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**United States Patent** [19]

Davis et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,742,829[45] **Date of Patent:** Apr. 21, 1998[54] **AUTOMATIC SOFTWARE INSTALLATION  
ON HETEROGENEOUS NETWORKED  
CLIENT COMPUTER SYSTEMS**[75] Inventors: **Michael L. Davis; Or Ben-Natan**, both  
of Bellevue; **Bruce W. Copeland**,  
Redmond, all of Wash.[73] Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond,  
Wash.[21] Appl. No.: **403,246**[22] Filed: **Mar. 10, 1995**[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **G06F 9/45**[52] U.S. Cl. .... **395/712**

[58] Field of Search ..... 395/700, 650

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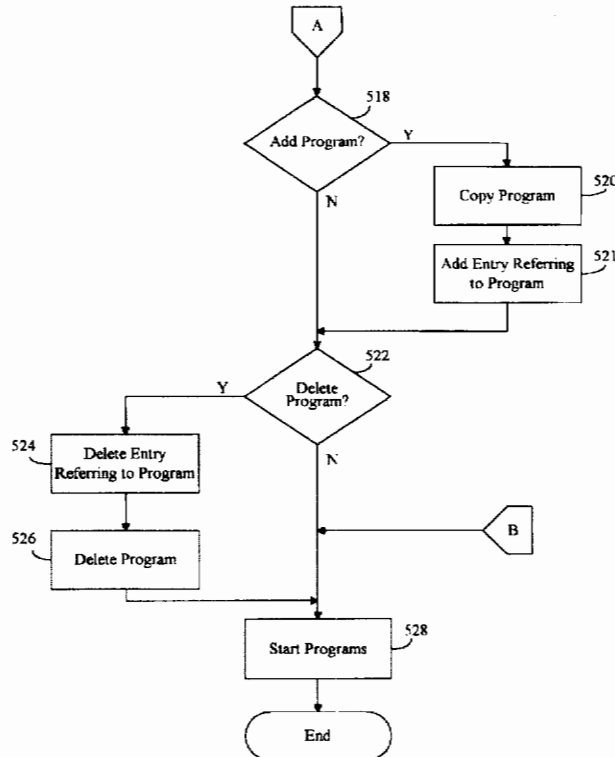
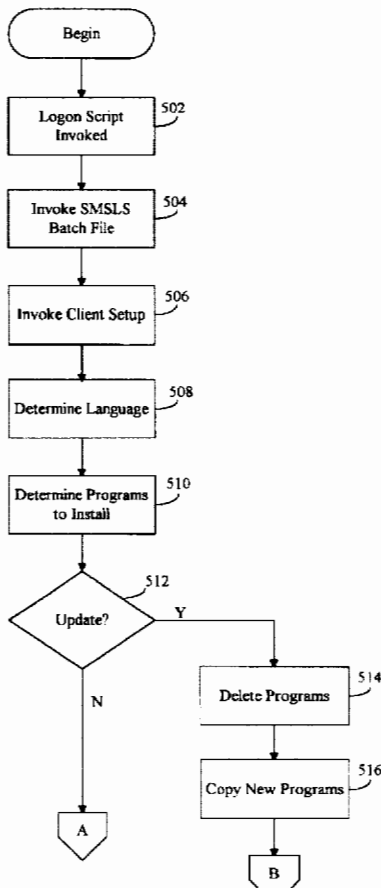
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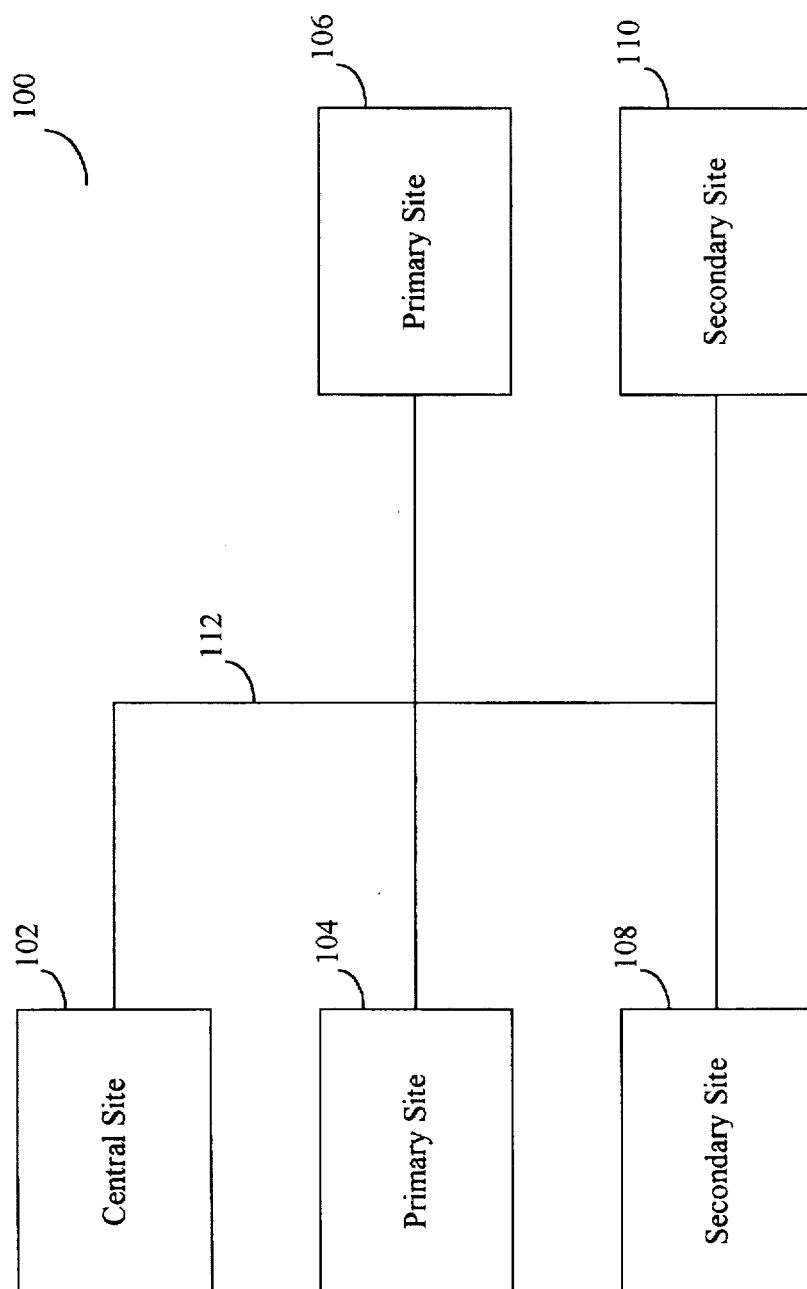
*Primary Examiner*—Emanuel T. Voeltz*Assistant Examiner*—Peter J. Corcoran, III*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Seed and Berry LLP

[57]

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides for automatically installing software on heterogeneous client computer systems. In a distributed system having heterogeneous computer systems of different natural languages, different operating system types, and/or different processor types, the present invention automatically installs the appropriate edition of software onto client computers. The present invention installs an edition of software appropriate for execution on a particular processor type, with a particular operating system type and in a particular natural language by utilizing commands specific to an operating system type. The present invention automatically installs software in response to the availability of a new version of the software, a change in the operating system of the client computer, a change in the associated natural language of the client computer, or in response to input of the administrator of the distributed system.

**29 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**

**FIG. 1**

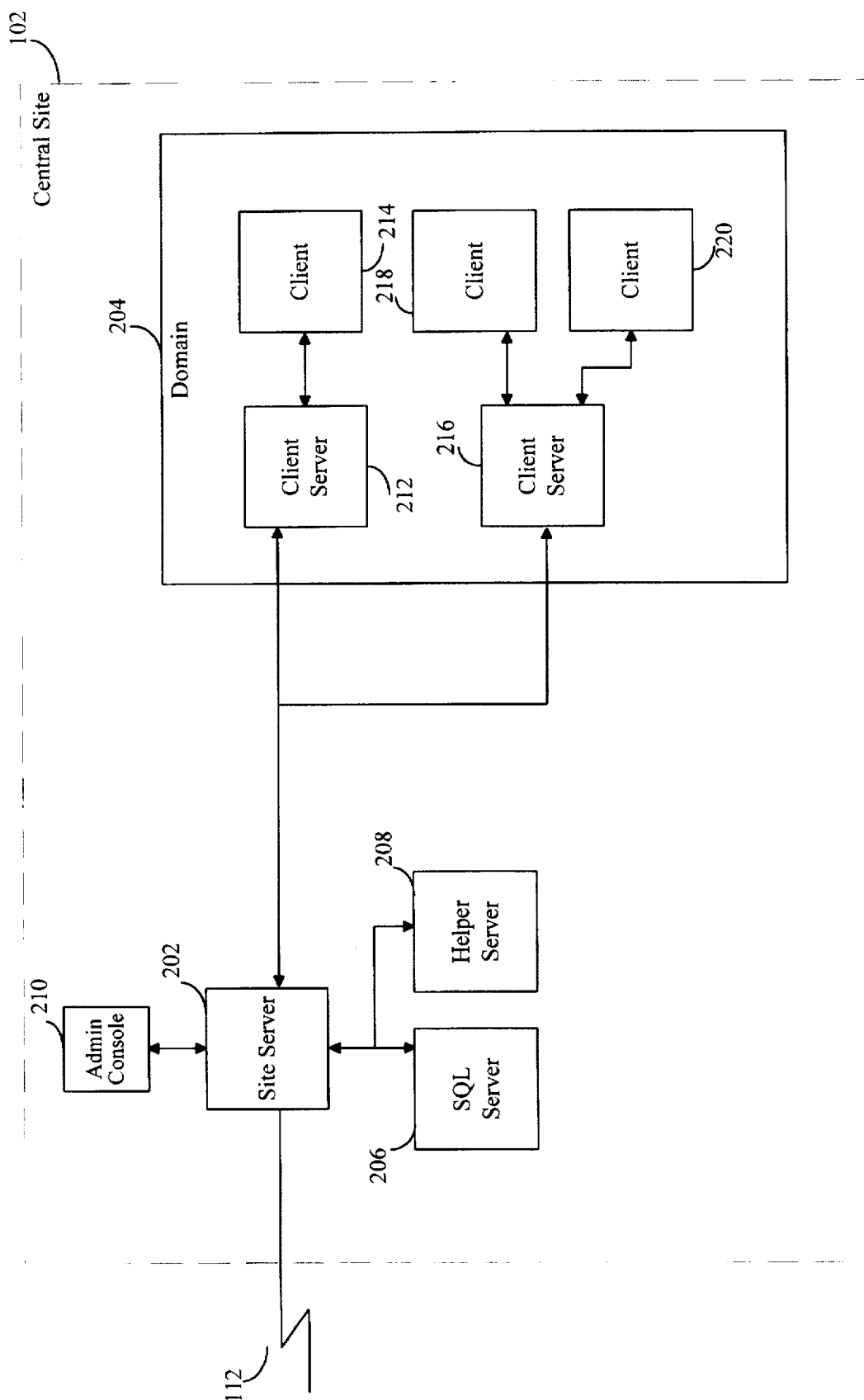
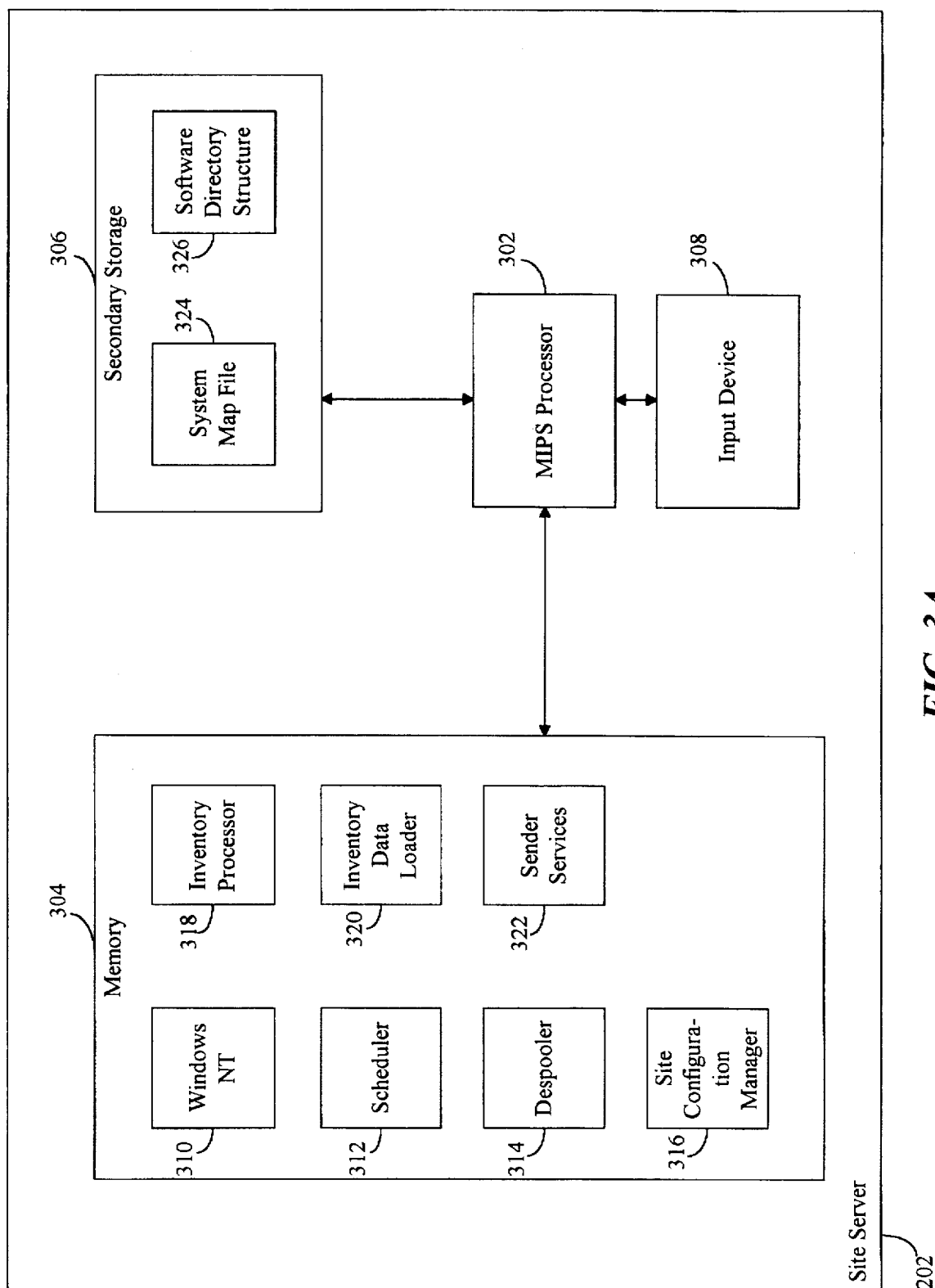


FIG. 2

**FIG. 3A**

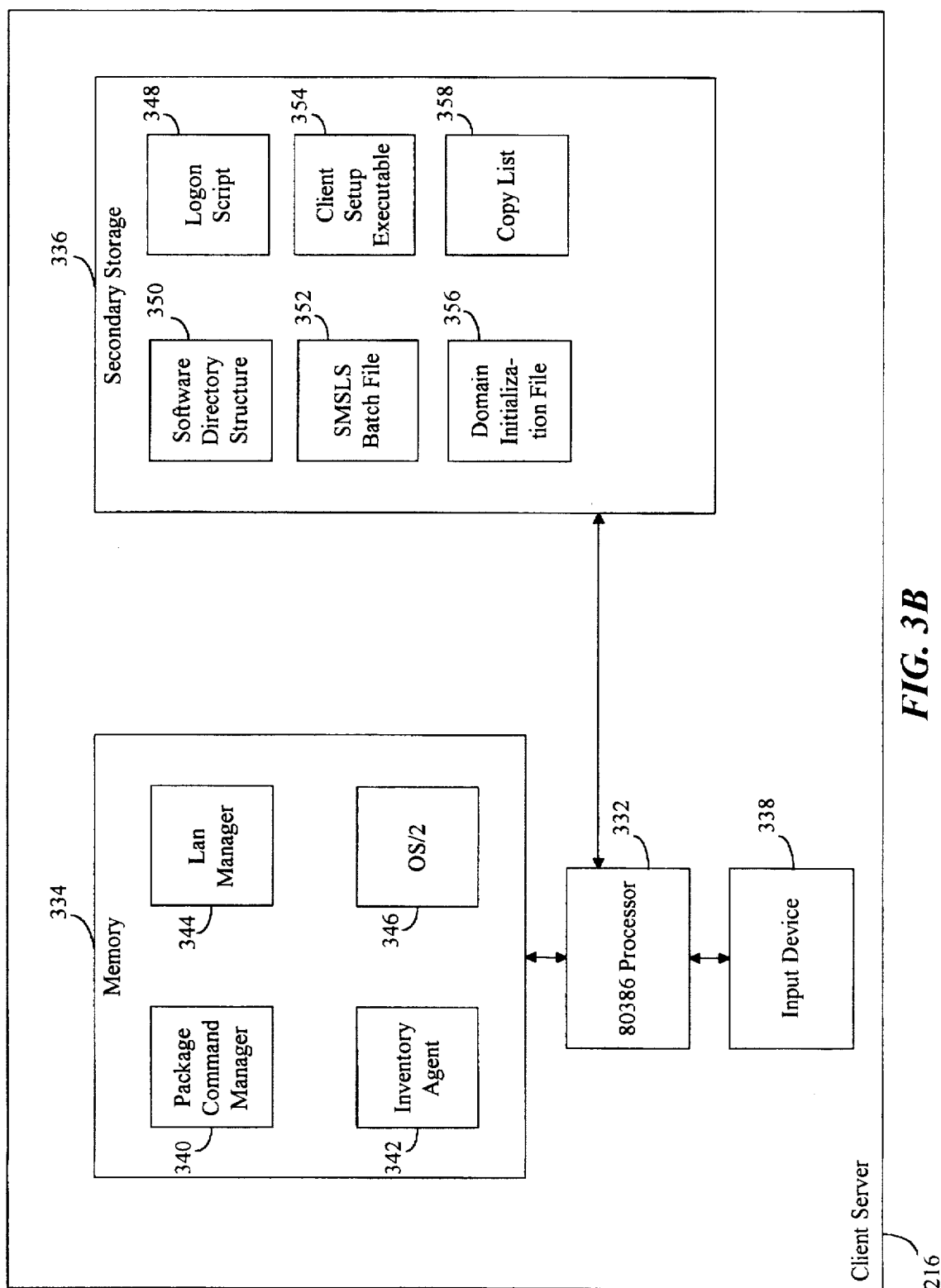


FIG. 3B

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