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Hutton et al.

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[54] **POINT-TO-POINT INTERNET PROTOCOL**

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[73] Assignee: **NetSpeak Corporation**, Boca Raton, Fla.

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[21] Appl. No.: **08/533,115**

Internetworking with TCP/IP, vol. 1, Second Edition, Principles, Protocols, and Architecture, by Douglas E. Comer; 1991; table of contents, pp. 1-3, 17-19, 311-333.

[22] Filed: **Sep. 25, 1995**

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 13/38; G06F 15/17**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **709/227; 709/204**

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[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.01, 200.02, 395/200.09, 200.11, 200.15, 200.34, 200.35, 200.47, 200.48, 200.57, 200.58, 200.75; 709/204, 205, 217, 218, 227, 228, 235

[57] **ABSTRACT**

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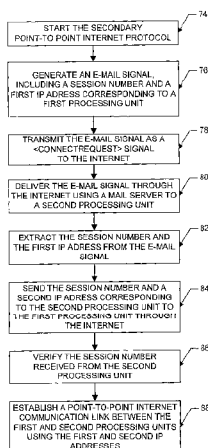
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A point-to-point Internet protocol exchanges Internet Protocol (IP) addresses between processing units to establish a point-to-point communication link between the processing units through the Internet. A first point-to-point Internet protocol includes the steps of (a) storing in a database a respective IP address of a set of processing units that have an on-line status with respect to the Internet; (b) transmitting a query from a first processing unit to a connection server to determine the on-line status of a second processing unit; and (c) retrieving the IP address of the second unit from the database using the connection server, in response to the determination of a positive on-line status of the second processing unit, for establishing a point-to-point communication link between the first and second processing units through the Internet. A second point-to-point Internet protocol includes the steps of (a) transmitting an E-mail signal, including a first IP address, from a first processing unit; (b) processing the E-mail signal through the Internet to deliver the E-mail signal to a second processing unit; and (c) transmitting a second IP address to the first processing unit for establishing a point-to-point communication link between the first and second processing units through the Internet.

44 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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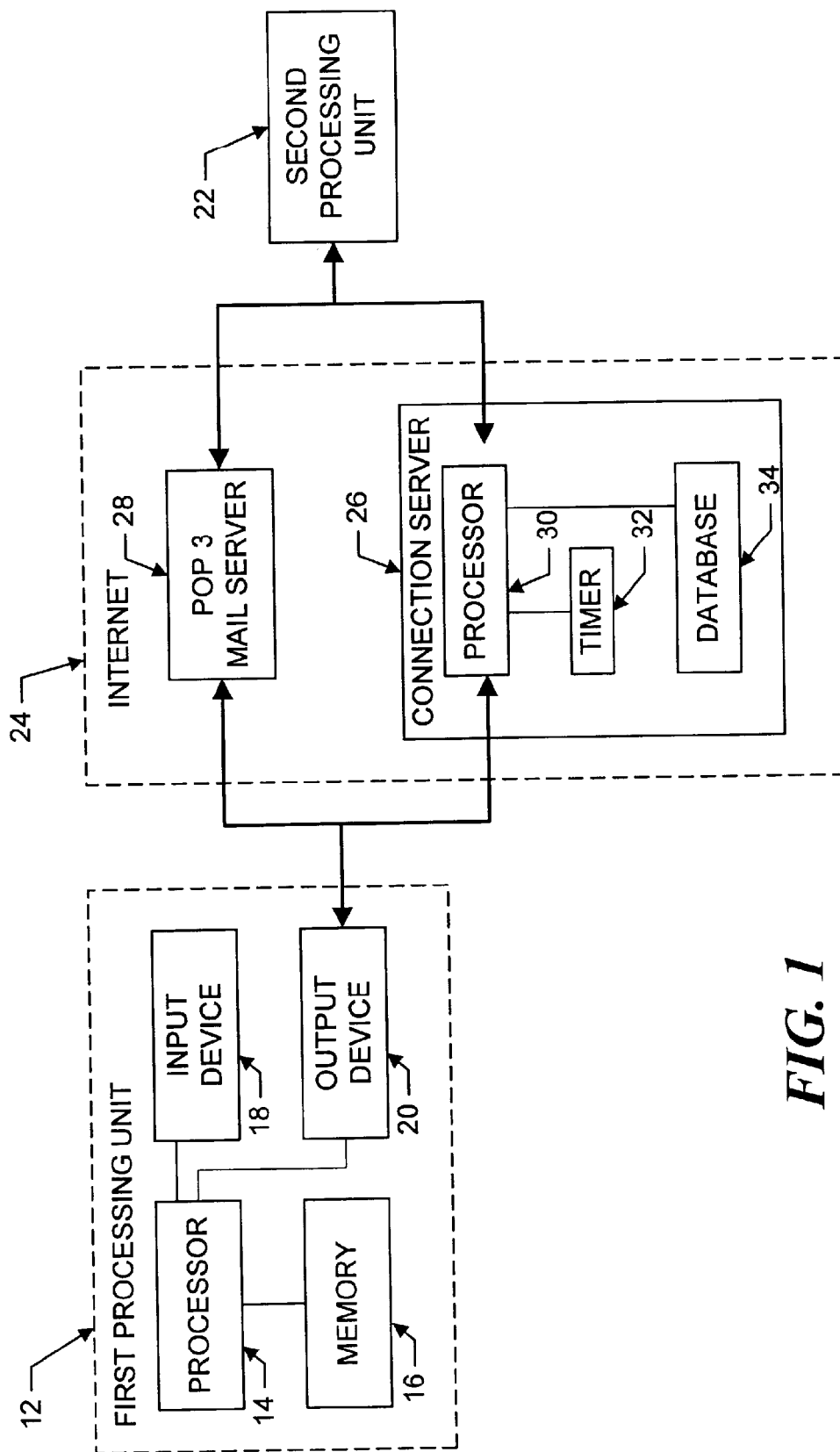


FIG. 1

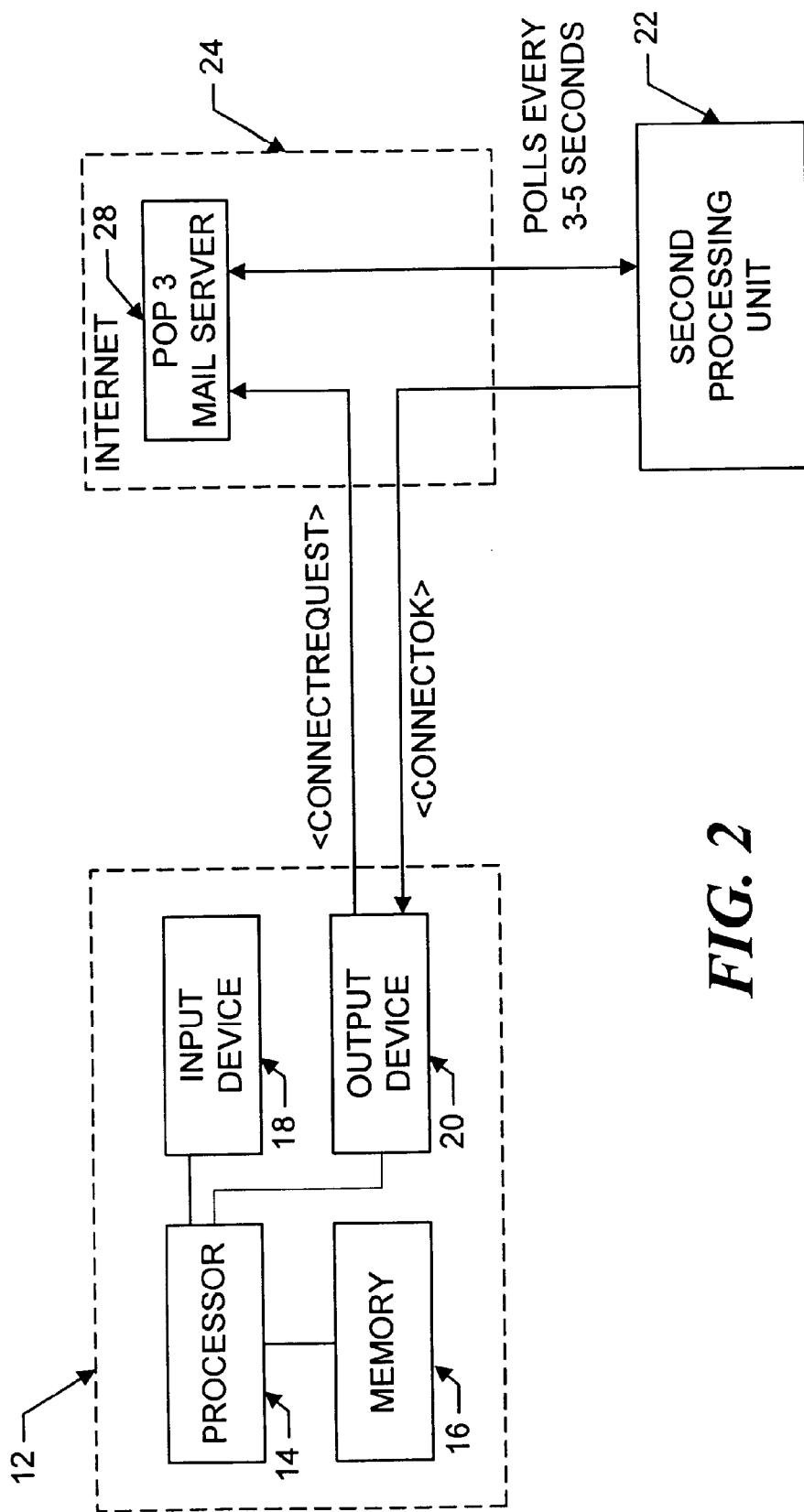


FIG. 2

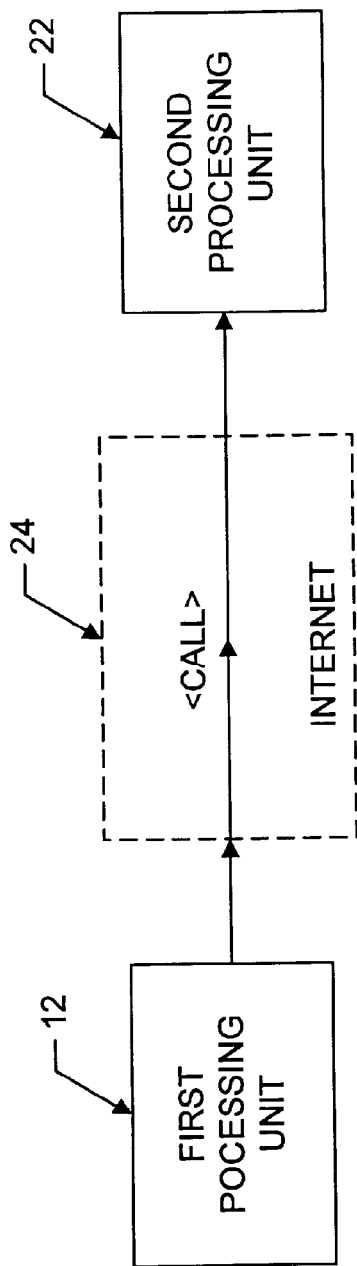


FIG. 3

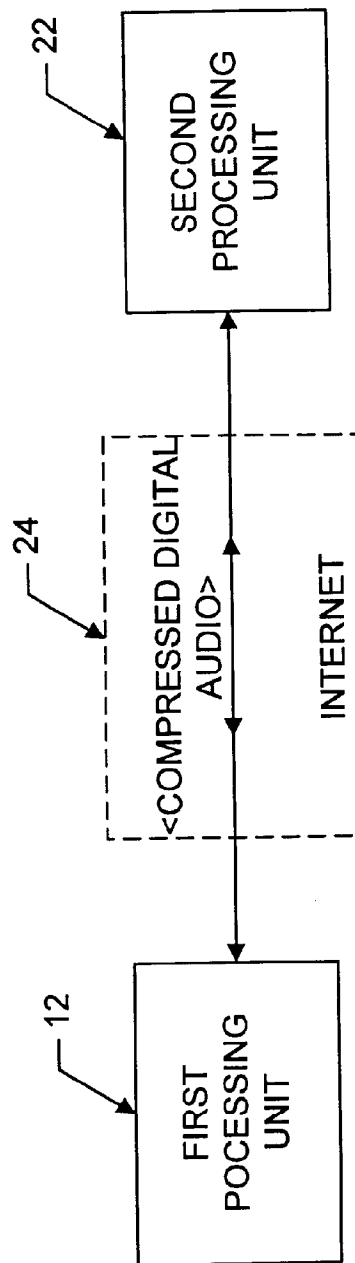


FIG. 4

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