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(54) **COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WITH
CONVERGED SERVICES**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

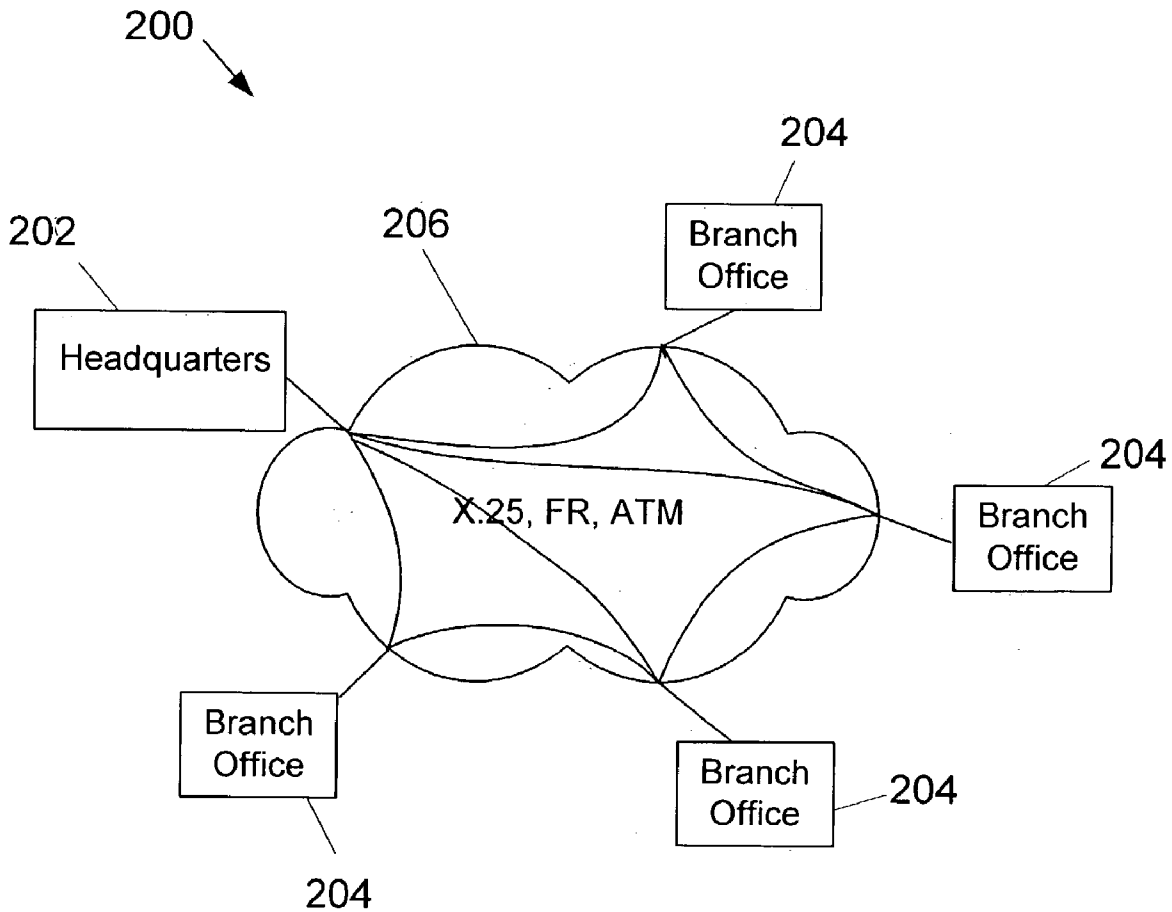
A communications network provides one or more shared services, such as voice or video, to customers over a respective virtual private network (VPN). At the same time, each customer may have its own private data VPN for handling private company data. The shared service VPN permits users from different customers to communicate directly over the shared service VPN. Trust and security are established at the edge of the network, as the information enters from the customer's site. As a result, no additional security measures are required within the shared service VPN for the communications between users. This architecture results in a fast, high quality, shared service.

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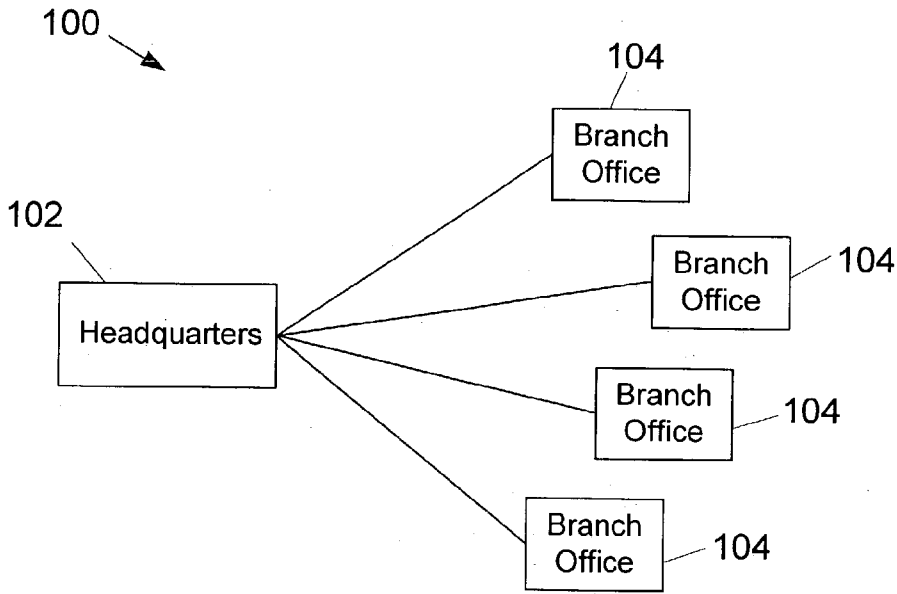


FIG. 1

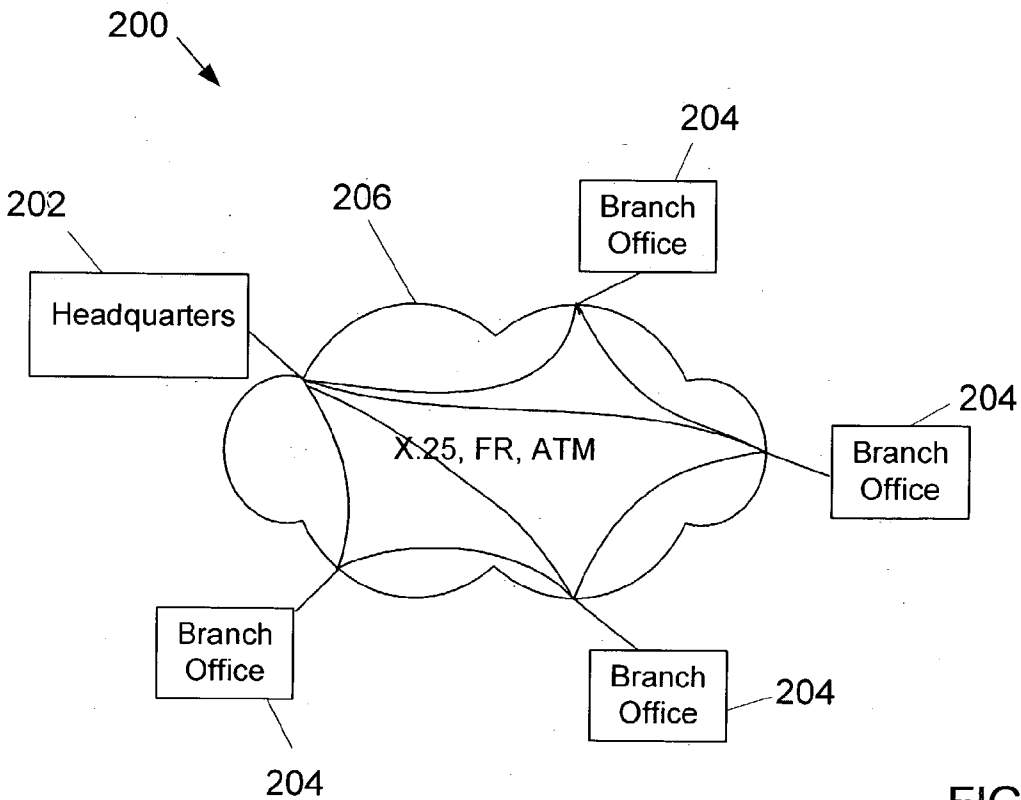


FIG. 2

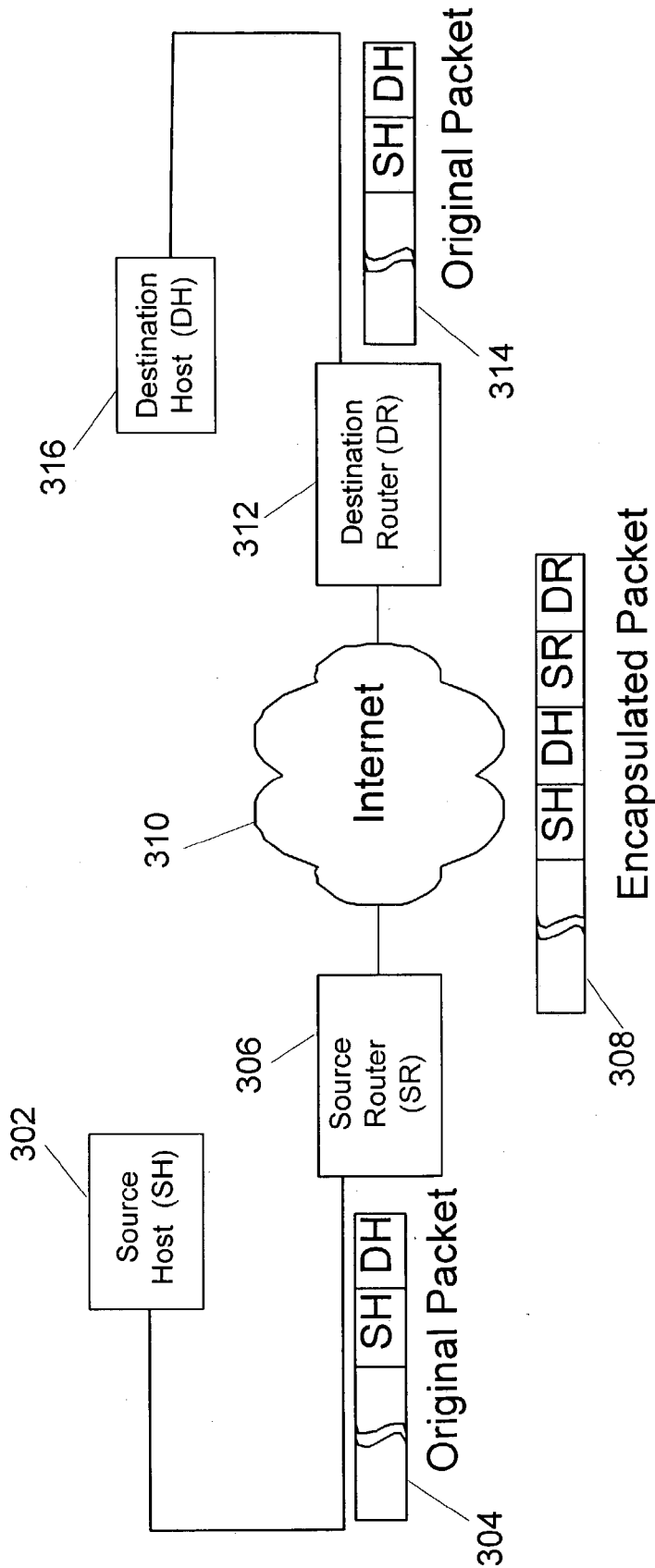


FIG. 3

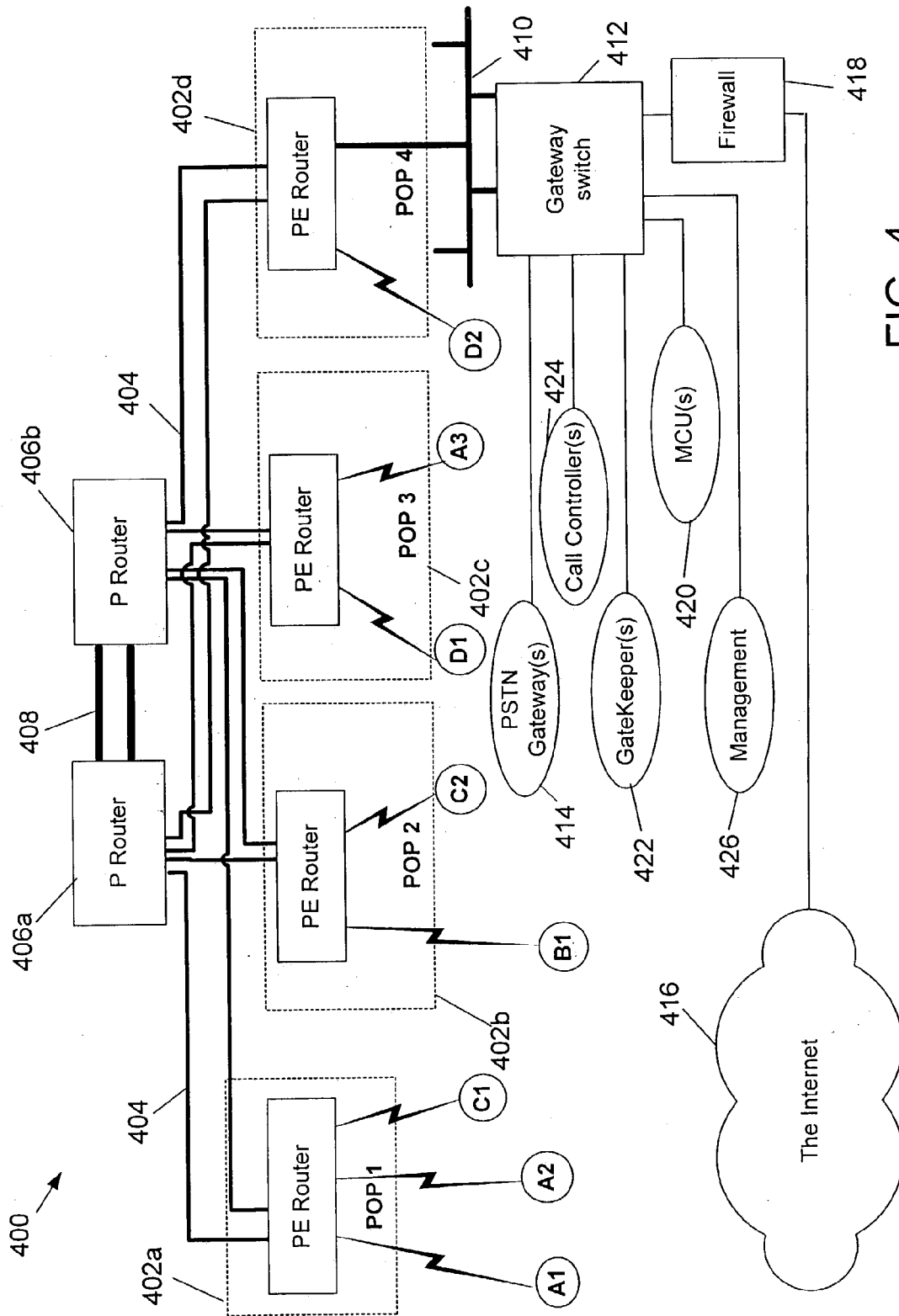


FIG. 4

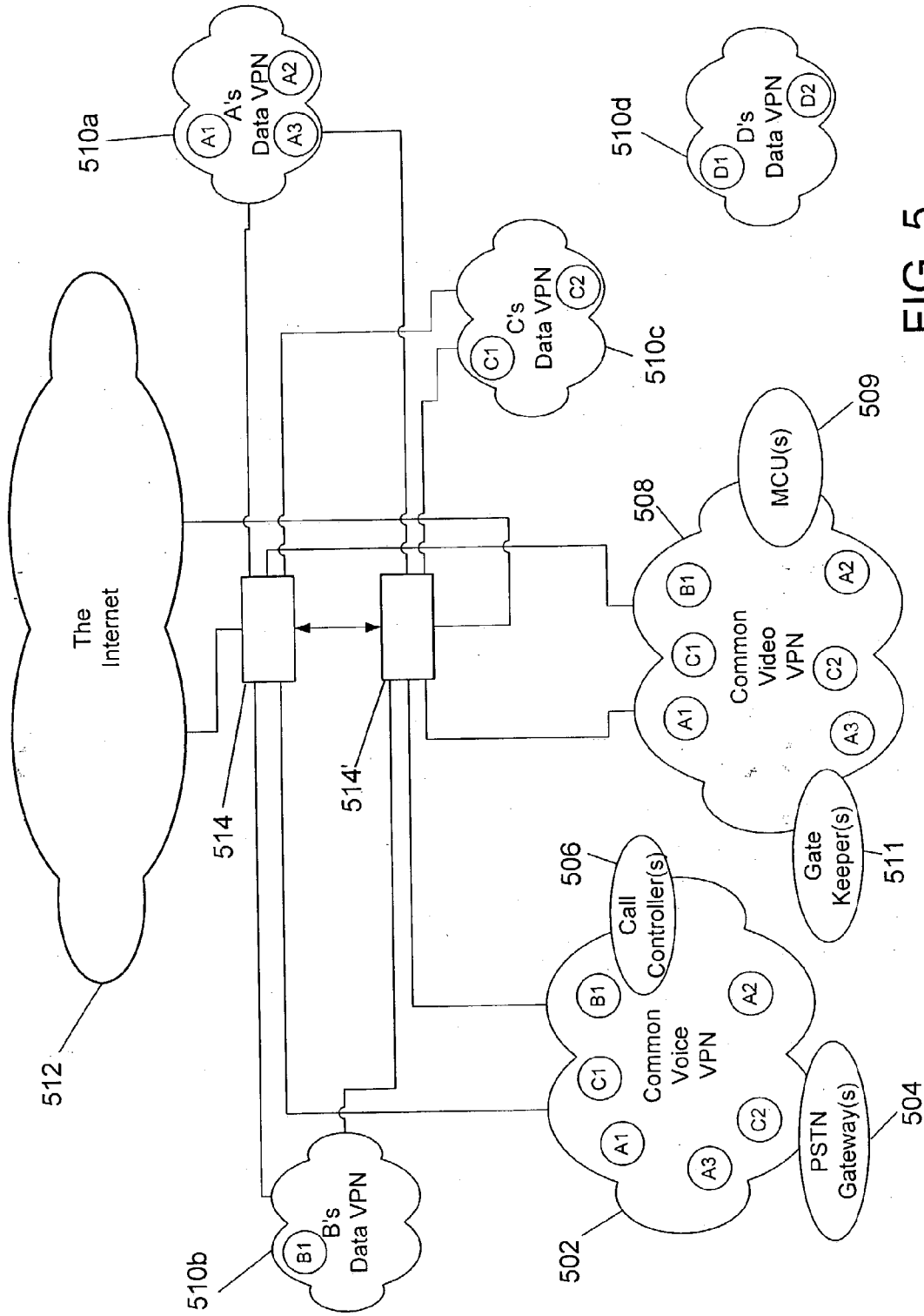


FIG. 5

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