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

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 6, 2001**

- (54) **DYNAMIC LOOKUP SERVICE IN A DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM**
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- (\* ) Notice: Under 35 U.S.C. 154(b), the term of this patent shall be extended for 0 days.
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- (22) Filed: **Mar. 20, 1998**
- (51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 15/177**
- (52) U.S. Cl. .... **709/221; 709/201; 709/223; 709/224**
- (58) **Field of Search** ..... **709/220, 221, 709/222, 223, 224, 201**

(56) **References Cited**  
**PUBLICATIONS**

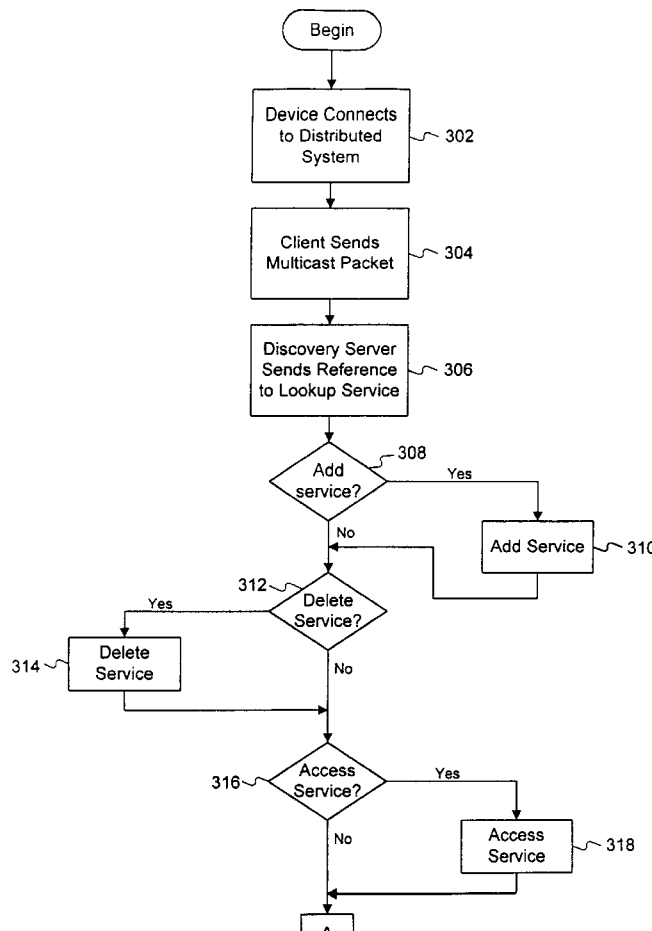
Birrell et al., *Implementing Remote Procedure Calls*, ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, vol. 2, No. 1, Feb. 1984, pp. 39–59.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An improved lookup service is provided that allows for the dynamic addition and deletion of services. This lookup service allows for the addition and deletion of services automatically, without user intervention. As a result, clients of the lookup service may continue using the lookup service and its associated services while the updates occur. Additionally, the lookup service provides a notification mechanism that can be used by clients to receive a notification when the lookup service is updated. By receiving such a notification, clients can avoid attempting to access a service that is no longer available and can make use of new services as soon as they are added to the lookup service.

**7 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**



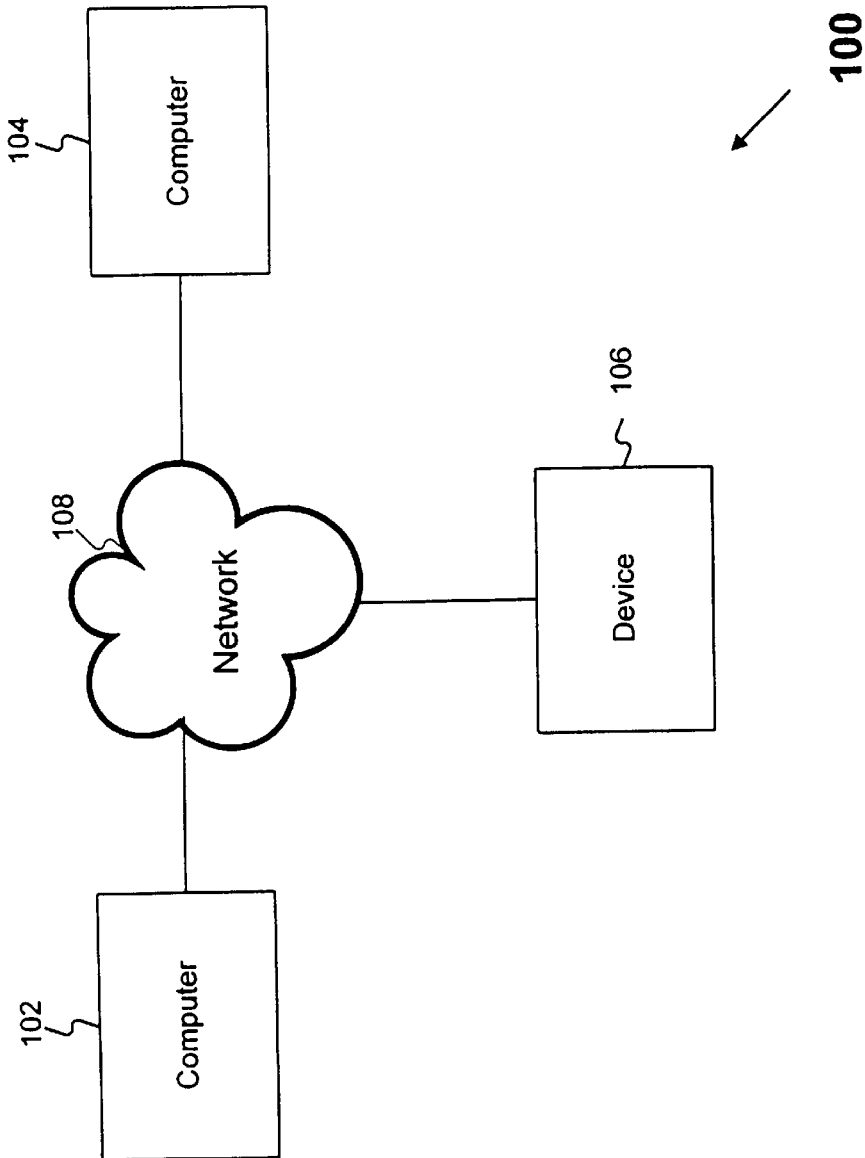


FIG. 1

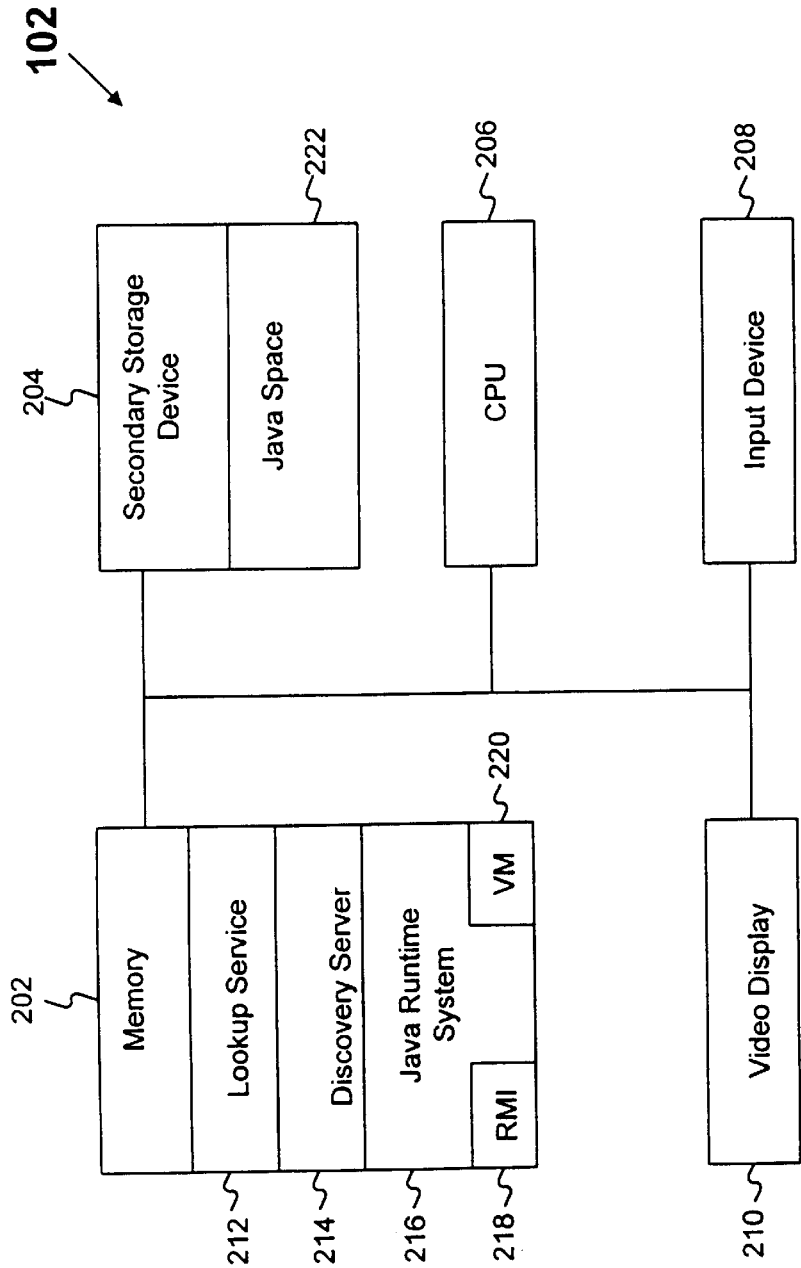


FIG. 2

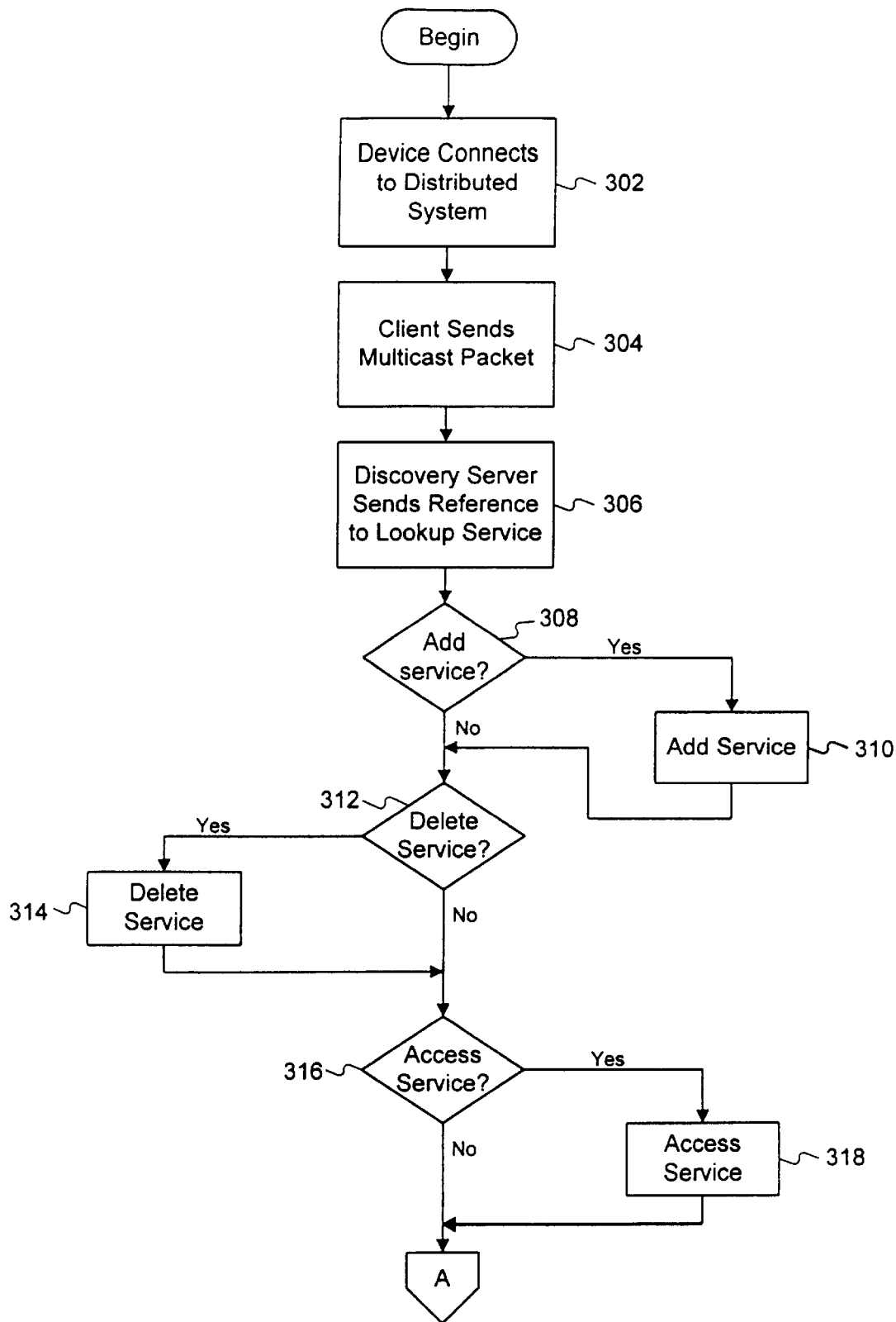


Fig. 3A

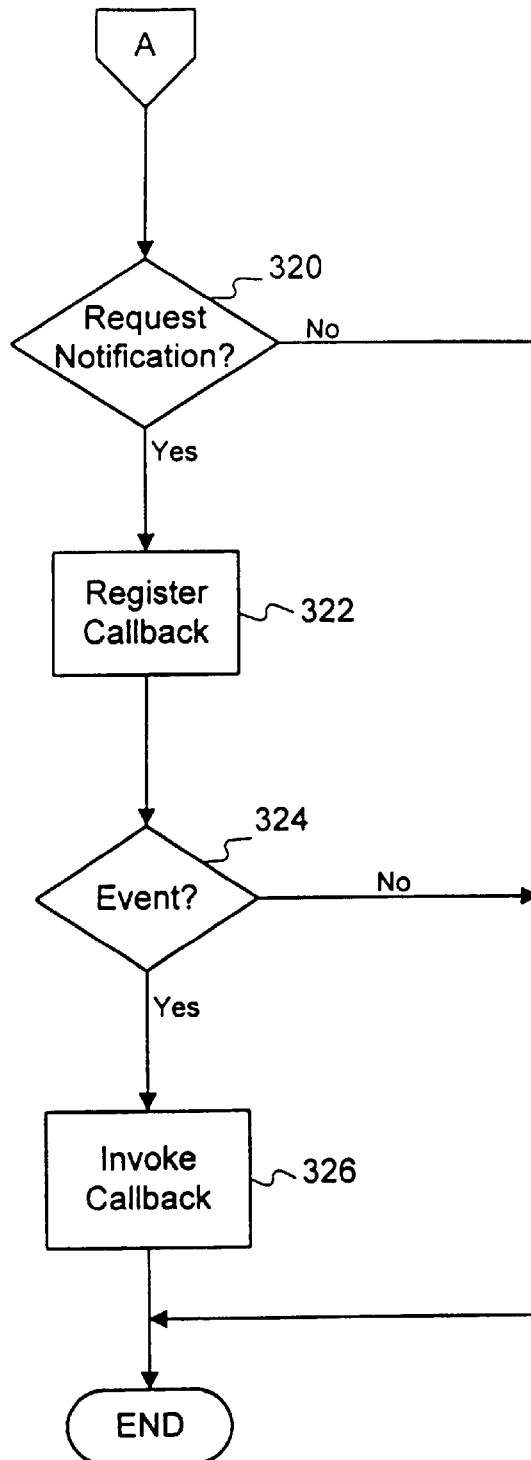


Fig. 3B

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