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(71) Applicant: **INTEL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95202 (US).

(72) Inventors: **TAN, Sin**; 12650 Orella Court, Saratoga, CA 95070 (US). **KUMAR, Akhilesh**; 326 S.E. 68th Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123 (US). **KHARE, Manoj**; 3480 Granada Avenue #223, Santa Clara, CA 95051 (US).

(74) Agent: **CORSELLO, Kenneth, R.**; Kenyon & Kenyon, 333 West San Carlos Street, Suite 600, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).

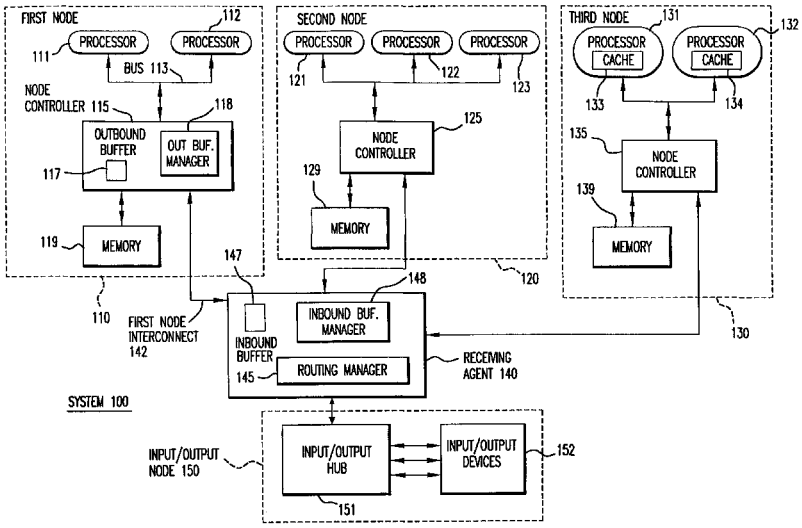
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING STARVATION IN A MULTI-NODE ARCHITECTURE



(57) Abstract: A method of sending messages from a node to a receiving agent. In one embodiment, if a outbound message that is stored in a buffer in the node is unsuccessfully sent to the receiving agent more than a threshold number of times, outbound messages currently stored in the buffer are sent to the receiving agent. It is determined that these outbound messages have been successfully sent before any other outbound messages are sent to the receiving agent. In a further embodiment, an outbound message is successfully sent if a success confirmation message is received for the outbound message from the receiving agent. In a still further embodiment, a retry response is received from the receiving agent for an outbound message if a buffer in the receiving agent that stores incoming outbound messages does not have room for the outbound message.

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