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(12) United States Patent

Turner

(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INITIATING A CONFERENCE CALL

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- (52) U.S. Cl. 379/204.01; 370/261; 455/416
- (58) **Field of Classification Search** None See application file for complete search history.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** Sep. 28, 2010

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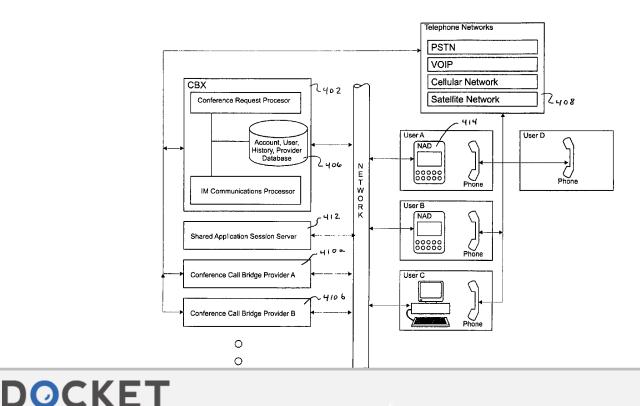
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a system and method for initiating conference calls via an instant messaging system to reduce the effort required to initiate and manage the call. The system uses an IM connection between a requesting party and a conference call server to inform the conference call server of the desire to initiate the conference call. The conference call server may initiate the conference call by having involved parties called by a conference bridge, thus reducing the effort required by the parties to join the call.

66 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



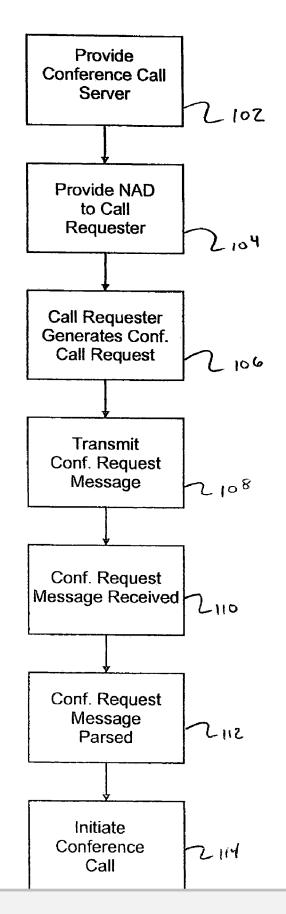
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Figure 1



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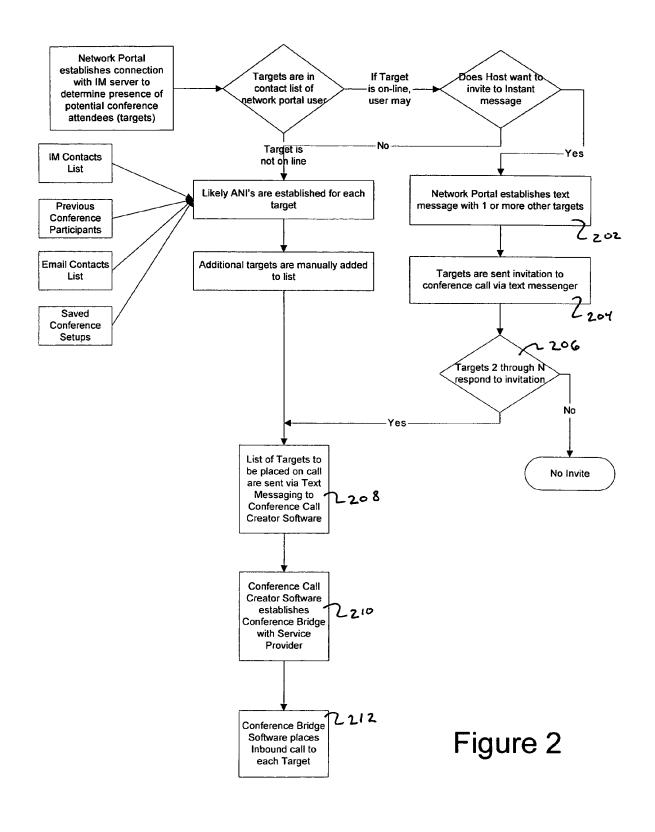
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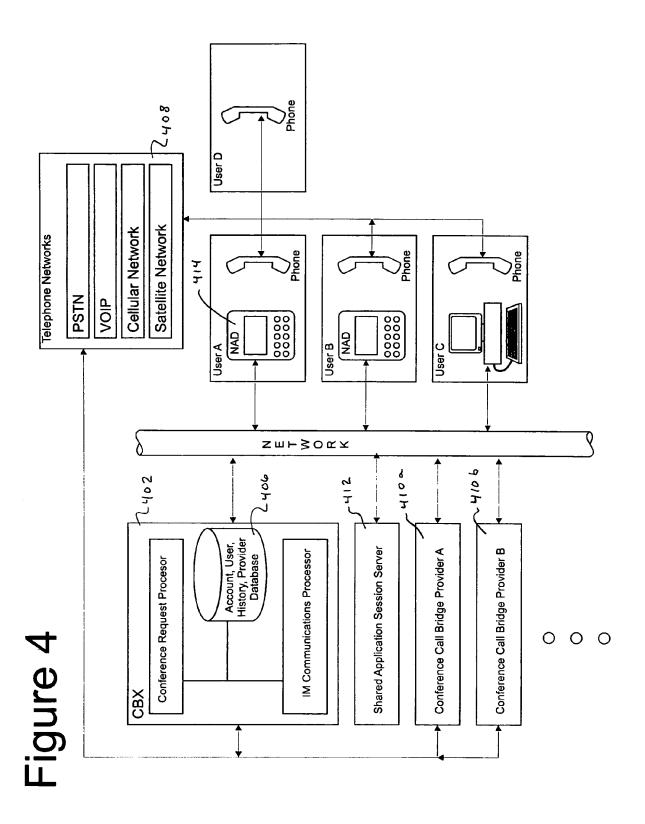
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Figure 3 308 **IM Contacts List** User A is using IM User A START software 2302 Previous Conference 310 Participants User A requests conference by pressing' conference button on screen User B User C Email Contacts List IM Target in text IM Target not in User A selects which people to have chat text chat Saved Conference joined in the coonference Setups 318 306 304 312 User setting Prompt User for User can corp conferences Yes Charge Call ? Credit Card Info OK? 314 320 No Validate Credit **Display Message** Card Info. for User A - no Yes conferencess allowed 316 324 ¥ Stop CBX server send User A CBX client sends conference conference Card OK request to CBX request message to targets B and C server 330 322 Stop 328 No Conference Display Message IM Client prompts Server takes - Cannot Make conference target to validate Cconference Conference Request request, looks up direct connect accepted ? Data profile information info., or choose for targets in this self direct Stop conference 326 No Conference server sends 346 R338 message to IM Targets B and C. Stop and their conference buttons become disabled within all Conference Server 332 **Receives Recording** conferences, chg to user setting 334 Transcript - adds to session information Conference Originator Conference Bridge is Yes Conference Yes is prompted to record created by Provider ring, conference Conference Switch or connects targets A,B,C Conference 336 IM Client pops up was recorded, and other User can message with access targets in receive Direct info. required for selfconference Nα Conference 344 connect to originator list connect conference to bridge 340 Conference Server tells all Return 'Conference targets that conference is Conference Cannot be Completed needs to be completed, re-renabled message to Conference recorded conference button server Yes For Every target 342 connected, color on IM conversation changes Conference Conference Ends, to Yelllow, when Provider adds Conference server connected, color "silent target for records duration, changes to Green, recording participants of recording icon is lit conference

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