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(54) **AUDIO MESSAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A system and method by which individuals can send and receive audio messages using telephone devices and/or computer devices. Upon receiving an audio message on behalf of an intended recipient, the system accesses a user profile to determine how the intended recipient should be contacted. The system then contacts the intended recipient in accordance with his or her user profile and notifies the intended recipient of the received audio message. The audio message is then delivered to the intended recipient in audio form through either a computer device or a telephone device. A person may thus send a voice or other audio message to an intended recipient using either a computer device or a telephone device, at the sender's option, and the audio message may be promptly delivered to the intended recipient in audio form via either a computer device or a telephone device, at the recipient's option.

(73) **Assignee: Microsoft Corporation**

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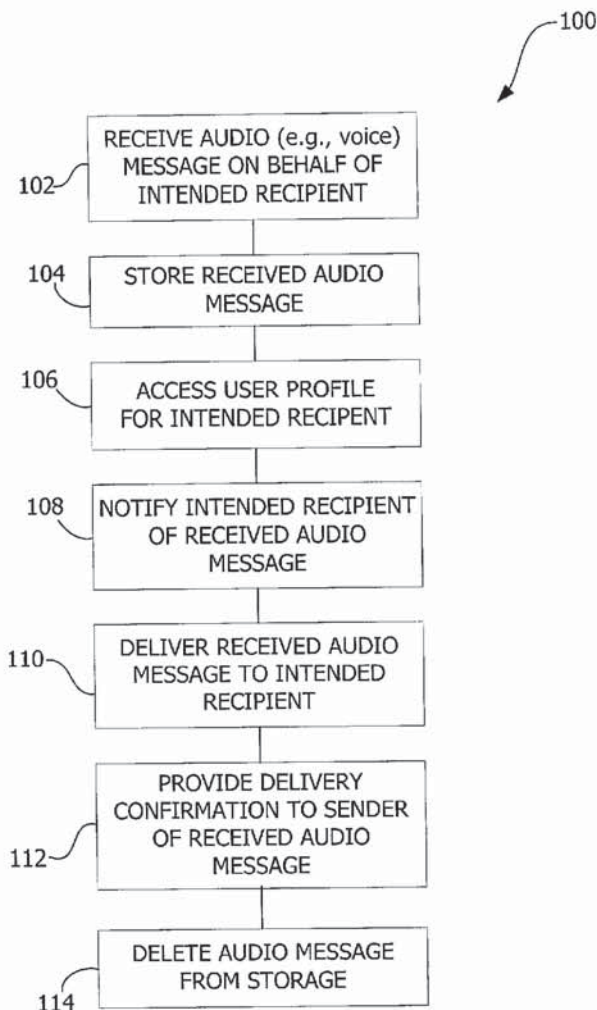
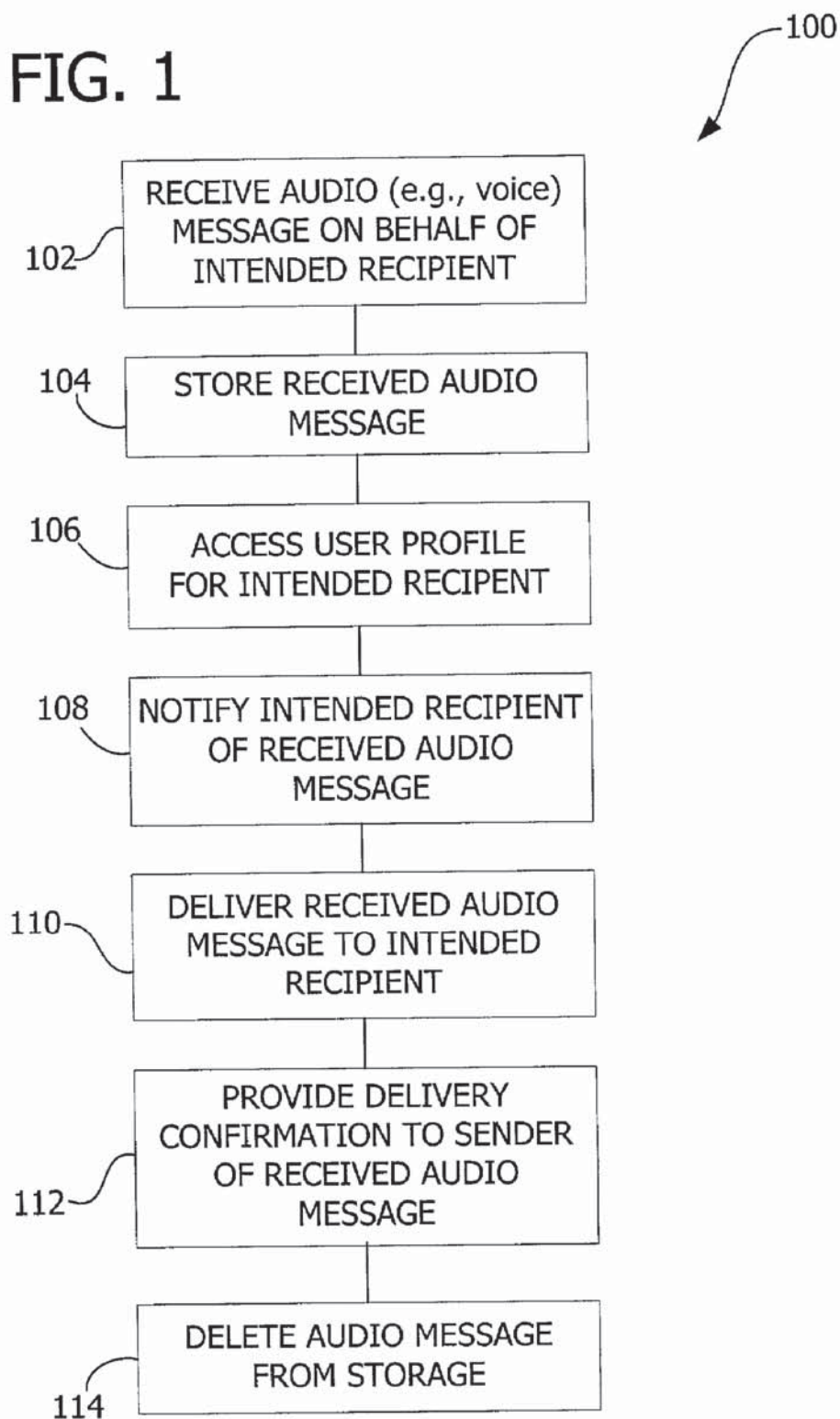


FIG. 1



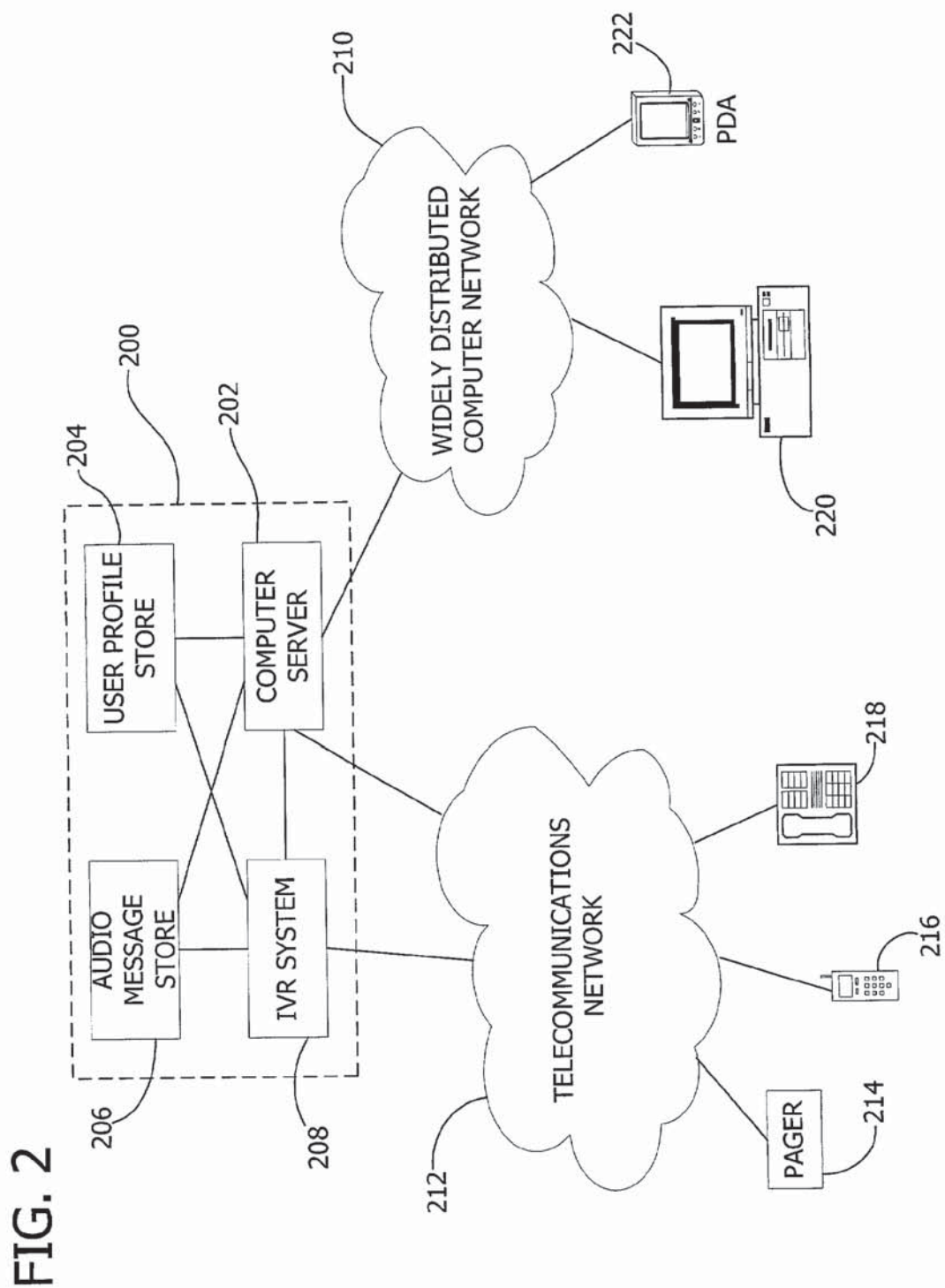
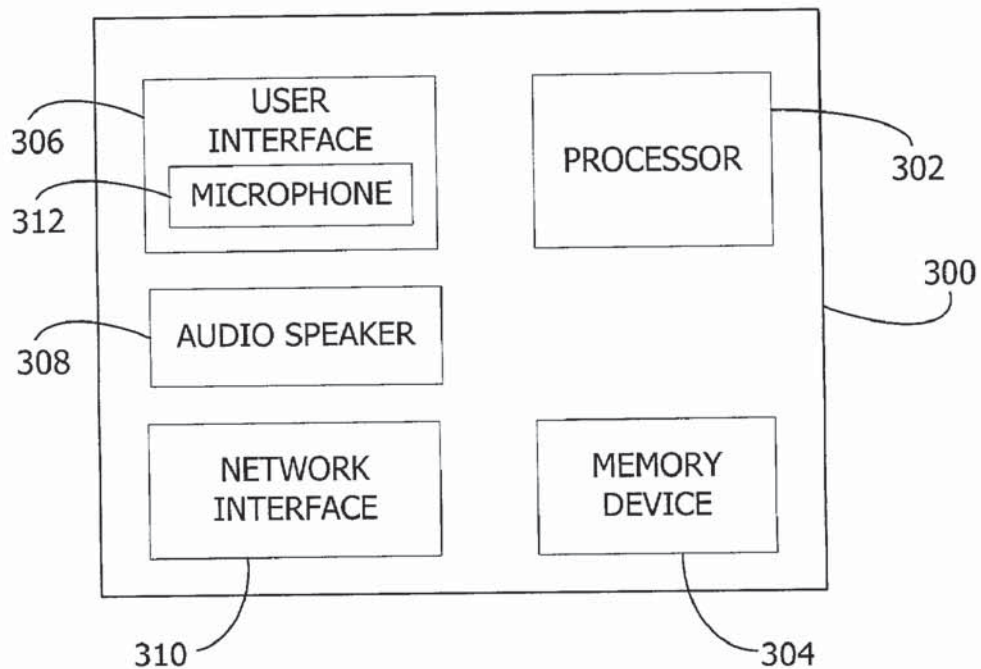
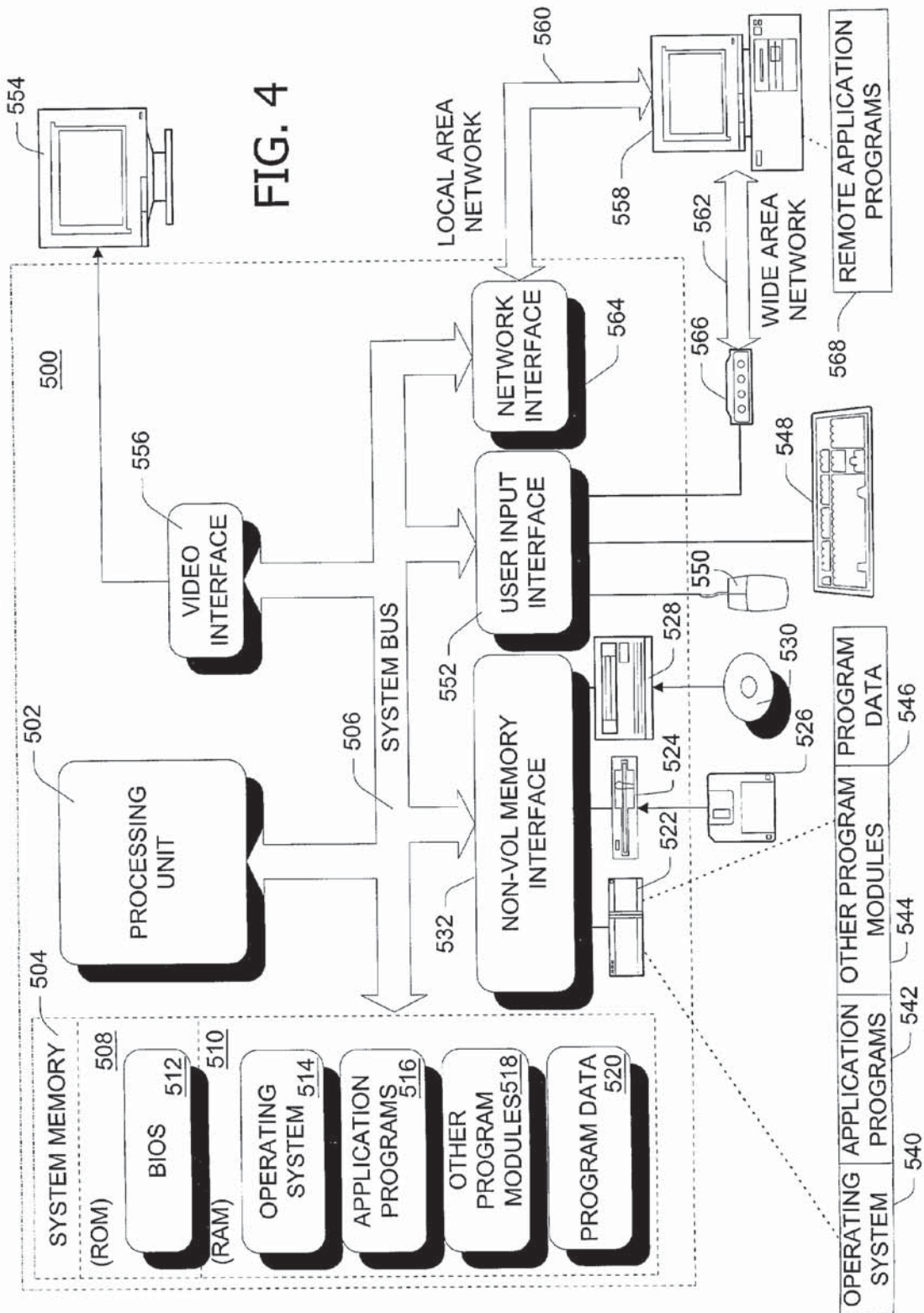


FIG. 3





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