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United States Patent [19] Naef, III

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- [54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CONFERENCING**
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- [73] Assignee: **Group Technologies, Inc., Arlington, Va.**
- [21] Appl. No.: **393,876**
- [22] Filed: **Aug. 15, 1989**
- [51] Int. Cl.⁵ **G06F 15/16**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **395/200; 364/DIG. 1; 364/228.3; 364/228.4; 364/229; 364/259.9; 364/259**
- [58] **Field of Search** ... 364/200 MS File, 900 MS File; 395/200, 375

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Primary Examiner—Kevin A. Kriess
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Venable, Baetjer & Howard

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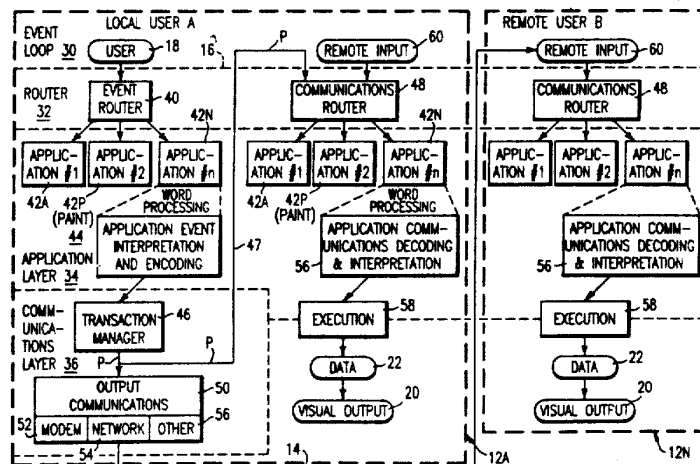
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for conferencing among a plurality of computers is described. A local user receives inputs containing user actions and data for interpretation as to what the user action is with respect to the data and produces user action outputs. An interpreter/encoder interprets and encodes the user action outputs into packets of encoded commands and data related thereto. A communications device sends the encoded information to at least one remote user and the local user itself. An interpreter decoder at each computer interprets and decodes the encoded information specifying an operation to be performed on the data. The operation is then executed at the local user and the remote users. The system is operating system independent and multiple documents and applications may be worked on at the same time by different users.

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34 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



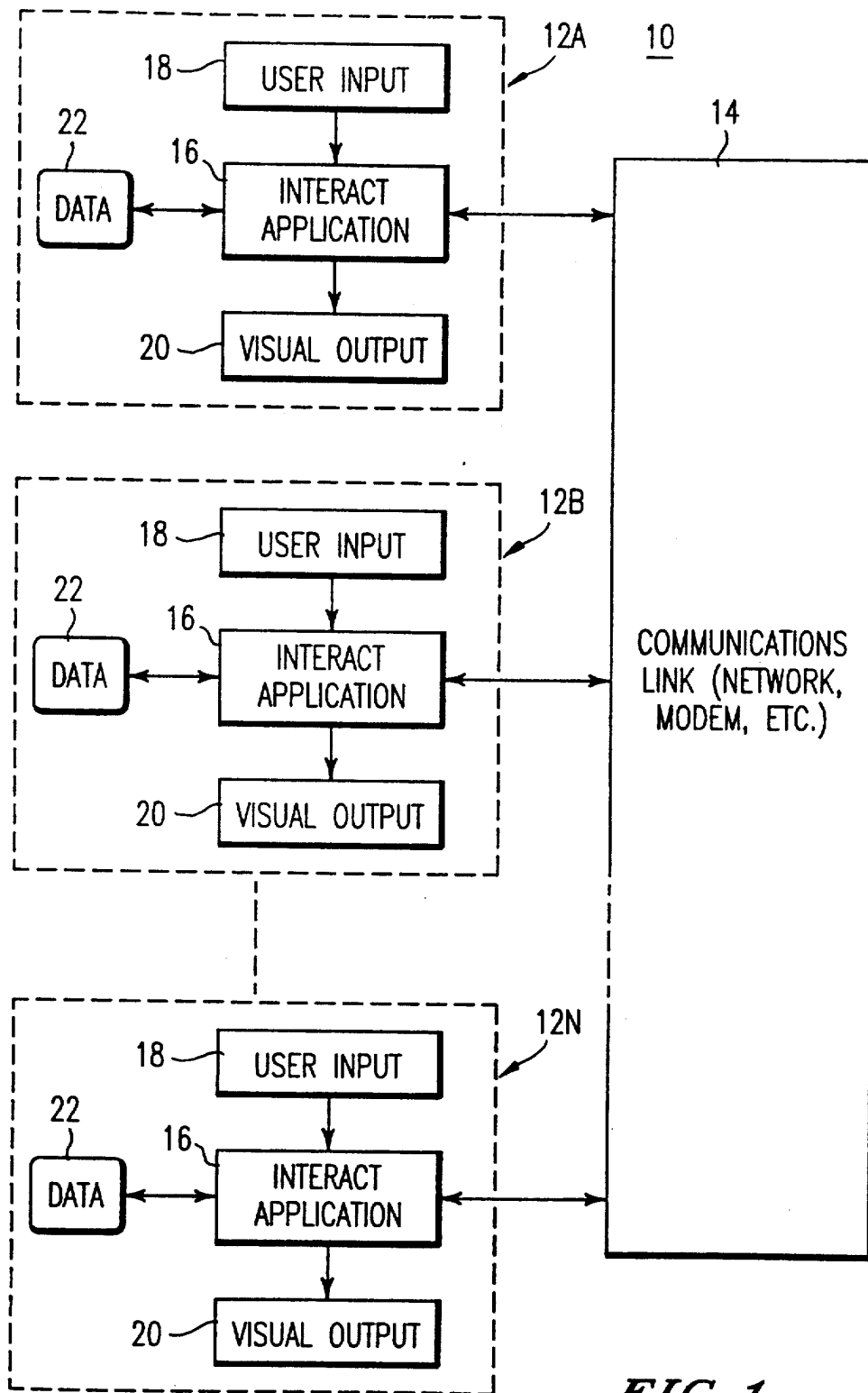


FIG. 1

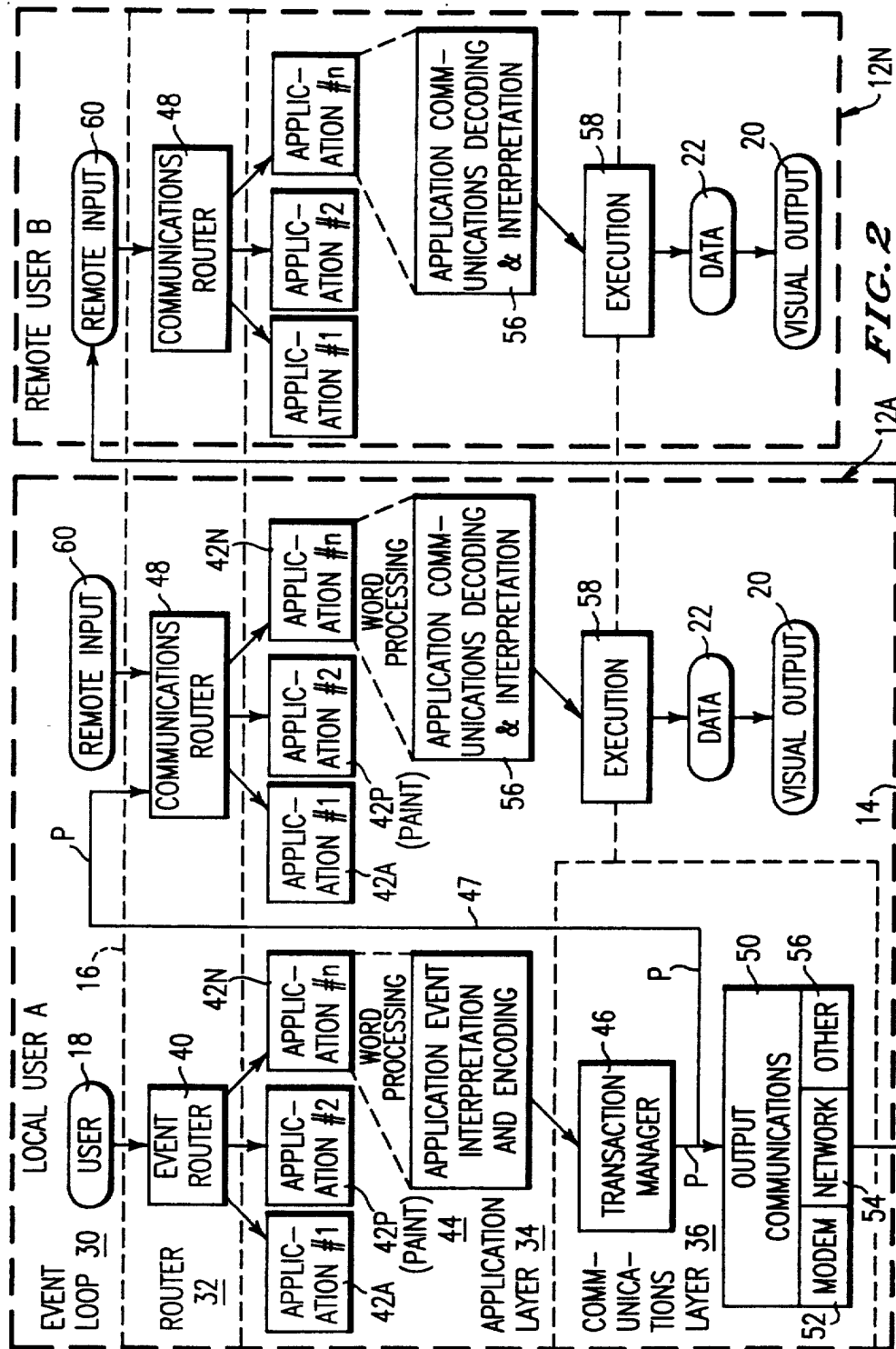


FIG. 2

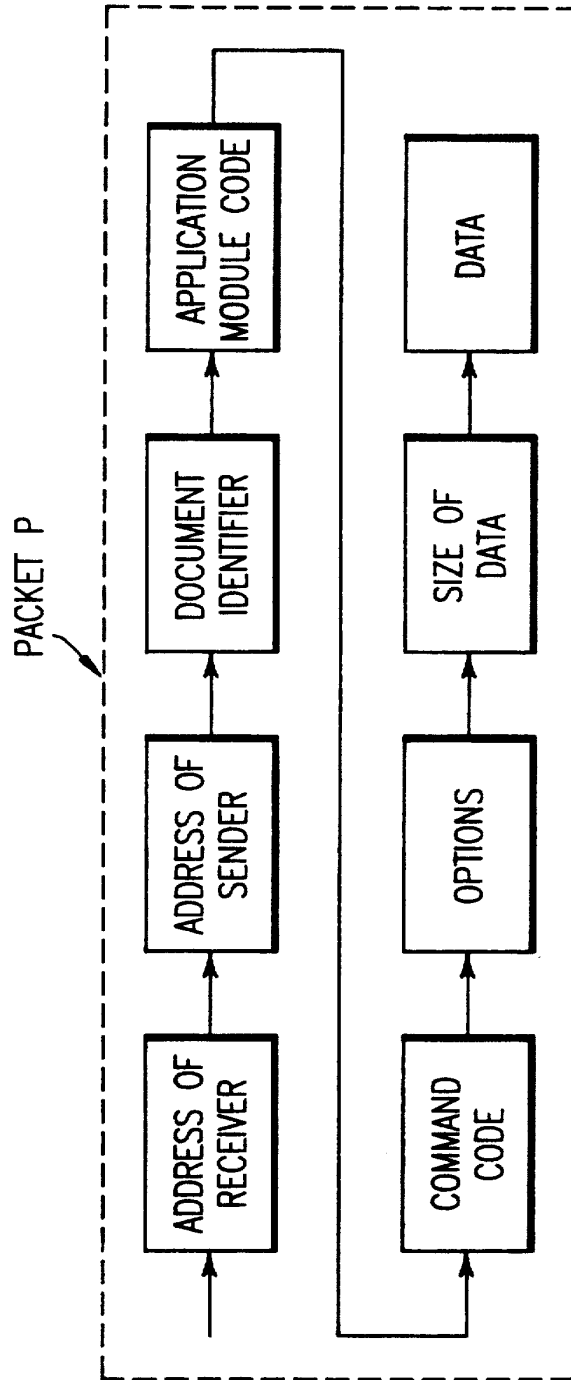


FIG. 3

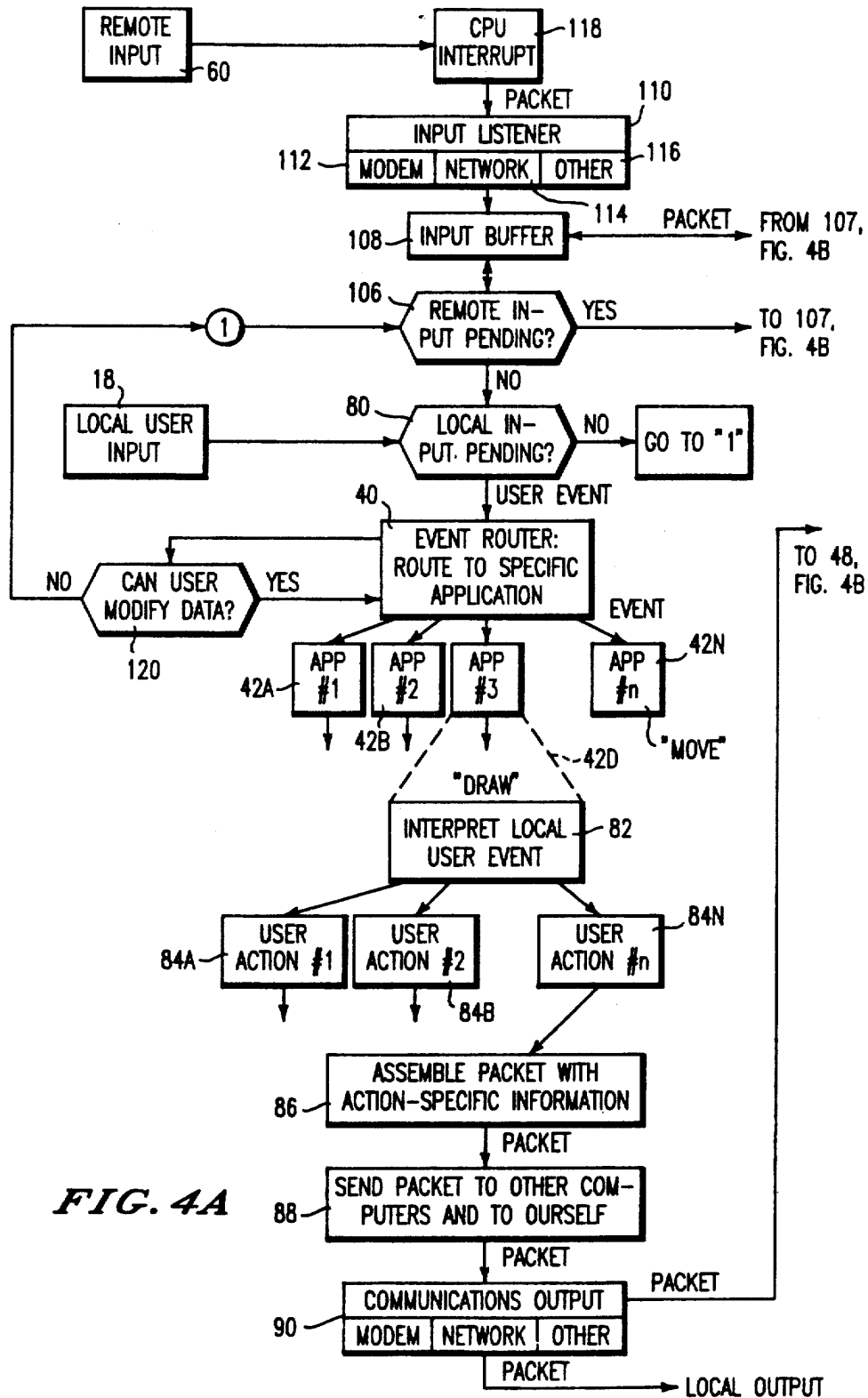


FIG. 4A

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