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United States Patent [19]

McMullin

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

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[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

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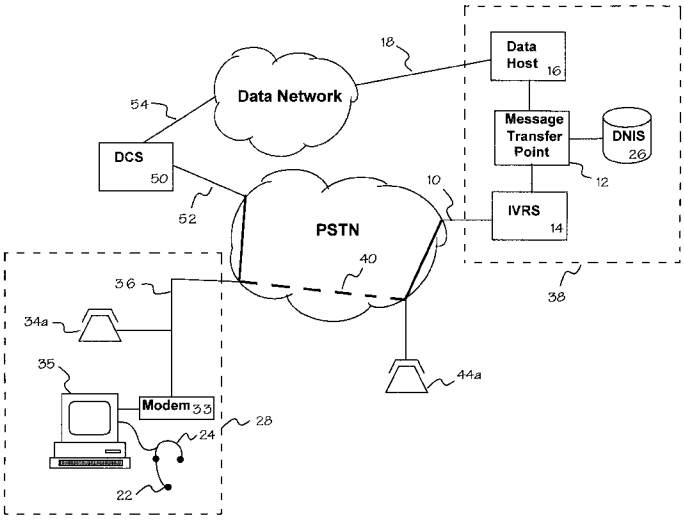
[57] **ABSTRACT**

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



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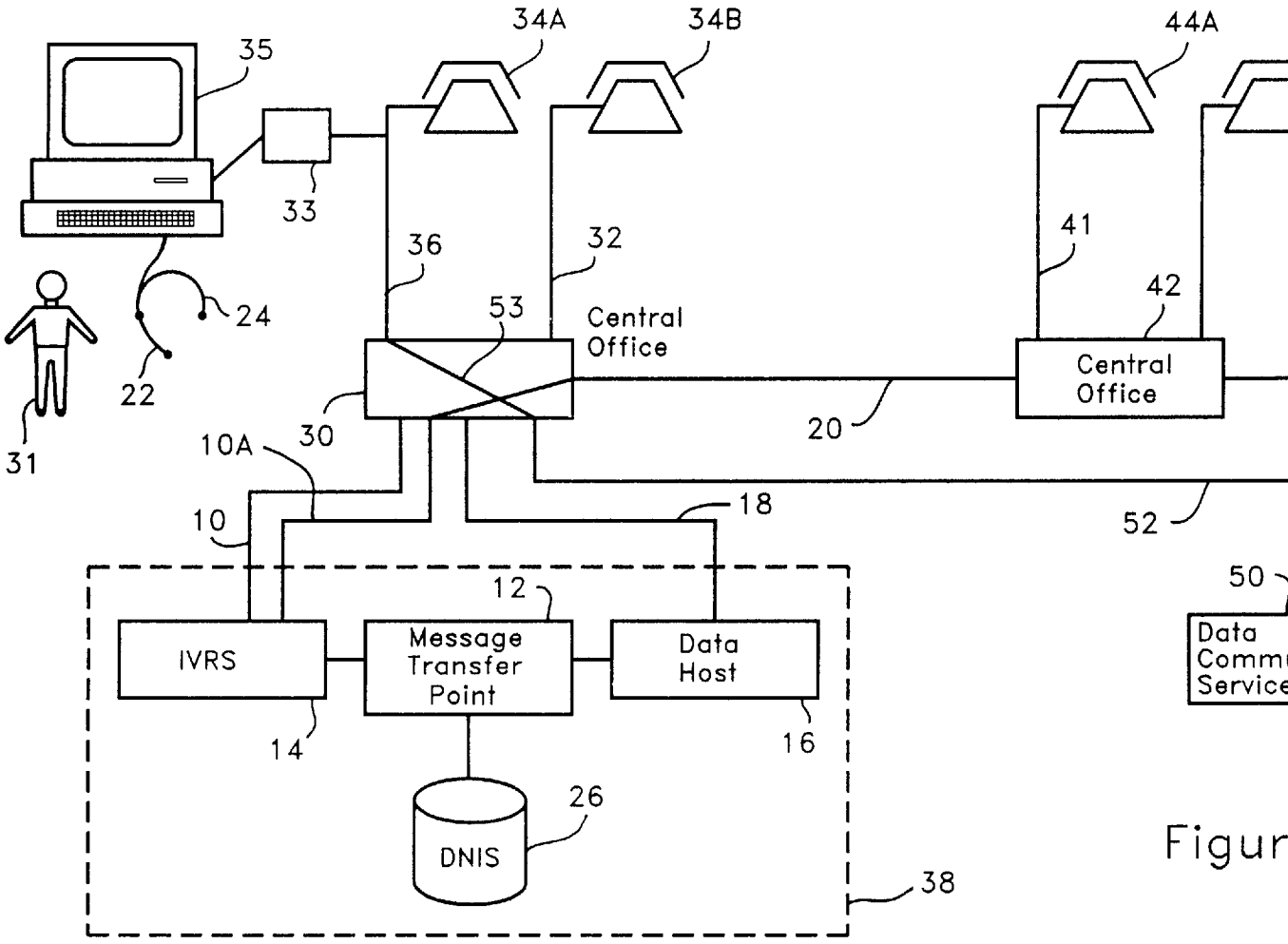

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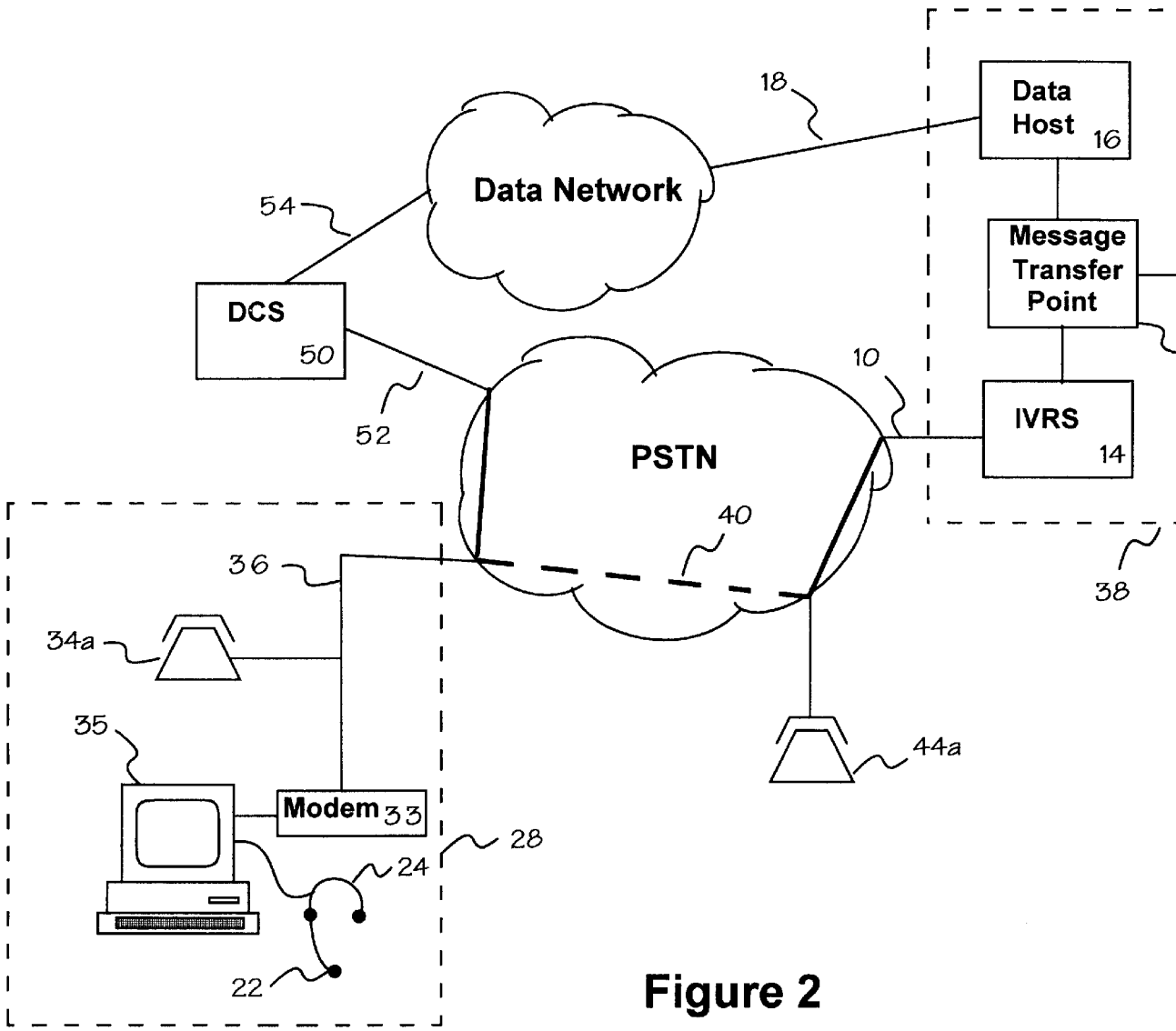

Figure 2

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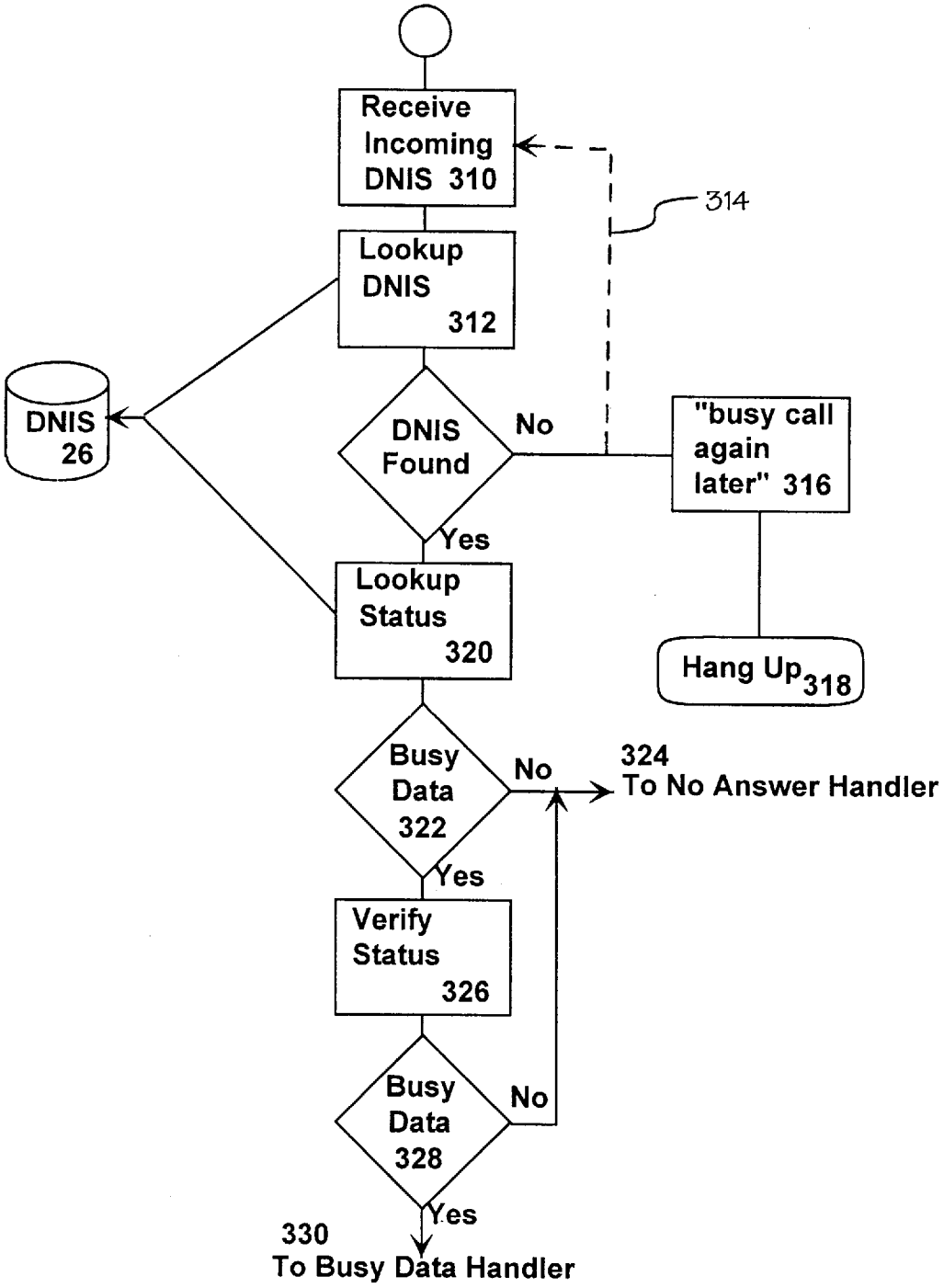

Figure 3

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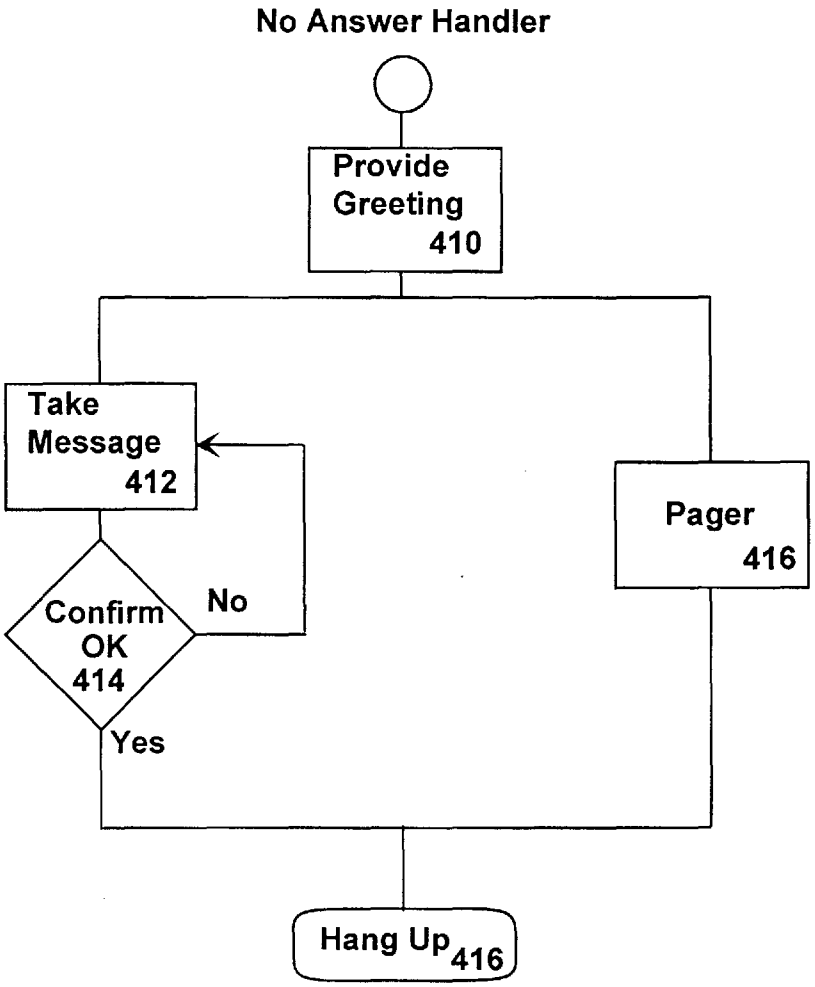

Figure 4

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