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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Malik et al.**

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 21, 2006**

(54) **INSTANT MESSAGING ARCHITECTURE AND SYSTEM FOR INTEROPERABILITY AND PRESENCE MANAGEMENT**

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(73) Assignee: **BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation**, Wilmington, DE (US)

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 720 days.

\* cited by examiner

(21) Appl. No.: **10/135,929**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A computer network system establishes an instant messaging (IM) session between a first user registered with a first ISP (ISP) and at least one user registered with a second ISP when the two ISPs operate using different IM protocols. The ISPs each contain a Local IM server connected to each registered user. Each ISP also contains a Universal IM server that is connected to the distributed network. The Universal IM server includes a database that stores routing information and Presence information for each user registered with the second ISPs and facilitates communications between the first and second user using a universal format, such as XML.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 15/16** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **709/246**; 709/205

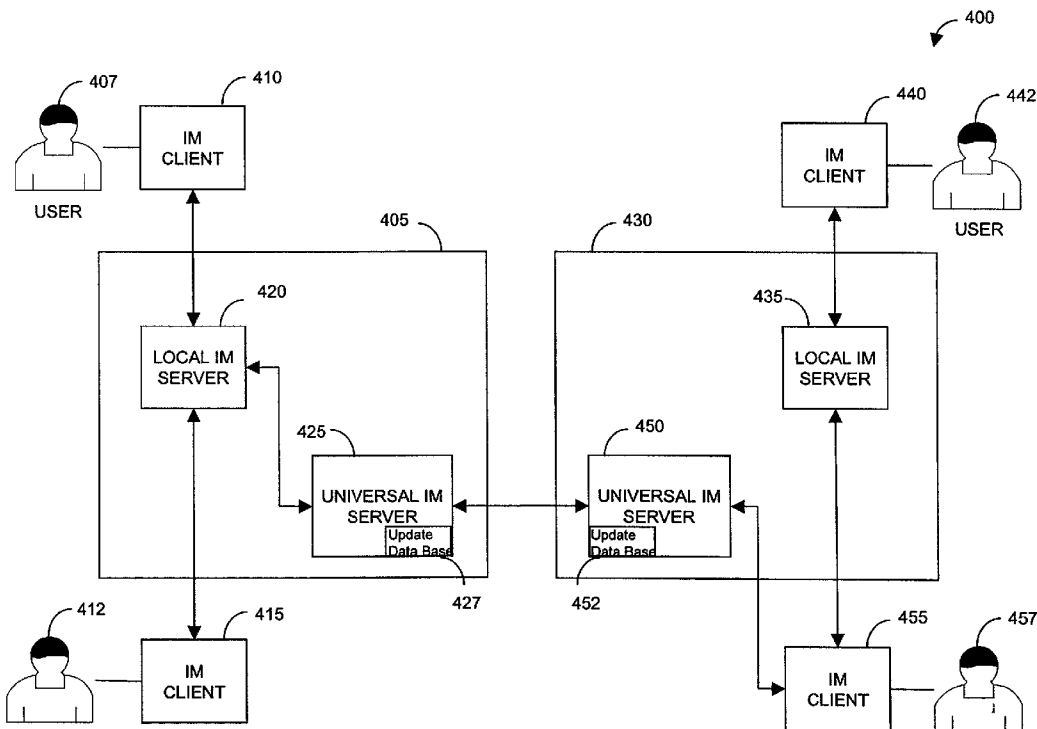
(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 709/204, 709/206, 217, 230, 246, 205  
See application file for complete search history.

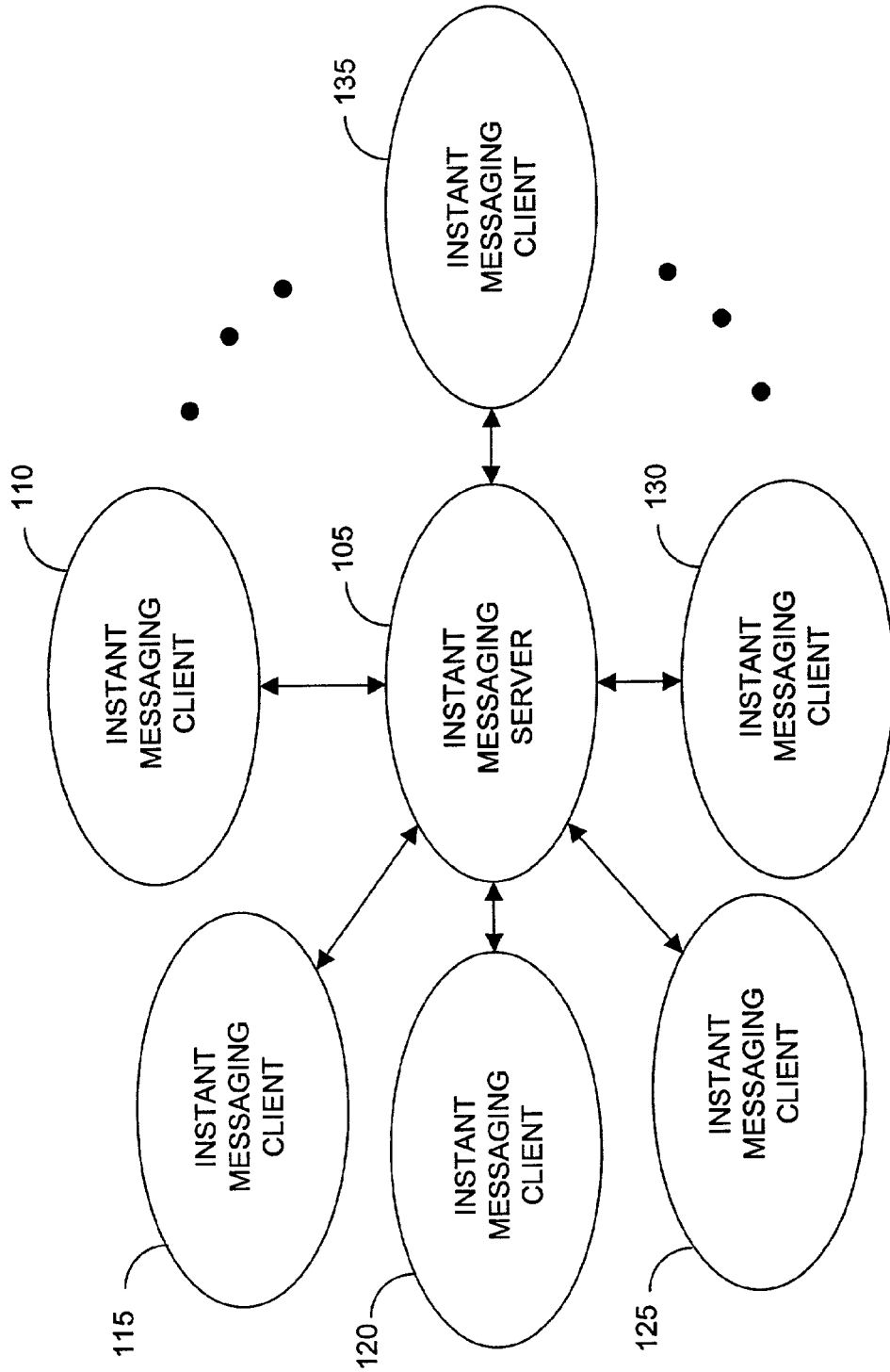
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**28 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**





**PRIOR ART** **FIG. 1**

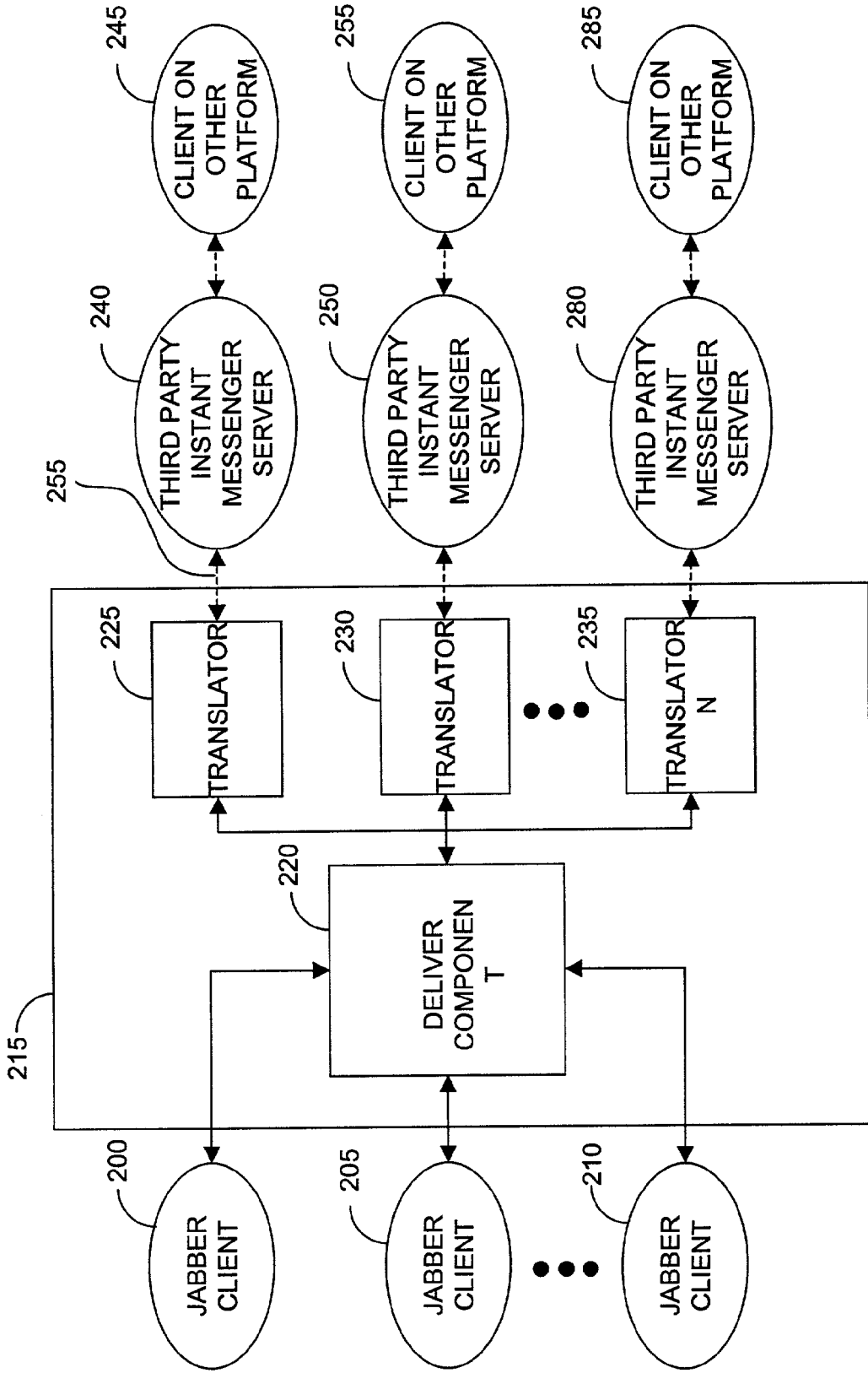


FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

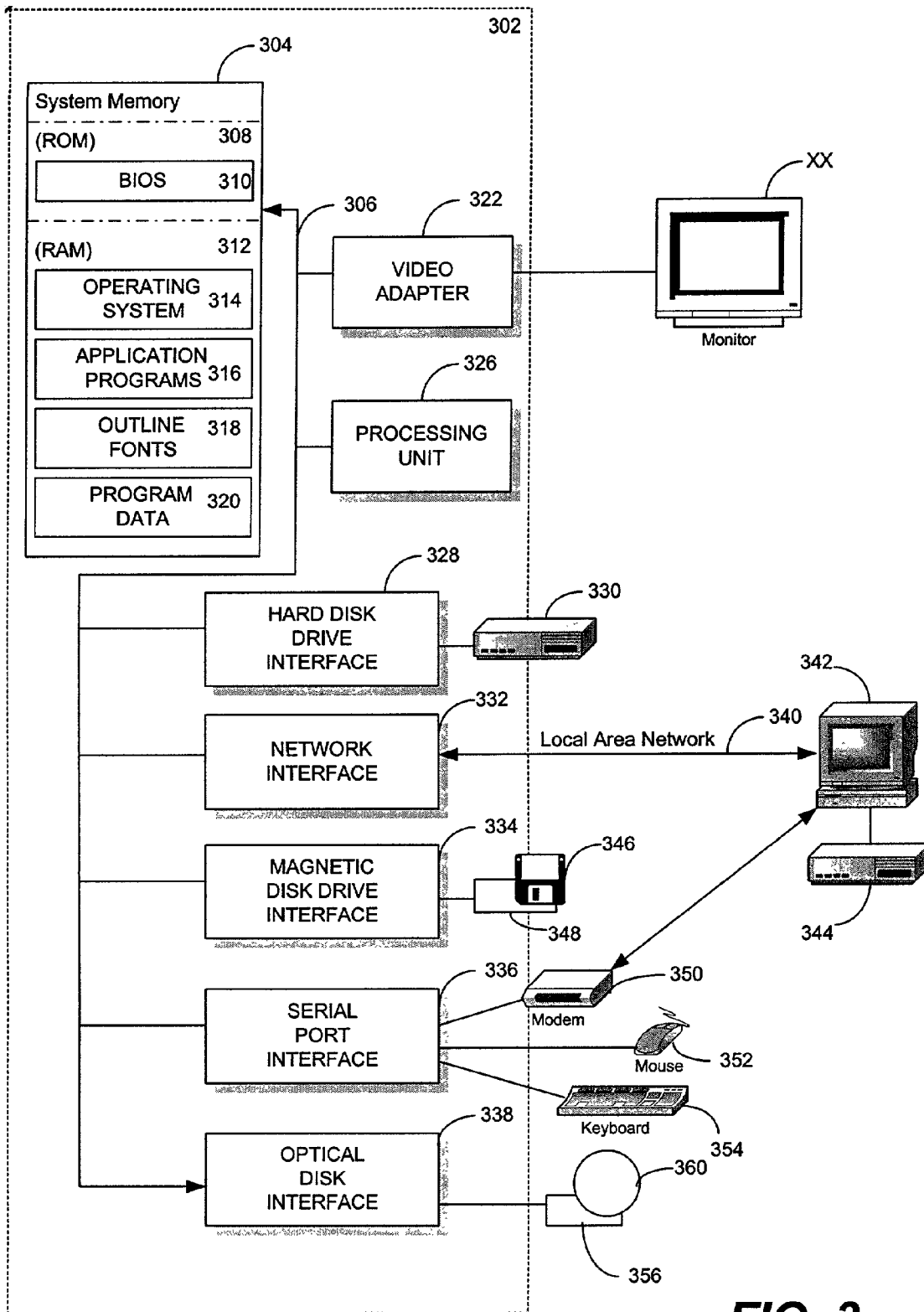


FIG. 3

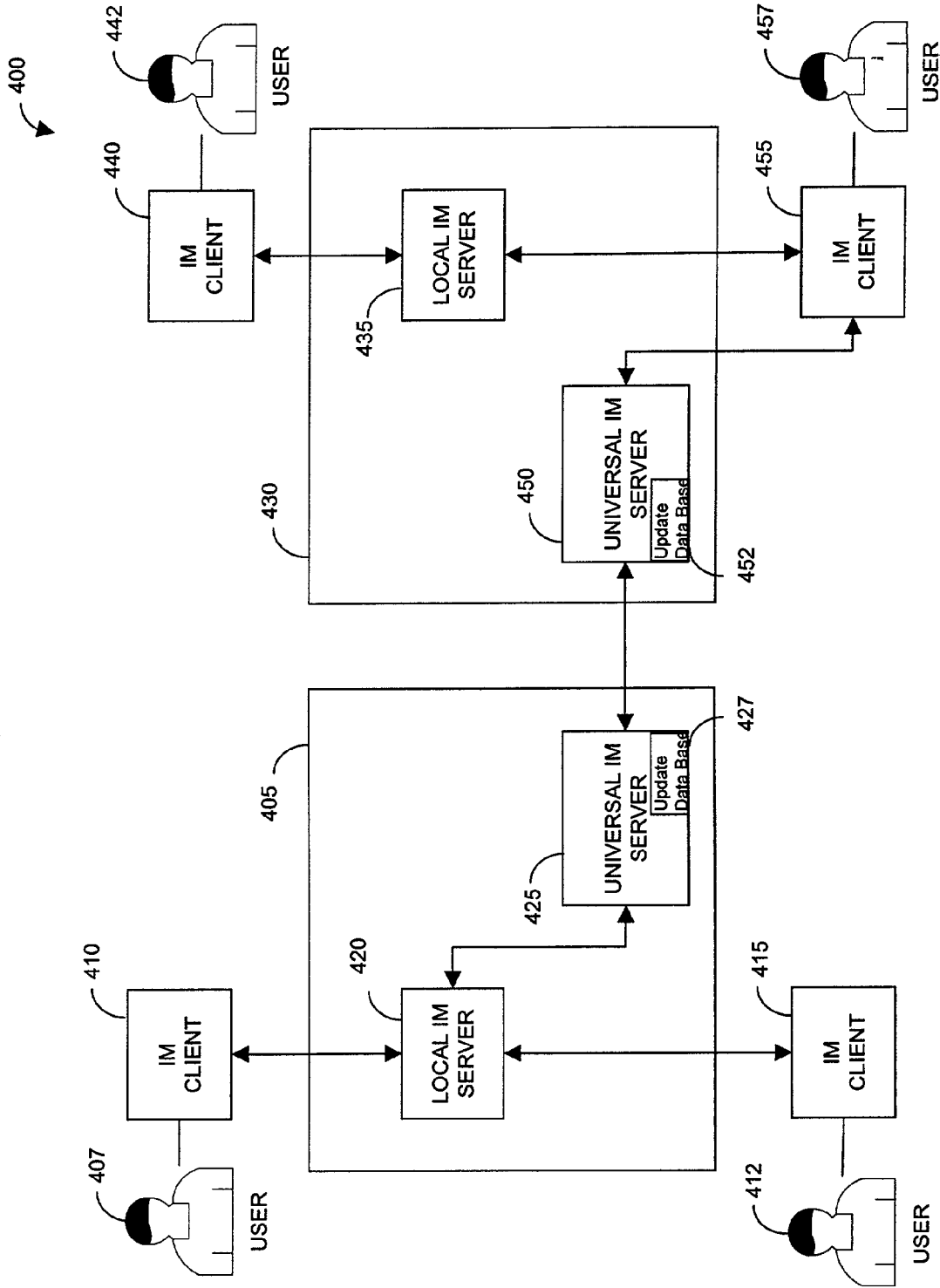


FIG. 4

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