

[54] **ELECTRONIC LICENSING SYSTEM**

[75] Inventor: **James E. Olsen**, Park City, Utah

[73] Assignee: **Novell, Inc.**, Orem, Utah

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[52] U.S. Cl. **395/187.01; 395/188.01; 395/186; 380/4; 380/25**

[58] Field of Search **395/187.01, 186, 395/188.01, 609; 380/4, 25**

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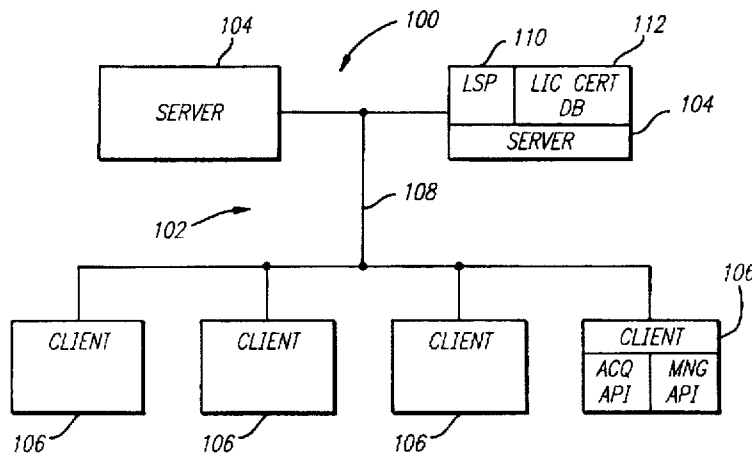
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A licensing system provides enhanced flexibility for licensing applications in a network. The licensing system includes a license certificate database which stores all license information. The license certificate database is accessed by providing a request to a license service provider associated with a server. The license service provider generates an executable entity based on the request parameters, which searches the database and, if the appropriate units are available, assembles a license. The license and the application are then transmitted to the requesting client. All aspects of the transaction are also stored in a database organized according to a transaction's relation to a particular license.

19 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



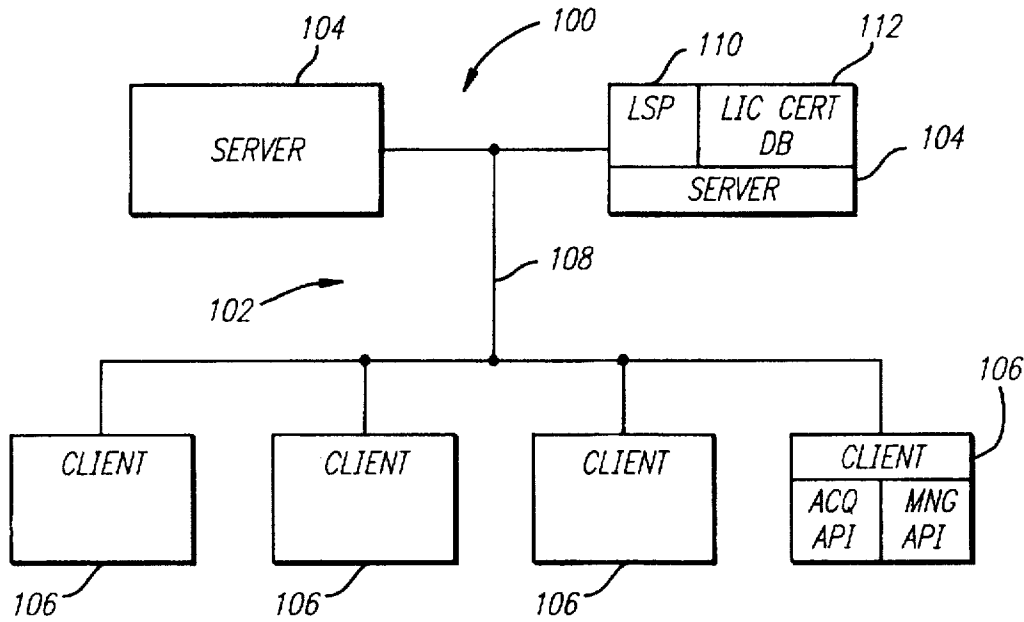


FIG. 1

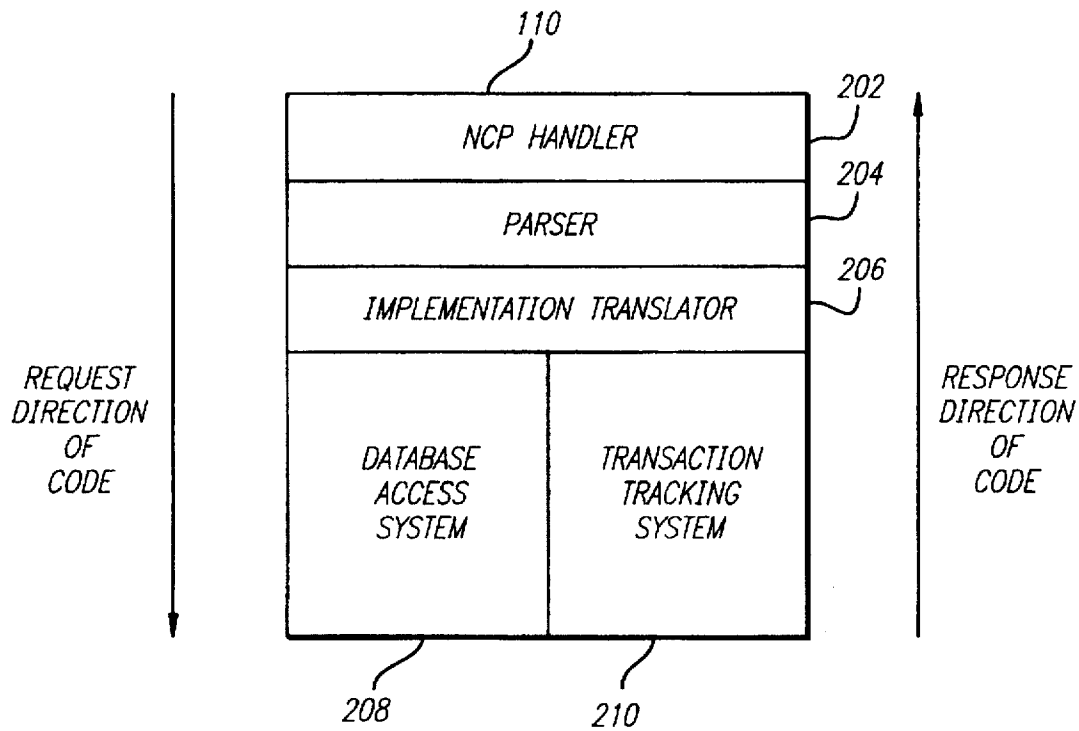


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

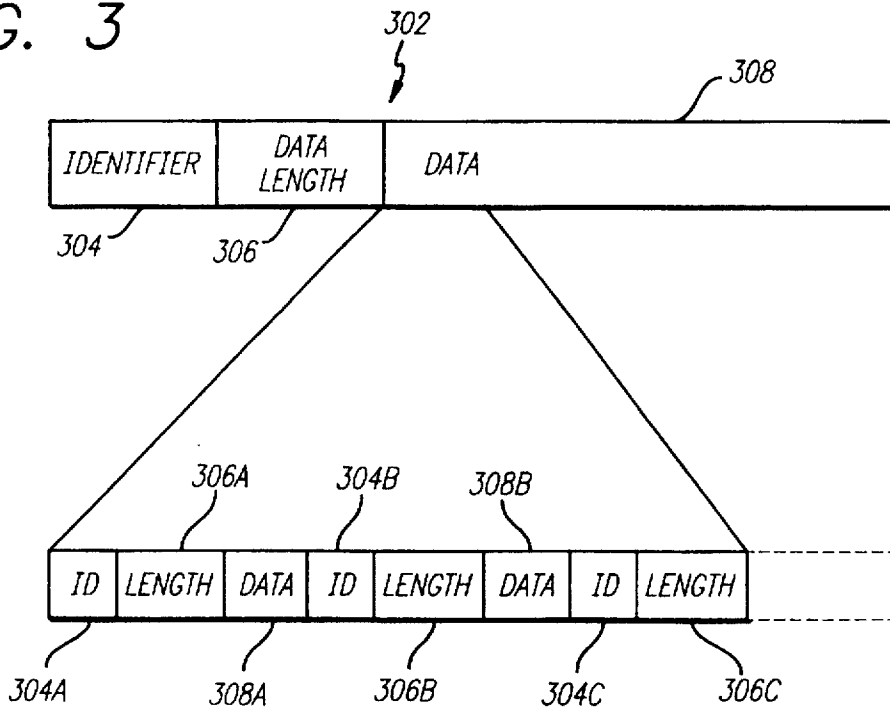


FIG. 4

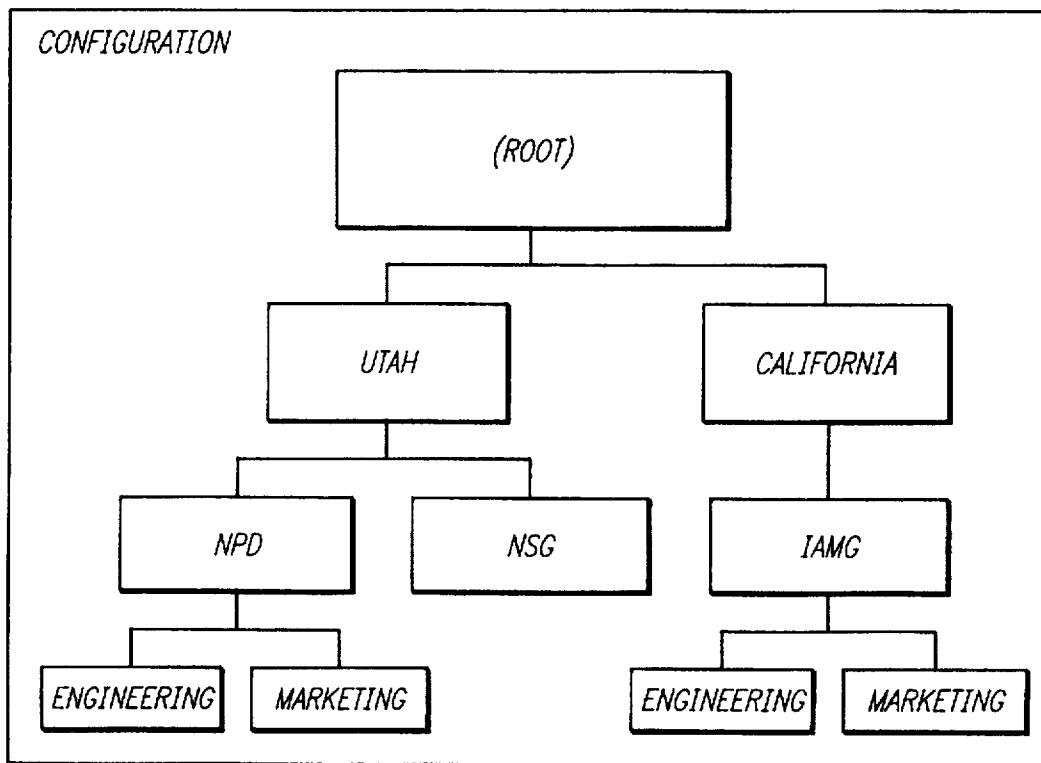


FIG. 5

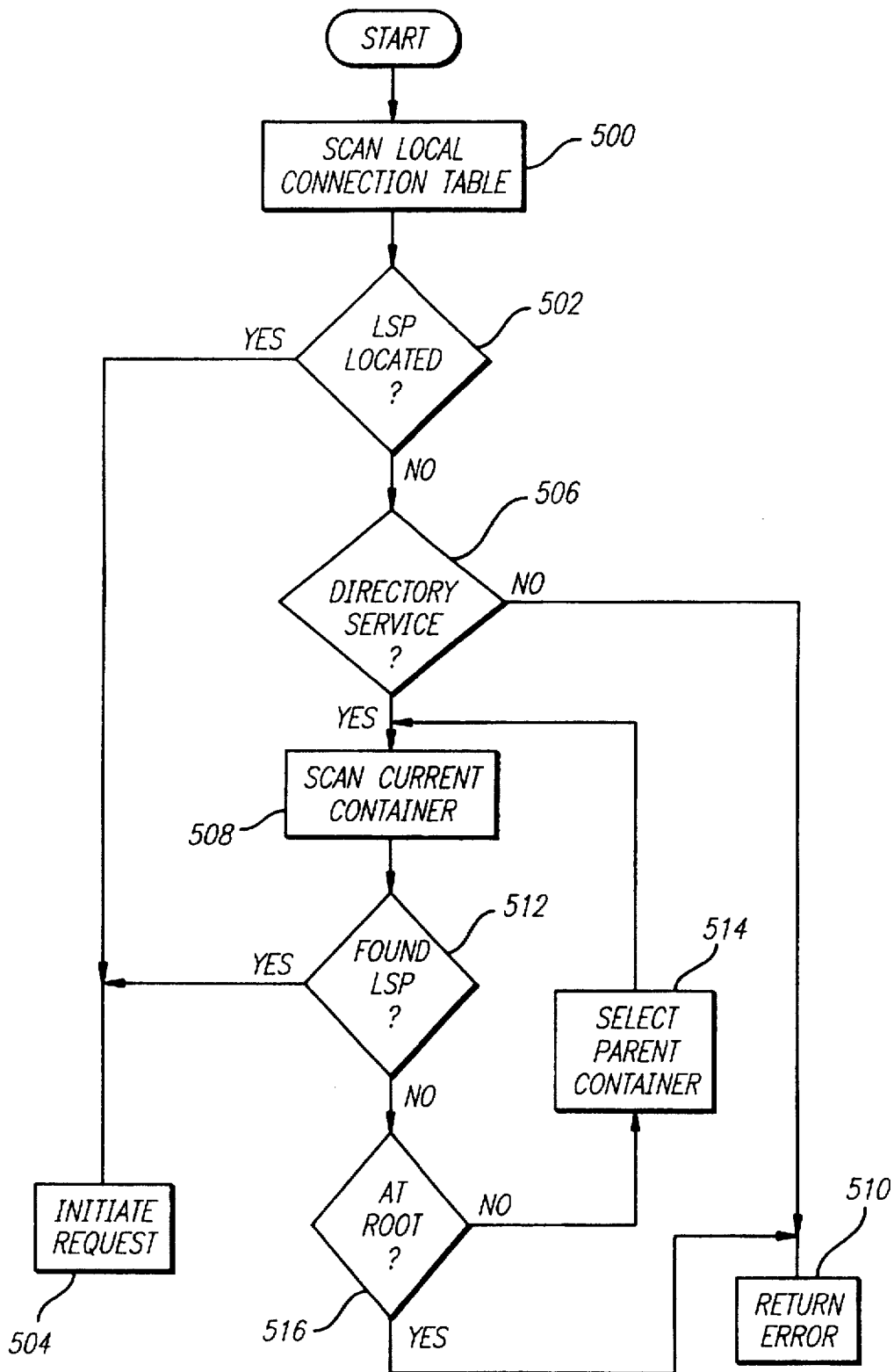
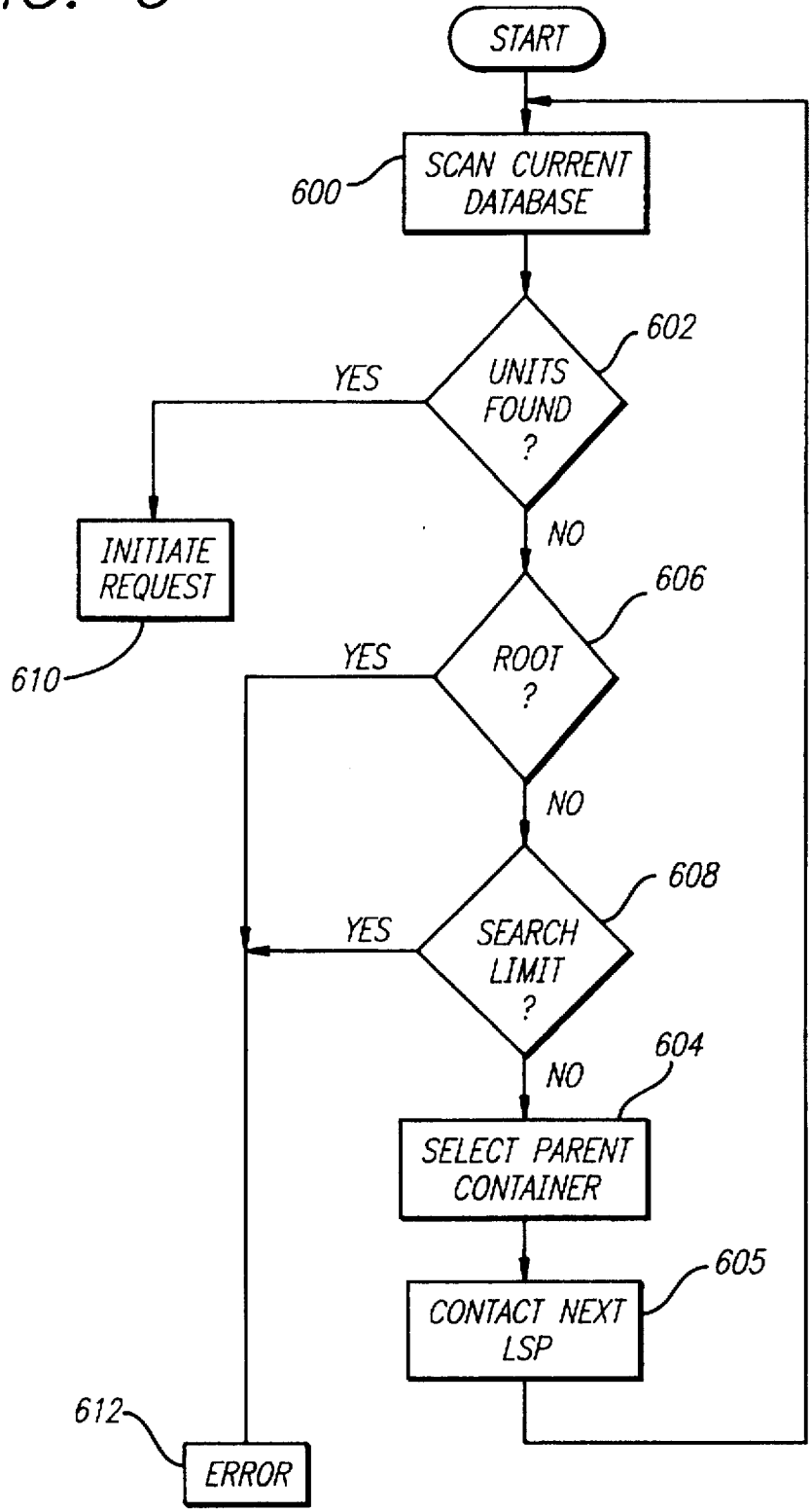


FIG. 6



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