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(54) **THREAD-BASED MESSAGE PRIORITIZATION**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

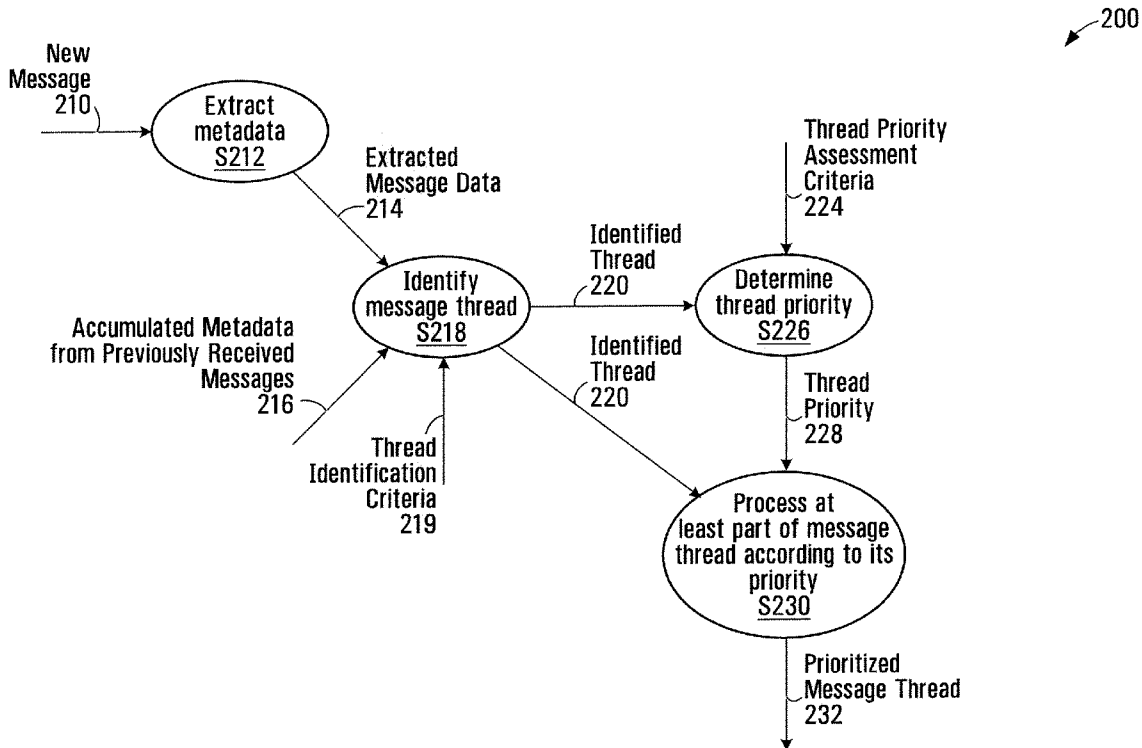
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To perform thread-based message prioritization, metadata may be extracted from a received electronic message. Based on the extracted message metadata and accumulated metadata extracted from previously received messages, a message thread to which the received electronic message belongs may be identified. Based on a set of thread priority assessment criteria, a priority level for the message thread may be determined. At least part of the message thread may be processed according to the priority level. The processing may be altering a notification behavior of an electronic messaging client for electronic messages of the message thread. Thread priority assessment may be based on user-configurable criteria that may be set via a graphical user interface. Message thread identification may also be based on user-configurable criteria that may be set via a graphical user interface.

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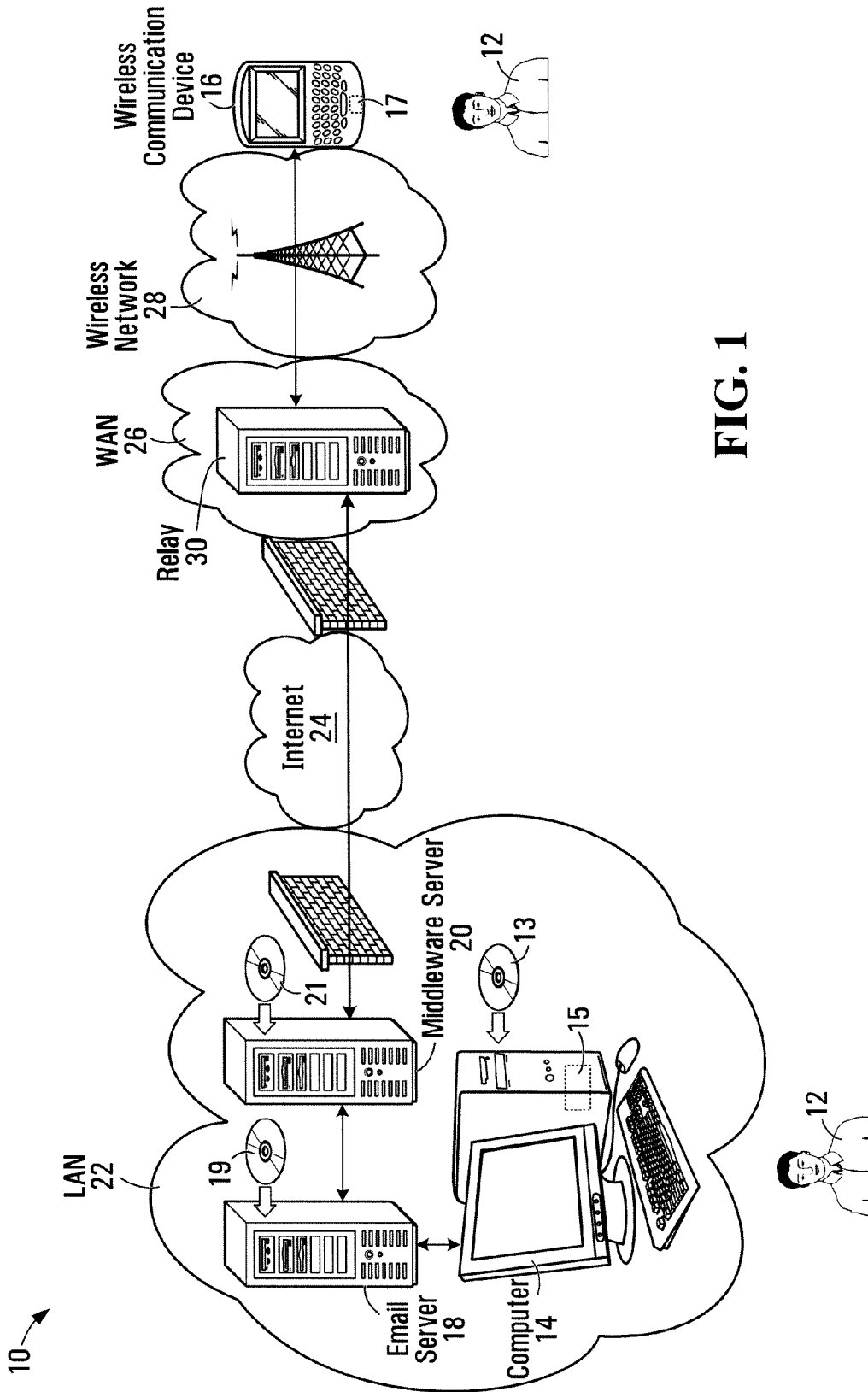


FIG. 1

200

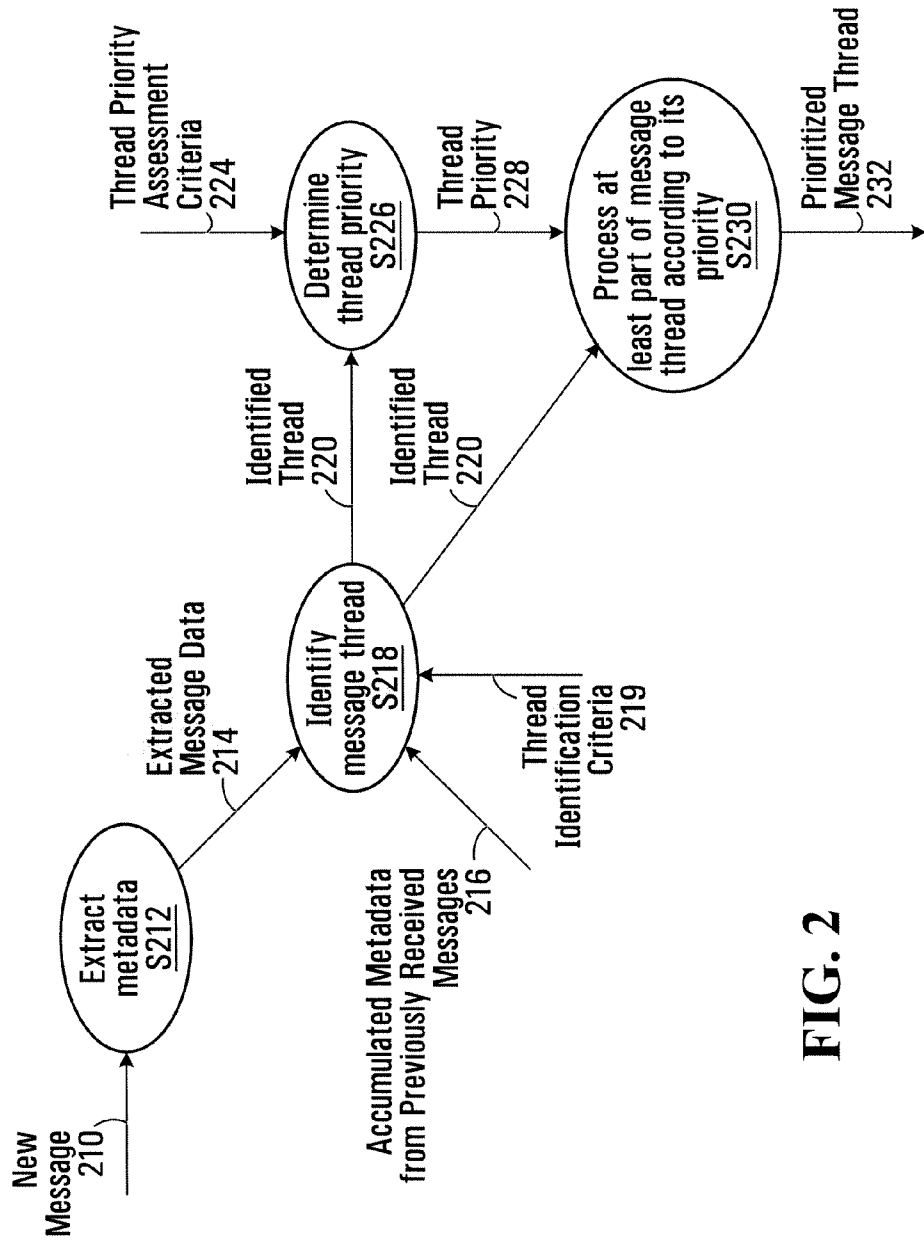


FIG. 2

300

Thread Identification Criteria	
302	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject line comparison
304	<input type="checkbox"/> Message body comparison
306	<input type="checkbox"/> Duration between messages Less than: <input type="text"/> (Enter time in minutes)
308	<input type="checkbox"/> Check for identifier of previous message

FIG. 3

400 Thread Priority Assessment Criteria

416 If any of the following is a participant of any message in a thread, set thread priority to High
High
Low 418

420 Joe President
 Marketing (DL)
 John MyBoss

422 If a total number of recipients of at least one message of a thread is 25 423, set thread priority to High 426

428 If a total number of distribution lists named as recipients of at least one message of a thread is 5 430, set thread priority to High 432

FIG. 4B

400 Thread Priority Assessment Criteria

402 If the number of messages in a message thread is greater than 4 403, set priority to High
High
Low 404

Options: Received within time period 20 407 minutes 409
 Not longer than 60 408 minutes ago

410 If any of the following is a named recipient of any message in a thread, set thread priority to High
High
Low 412

414 Joe President
 Marketing (DL)
 John MyBoss

FIG. 4A

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