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(54) **INSTANT MESSAGING**

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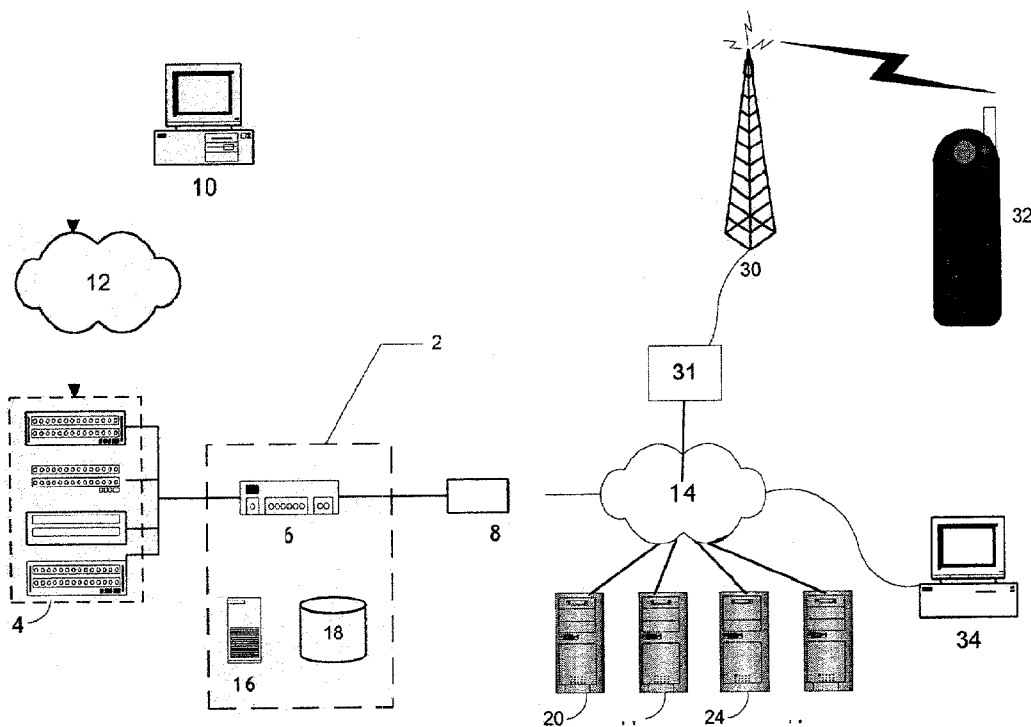
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An instant messaging process executed in a communications network, including: receiving message data according to an IM or wireless device messaging protocols; maintaining state data for a user on the basis of the message data; determining a destination one of the protocols on the basis of the state data; and sending the message data according to the destination protocol. The state data includes presence data and protocol data for buddys of the user. The process is executed by an IM gateway of an Internet Service Provider that provides a WAP and SMS portal for mobile telephones in addition to multiple IM protocol support.

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

start

wait for packet
100

return from
command
procedure

IM packet ?
102

no

forward packet
to switch
104

yes

packet
encrypted ?
106

no

yes

decrypt IM packet
108

determine client
IM protocol
110

determine IM
command
112

no

known
command?
113

yes

branch to
command
procedure

FIG. 4

```
                        ┌─────────────┐
                        │    state    │
                        │   command   │
                        └──────┬──────┘
                               │
                               ▼
                        ┌─────────────┐
                        │forward original│
                        │   packet    │
                        │     114     │
                        └──────┬──────┘
                               │
                               ▼
                        ┌─────────────┐
                        │update state table│
                        │     116     │
                        └──────┬──────┘
                               │
                               ▼
                        ┌─────────────┐
                        │ for each online│
                        │user with this user├──────────┐
                        │ in their buddy list│         │
                        └─────────────┘                │
                                                       ▼
                                              ┌─────────────┐
                                              │ create state │
                                              │change packet in│
                                              │the buddy user's│
                                              │  protocol    │
                                              │     118     │
                                              └──────┬──────┘
                                                     │
                                                     ▼
                                              ┌─────────────┐
                                              │send state packet│
                                              │to buddy's client│
                                              │     120     │
                                              └──────┬──────┘
                                                     │
              ┌─────────────┐                        │
              │next protocol│◄───────────────────────┘
              └──────┬──────┘
                     │
                     ▼
              ┌─────────────┐
              │return to step│
              │     100     │
              └─────────────┘
```
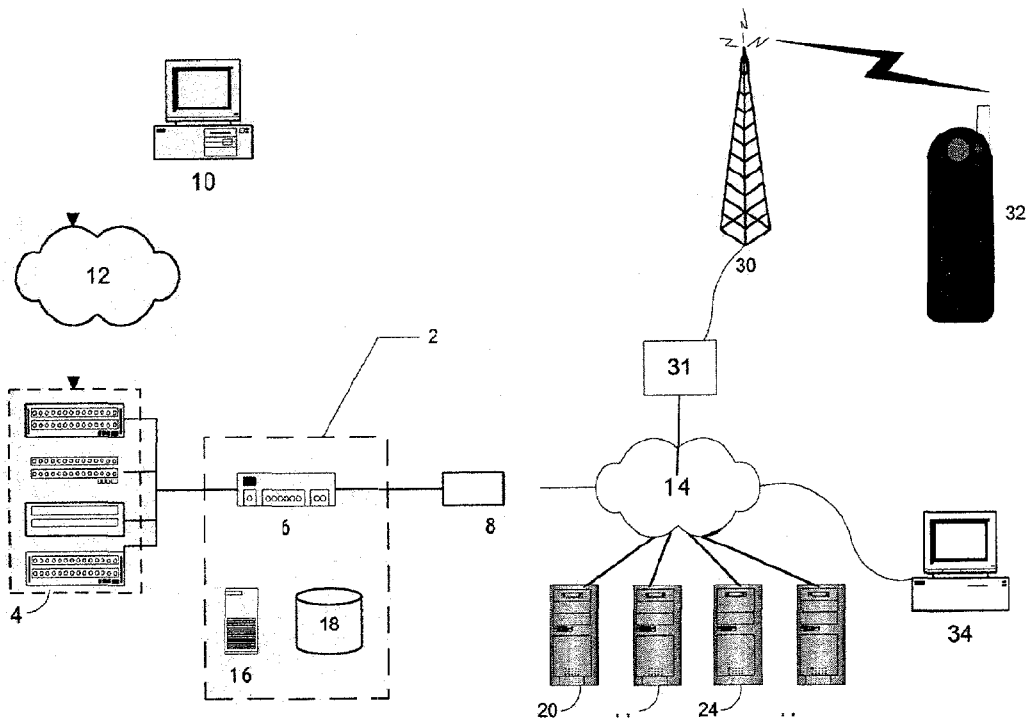
DOCKET ALARM
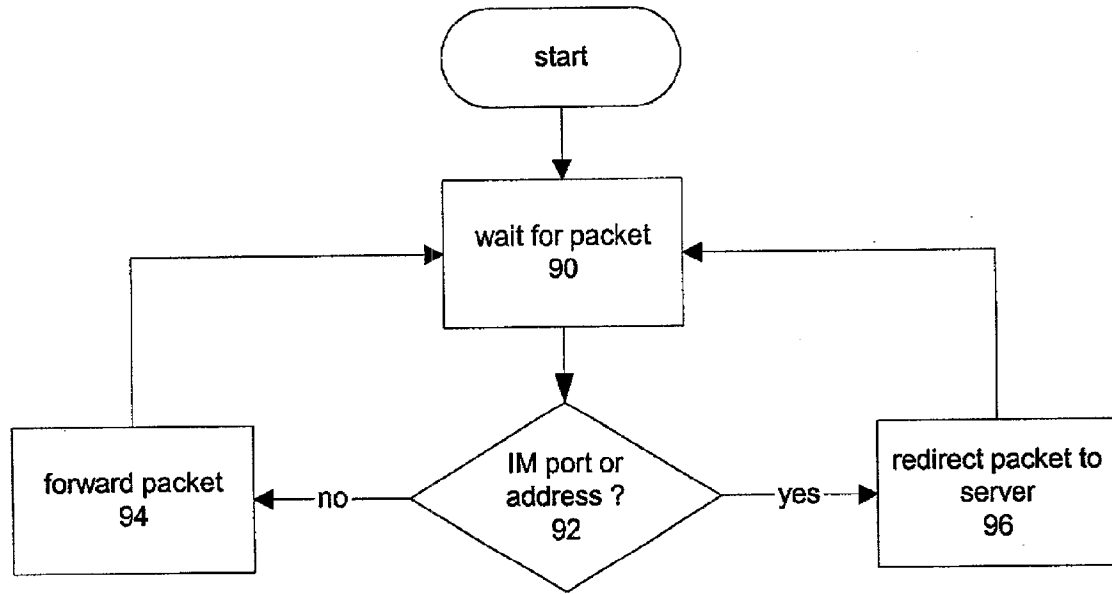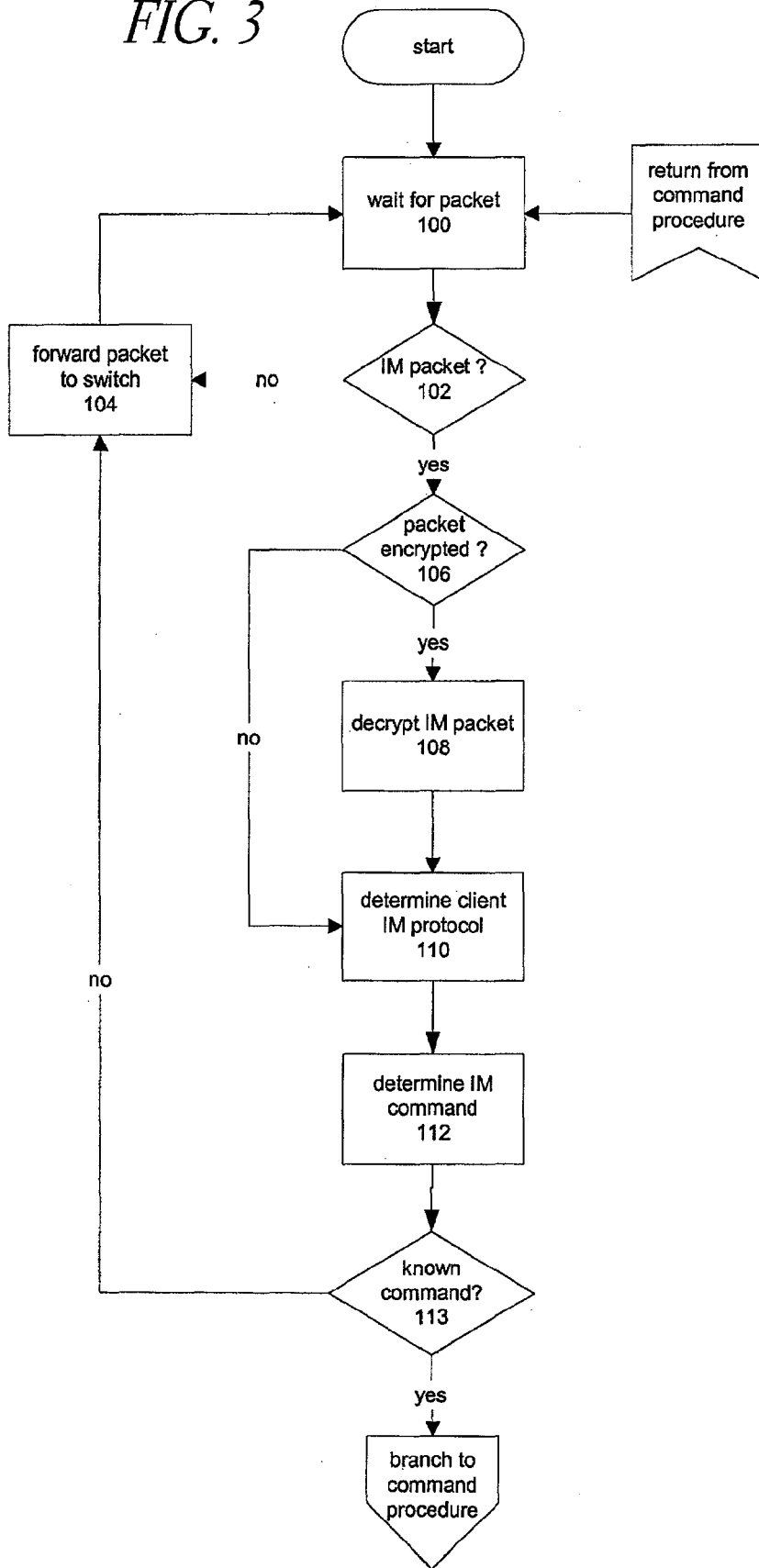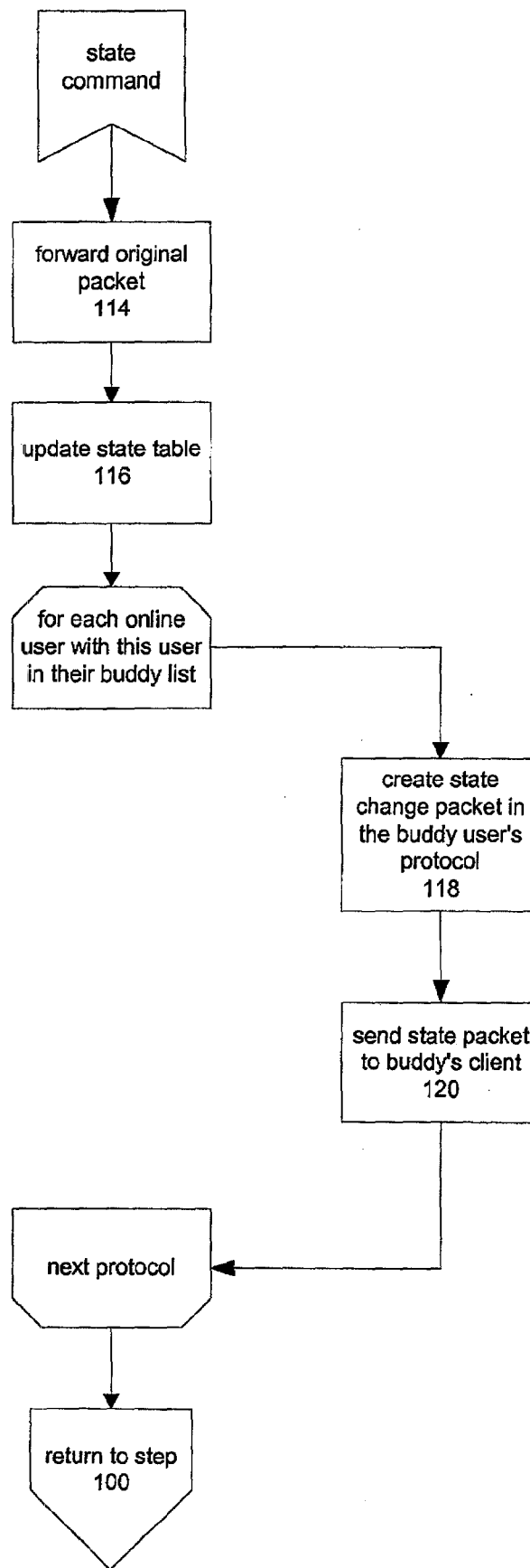
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