



(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Khan

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2025/0267736 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 21, 2025**

(54) **METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND DEVICES UTILIZING A 5G SIDELINK AND RAN TO TRANSFER A WIRELESS SESSION BETWEEN COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

(71) Applicant: **AT&T Intellectual Property I, L.P.**,
Atlanta, GA (US)

(72) Inventor: **Azhar Khan**, Norcross, GA (US)

(73) Assignee: **AT&T Intellectual Property I, L.P.**,
Atlanta, GA (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **18/443,924**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 16, 2024**

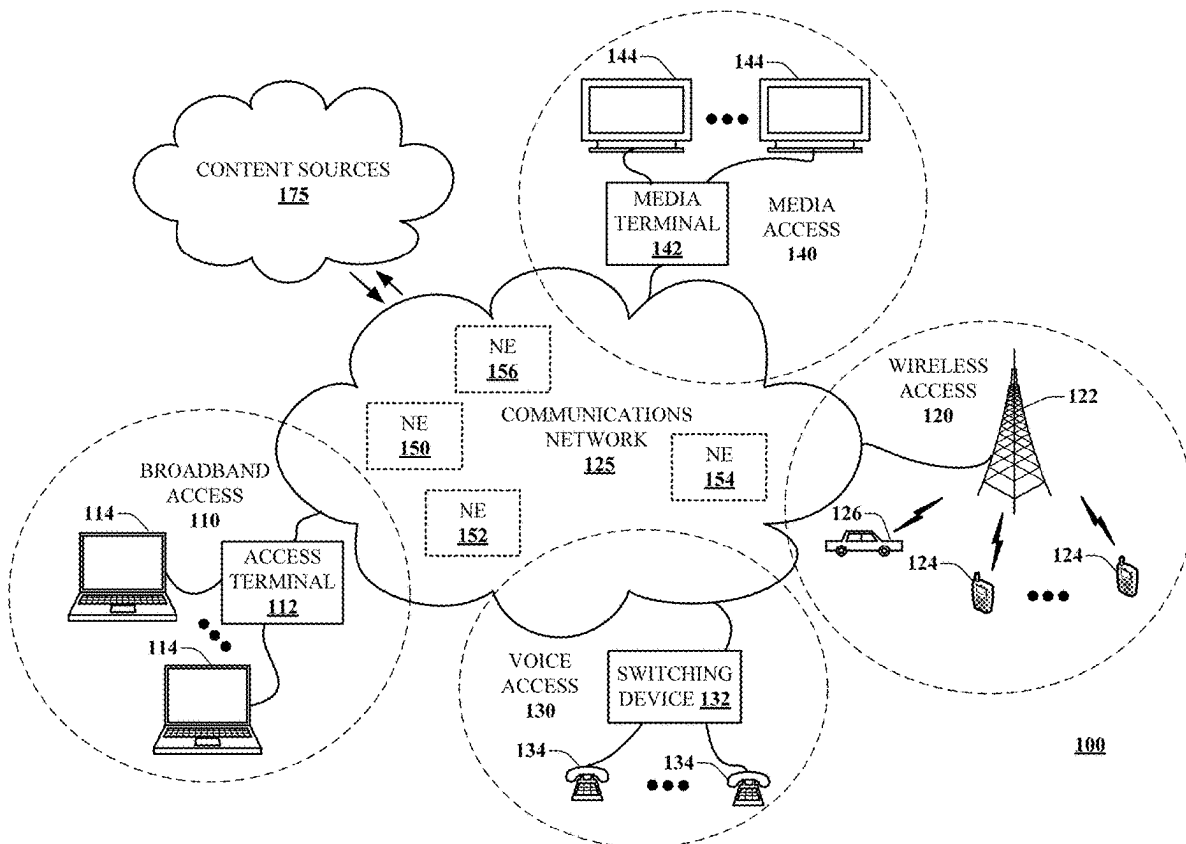
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04W 76/14 (2018.01)
H04W 72/25 (2023.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04W 76/14** (2018.02); **H04W 72/25**
(2023.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Aspects of the subject disclosure may include, for example, participating in a communication session, over a communication network, on the first communication device, and receiving user-generated input. The user-generated input includes transferring the communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. Further embodiments can include generating a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device, transmitting data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link, and providing first instructions to a first network node to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The first network node transfers the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device in response to receiving the first instructions from the first communication device. Other embodiments are disclosed.



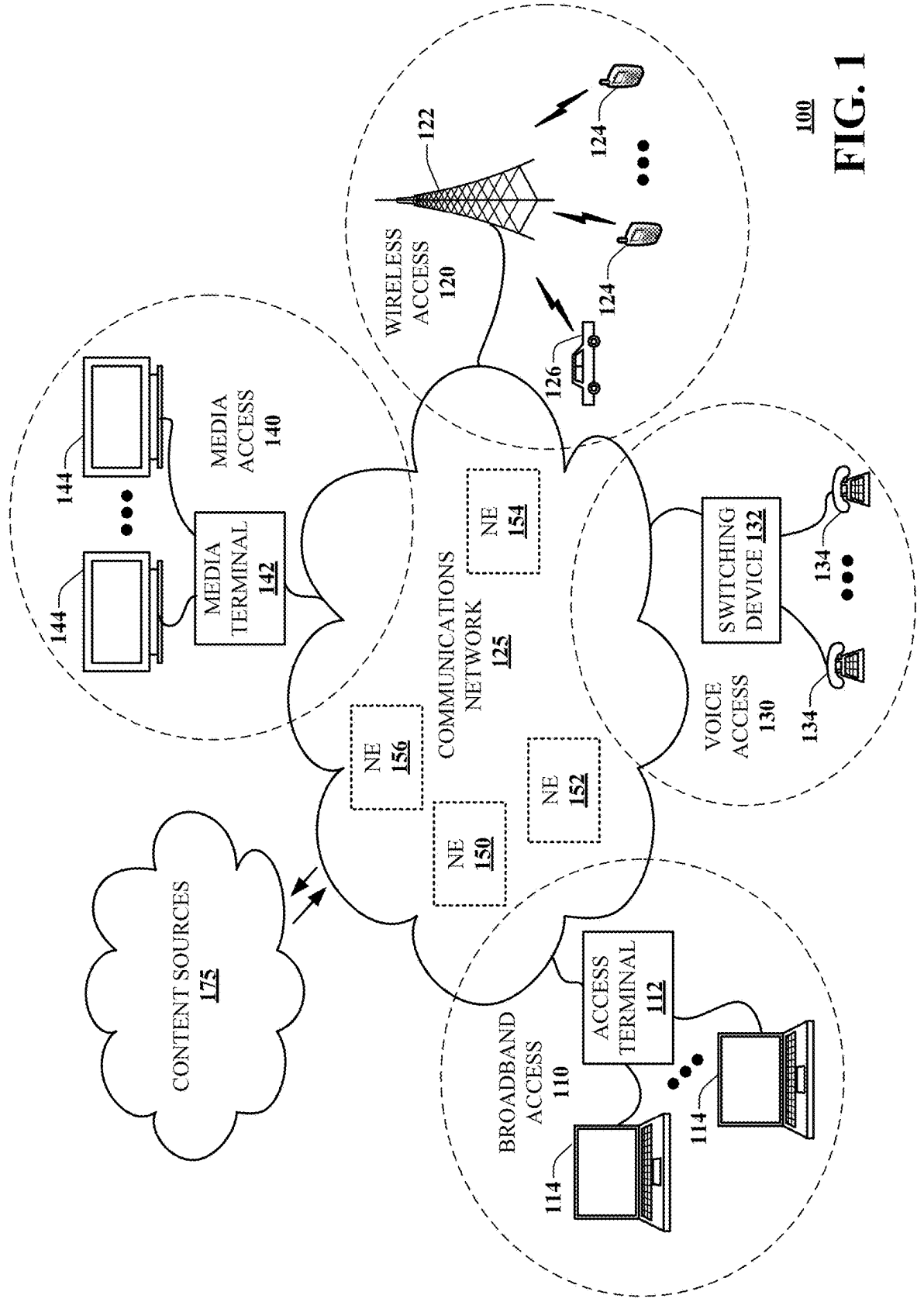
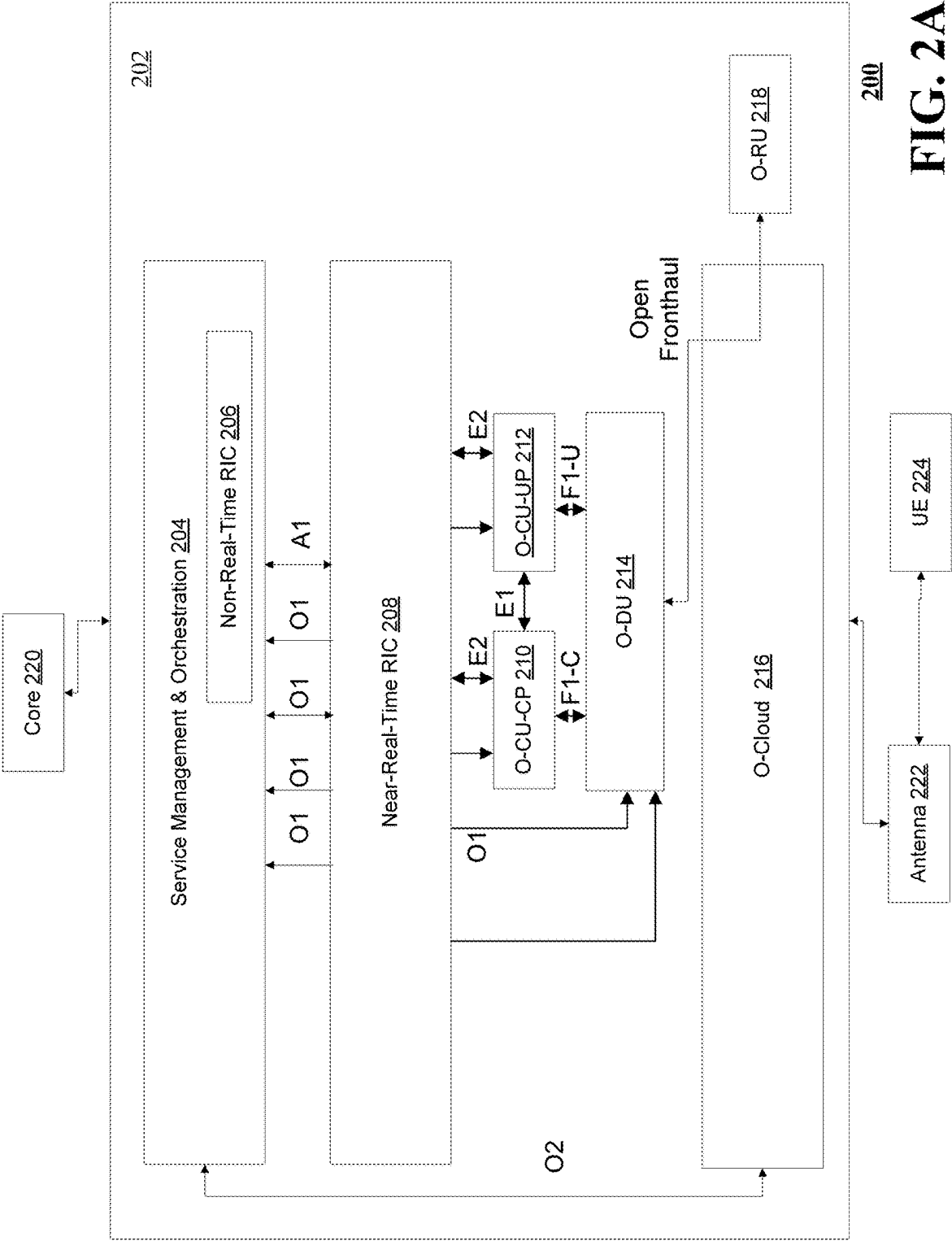
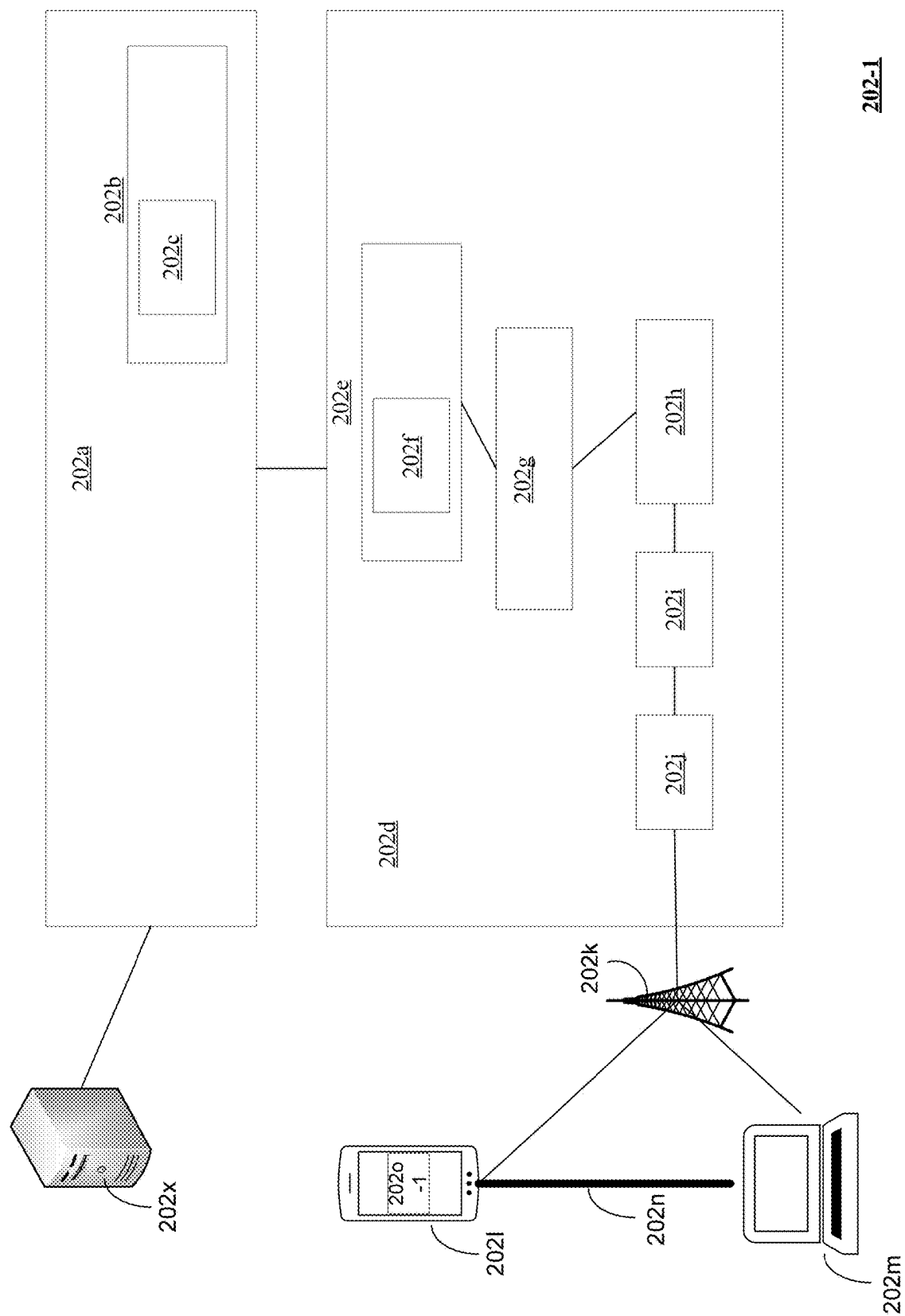
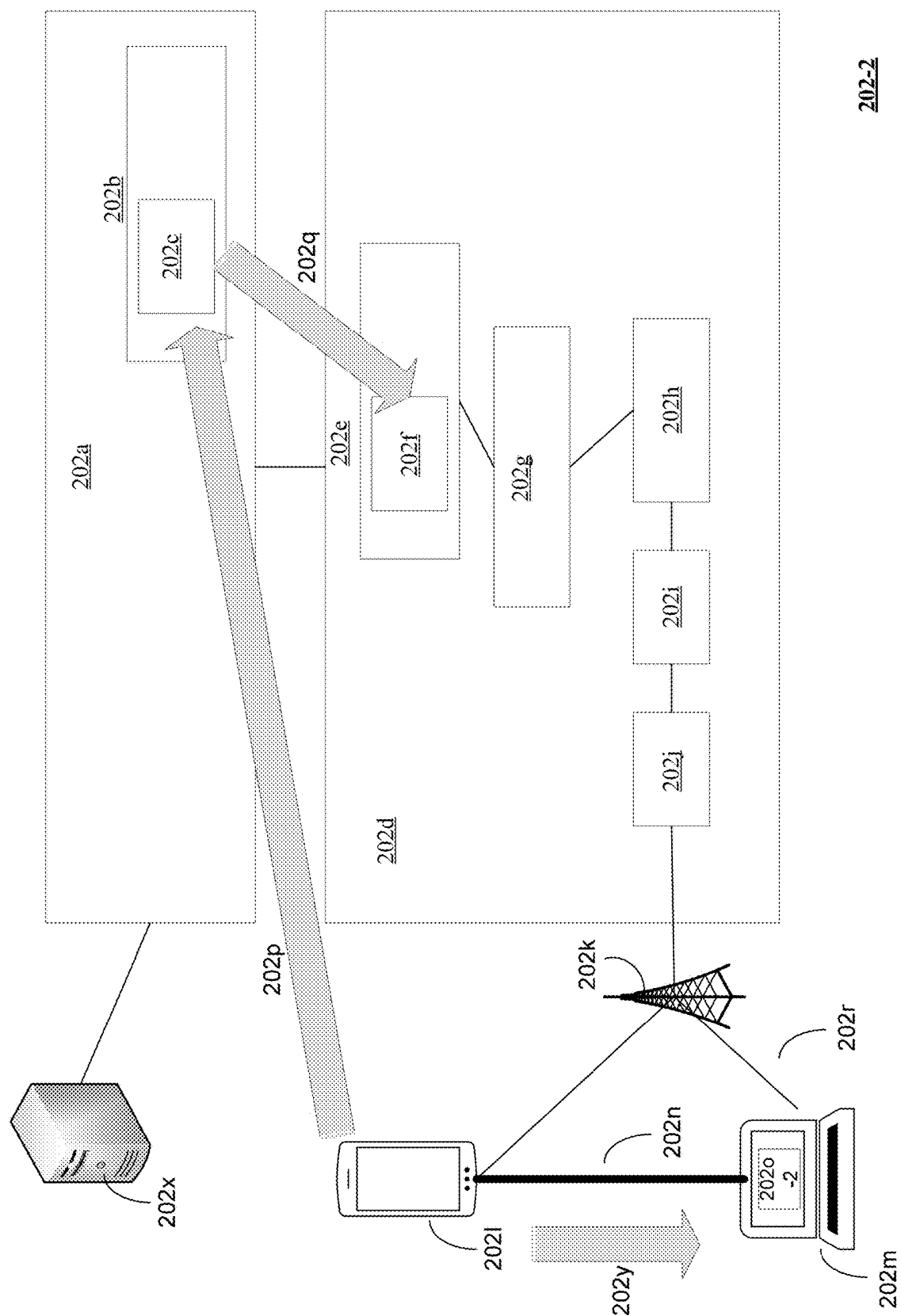
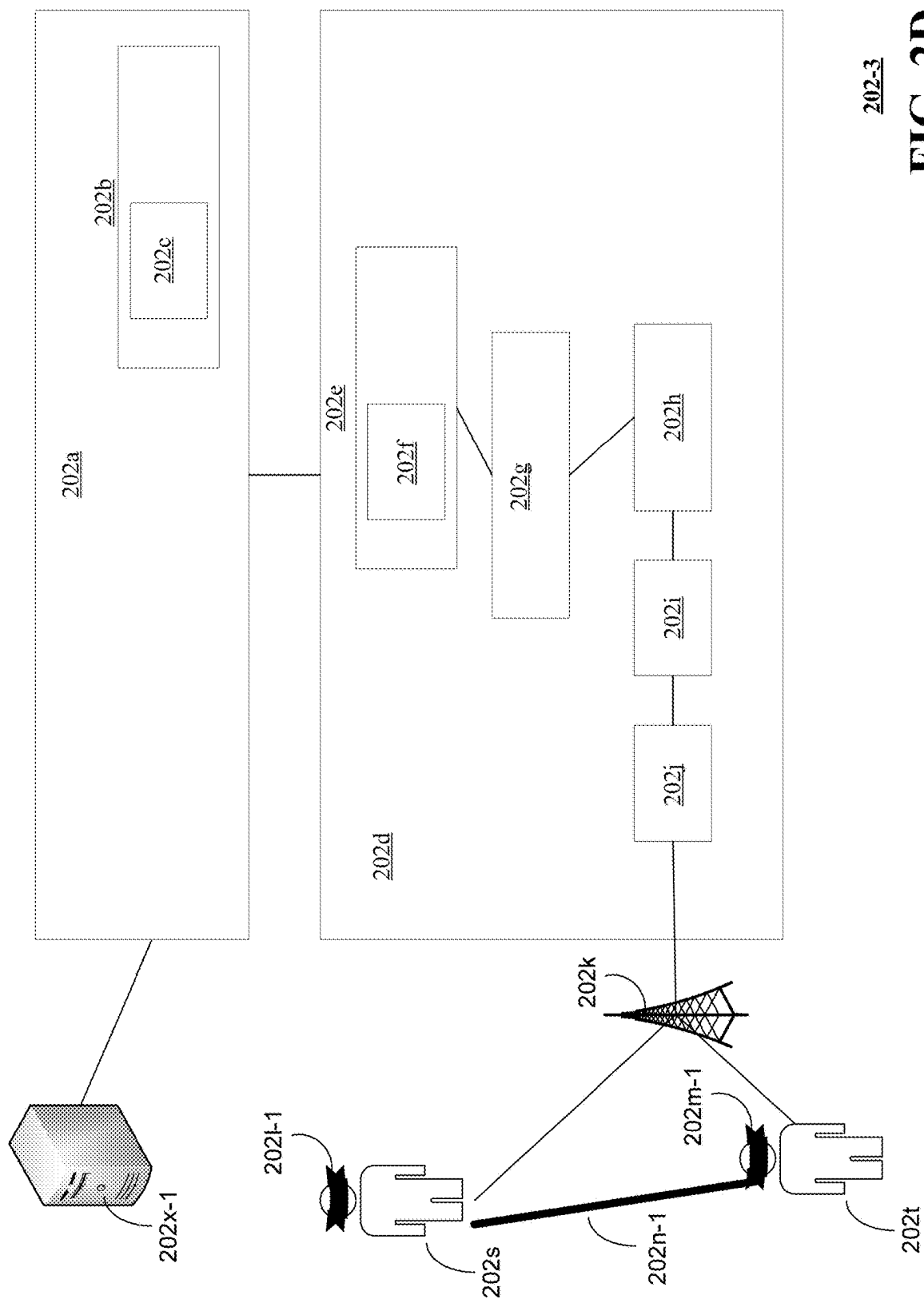


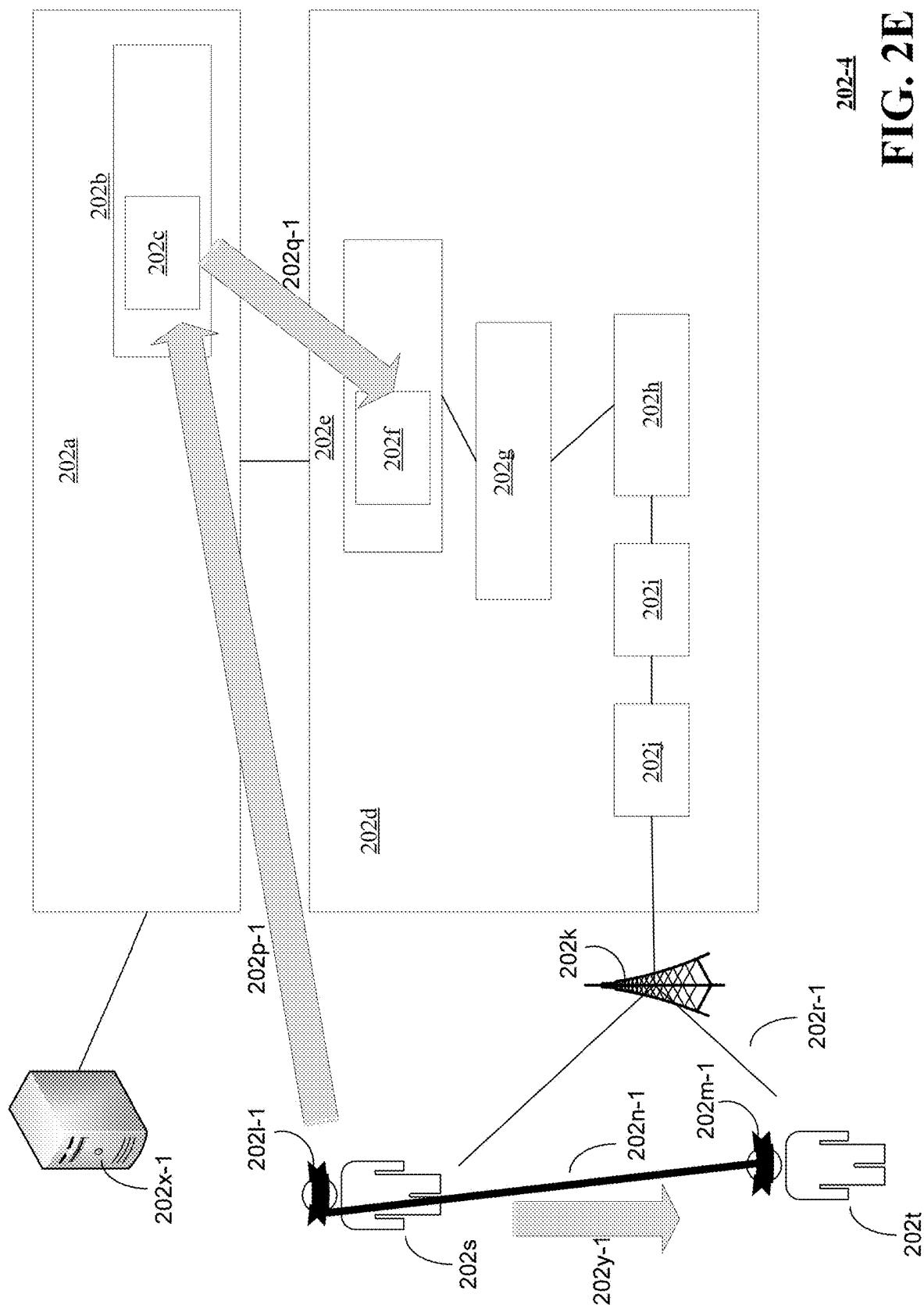
FIG. 1

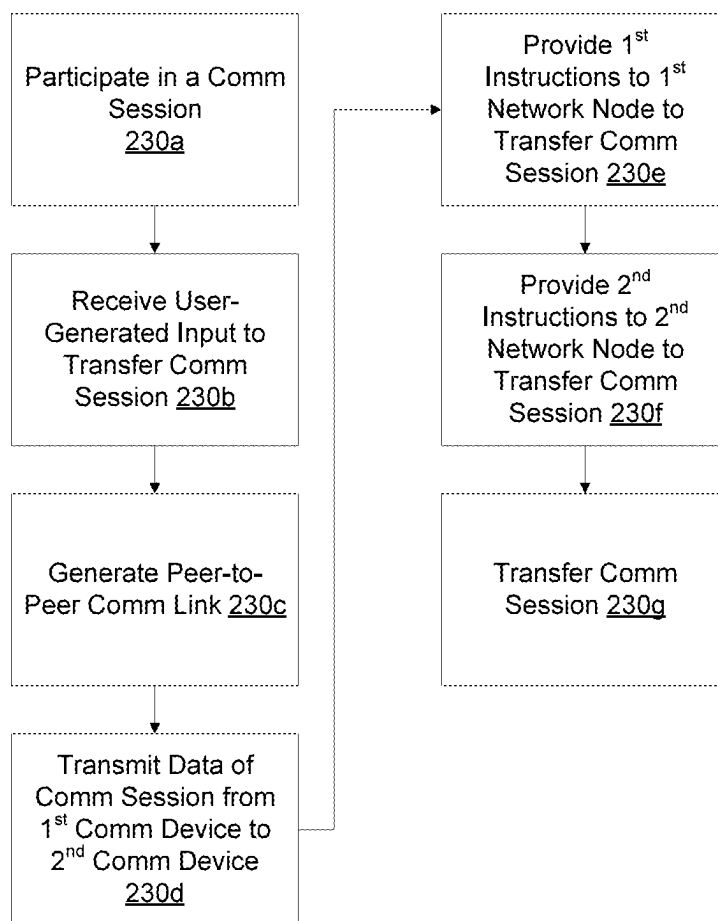






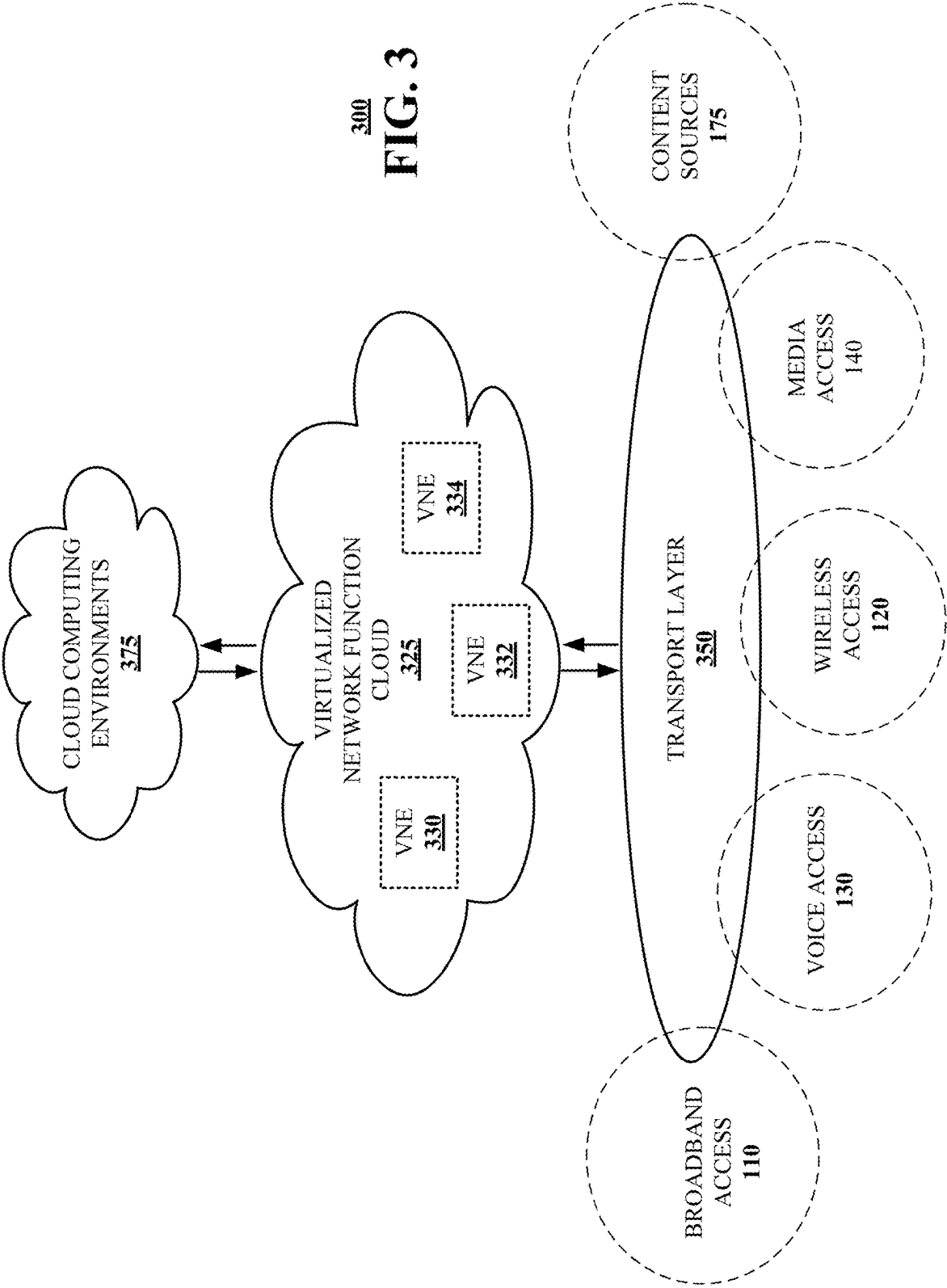






230

FIG. 2F



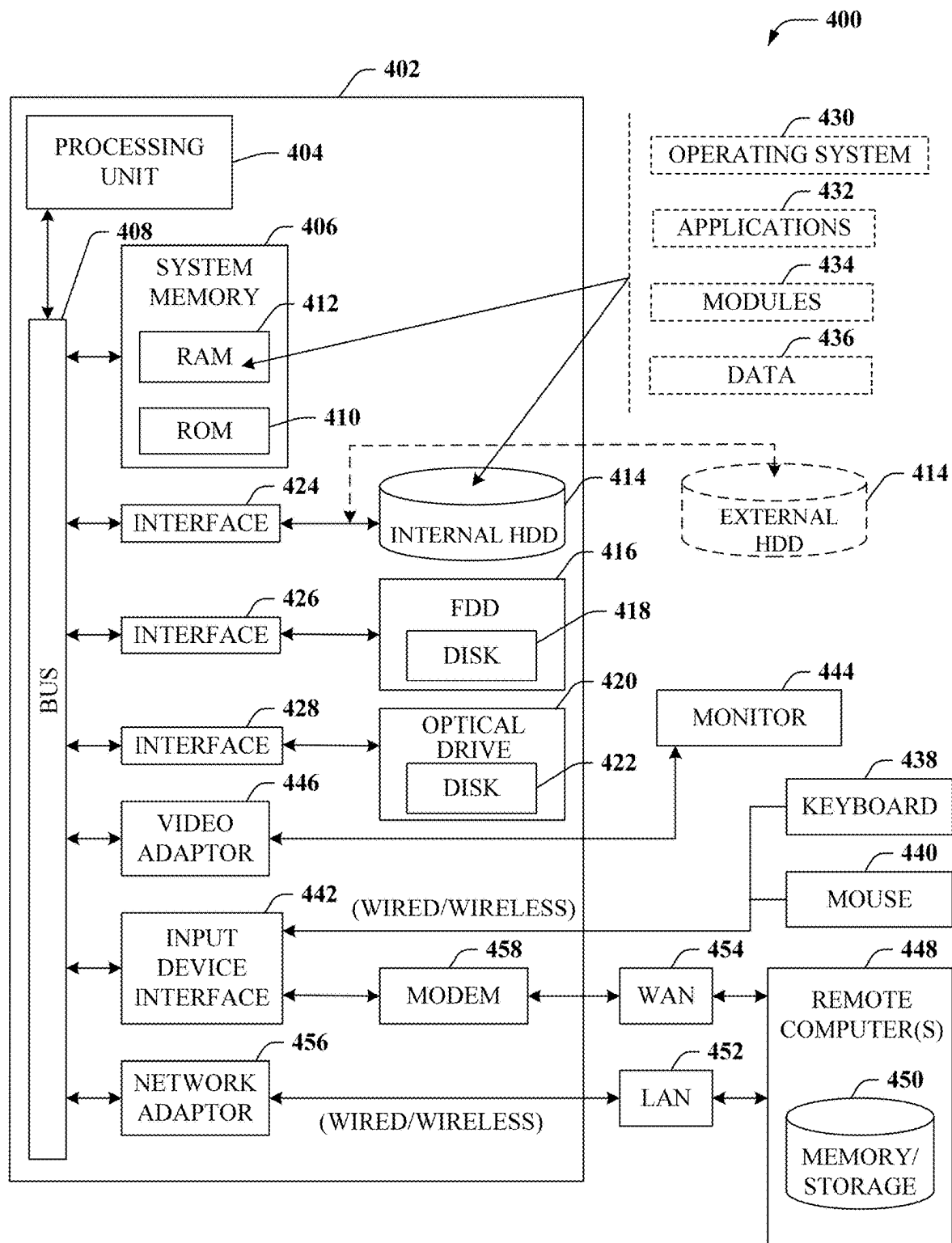
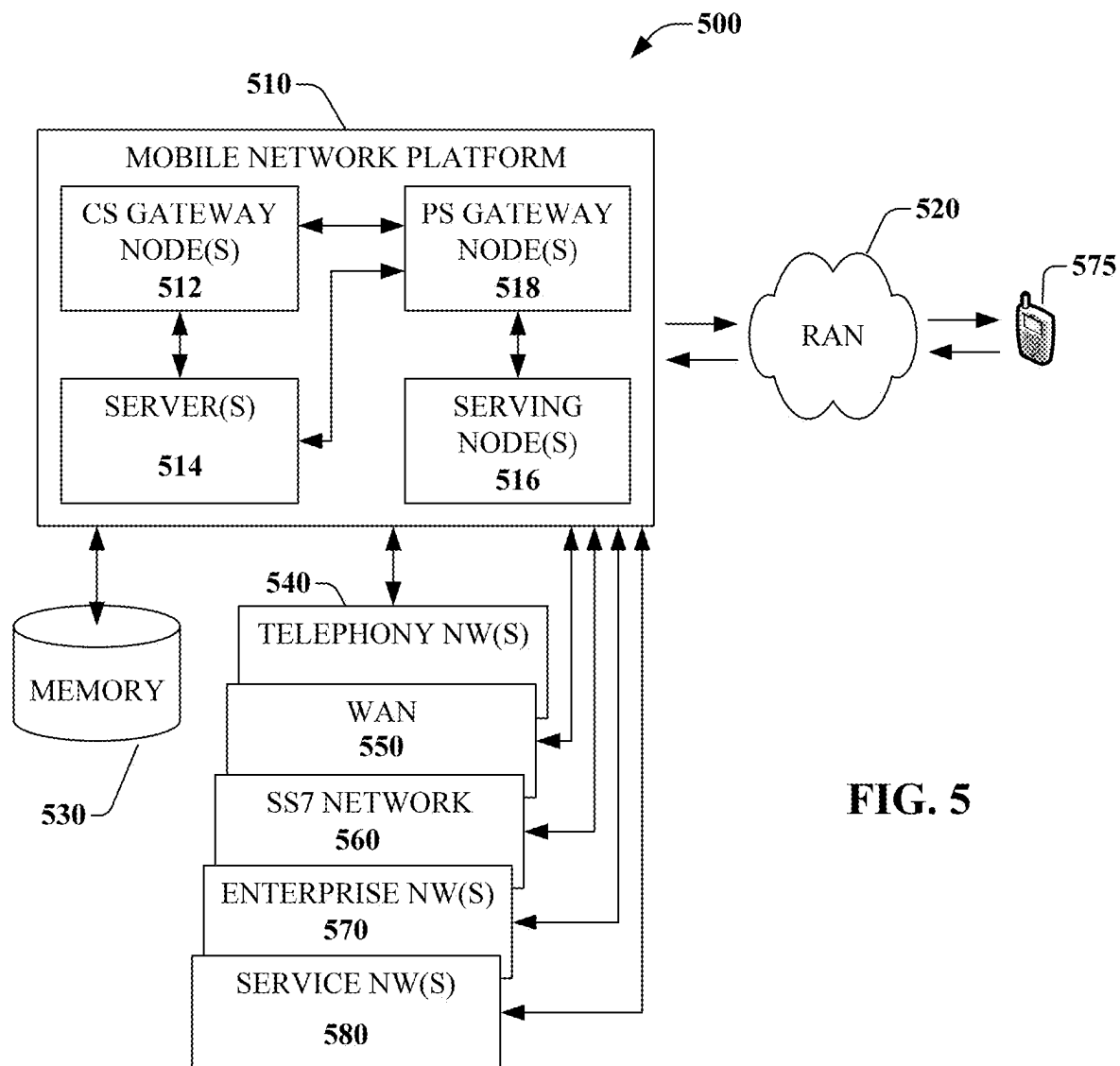
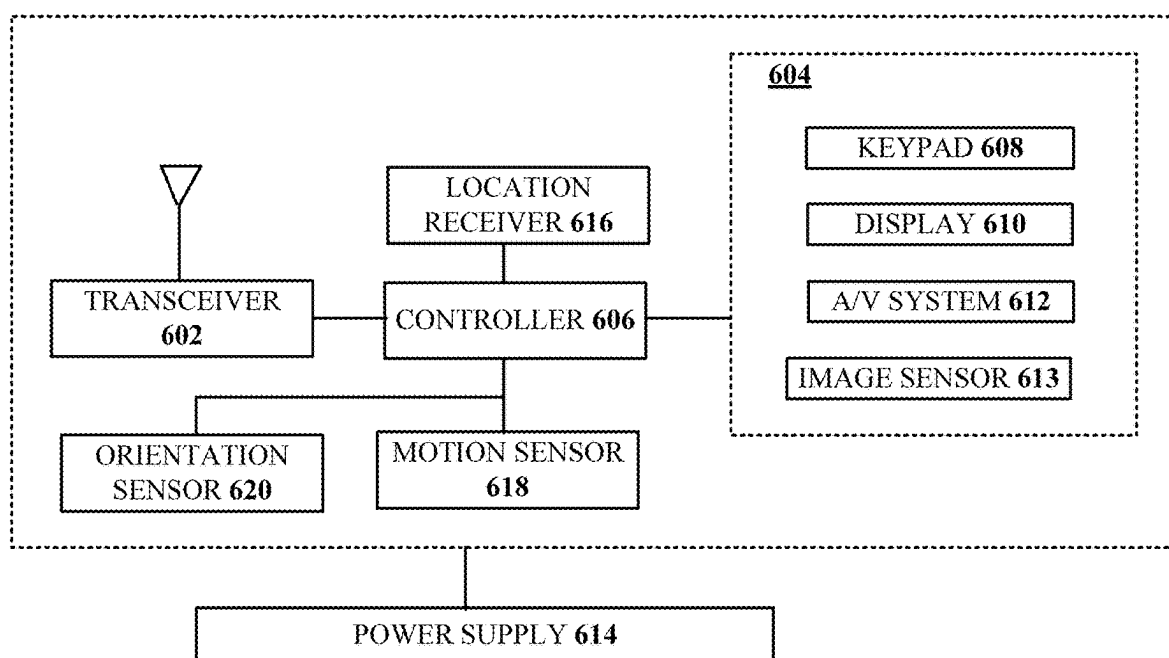


FIG. 4





600
FIG. 6

**METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND DEVICES
UTILIZING A 5G SIDELINK AND RAN TO
TRANSFER A WIRELESS SESSION
BETWEEN COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0001] The subject disclosure relates to methods, systems, and devices utilizing a 5G sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In the current state of the art, a user can participate in a communication session over a mobile network to access data from a server utilizing a communication device. This communication session can comprise a video call, viewing media content, playing gaming content, immersion into a virtual environment, etc. Further, the if a user would like to utilize a different communication device to participate in the communication session with the server, the user must terminate the communication session on the communication device and establish a different communication session with the server on the different communication device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] Reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, and wherein:

[0004] FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of a communications network in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0005] FIGS. 2A-2E are block diagrams illustrating example, non-limiting embodiments of systems functioning within the communication network of FIG. 1 in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0006] FIG. 2F depicts an illustrative embodiment of a method in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0007] FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example, non-limiting embodiment of a virtualized communication network in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0008] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an example, non-limiting embodiment of a computing environment in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0009] FIG. 5 is a block diagram of an example, non-limiting embodiment of a mobile network platform in accordance with various aspects described herein.

[0010] FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an example, non-limiting embodiment of a communication device in accordance with various aspects described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] The subject disclosure describes, among other things, illustrative embodiments for participating in a communication session, over a communication network, on the first communication device, and receiving user-generated input. The user-generated input initiates transferring the communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. Further embodiments can include generating a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device, transmitting data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link, and providing

first instructions to a first network node to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The first network node facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device in response to receiving the first instructions from the first communication device. Other embodiments are described in the subject disclosure.

[0012] One or more aspects of the subject disclosure include a first communication device, comprising a processing system including a processor, and a memory that stores executable instructions that, when executed by the processing system, facilitate performance of operations. The operations can comprise participating in a communication session, over a communication network, on the first communication device, and receiving user-generated input. The user-generated input initiates transferring the communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. Further operations can comprise generating a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device, transmitting data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link, and providing first instructions to a first network node to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The first network node facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device in response to receiving the first instructions from the first communication device.

[0013] One or more aspects of the subject disclosure include a non-transitory, machine-readable medium, comprising executable instructions that, when executed by a processing system including a processor, facilitate performance of operations. The operations can comprise receiving, over a communication network, first instructions from a first communication device. The first instructions indicate to transfer a communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. The processing system comprises a first network node and a second network node. The first network node receives the first instructions. The first communication device generates a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device, and the first communication device transmits data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link. Further, the operations can comprise transmitting second instructions from the first network node to the second network node, and the second instructions indicate to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. In addition, the operations can comprise facilitating the transfer of the communication session by the second network node from the first communication device to the second communication device.

[0014] One or more aspects of the subject disclosure include a method. The method can comprise establishing, by a first communication device, a peer-to-peer communication link between a second communication device and the first communication device. The second communication device generates the peer-to-peer communication link, wherein the communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing

a 5G sidelink protocol. Further, the method can comprise receiving, by the first communication device, first data associated with a communication session established by the second communication device, and receiving, by the first communication device, second data from a server associated with the communication session and facilitated by a non-real-time radio access network (RAN) intelligent controller (RIC) utilizing a B_rApp application and a near real-time RIC utilizing an A_xApp application.

[0015] Referring now to FIG. 1, a block diagram is shown illustrating an example, non-limiting embodiment of a system 100 in accordance with various aspects described herein. For example, system 100 can facilitate in whole or in part utilizing a sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices. In particular, a communications network 125 is presented for providing broadband access 110 to a plurality of data terminals 114 via access terminal 112, wireless access 120 to a plurality of mobile devices 124 and vehicle 126 via base station or access point 122, voice access 130 to a plurality of telephony devices 134, via switching device 132 and/or media access 140 to a plurality of audio/video display devices 144 via media terminal 142. In addition, communication network 125 is coupled to one or more content sources 175 of audio, video, graphics, text and/or other media. While broadband access 110, wireless access 120, voice access 130 and media access 140 are shown separately, one or more of these forms of access can be combined to provide multiple access services to a single client device (e.g., mobile devices 124 can receive media content via media terminal 142, data terminal 114 can be provided voice access via switching device 132, and so on).

[0016] The communications network 125 includes a plurality of network elements (NE) 150, 152, 154, 156, etc. for facilitating the broadband access 110, wireless access 120, voice access 130, media access 140 and/or the distribution of content from content sources 175. The communications network 125 can include a circuit switched or packet switched network, a voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) network, Internet protocol (IP) network, a cable network, a passive or active optical network, a 4G, 5G, or higher generation wireless access network, WIMAX network, UltraWideband network, personal area network or other wireless access network, a broadcast satellite network and/or other communications network.

[0017] In various embodiments, the access terminal 112 can include a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM), cable modem termination system (CMTS), optical line terminal (OLT) and/or other access terminal. The data terminals 114 can include personal computers, laptop computers, netbook computers, tablets or other computing devices along with digital subscriber line (DSL) modems, data over coax service interface specification (DOCSIS) modems or other cable modems, a wireless modem such as a 4G, 5G, or higher generation modem, an optical modem and/or other access devices.

[0018] In various embodiments, the base station or access point 122 can include a 4G, 5G, or higher generation base station, an access point that operates via an 802.11 standard such as 802.11n, 802.11ac or other wireless access terminal. The mobile devices 124 can include mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, phablets, wireless modems, and/or other mobile computing devices.

[0019] In various embodiments, the switching device 132 can include a private branch exchange or central office switch, a media services gateway, VoIP gateway or other gateway device and/or other switching device. The telephony devices 134 can include traditional telephones (with or without a terminal adapter), VOIP telephones and/or other telephony devices.

[0020] In various embodiments, the media terminal 142 can include a cable head-end or other TV head-end, a satellite receiver, gateway or other media terminal 142. The display devices 144 can include televisions with or without a set top box, personal computers and/or other display devices.

[0021] In various embodiments, the content sources 175 include broadcast television and radio sources, video on demand platforms and streaming video and audio services platforms, one or more content data networks, data servers, web servers and other content servers, and/or other sources of media.

[0022] In various embodiments, the communications network 125 can include wired, optical and/or wireless links and the network elements 150, 152, 154, 156, etc. can include service switching points, signal transfer points, service control points, network gateways, media distribution hubs, servers, firewalls, routers, edge devices, switches and other network nodes for routing and controlling communications traffic over wired, optical and wireless links as part of the Internet and other public networks as well as one or more private networks, for managing subscriber access, for billing and network management and for supporting other network functions.

[0023] FIGS. 2A-2E are block diagrams illustrating example, non-limiting embodiments of systems functioning within the communication network of FIG. 1 in accordance with various aspects described herein. Referring to FIG. 2A, in one or more embodiments, system 200 can comprise an open random access network (O-RAN) components 202 that can be used in 5G mobile networks. O-RAN components 202 can be communicatively coupled to core networks elements 220 and an antenna 222 of user equipment (UE) 224 over a mobile network. The mobile network can include one or more wireless networks, one or more wired networks, or a combination thereof. Further, the O-RAN components 202 can comprise a service management & orchestration component 204 that includes a non-real-time RAN intelligent controller (RIC) and a near-real-time RIC 208 communicatively coupled to each other utilizing various interfaces. Further, service management & orchestration component 204 can be communicatively coupled to one or more core networks elements 220. In addition, the O-RAN components 202 can comprise an open centralized unit control plane (O-CU-CP) component 210, an open centralized unit user plane (O-CU-UP) component 212, an open distributed unit (O-DU) 214, and an open radio unit (O-RU) 218. The O-CU-CP component 210 and the O-CU-UP component 212 can be communicatively coupled to the near-real-time RIC 208 and each other via various interfaces. Further, the O-CU-CP component 210 and the O-CU-UP component 212 can be communicatively coupled to the O-DU 214 over various interfaces. Also, the O-DU 214 can be communicatively coupled to the near-real-time RIC 208 and the O-RU 218 over various interfaces. Further, the service management and orchestration component 204 can be communica-

tively coupled to the O-cloud component 216. In addition, the O-RU 218 can be communicatively coupled to the antenna 222.

[0024] In one or more embodiments, the O-DU 214 and O-RU 218 can handle operations associated with the UE 224 in real-time (e.g., real-time < 10 ms). Further, the near-real-time RIC 208 can handle operations associated with the UE 224 in near real-time (e.g., 10 ms < near-real-time < 1 s). In addition, the non-real-time RIC 206 can handle operations associated with the UE 224 that are not in real-time (e.g., non-real-time > 1 s).

[0025] Referring to FIG. 2B, in one or more embodiments, system 202-1 provides the ability to transfer a communication session (e.g., a live wireless session whether voice/data/AR/VR, etc.) between one communication device 202l and a server 202x to another communication 202m (or multiple communication devices) to server 202x by leveraging the capabilities of 5G Sidelink and the O-RAN components. That is, RAN components can facilitate the transfer of a communication session between a server 202x (e.g., a navigation server) and communication device 202l to a communication session between server 202x and communication device 202m. When such a device-to-device transfer takes place, the 'new' communication session on the destination communication device 202m continues from where it was before the transfer (i.e., its context data and other critical parameters are transferred to the 'new' session), and the user can continue from where they had left off in the communication session before the transfer. The assembly of capabilities of 5G Sidelink, virtualized RAN networks, and a transfer software application on the communication devices to perform this type of communication session transfer from one communication device 202l to another communication device 202m while maintaining the context of the communication session solves the problem of previously terminating a communication session on one communication device prior to re-establishing the communication session on another communication device but the inability to re-establish the communication session at a point whether the communication session was terminated.

[0026] In one or more embodiments, system 202-1 can comprise O-RAN components that include a service management and orchestration component 202a, which in turn includes a non-real-time RIC 202b. Further, the non-real-time RIC 202b can include a B_rApp 202c. Generally an rApp is a software application that can automate a non-real-time function. Specifically, the B_rApp 202c facilitates transfer of the communication session over the mobile network (including the O-RAN) from between server 202x and communication device 202l to a communication session between server 202x and communication device 202m.

[0027] In one or more embodiments, system 202-1 can comprise O-RAN components 202d that include a near real-time RIC 202e. Further, the near real-time RIC 202e can include an A_xApp 202f. Generally, an xApp is a software application that can be a central software component that is responsible for controlling or optimizing RAN functions and resources for near real-time applications/functions. Specifically, the A_xApp can control and re-allocate mobile network resources to facilitate the transfer of the communication session between the server 202x and communication device 202l to a communication session between server 202x and communication device 202m. Further, the near real-time RIC can be communicatively coupled to open

centralized unit control plane (O-CU-CP) 202g, which in turn can communicatively coupled to the open centralized unit user plane (O-CU-UP) 202h. In addition, the O-CU-UP 202h can be communicatively coupled to the open distributed unit (O-DU) 202i, which in turn can be communicatively coupled to the open radio unit (O-RU) 202j. Also, the O-RU 202j can be communicatively coupled to a base station 202k. Further, the base station 202k can be communicatively coupled to communication device 202l and communication device 202m. In some embodiments, one base station can be communicatively coupled to communication device 202l and another base station can be communicatively coupled to communication device 202m. In such embodiments, both base stations can be communicatively coupled to the O-RAN components 202d.

[0028] In one or more embodiments, the server 202x can be one or more servers located on one premises or spanning more than one premises, one or more virtual servers located on one premises or spanning more than one premises, or one or more cloud servers. Further, each of communication device 202l and communication device 202m can include, but not limited to, a mobile phone, a smartphone, laptop computer, tablet computer, desktop computer, wearable device, smartwatch, virtual reality device, augmented reality device, cross reality device, or any combination thereof.

[0029] In one or more embodiments, a user associated with both communication device 202l and communication device 202m can be currently participating in a communication session between communication device 202l and server 202x to access navigation software application to view navigation data. Further, the user would like to transfer the communication session between server 202x and communication device 202l to a communication session between the server 202x and communication device 202m so that they can access navigation data from server 202x on communication device 202m. In addition, the user would like to make this transfer without losing any navigation data from their communication session between server 202x and communication device 202l. A user may want to transfer such a communication session to another communication device for various reasons including, but not limited to, different capabilities of communication device 202m (e.g., better display resolution, display size, etc.) and/or communication device 202m is associated with greater bandwidth to access base station 202k than communication device 202l.

[0030] In one or more embodiments, a transfer software application residing on communication device 202l collects user context data associated with the communication session (e.g., network address of server 202x, information associated with the navigation data that is being accessed, any relevant user-generated input made during the communication session). Further, the transfer software application on communication device 202l can invoke a generation of a peer-to-peer communication link 202n between the communication device 200l and communication device 200m utilizing a sidelink protocol. In addition, a sidelink protocol enables direct communication between to mobile network user equipment (e.g., communication device 202l and communication device 202m) without participation of a base station in sending and receiving data. Once the transfer software application on communication device 202l generates the peer-to-peer communication link 202n, it transfers the communication session data to communication device 202m over the peer-to-peer communication link 202n that is

needed by communication device **202m** to establish a communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202m** at a point where the communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202l** was, is, or will be terminated.

[0031] Referring to FIG. 2C, in one or more embodiments, system **202-2** can include the transfer software application can provide data **202y** associated with the communication session from communication device **202l** to communication device **202m** over communication link **202n**. Further, the transfer software application on communication device **202l** can provide instructions/request **202p** to the B_rApp **202c** to facilitate transfer of the communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202l** to a communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202m**. In addition, the B_rApp **202c** can provide instructions/request **202q** to the A_xApp **202f** to facilitate the communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202l** to a communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202m**. Accordingly, the A_xApp **202f** allocates resources of the O-RAN **202d** to facilitate the transfer of the communication session between server **202x** to communication device **202m**. This can include directing the base station **202k** to communicatively couple to communication device **202m** thereby generating a communication link **202r** and then have the O-RAN **202d** establish a communication session between server **202x** and communication device **202m** over the communication link **202r**. Further, the O-RAN **202d** can direct data traffic associated with the newly established communication session over the communication link **202r**. Thus, communication device **202m** can obtain navigation data utilizing a navigation software application **202o-2** over communication link **202r** from server **202x** during the newly established communication session.

[0032] Referring to FIG. 2D, in one or more embodiments, system **202-3** can include a service management and orchestration component **202a** and O-RAN components **202d** as shown in FIGS. 2B and 2C as well as server **202x-1**, which can be a virtual reality media content server, and communication device **202l-1** and communication device **202m-1**, which can each be a virtual reality device. Further, a user **202s** can be associated with communication device **202l-1** and can be currently participating in a communication session between communication device **202l-1** and server **202x-1** to access virtual reality media content from server **202x-1**. Further, the user **202s** would like to transfer the communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202l-1** to a communication session between the server **202x-1** and communication device **202m-1**, which is associated with user **202t** so that communication device **202m-1** can access virtual reality media content from server **202x-1** on communication device **202m-1**. In addition, the user **202s** would like to make this transfer without losing any virtual reality data from their communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202l-1**. A user **202s** may want to transfer such a communication session to another communication device for various reasons including, but not limited to, different capabilities of communication device **202m-1** (e.g., better display resolution, display size, etc.) and/or communication device **202m-1** is associated with greater bandwidth to access base station **202k** than communication device **202l-1** as well as allowing

user **202t** to access the virtual reality media content or have user **202t** play a virtual reality game on behalf user **202s**.

[0033] In one or more embodiments, a transfer software application residing on communication device **202l-1** collects user context data associated with the communication session (e.g., network address of server **202x-1**, information associated with the virtual reality data that is being accessed, any relevant user-generated input made during the communication session, etc.). Further, the transfer software application on communication device **202l-1** can invoke a generation of a peer-to-peer communication link **202n-1** between the communication device **202l-1** and communication device **202m-1** utilizing a sidelink protocol. In addition, a sidelink protocol enables direct communication between to mobile network user equipment (e.g., communication device **202l-1** and communication device **202m-1**) without participation of a base station in sending and receiving data. Once the transfer software application on communication device **202l-1** generates the peer-to-peer communication link **202n-1**, it transfers the communication session data to communication device **202m** over the peer-to-peer communication link **202n-1** that is needed by communication device **202m-1** to establish a communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202m-1** at a point where the communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202l-1** was, is, or will be terminated.

[0034] Referring to FIG. 2E, in one or more embodiments, system **202-4** can include the transfer software application on communication device **202l-1** transmitting **202y-1** data associated with the communication session from communication device **202l-1** to communication device **202m-1** over communication link **202n-1**. In addition, the transfer software application on communication device **202l-1** can provide instructions/request **202p-1** to the B_rApp **202c** to facilitate transfer of the communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202l-1** to a communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202m-1**. In addition, the B_rApp **202c** can provide instructions/request **202q-1** to the A_xApp **202f** to facilitate the transfer of communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202l-1** to a communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202m-1**. Accordingly, the A_xApp **202f** allocates resources of the O-RAN **202d** to facilitate the transfer of the communication session between server **202x-1** to communication device **202m-1**. This can include directing the base station **202k** to communicatively couple to communication device **202m-1** thereby generating a communication link **202r-1** and then have the O-RAN **202d** establish a communication session between server **202x-1** and communication device **202m-1** over the communication link **202r-1**. Further, the O-RAN **202d** can direct data traffic associated with the newly established communication session over the communication link **202r-1**. Thus, communication device **202m-1** can obtain virtual reality media content from server **202x-1** during the newly established communication session.

[0035] FIG. 2F depicts an illustrative embodiment of a method **230** in accordance with various aspects described herein. Aspects of the method **230** can be performed by a first communication device and a first network node. Method **230** can include the first communication device, at **230a**, participating in a communication session, over a communication network, on the first communication device. Further, the method **230** can include the first communication

device, at **230b**, receiving user-generated input. The user-generated input initiates transferring the communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. In addition, the method **230** can include the first communication device, at **230c**, generating a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device. The peer-to-peer communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol. Also, the method **230** can include the first communication device, at **230d**, transmitting data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link. A transfer application facilitates transmitting the data associated with the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. Further, the method **230** can include the first communication device, at **230e**, providing first instructions to a first network node to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The transfer application communicates with a B_rApp application residing on the first network node, and the transfer application provides the first instructions to transfer the communication session to the B_rApp application. The first network node can comprise a non-real-time RIC. The first network node facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device in response to receiving the first instructions from the first communication device. The method **230** can include the first network node, at **230f**, providing second instructions to a second network node to facilitate transfer of the communication session. The second network node can comprise a near real-time RIC. Further, the second network node can comprise an A_xApp application. The B_rApp application provides second instructions to the A_xApp application to facilitate transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The communication session can include media content, and the media content is selected from a group of media content, navigation content, video game content, virtual reality content, cross reality content, augmented reality content, audio content, or combination thereof.

[0036] In one or more embodiments, a system can comprise a first network node and a second network node. Further, the first network node can receive, over a communication network, first instructions from a first communication device. The first instructions can indicate to transfer a communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device. The first network node receives the first instructions, and the first communication device generates a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device. In addition, the first communication device transmits data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link. Also, the first network node can include transmitting second instructions to the second network node, and the second instructions indicate to facilitate transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The second network node can facilitate transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

[0037] In one or more embodiments, the peer-to-peer communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol. The first network node comprises a non-real-time radio access network (RAN) intelligent controller. A transfer application facilitates transmitting the data associated with the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The transfer application communicates with a B_rApp application residing on the first network node, and the transfer application provides the first instructions to transfer the communication session to the B_rApp application. The B_rApp application provides the second instructions to an A_xApp application to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device. The A_xApp application resides on the second network node. The second network node comprises a real-time RAN intelligent controller. The A_xApp facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

[0038] One or more embodiments can establish, by a first communication device, a peer-to-peer communication link between a second communication device and the first communication device. The second communication device generates the peer-to-peer communication link, and the communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol. Further embodiments can receive, by the first communication device, first data associated with a communication session established by the second communication device. Additional embodiments can receive, by the first communication device, second data from server, facilitated by a non-real-time RIC utilizing a B_rApp application and a near-real-time RIC utilizing an A_xApp application, the second data is associated with the communication session.

[0039] While for purposes of simplicity of explanation, the respective processes are shown and described as a series of blocks in FIG. 2F, it is to be understood and appreciated that the claimed subject matter is not limited by the order of the blocks, as some blocks may occur in different orders and/or concurrently with other blocks from what is depicted and described herein. Moreover, not all illustrated blocks may be required to implement the methods described herein. In some embodiments, one or more blocks can be performed in response to one or more other blocks.

[0040] Portions of some embodiments can be combined with portions of other embodiments.

[0041] Referring now to FIG. 3, a block diagram **300** is shown illustrating an example, non-limiting embodiment of a virtualized communication network in accordance with various aspects described herein. In particular a virtualized communication network is presented that can be used to implement some or all of the subsystems and functions of system **100**, the subsystems and functions of system **200**, and method **230** presented in FIGS. 1, 2A-2F, and 3. For example, virtualized communication network **300** can facilitate in whole or in part utilizing a sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices.

[0042] In particular, a cloud networking architecture is shown that leverages cloud technologies and supports rapid innovation and scalability via a transport layer **350**, a virtualized network function cloud **325** and/or one or more cloud computing environments **375**. In various embodiments, this cloud networking architecture is an open architecture that leverages application programming interfaces

(APIs); reduces complexity from services and operations; supports more nimble business models; and rapidly and seamlessly scales to meet evolving customer requirements including traffic growth, diversity of traffic types, and diversity of performance and reliability expectations.

[0043] In contrast to traditional network elements—which are typically integrated to perform a single function, the virtualized communication network employs virtual network elements (VNEs) **330**, **332**, **334**, etc. that perform some or all of the functions of network elements **150**, **152**, **154**, **156**, etc. For example, the network architecture can provide a substrate of networking capability, often called Network Function Virtualization Infrastructure (NFVI) or simply infrastructure that is capable of being directed with software and Software Defined Networking (SDN) protocols to perform a broad variety of network functions and services. This infrastructure can include several types of substrates. The most typical type of substrate being servers that support Network Function Virtualization (NFV), followed by packet forwarding capabilities based on generic computing resources, with specialized network technologies brought to bear when general purpose processors or general purpose integrated circuit devices offered by merchants (referred to herein as merchant silicon) are not appropriate. In this case, communication services can be implemented as cloud-centric workloads.

[0044] As an example, a traditional network element **150** (shown in FIG. 1), such as an edge router can be implemented via a VNE **330** composed of NFV software modules, merchant silicon, and associated controllers. The software can be written so that increasing workload consumes incremental resources from a common resource pool, and moreover so that it's elastic: so the resources are only consumed when needed. In a similar fashion, other network elements such as other routers, switches, edge caches, and middle-boxes are instantiated from the common resource pool. Such sharing of infrastructure across a broad set of uses makes planning and growing infrastructure easier to manage.

[0045] In an embodiment, the transport layer **350** includes fiber, cable, wired and/or wireless transport elements, network elements and interfaces to provide broadband access **110**, wireless access **120**, voice access **130**, media access **140** and/or access to content sources **175** for distribution of content to any or all of the access technologies. In particular, in some cases a network element needs to be positioned at a specific place, and this allows for less sharing of common infrastructure. Other times, the network elements have specific physical layer adapters that cannot be abstracted or virtualized, and might require special DSP code and analog front-ends (AFEs) that do not lend themselves to implementation as VNEs **330**, **332** or **334**. These network elements can be included in transport layer **350**.

[0046] The virtualized network function cloud **325** interfaces with the transport layer **350** to provide the VNEs **330**, **332**, **334**, etc. to provide specific NFVs. In particular, the virtualized network function cloud **325** leverages cloud operations, applications, and architectures to support networking workloads. The virtualized network elements **330**, **332** and **334** can employ network function software that provides either a one-for-one mapping of traditional network element function or alternately some combination of network functions designed for cloud computing. For example, VNEs **330**, **332** and **334** can include route reflectors, domain name system (DNS) servers, and dynamic host configuration

protocol (DHCP) servers, system architecture evolution (SAE) and/or mobility management entity (MME) gateways, broadband network gateways, IP edge routers for IP-VPN, Ethernet and other services, load balancers, distributors and other network elements. Because these elements don't typically need to forward large amounts of traffic, their workload can be distributed across a number of servers—each of which adds a portion of the capability, and overall which creates an elastic function with higher availability than its former monolithic version. These virtual network elements **330**, **332**, **334**, etc. can be instantiated and managed using an orchestration approach similar to those used in cloud compute services.

[0047] The cloud computing environments **375** can interface with the virtualized network function cloud **325** via APIs that expose functional capabilities of the VNEs **330**, **332**, **334**, etc. to provide the flexible and expanded capabilities to the virtualized network function cloud **325**. In particular, network workloads may have applications distributed across the virtualized network function cloud **325** and cloud computing environment **375** and in the commercial cloud, or might simply orchestrate workloads supported entirely in NFV infrastructure from these third party locations.

[0048] Turning now to FIG. 4, there is illustrated a block diagram of a computing environment in accordance with various aspects described herein. In order to provide additional context for various embodiments of the embodiments described herein, FIG. 4 and the following discussion are intended to provide a brief, general description of a suitable computing environment **400** in which the various embodiments of the subject disclosure can be implemented. In particular, computing environment **400** can be used in the implementation of network elements **150**, **152**, **154**, **156**, access terminal **112**, base station or access point **122**, switching device **132**, media terminal **142**, and/or VNEs **330**, **332**, **334**, etc. Each of these devices can be implemented via computer-executable instructions that can run on one or more computers, and/or in combination with other program modules and/or as a combination of hardware and software. For example, computing environment **400** can facilitate in whole or in part utilizing a sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices. Further, each of a service management and orchestration component **204**, non-real-time RIC **206**, near-real-time RIC **208**, O-CU-CP **210**, O-CU-UP **212**, O-DU **214**, O-Cloud **216**, O-RU **218**, UE **224**, service management and orchestration component **202a**, non-real-time RIC **202b**, near-real-time RIC **202c**, O-CU-CP **202d**, O-CU-UP **202e**, O-DU **202f**, O-RU **202g**, base station **202h**, server **202i**, communication device **202j**, communication device **202k**, server **202l-2**, communication device **202l-1**, and communication device **202m-1** can comprise computing environment **400**.

[0049] Generally, program modules comprise routines, programs, components, data structures, etc., that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. Moreover, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the methods can be practiced with other computer system configurations, comprising single-processor or multiprocessor computer systems, minicomputers, mainframe computers, as well as personal computers, hand-held computing devices, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, and the like, each of which can be operatively coupled to one or more associated devices.

[0050] As used herein, a processing circuit includes one or more processors as well as other application specific circuits such as an application specific integrated circuit, digital logic circuit, state machine, programmable gate array or other circuit that processes input signals or data and that produces output signals or data in response thereto. It should be noted that while any functions and features described herein in association with the operation of a processor could likewise be performed by a processing circuit.

[0051] The illustrated embodiments of the embodiments herein can be also practiced in distributed computing environments where certain tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules can be located in both local and remote memory storage devices.

[0052] Computing devices typically comprise a variety of media, which can comprise computer-readable storage media and/or communications media, which two terms are used herein differently from one another as follows. Computer-readable storage media can be any available storage media that can be accessed by the computer and comprises both volatile and nonvolatile media, removable and non-removable media. By way of example, and not limitation, computer-readable storage media can be implemented in connection with any method or technology for storage of information such as computer-readable instructions, program modules, structured data or unstructured data.

[0053] Computer-readable storage media can comprise, but are not limited to, random access memory (RAM), read only memory (ROM), electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM), flash memory or other memory technology, compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM), digital versatile disk (DVD) or other optical disk storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices or other tangible and/or non-transitory media which can be used to store desired information. In this regard, the terms “tangible” or “non-transitory” herein as applied to storage, memory or computer-readable media, are to be understood to exclude only propagating transitory signals per se as modifiers and do not relinquish rights to all standard storage, memory or computer-readable media that are not only propagating transitory signals per se.

[0054] Computer-readable storage media can be accessed by one or more local or remote computing devices, e.g., via access requests, queries or other data retrieval protocols, for a variety of operations with respect to the information stored by the medium.

[0055] Communications media typically embody computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other structured or unstructured data in a data signal such as a modulated data signal, e.g., a carrier wave or other transport mechanism, and comprises any information delivery or transport media. The term “modulated data signal” or signals refers to a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in one or more signals. By way of example, and not limitation, communication media comprise wired media, such as a wired network or direct-wired connection, and wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared and other wireless media.

[0056] With reference again to FIG. 4, the example environment can comprise a computer 402, the computer 402 comprising a processing unit 404, a system memory 406 and a system bus 408. The system bus 408 couples system components including, but not limited to, the system memory 406 to the processing unit 404. The processing unit 404 can be any of various commercially available processors. Dual microprocessors and other multiprocessor architectures can also be employed as the processing unit 404.

[0057] The system bus 408 can be any of several types of bus structure that can further interconnect to a memory bus (with or without a memory controller), a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of commercially available bus architectures. The system memory 406 comprises ROM 410 and RAM 412. A basic input/output system (BIOS) can be stored in a non-volatile memory such as ROM, erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM), EEPROM, which BIOS contains the basic routines that help to transfer information between elements within the computer 402, such as during startup. The RAM 412 can also comprise a high-speed RAM such as static RAM for caching data.

[0058] The computer 402 further comprises an internal hard disk drive (HDD) 414 (e.g., EIDE, SATA), which internal HDD 414 can also be configured for external use in a suitable chassis (not shown), a magnetic floppy disk drive (FDD) 416, (e.g., to read from or write to a removable diskette 418) and an optical disk drive 420, (e.g., reading a CD-ROM disk 422 or, to read from or write to other high capacity optical media such as the DVD). The HDD 414, magnetic FDD 416 and optical disk drive 420 can be connected to the system bus 408 by a hard disk drive interface 424, a magnetic disk drive interface 426 and an optical drive interface 428, respectively. The hard disk drive interface 424 for external drive implementations comprises at least one or both of Universal Serial Bus (USB) and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1394 interface technologies. Other external drive connection technologies are within contemplation of the embodiments described herein.

[0059] The drives and their associated computer-readable storage media provide nonvolatile storage of data, data structures, computer-executable instructions, and so forth. For the computer 402, the drives and storage media accommodate the storage of any data in a suitable digital format. Although the description of computer-readable storage media above refers to a hard disk drive (HDD), a removable magnetic diskette, and a removable optical media such as a CD or DVD, it should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that other types of storage media which are readable by a computer, such as zip drives, magnetic cassettes, flash memory cards, cartridges, and the like, can also be used in the example operating environment, and further, that any such storage media can contain computer-executable instructions for performing the methods described herein.

[0060] A number of program modules can be stored in the drives and RAM 412, comprising an operating system 430, one or more application programs 432, other program modules 434 and program data 436. All or portions of the operating system, applications, modules, and/or data can also be cached in the RAM 412. The systems and methods described herein can be implemented utilizing various commercially available operating systems or combinations of operating systems.

[0061] A user can enter commands and information into the computer 402 through one or more wired/wireless input devices, e.g., a keyboard 438 and a pointing device, such as a mouse 440. Other input devices (not shown) can comprise a microphone, an infrared (IR) remote control, a joystick, a game pad, a stylus pen, touch screen or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 404 through an input device interface 442 that can be coupled to the system bus 408, but can be connected by other interfaces, such as a parallel port, an IEEE 1394 serial port, a game port, a universal serial bus (USB) port, an IR interface, etc.

[0062] A monitor 444 or other type of display device can be also connected to the system bus 408 via an interface, such as a video adapter 446. It will also be appreciated that in alternative embodiments, a monitor 444 can also be any display device (e.g., another computer having a display, a smart phone, a tablet computer, etc.) for receiving display information associated with computer 402 via any communication means, including via the Internet and cloud-based networks. In addition to the monitor 444, a computer typically comprises other peripheral output devices (not shown), such as speakers, printers, etc.

[0063] The computer 402 can operate in a networked environment using logical connections via wired and/or wireless communications to one or more remote computers, such as a remote computer(s) 448. The remote computer(s) 448 can be a workstation, a server computer, a router, a personal computer, portable computer, microprocessor-based entertainment appliance, a peer device or other common network node, and typically comprises many or all of the elements described relative to the computer 402, although, for purposes of brevity, only a remote memory/storage device 450 is illustrated. The logical connections depicted comprise wired/wireless connectivity to a local area network (LAN) 452 and/or larger networks, e.g., a wide area network (WAN) 454. Such LAN and WAN networking environments are commonplace in offices and companies, and facilitate enterprise-wide computer networks, such as intranets, all of which can connect to a global communications network, e.g., the Internet.

[0064] When used in a LAN networking environment, the computer 402 can be connected to the LAN 452 through a wired and/or wireless communication network interface or adapter 456. The adapter 456 can facilitate wired or wireless communication to the LAN 452, which can also comprise a wireless AP disposed thereon for communicating with the adapter 456.

[0065] When used in a WAN networking environment, the computer 402 can comprise a modem 458 or can be connected to a communications server on the WAN 454 or has other means for establishing communications over the WAN 454, such as by way of the Internet. The modem 458, which can be internal or external and a wired or wireless device, can be connected to the system bus 408 via the input device interface 442. In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the computer 402 or portions thereof, can be stored in the remote memory/storage device 450. It will be appreciated that the network connections shown are example and other means of establishing a communications link between the computers can be used.

[0066] The computer 402 can be operable to communicate with any wireless devices or entities operatively disposed in wireless communication, e.g., a printer, scanner, desktop

and/or portable computer, portable data assistant, communications satellite, any piece of equipment or location associated with a wirelessly detectable tag (e.g., a kiosk, news stand, restroom), and telephone. This can comprise Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) and BLUETOOTH® wireless technologies. Thus, the communication can be a predefined structure as with a conventional network or simply an ad hoc communication between at least two devices.

[0067] Wi-Fi can allow connection to the Internet from a couch at home, a bed in a hotel room or a conference room at work, without wires. Wi-Fi is a wireless technology similar to that used in a cell phone that enables such devices, e.g., computers, to send and receive data indoors and out; anywhere within the range of a base station. Wi-Fi networks use radio technologies called IEEE 802.11 (a, b, g, n, ac, ag, etc.) to provide secure, reliable, fast wireless connectivity. A Wi-Fi network can be used to connect computers to each other, to the Internet, and to wired networks (which can use IEEE 802.3 or Ethernet). Wi-Fi networks operate in the unlicensed 2.4 and 5 GHz radio bands for example or with products that contain both bands (dual band), so the networks can provide real-world performance similar to the basic 10BaseT wired Ethernet networks used in many offices.

[0068] Turning now to FIG. 5, an embodiment 500 of a mobile network platform 510 is shown that is an example of network elements 150, 152, 154, 156, and/or VNEs 330, 332, 334, etc. For example, platform 510 can facilitate in whole or in part utilizing a sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices. In one or more embodiments, the mobile network platform 510 can generate and receive signals transmitted and received by base stations or access points such as base station or access point 122. Generally, mobile network platform 510 can comprise components, e.g., nodes, gateways, interfaces, servers, or disparate platforms, that facilitate both packet-switched (PS) (e.g., internet protocol (IP), frame relay, asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)) and circuit-switched (CS) traffic (e.g., voice and data), as well as control generation for networked wireless telecommunication. As a non-limiting example, mobile network platform 510 can be included in telecommunications carrier networks, and can be considered carrier-side components as discussed elsewhere herein. Mobile network platform 510 comprises CS gateway node(s) 512 which can interface CS traffic received from legacy networks like telephony network(s) 540 (e.g., public switched telephone network (PSTN), or public land mobile network (PLMN)) or a signaling system #7 (SS7) network 560. CS gateway node(s) 512 can authorize and authenticate traffic (e.g., voice) arising from such networks. Additionally, CS gateway node(s) 512 can access mobility, or roaming, data generated through SS7 network 560; for instance, mobility data stored in a visited location register (VLR), which can reside in memory 530. Moreover, CS gateway node(s) 512 interfaces CS-based traffic and signaling and PS gateway node(s) 518. As an example, in a 3GPP UMTS network, CS gateway node(s) 512 can be realized at least in part in gateway GPRS support node(s) (GGSN). It should be appreciated that functionality and specific operation of CS gateway node(s) 512, PS gateway node(s) 518, and serving node(s) 516, is provided and dictated by radio technology (ies) utilized by mobile network platform 510 for telecommunication over a radio access network 520 with other devices, such as a radiotelephone 575.

[0069] In addition to receiving and processing CS-switched traffic and signaling, PS gateway node(s) **518** can authorize and authenticate PS-based data sessions with served mobile devices. Data sessions can comprise traffic, or content(s), exchanged with networks external to the mobile network platform **510**, like wide area network(s) (WANs) **550**, enterprise network(s) **570**, and service network(s) **580**, which can be embodied in local area network(s) (LANs), can also be interfaced with mobile network platform **510** through PS gateway node(s) **518**. It is to be noted that WANs **550** and enterprise network(s) **570** can embody, at least in part, a service network(s) like IP multimedia subsystem (IMS). Based on radio technology layer(s) available in technology resource(s) or radio access network **520**, PS gateway node(s) **518** can generate packet data protocol contexts when a data session is established; other data structures that facilitate routing of packetized data also can be generated. To that end, in an aspect, PS gateway node(s) **518** can comprise a tunnel interface (e.g., tunnel termination gateway (TTG) in 3GPP UMTS network(s) (not shown)) which can facilitate packetized communication with disparate wireless network(s), such as Wi-Fi networks.

[0070] In embodiment **500**, mobile network platform **510** also comprises serving node(s) **516** that, based upon available radio technology layer(s) within technology resource(s) in the radio access network **520**, convey the various packetized flows of data streams received through PS gateway node(s) **518**. It is to be noted that for technology resource(s) that rely primarily on CS communication, server node(s) can deliver traffic without reliance on PS gateway node(s) **518**; for example, server node(s) can embody at least in part a mobile switching center. As an example, in a 3GPP UMTS network, serving node(s) **516** can be embodied in serving GPRS support node(s) (SGSN).

[0071] For radio technologies that exploit packetized communication, server(s) **514** in mobile network platform **510** can execute numerous applications that can generate multiple disparate packetized data streams or flows, and manage (e.g., schedule, queue, format . . .) such flows. Such application(s) can comprise add-on features to standard services (for example, provisioning, billing, customer support . . .) provided by mobile network platform **510**. Data streams (e.g., content(s) that are part of a voice call or data session) can be conveyed to PS gateway node(s) **518** for authorization/authentication and initiation of a data session, and to serving node(s) **516** for communication thereafter. In addition to application server, server(s) **514** can comprise utility server(s), a utility server can comprise a provisioning server, an operations and maintenance server, a security server that can implement at least in part a certificate authority and firewalls as well as other security mechanisms, and the like. In an aspect, security server(s) secure communication served through mobile network platform **510** to ensure network's operation and data integrity in addition to authorization and authentication procedures that CS gateway node(s) **512** and PS gateway node(s) **518** can enact. Moreover, provisioning server(s) can provision services from external network(s) like networks operated by a disparate service provider; for instance, WAN **550** or Global Positioning System (GPS) network(s) (not shown). Provisioning server(s) can also provision coverage through networks associated to mobile network platform **510** (e.g., deployed and operated by the same service provider), such

as the distributed antennas networks shown in FIG. 1(s) that enhance wireless service coverage by providing more network coverage.

[0072] It is to be noted that server(s) **514** can comprise one or more processors configured to confer at least in part the functionality of mobile network platform **510**. To that end, the one or more processor can execute code instructions stored in memory **530**, for example. It is should be appreciated that server(s) **514** can comprise a content manager, which operates in substantially the same manner as described hereinbefore.

[0073] In example embodiment **500**, memory **530** can store information related to operation of mobile network platform **510**. Other operational information can comprise provisioning information of mobile devices served through mobile network platform **510**, subscriber databases; application intelligence, pricing schemes, e.g., promotional rates, flat-rate programs, couponing campaigns; technical specification(s) consistent with telecommunication protocols for operation of disparate radio, or wireless, technology layers; and so forth. Memory **530** can also store information from at least one of telephony network(s) **540**, WAN **550**, SS7 network **560**, or enterprise network(s) **570**. In an aspect, memory **530** can be, for example, accessed as part of a data store component or as a remotely connected memory store.

[0074] In order to provide a context for the various aspects of the disclosed subject matter, FIG. 5, and the following discussion, are intended to provide a brief, general description of a suitable environment in which the various aspects of the disclosed subject matter can be implemented. While the subject matter has been described above in the general context of computer-executable instructions of a computer program that runs on a computer and/or computers, those skilled in the art will recognize that the disclosed subject matter also can be implemented in combination with other program modules. Generally, program modules comprise routines, programs, components, data structures, etc. that perform particular tasks and/or implement particular abstract data types.

[0075] Turning now to FIG. 6, an illustrative embodiment of a communication device **600** is shown. The communication device **600** can serve as an illustrative embodiment of devices such as data terminals **114**, mobile devices **124**, vehicle **126**, display devices **144** or other client devices for communication via either communications network **125**. For example, communication device **600** can facilitate in whole or in part utilizing a sidelink and RAN to transfer a wireless session between communication devices. Further, each of a service management and orchestration component **204**, non-real-time RIC **206**, near-real-time RIC **208**, O-CU-CP **210**, O-CU-UP **212**, O-DU **214**, O-Cloud **216**, O-RU **218**, UE **224**, service management and orchestration component **202a**, non-real-time RIC **202b**, near-real-time RIC **202c**, O-CU-CP **202g**, O-CU-UP **202h**, O-DU **202i**, O-RU **202j**, base station **202k**, server **202x**, communication device **202l**, communication device **202m**, server **202x-2**, communication device **202l-1**, and communication device **202m-1** can comprise communication device **600**.

[0076] The communication device **600** can comprise a wireline and/or wireless transceiver **602** (herein transceiver **602**), a user interface (UI) **604**, a power supply **614**, a location receiver **616**, a motion sensor **618**, an orientation sensor **620**, and a controller **606** for managing operations thereof. The transceiver **602** can support short-range or

long-range wireless access technologies such as Bluetooth®, ZigBee®, WiFi, DECT, or cellular communication technologies, just to mention a few (Bluetooth® and ZigBee® are trademarks registered by the Bluetooth® Special Interest Group and the ZigBee® Alliance, respectively). Cellular technologies can include, for example, CDMA-1X, UMTS/HSDPA, GSM/GPRS, TDMA/EDGE, EV/DO, WiMAX, SDR, LTE, as well as other next generation wireless communication technologies as they arise. The transceiver 602 can also be adapted to support circuit-switched wireline access technologies (such as PSTN), packet-switched wireline access technologies (such as TCP/IP, VOIP, etc.), and combinations thereof.

[0077] The UI 604 can include a depressible or touch-sensitive keypad 608 with a navigation mechanism such as a roller ball, a joystick, a mouse, or a navigation disk for manipulating operations of the communication device 600. The keypad 608 can be an integral part of a housing assembly of the communication device 600 or an independent device operably coupled thereto by a tethered wireline interface (such as a USB cable) or a wireless interface supporting for example Bluetooth®. The keypad 608 can represent a numeric keypad commonly used by phones, and/or a QWERTY keypad with alphanumeric keys. The UI 604 can further include a display 610 such as monochrome or color LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diode) or other suitable display technology for conveying images to an end user of the communication device 600. In an embodiment where the display 610 is touch-sensitive, a portion or all of the keypad 608 can be presented by way of the display 610 with navigation features.

[0078] The display 610 can use touch screen technology to also serve as a user interface for detecting user input. As a touch screen display, the communication device 600 can be adapted to present a user interface having graphical user interface (GUI) elements that can be selected by a user with a touch of a finger. The display 610 can be equipped with capacitive, resistive or other forms of sensing technology to detect how much surface area of a user's finger has been placed on a portion of the touch screen display. This sensing information can be used to control the manipulation of the GUI elements or other functions of the user interface. The display 610 can be an integral part of the housing assembly of the communication device 600 or an independent device communicatively coupled thereto by a tethered wireline interface (such as a cable) or a wireless interface.

[0079] The UI 604 can also include an audio system 612 that utilizes audio technology for conveying low volume audio (such as audio heard in proximity of a human ear) and high volume audio (such as speakerphone for hands free operation). The audio system 612 can further include a microphone for receiving audible signals of an end user. The audio system 612 can also be used for voice recognition applications. The UI 604 can further include an image sensor 613 such as a charged coupled device (CCD) camera for capturing still or moving images.

[0080] The power supply 614 can utilize common power management technologies such as replaceable and rechargeable batteries, supply regulation technologies, and/or charging system technologies for supplying energy to the components of the communication device 600 to facilitate long-range or short-range portable communications. Alternatively, or in combination, the charging system can

utilize external power sources such as DC power supplied over a physical interface such as a USB port or other suitable tethering technologies.

[0081] The location receiver 616 can utilize location technology such as a global positioning system (GPS) receiver capable of assisted GPS for identifying a location of the communication device 600 based on signals generated by a constellation of GPS satellites, which can be used for facilitating location services such as navigation. The motion sensor 618 can utilize motion sensing technology such as an accelerometer, a gyroscope, or other suitable motion sensing technology to detect motion of the communication device 600 in three-dimensional space. The orientation sensor 620 can utilize orientation sensing technology such as a magnetometer to detect the orientation of the communication device 600 (north, south, west, and east, as well as combined orientations in degrees, minutes, or other suitable orientation metrics).

[0082] The communication device 600 can use the transceiver 602 to also determine a proximity to a cellular, WiFi, Bluetooth®, or other wireless access points by sensing techniques such as utilizing a received signal strength indicator (RSSI) and/or signal time of arrival (TOA) or time of flight (TOF) measurements. The controller 606 can utilize computing technologies such as a microprocessor, a digital signal processor (DSP), programmable gate arrays, application specific integrated circuits, and/or a video processor with associated storage memory such as Flash, ROM, RAM, SRAM, DRAM or other storage technologies for executing computer instructions, controlling, and processing data supplied by the aforementioned components of the communication device 600.

[0083] Other components not shown in FIG. 6 can be used in one or more embodiments of the subject disclosure. For instance, the communication device 600 can include a slot for adding or removing an identity module such as a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card or Universal Integrated Circuit Card (UICC). SIM or UICC cards can be used for identifying subscriber services, executing programs, storing subscriber data, and so on.

[0084] The terms “first,” “second,” “third,” and so forth, as used in the claims, unless otherwise clear by context, is for clarity only and doesn't otherwise indicate or imply any order in time. For instance, “a first determination,” “a second determination,” and “a third determination,” does not indicate or imply that the first determination is to be made before the second determination, or vice versa, etc.

[0085] In the subject specification, terms such as “store,” “storage,” “data store,” data storage,” “database,” and substantially any other information storage component relevant to operation and functionality of a component, refer to “memory components,” or entities embodied in a “memory” or components comprising the memory. It will be appreciated that the memory components described herein can be either volatile memory or nonvolatile memory, or can comprise both volatile and nonvolatile memory, by way of illustration, and not limitation, volatile memory, non-volatile memory, disk storage, and memory storage. Further, non-volatile memory can be included in read only memory (ROM), programmable ROM (PROM), electrically programmable ROM (EPROM), electrically erasable ROM (EEPROM), or flash memory. Volatile memory can comprise random access memory (RAM), which acts as external cache memory. By way of illustration and not limitation,

RAM is available in many forms such as synchronous RAM (SRAM), dynamic RAM (DRAM), synchronous DRAM (SDRAM), double data rate SDRAM (DDR SDRAM), enhanced SDRAM (ESDRAM), Synchlink DRAM (SL-DRAM), and direct Rambus RAM (DRRAM). Additionally, the disclosed memory components of systems or methods herein are intended to comprise, without being limited to comprising, these and any other suitable types of memory.

[0086] Moreover, it will be noted that the disclosed subject matter can be practiced with other computer system configurations, comprising single-processor or multiprocessor computer systems, mini-computing devices, mainframe computers, as well as personal computers, hand-held computing devices (e.g., PDA, phone, smartphone, watch, tablet computers, netbook computers, etc.), microprocessor-based or programmable consumer or industrial electronics, and the like. The illustrated aspects can also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network; however, some if not all aspects of the subject disclosure can be practiced on stand-alone computers. In a distributed computing environment, program modules can be located in both local and remote memory storage devices.

[0087] In one or more embodiments, information regarding use of services can be generated including services being accessed, media consumption history, user preferences, and so forth. This information can be obtained by various methods including user input, detecting types of communications (e.g., video content vs. audio content), analysis of content streams, sampling, and so forth. The generating, obtaining and/or monitoring of this information can be responsive to an authorization provided by the user. In one or more embodiments, an analysis of data can be subject to authorization from user(s) associated with the data, such as an opt-in, an opt-out, acknowledgement requirements, notifications, selective authorization based on types of data, and so forth.

[0088] Some of the embodiments described herein can also employ artificial intelligence (AI) to facilitate automating one or more features described herein. The embodiments (e.g., in connection with automatically identifying acquired cell sites that provide a maximum value/benefit after addition to an existing communication network) can employ various AI-based schemes for carrying out various embodiments thereof. Moreover, the classifier can be employed to determine a ranking or priority of each cell site of the acquired network. A classifier is a function that maps an input attribute vector, $x=(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_n)$, to a confidence that the input belongs to a class, that is, $f(x)=\text{confidence}(\text{class})$. Such classification can employ a probabilistic and/or statistical-based analysis (e.g., factoring into the analysis utilities and costs) to determine or infer an action that a user desires to be automatically performed. A support vector machine (SVM) is an example of a classifier that can be employed. The SVM operates by finding a hypersurface in the space of possible inputs, which the hypersurface attempts to split the triggering criteria from the non-triggering events. Intuitively, this makes the classification correct for testing data that is near, but not identical to training data. Other directed and undirected model classification approaches comprise, e.g., naïve Bayes, Bayesian networks, decision trees, neural networks, fuzzy logic models, and probabilistic classification models providing differ-

ent patterns of independence can be employed. Classification as used herein also is inclusive of statistical regression that is utilized to develop models of priority.

[0089] As will be readily appreciated, one or more of the embodiments can employ classifiers that are explicitly trained (e.g., via a generic training data) as well as implicitly trained (e.g., via observing UE behavior, operator preferences, historical information, receiving extrinsic information). For example, SVMs can be configured via a learning or training phase within a classifier constructor and feature selection module. Thus, the classifier(s) can be used to automatically learn and perform a number of functions, including but not limited to determining according to predetermined criteria which of the acquired cell sites will benefit a maximum number of subscribers and/or which of the acquired cell sites will add minimum value to the existing communication network coverage, etc.

[0090] As used in some contexts in this application, in some embodiments, the terms “component,” “system” and the like are intended to refer to, or comprise, a computer-related entity or an entity related to an operational apparatus with one or more specific functionalities, wherein the entity can be either hardware, a combination of hardware and software, software, or software in execution. As an example, a component may be, but is not limited to being, a process running on a processor, a processor, an object, an executable, a thread of execution, computer-executable instructions, a program, and/or a computer. By way of illustration and not limitation, both an application running on a server and the server can be a component. One or more components may reside within a process and/or thread of execution and a component may be localized on one computer and/or distributed between two or more computers. In addition, these components can execute from various computer readable media having various data structures stored thereon. The components may communicate via local and/or remote processes such as in accordance with a signal having one or more data packets (e.g., data from one component interacting with another component in a local system, distributed system, and/or across a network such as the Internet with other systems via the signal). As another example, a component can be an apparatus with specific functionality provided by mechanical parts operated by electric or electronic circuitry, which is operated by a software or firmware application executed by a processor, wherein the processor can be internal or external to the apparatus and executes at least a part of the software or firmware application. As yet another example, a component can be an apparatus that provides specific functionality through electronic components without mechanical parts, the electronic components can comprise a processor therein to execute software or firmware that confers at least in part the functionality of the electronic components. While various components have been illustrated as separate components, it will be appreciated that multiple components can be implemented as a single component, or a single component can be implemented as multiple components, without departing from example embodiments.

[0091] Further, the various embodiments can be implemented as a method, apparatus or article of manufacture using standard programming and/or engineering techniques to produce software, firmware, hardware or any combination thereof to control a computer to implement the disclosed subject matter. The term “article of manufacture” as used

herein is intended to encompass a computer program accessible from any computer-readable device or computer-readable storage/communications media. For example, computer readable storage media can include, but are not limited to, magnetic storage devices (e.g., hard disk, floppy disk, magnetic strips), optical disks (e.g., compact disk (CD), digital versatile disk (DVD)), smart cards, and flash memory devices (e.g., card, stick, key drive). Of course, those skilled in the art will recognize many modifications can be made to this configuration without departing from the scope or spirit of the various embodiments.

[0092] In addition, the words “example” and “exemplary” are used herein to mean serving as an instance or illustration. Any embodiment or design described herein as “example” or “exemplary” is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other embodiments or designs. Rather, use of the word example or exemplary is intended to present concepts in a concrete fashion. As used in this application, the term “or” is intended to mean an inclusive “or” rather than an exclusive “or”. That is, unless specified otherwise or clear from context, “X employs A or B” is intended to mean any of the natural inclusive permutations. That is, if X employs A; X employs B; or X employs both A and B, then “X employs A or B” is satisfied under any of the foregoing instances. In addition, the articles “a” and “an” as used in this application and the appended claims should generally be construed to mean “one or more” unless specified otherwise or clear from context to be directed to a singular form.

[0093] Moreover, terms such as “user equipment,” “mobile station,” “mobile,” “subscriber station,” “access terminal,” “terminal,” “handset,” “mobile device” (and/or terms representing similar terminology) can refer to a wireless device utilized by a subscriber or user of a wireless communication service to receive or convey data, control, voice, video, sound, gaming or substantially any data-stream or signaling-stream. The foregoing terms are utilized interchangeably herein and with reference to the related drawings.

[0094] Furthermore, the terms “user,” “subscriber,” “customer,” “consumer” and the like are employed interchangeably throughout, unless context warrants particular distinctions among the terms. It should be appreciated that such terms can refer to human entities or automated components supported through artificial intelligence (e.g., a capacity to make inference based, at least, on complex mathematical formalisms), which can provide simulated vision, sound recognition and so forth.

[0095] As employed herein, the term “processor” can refer to substantially any computing processing unit or device comprising, but not limited to comprising, single-core processors; single-processors with software multithread execution capability; multi-core processors; multi-core processors with software multithread execution capability; multi-core processors with hardware multithread technology; parallel platforms; and parallel platforms with distributed shared memory. Additionally, a processor can refer to an integrated circuit, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a digital signal processor (DSP), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), a programmable logic controller (PLC), a complex programmable logic device (CPLD), a discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. Processors can exploit nano-scale archi-

tectures such as, but not limited to, molecular and quantum-dot based transistors, switches and gates, in order to optimize space usage or enhance performance of user equipment. A processor can also be implemented as a combination of computing processing units.

[0096] As used herein, terms such as “data storage,” “data storage,” “database,” and substantially any other information storage component relevant to operation and functionality of a component, refer to “memory components,” or entities embodied in a “memory” or components comprising the memory. It will be appreciated that the memory components or computer-readable storage media, described herein can be either volatile memory or nonvolatile memory or can include both volatile and nonvolatile memory.

[0097] What has been described above includes mere examples of various embodiments. It is, of course, not possible to describe every conceivable combination of components or methodologies for purposes of describing these examples, but one of ordinary skill in the art can recognize that many further combinations and permutations of the present embodiments are possible. Accordingly, the embodiments disclosed and/or claimed herein are intended to embrace all such alterations, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. Furthermore, to the extent that the term “includes” is used in either the detailed description or the claims, such term is intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising” as “comprising” is interpreted when employed as a transitional word in a claim.

[0098] In addition, a flow diagram may include a “start” and/or “continue” indication. The “start” and “continue” indications reflect that the steps presented can optionally be incorporated in or otherwise used in conjunction with other routines. In this context, “start” indicates the beginning of the first step presented and may be preceded by other activities not specifically shown. Further, the “continue” indication reflects that the steps presented may be performed multiple times and/or may be succeeded by other activities not specifically shown. Further, while a flow diagram indicates a particular ordering of steps, other orderings are likewise possible provided that the principles of causality are maintained.

[0099] As may also be used herein, the term(s) “operably coupled to”, “coupled to”, and/or “coupling” includes direct coupling between items and/or indirect coupling between items via one or more intervening items. Such items and intervening items include, but are not limited to, junctions, communication paths, components, circuit elements, circuits, functional blocks, and/or devices. As an example of indirect coupling, a signal conveyed from a first item to a second item may be modified by one or more intervening items by modifying the form, nature or format of information in a signal, while one or more elements of the information in the signal are nevertheless conveyed in a manner than can be recognized by the second item. In a further example of indirect coupling, an action in a first item can cause a reaction on the second item, as a result of actions and/or reactions in one or more intervening items.

[0100] Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it should be appreciated that any arrangement which achieves the same or similar purpose may be substituted for the embodiments described or shown by the subject disclosure. The subject disclosure is intended to cover any and all adaptations or variations of various

embodiments. Combinations of the above embodiments, and other embodiments not specifically described herein, can be used in the subject disclosure. For instance, one or more features from one or more embodiments can be combined with one or more features of one or more other embodiments. In one or more embodiments, features that are positively recited can also be negatively recited and excluded from the embodiment with or without replacement by another structural and/or functional feature. The steps or functions described with respect to the embodiments of the subject disclosure can be performed in any order. The steps or functions described with respect to the embodiments of the subject disclosure can be performed alone or in combination with other steps or functions of the subject disclosure, as well as from other embodiments or from other steps that have not been described in the subject disclosure. Further, more than or less than all of the features described with respect to an embodiment can also be utilized.

What is claimed is:

1. A first communication device, comprising:
 - a processing system including a processor; and
 - a memory that stores executable instructions that, when executed by the processing system, facilitate performance of operations, the operations comprising:
 - participating in a communication session, over a communication network, on the first communication device;
 - receiving user-generated input, wherein the user-generated input initiates transferring the communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device;
 - generating a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device;
 - transmitting data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link; and
 - providing first instructions to a first network node to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device, wherein the first network node facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device in response to receiving the first instructions from the first communication device.
2. The first communication device of claim 1, wherein the peer-to-peer communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol.
3. The first communication device of claim 1, wherein the first network node comprises a non-real-time radio access network (RAN) intelligent controller.
4. The first communication device of claim 1, wherein a transfer application facilitates transmitting the data associated with the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.
5. The first communication device of claim 4, wherein the transfer application communicates with a B_rApp application residing on the first network node, wherein the transfer application provides the first instructions to transfer the communication session to the B_rApp application.
6. The first communication device of claim 5, wherein the B_rApp application provides second instructions to an A_xApp application to facilitate transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

7. The first communication device of claim 6, wherein the A_xApp application resides on a second network node.

8. The first communication device of claim 7, wherein the second network node comprises a near real-time RAN intelligent controller.

9. The first communication device of claim 6, wherein the A_xApp facilitates transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

10. The first communication device of claim 1, wherein the communication session includes accessing media content from a server, wherein the media content is selected from a group of media content, navigation content, video game content, virtual reality content, cross reality content, augmented reality content, audio content, or combination thereof.

11. A non-transitory, machine-readable medium, comprising executable instructions that, when executed by a processing system including a processor, facilitate performance of operations, the operations comprising:

- receiving, over a communication network, first instructions from a first communication device, wherein the first instructions indicate to transfer a communication session from the first communication device to a second communication device, wherein the processing system comprises a first network node and a second network node, wherein the first network node receives the first instructions, wherein the first communication device generates a peer-to-peer communication link between the first communication device and the second communication device, wherein the first communication device transmits data associated with the communication session to the second communication device over the peer-to-peer communication link;

- transmitting second instructions from the first network node to the second network node, wherein the second instructions indicate to transfer the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device; and

- facilitating the transfer of the communication session by the second network node from the first communication device to the second communication device.

12. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the peer-to-peer communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol.

13. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first network node comprises a non-real-time radio access network (RAN) intelligent controller.

14. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein a transfer application facilitates transmitting the data associated with the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

15. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the transfer application communicates with a B_rApp application residing on the first network node, wherein the transfer application provides the first instructions to transfer the communication session to the B_rApp application.

16. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the B_rApp application provides the second instructions to an A_xApp application to transfer the

communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

17. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the A_xApp application resides on the second network node.

18. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim **17**, wherein the second network node comprises a near real-time RAN intelligent controller.

19. The non-transitory, machine-readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the A_xApp facilitates the transfer of the communication session from the first communication device to the second communication device.

20. A method, comprising:

establishing, by a first communication device, a peer-to-peer communication link between a second communication device and the first communication device, wherein the second communication device generates the peer-to-peer communication link, wherein the communication link comprises a 5G sidelink implementing a 5G sidelink protocol;

receiving, by the first communication device, first data associated with a communication session established by the second communication device; and

receiving, by the first communication device, second data from a server associated with the communication session and facilitated by a non-real-time radio access network (RAN) intelligent controller (RIC) utilizing a B_rApp application and a near real-time (RIC) utilizing an A_xApp application.

* * * * *