

United States Patent [19]

Johnson et al.

Patent Number: 5,325,310 Date of Patent: Jun. 28, 1994

- [54] METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PERSISTANT ELECTRONIC MAIL REPLY PROCESSING
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- [73] Assignce: International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.
- [21] Appl. No.: 905,055
- [22] Filed: Jun. 26, 1992
- [51] Int. Cl.⁵ G06K 17/00
- [52]
 U.S. Cl.
 364/514; 358/402

 [58]
 Field of Search
 364/514; 358/402

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Primary Examiner—Jack B. Harvey Assistant Examiner—Thomas Peeso Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Duke W. Yee; Andrew J. Dillon; Jonathan E. Jobe, Jr.

ABSTRACT

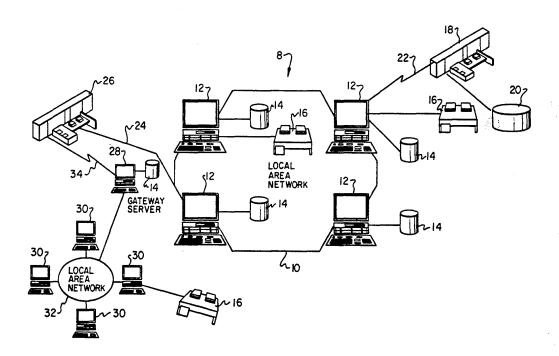
[11]

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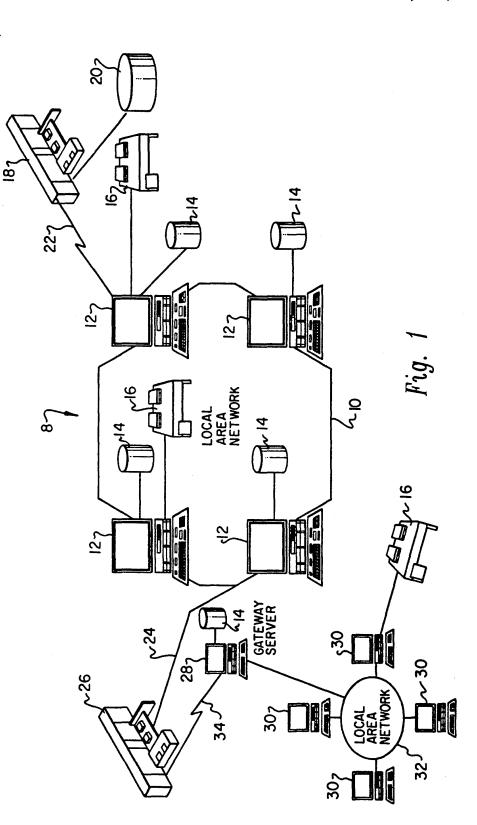
A method and system in a data processing system, having a plurality of users enrolled therein and having a number of electronic mail objects which may be transmitted and received within the distributed data processing system, are provided for ensuring a specific response to a selected electronic mail object by a recipient thereof within the data processing system. The method and system include designating an electronic mail object as requiring a specific response and then transmitting the electronic mail object to a recipient. The recipient of the electronic mail object is prompted for a specific response in response to the recipient opening an electronic mail object and is prohibited from performing a selected action until the specific response has been entered by the recipient.

32 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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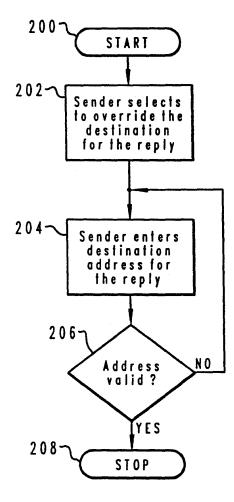
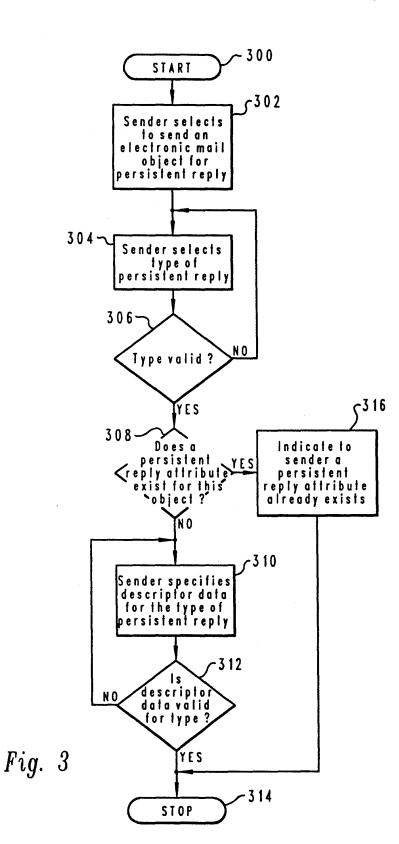


Fig. 2

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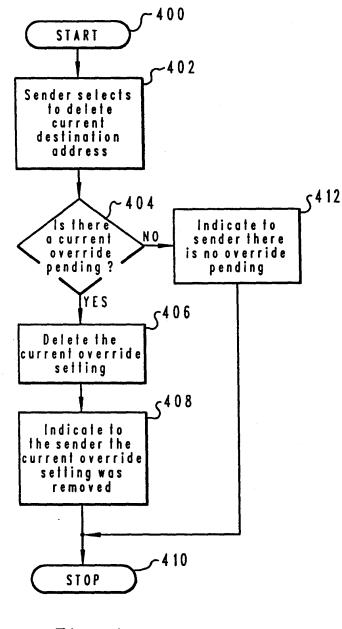


Fig. 4

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