

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

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(54) **MESSAGING APPLICATION USER  
INTERFACE FOR AUTO-COMPLETING  
ADDRESS TEXT AND MODIFYING THE  
AUTO-COMPLETION BEHAVIOR**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 729 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-  
claimer.

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#### Related U.S. Application Data

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Sep. 24, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,539,421.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 15/16** (2006.01)  
**G06F 3/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **709/206; 709/207; 715/780**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... None  
See application file for complete search history.

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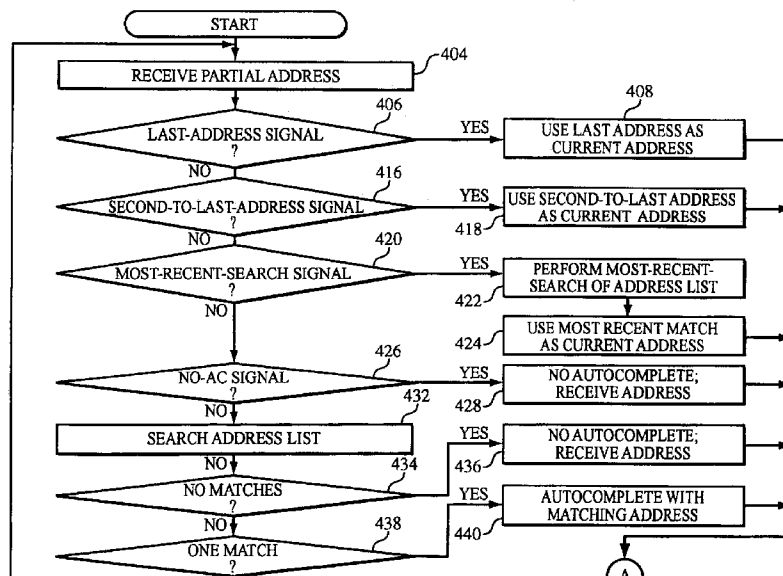
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#### (57) ABSTRACT

A messaging application user interface has an input element  
for receiving electronic messages and an output element for  
displaying electronic messages. The messaging application  
user interface can be implemented so as to maintain a subset  
of the plurality of potential message recipients, the subset  
being determined using a predetermined criterion. The mes-  
saging application user interface also can be implemented so  
as to auto-complete a partially entered address based on the  
subset of potential message recipients. A set of user-select-  
able signals that modify auto-completion behavior also can  
be used with the messaging application user interface. The  
messaging application user interface can be used in an  
instant messaging system to allow a user to send instant  
messages to and exchange comments with a plurality of  
other users without having to switch among several instant  
message windows.

**35 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets**



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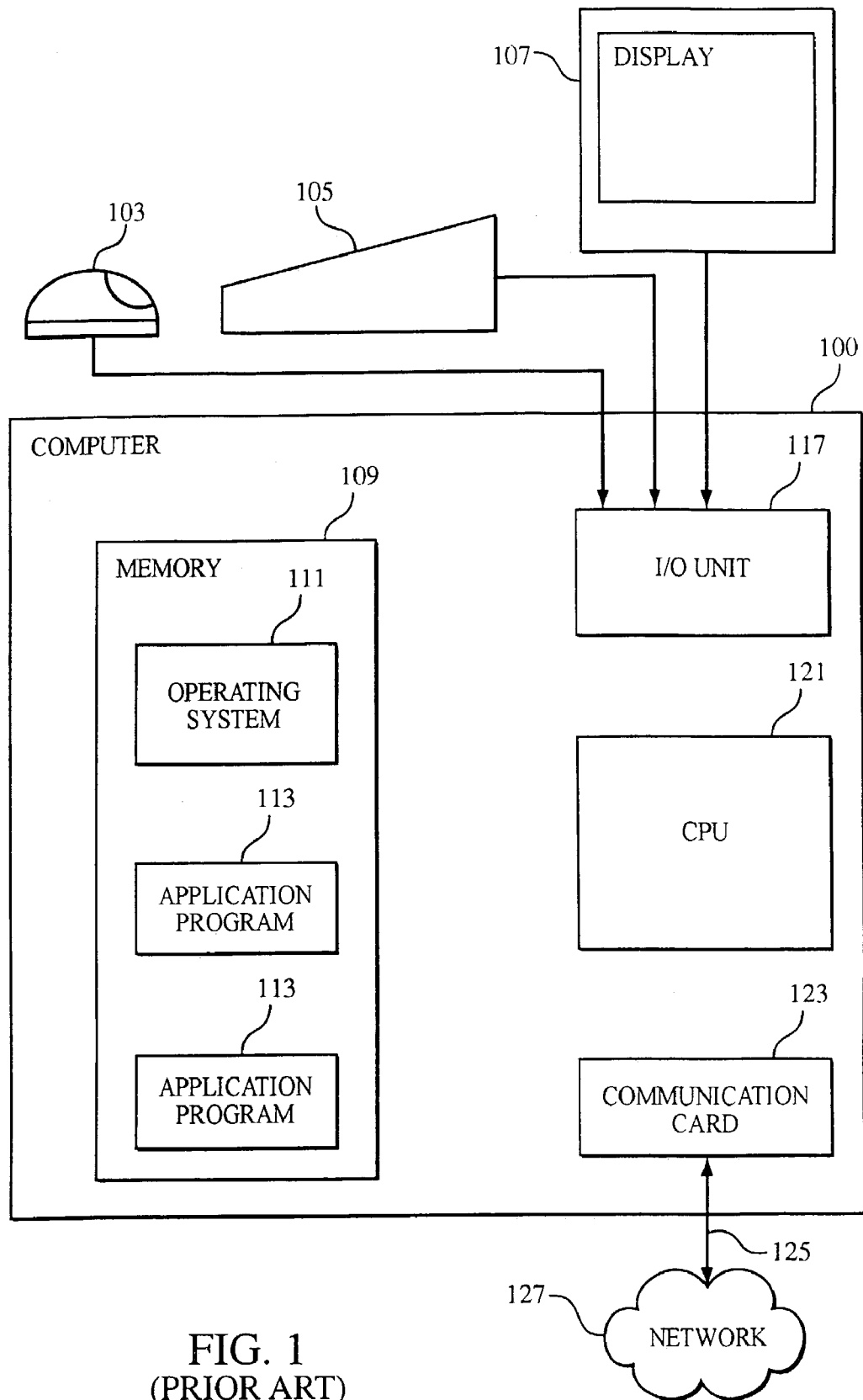
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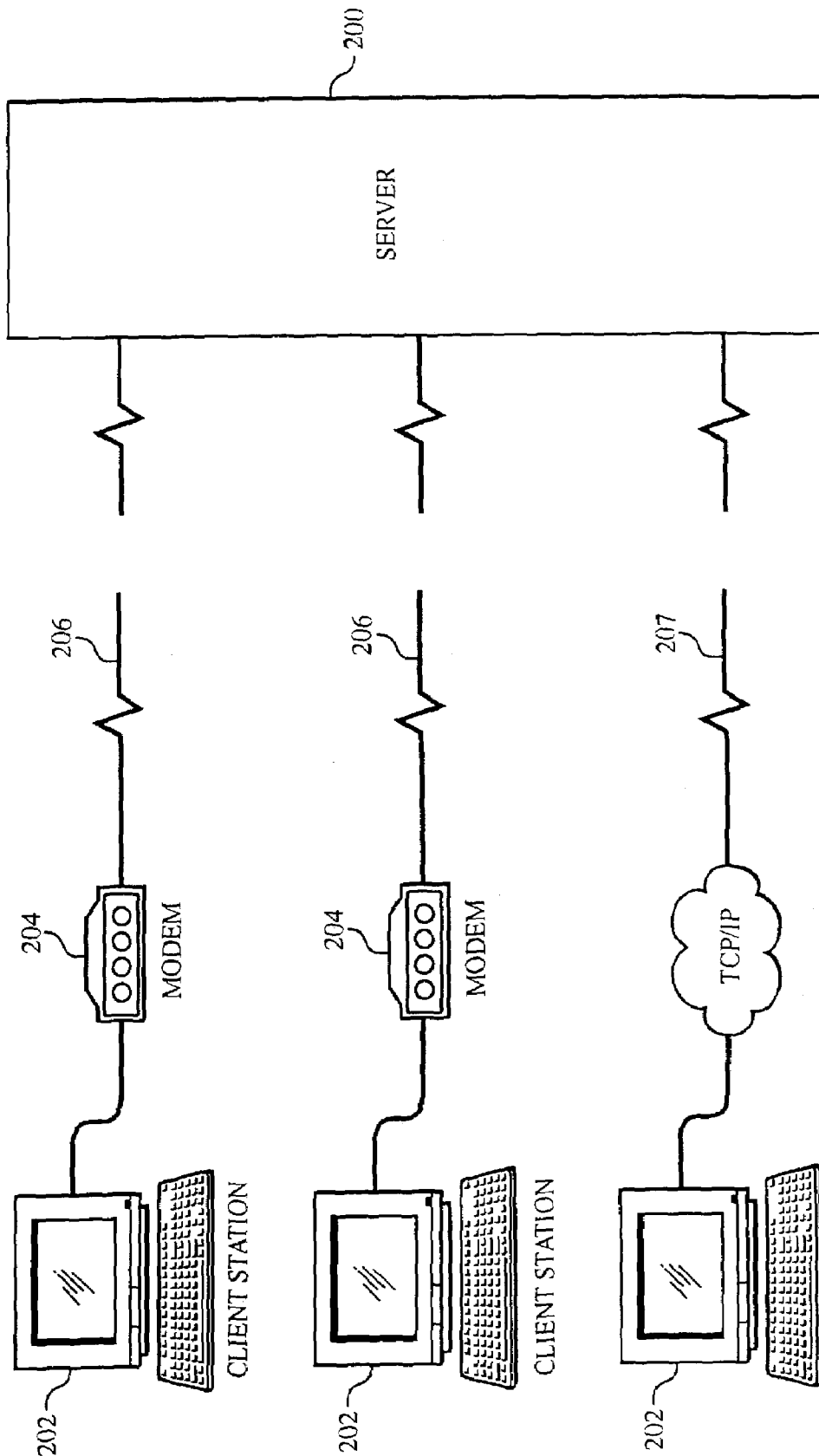


FIG. 2  
(PRIOR ART)

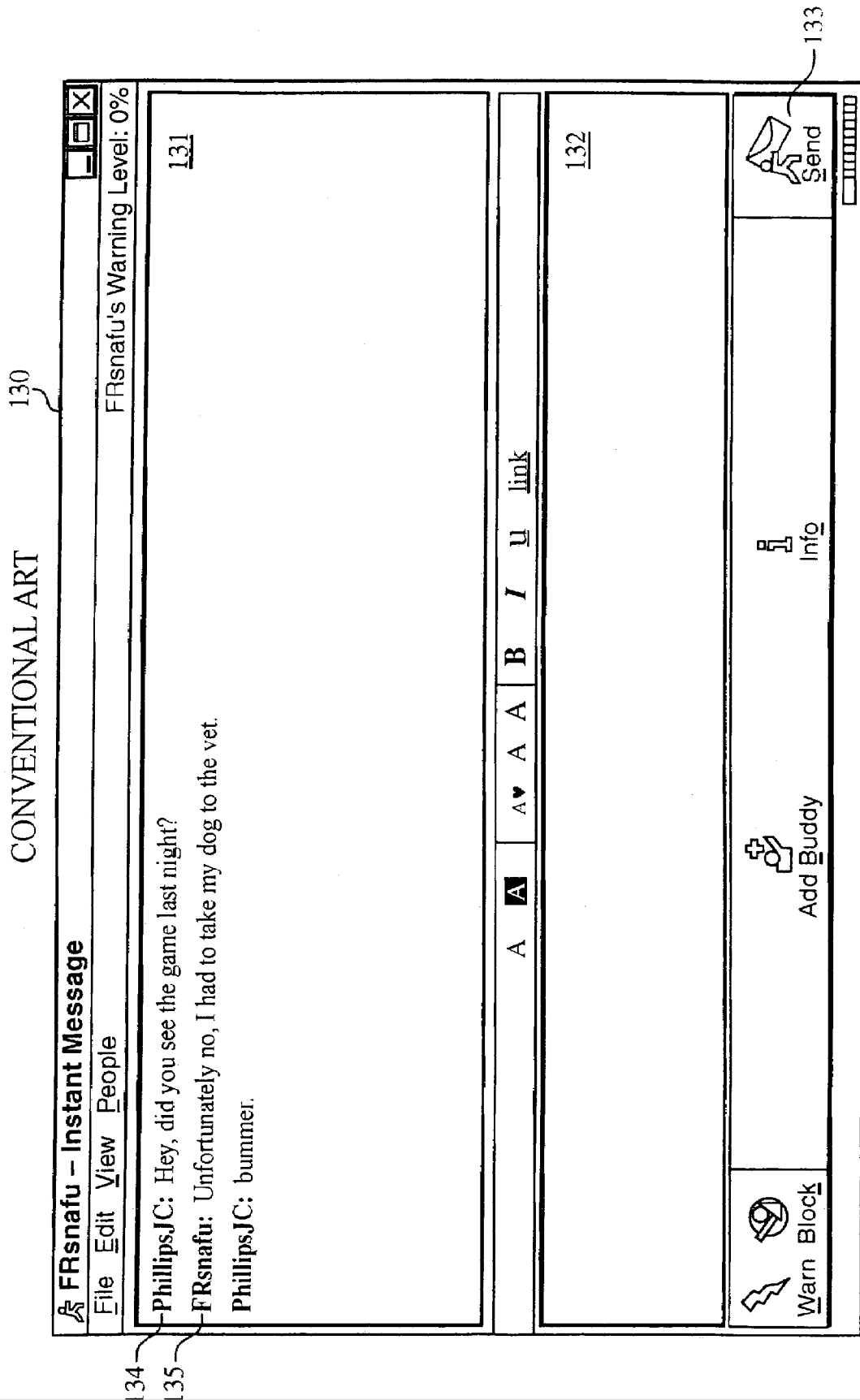


FIG. 3

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