



(12) **United States Patent**
Burg

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CALLED-PARTY TELEPHONE MESSAGING WHILE INTERCONNECTED TO A DATA NETWORK**

(75) Inventor: **Frederick Murray Burg**, West Long Branch, NJ (US)

(73) Assignee: **AT&T Corp.**, New York, NY (US)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **H04M 11/00**; H04M 3/42

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **379/215**; 379/93.35; 370/352

(58) **Field of Search** 379/88.12, 88.13, 379/88.16, 88.17, 88.19, 88.2, 210, 211, 212, 215, 93.15; 370/352

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Primary Examiner—Krista Zele
Assistant Examiner—Roland G. Foster

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method allow a called party, who is utilizing the telephone transmission line to connect to a data network, and as such is unable to directly receive an incoming phone call from a calling party, to be able to provide a specific response message to the calling party while not requiring the called party to directly communicate with the calling party.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

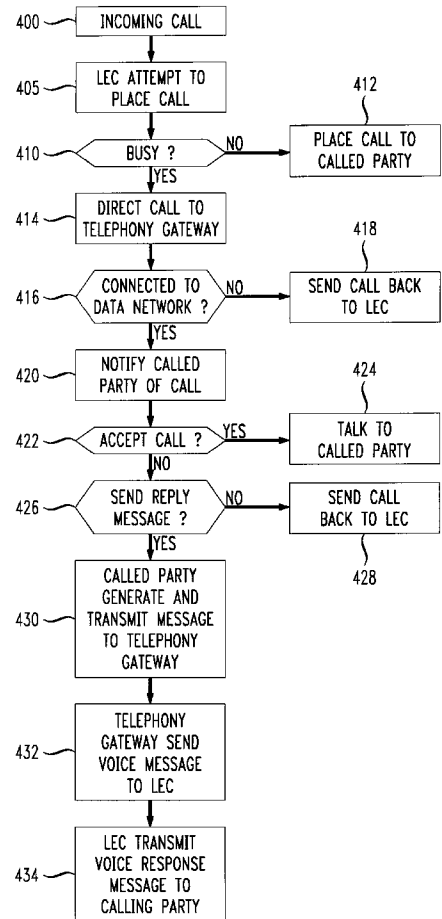


FIG. 1

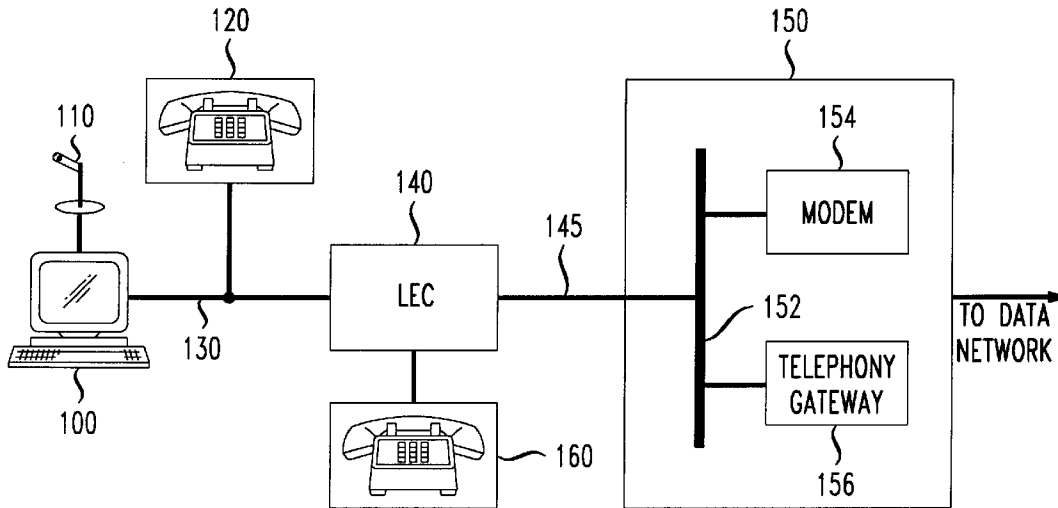


FIG. 2

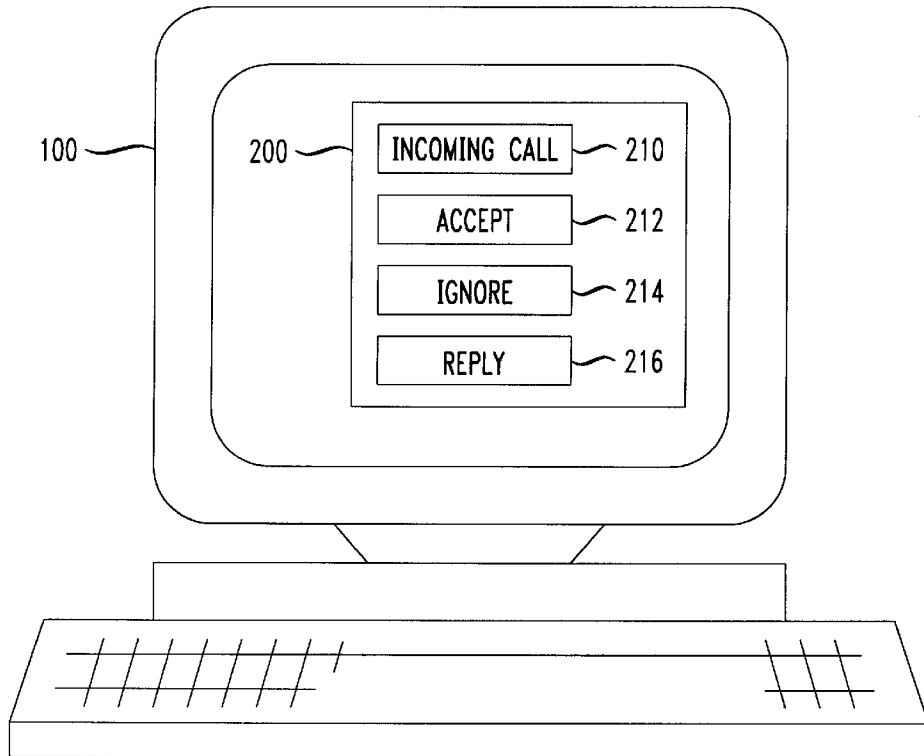


FIG. 3A

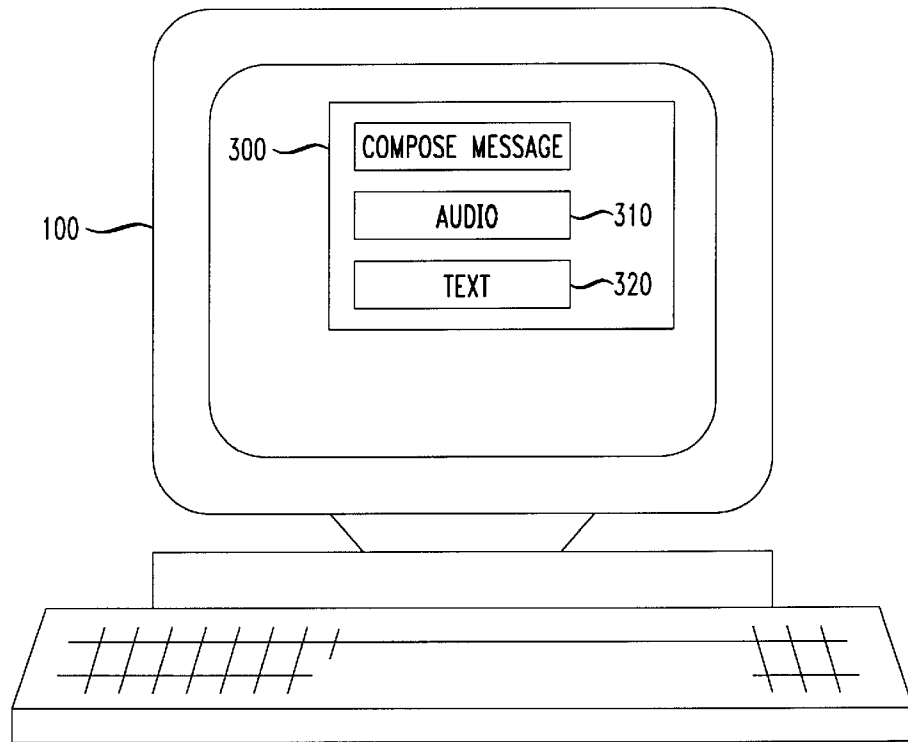


FIG. 3B

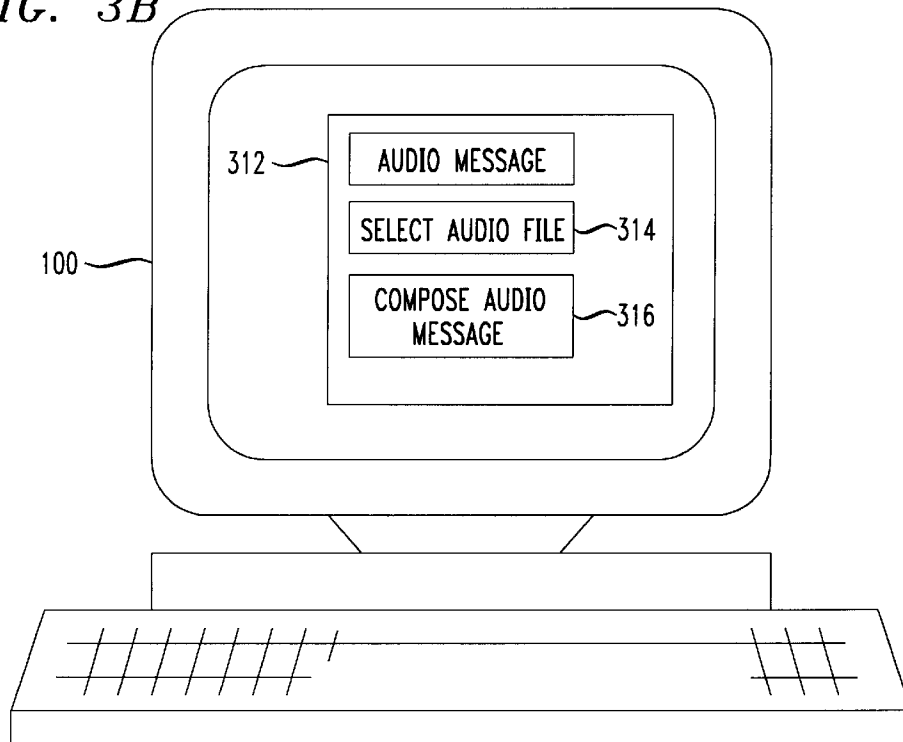


FIG. 3C

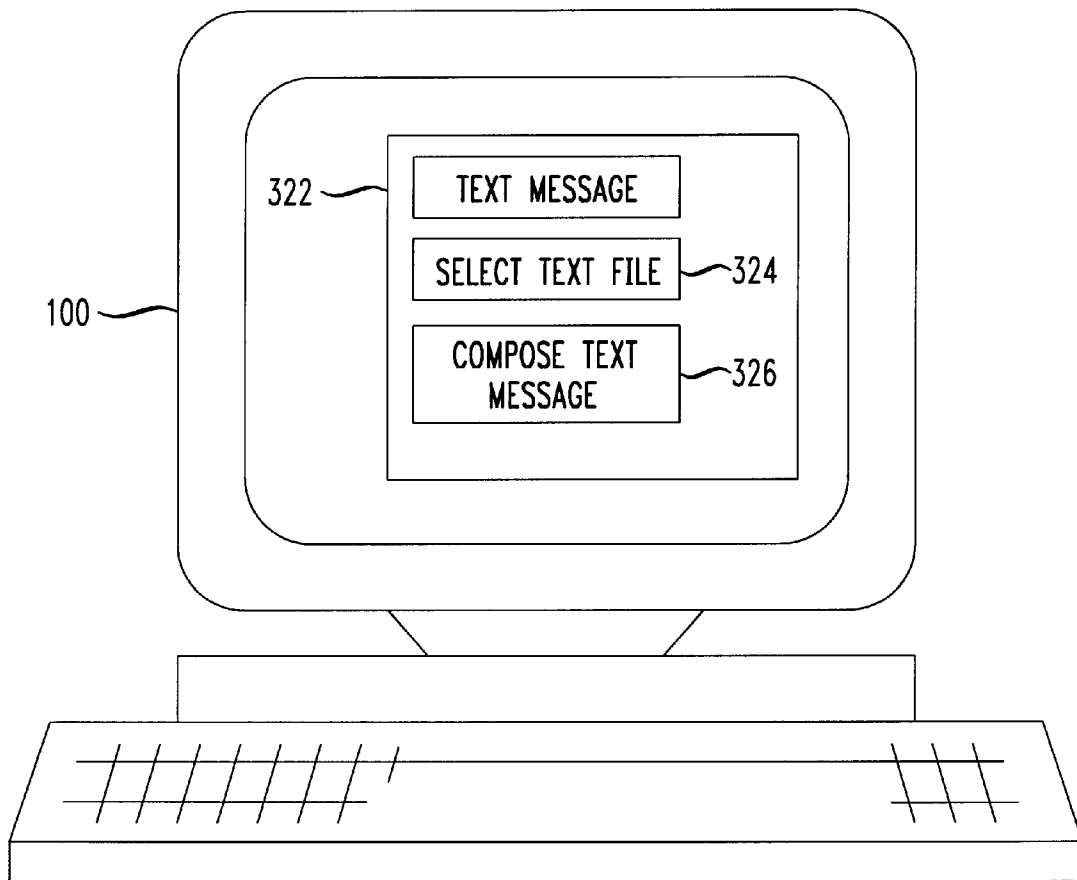
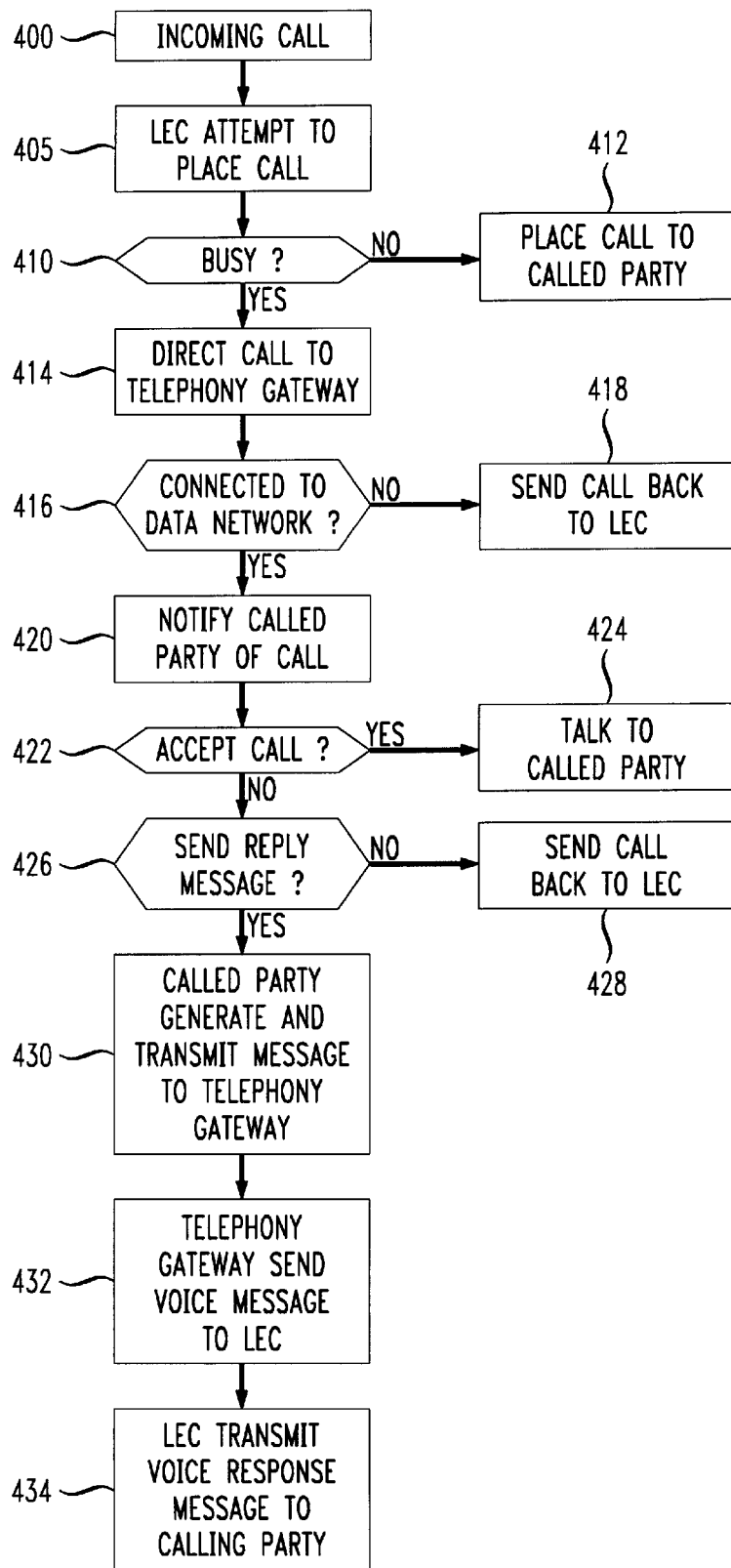


FIG. 4



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