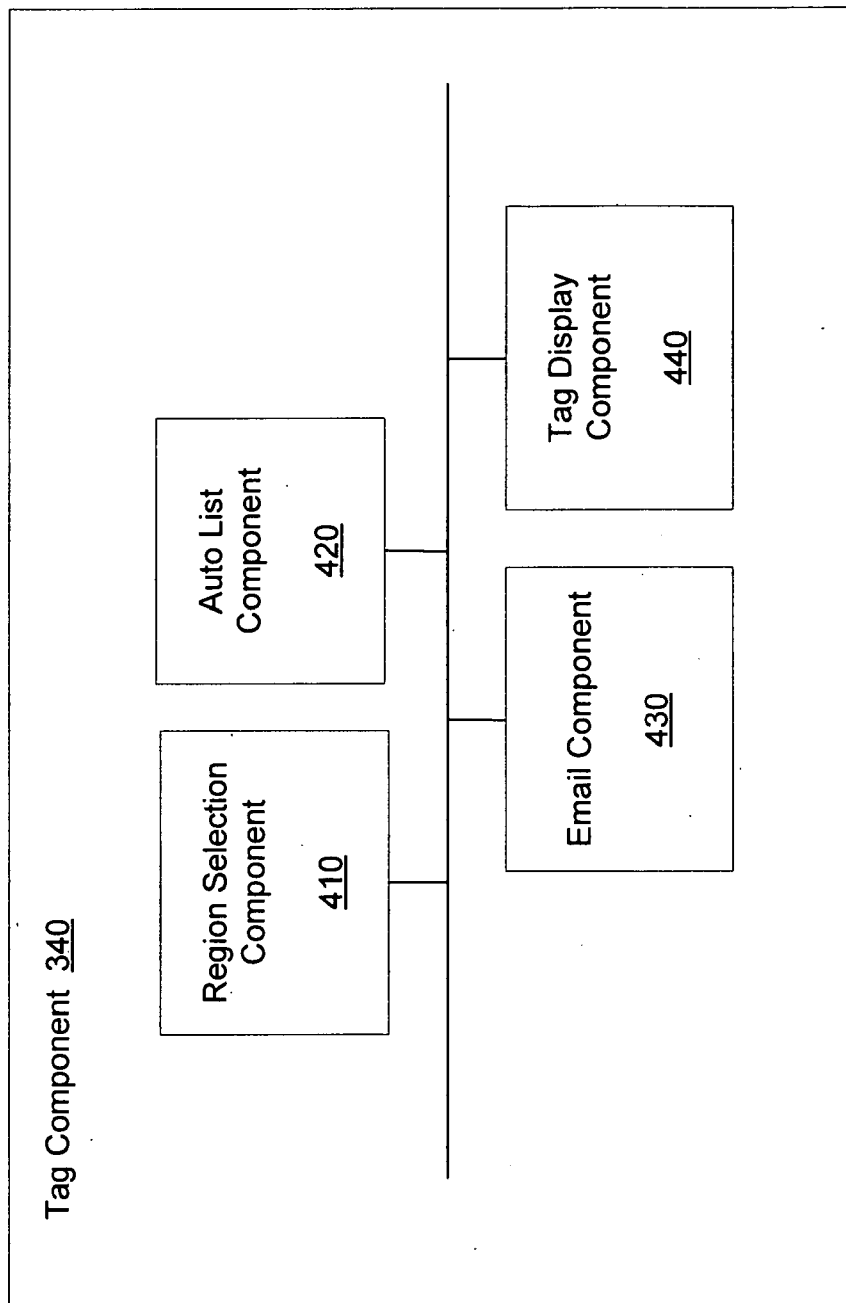


FIG. 4



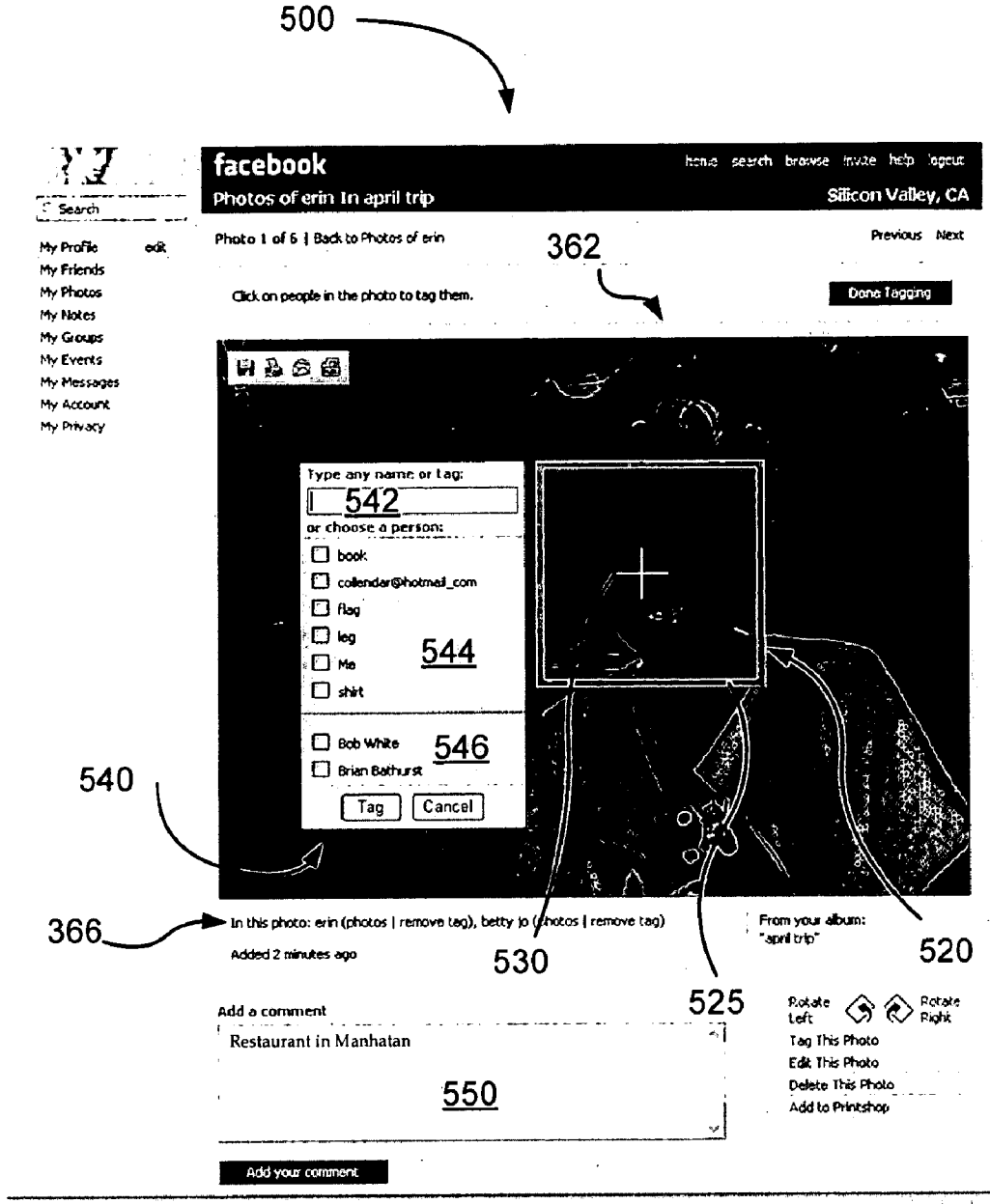


FIG. 5

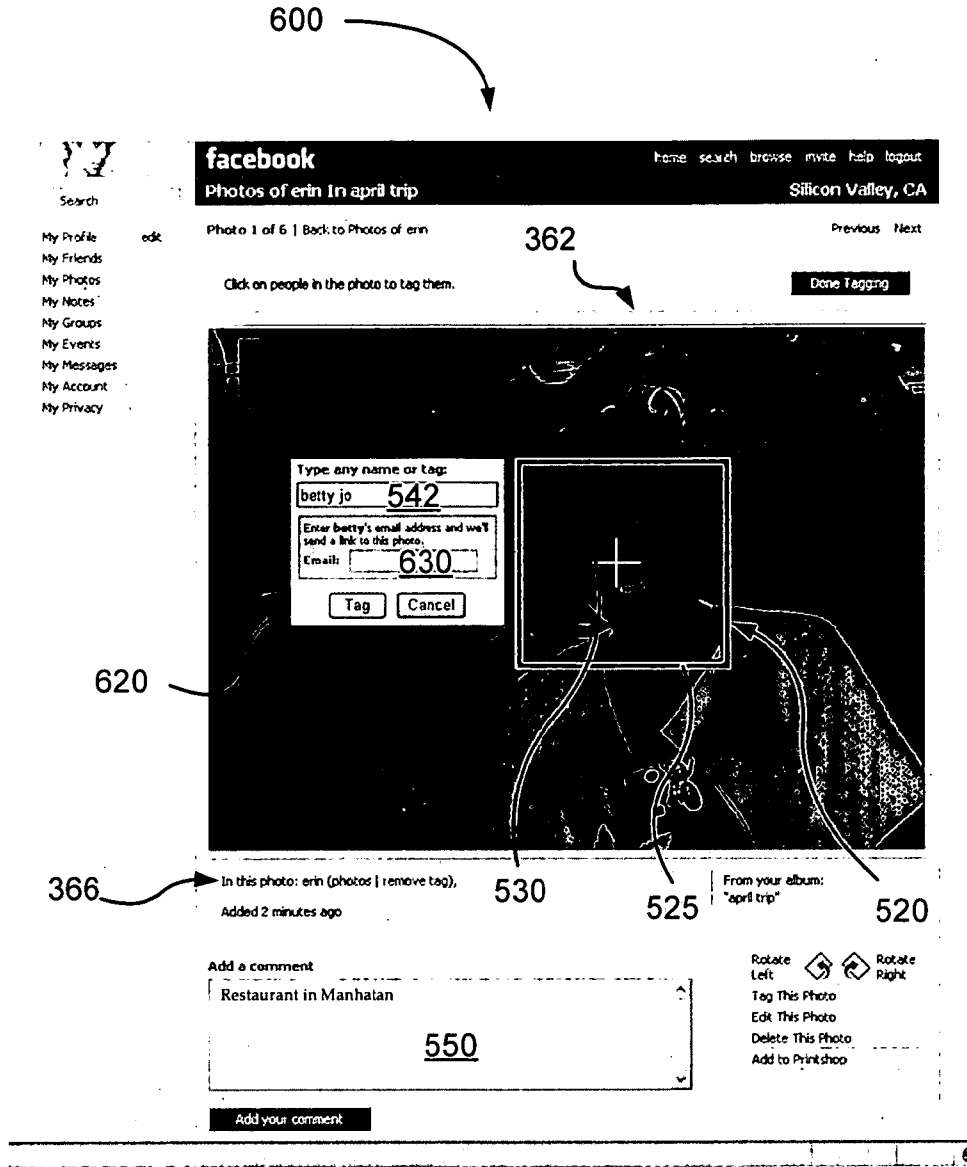


FIG. 6

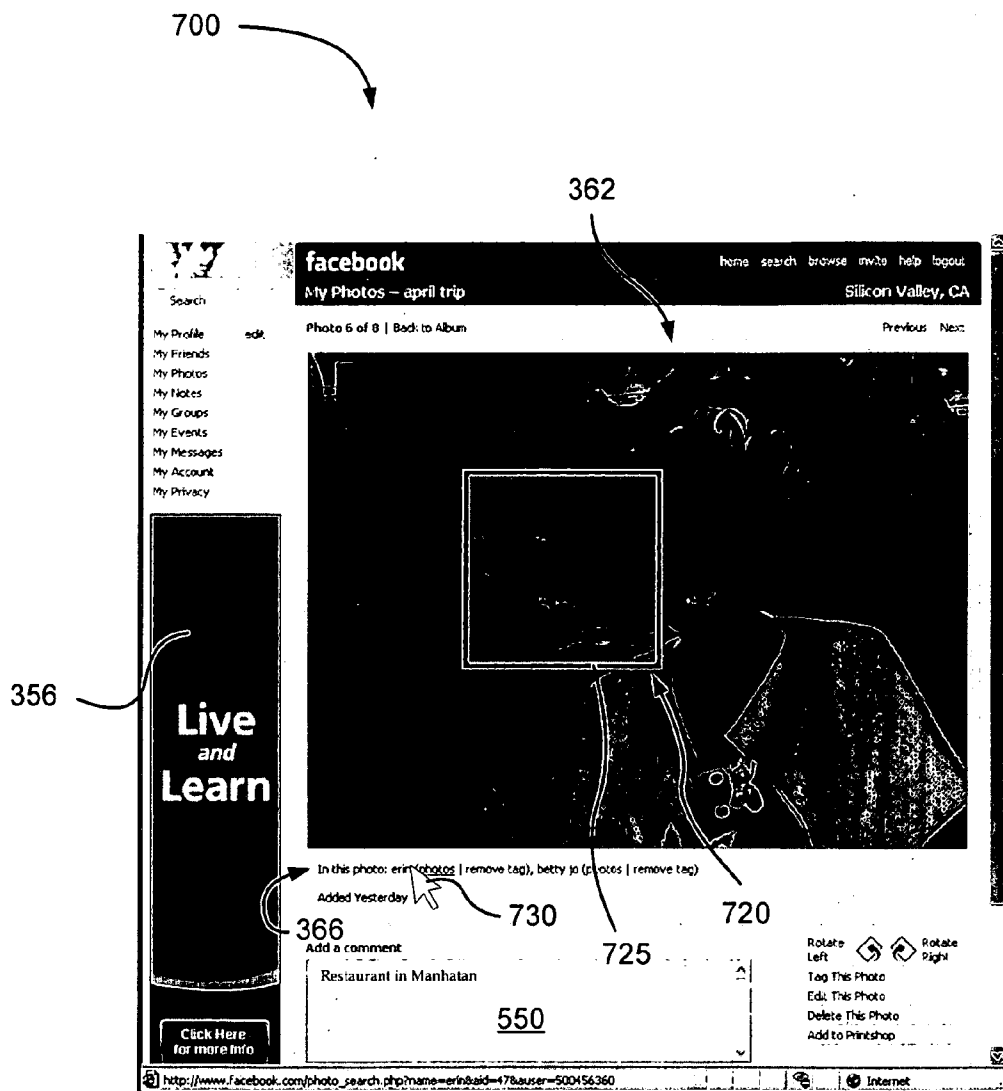


FIG. 7

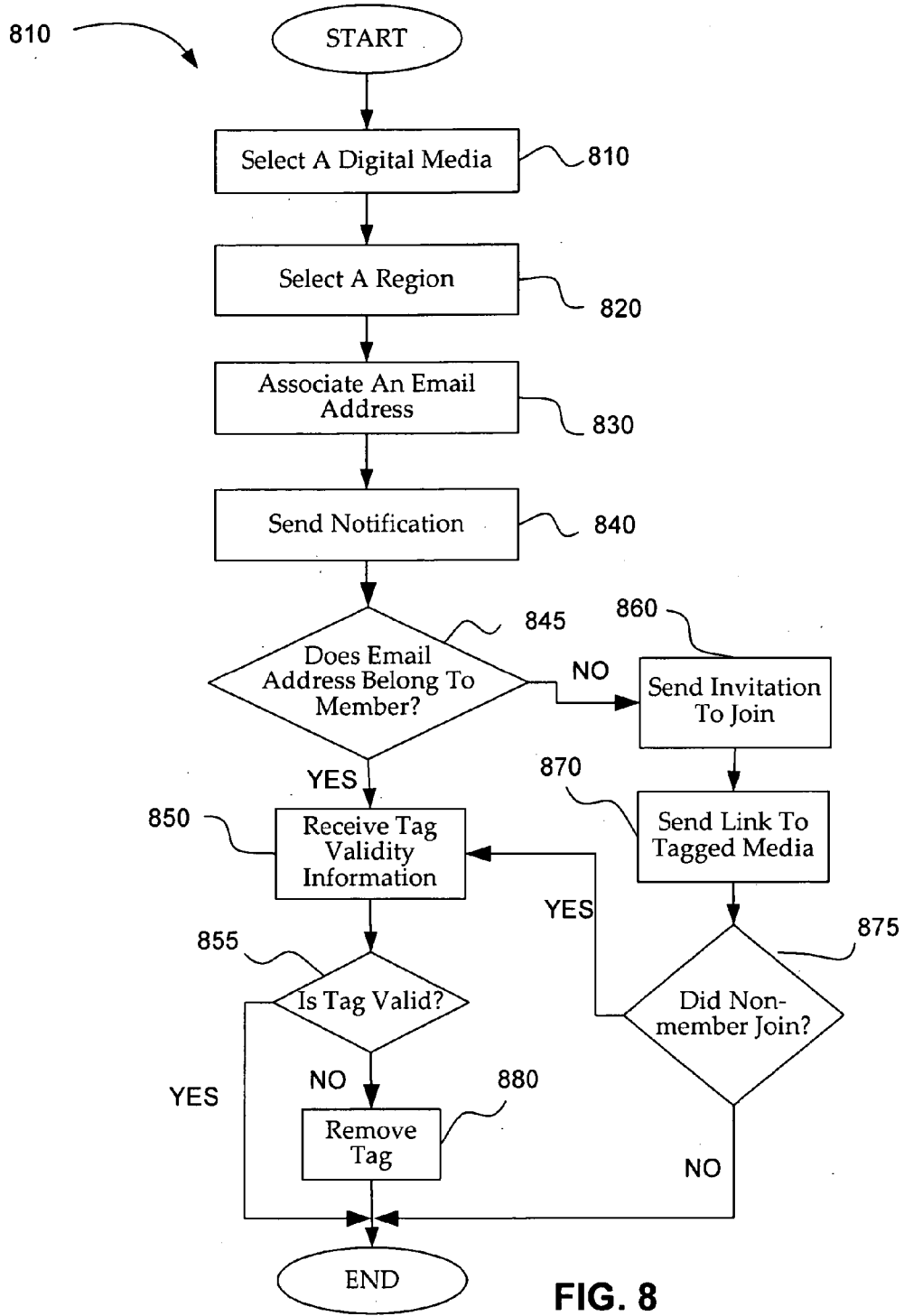


FIG. 8

## TAGGING DIGITAL MEDIA

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** The present application is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/092,443 filed on Apr. 22, 2011 for “System and Method for Tagging Digital Media,” which is a Continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 7,945,653 filed on Oct. 11, 2006, issued on May 17, 2011 for “System and Method for Tagging Digital Media,” which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. This application also incorporates by reference U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/750,844 filed on Dec. 14, 2005 for “Systems and Methods for Social Mapping,” U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/753,810 filed on Dec. 23, 2005 for “Systems and Methods for Social Timeline,” U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/493,291 filed on Jul. 25, 2006 for “Systems and Methods for Dynamically Generating a Privacy Summary,” U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/502,757 filed on Aug. 11, 2006 for “Systems and Methods for Generating Dynamic Relationship-Based Content Personalized for Members of a Web-Based Social Network,” U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/503,093 filed on Aug. 11, 2006 for “Systems and Methods for Measuring User Affinity in a Social Network Environment,” U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/503,037 filed on Aug. 11, 2006 for “Systems and Methods for Providing Dynamically Selected Media Content to a User of an Electronic Device in a Social Network Environment,” and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/503,242 filed on Aug. 11, 2006 for “System and Method for Dynamically Providing a News Feed About a User of a Social Network.”

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

**[0002]** The present invention relates generally to internet digital content, and more particularly to systems and methods for tagging digital media.

### DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

**[0003]** Various websites have developed systems for organizing photos into albums available for viewing by other network users.

**[0004]** Some social networking websites offer mechanisms that may allow the user to select particular photos or albums for immediate viewing. Typically, however, these photos are disparate and disorganized. In other words, the user must spend time visually searching through albums, photo by photo, for individuals or objects that are not presented in a coherent or consolidated manner. Often, many of the photos do not depict persons or objects of interest to the user. Just as often, the user remains unaware of the existence of some photos that were overlooked. What is needed is a method to organize digital media and automatically generate notifications to persons or entities interested in the digital media.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0005]** The present invention includes systems and methods for tagging digital media in a social network environment administered by a social network server. In various embodiments, digital media may include digital images, digital video, digital audio, digital audio visual media, computer games, digital books, digital text, and/or the like. A user of a social network may upload digital media (e.g., a digital image) to a file (e.g., an album) on their web page thus

becoming a media owner of the digital image. The media owner may select and tag a region of the image by clicking on a point in the digital image to select the region and typing appropriate text to tag the region. The media owner may select and tag multiple regions. In one embodiment, the tagged region is indicated by a border superimposed over the digital image. In one embodiment, the tagged text is displayed with the image, and the border is viewed by selecting the tagged text (e.g., by placing the cursor over the tagged text). Users in the social network environment may visit the media owner’s web page via the network and select the tagged text to view the tagged region in the digital image. In some embodiments, other users can tag the media owner’s images.

**[0006]** In some embodiments, the tagged text includes contact information (e.g., an email address) identifying a tagged user within the social network environment. In various embodiments, contact information includes an email address, a phone number, a mailing address, a user account, a user name, a text message number, a voice mail user number, a pager number, an instant message address, and/or the like. Contact information may also include a name of a person or entity or information regarding a third person or entity. The tagged user may receive an automatic email notification via the social network that his or her email address has been used to tag the digital image. The notification may include a hyperlink providing the tagged user an opportunity to view the digital media and tagged region, and/or visit the media owner’s web page. The hyperlink may further provide the tagged user an opportunity to confirm or disaffirm the tagged text that includes the email address. When the tagged text has been disaffirmed, tags may not be displayed to other users visiting the media owner’s web page.

**[0007]** In some embodiments, the tagged text includes contact information (e.g., an email address) for a tagged non-user outside the social network environment (non-member). The tagged non-user may receive an automatic email notification via the internet that his or her email address has been used to tag the digital media. The notification may include a hyperlink providing the tagged non-user an opportunity to view the digital media and the tagged region and, optionally, visit the owner’s web page. The hyperlink may further provide the tagged non-user an invitation to become a member of the social network environment. Upon becoming a member of the social network environment, the tagged non-user may visit the owner’s web page (as a tagged user) and confirm or disaffirm the tagged text including the tagged non-user’s email address.

**[0008]** Exemplary embodiments describe methods for tagging digital media. In some embodiments, the methods include selecting the digital media and selecting a region within the digital media. The method further includes associating a person or entity with the selected region within the digital media and may further include sending a notification of the association to the person or entity, or to a third person or entity.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0009]** FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary social network environment for tagging digital media;

**[0010]** FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an exemplary social network provider;

**[0011]** FIG. 3A is a block diagram of an exemplary media engine;

[0012] FIG. 3B is an exemplary screen shot of an album web page;

[0013] FIG. 3C is an exemplary screen shot of a digital image web page;

[0014] FIG. 3D is an exemplary screen shot of a digital image edit web page;

[0015] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an exemplary tag component;

[0016] FIG. 5 is an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page;

[0017] FIG. 6 is an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page;

[0018] FIG. 7 is an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page; and

[0019] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of an exemplary process for tagging digital images in a social network.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary environment for tagging digital media, such as in a social network environment 100. One or more users 101, at user devices 110, are coupled to a social network provider 130 via a communications network 120. In various embodiments, user devices 110 include a computer terminal, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a wireless telephone, a digital camera, and/or the like. In various embodiments, the communications network 120 includes a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), a wireless network, an intranet, an internet, and/or the like. In one embodiment, users 101 comprise various types of users, including a user who is a digital media owner 101a (e.g., a user 101 who uploads digital media) and a user who is a tagged user 101b (e.g., a user 101 associated with a region in the digital media). In various embodiments, digital media includes digital images, digital video, digital audio, digital audiovisual media, digital text, digital books, online game icons, online game avatars, and/or the like. For the purposes of illustration, digital images are discussed herein. However, one skilled in the art would understand that the discussion applies equally to a wide variety of digital media. The use of digital images is not intended to be limiting.

[0021] The social network provider is an entity or person that provides social networking services, communication services, dating services, company intranets, online games, and so forth. For example, the social network provider 130 may host a website that allows one or more users 101, e.g., the media owner 101a and/or the tagged user 101b, at one or more user devices 110, to communicate with one another via the website. The social network environment 100 offers users 101, e.g., the media owner 101a, an opportunity to connect or reconnect with the one or more other users 101, e.g., the tagged user 101b and/or other users 101 that attended, for example, the same university as the media owner 101a. In some embodiments, a social network environment 100 includes a segmented community. A segmented community according to one embodiment is a separate, exclusive or semi-exclusive social network environment 100, or social network environment 100 wherein each user 101 who is an authenticated segmented community member may access and interact with other members of their respective segmented community.

[0022] The social network environment 100 may further offer users 101 an opportunity to connect or reconnect with one or more non-users outside the social network environment 100. One example of such non-user is a tagged non-user

102. The tagged non-user 102 may be coupled to the social network provider 130, at a user device 110 via the communications network 120.

[0023] The social networking environment 100 further includes a media engine 135. The media engine 135 is configured to provide the user 101 media services for manipulating media (e.g., digital images) within the social network environment 100. Examples of digital image manipulation include creating albums within the user's 101 web page, uploading digital images to the user's 101 albums, associating captions with the digital images, tagging the digital images with information about regions within the digital images, stacking digital images, deleting digital images, deleting albums, and the like.

[0024] Referring now to FIG. 2, a block diagram of an exemplary social network provider, such as the social network provider 130 shown in FIG. 1, is shown. The social network provider 130 includes a profile database 202, a communications interface 204, a monitoring module 206, a media database 210, a display engine/GUI 208, an activity database 212, and an advertising module 214. Although the social network provider 130 is described as being comprised of various components (the profile database 202, the communications interface 204, the monitoring module 206, the display engine/GUI 208, the media database 210, the activity database 212, and the advertising module 214), fewer or more components may comprise the social network provider 130 and still fall within the scope of various embodiments.

[0025] The profile database 202 is provided for storing data associated with each of the users, such as the user 101 associated with user device 110. When the user 101 subscribes to services provided by the social network provider 130, a user profile may be generated for user 101. For example, the user 101 may select privacy settings, provide contact information, provide personal statistics, specify memberships in various organizations, indicate interests, list affiliations, post class schedules, detail work activities, or group other users 101 according to one or more categories. When the user 101 adds additional information to the user profile, such as adding additional albums, the user profile in the profile database 202 may be updated with icons of the additional albums. The user profile may be stored, modified, added, and so forth to any storage medium. A timestamp may be associated with the user profile, in the profile database 202. Examples of timestamps include order of occurrence in the profile database 202, date, time of day, and the like.

[0026] According to some embodiments, the user profile is created outside of the social network environment 100 and provided to the profile database 202 for local access by the social network provider 130. Alternatively, the profile database 202 is located remotely and accessed by the social network provider 130.

[0027] The communications interface 204 is configured to communicate with users 101, such as via the user device 110 over the network 104. The user device 110 communicates various types of information, such as digital media (e.g., digital images), privacy settings selections, groupings of other users 101, and so forth, to the social network provider 130 via the communications interface 204. Any type of communications interface 204 is within the scope of various embodiments.

[0028] The monitoring module 206 tracks one or more user's 101 activities on the social network environment 100. For example, the monitoring module 206 can track the user's

**101** interaction with one or more items of digital media, such as digital images, news stories, other users' **101** profiles, email to other users **101**, chat rooms provided via the social network provider **130**, and so forth. Any type of user activity can be tracked or monitored via the monitoring module **206**. The information, digital media (e.g., digital images), people, groups, stories, and so forth, with which the user **101** interacts, may be represented by one or more objects, according to various embodiments. The monitoring module **206** may determine an affinity of the user **101** for subjects, other user's **101** digital images, relationships, events, organizations, and the like, according to users' **101** activities.

**[0029]** The display engine/GUI **208** displays the one or more items of digital media (e.g., digital images), profile information, and so forth, to users **101**. Users **101** can interact with the social network provider **130** via the display engine/GUI **208**. For example, users **101** can select albums, access individual digital images, access other users' **101** digital images available via the social network provider **130**, and so forth, via the display engine/GUI **208**. The albums and/or digital images may be displayed in a field in the display engine/GUI **208**.

**[0030]** The media database **210** is configured to store data about digital media (e.g., digital images) for users **101**. Information about the digital images includes album location, captions, tags, date information, access privileges, and the like. In various embodiments, the media owner **101a** can assign an image to a selected album, associate captions with the images, and associate tags with the images, using the media database **210**. In one embodiment, the media owner **101a** may tag a digital image using the email address of the tagged user **101b** and associating the email address with a region of the digital image. The association between the digital image and the email address may be stored in the media database **210**. The media owner **101a** can store access privileges to a digital image, according to groups, networks, and so forth, in the media database **210**.

**[0031]** The activity database **212** is configured to store activity data (e.g., tracked by the monitoring module **206**) about each user **101**. The activities may be tracked by the monitoring module **206**. Activities monitored by the monitoring module **206** may be stored in the activity database **212**. Activity entries in the activity database **212** may include a timestamp indicating time and date of the activity, the type of activity, the user **101** initiating the activity, any other users **101** who are objects of the activity, and the like. Activities may be stored in multiple databases, including the activity database, the profile database, the relationship database, and so forth. Examples of activities stored in the activity database **212** include creating albums, uploading digital images, deleting digital images, deleting albums, tagging digital images, and/or the like. For example, an entry in the activity database **212** may record that a digital image was uploaded to an album at 14:52 on March 31, or that the digital image was tagged at 15:12 on March 31.

**[0032]** According to various embodiments, one or more networks are provided for each user **101** within the social network environment **100**. For example, user **101** may have a network comprised of other users **101** within the social network environment who are grouped according to a university attended, a network comprised of people grouped according to the user's geographical location of residence, a network comprised of people grouped according to a common field of work, a network comprised of people grouped according to a

particular business, and so forth. A common network may establish a relationship between user **101** and other users **101** in the common network.

**[0033]** The advertising module **214** is configured to provide advertising to users **101** via the communications interface **204** and/or the display engine/GUI **208**. The advertising module **214** may determine appropriate advertising using the profile database **202**, the monitoring module **206**, and/or the activity database **212**. For example, the monitoring module **206** may communicate to the advertising module **214** that a digital image upload is in progress via the communications interface **204**. The advertising module **214** selects the advertising according to the profile of the user **101** in the profile database **202** and displays the advertising to the user **101** via the display engine/GUI **208** during the upload. Since the user **101** is likely to be focused on the display, watching for the upload to complete, the advertising module **214** may further tailor selection of the advertising for effect on the focused user **101**.

**[0034]** Any type of network may be provided by the social network provider **130**. In other words, a network may comprise people grouped according to any type of category, such as various social networks described herein, like "friends," "geographical location," and so forth. User **101** may specify the networks, the categories, subcategories, and so forth and/or these may be predetermined by the social network provider **130**. The networks, categories, the subcategories, and so forth, may comprise a relationship with the user **101**, as discussed herein, but do not necessarily comprise the only relationship user **101** has with the other users **101**.

**[0035]** FIG. 3A is a block diagram of an exemplary media engine **135**. The media engine **135** is configured to provide the user **101** media services for manipulating digital media (e.g., digital images) within the social network environment **100**. Examples of digital image manipulation include creating albums within the user's **101** web page, uploading digital images to the user's **101** albums, associating captions with the digital images, tagging the digital images with information about regions within the digital images, deleting digital images, deleting albums, and the like.

**[0036]** The media engine **135** includes an optional album component **310**, a digital media component **320**, a digital image edit component **330**, and a tag component **340**. Although the media engine **135** is described as being comprised of various components (e.g., the album component **310**, the digital media component **320**, the digital image edit component **330**, and the tag component **340**), fewer or more components may comprise the media engine **135** and still fall within the scope of various embodiments.

**[0037]** The album component **310** is configured to create albums and/or delete albums. An album may be a collection of digital media (e.g., digital images, digital audio, digital video, and/or the like). Various embodiments of an album include a list of digital media, a folder containing media files, a file, and/or the like.

**[0038]** FIG. 3B is an exemplary screen shot of an album web page **350**. The album web page **350** includes one or more album icons **352**. In various embodiments, creating an album includes assigning a name to the album, recording a time stamp for the album, recording descriptive text about the album, assigning access privileges for who can view and/or modify the contents of the album, and the like.

**[0039]** The album component **310** is further configured to display information about the album. In some embodiment, the information about the albums includes a list of albums and

the number of albums associated with the user **101**. The album component **310** further includes an optional album caption **354**. The album caption **354** may include, in various combinations, an album name, a time stamp, descriptive text about the album, privilege information, the number of digital images in the album, the access privileges, and the like. In some embodiments, the album component **310** uses a digital image from the album as the album icon **352**. In various embodiments, the album component **310** displays further information about the albums including which album is the most recently updated, which album is the most popular, which albums contain digital images that have been tagged by other users **101**, and/or the like.

[0040] Optionally, the album component **310** displays advertising **356**, which may be received from the advertising module **214**. In various embodiments, the album component **310** includes one or more links **358** and software code configured to view the album and/or the contents of the album, edit the album and/or the contents of the album, print the album and/or contents of the album, share the album and/or the contents of the album with other users **101**, and the like. In some embodiments, a privacy setting **359** may be associated with the album by the album component **310**. The privacy setting **359** may limit access to, for example, users **101** who are friends of the media owner **101a**, any user **101** of the social network environment **100** who is within the media owner's **101a** personal network, any user **101** of the social network environment **100**, and so forth.

[0041] FIG. 3C is an exemplary screen shot of a digital image web page **360**. The digital media component **320** is configured to upload digital media (e.g., one or more digital images **362**) to an album. In various embodiments, the digital images **362** may be uploaded from a local disk on the user device **110**, a personal digital assistant, a cell phone, a camera, remote user device **110**, and the like. Optionally, the digital media component **320** resizes the digital image **362** while uploading the digital image **362**. The digital images **362** may be uploaded to a storage device associated with the social network environment (e.g., a storage device on the user device **110**, the social network provider **130**, and/or the like). According to some embodiments, the digital images **362** are stored outside of the social network environment **100** and provided to the digital media component **320** for local access via the social network provider **130**. Alternatively, the digital images **362** are located remotely and accessed by the social network provider **130**. The digital media component **320** is further configured to delete digital images **362** from the album.

[0042] The digital media component **320** is further configured to display information about the digital images **362**. In some embodiments, the information about the digital images **362** includes a list of digital images **362** in the album and the number of digital images **362** in the album that are associated with the user **101**. In various embodiments, the information further includes, for each digital image **362**, the name of the digital image **362**, a representative icon, a date stamp, the access privileges, and the like. In some embodiments, the digital media component **320** provides the user **101** an option to select a digital image **362** for use in the album as the representative icon for an album. In various embodiments, the digital media component **320** displays further information about the digital images **362** including which digital image **362** is the most recently updated, which digital image **362** is the most popular, which digital images **362** have been tagged

by other users **101**, and the like. Optionally, the digital media component **320** displays advertising **356**, which may again be received from the advertising module **214**. In various embodiments, the digital media component **320** includes links and software code configured to view the digital image **362**, edit the digital image **362**, print the digital image **362**, share the digital image **362** with other users **101**, and the like. In some embodiments, the digital media component **320** includes a tag list **366**.

[0043] FIG. 3D is an exemplary screen shot of a digital image edit web page **370**. The digital image edit component **330** is configured to provide the user **101** with various editing functions to apply to the digital images **362**. In various embodiments, the editing functions include rotation, sizing, color adjustment, cropping, tagging, and the like. For example, captions for the digital images **362** may be entered in a caption text entry box **372**. In some embodiments, a radio button may be used to designate the corresponding digital image **362** as the album icon **352**. The tag component **340** is configured to select a region in the image and associate text with the region. In some embodiments, the tag component **340** includes digital image editing functions.

[0044] Although digital images **362** and information about the digital images **362** are described as being manipulated and/or displayed by the various components of media engine **135**, the media engine **135** may manipulate and display information about various other forms of digital media, including digital images, digital video, digital audio, digital audiovisual media, digital text, and/or the like.

[0045] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an exemplary tag component **340**. The tag component **340** includes a region selection component **410**, an auto list component **420**, a tag display component **440**, and an email component **430**. The operation of these components is discussed below with reference to FIG. 5. Although the tag component **340** is described as being comprised of various components (e.g., the region selection component **410**, the auto list component **420**, the email component **430**, and the tag display component **440**), fewer or more components may comprise the tag component **340** and still fall within the scope of various embodiments. Although the tag component **340** is described as operating on digital images **362**, the tag component **340** may operate on various digital media, e.g., digital images, digital video, digital audio, digital audiovisual media, digital text, and/or the like.

[0046] FIG. 5 is an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page **500** illustrating various functions of the components of the exemplary tag component **340**. The region selection component **410** is configured to receive input from a user **101** (e.g., the media owner **101a**, the tagged user **101b**, and etc.) and/or a non-member, (e.g., the tagged non-user **102**). The region selection component **410** is further configured to select a region (e.g., a selected region **520**) within a digital image **362** according to the input. In some embodiments, the user **101** moves a cursor **530** on the user device **110** to a point in the digital image **362** using a mouse, trackball, track pad, or the like. The user **101** clicks on the point and the region selection component **410** places a border **525** around the selected region **520**. In various embodiments, the shape of the selected region **520** may be a rectangle, circle, ellipse, or polygon. The size of the selected region **520** may be fixed, may be determined by the user **101**, or may be automatically determined. In various embodiments, the point the media owner **101a** clicks on may be in the center, a corner, or some other location of the selected region **520**.



[0047] FIG. 5 illustrates a border 525 around the selected region 520. However, a line, highlight, or some other indicia may be generated by the region selection component 410 and superimposed on the digital image 362 using the display engine/GUI 208, to indicate the selected region 520. In some embodiments, if the user 101 is not satisfied with the selection, the user 101 may move the cursor 530 and click on a different point. A new border 525 will surround a new selected region 520. The user 101 may continue to click on various points within the digital image 362 until the user 101 is satisfied with the selected region 520. In some embodiments, the user 101 may select a region 520 in the digital image 362 using a click-and-drag operation to define a rectangle, circle, ellipse, polygon, and the like. In some embodiments, the user 101 may click on multiple points to define vertices of a polygon. In one embodiment, region selection component 410 includes code to automatically calculate a selected region 520 relative the selected point using properties of the digital image 362 including contrast, brightness, color, size, and/or the like.

[0048] A comment field 550 may contain text including general information related to the digital image 362. Text may be entered into the comment field 550 by the media owner 101a of the image.

[0049] The auto list component 420 is configured to present a list of likely tags to the user 101 to associate with the selected region 520. In one embodiment, a tag list 540 pops-up upon clicking on the selected region 520. The tag list 540 may include a text entry window 542 and a list of previously used tags. As text is entered in the text entry window 542, the list of previously used tags may be culled to include only those that match the text in some manner. In some embodiments, the list of previously used tags includes a text list 544 and a friends list 546. Examples of text strings in the text list 544 include names, words, objects, email addresses, phone numbers, user accounts, user names, text message numbers, voice mail user number, pager numbers, instant message addresses, and/or the like. Examples of entries in the friends list 546 include contacts within the social network environment 100, approved contacts, selected email addresses, selected phone numbers, selected instant message addresses, selected text message addresses, and/or the like. Clicking any of the previously used tags may associate the tag with the selected region 520. Clicking any of the entries in the friends list 546 may associate the friend's email address with the selected region 520.

[0050] Turning now to FIG. 6, an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page 600 further illustrating various functions of the components of the exemplary tag component 340 is shown. The tagged user 101b and/or the tagged non-user 102 may be notified that they have been tagged. The screen shot of the tag web page 600 differs from the tag web page 500 in that an email box 620 is displayed by the email component 430 on the digital image 362, instead of the tag list 540. The email component 430 may be configured to receive contact information (e.g., an email address) for a tagged non-user 102 and/or a tagged user 101b. In further embodiments, content information may also include a name of a person or entity, or information for a third person or entity. In some embodiments, the email component 430 is configured to send a notification to the tagged user 101b and/or to a tagged non-user 102, that they have been tagged in a digital image 362.

Optionally, the email component 430 may be configured to send a notification to a third person or entity that a digital image 362 has been tagged.

[0051] In some embodiments, the email component 430 determines that text in the text entry window 542 may correspond to an unknown person, and presents the email box 620. The email box 620 includes an email entry field 630. If the user 101 enters an email address, the email component 430 is configured to send the notification to the email address entered in the email entry field 630.

[0052] If the email address entered in the email entry field 630 corresponds to a user in the social network (e.g., a tagged user 101b), the email notification may include a link to the tagged user 101b to view the tagged digital image 362 and/or confirm the tag. If the email address is not recognized by the email component 430 as an email address for a user 101 (e.g., a member of the social network environment 100) then the email component 430 may presume that the email address corresponds to a non-member (e.g., a tagged non-user 102). The email notification that may be sent to the tagged non-user 102 may include a link to view the tagged digital image 362 and/or confirm the tag. The email notification may further provide an invitation to become a member of the social network environment 100. In some embodiments, the tagged non-user 102 may be permitted to view the tagged digital image 362 but not confirm the tag until becoming a member of the social network environment 100. The email notification may further include advertising, e.g., advertising generated by the advertising module 214.

[0053] Turning now to FIG. 7, an exemplary screen shot of a tag web page 700 is shown. FIG. 7 includes a selected region 720, a border 725, and a cursor 730. The screen shot of the tag web page 700 differs from the tag web page 500 in that the border 725 associated with a tag "erin" is displayed in a different location on the digital image 362 instead of the border 525. The selected region 720 differs from the selected region 520 in FIG. 5-6, in that a different region of the image 362 is selected. The cursor 730 differs from the cursor 530 in that the cursor 730 is pointing to the tag "erin" in the tag list 366 instead of a point in the image 362.

[0054] FIG. 7 illustrates the tag list 366 including two tags, namely, "erin" and "betty jo." The tag display component 440 is configured to permit the user 101 to display entries in the tag list 366 that have been associated with selected regions 720 in the digital image 362. Multiple selected regions 720 may be associated with tags. In one embodiment, the tag display component 440 highlights selected regions 720 associated with entries in the tag list 366 when the cursor hovers near and/or over entries in the tag list 366. FIG. 7 illustrates the cursor 730 hovering over the tag "erin" in the tag list 366. The tag display component 440 highlights the selected region 720 using the border 725. In some embodiments, the advertising module 214 provides advertising 356 to the tag display component 440 for display while the user 101 is viewing the digital image 362 and/or tags, or adding tags and/or adding comments.

[0055] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of an exemplary process 800 for tagging digital media, (e.g., the digital images) such as in a social network (e.g., the social network environment 100). At step 810, an item of digital media (e.g., a digital image 362) in the social network environment 100 is selected for tagging. In various embodiments, the digital image 362 is selected by a member of the social network environment 100, e.g., a user 101, the media owner 101a, the tagged user 101b,

and the like, via a user device **110**. In some embodiments, the digital image **362** is selected by a non-member of the social network environment **100**. The social network provider **130** may receive the selection from the user **101** via the communications network **120**.

[0056] At step **820** a region (e.g., the selected region **520**) in the digital image **362** is selected for association with a tag. In some embodiments, the user **101** selects the selected region **520** using a mouse, trackball, touch pad, or the like to move a cursor (e.g., the cursor **530**) to a point within the image **362**, and clicking on the point. Optionally, the user **101** clicks on a point with the cursor **530** and drags the cursor **530** to another point (e.g., click and drag) to define the selected region **520**. In some embodiments, the region selection component **410** displays a border (e.g., the border **525**) to indicate the selected region **520**.

[0057] At step **830** contact information (e.g., an email address) is associated with the selected region **520** using a tag. Contact information may also include a name of a person or entity, or information for a third person or entity. A tag in the form of text may be associated with the selected region **520**. In various embodiments, the text may include a hyperlink, an email address and/or user address of a friend in the social network environment **100**, an email address and or user address of a user **101** of the social network environment **100**, an email address of a non-member of the social network environment **100**, a phone number, an instant text message address, a pager number, a text message number, a mailing address, and/or the like. The tag may be input by the user **101**. In some embodiments, the tag is suggested by the auto list component **420** of the tag component **340**. Optionally, the social network provider **130** selects the tag.

[0058] At step **840** a notification of the tag is sent. In one embodiment, the notification of the tag is sent to the email address associated with the selected region **520**, for example, using the email component **430**. In further embodiments, the notification of the tag is sent to a third person or entity. In some embodiments, the notification includes a link enabling the tagged user **101b**, or the tagged non-user **102**, to view the tagged digital image **362**. Optionally, the notification sent at step **840** includes an invitation to become a member of the social network environment **100** and/or advertising, e.g., advertising generated by the advertising module **214**.

[0059] At step **845** it is determined if the email address belongs to a user **101** who is member of the social network environment **100** (e.g., the tagged user **101b**). If the email address belongs to the tagged user **101b** then the method proceeds to step **850** in which tag validity information is received from the tagged user **101b**. In some embodiments, step **850** includes displaying the digital image **362** and tag to the tagged user **101b** and providing the tagged user **101b** an option to confirm the tag or disaffirm the tag (e.g., using radio buttons).

[0060] At step **855** it is determined if the tag is valid. For example, if the tagged user **101b** confirms the tag in step **850** then the tag is valid. However, if the tagged user **101b** disaffirms the tag in step **850** then the tag is not valid. If the tag is valid, the method **800** ends. If the tag is not valid then the method proceeds to step **880** and removes the tag and ends. In some embodiments, the media owner **101a** can override the validity information. Optionally, the tag is hidden from users **101** other than the media owner **101a** instead of removed.

[0061] If the email address does not belong to a user **101** who is a member of the social network environment **100** (e.g.,

belongs to the tagged non-user **102**) the method proceeds to step **860**. In step **860** an invitation is sent to the tagged non-user **102** to become a member of the social network environment **100**. The invitation to become a member of the social network environment **100** may include a link to a membership registration web page. Optionally, the advertising module **214** attaches advertising to the invitation to become a member of the social network environment **100** at step **860**. In optional step **870**, a link is sent to the digital image **362** that will enable the tagged non-user **102** to view the digital image **362** and the tag associated with a region **520**. In an alternative embodiment, at step **870** the digital image **362** associated with the tagged text, is sent to the tagged non-user **102** for viewing the digital image **362** and the tagged text associated with the region **520**.

[0062] In one embodiment, the tagged non-user **102** follows the link to the membership registration web page and optional step **875** determines if the tagged non-user **102** has become a member of the social network environment **100**. The process proceeds to step **850** upon completion of the registration. If the tagged non-user **102** elects not to become a member of the social network environment **100**, the method **800** ends. In some embodiments, if the tagged non-user **102** elects to become a member, the tagged non-user **102** becomes a tagged user **101b** and thus may review the digital images **362** that have been tagged with the new tagged user's **101b** email address at any time.

[0063] Several embodiments are specifically illustrated and/or described herein. However, it will be appreciated that modifications and variations are covered by the above teachings and within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and intended scope thereof. For example, media may be tagged with hyperlink to advertising. For example, video clips may be tagged. For example audio may be used instead of text to tag the digital media. For example, digital images may be used instead of text to tag the digital media. For example, hyperlinks to video may be used instead of text to tag the digital media. For example, objects in online games may be tagged. Various embodiments of the invention include logic stored on computer readable media, the logic configured to perform methods of the invention.

[0064] The embodiments discussed herein are illustrative of the present invention. As these embodiments of the present invention are described with reference to illustrations, various modifications or adaptations of the methods and or specific structures described may become apparent to those skilled in the art. All such modifications, adaptations, or variations that rely upon the teachings of the present invention, and through which these teachings have advanced the art, are considered to be within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Hence, these descriptions and drawings should not be considered in a limiting sense, as it is understood that the present invention is in no way limited to only the embodiments illustrated.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

presenting to a first user a graphical user interface including an item of digital media; wherein the graphical user interface comprises a set of media interface control elements, wherein a first media interface control element comprises a tag component operative to receive one or more tags to be associated with the item of digital media; and

responsive to an indication of user interaction with the first interface control element of the graphical user interface, associating one or more tags with the item of digital media received by the tagging component;

resolving the one or more tags to contact information of a second user; and

generating a notification to the second user using the contact information.

**2.** The method of claim **1** wherein the set of media interface control elements further comprises a second media interface control element including a notification component operative to receive contact information for a second user.

**3.** The method of claim **1** wherein at least one tag of the one or more tags tag identifies the second user, and wherein the notification is a tagging notification indicating that the second user has been tagged in association with the item of digital media.

**4.** The method of claim **1** wherein the contact information comprises an email address, and wherein the notification comprises an email.

**5.** The method of claim **1** wherein the contact information comprises a text message number.

**6.** The method of claim **1** wherein the contact information comprises an instant message address.

**7.** The method of claim **1** wherein the notification comprises a hyperlink to the item of digital media.

**8.** The method of claim **1** wherein a third media interface control element comprises a region selection component operative to receive a selection of a region of the item of digital media to be associated with the one or more tags; and further comprising

associating the one or more tags with the selected region of the item of digital media in response to an indication of user interaction with the region selection component and the tagging component.

**9.** The method of claim **1** wherein at least one of the one or more tags comprises a hyperlink.

**10.** The method of claim **9** wherein the hyperlink links to information associated with text corresponding to the tag.

**11.** The method of claim **10** wherein the text identifies a person in a social networking system.

**12.** The method of claim **11** wherein the hyperlink links to information associated with the person in the social networking system.

**13.** A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium containing computer program code for:

presenting to a first user a graphical user interface including an item of digital media; wherein the graphical user interface comprises a set of media interface control elements, wherein a first media interface control element comprises a tag component operative to receive one or more tags to be associated with the item of digital media; and wherein a second media interface control element

comprises a notification component operative to receive contact information for a second user; and

responsive to an indication of user interaction with the first and second media interface control elements of the graphical user interface,

generating a notification to the second user using the contact information received by the notification component; and

associating the one or more tags with the item of digital media entered received by the tagging component.

**14.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein at least one tag of the one or more tags tag identifies the second user, and wherein the notification is a tagging notification indicating that the second user has been tagged in association with the item of digital media.

**15.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein the contact information comprises an email address, and wherein the notification comprises an email.

**16.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein the contact information comprises a text message number.

**17.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein the notification comprises a hyperlink to the item of digital media.

**18.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein a third media interface control element comprises a region selection component operative to receive a selection of a region of the item of digital media to be associated with the one or more tags; and further comprising

associating the one or more tags with the selected region of the item of digital media in response to an indication of user interaction with the region selection component and the tagging component.

**19.** The computer-readable storage medium of claim **13** wherein at least one of the one or more tags comprises a hyperlink.

**20.** A method, comprising:

receiving from a device of a first user an item of digital media;

receiving from the device of the first user a set of tags to be associated with the item of digital media;

associating the set of tags with the item of digital media; and

if a tag in the set of tags is associated with a second user, generating a notification to the second user using contact information corresponding to the second user.

**21.** The method of claim **20** further comprising:

receiving from the device of a first user a selection of a region of the item of digital media to be associated with the set of tags and the selected item of digital media; and associating the selection of the region with the item of digital media.

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