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Menezes et al.

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[54] **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXCHANGING COMPUTER DATA PROCESSING CAPABILITES**

2256558 12/1992 United Kingdom H04N 1/32

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[21] Appl. No.: **512,948**

[57] ABSTRACT

[22] Filed: **Aug. 9, 1995**

A system and method for exchanging data processing capabilities between computers. The computers exchange capabilities so that data transfer between the computers may be made in the most efficient data format possible for the two computers. A first computer, which will receive a data file, sends a list of data processing capabilities to a second computer, which will transmit the data file to the first computer. The transmitting computer examines the capabilities list of the receiving computer as well as its own capabilities list and determines the most efficient data format for the transfer. The transmitting computer may process the data file into an intermediate format for efficient data transfer so that the receiving computer will process the intermediate data file into the desired data format. The capabilities list can be cached for future communication between the computers. The system can update the capabilities list and inform other computers whether their cached capabilities list is current. Capabilities can also be forwarded from one computer to another so that a third computer can determine the capabilities of the first computer from the second computer or the capabilities of the second computer from the first computer. The system is readily applicable to facsimile machines where custom and application data processing capabilities can be exchanged.

Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation of Ser. No. 149,507, Nov. 5, 1993, abandoned.
- [51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 13/00**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **395/200.12; 395/500; 395/834; 358/406; 358/442**
- [58] Field of Search 358/404, 405, 358/406, 442; 395/200.12-200.14, 200.17, 830, 831, 834

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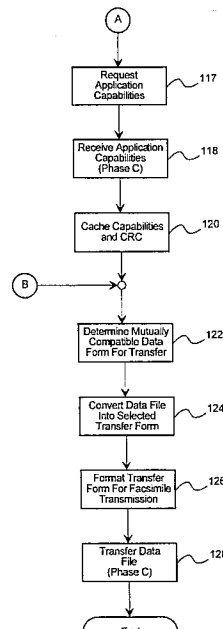
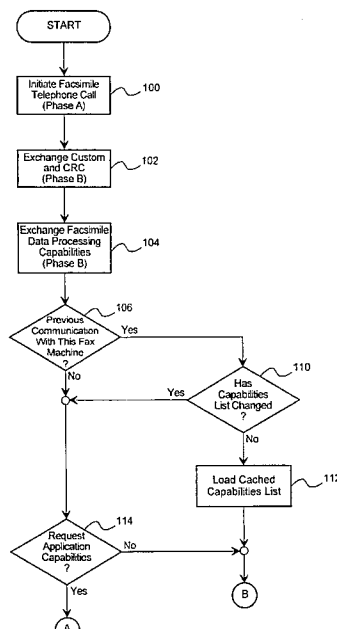
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42 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



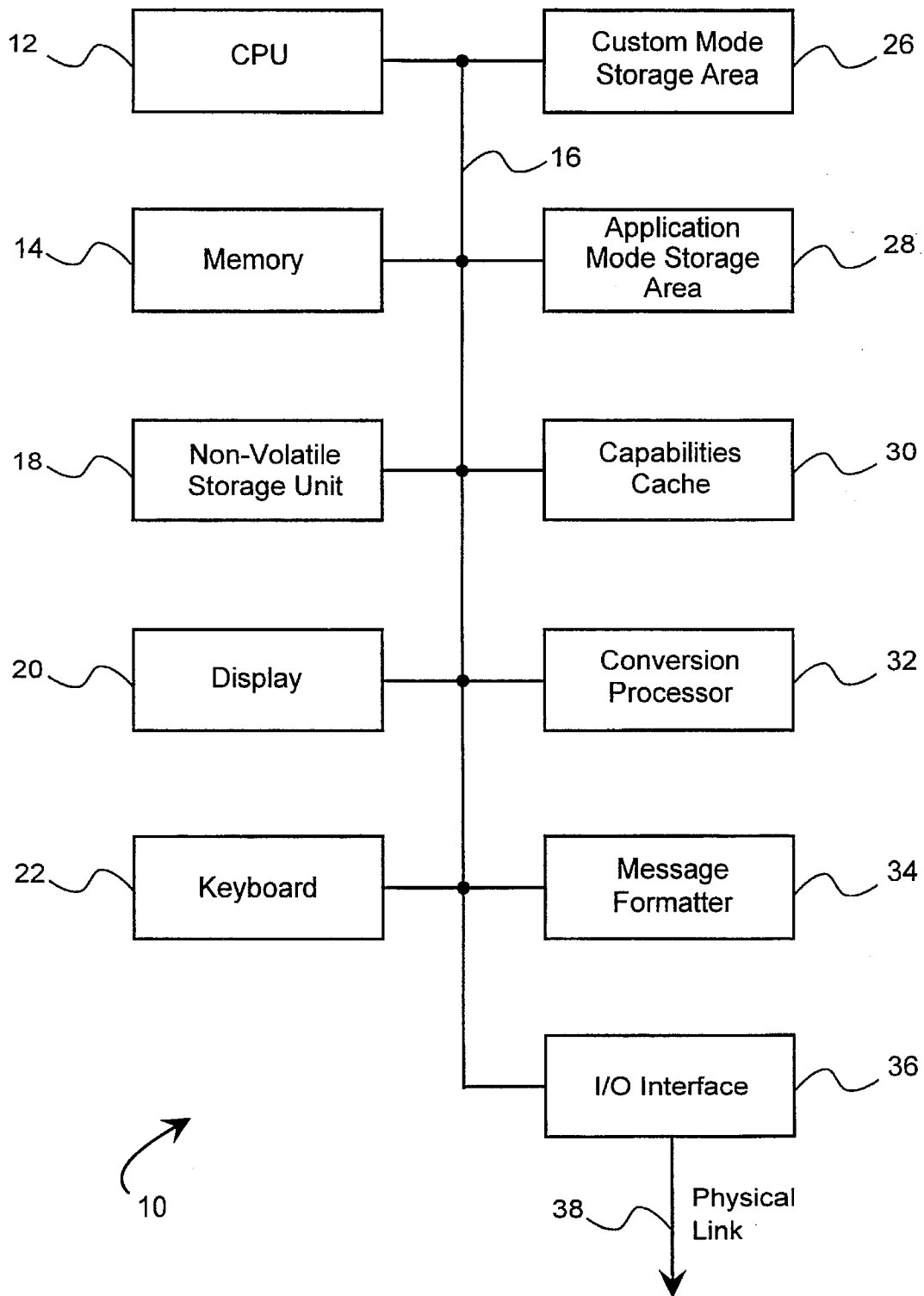


FIG. 2

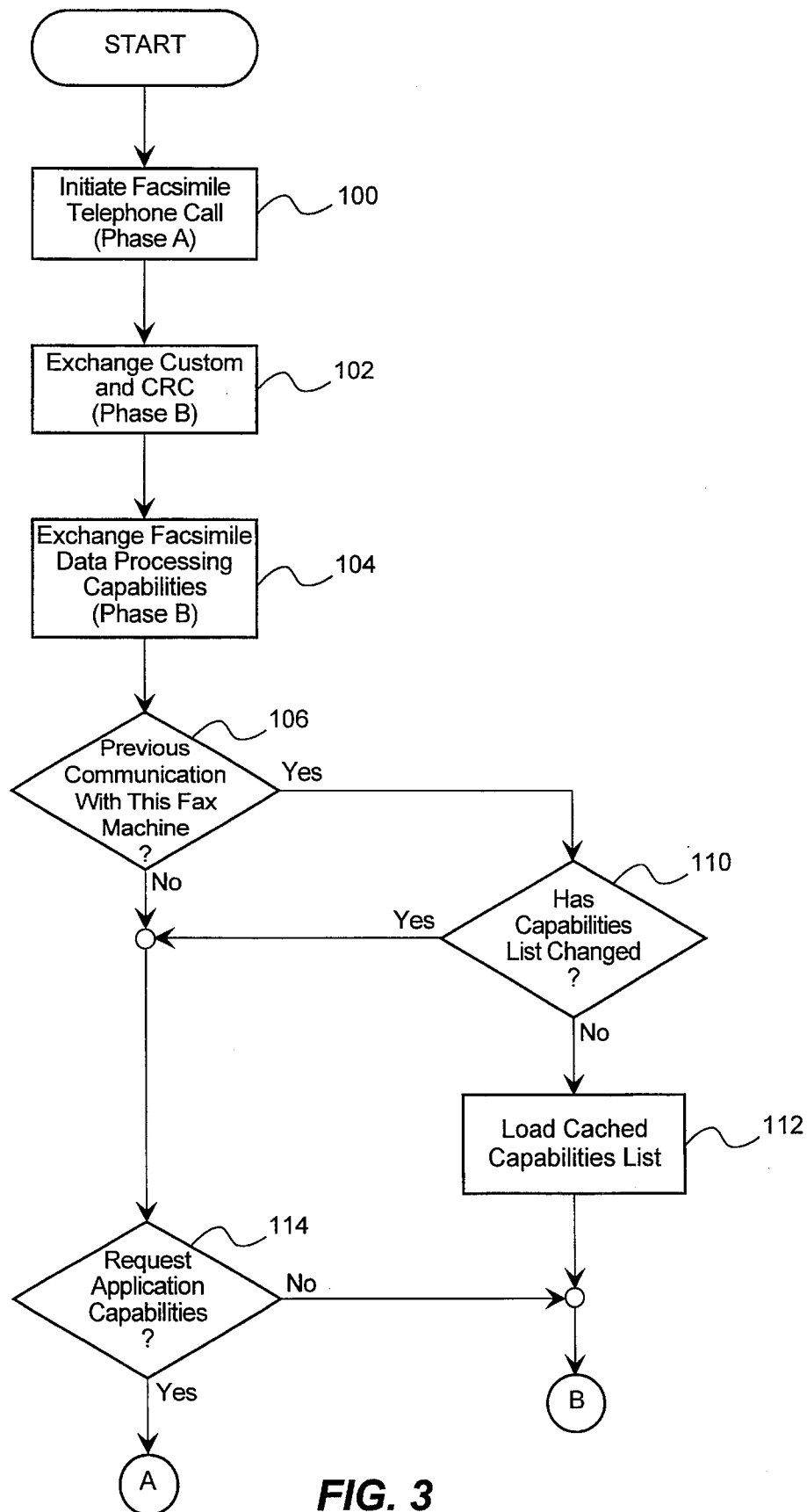


FIG. 3

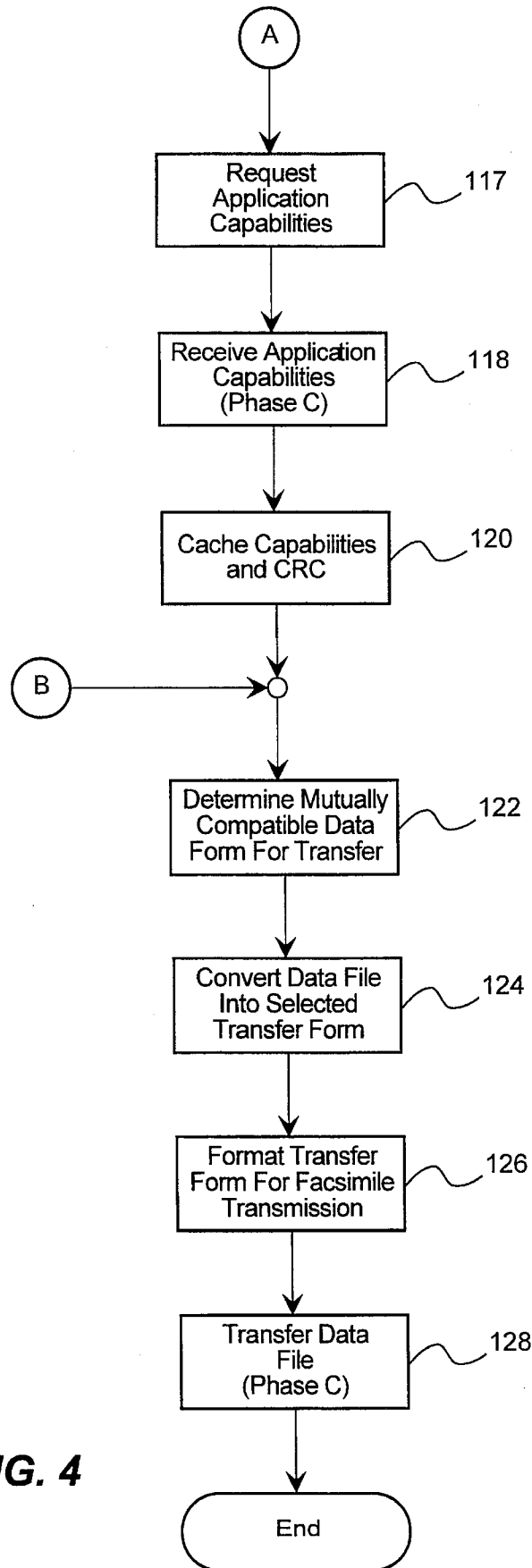


FIG. 4

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