

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS PERMITTING NOTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF BLOCKED INCOMING CALLS OVER A DATA NETWORK**

5,608,786 3/1997 Gordon 370/352
5,610,910 3/1997 Focsaneanu et al. .
5,651,060 7/1997 Cohn et al. 379/93.35
5,706,336 1/1998 Kikinis 379/93.35

[75] Inventor: **William P. McMullin**, Bedford, Canada

[73] Assignee: **Interactive Telecom Inc.**, Bedford, Canada

[21] Appl. No.: **742,052**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 1, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **H04M 11/00**; H04M 3/42

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **379/215**; 379/93.35; 379/211; 370/352

[58] **Field of Search** 379/215, 93.35, 379/93.01, 201, 209, 211; 370/352

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,852,151 7/1989 Dittakavi et al. 379/93.35
4,873,719 10/1989 Reese 379/215
4,876,711 10/1989 Curtin .
4,947,421 8/1990 Toy et al. 379/215
4,969,184 11/1990 Gordon et al. 379/100.13
4,995,074 2/1991 Goldman et al. .
5,046,188 9/1991 Molnar .
5,195,130 3/1993 Weiss et al. .
5,263,084 11/1993 Chaput et al. 379/215
5,287,401 2/1994 Lin .
5,309,512 5/1994 Blackmon et al. 379/215
5,343,516 8/1994 Callele et al. .
5,363,431 11/1994 Schull et al. .
5,425,092 6/1995 Quirk .
5,425,097 6/1995 Pula 379/215
5,432,616 7/1995 Fukao et al. 379/215
5,475,746 12/1995 Miller et al. .
5,491,744 2/1996 Kikinis 379/215
5,513,251 4/1996 Rochkind et al. 379/93.35
5,519,767 5/1996 O'Horo et al. 379/93.35
5,533,102 7/1996 Robinson et al. 379/215
5,533,110 7/1996 Pinard et al. 379/201
5,604,796 2/1997 Yamazaki 379/215

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

0732835 A2 9/1996 European Pat. Off. .
9609714 3/1996 WIPO H04M 11/00
9620553 7/1996 WIPO H04M 3/50
WO 96/38018
A1 11/1996 WIPO .
WO 97/20424
A1 6/1997 WIPO .

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin vol. 37 No. 9 pp. 101-104 Sep. 1994.
IEEE Nov. 1989 Tencon '89, pp. 10-14, Shankar et al.
IEEE Jan. 1993 Communications Magazine, pp. 15-19, Burson et al.

Primary Examiner—Ahmad F. Matar

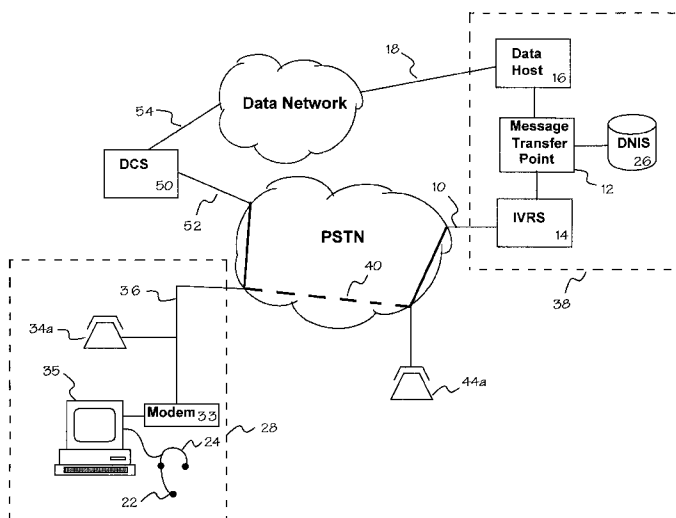
Assistant Examiner—Scott Wolinsky

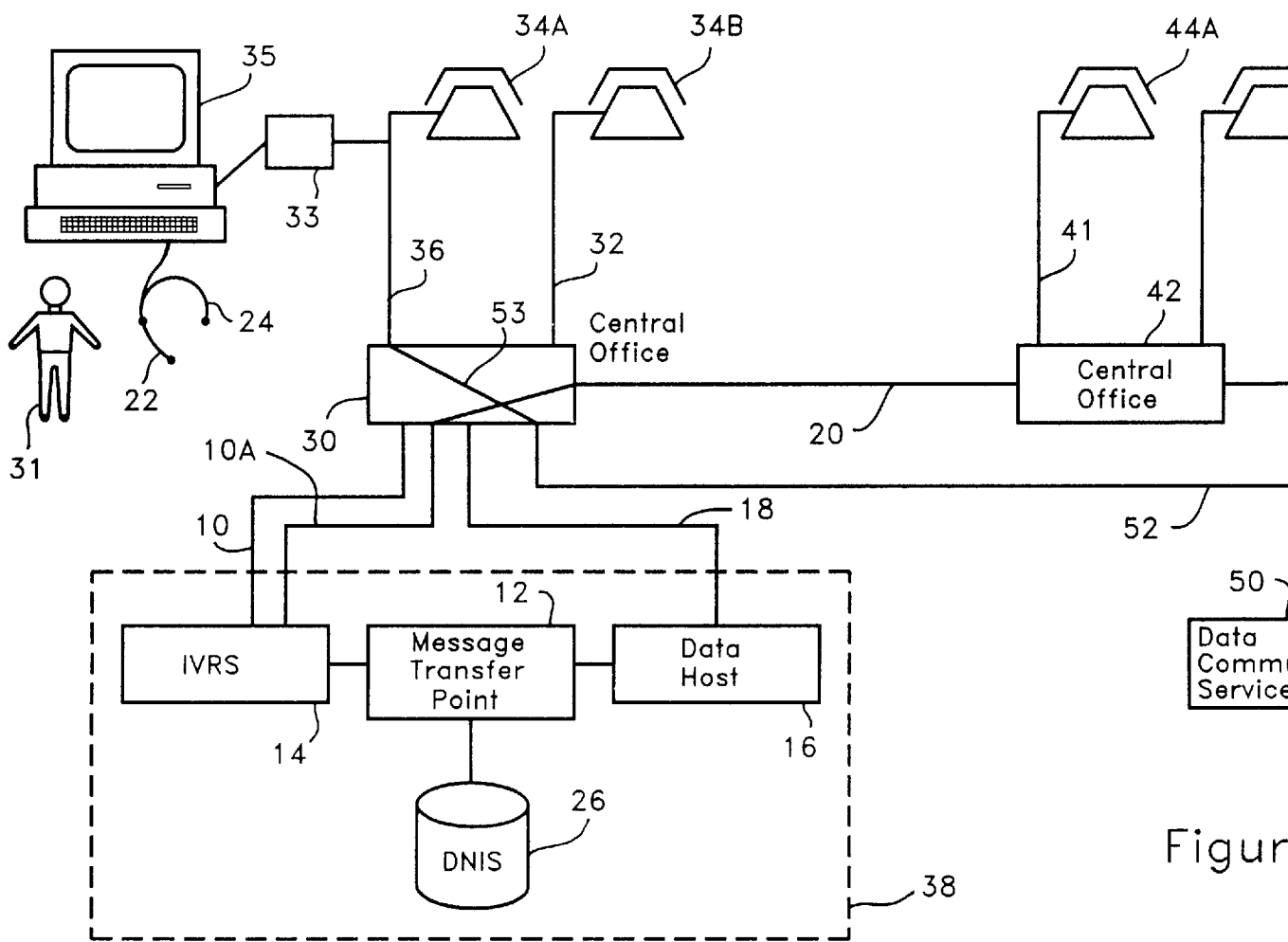
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bennett, Jones, Vercheve

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus are disclosed for providing automatic redirection of an incoming voice telephone call from a caller to a subscriber proxy when an attempt by the caller to connect to a telephone link of a public switched telephone network (PSTN) is blocked due to the telephone link being occupied by a subscriber using the telephone link to establish communications between the subscriber's personal computer and a computer network. The subscriber proxy is connected to both the PSTN and the computer network, and produces audio interaction with the caller. The subscriber proxy also notifies the subscriber of the incoming call via the subscriber's computer. The subscriber's computer can optionally be used by the subscriber to control and interact with the incoming call by communicating with the computer proxy while the subscriber continues to occupy the telephone link.

50 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





Figure

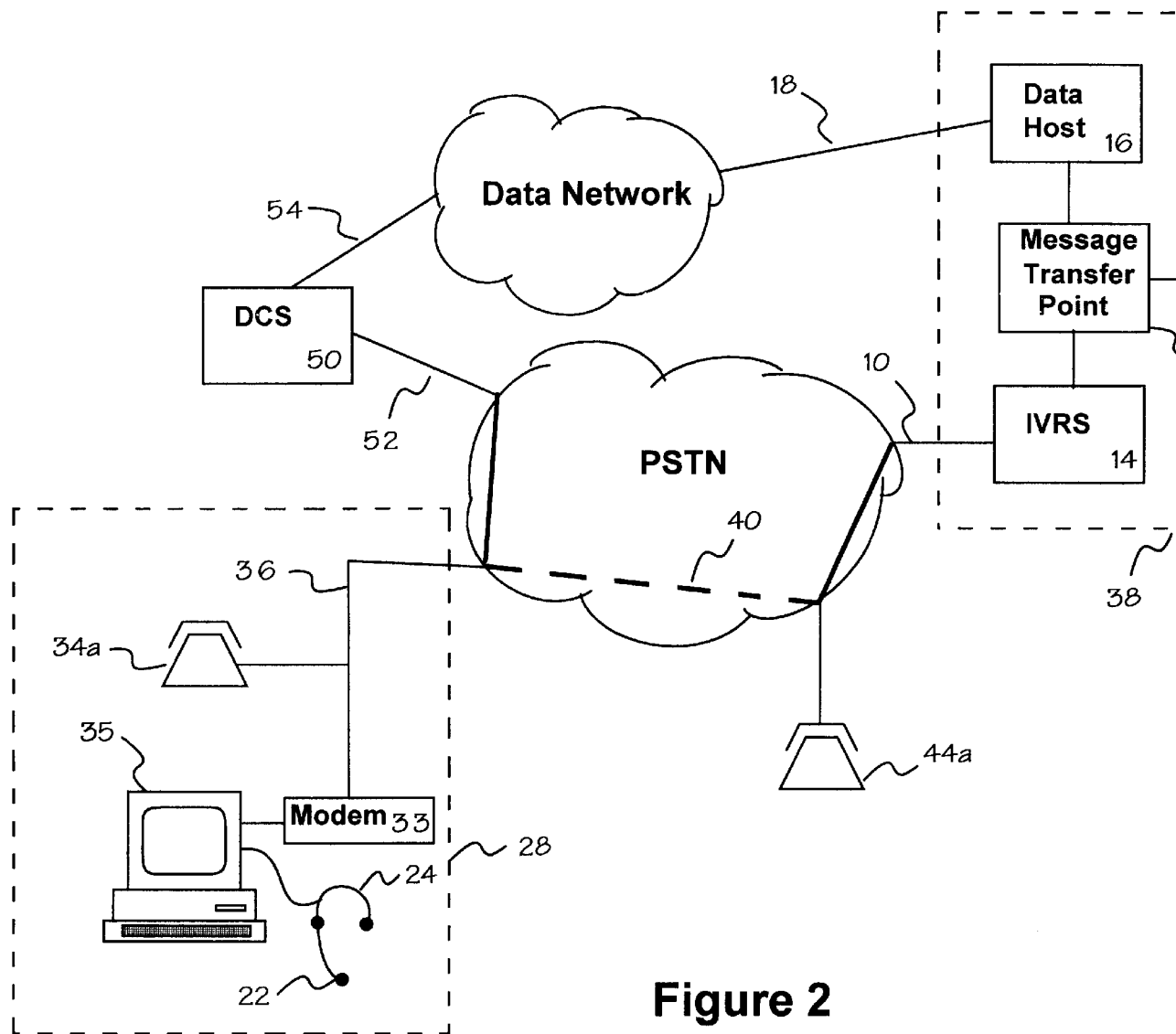


Figure 2

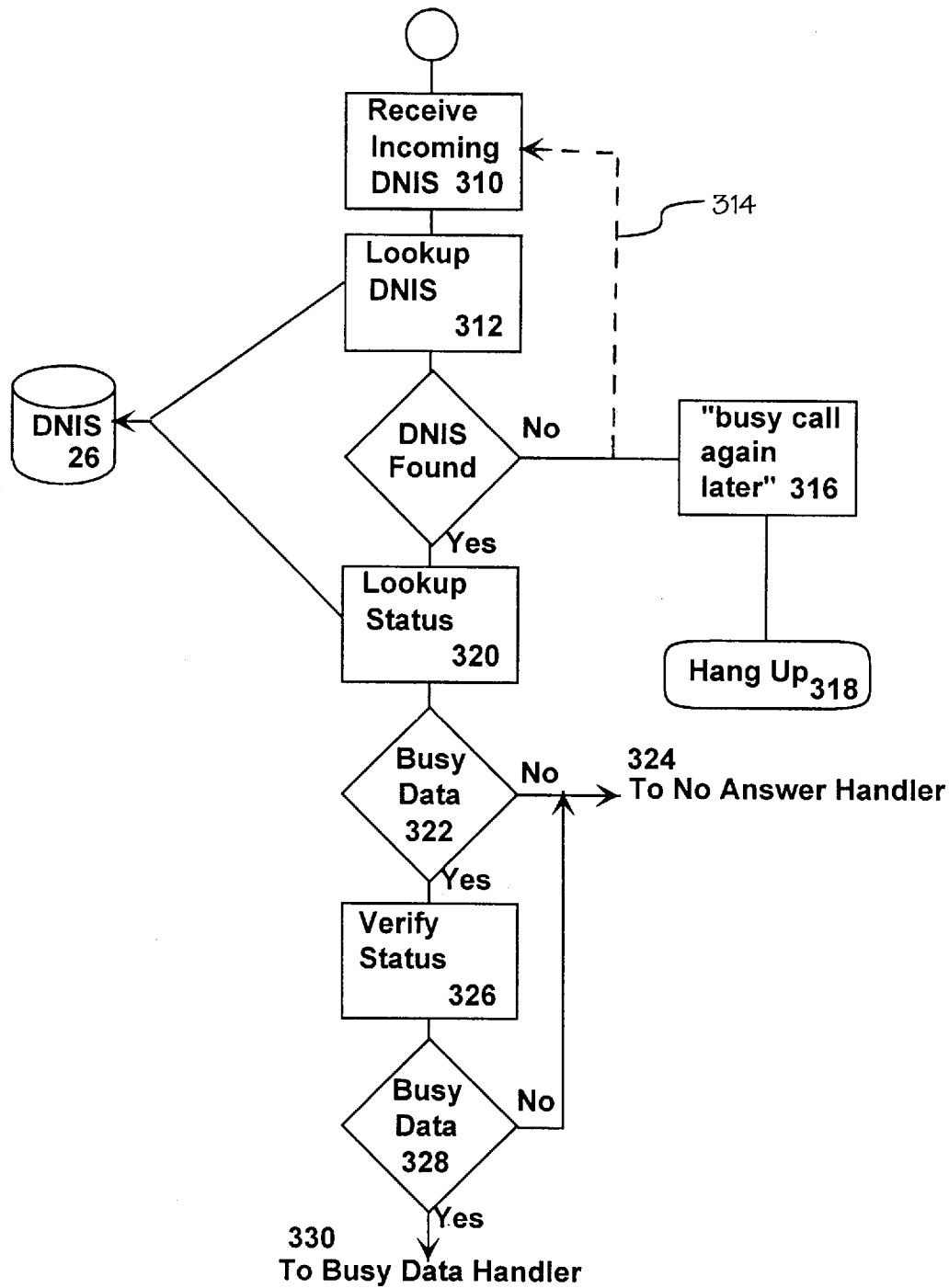


Figure 3

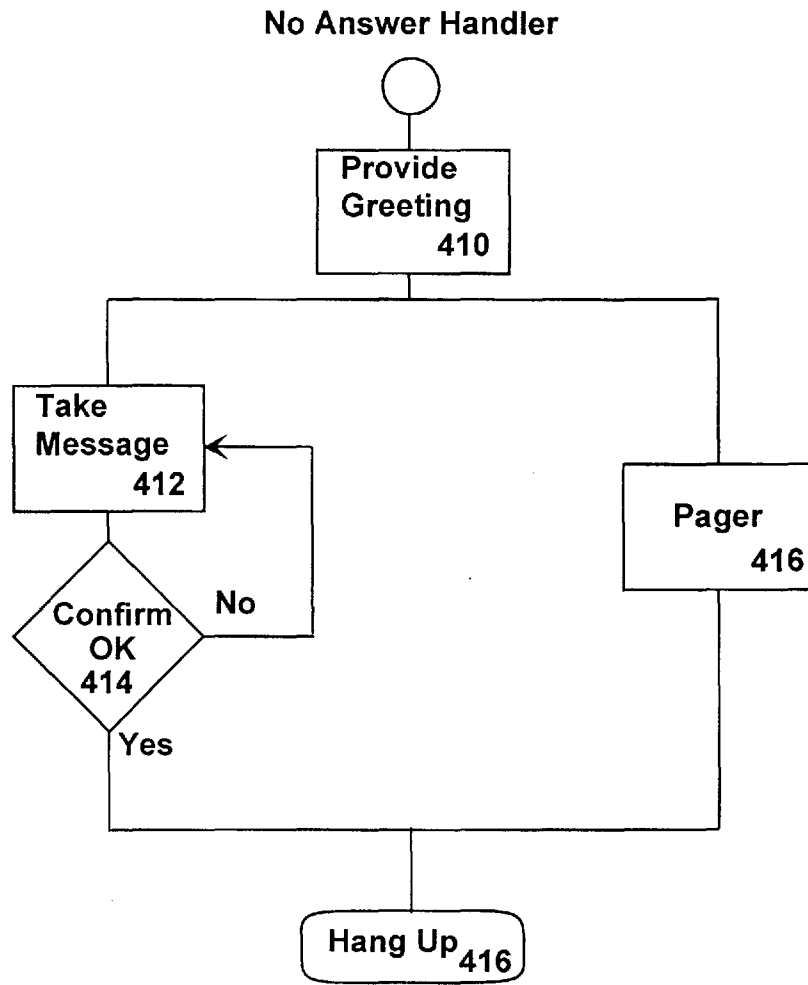


Figure 4

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.