



[54] MAINTAINING DATABASES BY MEANS OF HIERARCHICAL GENEALOGICAL TABLE

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[57] ABSTRACT

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The present invention describes a system and method for maintaining databases. An ordered genealogy table is provided for implying hierarchical relations on an as-needed basis. The invention further provides relational search capabilities to a hierarchical database. The invention also allows a database that is maintained on a computer system in a hierarchical structure to be converted into a database that is maintained in a relational structure, and vice versa. In addition, the invention may be used with currently existing hierarchical and relational databases. The invention provides a plurality of records; a unique identifier for each of the records; a database for maintaining the records; and a table which contains one or more table entries, wherein each table entry contains a genealogy including the unique identifier of a particular record and the unique identifiers of any records that can be considered ancestors of that particular record in a hierarchy, and wherein the table entries are sorted in collating sequence according to their genealogies.

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[52] U.S. Cl. 395/600; 364/419.07; 364/974; 364/974.3; 364/974.4; 364/283.2; 364/283.4; 364/DIG. 1; 364/DIG. 2

[58] Field of Search 395/600, 700, 395/500, 425; 364/419.07

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

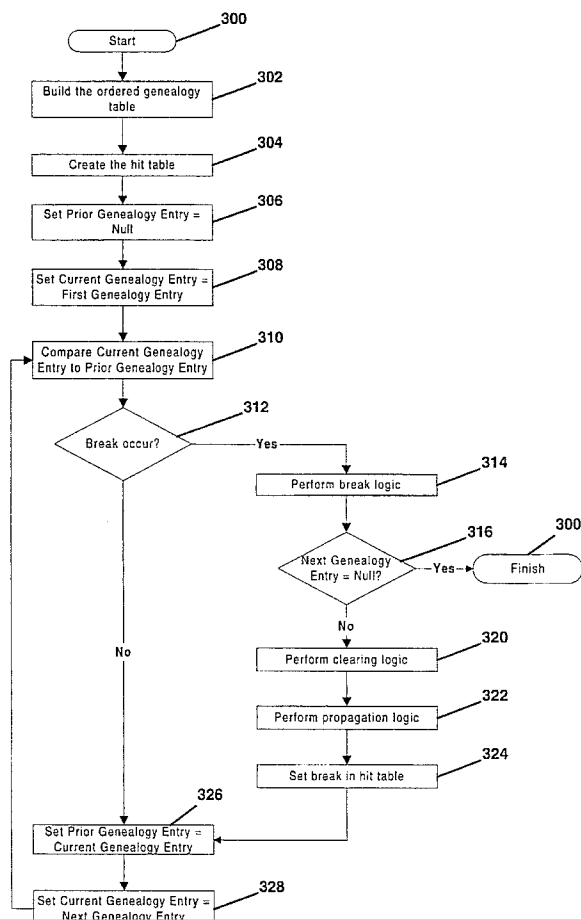
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Primary Examiner—Thomas G. Black

15 Claims, 69 Drawing Sheets



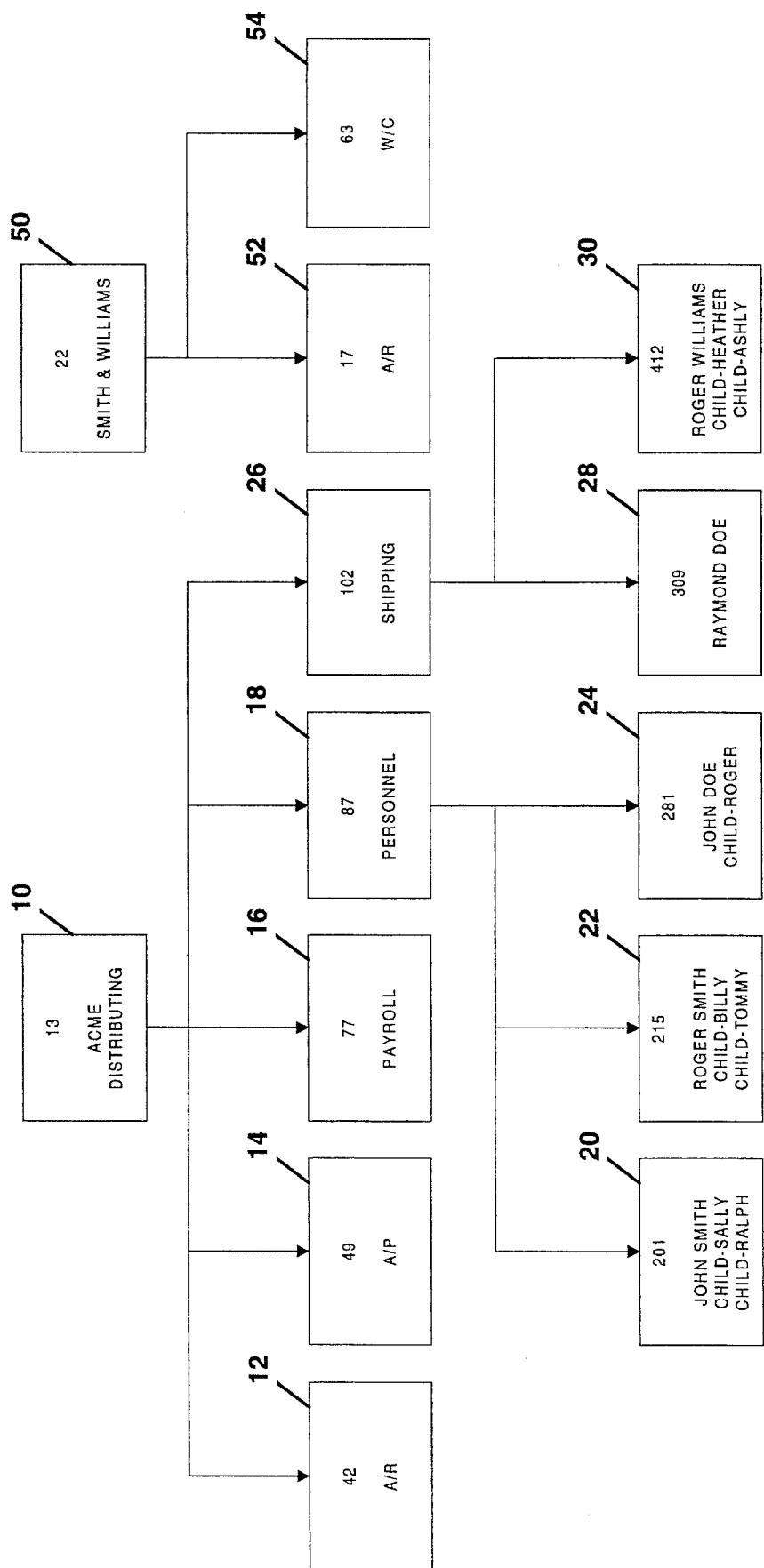


Figure 1a

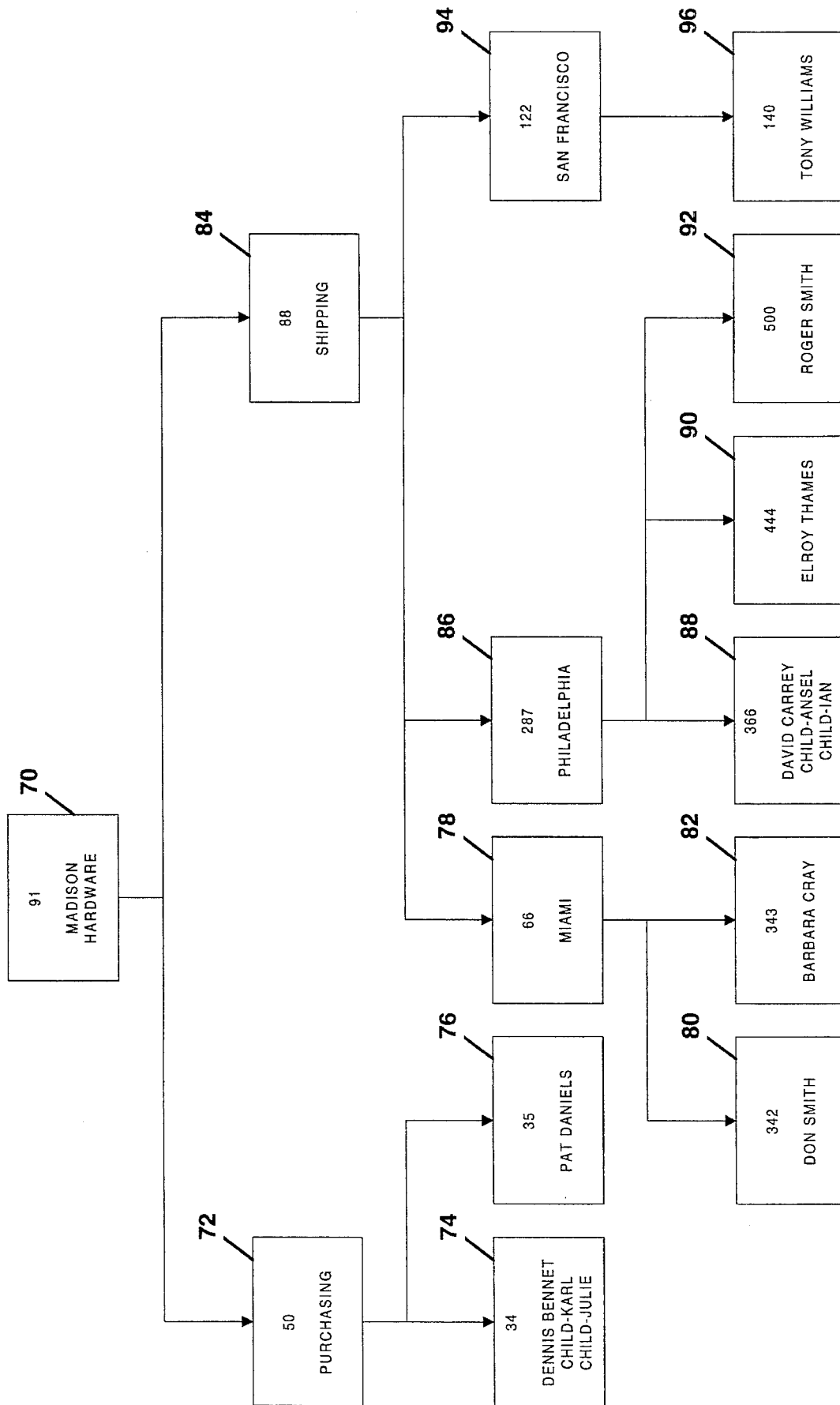


Figure 1b

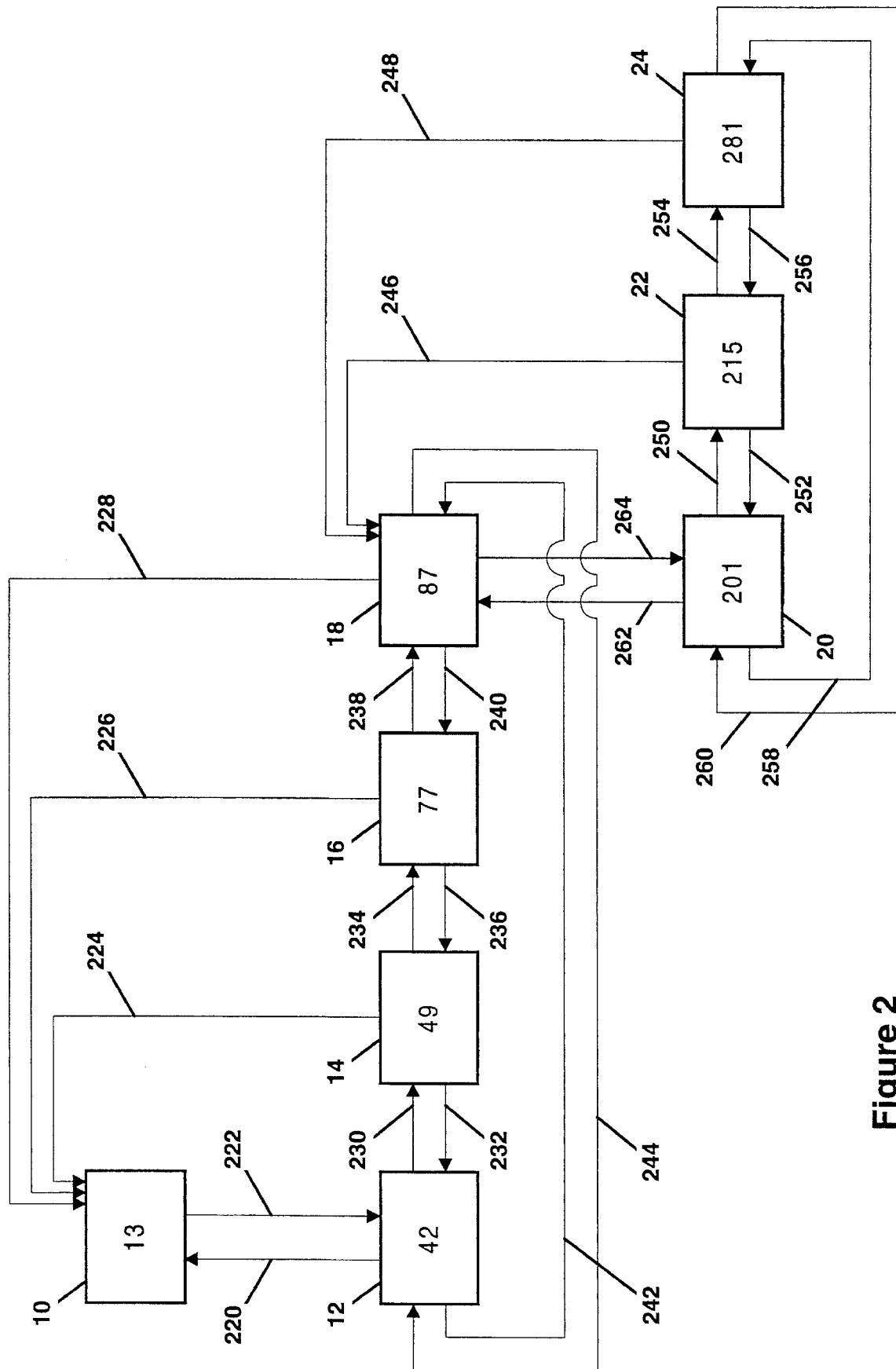


Figure 2

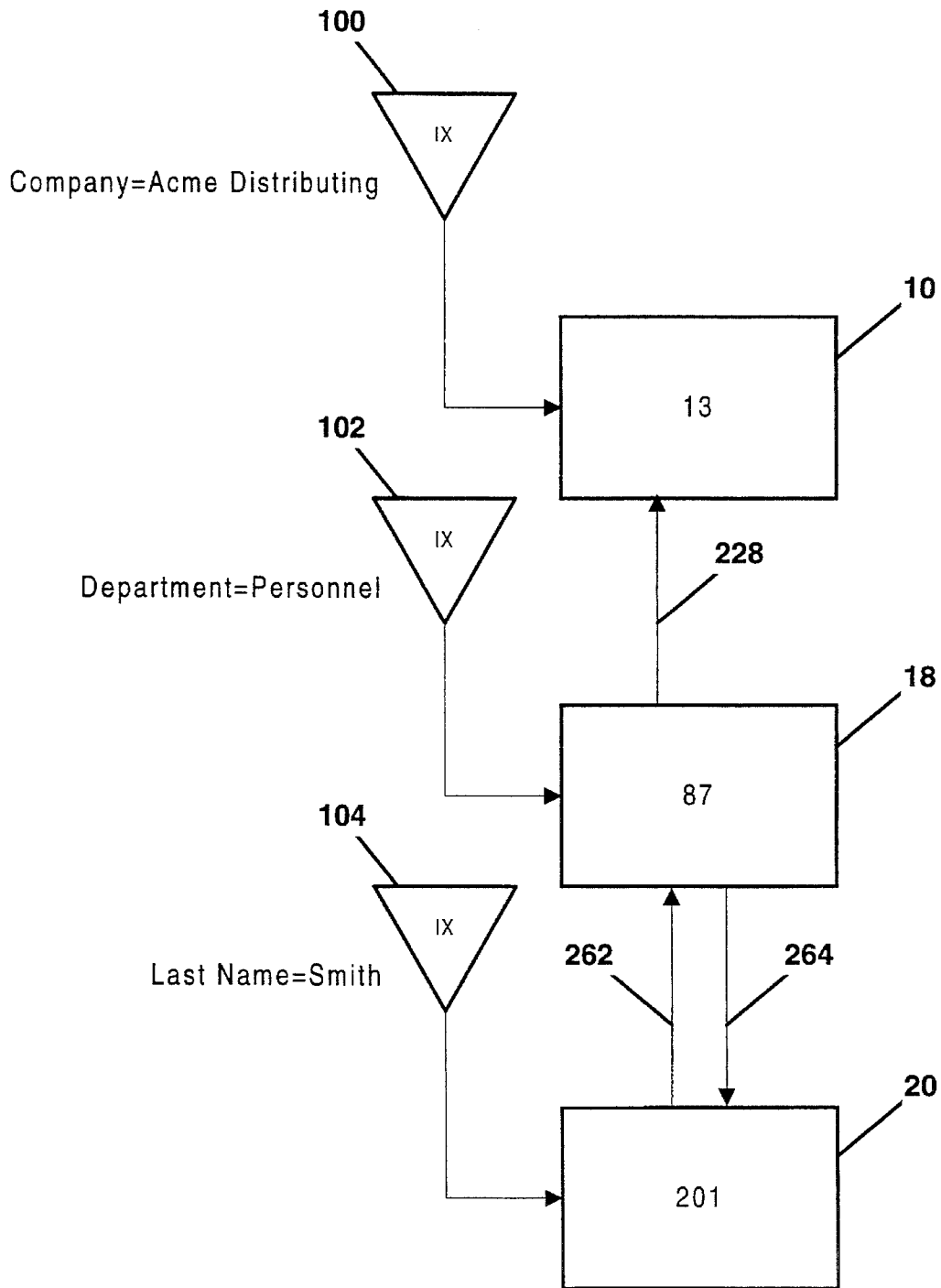


Figure 3

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