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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC HANDLING OF INVITATIONS TO JOIN COMMUNICATIONS SESSIONS IN A VIRTUAL TEAM ENVIRONMENT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A collaboration services suite is adapted to support a plurality of integrated telecommunications services accessed by geographically dispersed team members using a virtual team environment (VTE) client that generates a graphical user interface (GUI) for each of the respective team members. Communications sessions are automatically set up by the collaboration services suite in response to request messages generated by the VTE client when a team member initiates a communications session request using the GUI. Team members require no knowledge of another team member's communications device address in order to initiate a communications session. The collaboration services suite includes a VTE server that communicates with the VTE clients, a presence engine that collects and maintains a status of communications devices specified in a current profile of the team member; and, a call server for handling setup and control of a voice component of each communications session completed.

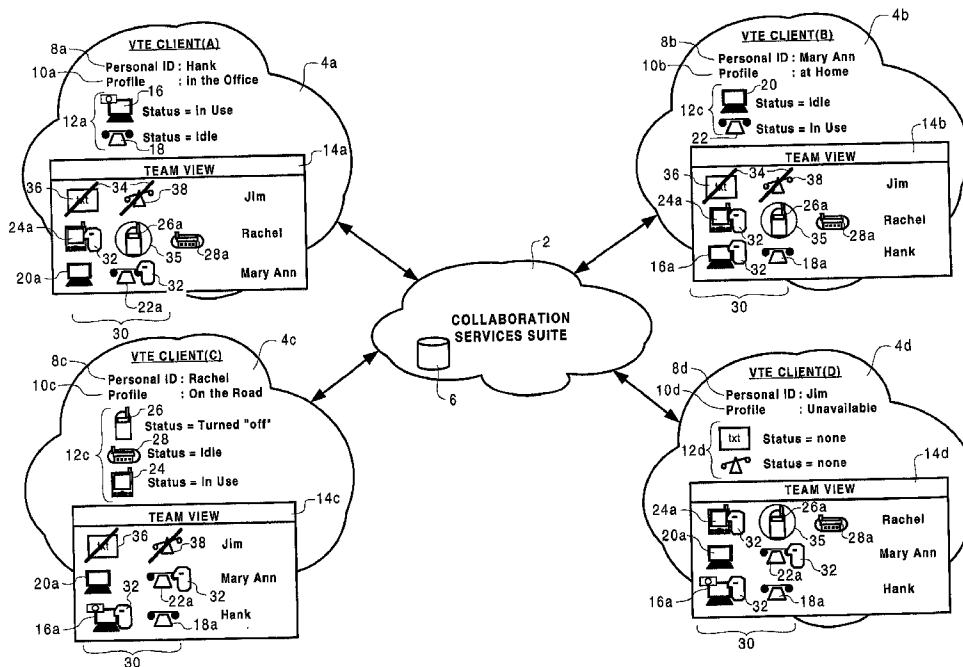
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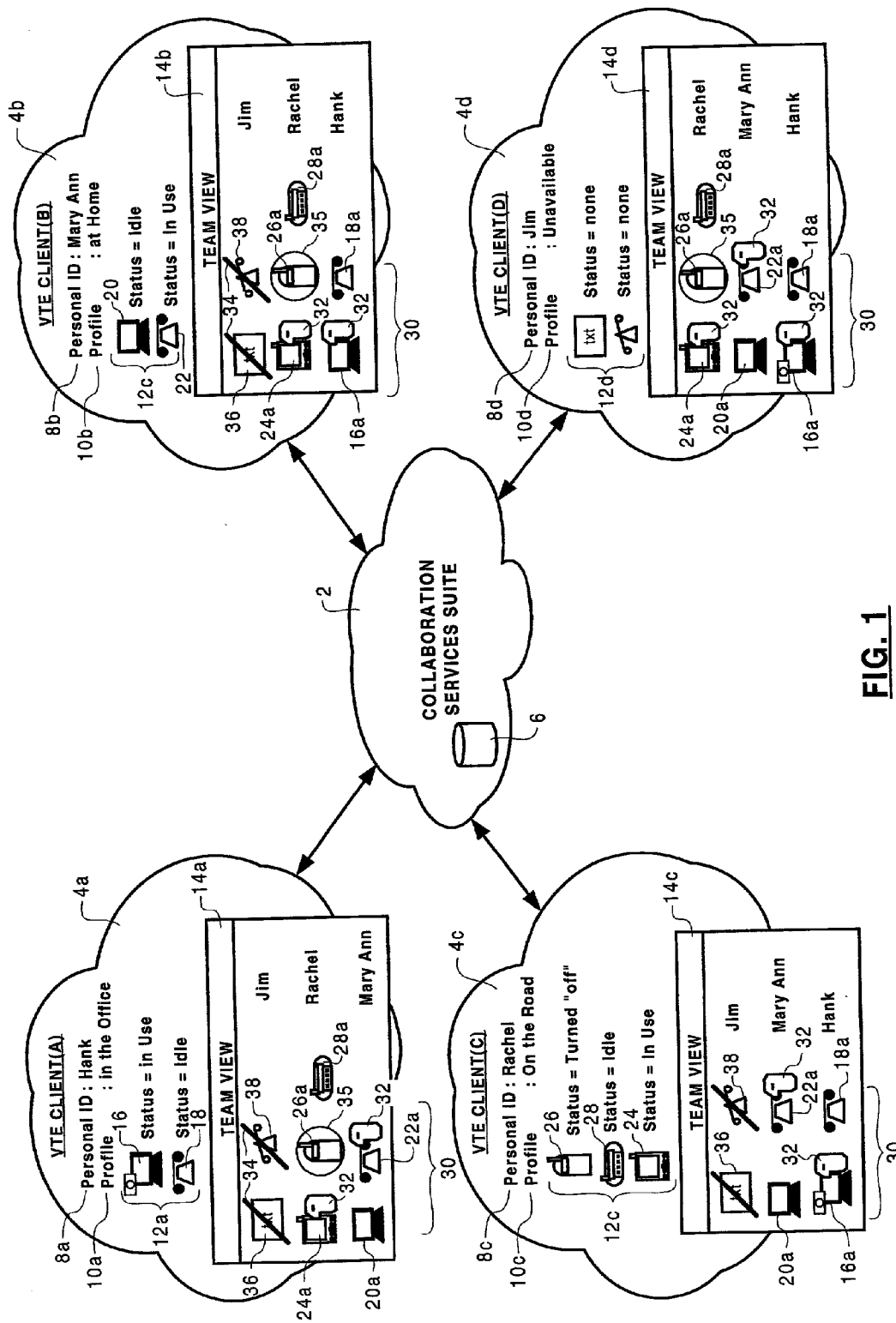
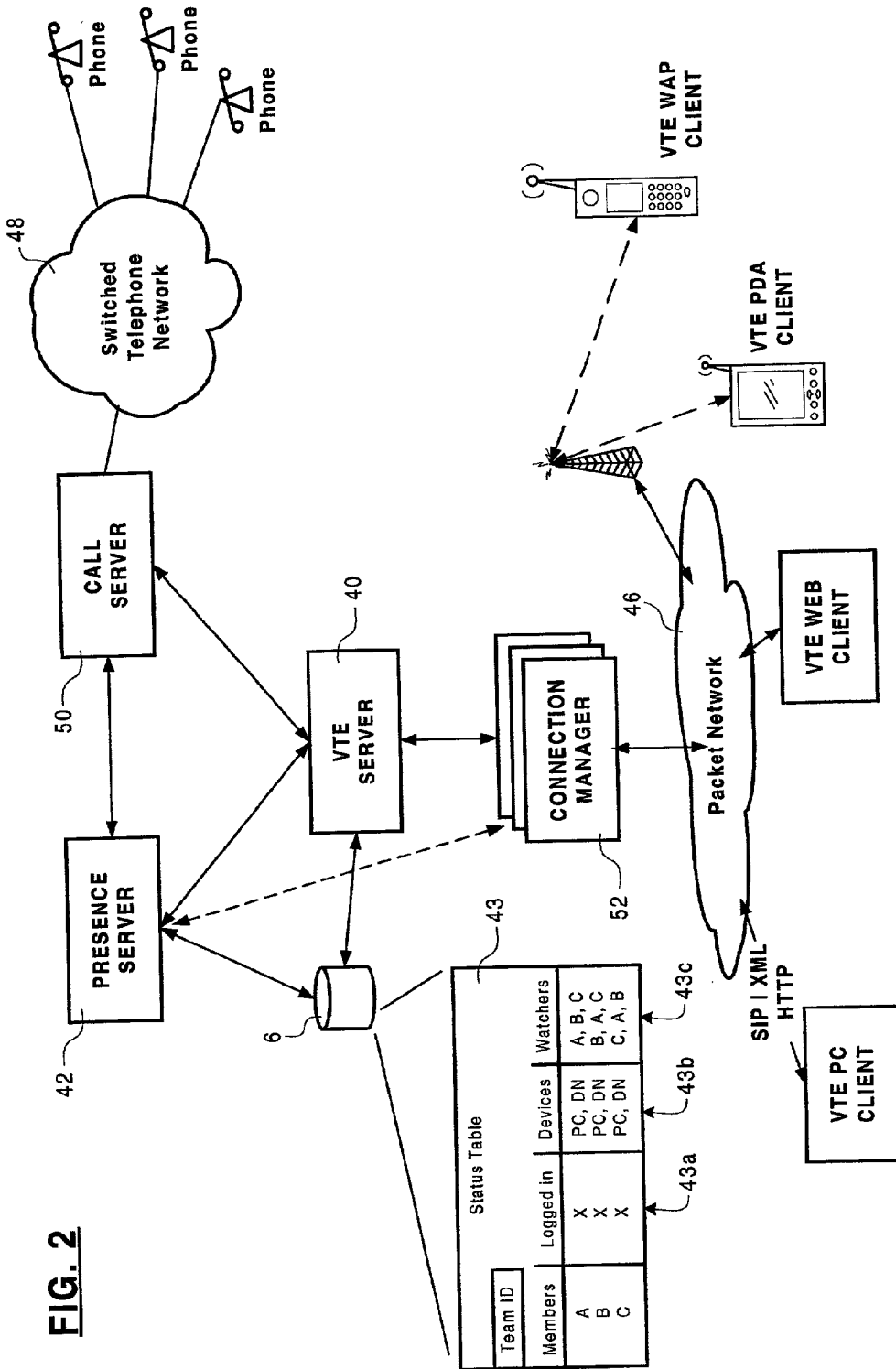


FIG. 1



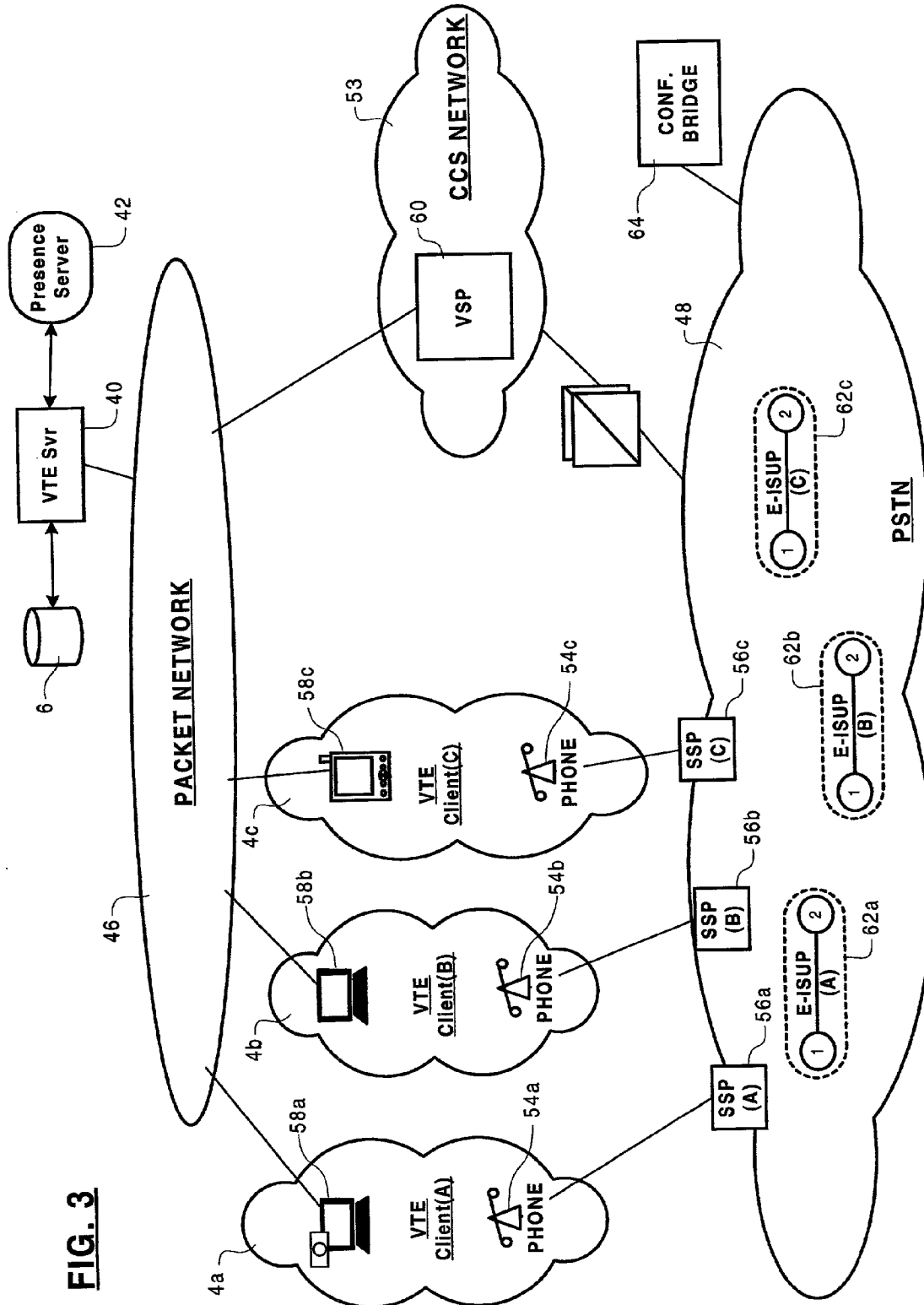


FIG. 3

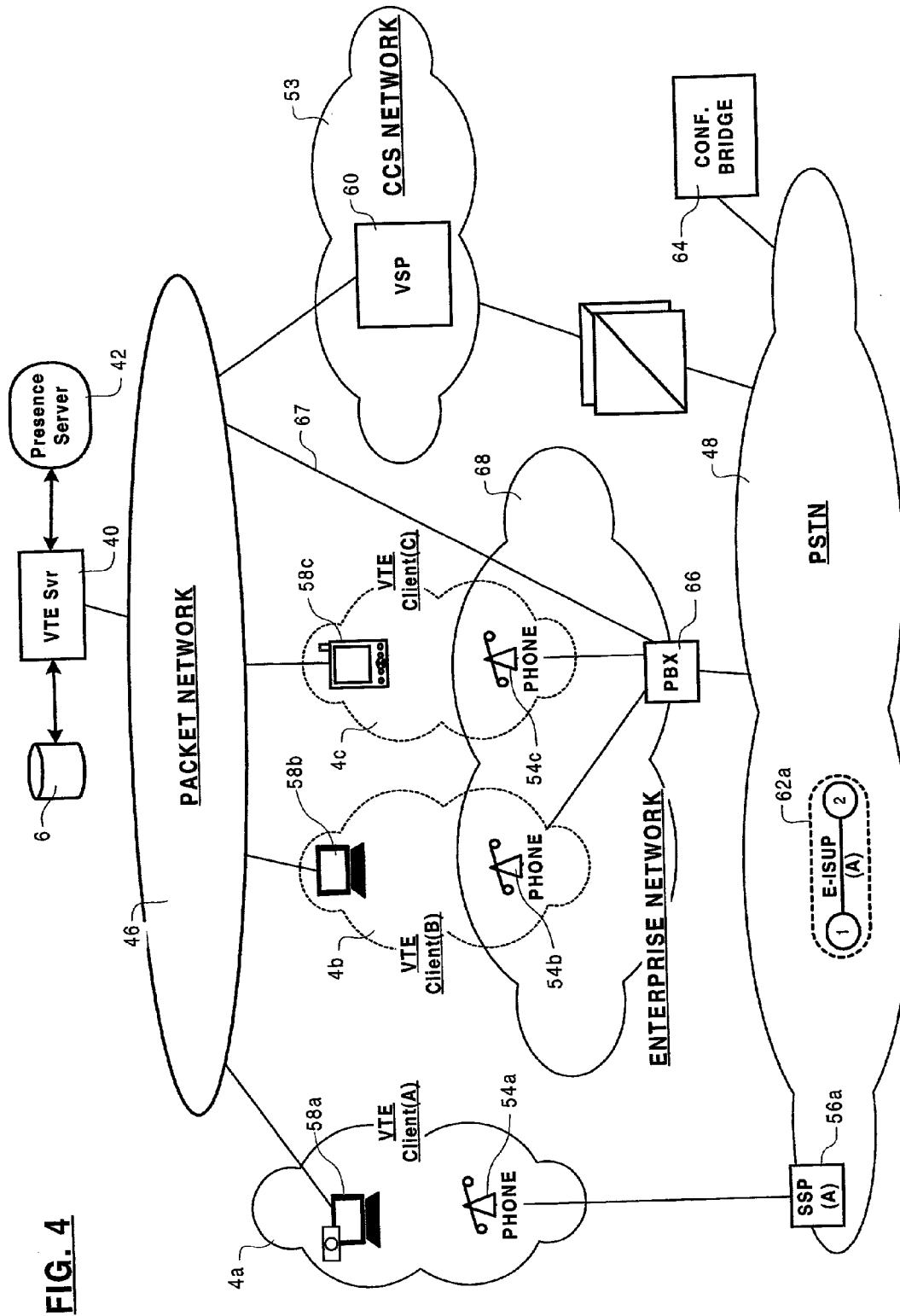


FIG. 4

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