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United States Patent [19]

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Ballantyne et al.

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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSING AND DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL HEALTH CARE INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN HOSPITALS AND HOMES**

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[75] Inventors: **Douglas J. Ballantyne**, Nepean; **Michael Mulhall**, Ottawa, both of Canada

[73] Assignee: **Paxton Developments Inc.**, Ottawa, Canada

[21] Appl. No.: **602,468**

Primary Examiner—Edward R. Cosimano

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[57] ABSTRACT

Related U.S. Application Data

This new and unique method and apparatus is used for the distribution and administration of medical services, entertainment services, electronic medical records, educational information, etc. to a patient's individual electronic patient care station (PCS) interconnected to a master library (ML) which stores data in digital compressed format, through a local medical information network. The patient/medical personnel interact with this medical information network through the unique PCS and receives the requested service or data from the master library. The data is then displayed either on the associated television set or video monitor or through wireless/IR communications to a peripheral personal data assistant (pen based computer technology) The data for text, audio, and video information is all compressed digitally to facilitate distribution and only decompressed at the final stage before viewing/interaction.

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 241,405, May 11, 1994, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 17/60**

[52] U.S. Cl. **705/2; 395/200.33; 395/200.47; 705/3; 707/10; 707/104**

[58] Field of Search **395/200.3, 200.33, 395/200.47, 200.48, 200.49; 705/2, 3, 4; 707/1, 10, 104**

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19 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets

