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**Loveland**

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(54) **DISTRIBUTED CONFERENCE BRIDGE**

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(52) U.S. Cl. .... **709/204; 379/120**

(58) Field of Search ..... 709/204, 205,  
709/206, 207, 232; 379/202, 203, 204,  
93.21, 120; 370/265, 266

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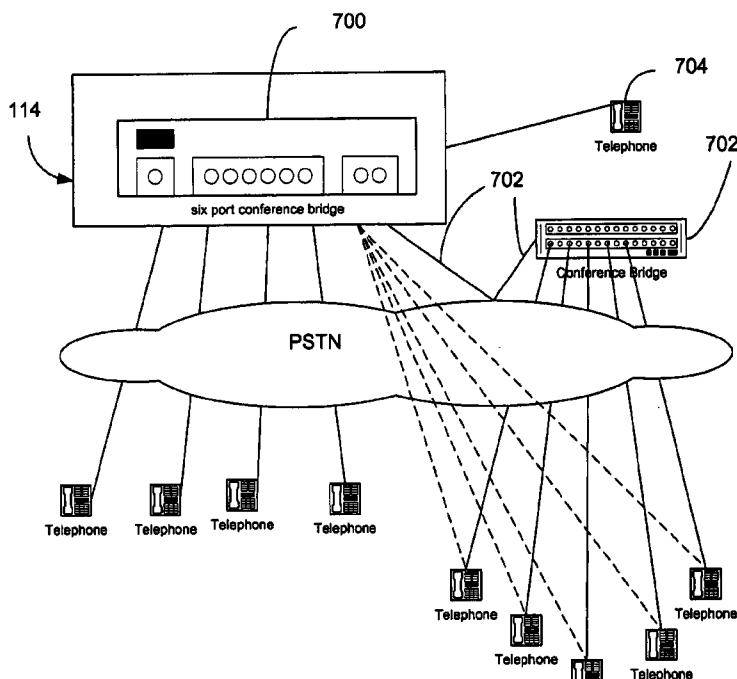
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system is disclosed for enabling communication between server resources and a wide spectrum of end-terminals to enable users access to the resources of both converged and non-converged networks via voice and/or electronically generated commands.

A configurable distributed conference bridge is incorporated within the converged network architecture model of the present invention. The distributed conference bridge enables local conference resources to be utilized and incorporates external service bureau conference bridge resources when needed to supplement the internal conference bridge resources of a system.

**17 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**



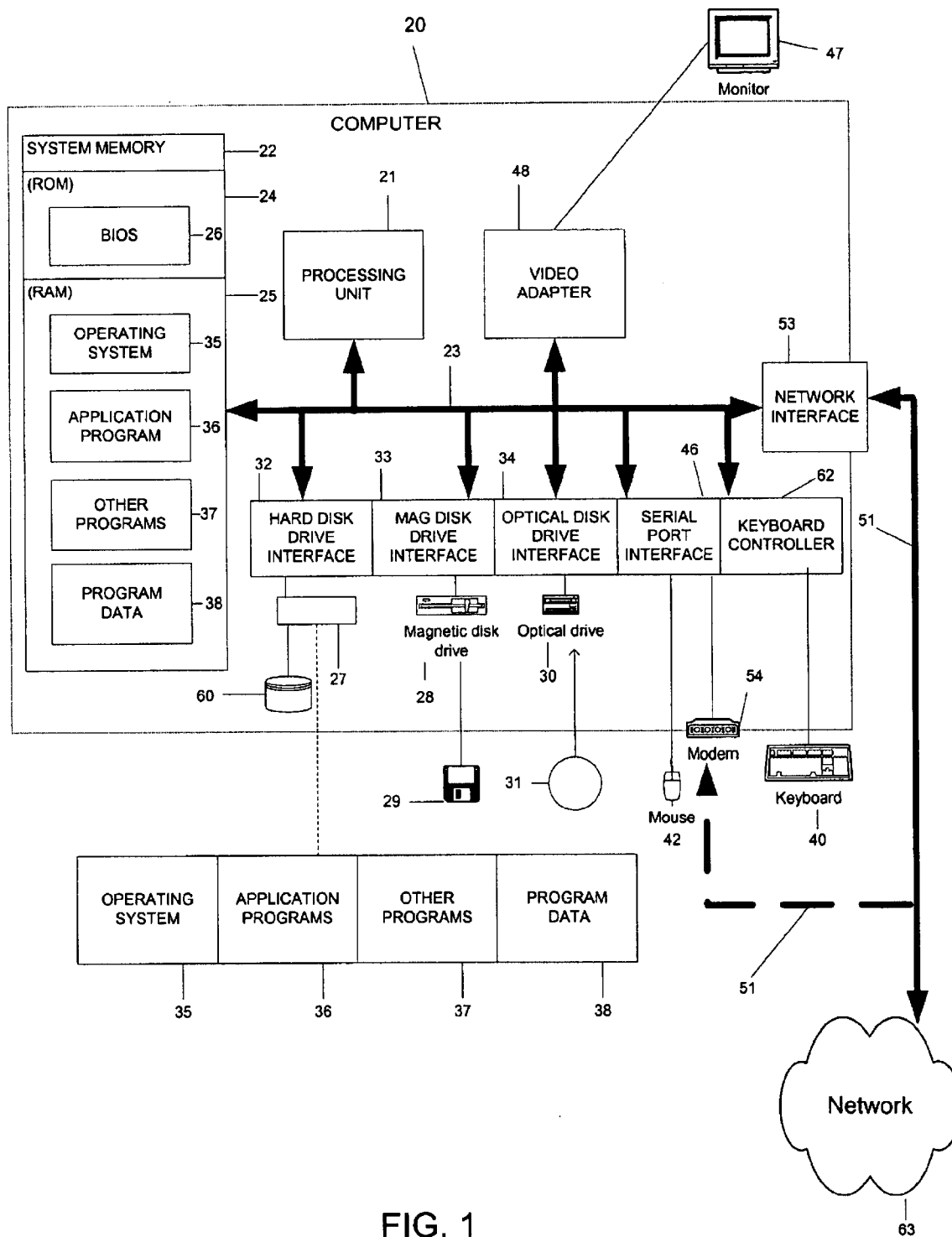


FIG. 1

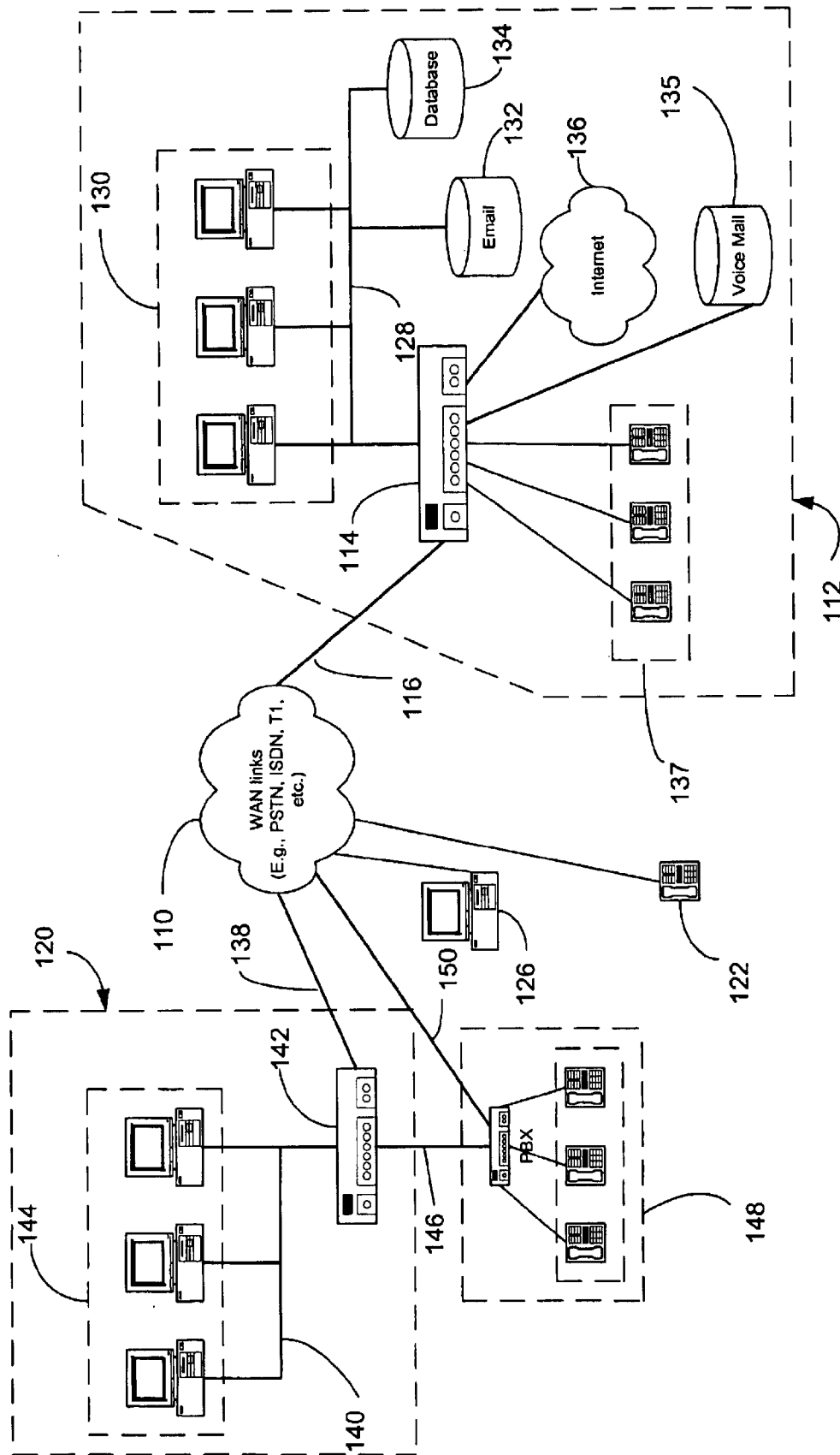
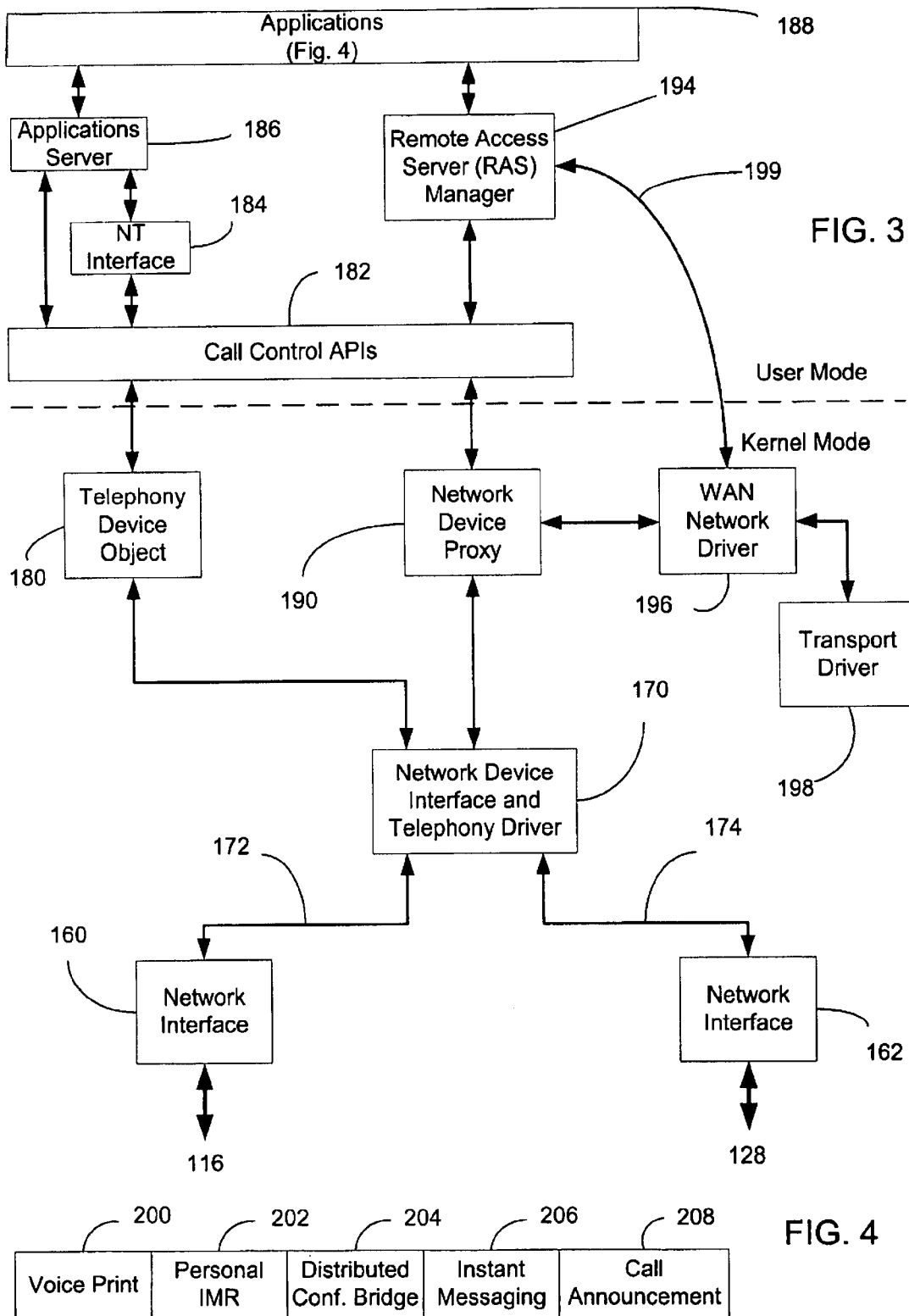


FIG. 2



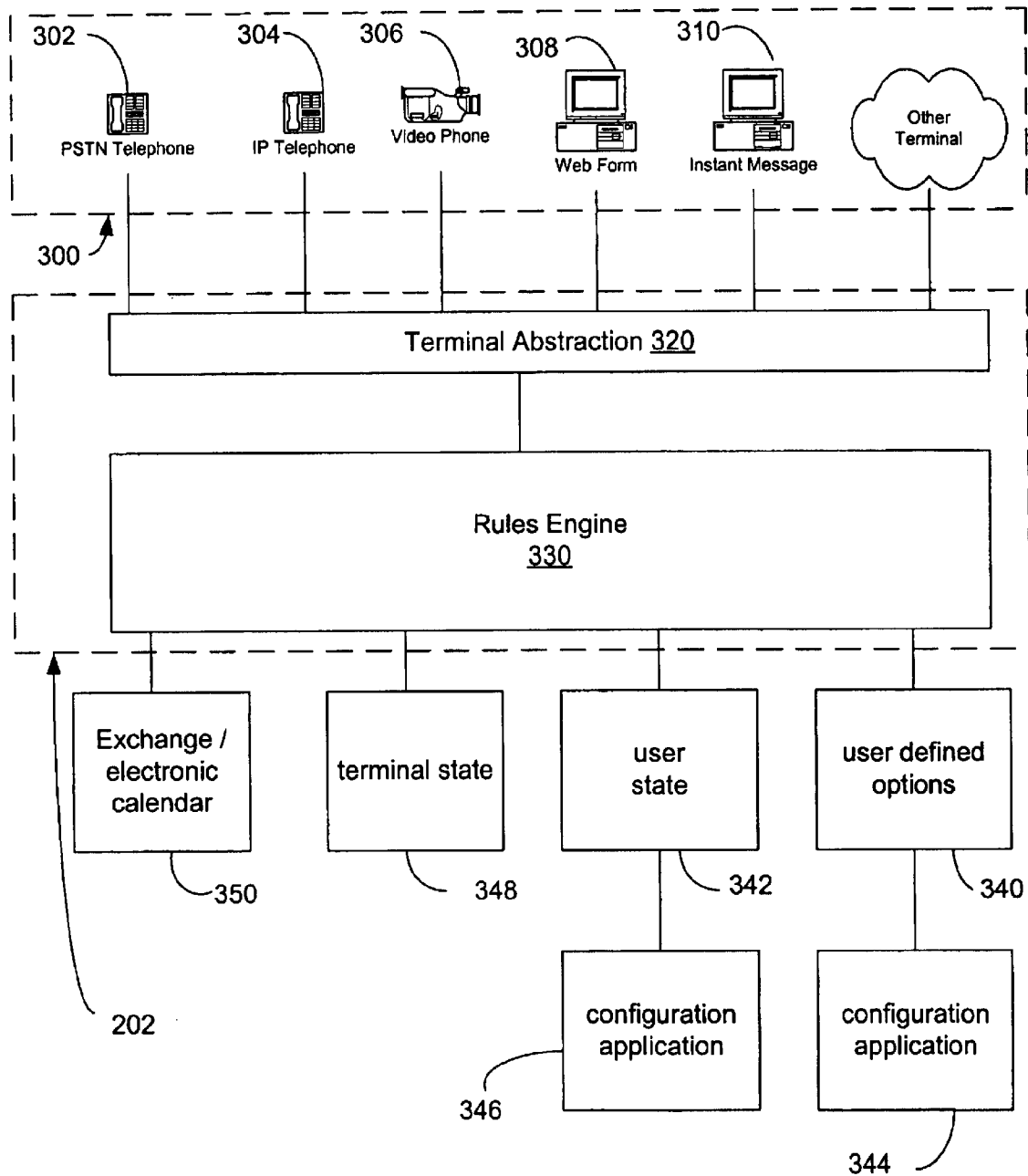


FIG. 5

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