

EXHIBIT A



US009367521B2

(12) **United States Patent**
O'Sullivan et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,367,521 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 14, 2016**

(54) **CONTENT AND CONTEXT BASED
HANDLING OF INSTANT MESSAGES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 2487 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/023,027**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 30, 2008**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2009/0192970 A1 Jul. 30, 2009

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06N 5/00 (2006.01)

G06F 1/00 (2006.01)

G06F 17/21 (2006.01)

H04L 12/58 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **G06F 17/211** (2013.01); **H04L 12/581**
(2013.01); **H04L 51/04** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 706/48; 709/224; 726/1

See application file for complete search history.

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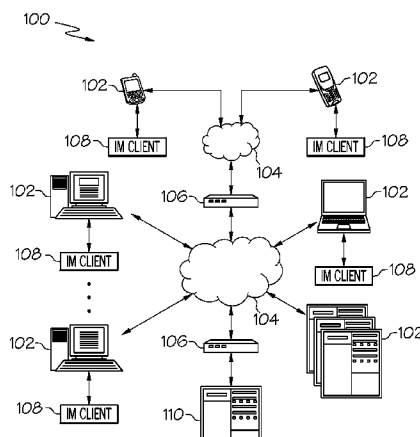
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Instant message systems are enhanced by establishing at least one handling rule that is evaluated in an instant messaging environment, each established handling rule defining a condition based upon at least one of identified content or identified context, and a corresponding event handling action to be performed within the instant message environment. Upon identifying an instant message conversation within the instant message environment between a user and a correspondent, each handling rule is evaluated and the event handling action of an associated handling rule is performed if it is determined that the condition of handling rule is satisfied. Further, an indication that the corresponding event action was performed is conveyed to a corresponding user.

2 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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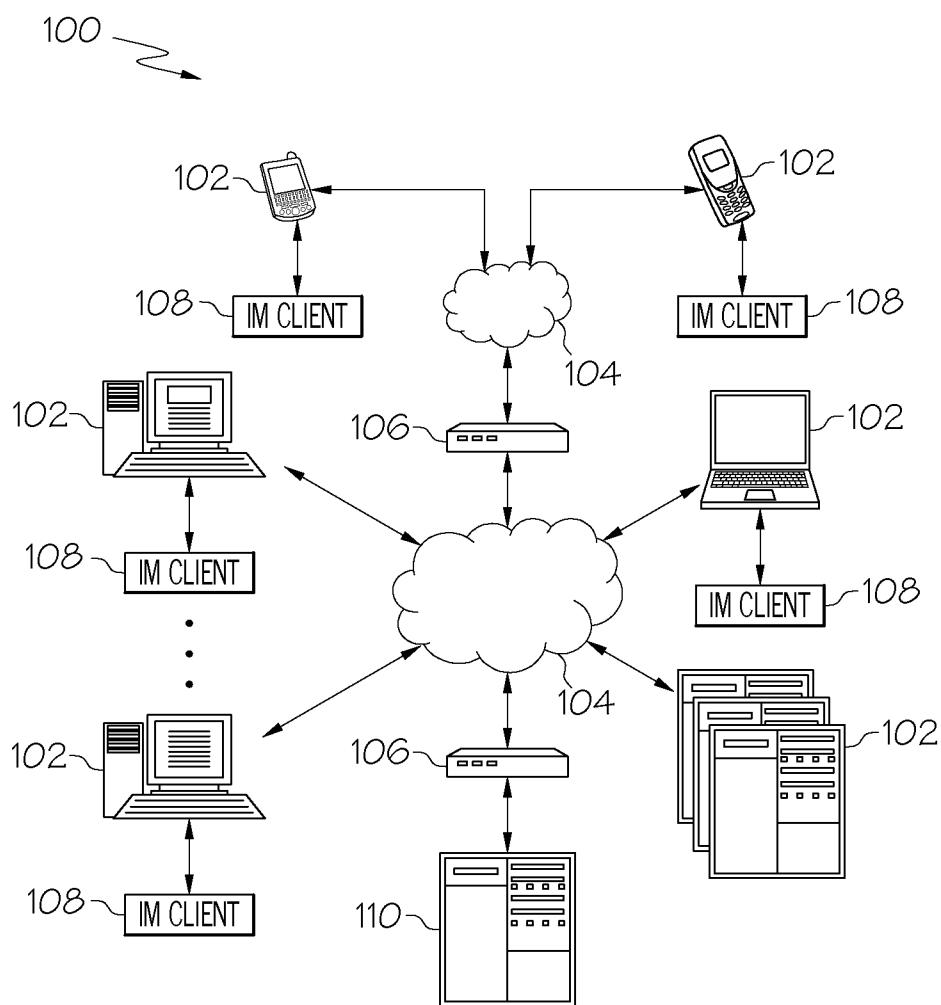
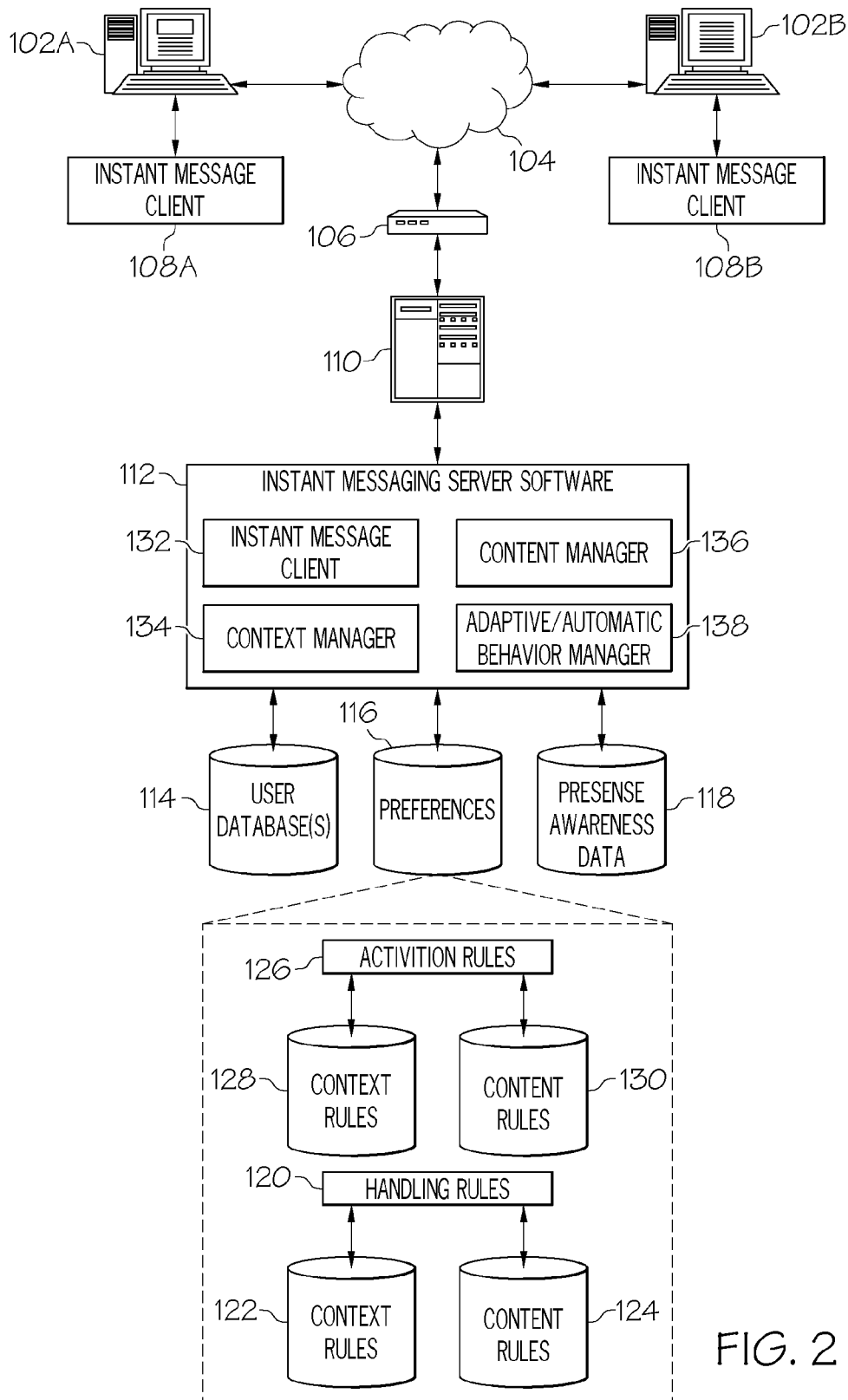


FIG. 1



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