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United States Patent [19]

Guck

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[54] **METHOD FOR STORING/RETRIEVING FILES OF VARIOUS FORMATS IN AN OBJECT DATABASE USING A VIRTUAL MULTIMEDIA FILE SYSTEM**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** G06F 17/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **707/104**; 707/100; 707/101; 707/103

[58] **Field of Search** 707/100, 101, 707/104, 103

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method is provided in a server for storing and retrieving files of various formats in an object database coupled to a network including a multiplicity of clients also coupled to the network. The server includes a storage device for storing objects of the database. The method begins by determining the type and content of files received by the server from the clients coupled. Each file received by the server is transformed into an object. The transformed objects are stored in a hierarchy in accordance with the type and content thereof. The retrieving part of the process includes transmitting a "get" request to the server; searching a Virtual File class for an object whose name matches the file name; and examining corresponding properties of the matching object for compatibility with the first parameter. If compatible, a next parameter is examined for corresponding properties for compatibility. When all parameters have been examined, the content is enveloped and returned to the client that originated the "get" request.

16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets
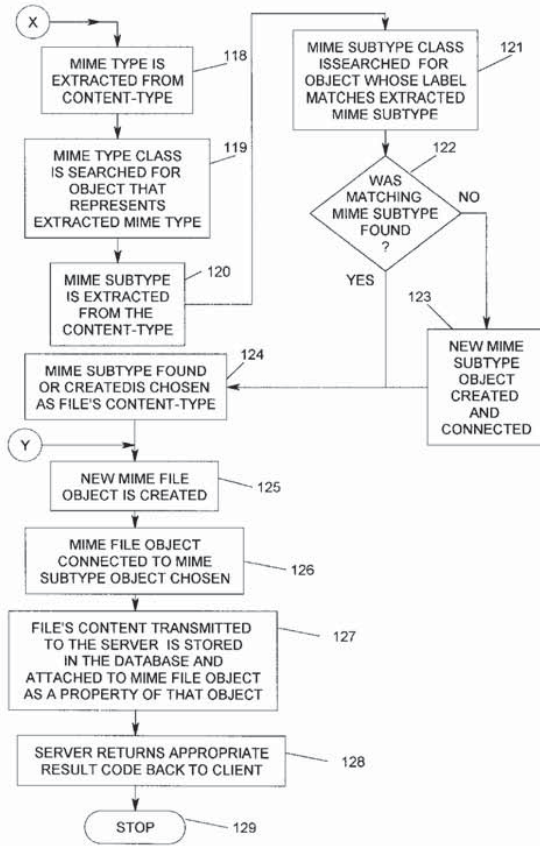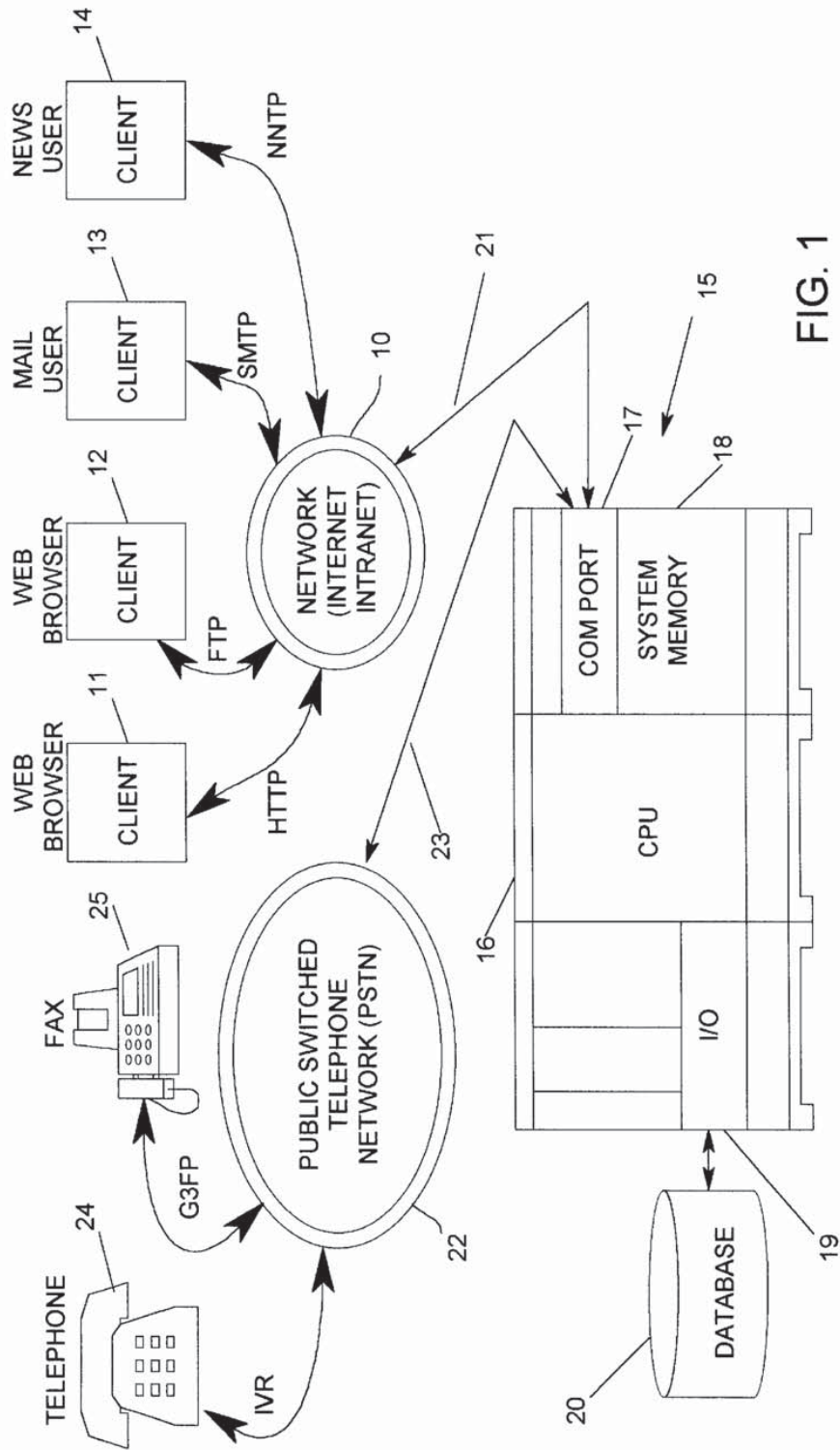
FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4A

DOCKET ALARM
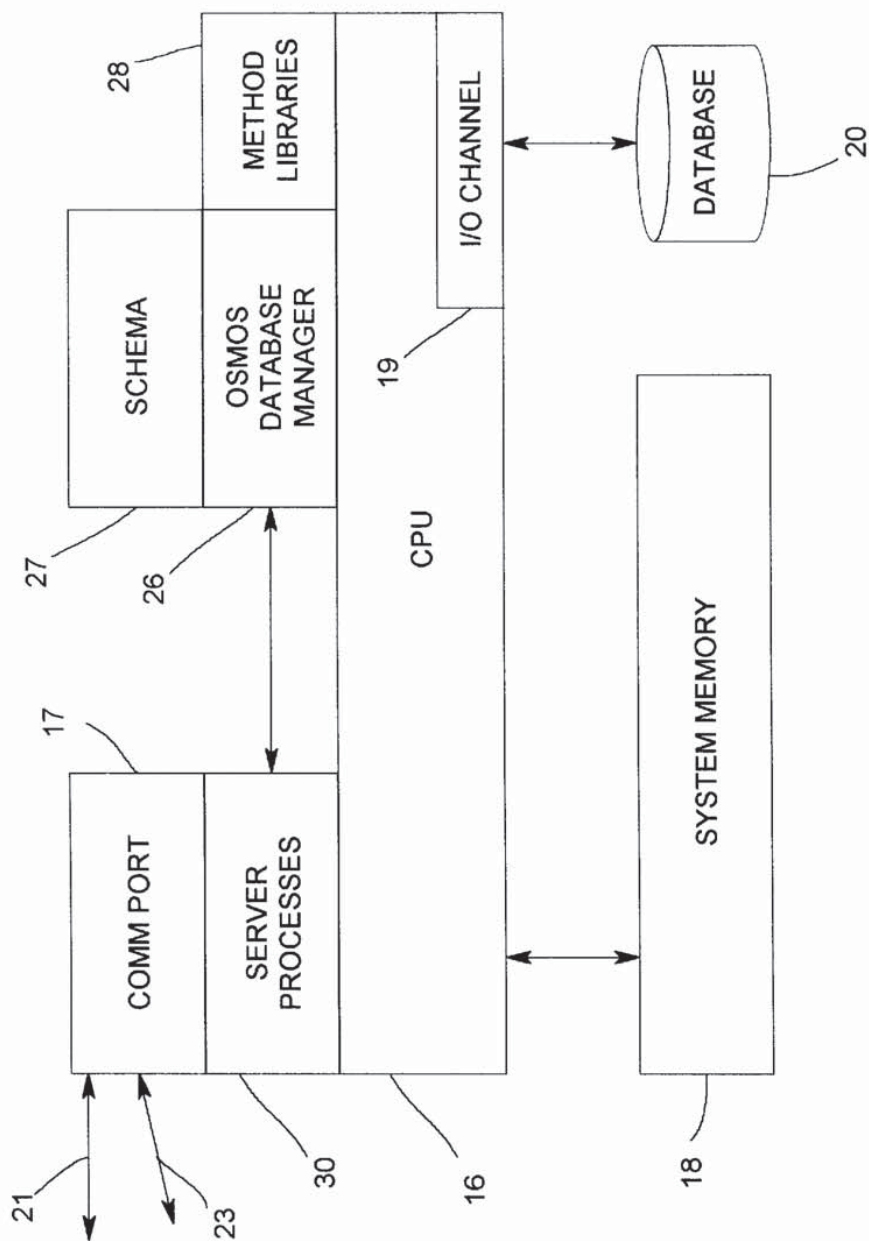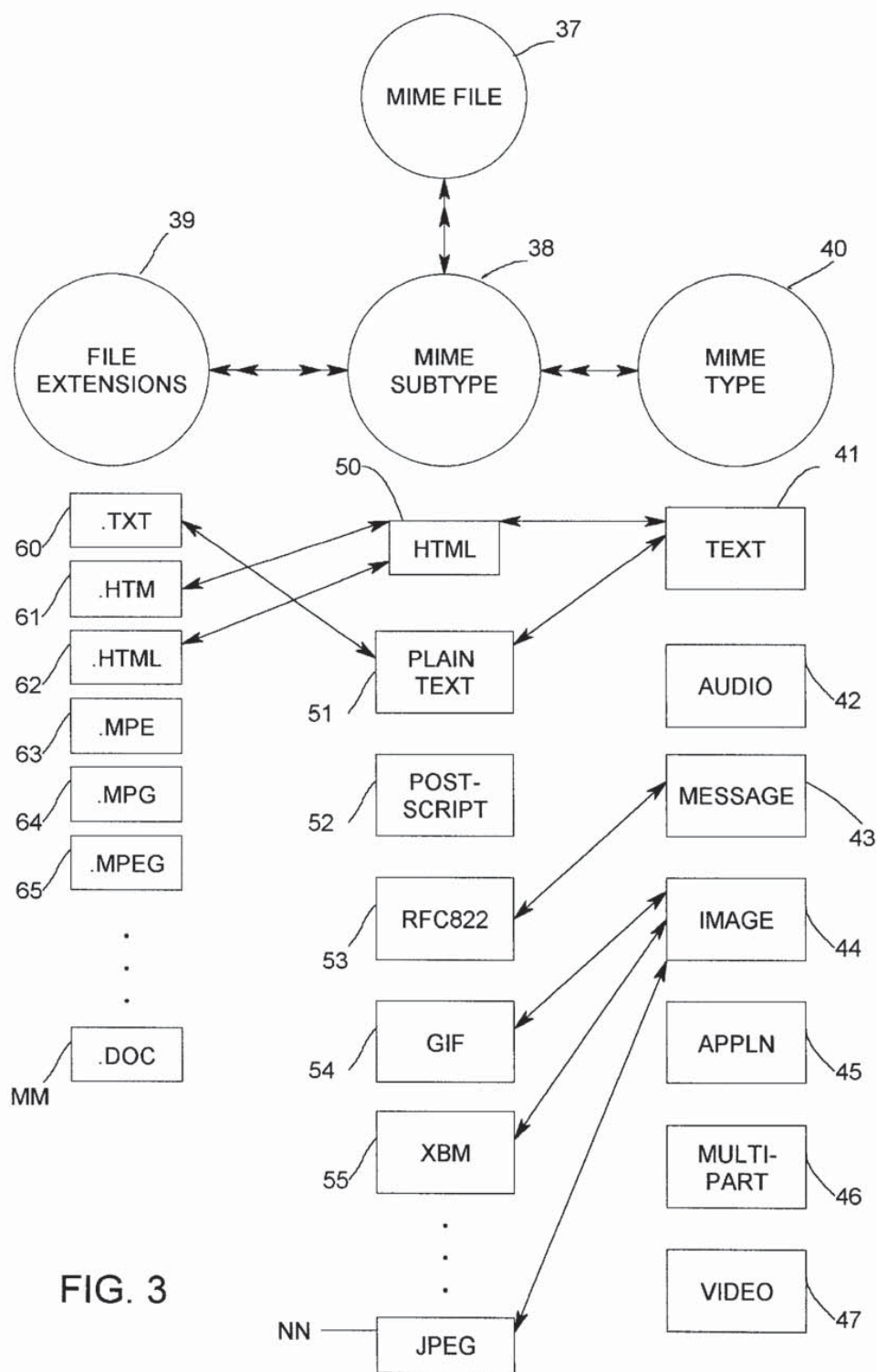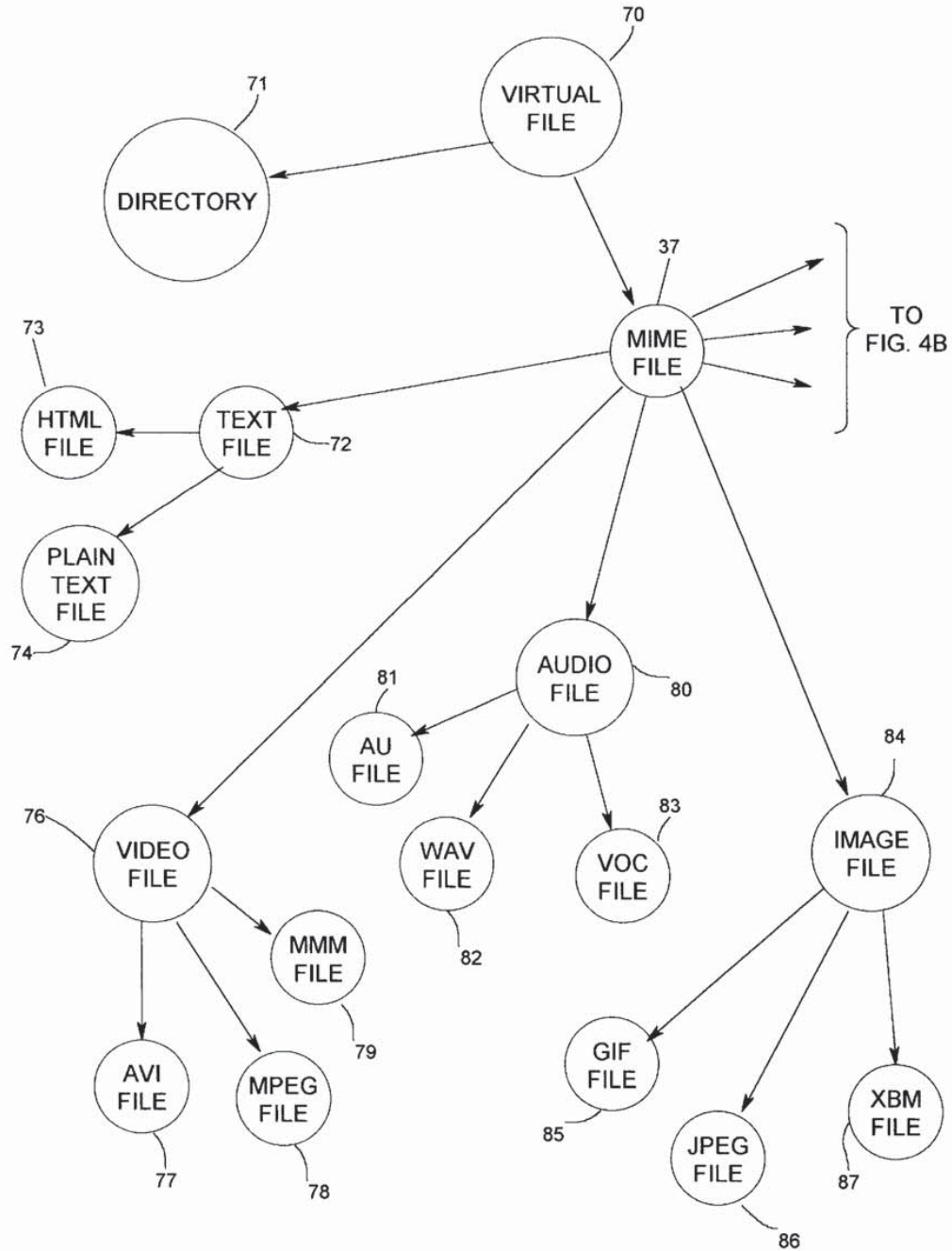
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