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# United States Patent [19]

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Johnson et al.

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[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PERSISTANT ELECTRONIC MAIL REPLY PROCESSING**

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[73] Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **905,055**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 26, 1992**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup> ..... **G06K 17/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **364/514; 358/402**

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

[56] **References Cited**

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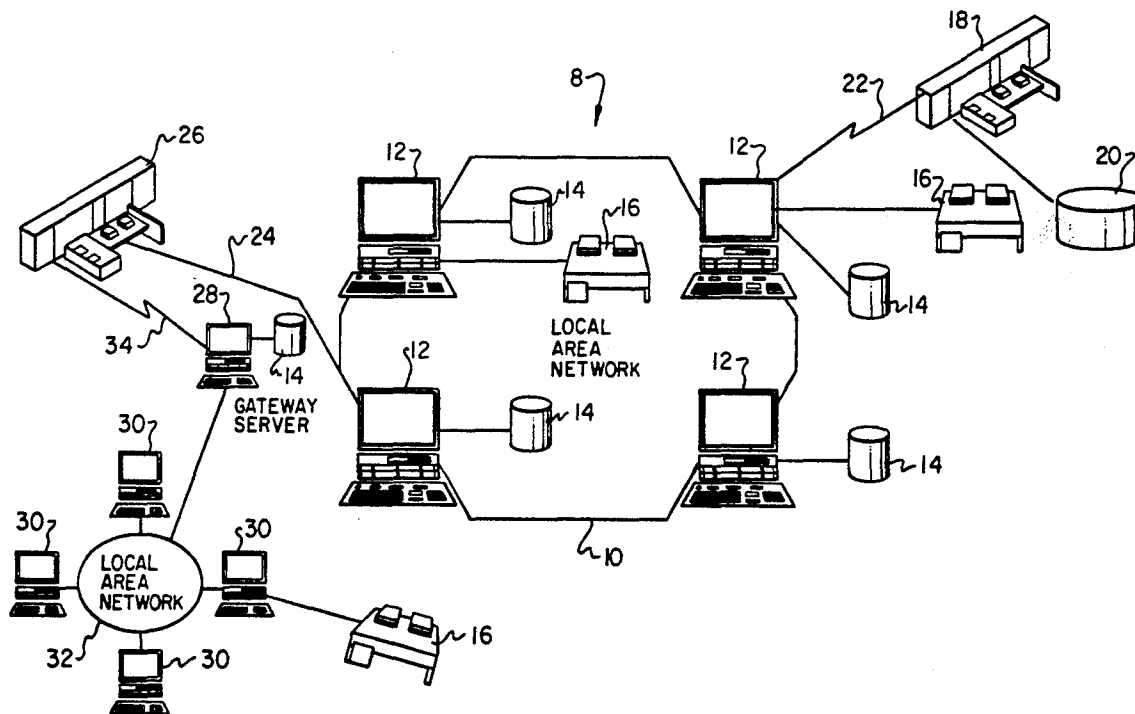
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

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**





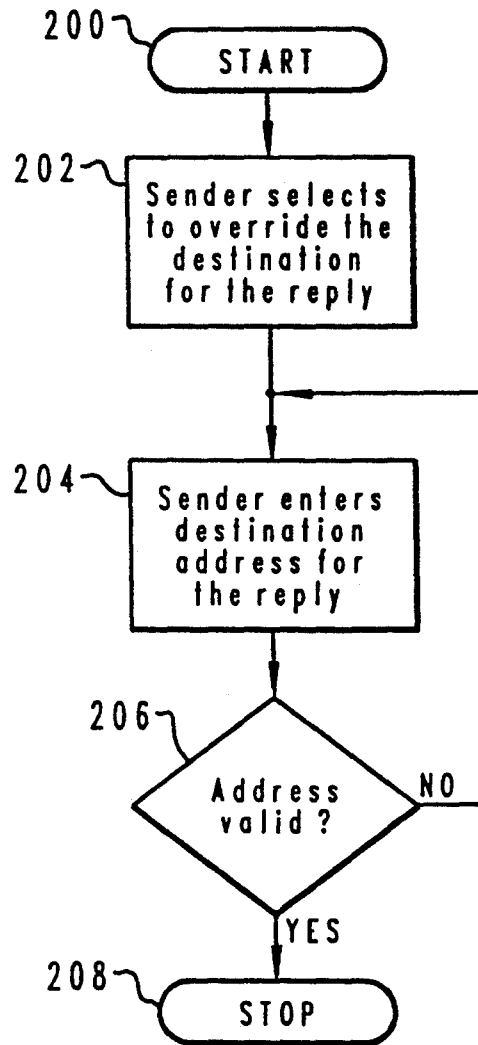


Fig. 2

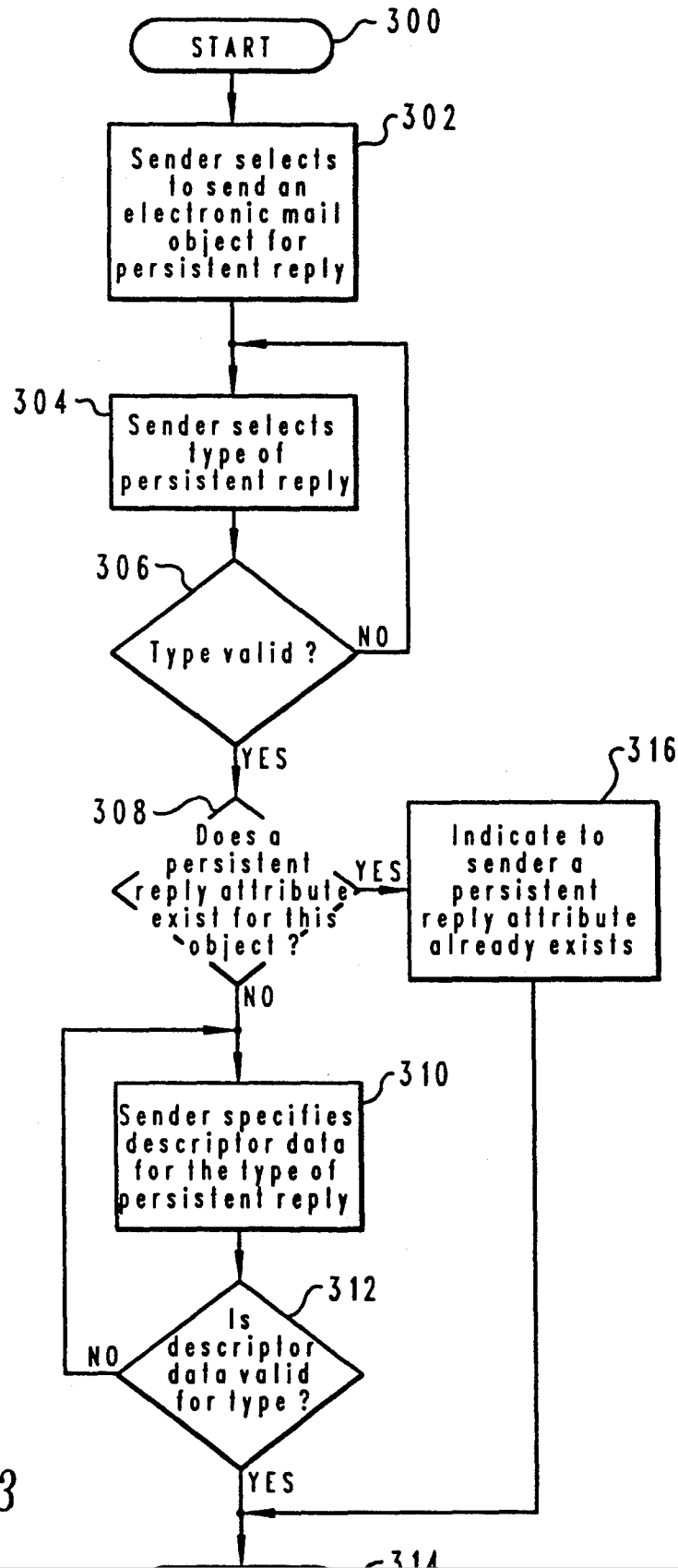


Fig. 3

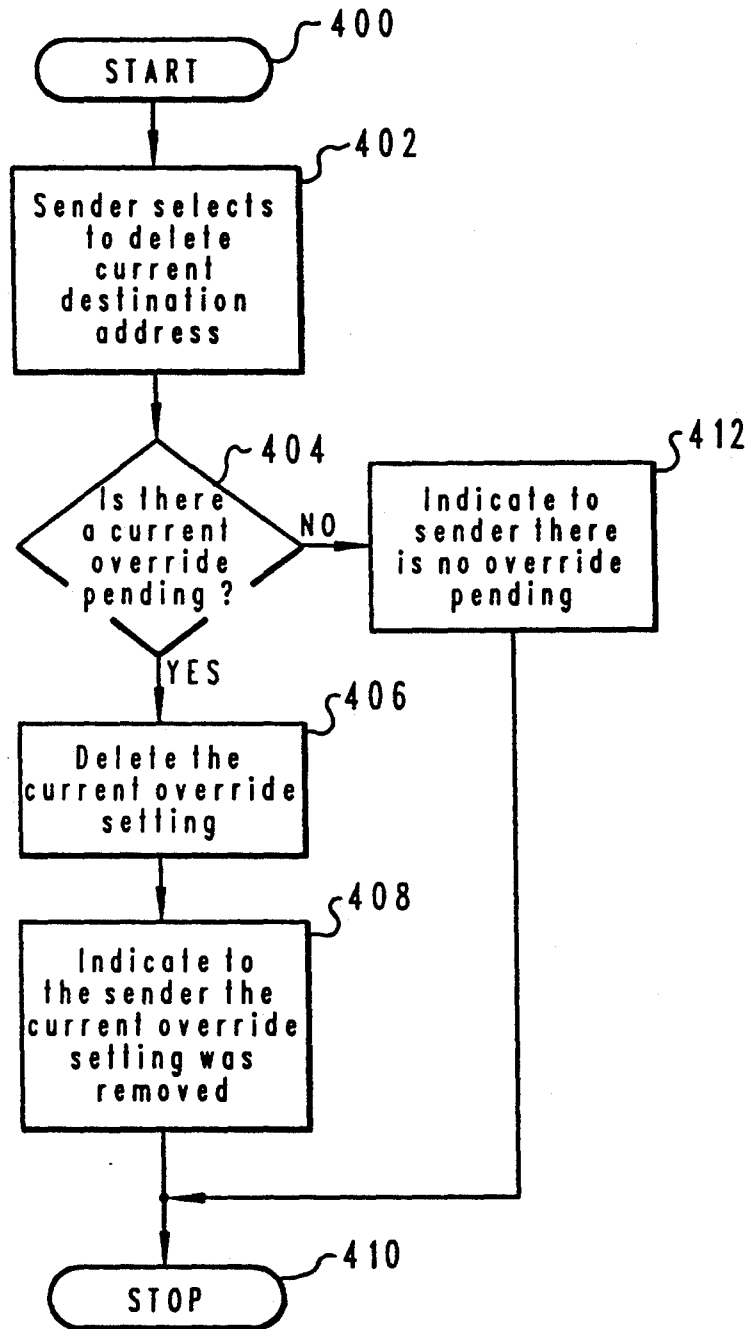


Fig. 4

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