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(12) **United States Patent**
McNally et al.(10) **Patent No.: US 6,549,932 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Apr. 15, 2003**(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR DISCOVERY IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT**(75) Inventors: **Michael McNally**, Austin, TX (US);
Brian Jay Vetter, Austin, TX (US)(73) Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, NY (US)

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/089,961**(22) Filed: **Jun. 3, 1998**(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **G06F 15/16**(52) U.S. Cl. **709/202; 709/223**(58) Field of Search 709/223, 224,
709/244, 105, 239, 240, 313, 317, 318,
320, 202; 370/252, 253, 254; 340/825.06,
825.16; 714/47(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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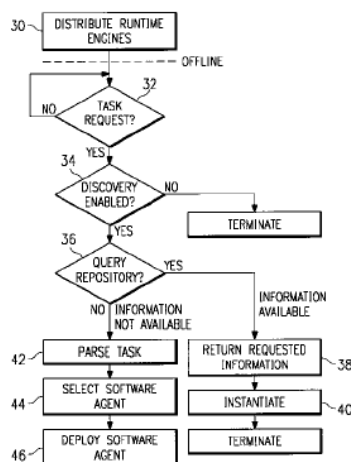
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Primary Examiner—Zarni Maung*Assistant Examiner*—Jason D. Cardone(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Duke W. Yee; Jeffrey S. LaBaw; Stephen R. Tkacs(57) **ABSTRACT**

A large distributed enterprise includes computing resources including a management server servicing a plurality of endpoint machines. A management infrastructure include a runtime engine is deployed on given endpoint machines. In response to a task deployment request at an administrative server, discovery agents may be launched into the computer network. When a software agent arrives at a given machine that supports the runtime engine, the agent is executed to determine whether the endpoint is a candidate for a particular task deployment.

29 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

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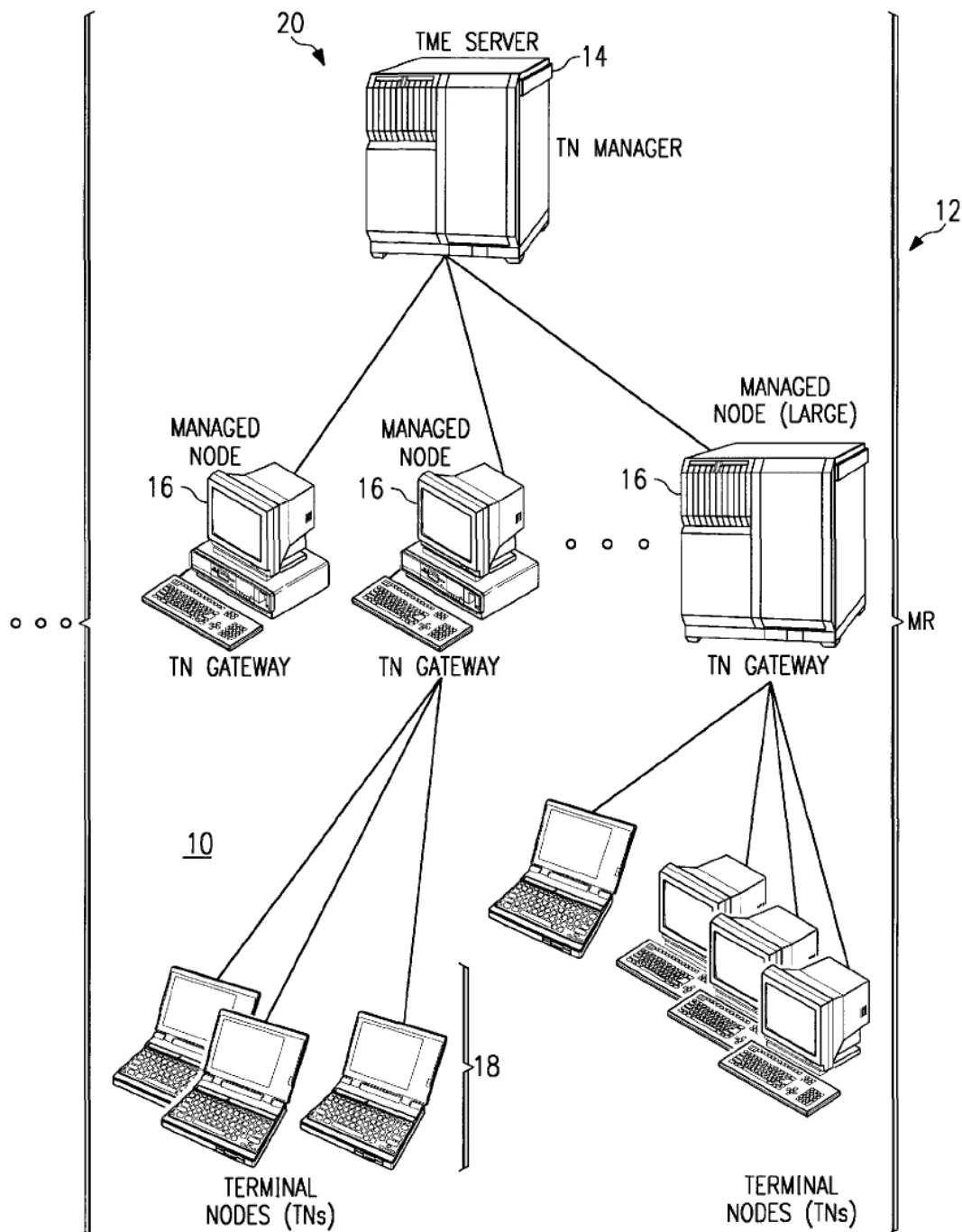


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

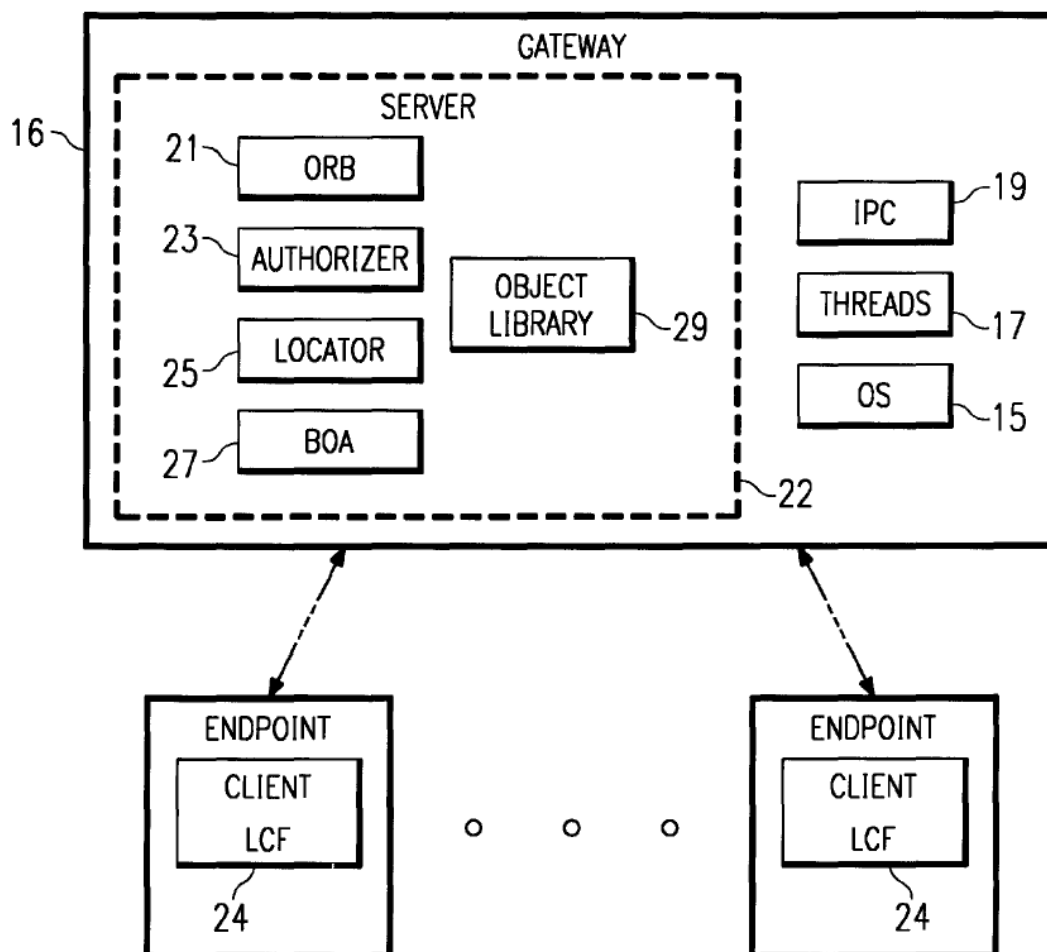


FIG. 2A

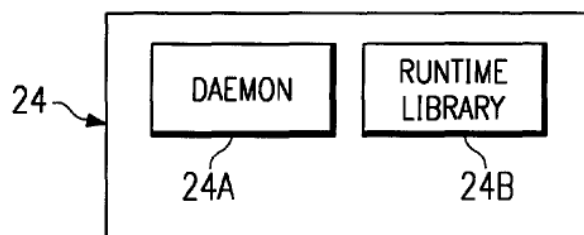
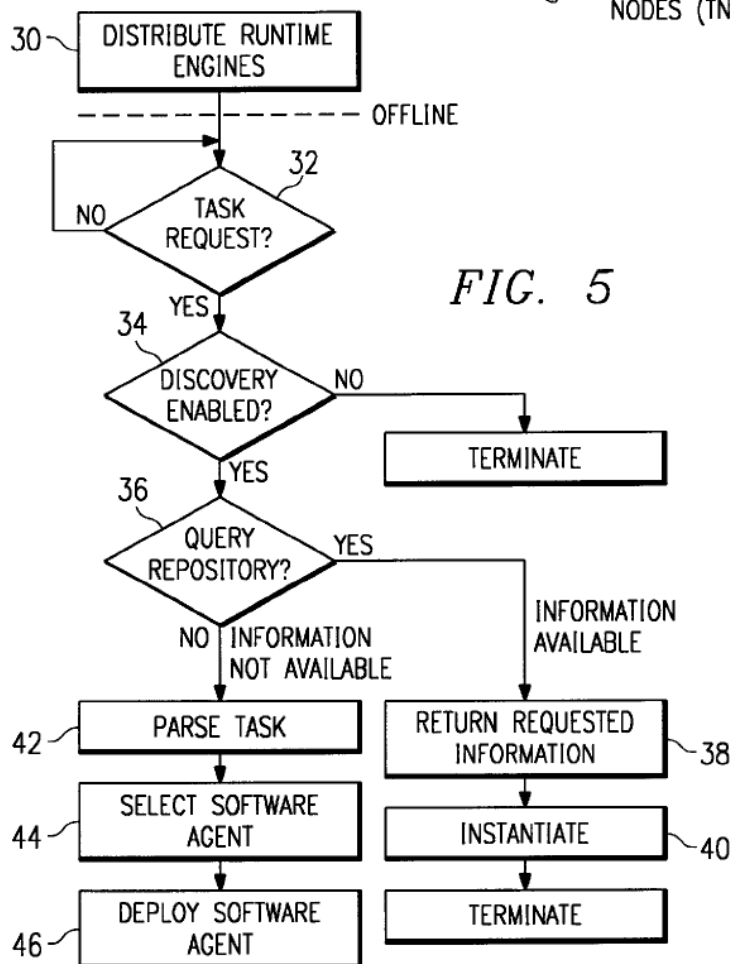
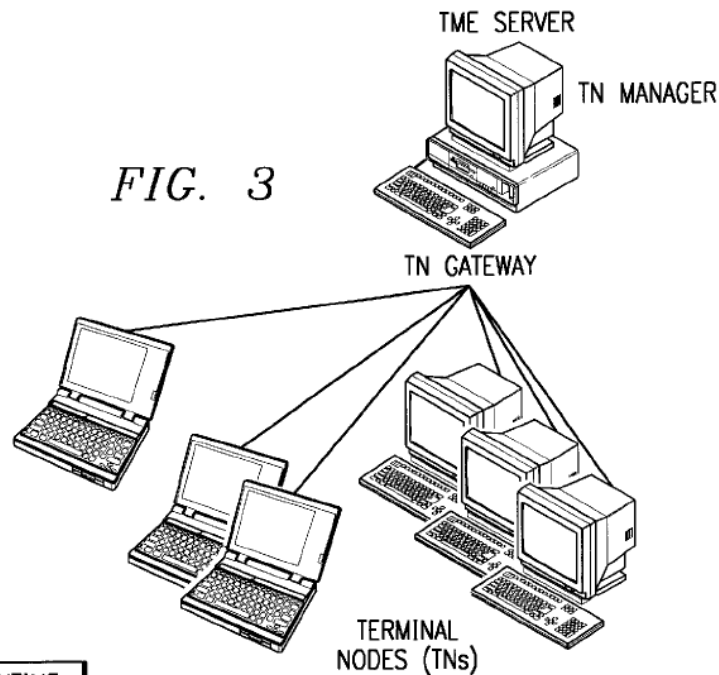


FIG. 3



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