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(54) **KEEP-ALIVE MESSAGING WHEN TWO APPLICATIONS ARE RUNNING**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**^{7} **G06F 15/16**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/228**; 709/203; 709/223; 709/227
(58) **Field of Search** 704/200–203, 704/223–228, 231–232; 714/51, 55, 4

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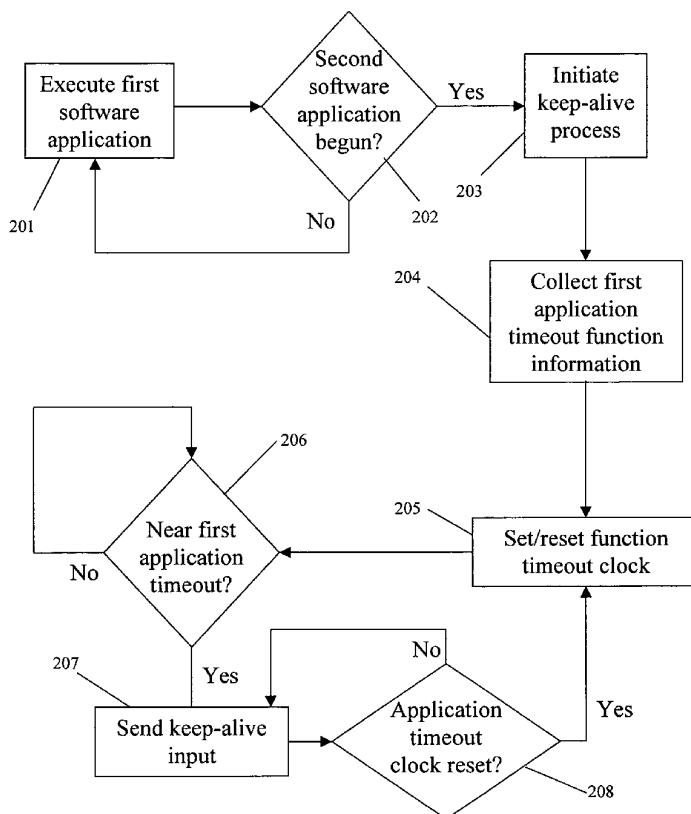6,567,852 B2 * 5/2003 Besaw et al. 709/228

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is generally directed to a system and method in which a second application (the "keep-alive function") sends a ping, message or other signal to a first application to prevent the first application from being timed out (hereinafter, "keep-alive input"). In an embodiment of the invention, the first application is queried as to the appropriate content and format of a timeout period restart message. The keep-alive function may be automatically executed upon the occurrence of a triggering event. The keep-alive function may, periodically or based on a timeout clock related to the first application, check the status of the first application and/or send a keep-alive input.
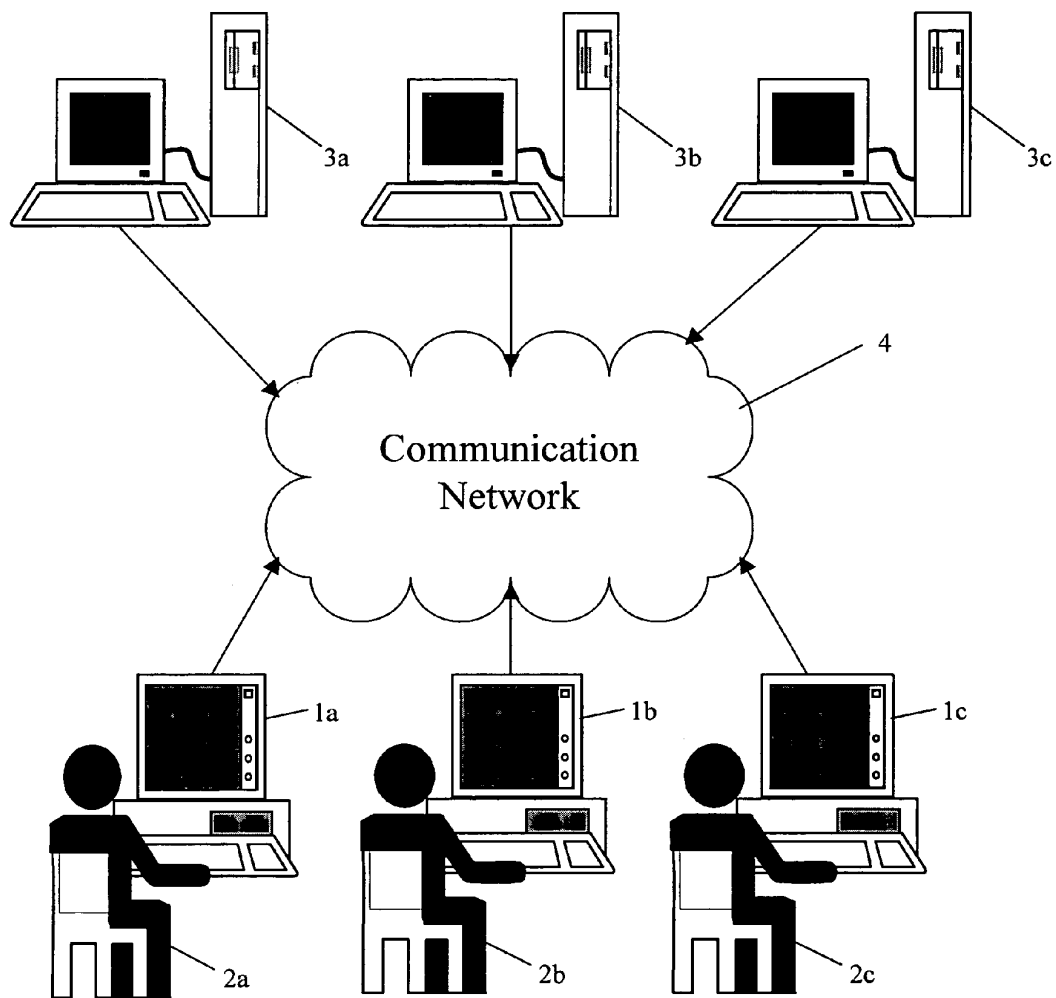
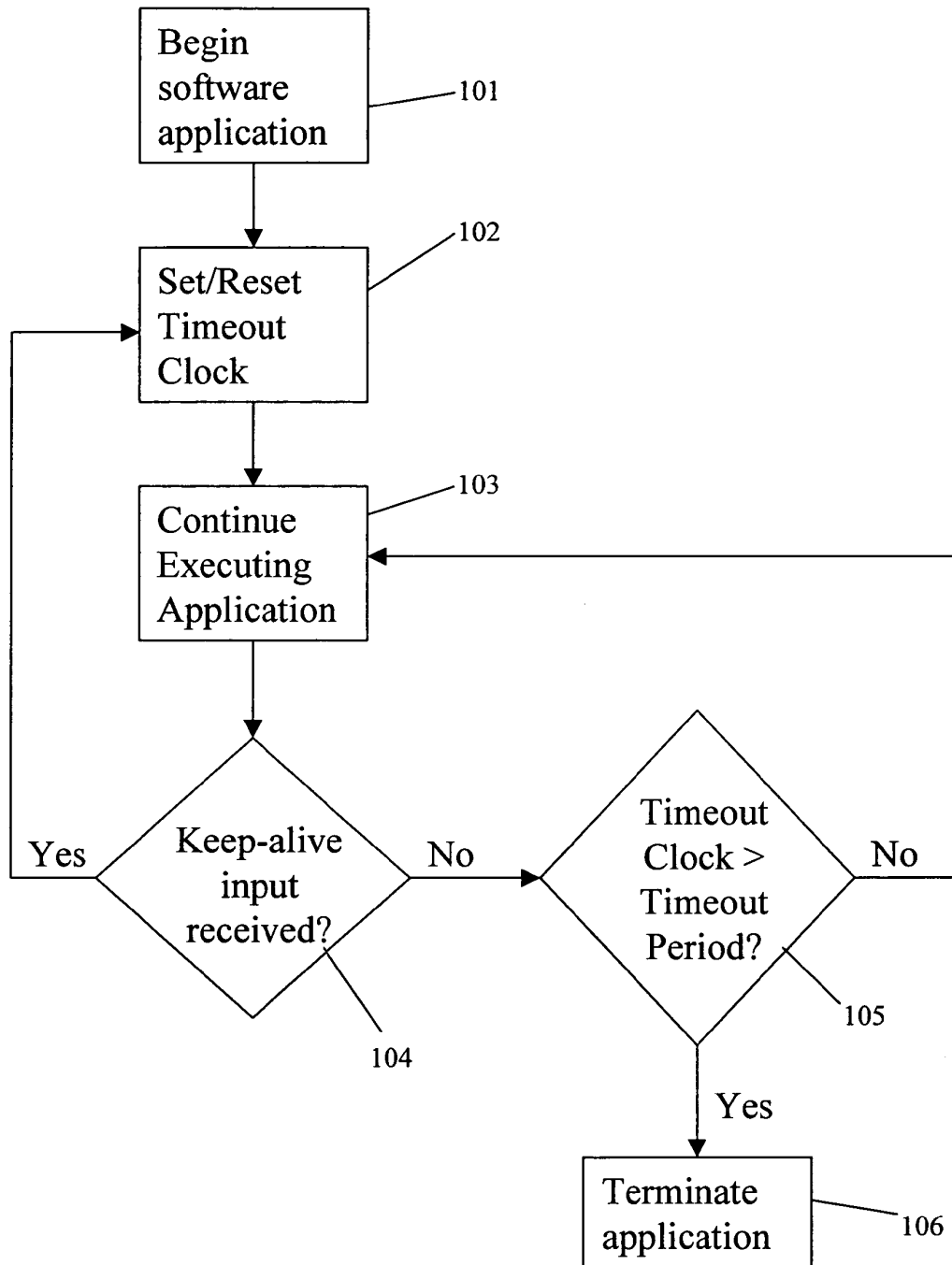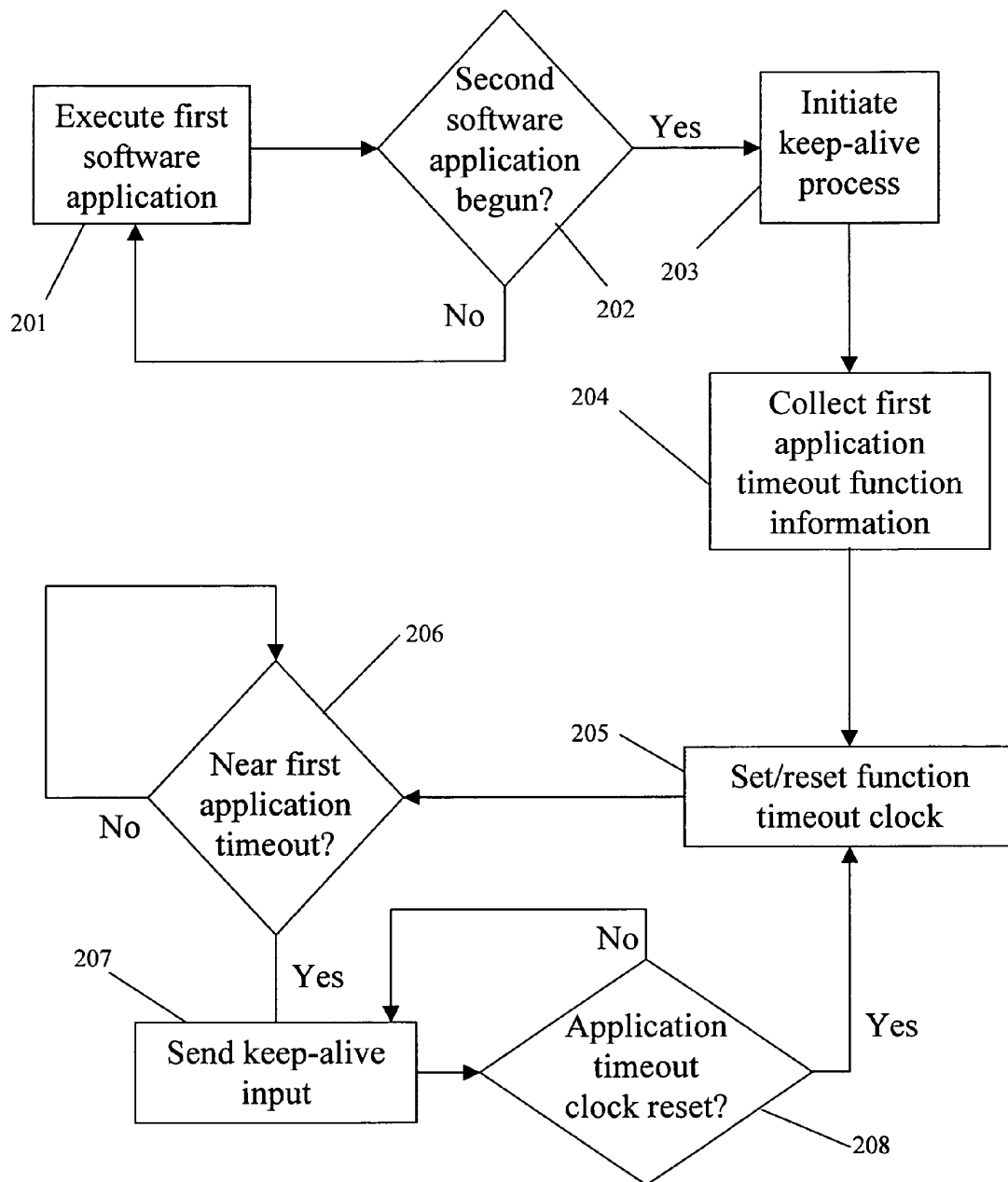**27 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

FIGURE 1

Begin
software — 101
application

Set/Reset — 102
Timeout
Clock

Continue — 103
Executing
Application

Yes   Keep-alive   No   Timeout   No
       input   Clock >
       received?   Timeout
                           Period?
                                        105
       104
                           Yes

                      Terminate — 106
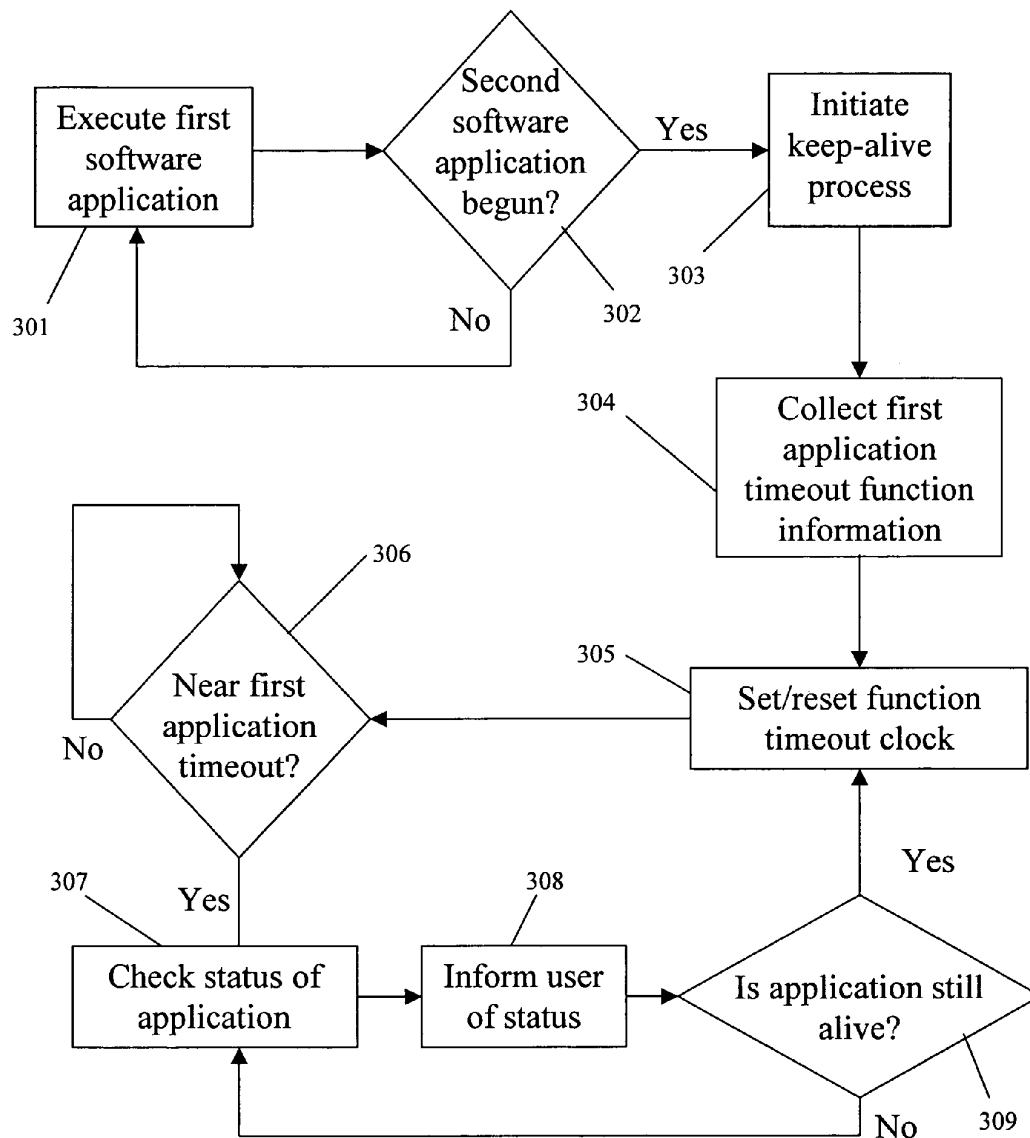   application

FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

DOCKET ALARM

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