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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Malik**

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- (54) **VOICE MESSAGE DELIVERY OVER INSTANT MESSAGING**
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- (73) Assignee: **Bellsouth Intellectual Property Corporation**, Wilmington, DE (US)
- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: **10/223,903**
- (22) Filed: **Aug. 19, 2002**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*H04M 11/06* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 379/88.13; 379/93.09; 455/412.1; 455/414.1; 455/422.1; 455/433

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 379/52, 379/88.14, 93.15, 100.09, 201.01, 205.01, 379/88.13, 88.19; 348/14, 15, 16, 17; 455/417; 704/258, 260

See application file for complete search history.

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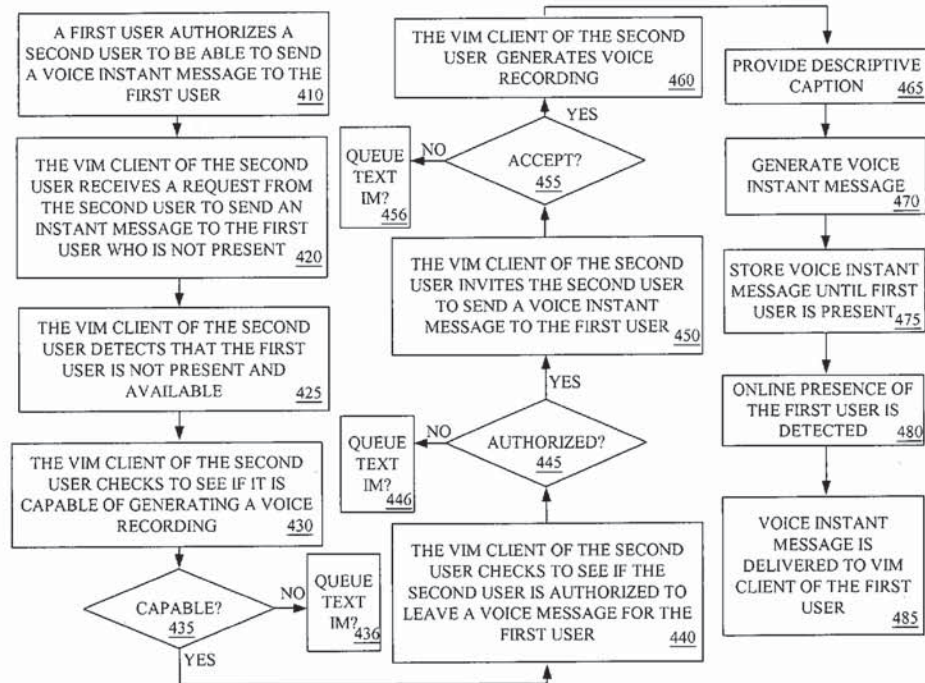
\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

One preferred embodiment of the present invention provides a system and method for sending voice instant messages. Briefly described, in architecture, one embodiment of the system, among others, includes a communications client of a user that is configured to generate a voice instant message and send a voice instant message to another user. Methods and other systems are also provided.

**42 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**



400

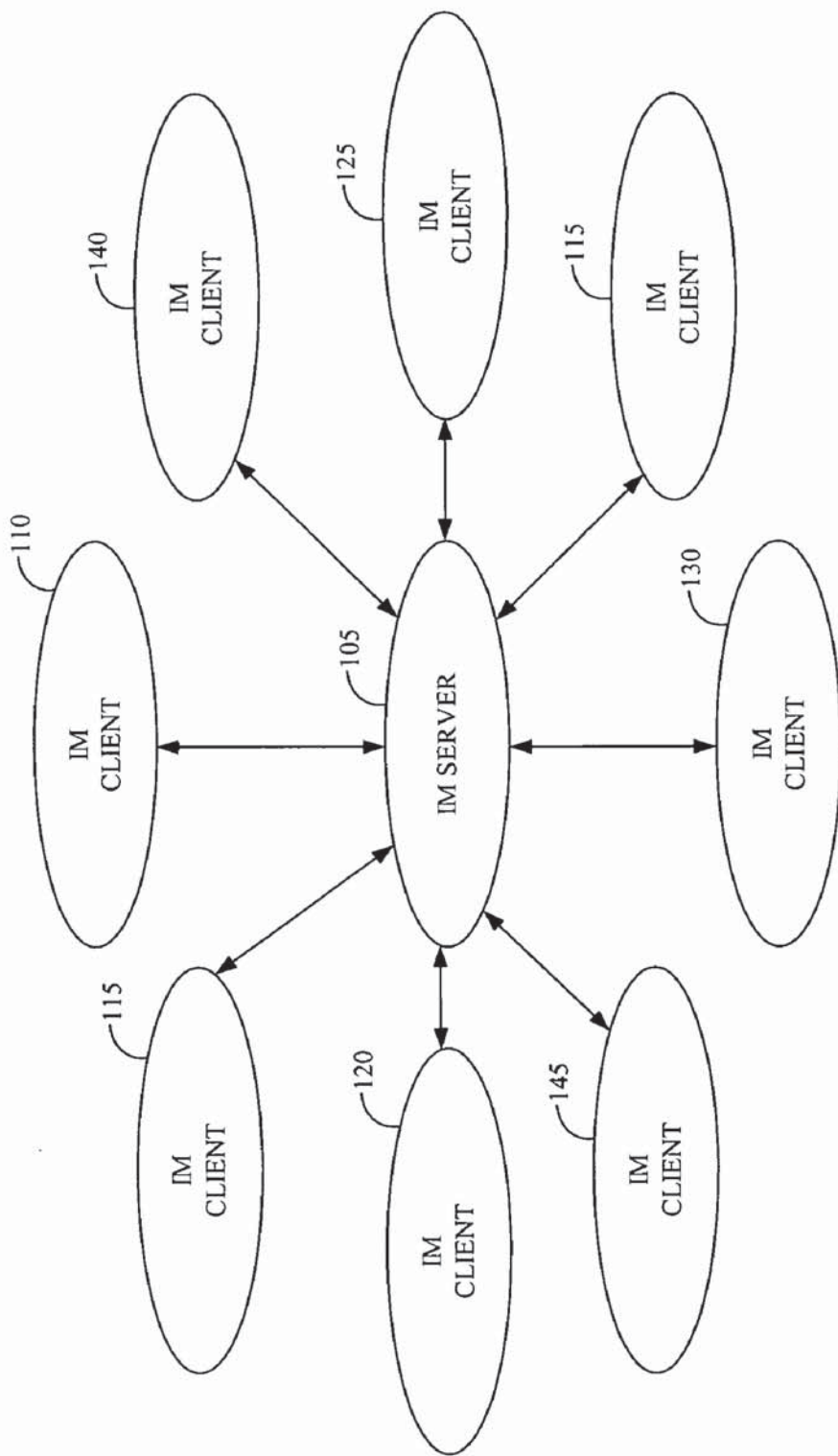


FIG. 1  
(PRIOR ART)

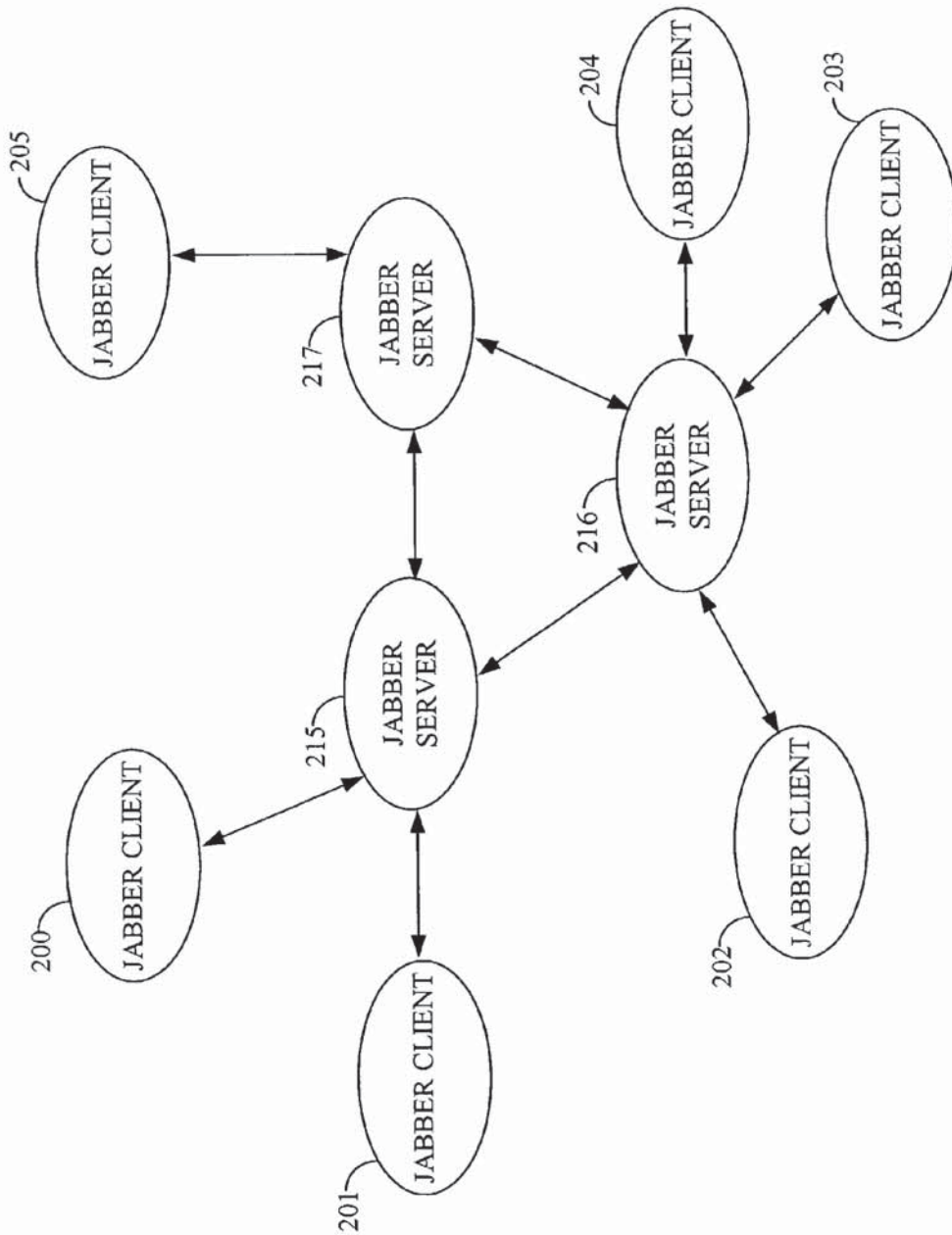


FIG. 2  
PRIOR ART

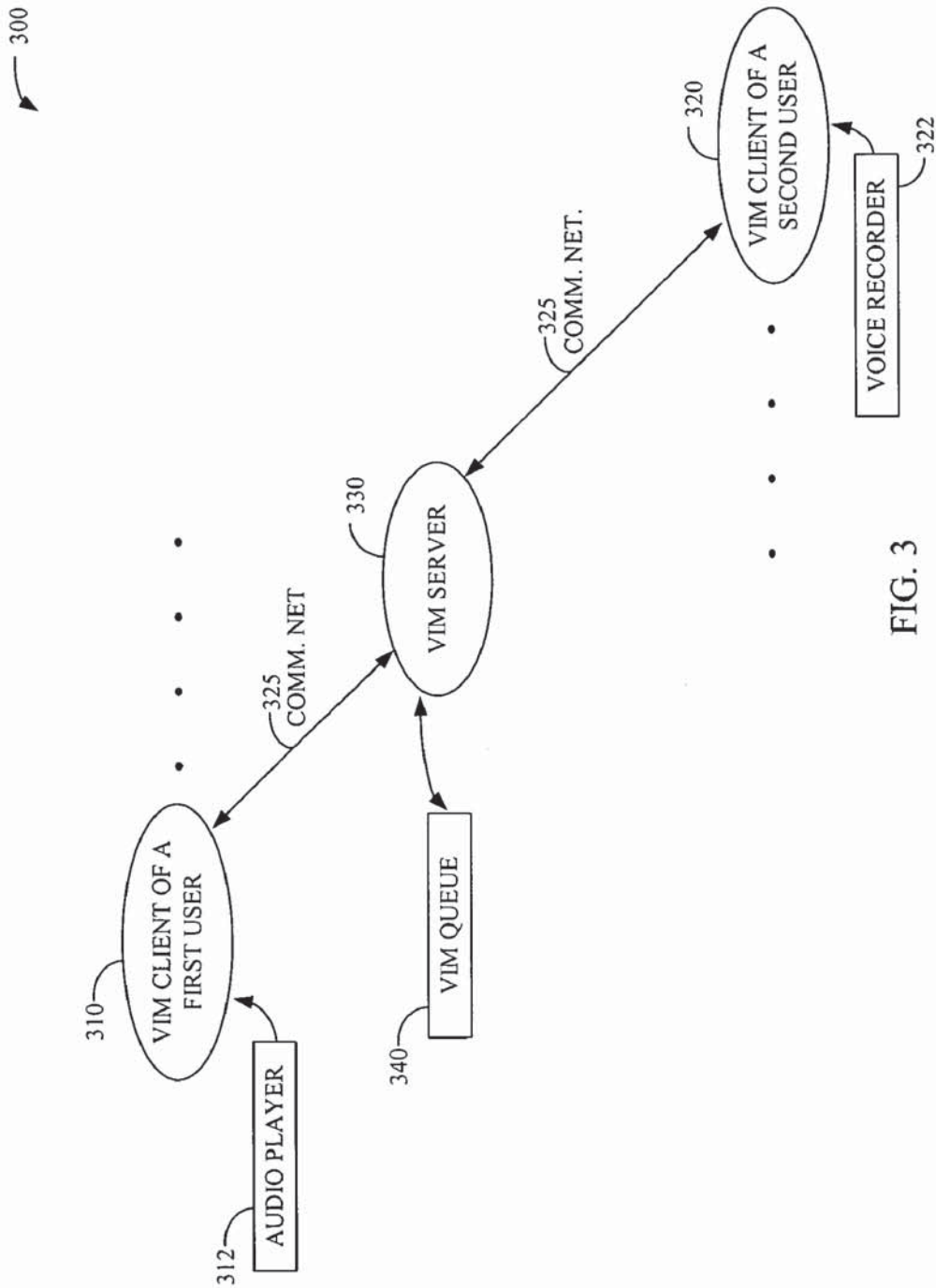


FIG. 3

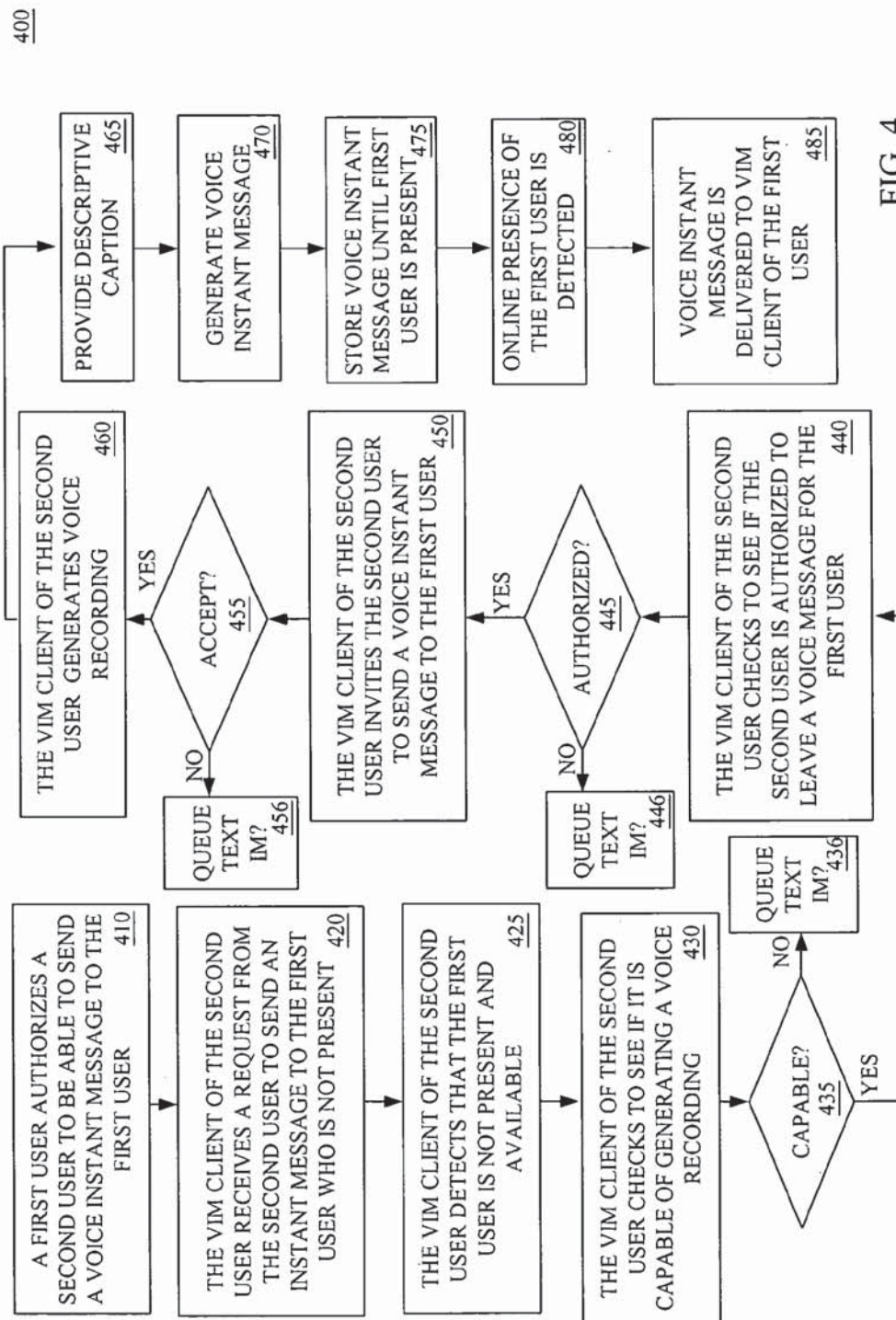


FIG. 4

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