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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Turner**

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INITIATING A CONFERENCE CALL**

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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 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/019,655**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

**H04M 3/56** (2006.01)

**H04L 12/18** (2006.01)

(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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(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**

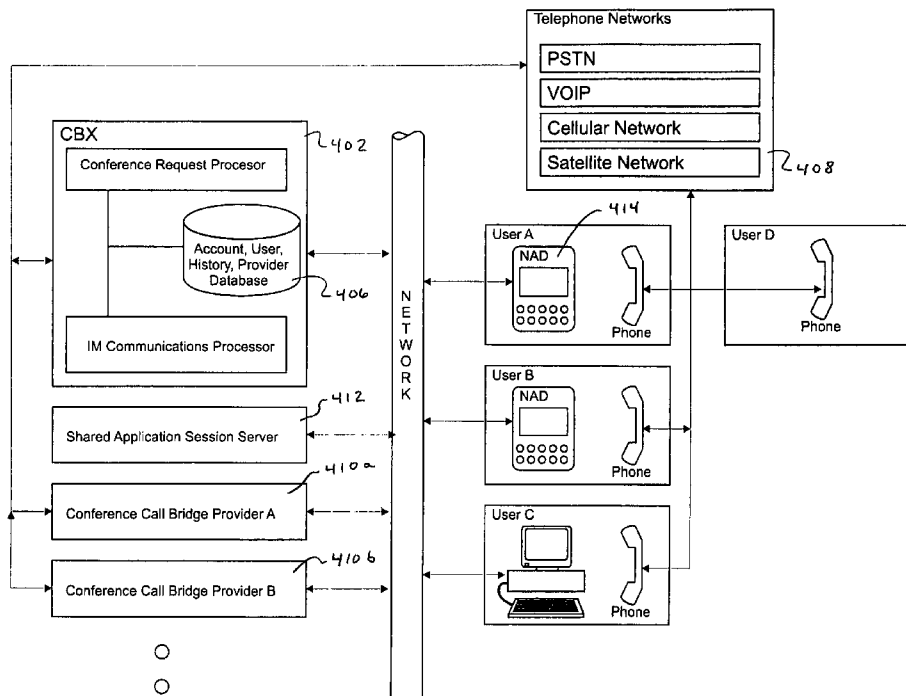
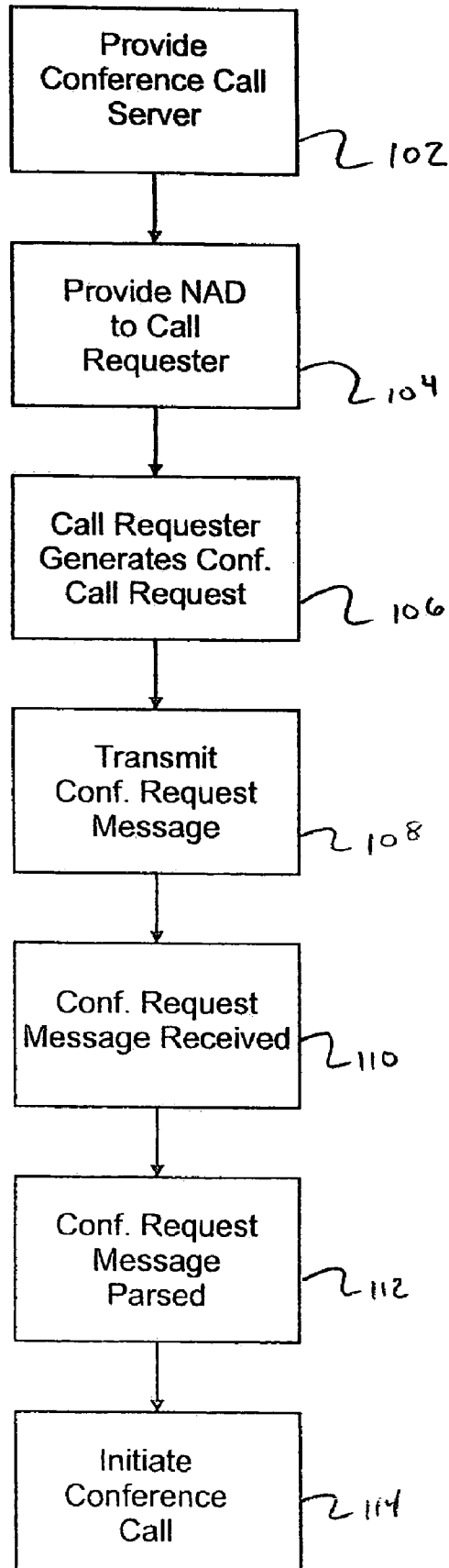


Figure 1



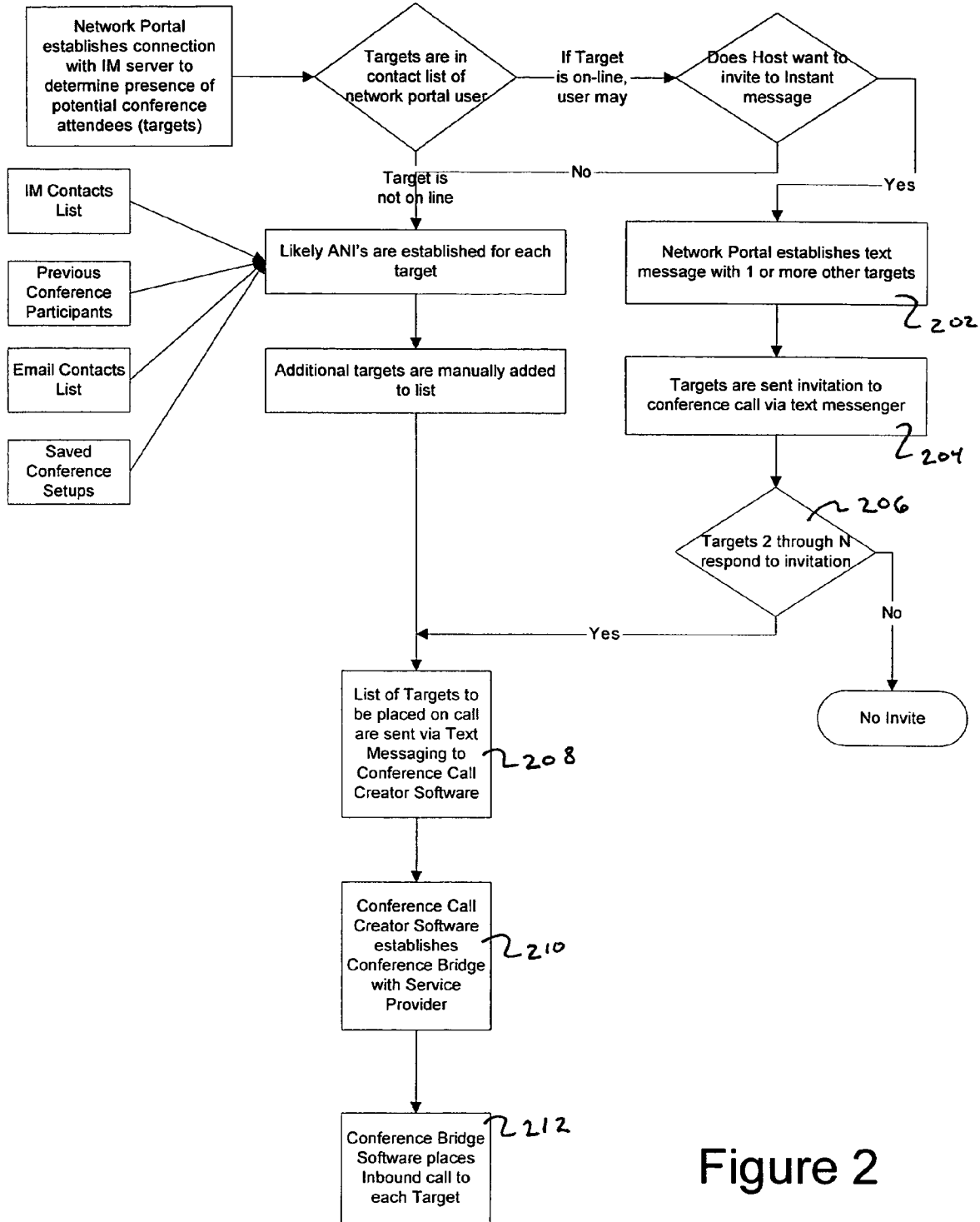


Figure 2

Figure 3

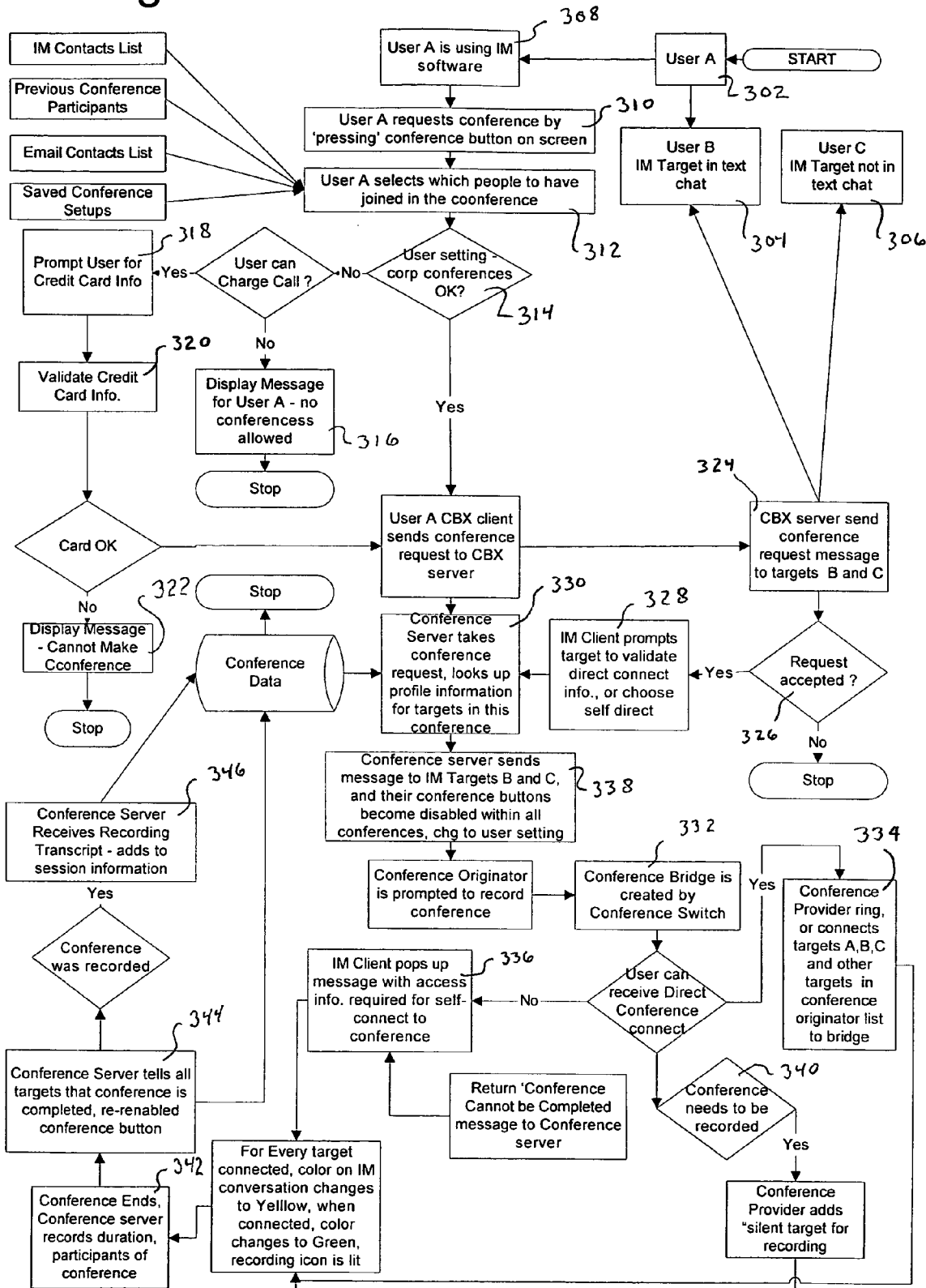
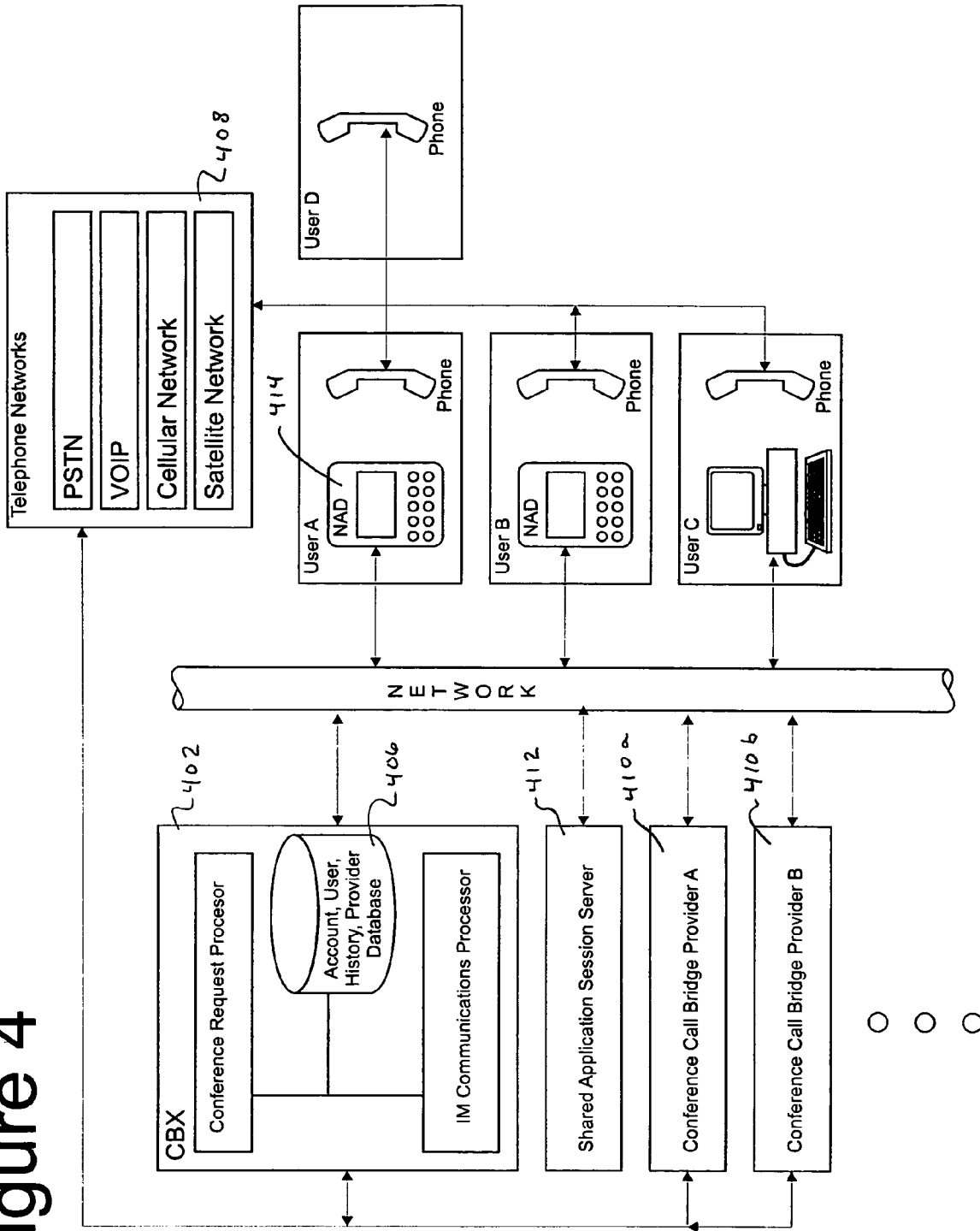


Figure 4



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