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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMISSIONING A SECURITY SYSTEM**

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(22) Filed: **Sep. 9, 2024**

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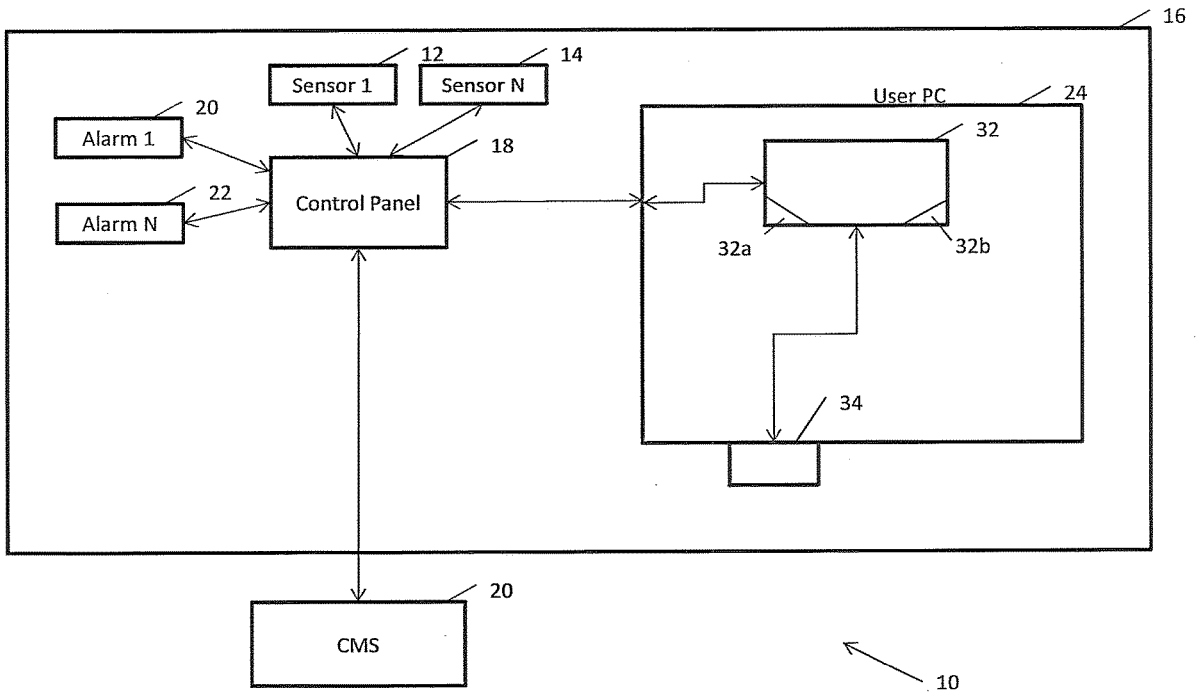
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***G08B 29/185*** (2013.01); ***G06F 3/0482*** (2013.01); ***G06F 30/20*** (2020.01); ***G08B 21/0297*** (2013.01); ***G08B 29/22*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems and methods are provided that can include receiving a plurality of cause and effect rules for a security system that protects a secured area, simulating a plurality of cause and effect rules responsive to user input identifying an emergency event in one of a plurality of zones of the secured area, and during simulation, displaying on a graphical user interface a first indicator that identifies a first output of a first of the plurality of cause and effect rules within a first of the plurality of zones.



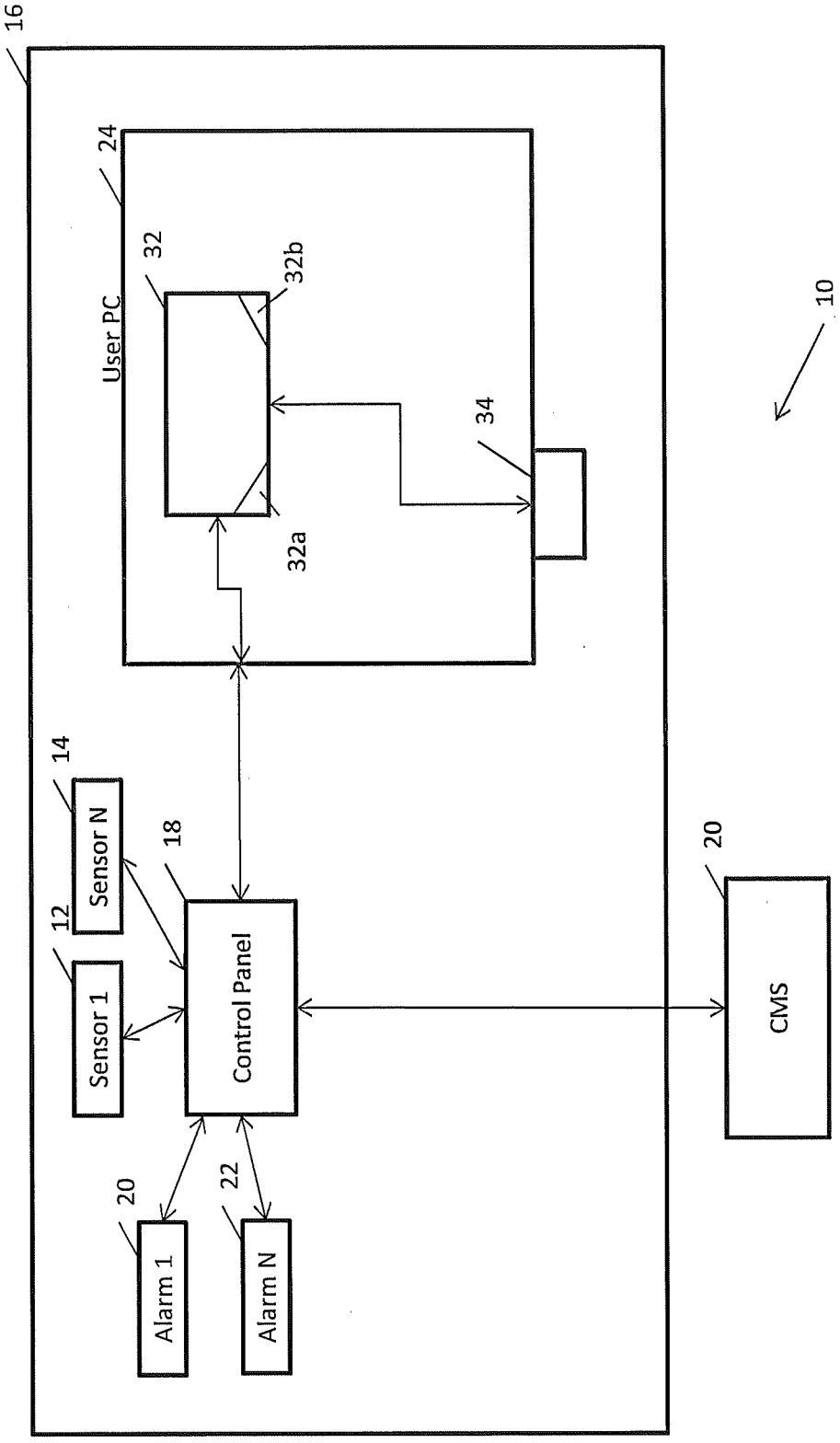

16
24
User PC
32
32b
34
32a
10
14
Sensor N
18
12
Sensor 1
Control Panel
20
CMS
20
Alarm 1
22
Alarm N

FIG. 1

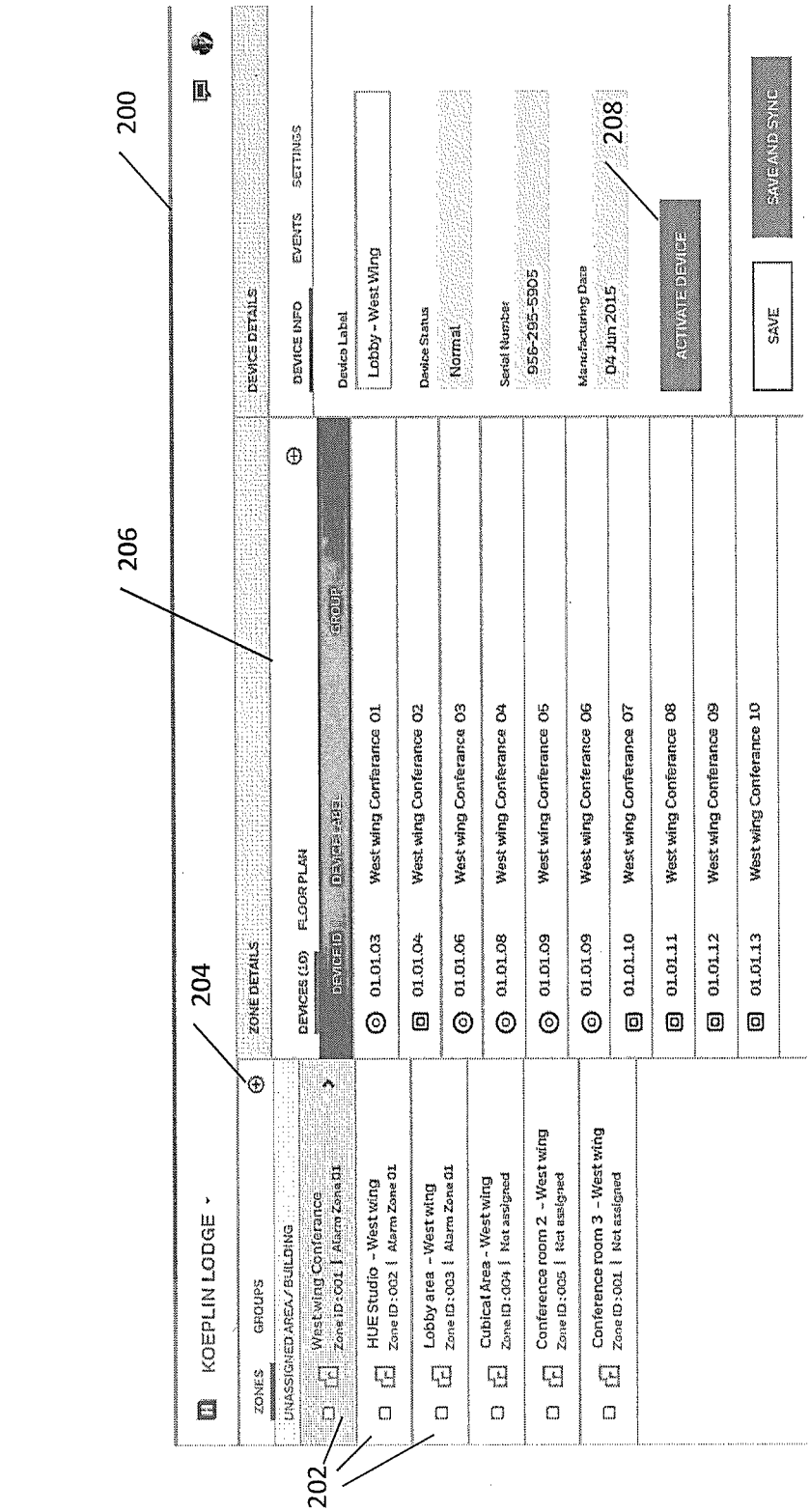

200
206
204
202
KOEPLIN LODGE
ZONES
GROUPS
UNASSIGNED AREA / BUILDING
West Wing Conference
Zone ID:001 | Alarm Zone 01
HUE Studio - West wing
Zone ID:002 | Alarm Zone 01
Lobby area - West wing
Zone ID:003 | Alarm Zone 01
Cubical Area - West wing
Zone ID:004 | Not assigned
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID:005 | Not assigned
Conference room 3 - West wing
Zone ID:001 | Not assigned
ZONE DETAILS
DEVICES (10)
FLOOR PLAN
DEVICE ID
DEVICE #456
GROUP
01.01.03 West wing Conference 01
01.01.04 West wing Conference 02
01.01.06 West wing Conference 03
01.01.08 West wing Conference 04
01.01.09 West wing Conference 05
01.01.09 West wing Conference 06
01.01.10 West wing Conference 07
01.01.11 West wing Conference 08
01.01.12 West wing Conference 09
01.01.13 West wing Conference 10
DEVICE DETAILS
DEVICE INFO
EVENTS
SETTINGS
Device Label
Lobby - West Wing
Device Status
Normal
Serial Number
956-295-5905
Manufacturing Data
04 Jun 2015
208
ACTIVATE DEVICE
SAVE
SAVE AND SYNC

FIG. 2

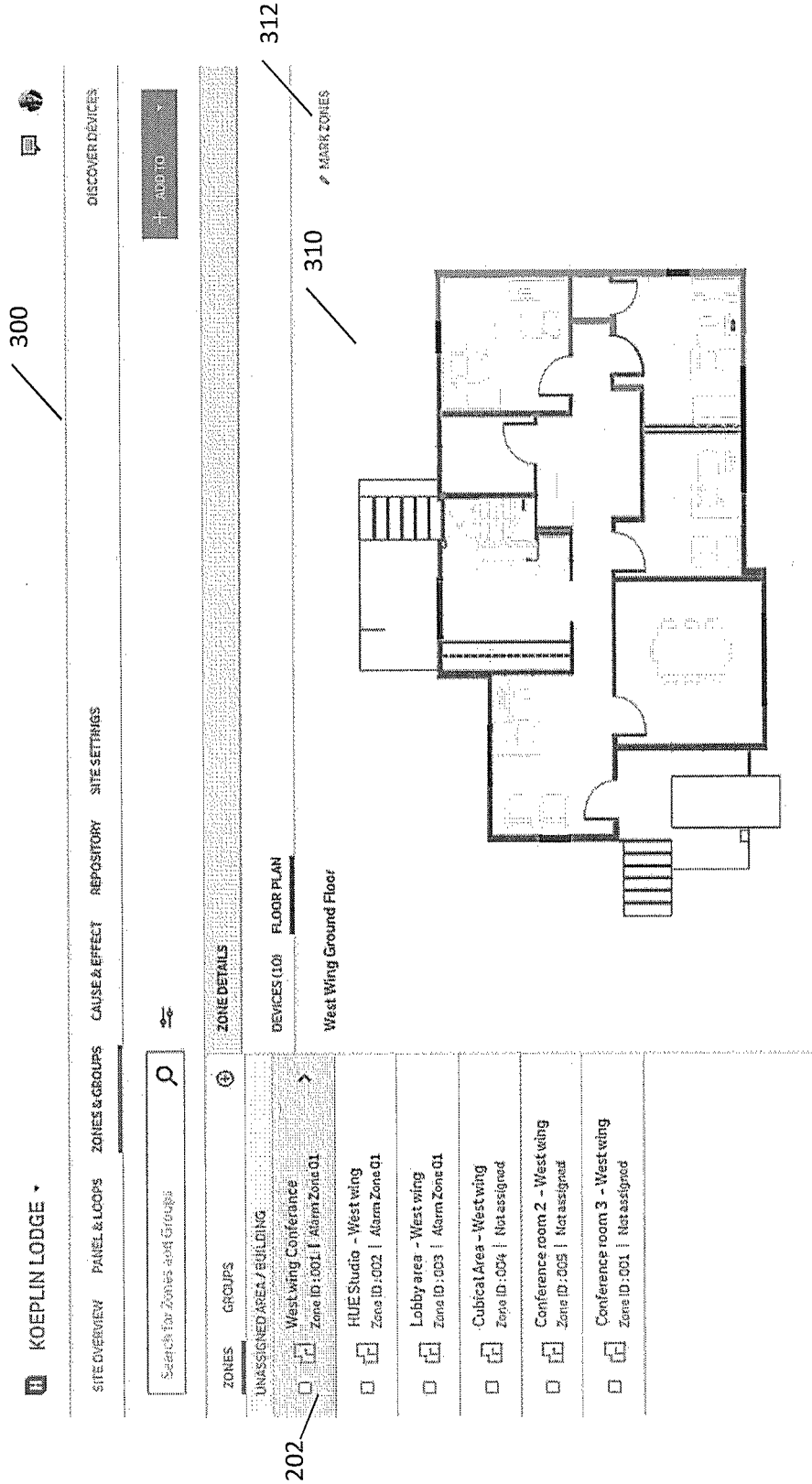

300
312
310
202
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
ADD TO
ZONES
GROUPS
ZONE DETAILS
UNASSIGNED AREA / BUILDING
West wing Conference
Zone ID : 001 | Alarm Zone 01
HUE Studio - West wing
Zone ID : 002 | Alarm Zone 01
Lobby area - West wing
Zone ID : 003 | Alarm Zone 01
Cubical Area - West wing
Zone ID : 004 | Not assigned
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID : 005 | Not assigned
Conference room 3 - West wing
Zone ID : 001 | Not assigned
DEVICES (10)
FLOOR PLAN
MARK ZONES
West Wing Ground Floor

FIG. 3

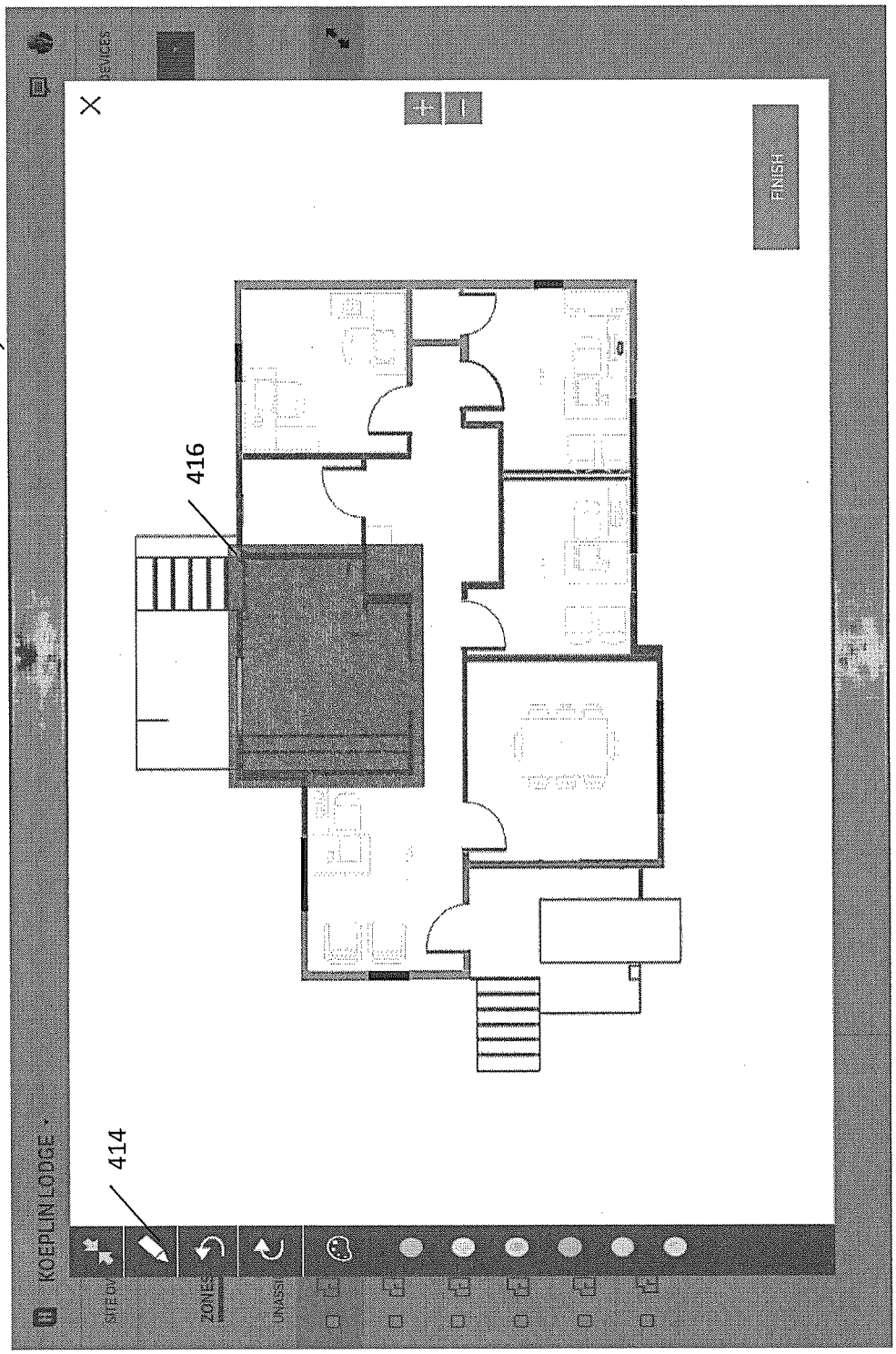


FIG. 4

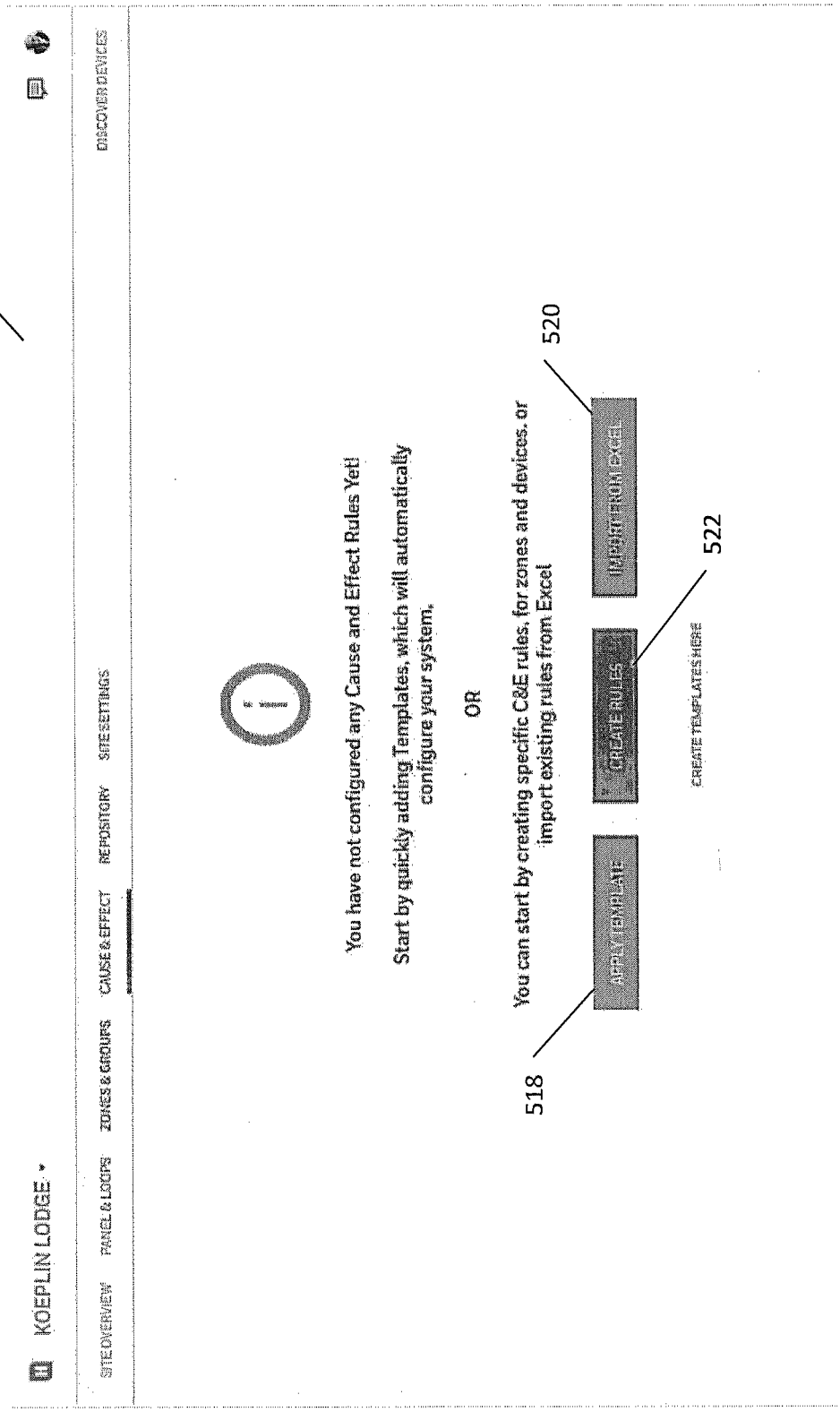

500
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
You have not configured any Cause and Effect Rules Yet!
Start by quickly adding Templates, which will automatically configure your system.
OR
You can start by creating specific C&E rules, for zones and devices, or import existing rules from Excel
518
APPLY TEMPLATE
CREATE RULES
IMPORT FROM EXCEL
520
522
CREATE TEMPLATES HERE

FIG. 5

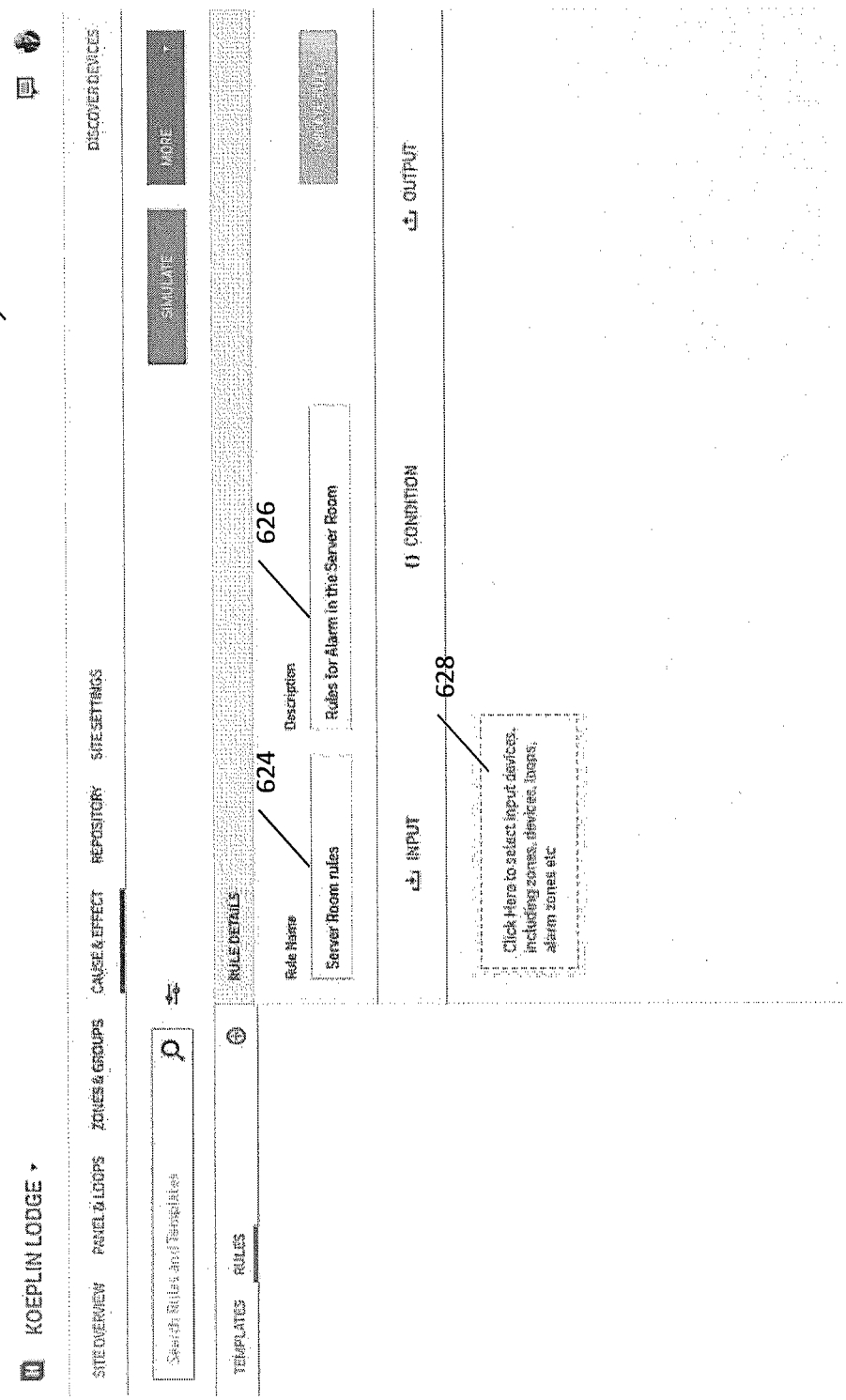

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
624
626
628
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
Click Here to select input devices, including zones, devices, loops, alarm zones etc

FIG. 6

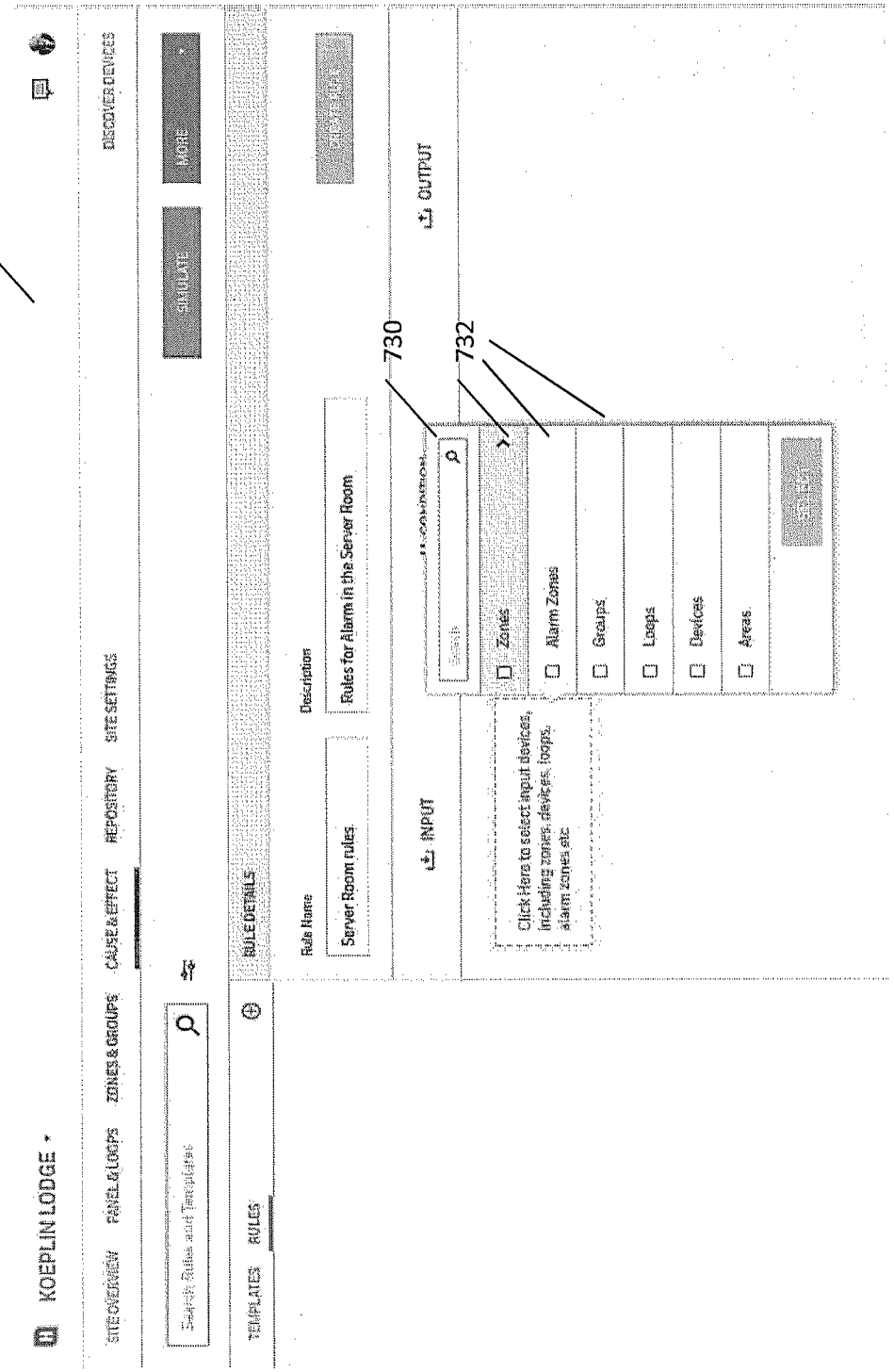

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
INPUT
OUTPUT
730
732
Click Here to select input devices, including zones, devices, loops, alarm zones etc
Zones
Alarm Zones
Groups
Loops
Devices
Areas

FIG. 7

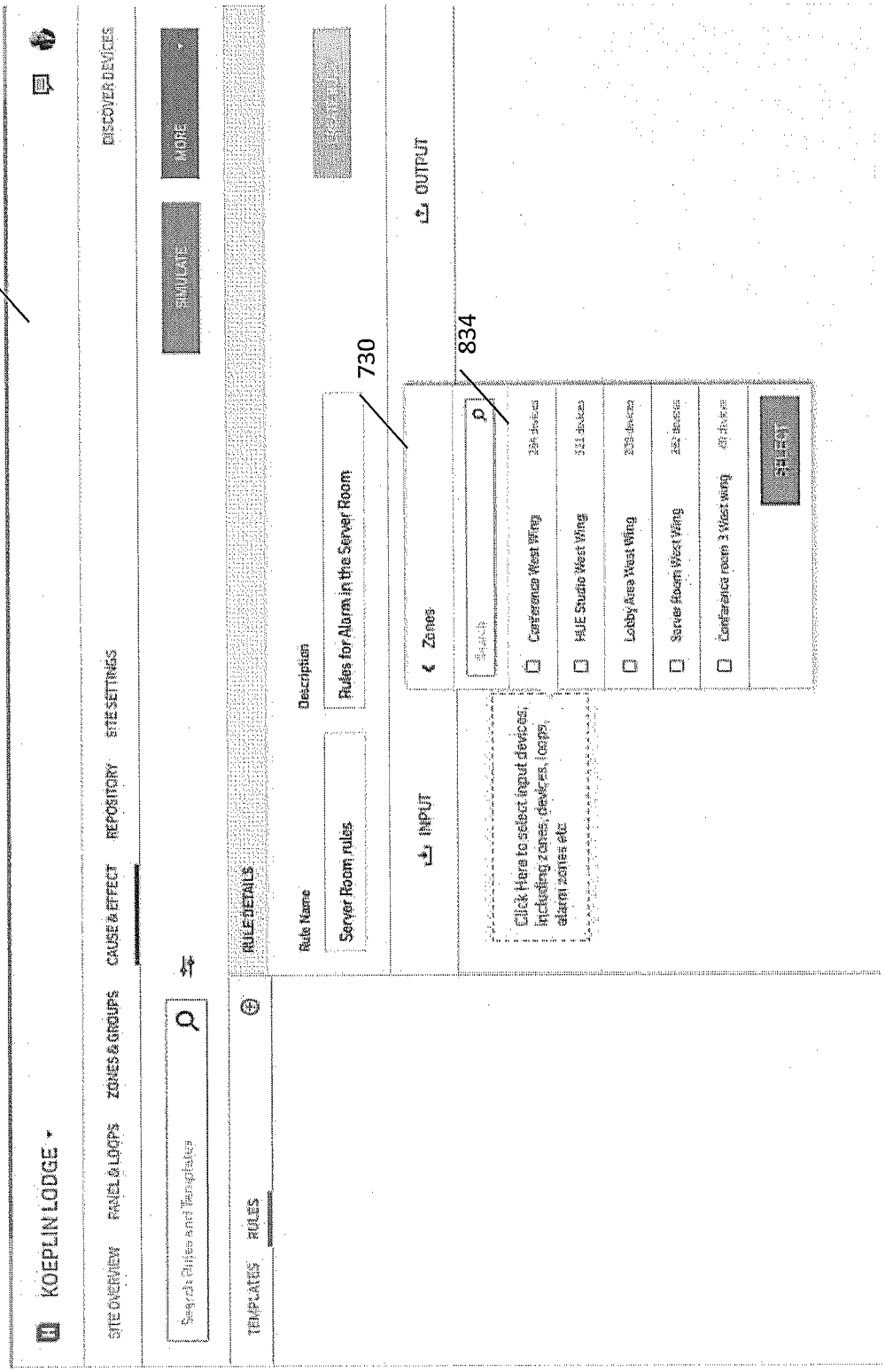

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
730
INPUT
OUTPUT
834
Zones
Click Here to select input devices, including zones, devices, loops, alarm zones etc
Conference West Wing
HUE Studio West Wing
Lobby Area West Wing
Server Room West Wing
Conference room 3 West wing
SELECT

FIG. 8

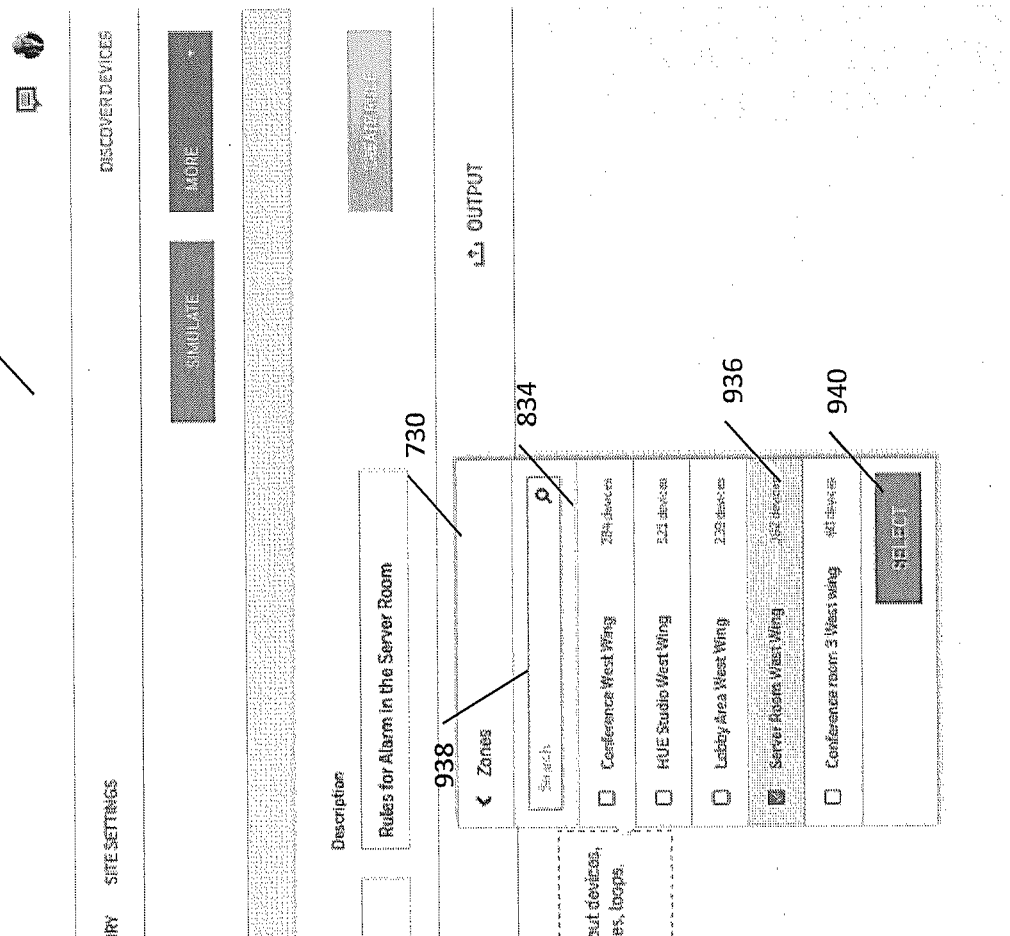

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
Search Rules and Templates
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
730
INPUT
OUTPUT
834
938
Zones
Search
Click Here to select input devices, including zones, devices, loops, alarm zones etc
Conference West Wing
284 devices
HUE Studio West Wing
321 devices
Lobby Area West Wing
239 devices
936
Server Room West Wing
Conference room 3 West wing
940
SELECT

FIG. 9

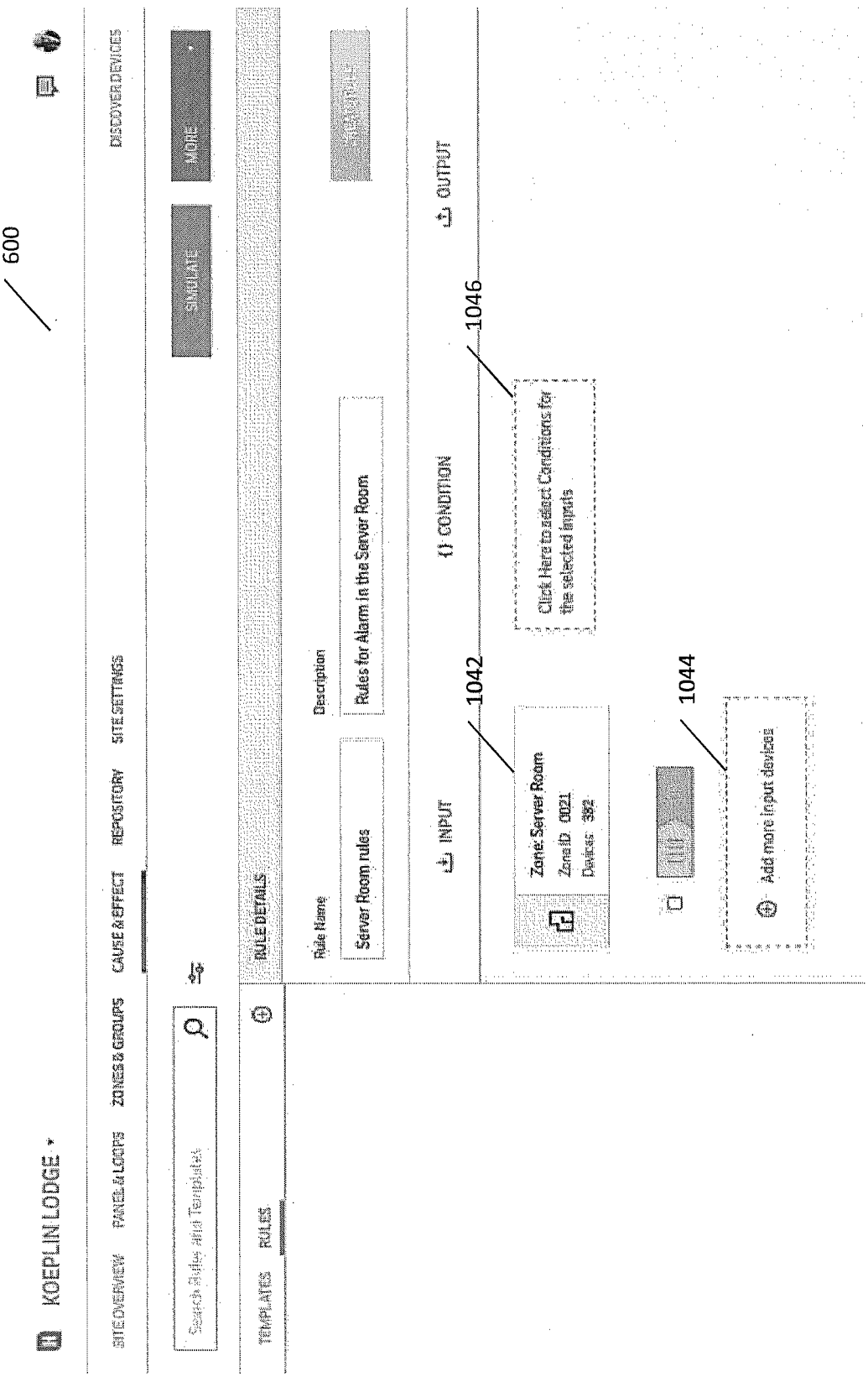

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANELS/LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
1042
1046
1044
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID 0021
Devices 382
Click Here to select Conditions for the selected inputs
Add more input devices

FIG. 10

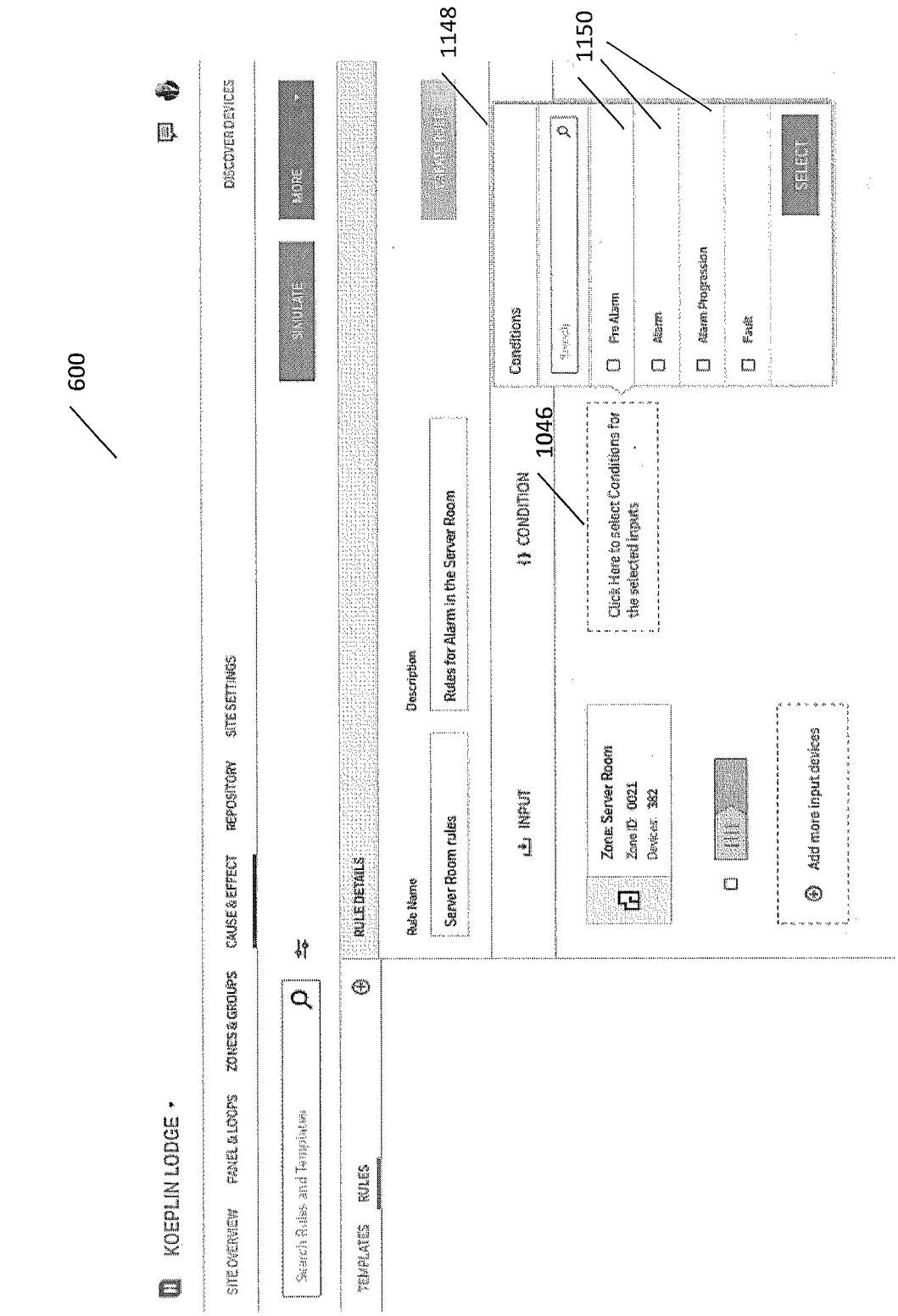

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
1148
INPUT
CONDITION
1046
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 0021
Devices: 382
Add more input devices
Click Here to select Conditions for the selected inputs
Conditions
1150
Pre Alarm
Alarm
Alarm Progression
Fault
SELECT

FIG. 11

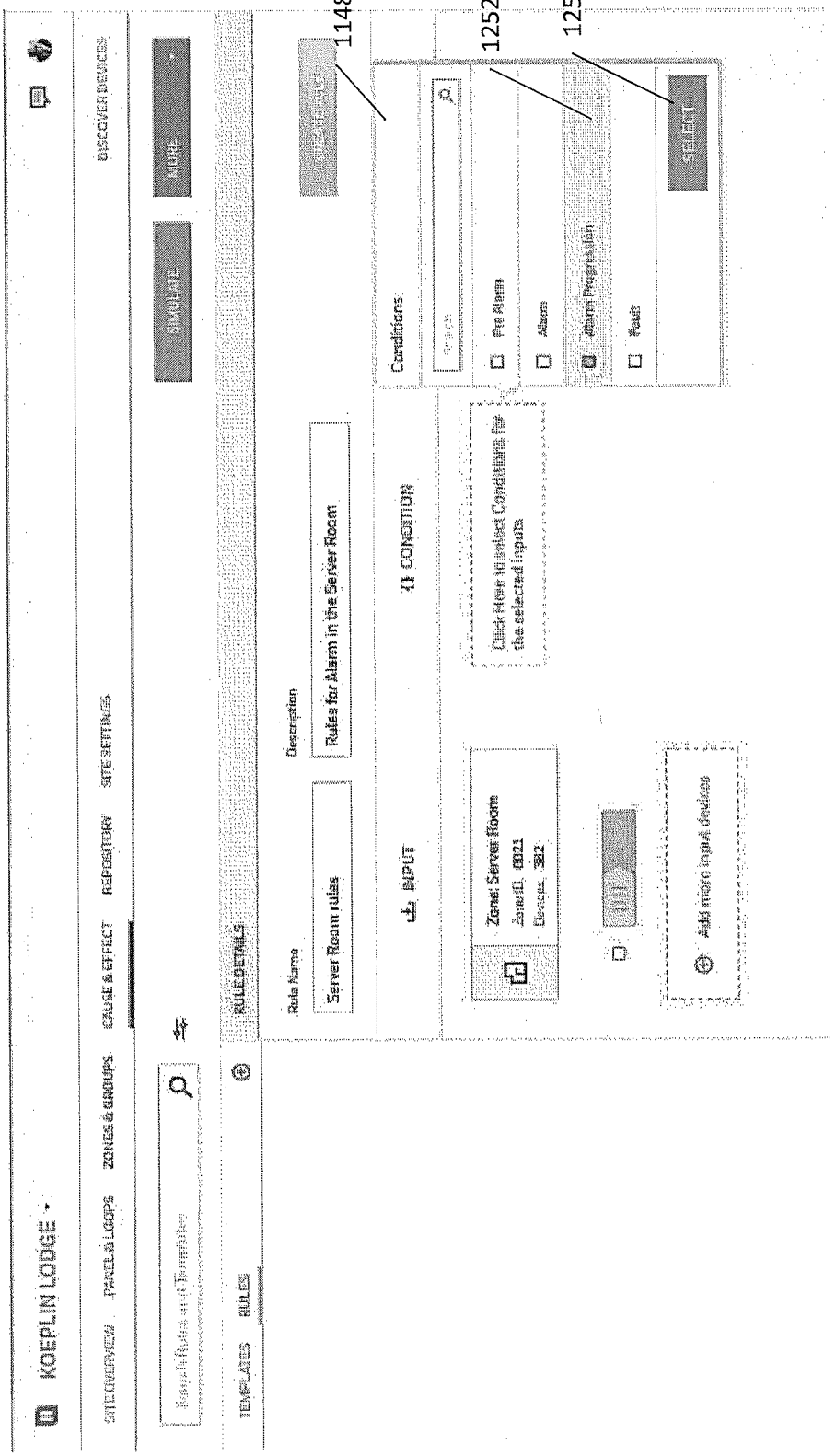

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANELS & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPORTORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
HOME
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
1148
1 CONDITION
INPUT
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 6921
Devices: 382
Click Here to select Conditions for the selected inputs
Conditions
Pre Alarm
Alarm
Alarm Progression
Fault
1252
1254
SELECT
Add more input devices

FIG. 12

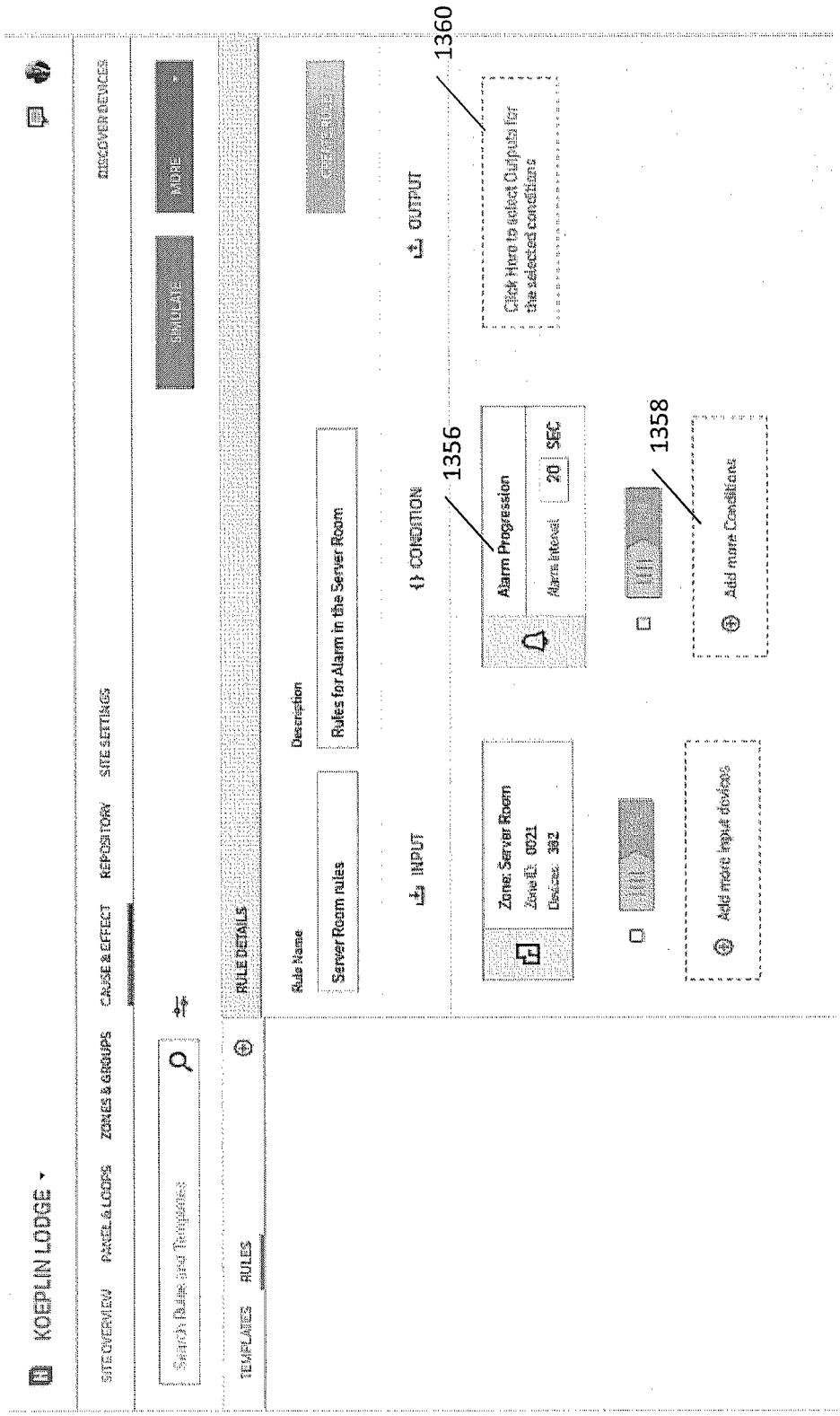

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPORTS
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
Search Rules and Templates
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
SIMULATE
MORE
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
1356
1358
1360
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 6021
Devices: 382
Alarm Progression
Alarm Interval: 20 SEC
Click Here to select Outputs for the selected conditions
Add more input devices
Add more Conditions

FIG. 13

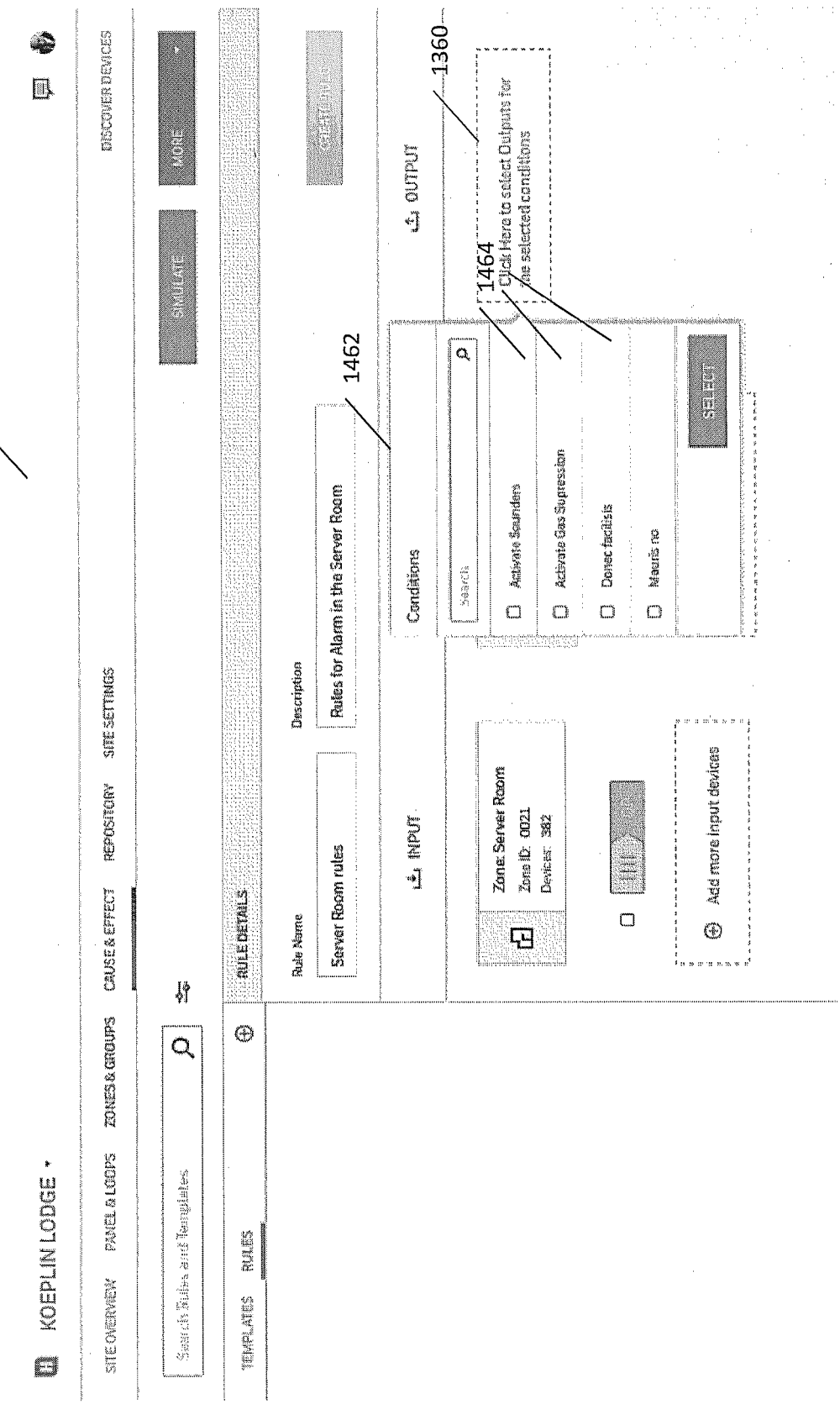

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
1462
INPUT
Conditions
OUTPUT
1360
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 0021
Devices: 382
Add more input devices
Search
Activate Sounders
Activate Gas Supression
Donec facilisis
Mauris ne
1464
Click Here to select Outputs for the selected conditions
SELECT

FIG. 14

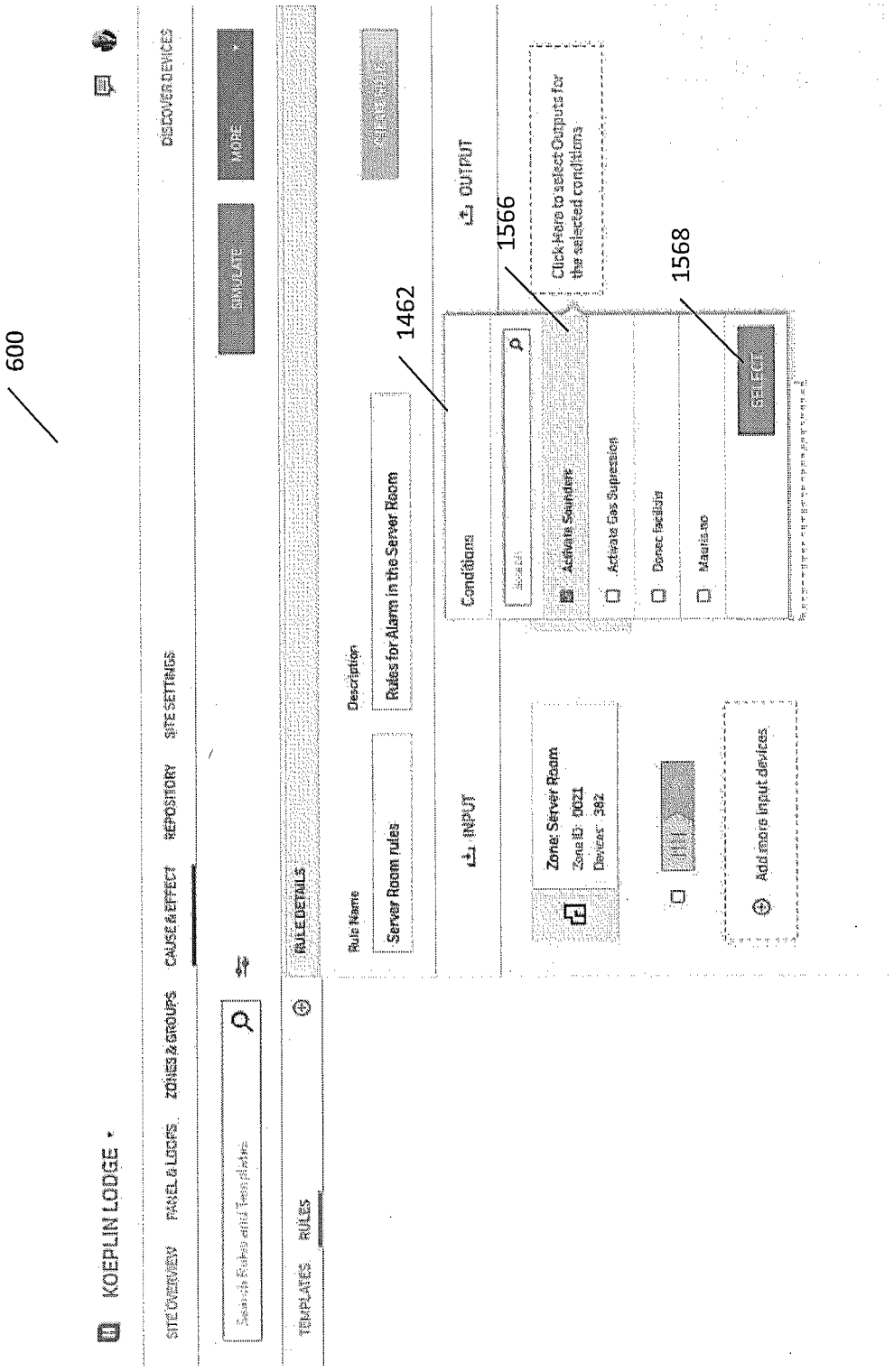

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
1462
INPUT
OUTPUT
Conditions
1566
Click Here to select Outputs for the selected conditions
Zone: Server Room
Activate Sounders
Activate Gas Suppression
Donec facilisis
Mauris ac
1568
SELECT
Add more input devices

FIG. 15

600

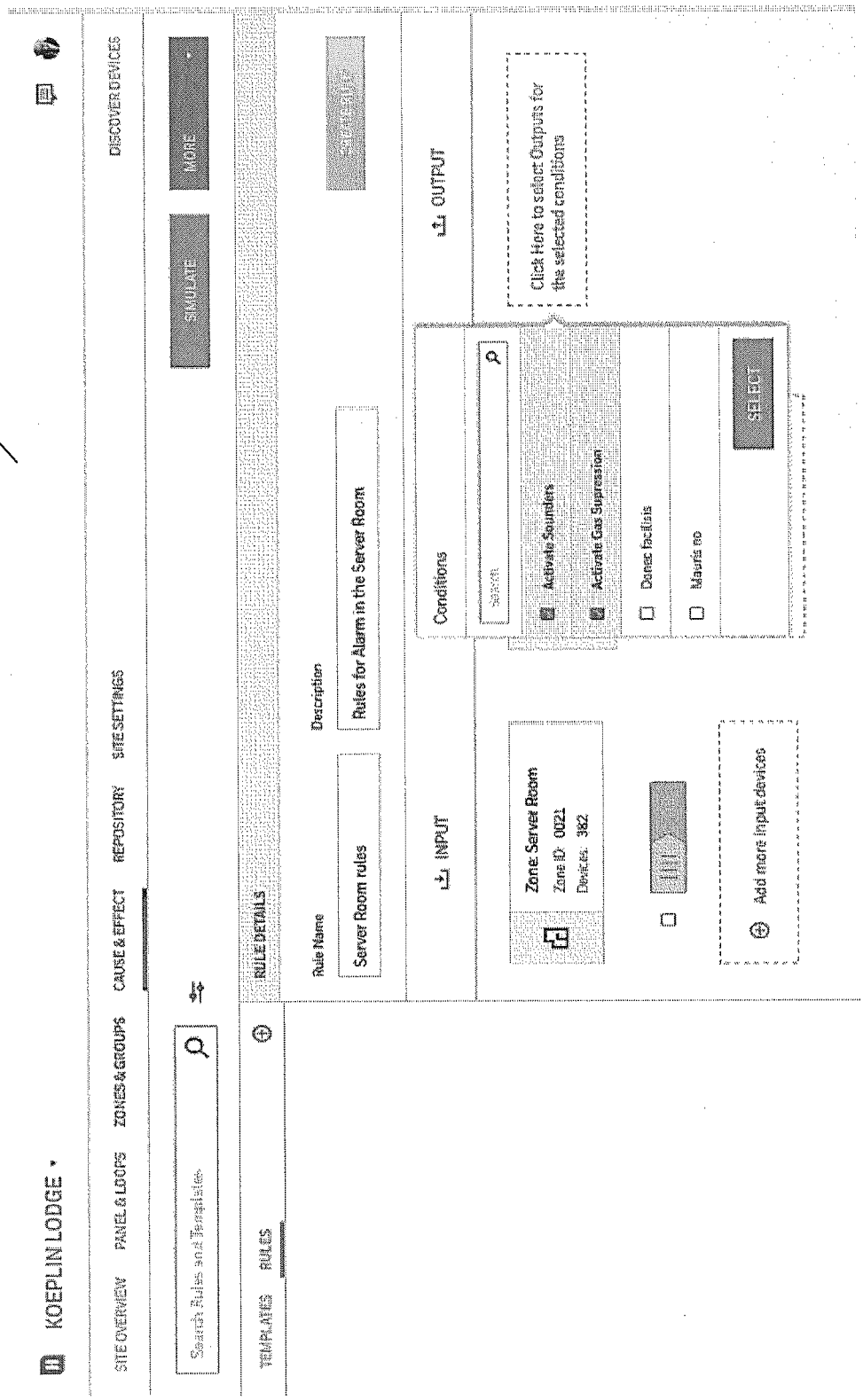

KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
Search Rules and Templates
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
INPUT
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 0021
Devices: 382
Add more input devices
Conditions
Activate Sounders
Activate Gas Supression
Donec facilisis
Mauris no
SELECT
OUTPUT
Click Here to select Outputs for the selected conditions

FIG. 16

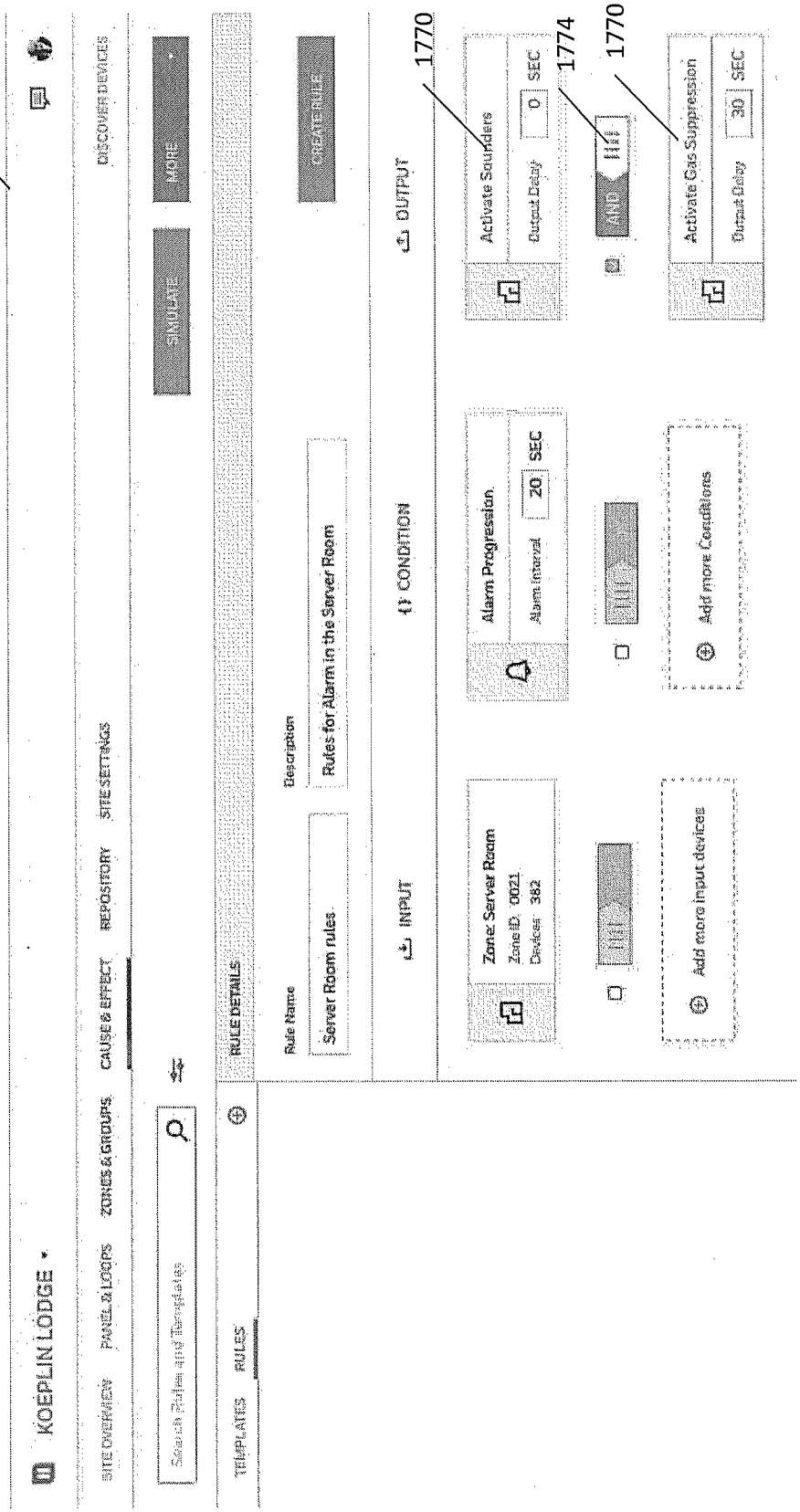

600
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
CREATE RULE
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
1770
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 0021
Devices: 382
Alarm Progression
Alarm Interval
20
SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay
0
SEC
1774
1770
AND
NOT
Activate Gas Suppression
Output Delay
30
SEC
Add more input devices
Add more Conditions

FIG. 17

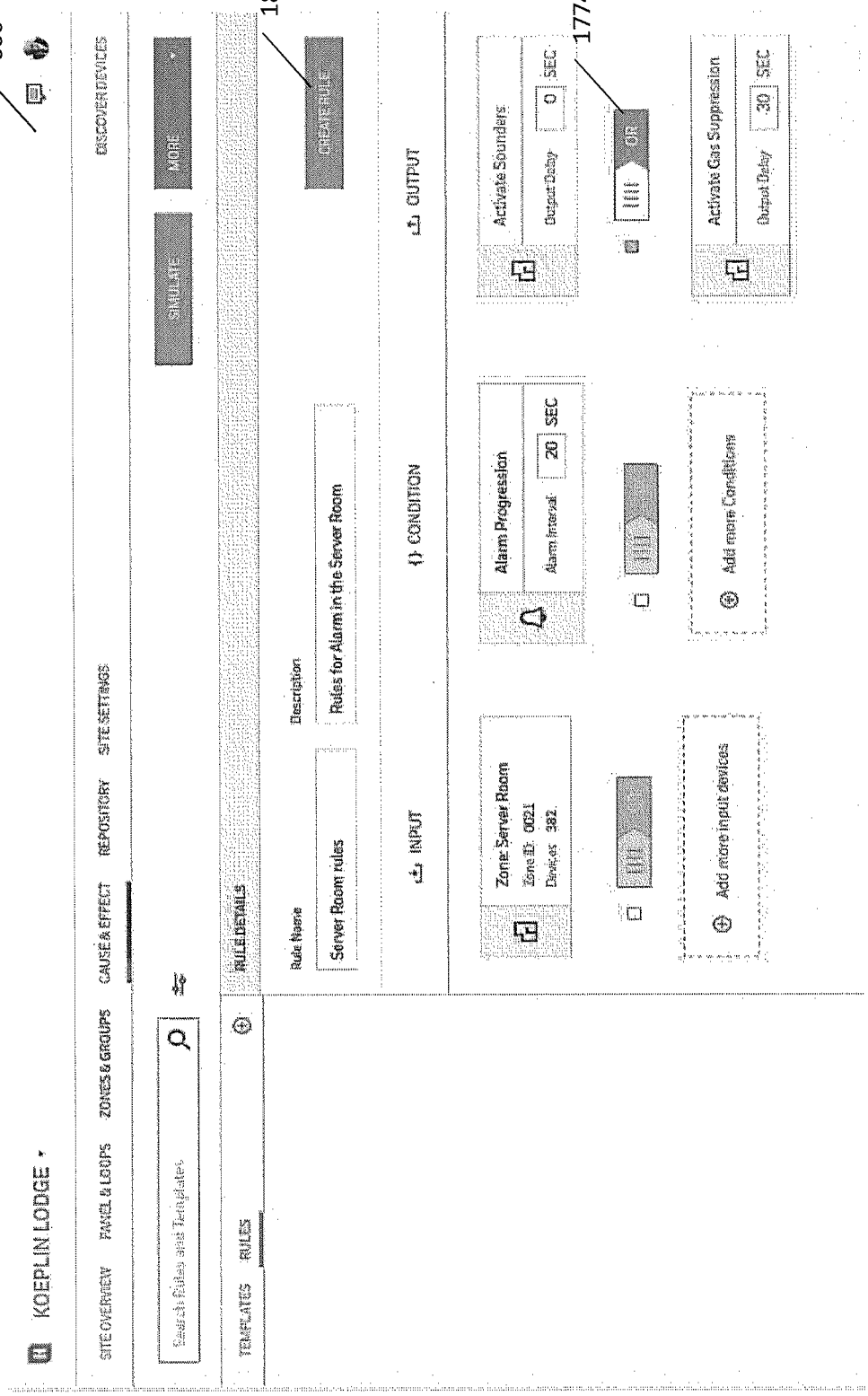

600
1876
1774
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOPS
ZONES & GROUPS
CAUSE & EFFECT
REPOSITORY
SITE SETTINGS
DISCOVER DEVICES
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
RULE DETAILS
Rule Name
Server Room rules
Description
Rules for Alarm in the Server Room
CREATE RULE
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
Zone: Server Room
Alarm Progression
Alarm Interval
20
SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay
0
SEC
OR
Activate Gas Suppression
Output Delay
30
SEC
Add more input devices
Add more Conditions

FIG. 18

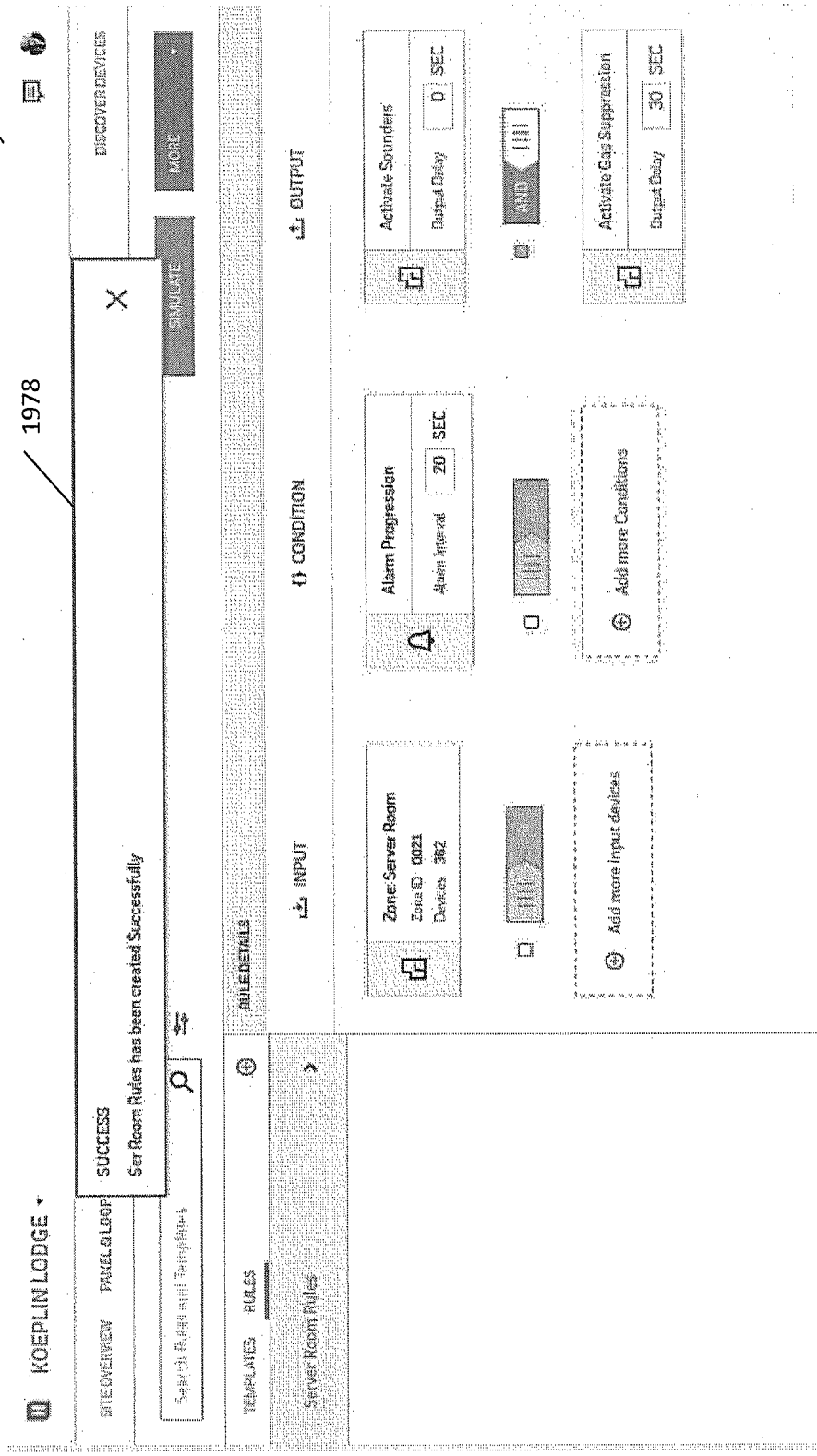

600
1978
KOEPLIN LODGE
SITE OVERVIEW
PANEL & LOOP
DISCOVER DEVICES
SUCCESS
Ser Room Rules has been created Successfully
SIMULATE
MORE
TEMPLATES
RULES
Server Room Rules
RULE DETAILS
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID 0021
Devices 362
Alarm Progression
Alarm Interval 20 SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay 0 SEC
AND
Add more input devices
Add more Conditions
Activate Gas Suppression
Output Delay 30 SEC

FIG. 19

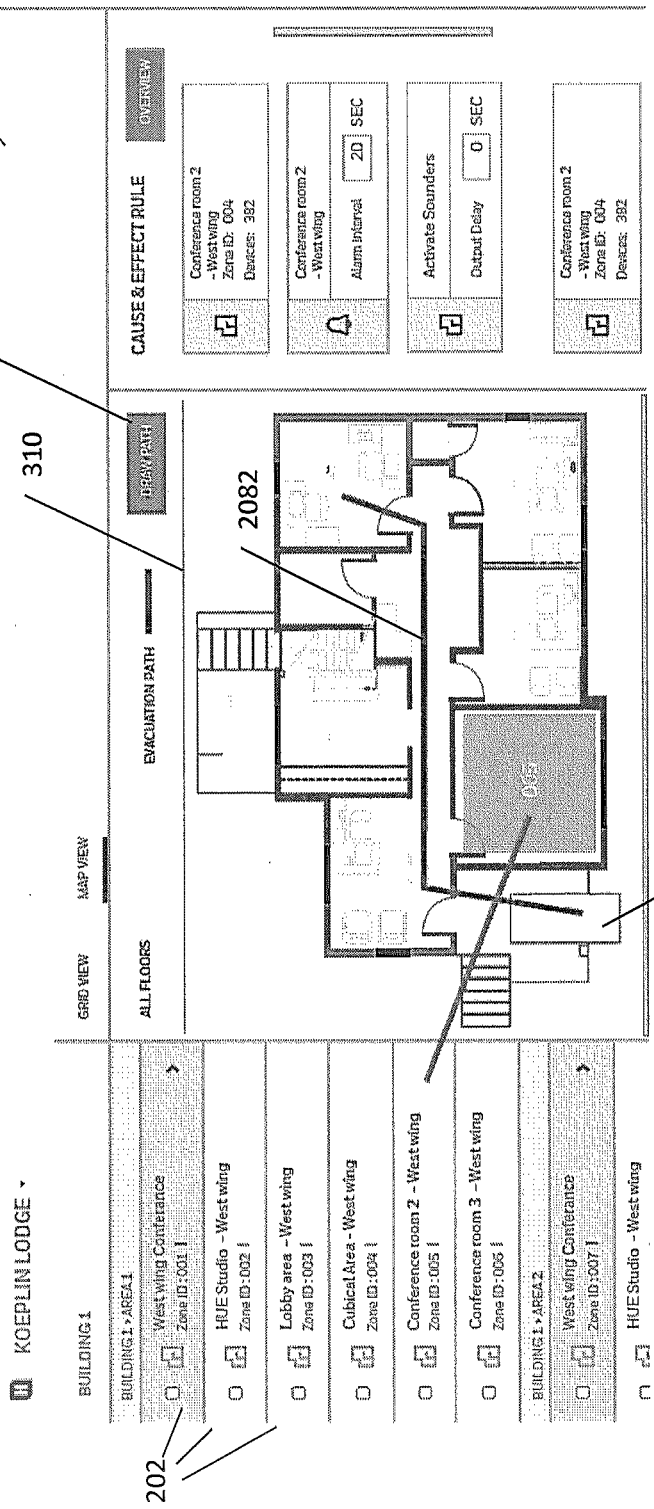

2000
2080
310
2082
2084
202
KOEPLIN LODGE
BUILDING 1
BUILDING 1 > AREA 1
West wing Conferance
Zone ID : 001
HUE Studio - West wing
Zone ID : 002
Lobby area - West wing
Zone ID : 003
Cubical Area - West wing
Zone ID : 004
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID : 005
Conference room 3 - West wing
Zone ID : 006
BUILDING 1 > AREA 2
West wing Conferance
Zone ID : 007
HUE Studio - West wing
GRID VIEW
MAP VIEW
ALL FLOORS
EVACUATION PATH
REPLY PATH
CAUSE & EFFECT RULE
OVERVIEW
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID: 004
Devices: 382
Alarm Interval
20
SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay
0
SEC
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID: 004
Devices: 382

FIG. 20

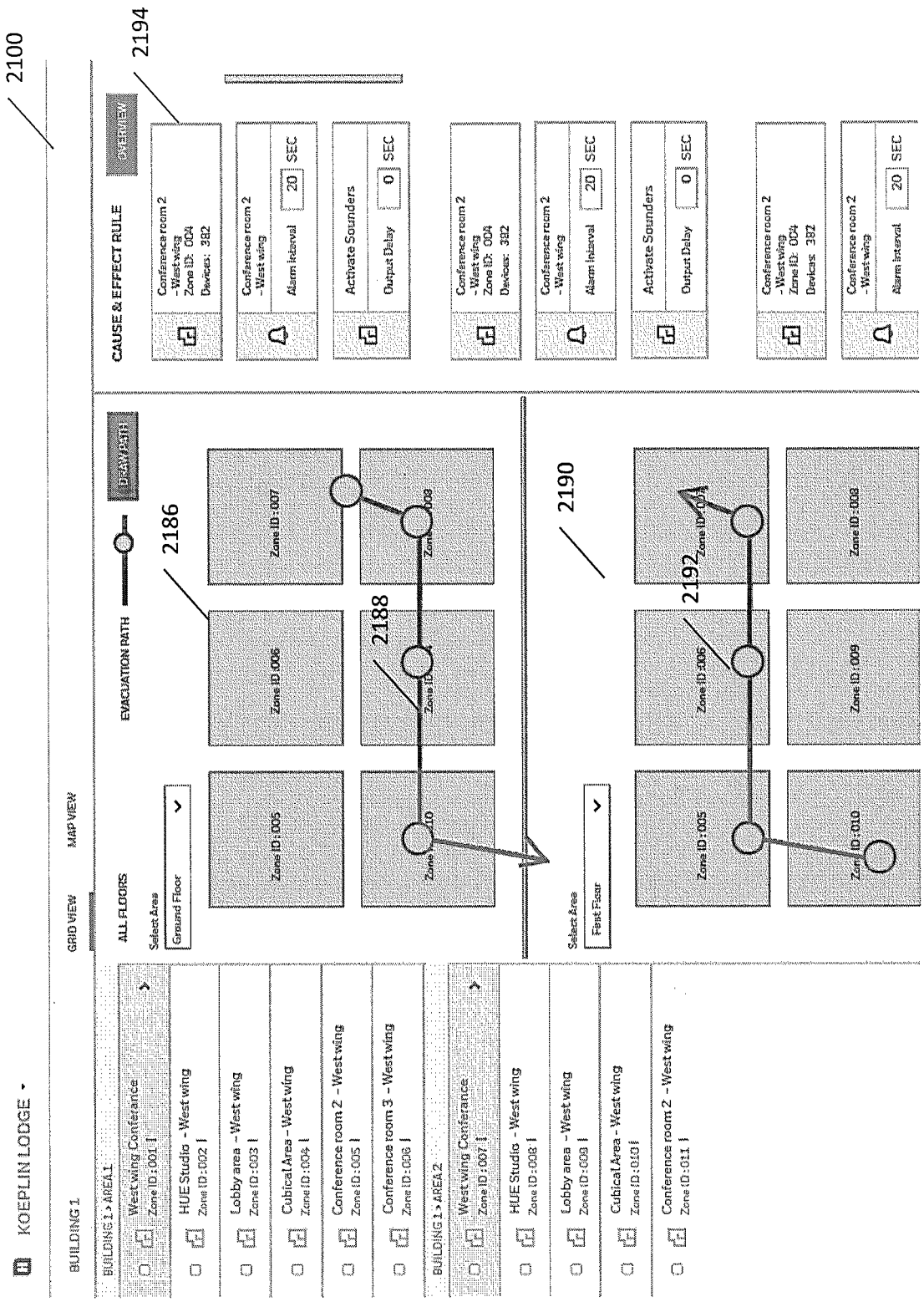

2100
KOEPLIN LODGE
BUILDING 1
GRID VIEW
MAP VIEW
ALL FLOORS
EVACUATION PATH
DESTINATION
CAUSE & EFFECT RULE
OVERVIEW
2194
2186
2188
2190
2192
Select Area
Ground Floor
First Floor
BUILDING 1 > AREA 1
West wing Conferance
Zone ID : 001
HUE Studio - West wing
Zone ID : 002
Lobby area - West wing
Zone ID : 003
Cubical Area - West wing
Zone ID : 004
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID : 005
Conference room 3 - West wing
Zone ID : 006
BUILDING 1 > AREA 2
West wing Conferance
Zone ID : 007
HUE Studio - West wing
Zone ID : 008
Lobby area - West wing
Zone ID : 009
Cubical Area - West wing
Zone ID : 010
Conference room 2 - West wing
Zone ID : 011
Zone ID : 005
Zone ID : 006
Zone ID : 007
Zone ID : 008
Zone ID : 009
Zone ID : 010
Conference room 2
-West wing
Zone ID: 004
Devices: 382
Alarm Interval
20
SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay
0
SEC

FIG. 21

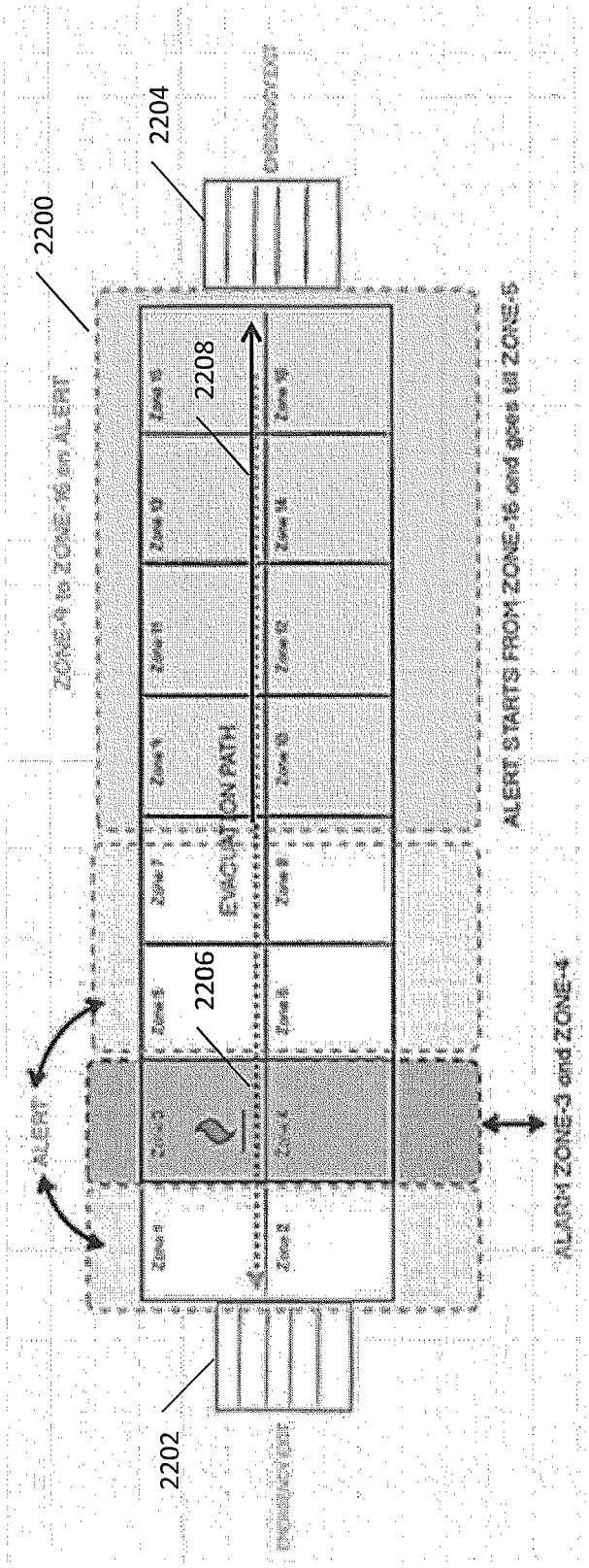

2200
2204
2208
2206
2202
ZONE-9 to ZONE-16 on ALERT
EVACUATION PATH
ALERT STARTS FROM ZONE-16 and goes till ZONE-5
ALERT
ALARM ZONE-3 and ZONE-4
Zone 1
Zone 2
Zone 3
Zone 4
Zone 5
Zone 6
Zone 7
Zone 8
Zone 9
Zone 10
Zone 11
Zone 12
Zone 13
Zone 14
Zone 15
Zone 16

FIG. 22

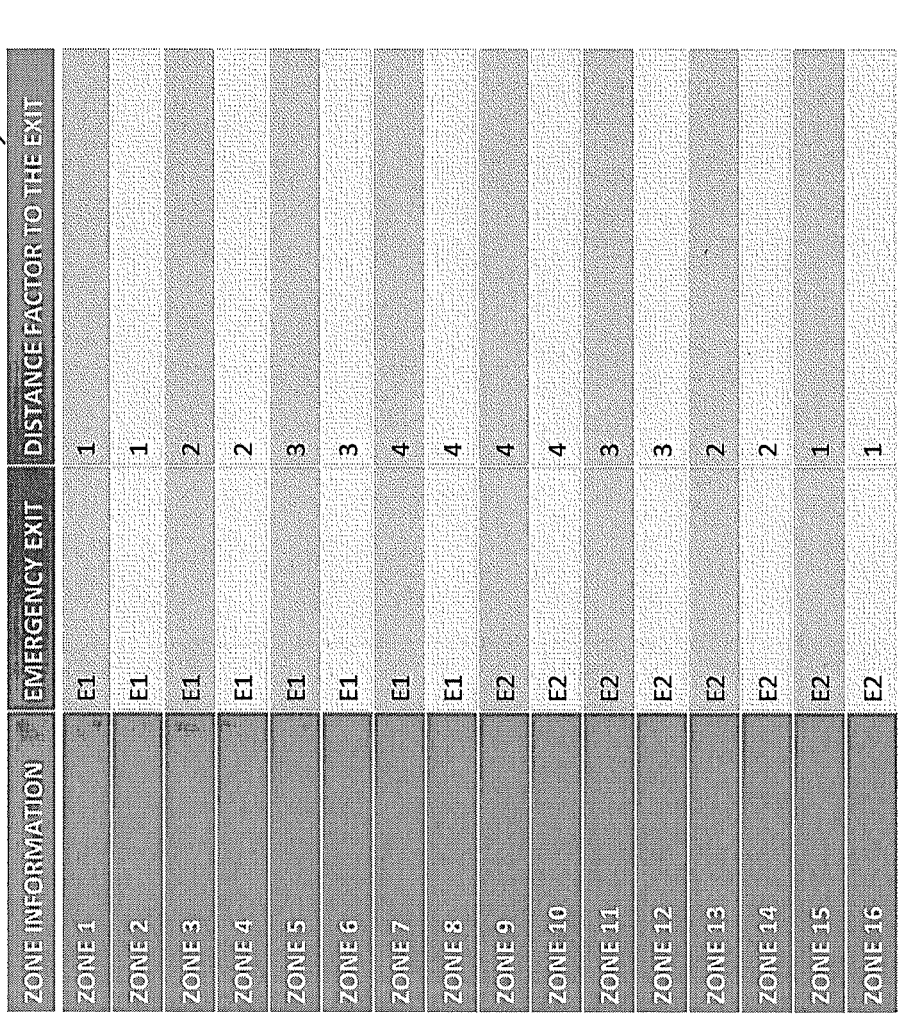
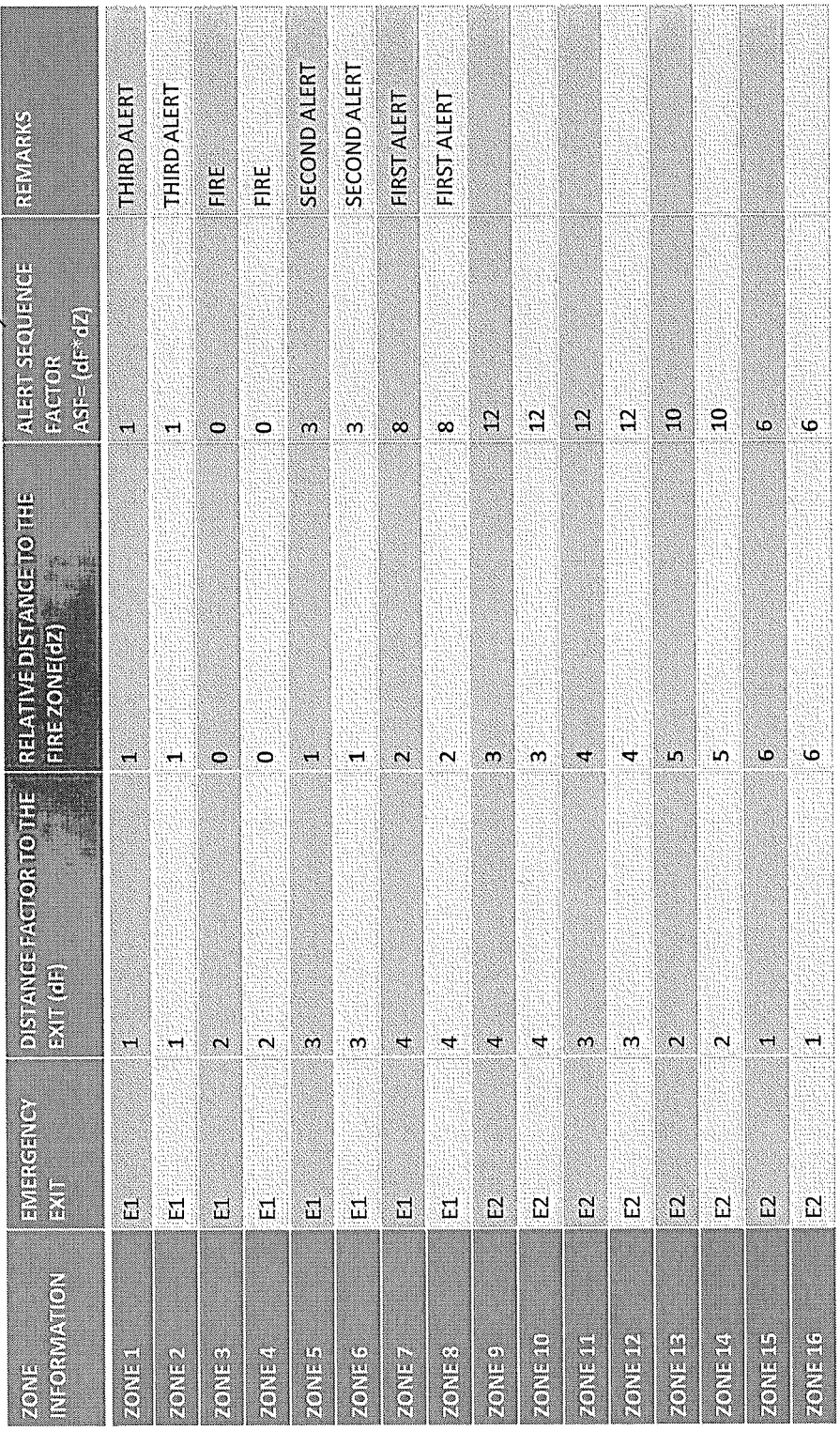

2300
ZONE INFORMATION
EMERGENCY EXIT
DISTANCE FACTOR TO THE EXIT
ZONE 1
E1
1
ZONE 2
E1
1
ZONE 3
E1
2
ZONE 4
E1
2
ZONE 5
E1
3
ZONE 6
E1
3
ZONE 7
E1
4
ZONE 8
E1
4
ZONE 9
E2
4
ZONE 10
E2
4
ZONE 11
E2
3
ZONE 12
E2
3
ZONE 13
E2
2
ZONE 14
E2
2
ZONE 15
E2
1
ZONE 16
E2
1

FIG. 23



ZONE INFORMATION	EMERGENCY EXIT	DISTANCE FACTOR TO THE EXIT (dF)	RELATIVE DISTANCE TO THE FIRE ZONE(dZ)	ALERT SEQUENCE FACTOR ASF=(dF+dZ)	REMARKS
ZONE 1	E1	1	1	1	THIRD ALERT
ZONE 2	E1	1	1	1	THIRD ALERT
ZONE 3	E1	2	0	0	FIRE
ZONE 4	E1	2	0	0	FIRE
ZONE 5	E1	3	1	3	SECOND ALERT
ZONE 6	E1	3	1	3	SECOND ALERT
ZONE 7	E1	4	2	8	FIRST ALERT
ZONE 8	E1	4	2	8	FIRST ALERT
ZONE 9	E2	4	3	12	
ZONE 10	E2	4	3	12	
ZONE 11	E2	3	4	12	
ZONE 12	E2	3	4	12	
ZONE 13	E2	2	5	10	
ZONE 14	E2	2	5	10	
ZONE 15	E2	1	6	6	
ZONE 16	E2	1	6	6	

FIG. 24

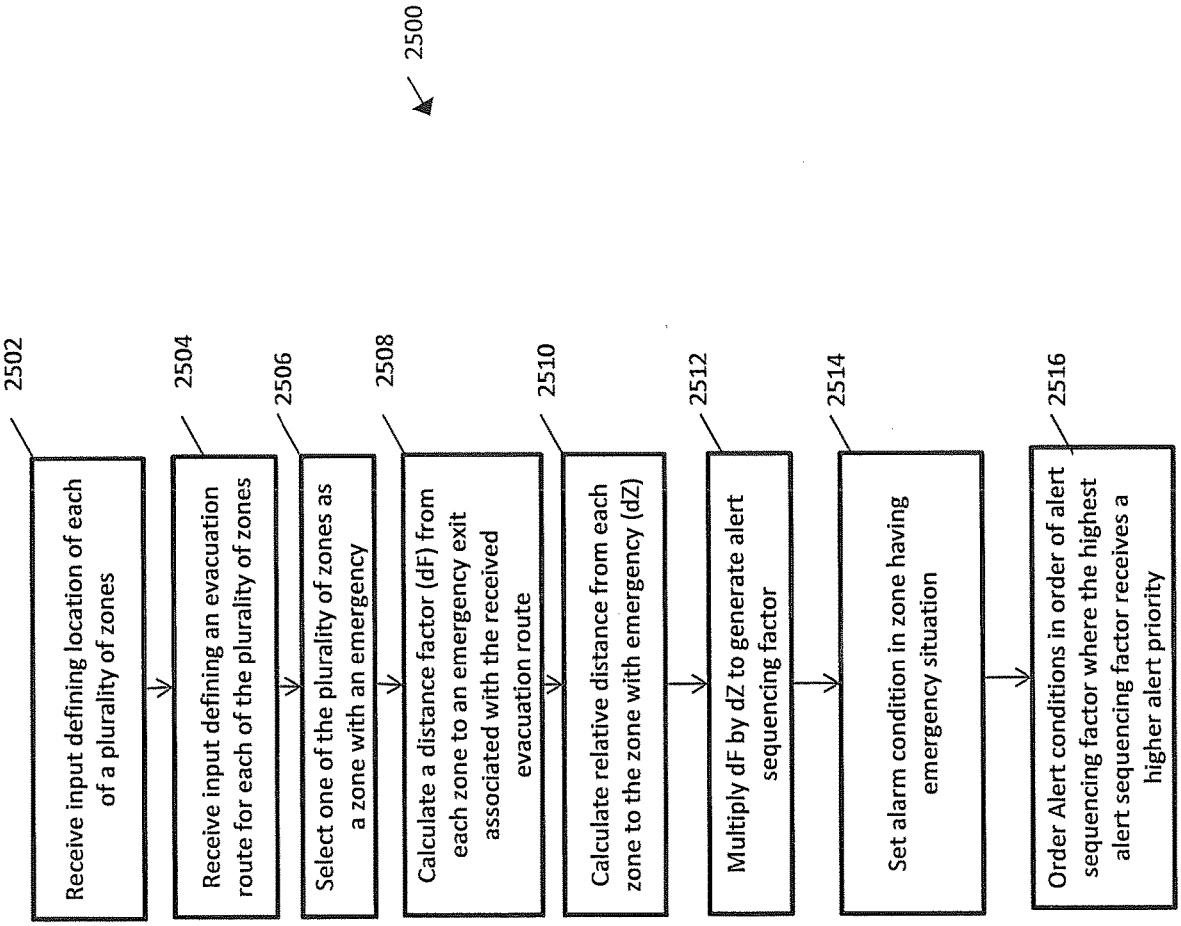

2500
2502
Receive input defining location of each of a plurality of zones
2504
Receive input defining an evacuation route for each of the plurality of zones
2506
Select one of the plurality of zones as a zone with an emergency
2508
Calculate a distance factor (dF) from each zone to an emergency exit associated with the received evacuation route
2510
Calculate relative distance from each zone to the zone with emergency (dZ)
2512
Multiply dF by dZ to generate alert sequencing factor
2514
Set alarm condition in zone having emergency situation
2516
Order Alert conditions in order of alert sequencing factor where the highest alert sequencing factor receives a higher alert priority

FIG. 25

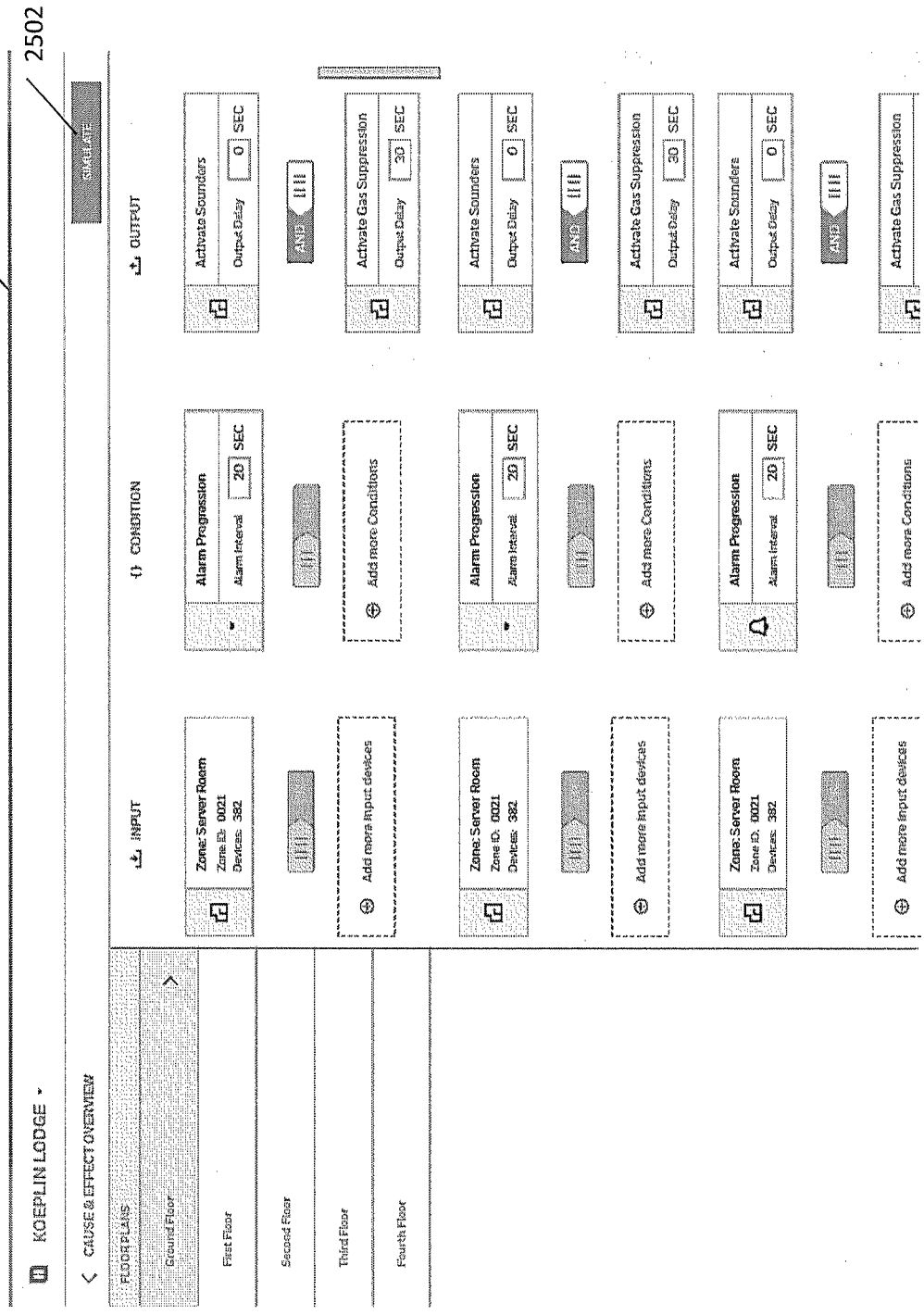

2500
2502
KOEPLIN LODGE
CAUSE & EFFECT OVERVIEW
CREATE
FLOOR PLANS
Ground Floor
First Floor
Second Floor
Third Floor
Fourth Floor
INPUT
CONDITION
OUTPUT
Zone: Server Room
Zone ID: 0021
Devices: 382
Alarm Progression
Alarm Interval
20
SEC
Activate Sounders
Output Delay
0
SEC
AND
Activate Gas Suppression
30
Add more input devices
Add more Conditions

FIG. 26

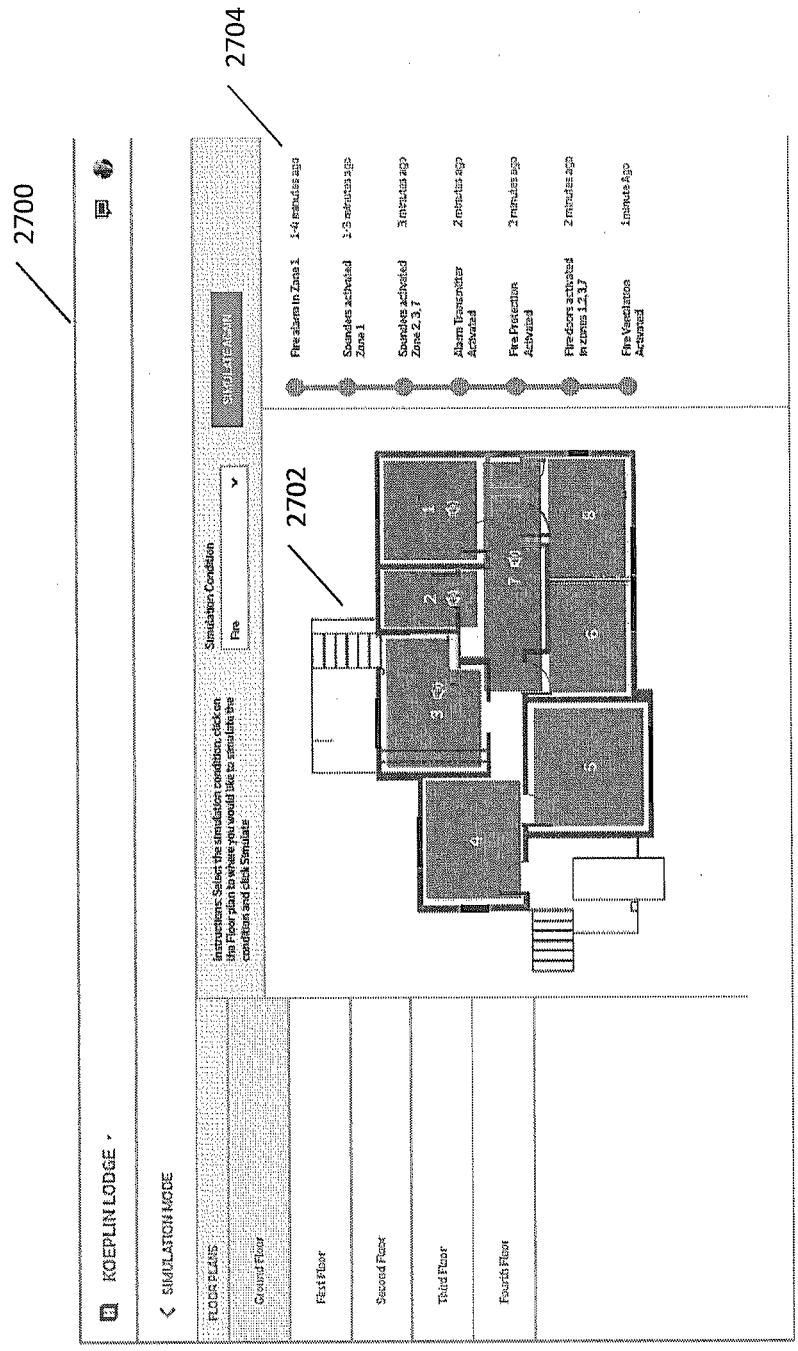

2700
2704
2702
KOEPLIN LODGE
SIMULATION MODE
FLOOR PLANS
Ground Floor
First Floor
Second Floor
Third Floor
Fourth Floor
Simulation Condition
Fire
Instructions: Select the simulation condition, click on the Floor plan to where you would like to simulate the condition and click Simulate
Fire alarm in Zone 1
Sounders activated Zone 1
Sounders activated Zone 2, 3, 7
Alarm Transmitter Activated
Fire Protection Activated
Fire doors activated in rooms 1,2,3,7
Fire Visualisation Activated
1-4 seconds ago
1-3 minutes ago
3 minutes ago
2 minutes ago
2 minutes ago
2 minutes ago
1 minute ago

FIG. 27

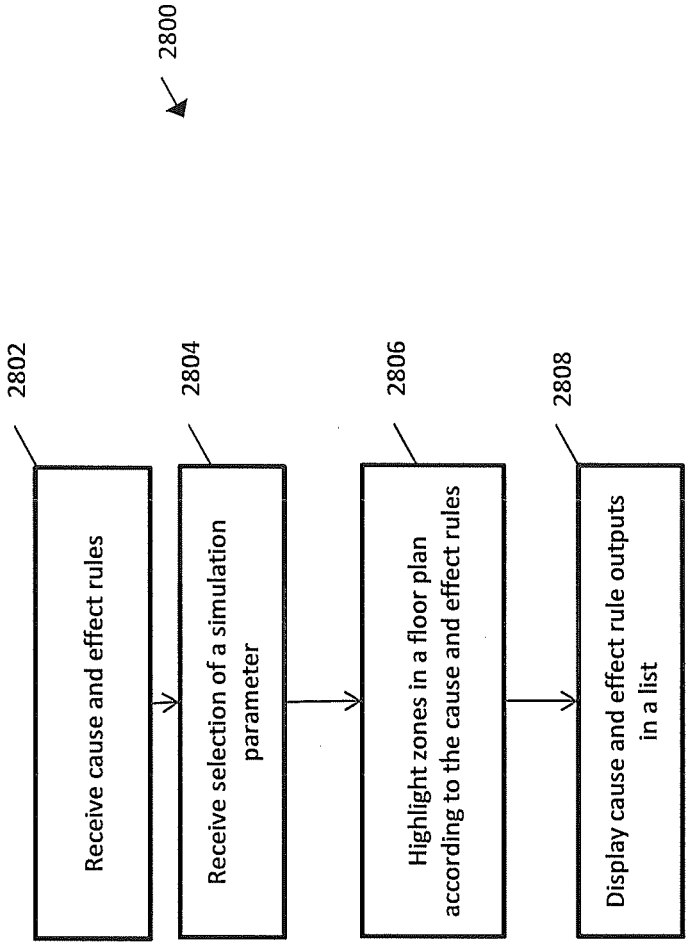

2800
2802
Receive cause and effect rules
2804
Receive selection of a simulation parameter
2806
Highlight zones in a floor plan according to the cause and effect rules
2808
Display cause and effect rule outputs in a list

FIG. 28

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMISSIONING A SECURITY SYSTEM

PRIORITY INFORMATION

[0001] This application is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/511,069, filed Oct. 26, 2021, which is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/941,296, filed Jul. 28, 2020, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,158,184 on Oct. 26, 2021, which is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/371,455, filed Apr. 1, 2019, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,726,713 on Jul. 28, 2020, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates generally to security systems. More particularly, the present invention relates to systems and methods for commissioning a security system.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Security systems are known to detect threats within a secured area, and such threats can include events that represent a risk to human safety or a risk to assets.

[0004] Security systems typically include one or more security sensors that detect the threats within the secured area. For example, smoke, motion, and/or intrusion sensors can be distributed throughout the secured area in order to detect the threats. Furthermore, security systems typically include notification appliances, such as sounders and strobe lights, to notify occupants of an emergency.

[0005] Commissioning a security system is very laborious and time-consuming. For example, known systems and methods for commissioning security systems involve a commissioning engineer (CE) manually creating rules and manually entering multi-line configuration data into a table or a spreadsheet. As such, there is a need for simpler and faster systems and methods for commissioning security systems.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIG. **1** is a block diagram of a system in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0007] FIG. **2** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0008] FIG. **3** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0009] FIG. **4** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0010] FIG. **5** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0011] FIG. **6** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0012] FIG. **7** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0013] FIG. **8** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0014] FIG. **9** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0015] FIG. **10** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0016] FIG. **11** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0017] FIG. **12** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0018] FIG. **13** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0019] FIG. **14** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0020] FIG. **15** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0021] FIG. **16** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0022] FIG. **17** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0023] FIG. **18** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0024] FIG. **19** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0025] FIG. **20** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0026] FIG. **21** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0027] FIG. **22** is a floor plan with a plurality of zones in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0028] FIG. **23** is a table of zone distance factors for a plurality of zones in a floor plan in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0029] FIG. **24** is a table of alert sequence factors for a plurality of zones in a floor plan in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0030] FIG. **25** is a flow diagram of a method in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0031] FIG. **26** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments;

[0032] FIG. **27** is a graphical user interface displayed on a user terminal in accordance with disclosed embodiments; and

[0033] FIG. **28** is a flow diagram of a method in accordance with disclosed embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] While this invention is susceptible of an embodiment in many different forms, there are shown in the drawings and will be described herein in detail specific embodiments thereof with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention. It is not intended to limit the invention to the specific illustrated embodiments.

[0035] Embodiments disclosed herein can include systems and methods for commissioning a security system and automatically defining, creating, and generating cause and effect rules for the security system. For example, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a graphical user interface (GUI) on a user terminal, such as a personal computer, a tablet, or a smartphone, with a floor plan of a secured area monitored by the security system and can receive user input via the floor flan displayed on the GUI for defining and identifying a plurality of zones of the secured area, drawing or otherwise identifying a respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of zones, customizing changes to the cause and effect rules via graphically-displayed widgets, and graphically simulating the cause and effect rules as customized, results of which can be displayed on the GUI.

[0036] In some embodiments, responsive to receiving user input, systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically define, create, and generate the cause and effect rules. For example, the user input can define and identify respec-

tive boundaries of each of the plurality of zones drawn on the floor plan and can identify the respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of zones drawn on the floor plan. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can retrieve building data stored in a building information model (BIM) file of the secured area, which can be stored in a computer-readable memory, to identify respective distances between each of the plurality of zones and emergency exits in the secured area, and in some embodiments, the BIM file can include an industrial foundation classes (IFC) file with structural data about the secured area, such as locations of walls, doors, and the emergency exits. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the floor plan can be generated from the building data retrieved from the BIM file.

[0037] After automatically defining, creating, and generating the cause and effect rules, systems and methods disclosed herein can receive user input with instructions to simulate the cause and effect rules, and in some embodiments, the cause and effect rules can be simulated graphically via the GUI. For example, during simulation, activated alarms in some of the plurality of zones can flash or change color on the floor plan, and the GUI can display alarm and alert notifications in real-time to correspond with output of the cause and effect rules.

[0038] FIG. **1** is a block diagram of a security system **10** in accordance with disclosed embodiments. As seen in FIG. **1**, the security system **10** can include one or more security sensors **12**, **14** that can monitor a secured area **16** for threats, and in some embodiments, the security sensors **12**, **14** can include intrusion, camera, motion, fire, smoke, and gas detectors. The security sensors **12**, **14** can communicate with a control panel **18**, and the control panel **18** can monitor for activation of the security sensors **12**, **14**.

[0039] In some embodiments, the control panel **18** may send an alarm message to a central monitoring station **20** upon the activation of one of the security sensors **12**, **14**, and the central monitoring station **20** can respond by summoning the appropriate help. For example, if the one of the security sensors **12**, **14** detects a fire, then the central monitoring station **20** may summon a local fire department. Alternatively, if the one of the security sensors **12**, **14** detects an intrusion, then the central monitoring station **20** may summon the police. Additionally, the control panel **18** can send an activation message to one or more alarm notification devices **20**, **22**, and the alarm notification devices **20**, **22** can activate a visual or audible alarm to notify occupants of the secured area **16** about the threats.

[0040] The control panel **18** can also communicate with a user terminal **24**, and the user terminal **24** can implement, store, and execute software that can display a GUI on a user interface device **34** or other display of the user terminal **24** to assist a CE in commissioning the security system **10**. The user interface device **34** can include a keyboard, a mouse, or a touchscreen that can receive user input that the user terminal **24** can use to define, create, and generate cause and effect rules for the security system **10**. Then, the user terminal **24** can transmit the cause and effect rules to the control panel **18**, and the control panel can function in accordance with the cause and effect rules.

[0041] The user terminal **24** can include control circuitry **32**, which can include a programmable processor **32***a* and executable control software **32***b* as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. The executable control software **32***b* can be stored on a transitory or non-transitory computer readable medium, including, but not limited to local computer memory, RAM, optical storage media, magnetic storage media, and the like. In some embodiments, the control circuitry **32**, the programmable processor **32***a*, and the executable control software **32***b* can execute and control some of the methods disclosed herein, such as, for example, displaying the GUI, receiving user input to define the cause and effect rules, and, responsive thereto, creating and generating the cause and effect rules.

[0042] FIG. **2** is a GUI **200** that can be displayed on the user interface device **34** of the user terminal **24** as part of commissioning the security system **10** in accordance disclosed embodiments. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can retrieve a BIM file from a memory device to identify information to be displayed in the GUI **200**.

[0043] First, the GUI **200** can receive user input to define and identify a plurality of zones **202** of the secured area **16** monitored by the security system **10**. For example, the GUI **200** can display an add zone button **204**, and responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input of the CE selecting the add zone button **204**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify a new one of the plurality of zones **202** and identify the new one of the plurality of zones **202** with a name identified by the user input. Then, the GUI **200** can receive user input with instructions from the CE to add security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22** to the new one of the plurality of zones **202**. For example, the GUI **200** can display a device area **206** that can receive user input of the CE identifying names for the security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22**, and responsive thereto, the GUI **200** can display respective information for each of the security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22**, such as a respective status, a respective serial number, a respective manufacturing date, and respective events detected by a respective one of the security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22**. Finally, the GUI **200** can display an activate device button **208**, and responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input of the CE selecting the activate device button **208** for a selected one of the security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22**, systems and methods disclosed herein can activate the selected one of the security system devices **12**, **14**, **20**, or **22**.

[0044] After identifying the new one of the plurality of zones **202** responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a floor plan **310** of the secured area **16** to define the new one of the plurality of zone **202**. For example, FIG. **3** is a GUI **300** that can be displayed on the user interface device **34** of the user terminal **24** in accordance with disclosed embodiments. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can process building data from the BIM file to generate and display the floor plan **310**. As seen, the GUI **300** can display a mark zones button **312**, and responsive to the GUI **300** receiving user input of the CE selecting the mark zones button **312** and selecting the new one of the plurality of zones **202** ("West Wing Conference"), systems and methods disclosed herein can receive user input defining metes and bounds of the new one of the plurality of zones **202**.

[0045] For example, FIG. **4** is a GUI **400** that can be displayed on the user interface device **34** of the user terminal. As seen, the GUI **400** can display a zone drawing tool button **414**, and responsive to the GUI **400** receiving user input of the CE selecting the zone drawing tool button **414**, systems and methods disclosed herein can receive user input

of the CE defining the metes and bounds of the new one of the plurality of zones **202**. For example, the GUI **400** can receive an identification of an outline of a drawn zone **416** on the floor plan or an identification of a shape (e.g. a rectangle) for the drawn zone **416**. Then, systems and methods disclosed herein can associate BIM coordinates of the drawn zone **416** with the new one of the plurality of zones **202**.

[0046] After identifying the new one of the plurality of zones **202** and assigning security system devices to the new one of the plurality of zones **202** responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input and defining the metes and bounds of the new one of the plurality of zones **202** via the GUI **300** and the GUI **400** receiving user input, systems and methods disclosed herein can define the cause and effect rules for the security system **10** either manually using configurable widgets or automatically using drawn evacuation routes. FIGS. **5-19** are GUIs that can be displayed on the user interface device **34** of the user terminal **24** for manually defining the cause and effect rules with the configurable widgets, and FIGS. **20-21** are GUIs that can be displayed on the user interface **34** of the user terminal **24** for automatically defining the cause and effect rules with the drawn evacuation routes.

[0047] For example, as seen in FIG. **5**, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a GUI **500** when none of the cause and effect rules have been defined, and the GUI **500** can display an apply template button **518**, an import from excel button **520**, and a create rules button **522**. Responsive to the GUI **500** receiving user input of the CE selecting the apply template button **518**, systems and method disclosed herein can retrieve previously saved templates saved in the memory device. Additionally or alternatively, responsive to the GUI **500** receiving user input of the CE selecting the import from excel button **520**, systems and methods disclosed herein can retrieve a spreadsheet (e.g. .xls, .csv) saved in the memory device and convert the cause and effect rules in the spreadsheet into widgets for display.

[0048] Additionally or alternatively, responsive to the GUI **500** receiving user input of the CE selecting the create rules button **522**, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a GUI **600** as seen in FIG. **6**. The GUI **600** can display a rule name box **624**, a rule description box **626**, and an input selection area **628**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the rule name box **624**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify a rule name for a new one of the cause and effect rules. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the rule description box **626**, systems and methods disclosed herein can associate a description identified by the user input with the new one of the cause and effect rules.

[0049] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the input selection area **628**, the GUI **600** can display an input selection pop-up window **730** that includes input menu selections **732** displayed therein as seen in FIG. **7**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting one or more of the input menu selections **732**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify a corresponding plurality of events and triggers as input for the new one of the cause and effect rules. For example, the input can include any sensor detecting any alarm condition in an identified zone, any sensor detecting any alarm condition in any zone in alarm, an identified group of sensors detecting any alarm condition, sensors in an identified loop detecting any alarm condition, an identified sensor detecting any alarm condition, or any sensor detecting any alarm condition in an identified area.

[0050] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting any of the input menu selections **732** (e.g. "Zone"), the GUI **600** can display the input selection pop-up window **730** with a list of zones **834** that includes the new one of the plurality of zones **202**, a search bar **938**, and a selection button **940** displayed therein as seen in FIG. **8** and in FIG. **9**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting a selected zone **936** ("Server Room West Wing") from the list of zones **834**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the selected zone **936**. Additionally or alternatively, responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE entering text into the search bar **938**, systems and methods disclosed herein can assist the CE in selecting the selected zone **936** from the list of zones **834**, for example, by displaying entries in the list of zones **834** that match the text entered into the search bar **938**. It is to be understood that systems and methods disclosed herein can identify more than one entry on the list of zones **834**.

[0051] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the selection button **940**, the GUI **600** can display an input widget **1042**, an input selection area **1044**, and a condition selection area **1046** as seen in FIG. **10**. The input widget **1042** can display identifying information about the input selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, such as a type of the input selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, any of the plurality of zones associated with the input selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, device(s) associated with the input selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, a number of the devices in the plurality of zones associated with the input selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, etc. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the input selection area **1044** and identifying additional items for the input for the new one of the cause and effect rules, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the additional items for the input for the new one of the cause and effect rules.

[0052] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the condition selection area **1046**, the GUI **600** can display a condition selection pop-up window **1148** with a plurality of conditions **1150**, a search bar, and a selection button **1254** displayed therein as seen in FIGS. **11** and **12**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting one or more of the plurality of conditions **1150**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the plurality of conditions **1150** selected as conditions for the new one of the cause and effect rules. For example, the conditions can include any sensor detecting any alarm, any sensor detecting any pre-alarm, any sensor detecting any alarm progression, or any sensor detecting any fault. It is to be understood that systems and methods disclosed herein can identify more than one of the plurality of conditions **1150** as the conditions for the new one of the cause and effect rules.

[0053] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting any of the plurality of conditions **1150** (e.g. "Alarm Progression" **1252**) and the selection button **1254**, the GUI **600** can display a condition widget **1356**, a condition selection area **1358**, and an output selection area **1360** as seen in FIG. **13**. The condition widget **1356** can display identifying information about the conditions selected for the

new one of the cause and effect rules, such as a type of the conditions selected, an alarm interval time for the conditions selected, etc. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the condition selection area **1358** and identifying additional items for the conditions selected from the new one of the cause and effect rules, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the additional items for the conditions for the new one of the cause and effect rules.

[0054] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the output selection area **1360** to define output of the new one of the cause and effect rules, the GUI **600** can display an output selection pop-up window **1462** with a plurality of outputs **1464**, a search bar, and a selection button **1568** displayed therein as seen in FIGS. **14-16**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting one or more of the plurality of outputs **1464** ("Activate Sounders" **1566**), systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the plurality of outputs selected as the output for the new one of the cause and effect rules. For example, the output can include activating sounders, activating gas suppression, activating strobe lights, etc. It is to be understood that systems and methods disclosed herein can identify more than one of the plurality of outputs **1464** (e.g. "Activate Sounders" and "Activate Gas Suppression") to be the output for the new one of the cause and effect rules.

[0055] Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the selection button **1568**, the GUI **600** can display output widget(s) **1770** as seen in FIG. **17** and FIG. **18**. It is to be understood that a number of the output widgets **1770** displayed can equal a number of the plurality of outputs **1464** identified for the new one of the cause and effect rules. The output widget(s) **1770** can display identifying information about the output identified for the new one of the cause and effect rules, such as a type of the output selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, an output delay time for the output selected for the new one of the cause and effect rules, etc.

[0056] Furthermore, when more than one of the plurality of outputs **1464** is identified for the new one of the cause and effect rules, systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically activate and display a logical connection widget **1774** on the GUI **600**. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE setting the logical connection widget **1774** to "AND" as in FIG. **17** and the input and the conditions for the new one of the cause and effect rules being met, systems and methods disclosed herein can execute a logical AND on the output widget(s) **1770** displayed, thereby activating the output for all of the output widgets **1770** displayed. However, responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE setting the logical connection widget **1774** to "OR" as in FIG. **18** and the input and the conditions for the new one of the cause and effect rules being met, systems and methods disclosed herein can execute a logical OR on the output widget(s) **1770** displayed.

[0057] After systems and methods disclosed herein identify the input, the conditions, and the output to define the new one of the cause and effect rules, the GUI **600** can display a create rule button **1876** for selection thereof. Responsive to the GUI **600** receiving user input of the CE selecting the create rule button **1876**, systems and methods disclosed herein can save the new one of the cause and effect rules and display a successful rule creation banner **1978** as seen in FIG. **19** indicating that the new one of the cause and effect rules has successfully been created.

[0058] As explained above, the cause and effect rules can also be automatically defined. For example, in some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically define the cause and effect rules responsive to receiving user input of the CE identifying the plurality of zones **202** or retrieving an identification of the plurality of zones from the BIM file and responsive to receiving user input of the drawn evacuation routes.

[0059] After identifying the new one of the plurality of zones **202** responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input and defining the metes and bounds of the new one of the plurality of zones **202** responsive to the GUI **300** and the GUI **400** receiving user input, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a GUI **2000** that includes a list of the plurality of zones **202** created, the floor plan **310**, and a draw evacuation route button **2080** as seen in FIG. **20**. Responsive to the GUI **2000** receiving user input of the CE selecting the draw evacuation route button **2080**, the GUI **200** can receive user input of the CE drawing or otherwise identifying an evacuation route **2082** on the floor plan **310**.

[0060] For example, as seen in FIG. **20**, the evacuation route **2082** can start from a first of the plurality of zones **202** displayed on the floor plan **310** and can end at an emergency exit **2084** displayed on the floor plan **310**. In some embodiments, the evacuation route **2082** can include a direction parameter to the emergency exit **2084**, and in some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can use coordinate data from the BIM file to identify a distance from the first of the plurality of zones **202** to the emergency exit **2084**.

[0061] Additionally or alternatively, after identifying the new one of the plurality of zones **202** responsive to the GUI **200** receiving user input and identifying the metes and bounds of the new one of the plurality of zones **202** via the GUI **300** and the GUI **400** receiving user input, systems and methods disclosed herein can display a GUI **2100** that includes a grid view of the BIM file. For example, in some embodiments, the grid view may omit floor plan details, such as wall and door locations, and only display the plurality of zones **202**.

[0062] As seen in FIG. **21**, exemplary evacuation routes **2188**, **2192** can extend through, that is, touch, or abut one or more of the plurality of zones **202**. For example, in the grid view **2186** of a ground floor, one of the evacuation routes **2188** can begin in zone 007 and extend through zones 010, 004, and 008. Accordingly, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the one of the evacuation routes **2188** as applying to zones 010, 004, and 008 and can display a notification on the GUI **2100** indicating that zones 005 and 006 are not associated with any of the evacuation routes. As another example, in the grid view **2190** of a first floor, one of the evacuation routes **2192** can begin in zone 010 and extend through zones 010, 004, and 008. Accordingly, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the one of the evacuation routes **2192** as applying to zones 005, 006, and 007.

[0063] Responsive to receiving user input of the CE identifying the evacuation routes, systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically define the cause and effect rules as disclosed herein, and in some embodiments, the GUI **2100** can display the cause and effect rules a cause and effect rule area **2194**.

[0064] FIG. **22** is an exemplary floor plan **2200** of zones in a secured area and can be used to illustrate systems and methods disclosed herein automatically defining the cause and effect rules. As seen in FIG. **22**, the floor plan **2200** can include sixteen zones (zone 1-zone 16) and two emergency exits **2202**, **2204**. Any GUI displaying the floor plan **2200** can receive user input of the CE drawing or otherwise identifying two evacuation routes **2206**, **2208**. As seen, zones 1-8 can follow a first of the evacuation routes **2206** to a first of the emergency exits **2202**, and zones 9-16 can follow a second of the evacuation routes **2208** to a second of the emergency exits **2204**.

[0065] Responsive to receiving user input of the CE drawing or otherwise identifying the evacuation routes **2206**, **2008**, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify a respective distance factor from each of the zones to an assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204** based on an assigned one of the evacuation routes **2206**, **2008** for a respective one of the plurality of zones. For example, the respective distance factor from zone 1 to the first of the emergency exits **2202** can be one because one of the zones stands between zone 1 and the first of the emergency exits **2202** (e.g. zone 1). Similarly, the respective distance factor from zone 8 to the first of the emergency exits **2202** can be four because four of the zones stand between zone 8 and the first of the emergency exits **2202** (e.g. zones 2, 4, 6, and 8). As an alternative example, the respective distance factor from zone 16 to the second of the emergency exits **2204** can be one because one of the zones stands between zone 16 and the second of the emergency exits **2204** (e.g. zone 16). However, if zone 16 been assigned an evacuation route that ended at the first of the emergency exits **2202**, then the respective distance factor from zone 16 to the first of the emergency exits **2202** would have been eight because eight of the zones stand between zone 16 and the first of the emergency exits **2202** (e.g. zones 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16).

[0066] While the respective distance factor from each of the zones to the assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204** are shown in integer form for illustration purposes, systems and methods disclosed herein can also use the BIM coordinates to identify the respective distance factor from each of the zones to the assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204** in actual distance form, such as a respective straight line distance (e.g. "as the crow flies") or a respective distance traveled via the assigned one of the evacuation routes **2206**, **2008**.

[0067] In any embodiment, systems and methods disclosed herein can store the respective distance factor from each of the zones to the assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204** in a table in the memory device. In this regard, FIG. **23** is a table **2300** of zone distance factors for from the zones to the assigned emergency exits **2202**, **2204** in the floor plan **2200** of FIG. **22**.

[0068] As seen in FIG. **22**, systems and methods disclosed herein can receive user input of the CE identifying an emergency event (simulated or real) in one or more of the zones, for example, in zones 3 and 4, thereby making zones 3 and 4 emergency ones of the zones. Responsive to identifying the emergency event, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify a respective relative distance from each of the zones to the emergency ones of the zones. For example, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the respective relative distance from each of the emergency ones of the zones, zones 3 and 4, to be zero. However, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the respective relative distance from each of zones 1, 2, 5, and 6 to the emergency ones of the zones to be one because each of zones 1, 2, 5, and 6 is immediately adjacent to the emergency ones of the zones.

[0069] In this regard, FIG. **24** is a table **2400** of alert sequence factors for the zones in the floor plan **2200** of FIG. **22**. As seen, the third column of the table **2400** identifies the respective distance factor from each of the zones to the assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204**, and the fourth column of the table **2400** identifies the respective relative distance from each of the zones to the emergency ones of the zones, zones 3 and 4. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can identify the respective distance factor from each of the zones to the assigned one of the emergency exits **2202**, **2204** and the respective relative distance from each of the zones to the emergency ones of the zones prior to or during simulation of the emergency event.

[0070] Then, systems and methods disclosed herein can multiply the respective distance factor by the respective relative distance for each of the zones to identify a respective alert sequence factor, which is identified in the fifth column of the table **2400**. Finally, systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically define the cause and effect rules based on the respective alert sequence factor for each of the zones.

[0071] For example, the cause and effect rules can generate an alarm notification in any zones in which the emergency event is detected (e.g. alert sequence factor=0) and can generate alert evacuation notifications in descending order from a highest alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the one of the emergency exits **2202** to which the zones in which the emergency events are detected are assigned to a lowest, non-zero alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the one of the emergency exits **2202** to which the zones in which the emergency events are detected are assigned. That is, systems and methods disclosed herein can first generate one of the alert evacuation notifications in zones 7 and 8 because, like zones 3 and 4, zones 7 and 8 are assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** and have the highest alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202**. Indeed, zones 7 and 8 have the highest alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** because, of those zones, zones 7 and 8 are located furthest from the first of the emergency exits **2202** and, therefore, require the most time for evacuation therefrom. Next, systems and methods disclosed herein can generate one of the alert evacuation notifications in zones 5 and 6 because, like zones 3 and 4, zones 5 and 6 are assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** and have a next highest alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202**. Indeed, after zones 7 and 8, zones 5 and 6 have the next highest alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** because, of those zones, zones 5 and 6 are located the next furthest from the first of the emergency exits **2202**. Finally, systems and methods disclosed herein can generate one of the alert evacuation notifications in zones 1 and 2 because, like zones 3 and 4, zones 1 and 2 are assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** and have the lowest, non-zero alert sequence for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the

emergency exits. Indeed, zones 1 and 2 have the lowest, non-zero alert sequence factor for each of the zones assigned to the first one of the emergency exits **2202** because, of those zones, zones 1 and 2 are located the closest to the first of the emergency exits **2202**. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can implement a delay (e.g. 30 seconds) between alerting each of the zones.

[0072] As seen in FIG. **22**, zones 9-16 can be assigned to the second of the emergency exits **2204**. However, when the emergency event is detected in any of the zones assigned to the first of the emergency exits **2202**, systems and methods disclosed herein executing the cause and effect rules can generate alert information notifications in each of the zones assigned to the second of the emergency exits **2202**, zones 9-16.

[0073] In some embodiments, the cause and effect rules can include time delays. Accordingly, systems and methods disclosed herein can separate the alarm notification, the alert evacuation notifications, and the alert information notifications in time and/or delay the alarm notifications, the alert evacuation notifications, and the alert information notifications. For example, systems and methods disclosed herein can activate the alarm notification immediately after identifying the emergency event in the emergency ones of the zones. Then, systems and methods disclosed herein can activate a first of the alert evacuation notifications a predetermined period of time after the alarm notification, activate a second of the alert evacuation notifications the predetermined period of time after the first of the alerts, activate a third of the alert evacuation notifications the predetermined period of time after the second of the alerts, and activate the alert information notifications the predetermined period of time after the third of the alert evacuation notifications.

[0074] It is to be understood that systems and methods disclosed herein can automatically define the cause and effect rules for any and all of the zones in which the emergency event is identified.

[0075] FIG. **25** is flow diagram of a method **2500** in accordance with disclosed embodiments. As seen in FIG. **25**, the method **2500** can include a processor (e.g. the programmable processor **32**) receiving input defining and identifying a respective location of each of a plurality of zones in a secured area as in **2502** and the processor receiving input identifying a respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of zones as in **2504**. For example, the processor can receive the input defining and identifying the respective location of each of the plurality of zones and the input identifying the respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of zones via user input entered into a floor plan displayed on a GUI.

[0076] Then, the method **2500** can include the processor identifying an emergency event in one of the plurality of zones as in **2506**, the processor identifying a respective distance factor from each of the plurality of zones to an emergency exit based on the respective evacuation route from a respective one of the plurality of zones as in **2508**, the processor identifying a respective relative distance from each of the plurality of zones to the one of the plurality of zones in which the emergency event is identified as in **2510**, and the processor identifying a respective alert sequence factor for each of the plurality of zones by multiplying the respective distance factor by the respective relative distance for each of the plurality of zones as in **2512**. The respective alert sequence factor for each of the plurality of zones can be ordered highest to lowest, and the method **2500** can include the processor generating an alarm notification in the one of the plurality of zones in which the emergency event is identified as in **2514** and, for remaining ones of the plurality of zones, the processor generating alert notifications in an order corresponding to the respective alert sequence factor for the remaining ones of the plurality of zones such that one of the remaining ones of the plurality of zones with a highest alert sequence factor can receive one of the alert notifications before one of the remaining ones of the plurality of zones with a lowest alert sequence factor receives one of the alert notifications.

[0077] After automatically defining the cause and effect rules, systems and methods disclosed herein may display a GUI **2500** identifying all of the cause and effect rules defined as seen in in FIG. **26**. As seen, the cause and effect rules in FIG. **26** can be displayed as widgets, which can be customized pursuant to received user input.

[0078] As seen in FIG. **26**, the GUI **2500** can also display a simulate button **2502**, and responsive to the GUI **2500** receiving user input of the CE selecting the simulate button **2502**, systems and methods disclosed herein can simulate the cause and effect rules. For example, in some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can graphically simulate the cause and effect rules by displaying a GUI **2700** as seen in FIG. **27**.

[0079] As seen, the GUI **2700** can include a map or floor plan **2702** that can be displayed in different colors. For example, systems and methods disclosed herein can display any of the plurality of zones in the floor plan **2702** in a non-white color when systems and methods disclosed herein activate the alarm notification or one of the alert notifications therein. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can display any of the plurality of zones in the floor plan **2702** in a first color when systems and methods disclosed herein activate the alarm notification therein and can display any of the plurality of zones in a second, different color when systems and methods disclosed herein activate one of the alert notifications therein. In some embodiments, systems and methods disclosed herein can also display a speaker icon any of the plurality of zones when systems and methods disclosed herein activate the alarm notification therein to represent sounders being activated therein. In some embodiments, during the simulation, any of the plurality of zones can change color or flash color in real-time to correspond with the output of the cause and effect rules.

[0080] As seen in FIG. **27**, the GUI **2700** can also display cause and effect outputs in a simulation list **2704**, and in some embodiments, during the simulation, items in the simulation list **2704** can be added thereto for display on the GUI **2700** in real-time to correspond with the output of the cause and effect rules.

[0081] It is to be understood that systems and methods disclosed herein can execute a plurality of simulations to simulate a plurality of identified events, such as a fire, carbon monoxide, a burglary, etc., such that each of the plurality of identified events can originate from a respective one of the plurality of zones. In some embodiments, the plurality of simulations can be displayed on a per floor basis.

[0082] FIG. **28** is flow diagram of a method **2800** in accordance with disclosed embodiments. As seen in FIG. **28**, the method **2800** can include a processor (e.g. the programmable processor **32**) receiving cause and effect rules as in

2802, and the processor receiving user input selecting at least one simulation parameter (e.g. an identified event), such as a fire event, a carbon monoxide event, a burglary event, or any other emergency event, as in **2804**. As disclosed herein, the processor can receive the cause and effect rules from user input manually entering the cause and effect rules into a GUI or from an automatic generation of the cause and effect rules responsive to user input. Then, the method **2800** can include the processor highlighting or flashing a plurality of zones in a floor plan displayed on a GUI with color in accordance with the cause and effect rules as in **2806** and the processor displaying cause and effect rule outputs in a list on the GUI as in **2808**. In some embodiments, the processor can highlight or flash the plurality of zones with the color and add the cause and effect rule outputs to the list in real-time to correspond with the output of the cause and effect rules, including, for example, a delay time identified in the cause and effect rules.

[0083] Although a few embodiments have been described in detail above, other modifications are possible. For example, the logic flows described above do not require the particular order described or sequential order to achieve desirable results. Other steps may be provided, steps may be eliminated from the described flows, and other components may be added to or removed from the described systems. Other embodiments may be within the scope of the invention.

[0084] From the foregoing, it will be observed that numerous variations and modifications may be effected without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is to be understood that no limitation with respect to the specific system or method described herein is intended or should be inferred. It is, of course, intended to cover all such modifications as fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

identifying a plurality of physical zones within a building, wherein each zone is defined by a boundary created on a floor plan by a user;

defining cause and effect rules for each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to receiving the user input identifying the plurality of physical zones, wherein the cause and effect rules correspond to an associated emergency response process for each zone;

initiating a test of a security system that protects the building by initiating a simulated user input identifying an emergency event in one of the plurality of physical zones of the building; and

responsive to the simulated user input, simulating an emergency response process for the one of the plurality of physical zones based on the defined cause and effect rules.

2. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

identifying a respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to a user input; and

updating the cause and effect rules for each of the plurality of physical zones based on the identified evacuation routes.

3. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

graphically simulating the cause and effect rules as customized widgets on a user interface device; and

displaying the graphically simulated cause and effect rules on a display of the user interface device.

4. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

during the simulated emergency response, activating an alarm in the one of the plurality of physical zones; and

displaying an alarm notification on a user interface device in real-time responsive to activating the alarm to correspond to an output of the cause and effect rules.

5. The method of claim **1**, further comprising assigning a security system device to each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to receiving a user input on a user interface device.

6. The method of claim **1**, further comprising creating a new cause and effect rule responsive to detecting an alarm condition in at least one of the plurality of physical zones by a sensor located within the building.

7. The method of claim **1**, further comprising creating a new cause and effect rule responsive to detecting any alarm condition in an identified area within the building by a sensor located within the building.

8. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

assigning a description to each of the plurality of physical zones based on a user input; and

storing the plurality of physical zones and the associated description in a list of the plurality of physical zones.

9. The method of claim **8**, further comprising:

receiving a user input as a text input on a user interface device searching for a specific physical zone;

displaying entries in the list of the plurality of physical zones that correspond to the text input;

selecting the specific physical zone from the list of the plurality of physical zones responsive to a user input identifying the specific physical zone from the displayed entries.

10. A user interface device, comprising:

a programmable processor; and

executable control software stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium, wherein the control software is executable to:

identify a plurality of physical zones within a building, wherein each zone is defined by a boundary created on a floor plan by a user;

define cause and effect rules for each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to receiving the user input identifying the plurality of physical zones, wherein the cause and effect rules correspond to an associated emergency response process for each zone;

initiate a test of a security system that protects the building by initiating a simulated user input identifying an emergency event in one of the plurality of physical zones of the building; and

responsive to the simulated user input, simulate an emergency response process for the one of the plurality of physical zones based on the defined cause and effect rules.

11. The user interface device of claim **10**, wherein the control software is further executable to:

create a new cause and effect rule responsive to a user input; and

assign an output corresponding to the new cause and effect rule.

12. The user interface device of claim **10**, wherein the control software is further executable to identify a respective evacuation route from each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to a user input.

13. The user interface device of claim **12**, wherein the identified evacuation route begins in one physical zone of the plurality of physical zones and extends through another physical zone of the plurality of physical zones.

14. The user interface device of claim **12**, wherein the control software is further executable to automatically define the cause and effect rules responsive to receiving the user input of the identified evacuation routes.

15. The user interface device of claim **10**, wherein the control software is further executable to display a list of the plurality of physical zones, the floor plan, and the boundary of each of the plurality of physical zones.

16. A security system, comprising:

a number of security system devices including:

a user interface device having a programmable processor; and

executable control software stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium of the user interface device, wherein the control software is executable to:

identify a plurality of physical zones within a building, wherein each zone is defined by a boundary created on a floor plan by a user;

define cause and effect rules for each of the plurality of physical zones responsive to receiving the user input identifying the plurality of physical zones, wherein the cause and effect rules correspond to an associated emergency response process for each zone;

initiate a test of the security system that protects the building by initiating a simulated user input identifying an emergency event in one of the plurality of physical zones of the building; and

responsive to the simulated user input, simulate an emergency response process for the one of the plurality of physical zones based on the defined cause and effect rules.

17. The system of claim **16**, wherein the control software is further executable to:

generate a new cause and effect rule responsive to receiving a user input on the user interface device; and

display the number of security system devices in the plurality of physical zones associated with the user input corresponding to the new cause and effect rule.

18. The system of claim **17**, wherein the control software is further executable to select one or more of a plurality of conditions corresponding to the new cause and effect rule responsive to receiving the user input.

19. The system of claim **18**, wherein selecting one or more of the plurality of conditions include selecting one or more conditions from the following conditions: any sensor located within the building detecting an alarm event, any sensor detecting a pre-alarm, any sensor detecting an alarm progression, or any sensor detecting a fault.

20. The system of claim **16**, wherein the control software is further executable to identify a plurality of outputs corresponding to the cause and effect rules.

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