[54] **FILTERS IN LICENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[51] Int. Cl.^{5} H04L 9/00
[52] U.S. Cl. 384/4
[58] Field of Search 380/4

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A distributed computer system employs a license management system to account for software product usage. A management policy having a variety of alternative styles and contexts is provided. Each licensed product upon start-up makes a call to a license server to check on whether usage is permitted, and the license server checks a database of the licenses, called product use authorizations, that it administers. If the particular use requested is permitted, a grant is returned to the requesting user node. The product use authorization is structured to define a license management policy allowing a variety of license alternatives by values called "style", "context", "duration" and "usage requirements determination method". The license administration may be delegated by the license server to a subsection of the organization, by creating another license management facility duplicating the main facility. The license server must receive a license document (a product use authorization) from an issuer of licenses, where a license document generator is provided. A mechanism is provided for one user node to make a call to use a software product located on another user node; this is referred to as a "calling card", by which a user node obtains permission to make a procedure call to use a program on another node. A management interface allows a license manager at a server to modify the license documents in the database maintained by the server, within the restraints imposed by the license, to make delegations, assignments, etc. The license documents are maintained in a standard format referred to as a license document interchange format so the management system is portable and can be used by all adhering software vendors. A feature of the database management is the use of a filter function.
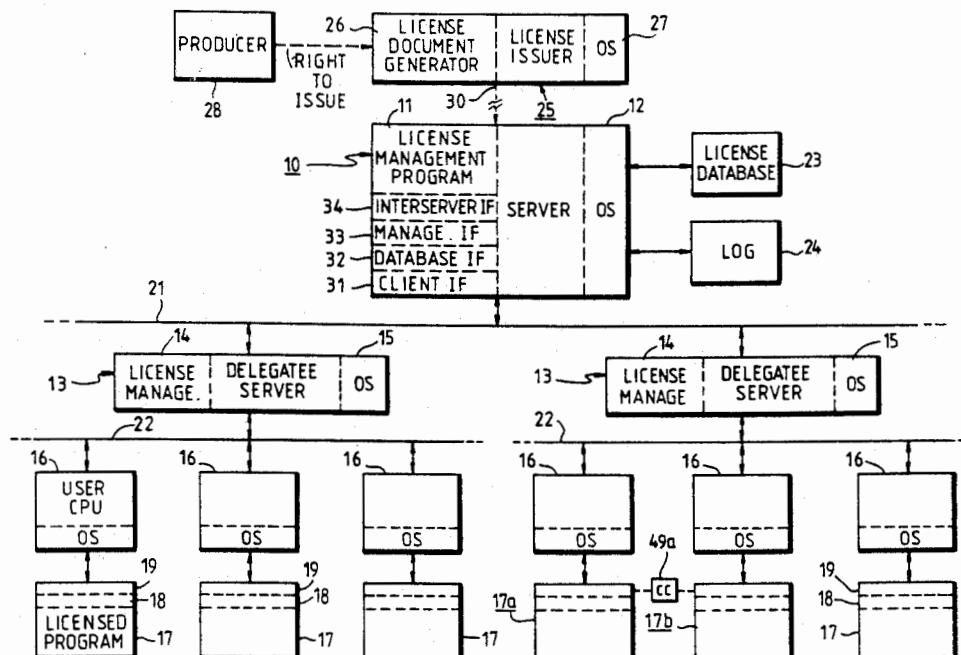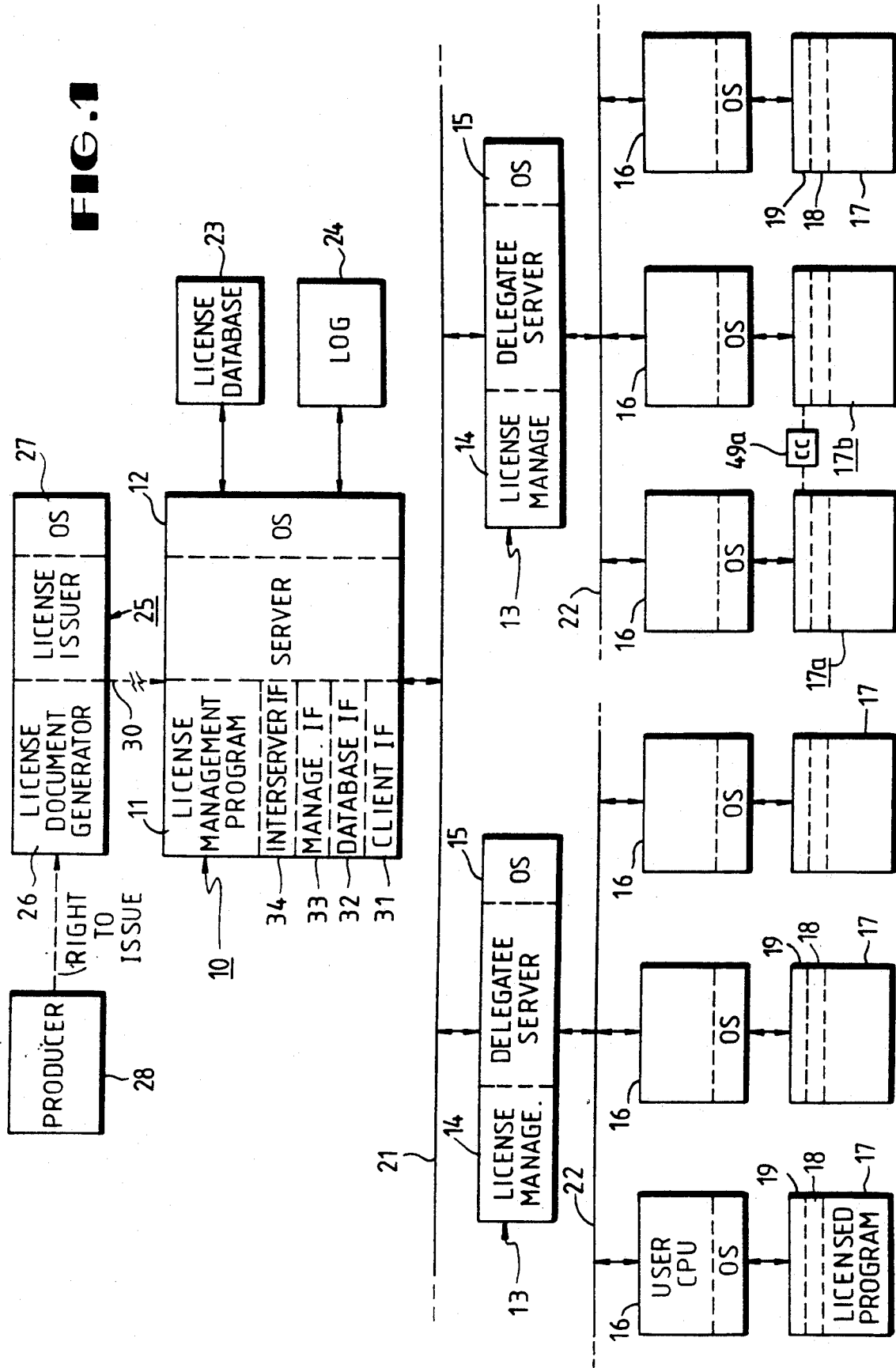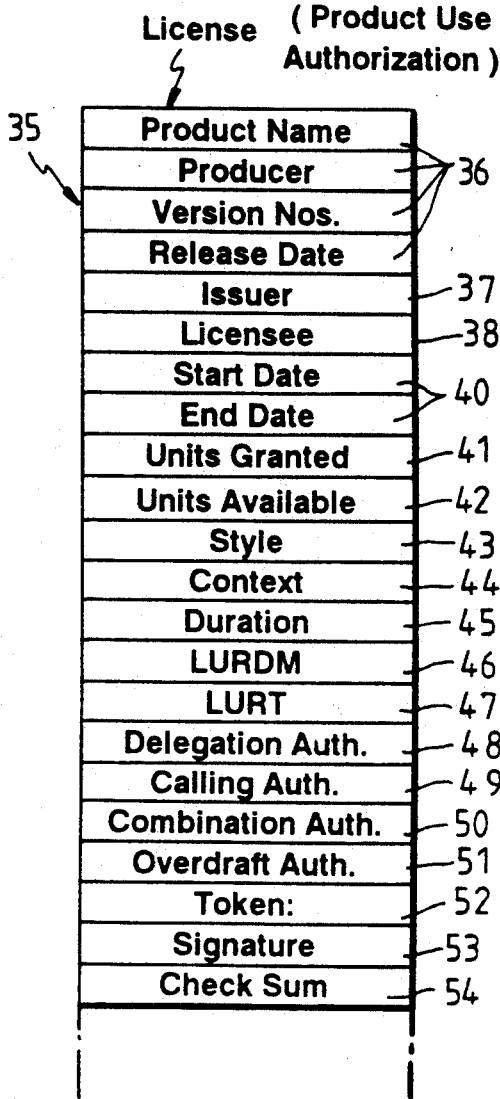
12 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

FIG.1

License (Product Use Authorization)

35

License (Product Use Authorization)	
Product Name	
Producer	36
Version Nos.	
Release Date	
Issuer	37
Licensee	38
Start Date	40
End Date	
Units Granted	41
Units Available	42
Style	43
Context	44
Duration	45
LURDM	46
LURT	47
Delegation Auth.	48
Calling Auth.	49
Combination Auth.	50
Overdraft Auth.	51
Token:	52
Signature	53
Check Sum	54

FIG.2

License Unit Requirements Table			
Row Selector	Columns		
Platform ID	A	B	C
PC-0	10	230	-1
PC-1	12	230	-1
VAX 6210	158	300	150

FIG.4

43 44 45 46

Style	Context	Duration	LURDM
Allocative	Network	Transaction	Constant
Consumptive	Execution_Domain	Assignment	Table Lookup
Private	Login_Domain	Immediate	Private
	Node_ID		
	Process_Family		
	Process		
	User_Name		
	Product_Name		
	Operating_System		
	Platform _ID		
	Private		

FIG.3

FIG.5

FIG.6

DOCKET ALARM
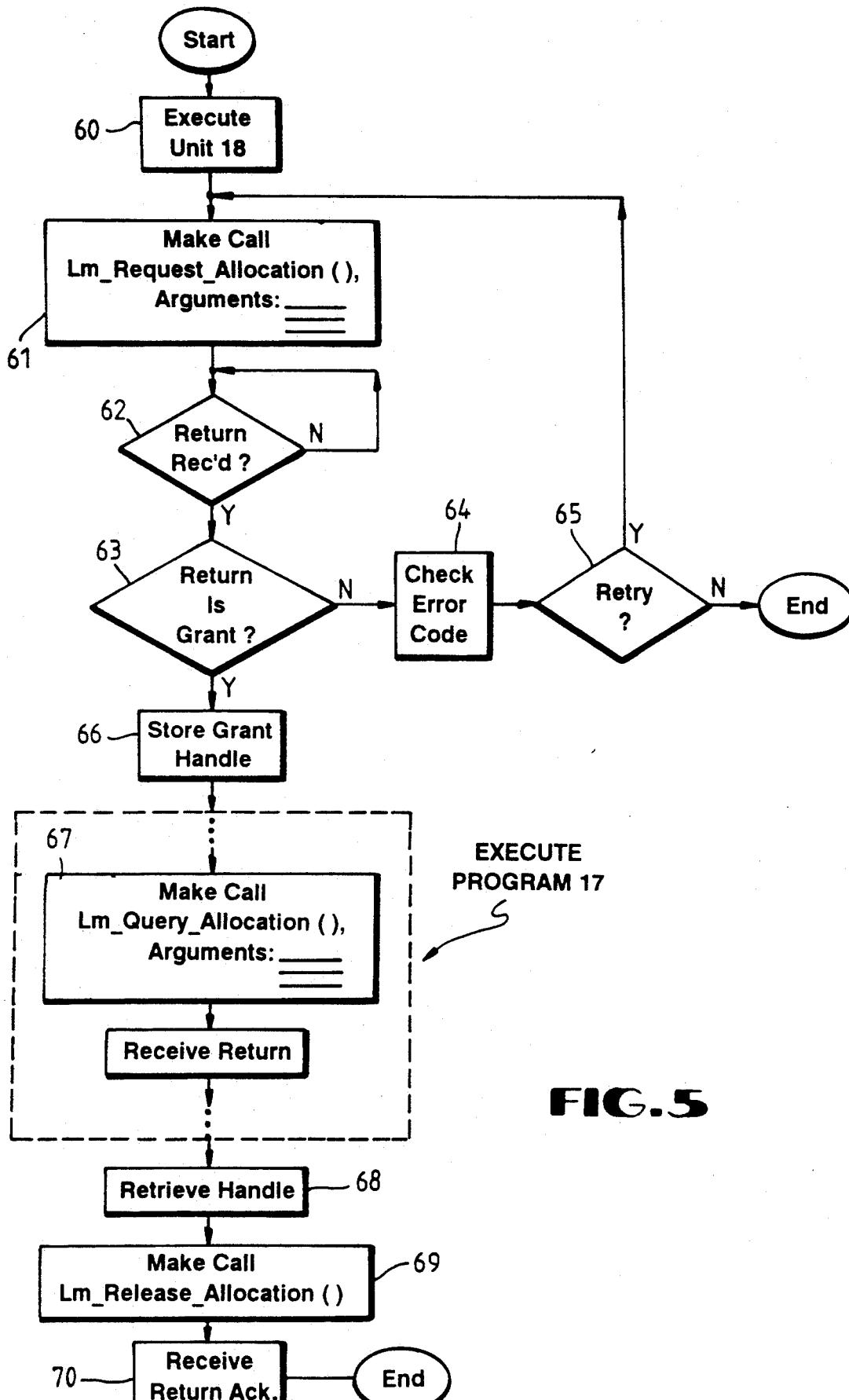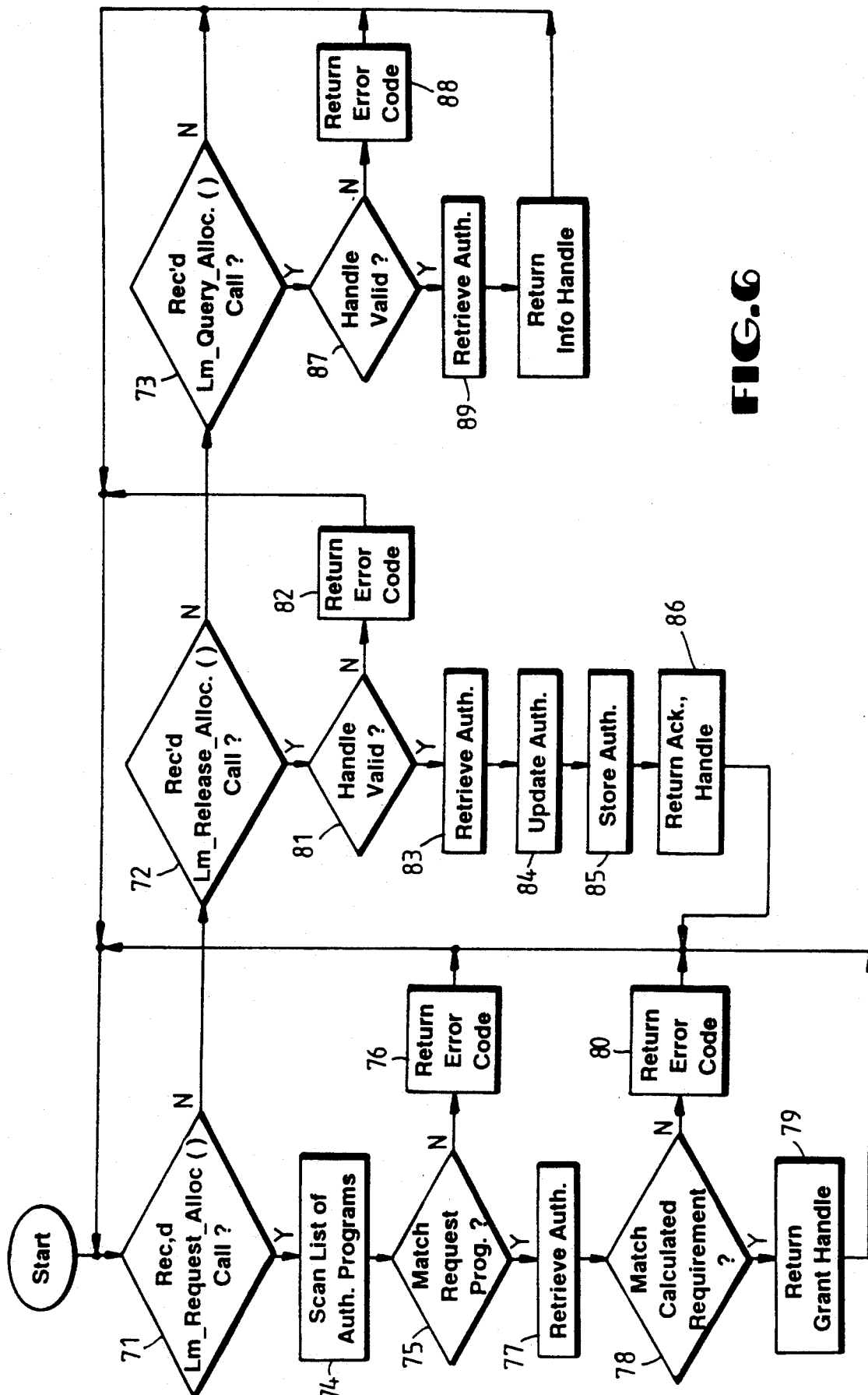
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