

(12) **United States Patent**
Burger et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,353,660 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 5, 2002**

(54) **VOICE CALL PROCESSING METHODS**

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(75) Inventors: **Eric William Burger**, McLean, VA
(US); **John Kimball**, Gaithersburg, MD
(US)

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(73) Assignee: **SS8 Networks, Inc.**, San Jose, CA (US)

(List continued on next page.)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

Primary Examiner—Scott L. Weaver
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Pennie & Edmonds LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(21) Appl. No.: **09/517,304**

A call screening method allows a subscriber to screen calls made to the subscriber from callers using the PSTN while the subscriber uses another communications medium. An enhanced services platform (ESP) receives a first call from a caller using a particular public telephone number for the particular subscriber. The ESP identifies the particular public telephone number for the particular subscriber. The ESP accesses a database storing a public telephone number and a private packet-based address for subscribers to retrieve a private packet-based address of the particular subscriber on the basis of the particular public telephone number. An introductory message is provided to the caller and prompts the caller to leave a message. The ESP accesses the particular subscriber based on the particular subscriber private packet-based address to establish an audio connection via the communication medium. The subscriber is notified of the first call. If the subscriber answers the call, a communication path is provided between the caller and the subscriber via the communication medium so that the subscriber may hear the caller leave the message but the caller does not hear or know that the particular subscriber is listening. The ESP connects the caller and the subscriber for two-way communication upon the authorization of the subscriber. In another embodiment, both the caller and the subscriber use a packet-based network. In another aspect of the invention, the ESP records the caller's voice in response to the prompt, and plays the recording to the subscriber if the subscriber answers the call. In yet another aspect of the invention, the ESP provides a method for anonymously connecting an accesser to a subscriber using a packet-based network.

(22) Filed: **Mar. 2, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **H04M 3/436**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **379/88.17; 379/90.01; 379/201.11; 370/352**

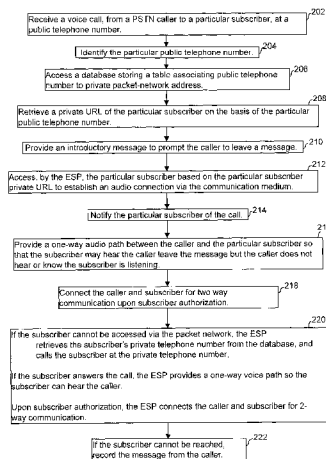
(58) **Field of Search** 379/67.1, 88.17, 379/88.22, 88.25, 90.01, 93.01, 93.24, 201.01, 201.11, 210.03, 211.01, 211.02, 212.01, 214.01; 370/912, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356; 709/227

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64 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



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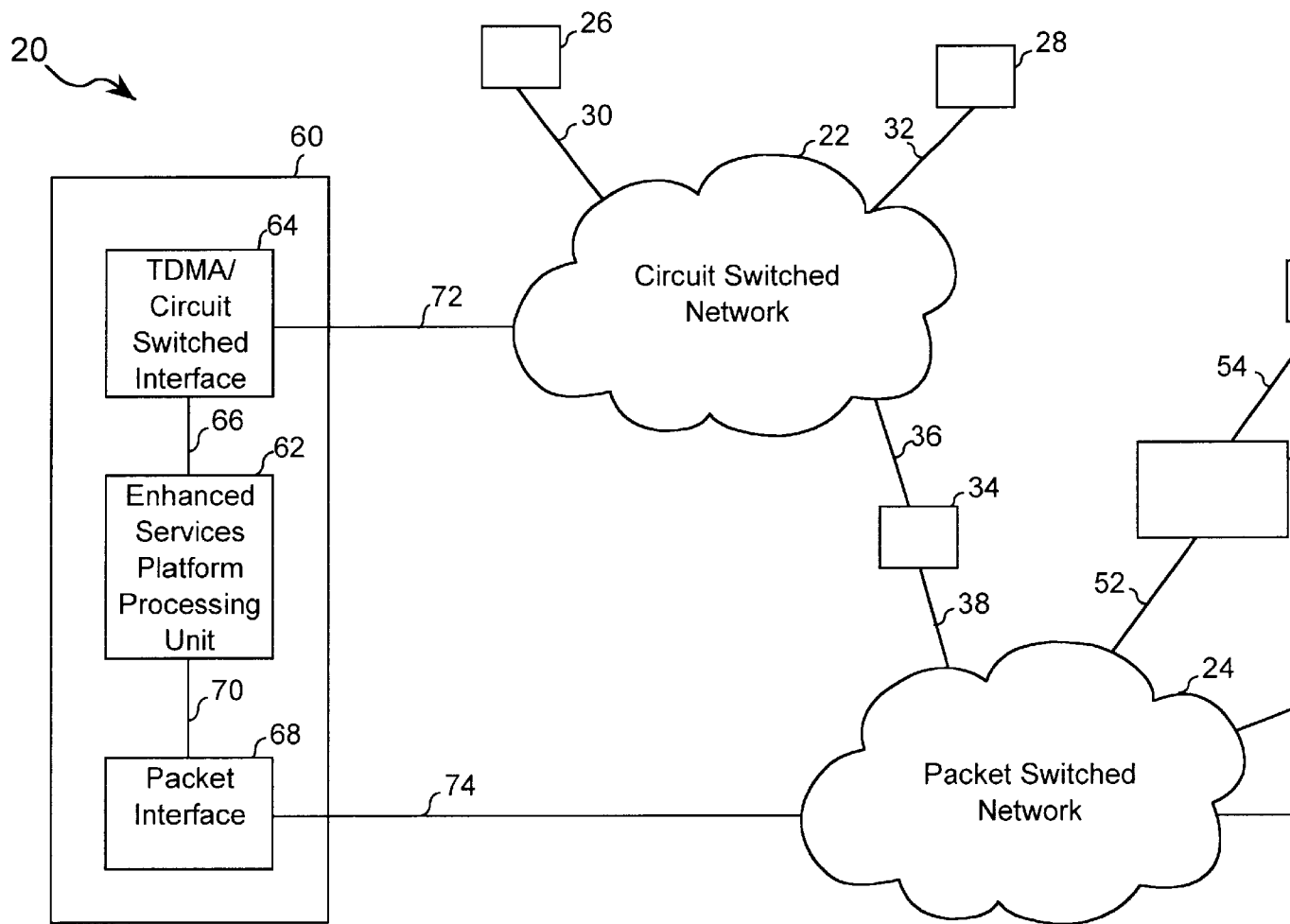


FIG. 1

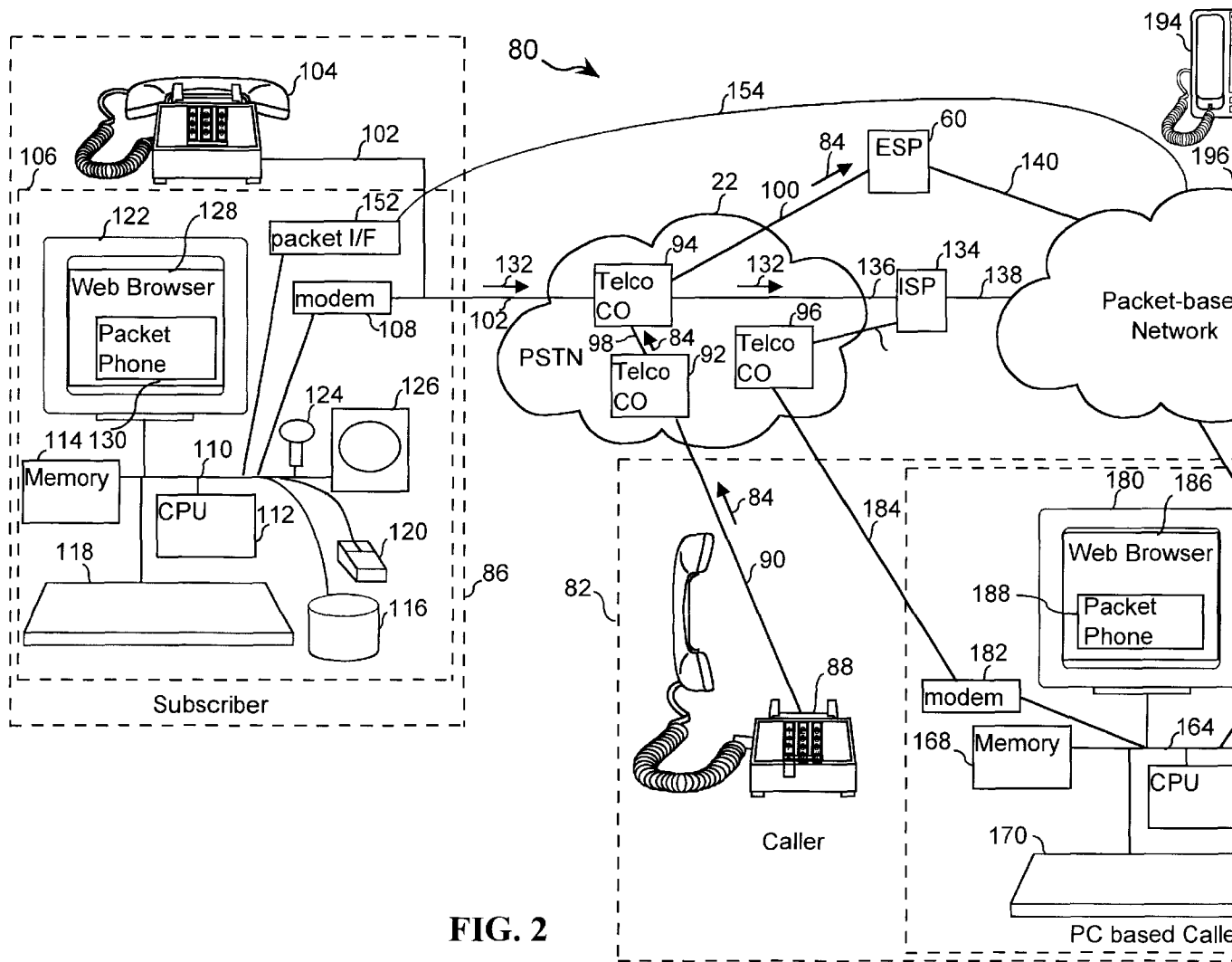


FIG. 2

VMAX CORP

URL



protocol://hostname:port/path_to_resource

FIG. 3A

protocol://username:password@hostname:port/path_to_resource

FIG. 3B

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