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Weinreich et al.

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONSTRUCTING A NETWORKING DATABASE AND 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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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/10**; 707/130; 707/104; 345/333; 364/918
(58) **Field of Search** 707/130, 10, 104, 707/511; 395/200; 370/407; 706/47, 60; 345/333; 358/402, 440, 444; 705/14; 434/350; 364/918

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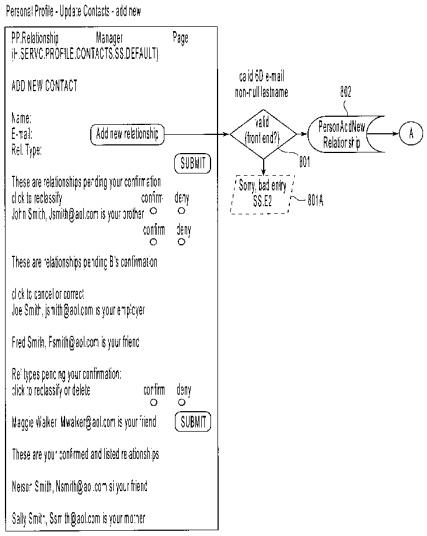
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A networking database containing a plurality of records for different individuals in which individuals are connected to one another in the database by defined relationships. Each individual has the opportunity to define the relationship which may be confirmed or denied. E-mail messaging and interactive communication between individuals and a database service provider provide a method of constructing the database. The method includes having a registered individual identify further individuals and define therewith a relationship. The further individuals then, in turn, establish their own defined relationships with still other individuals. The defined relationships are mutually defined.

36 Claims, 33 Drawing Sheets



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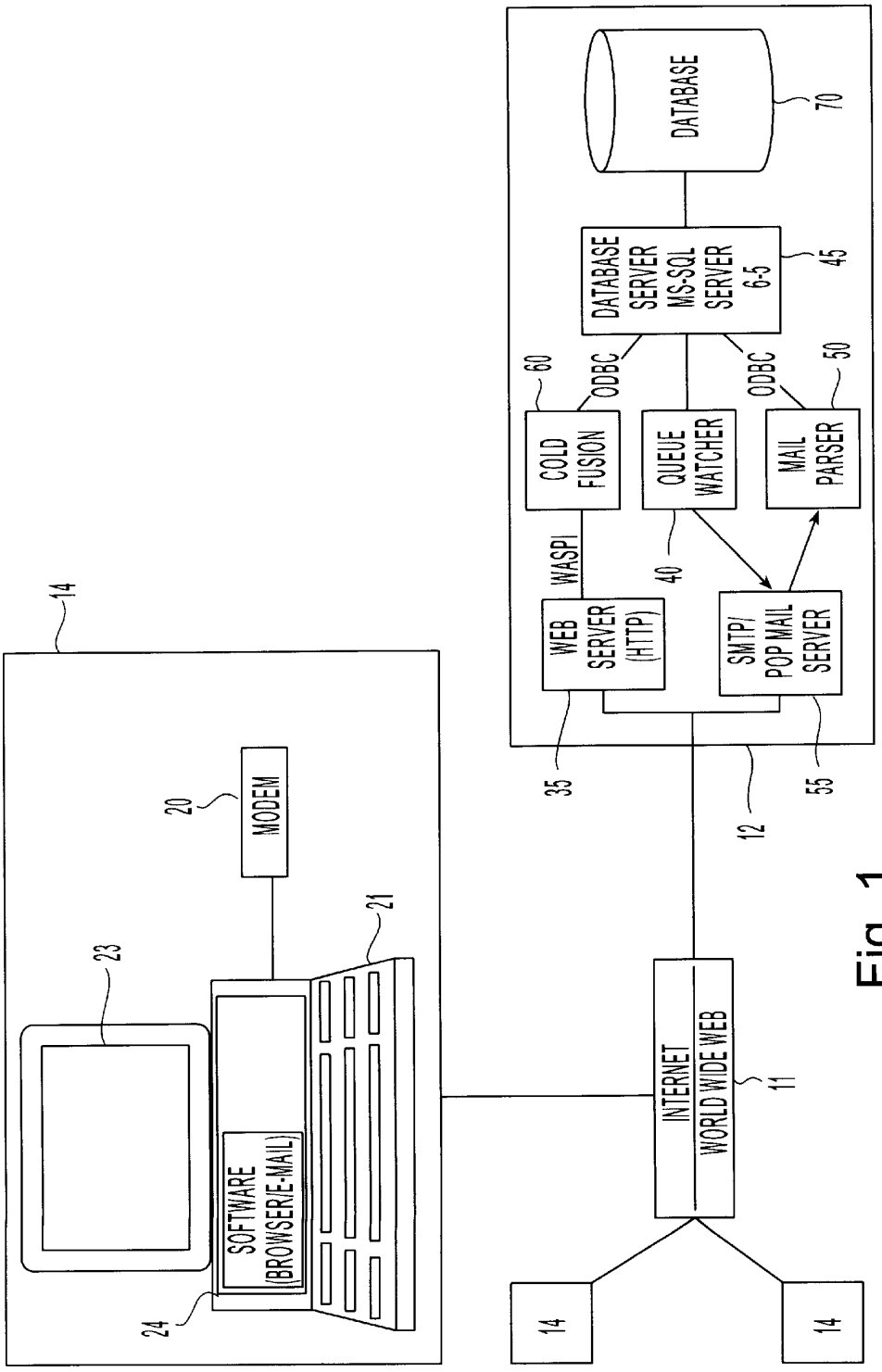

Fig. 1

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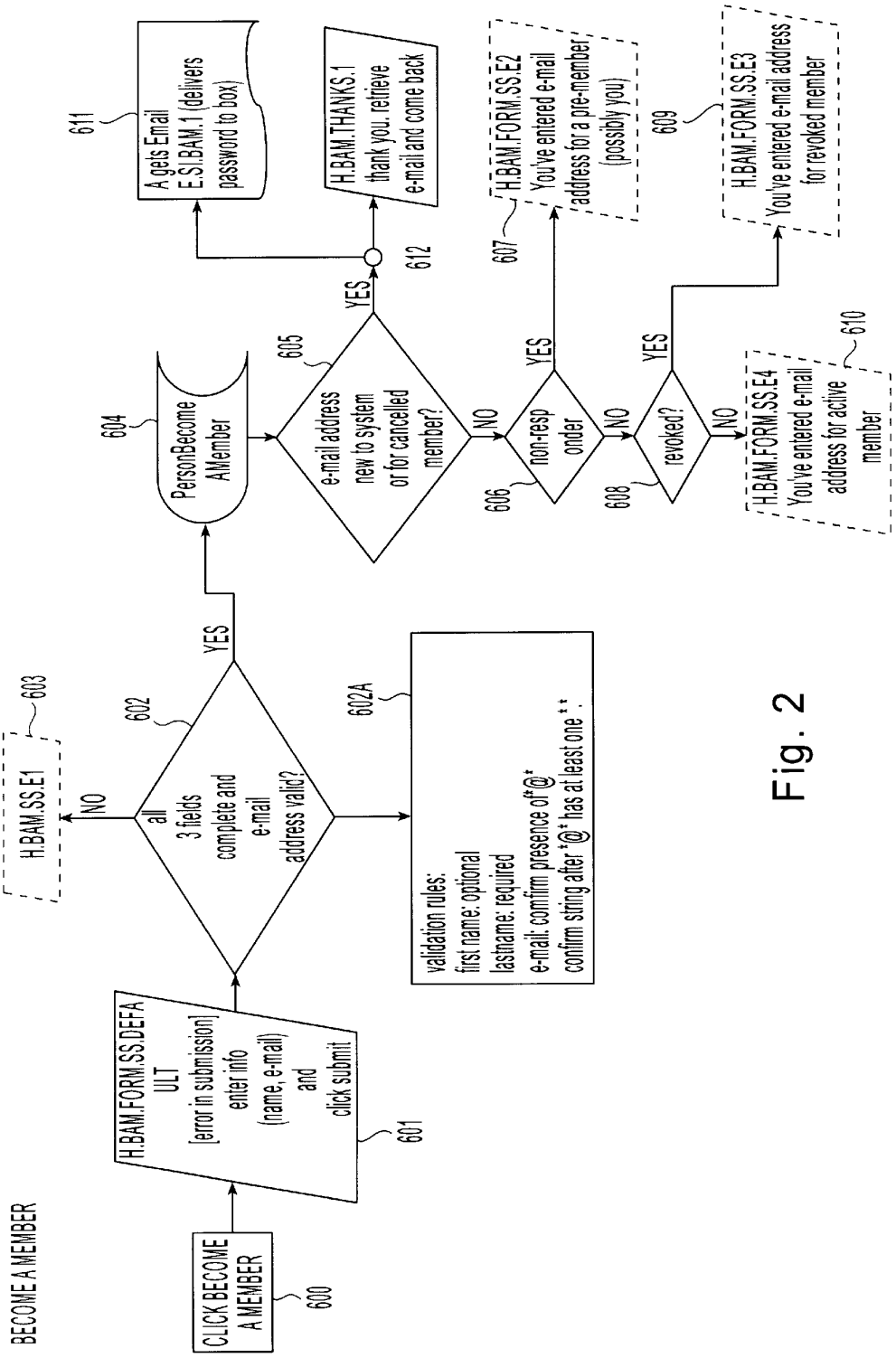

Fig. 2

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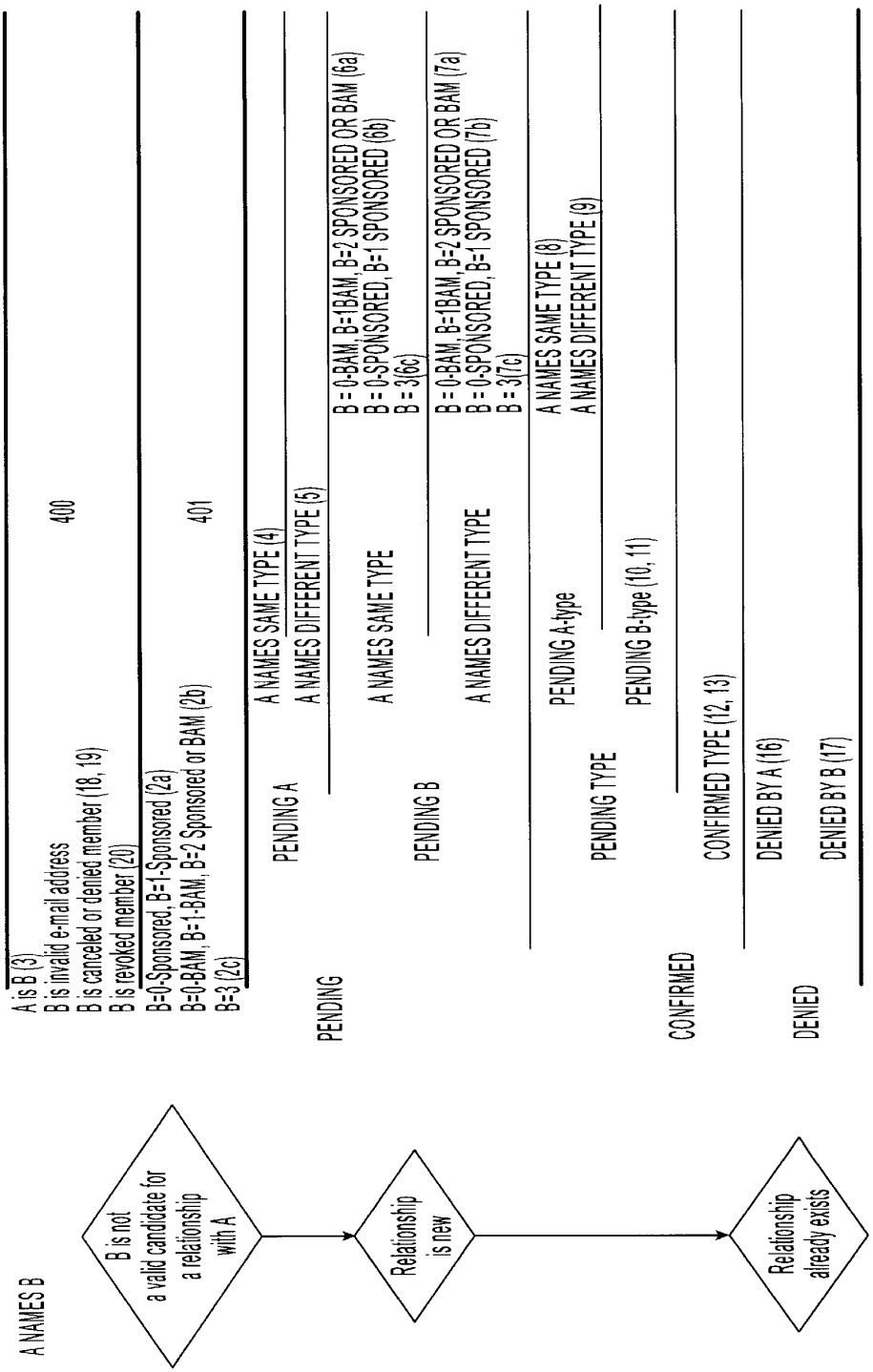

Fig. 3

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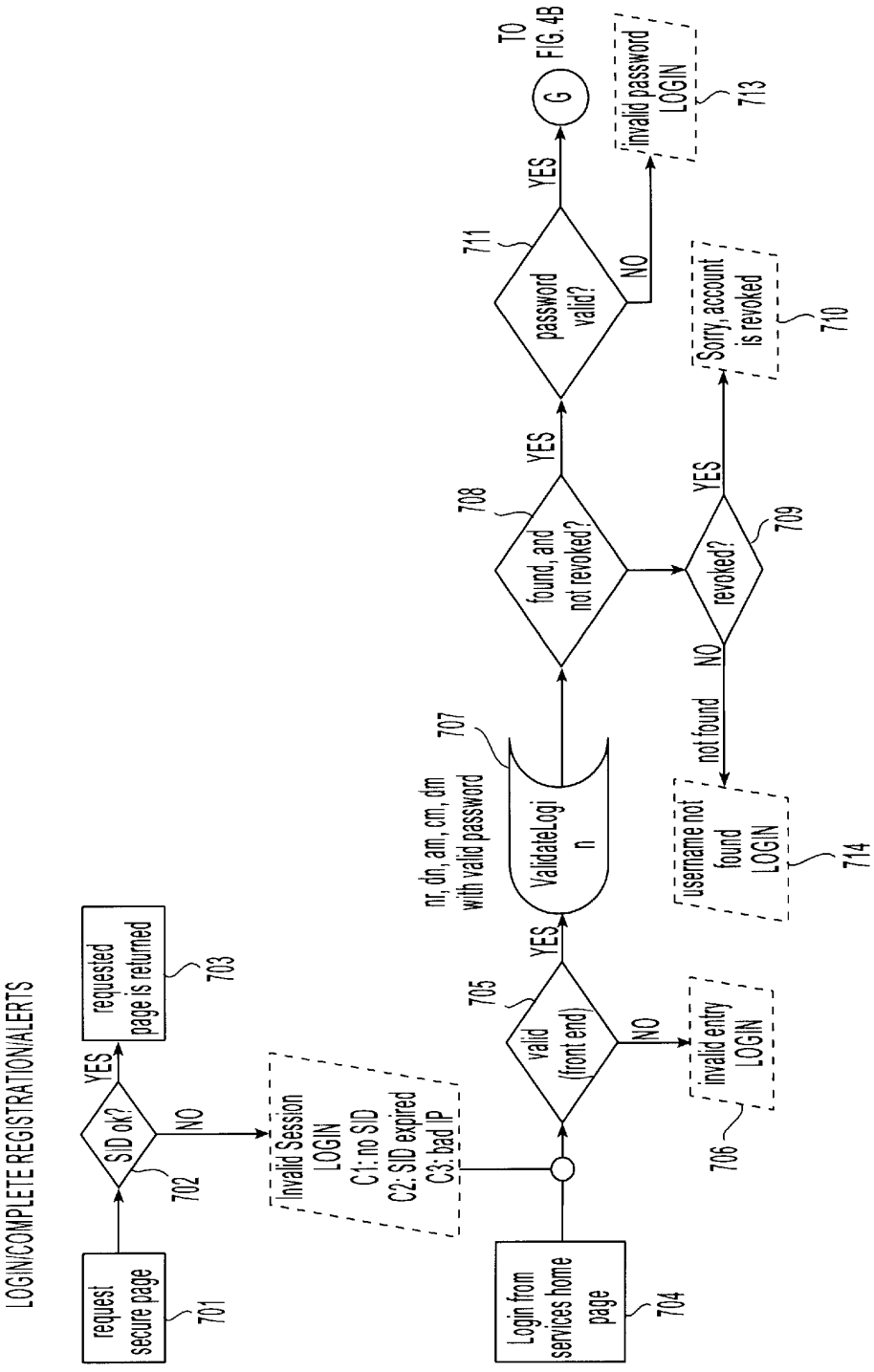

Fig. 4A

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