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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
NANYANG POLYTECHNIC [SG/SG]; 180 Ang Mo
Kio Avenue 8, Singapore 569830 (SG).

(72) Inventor; and

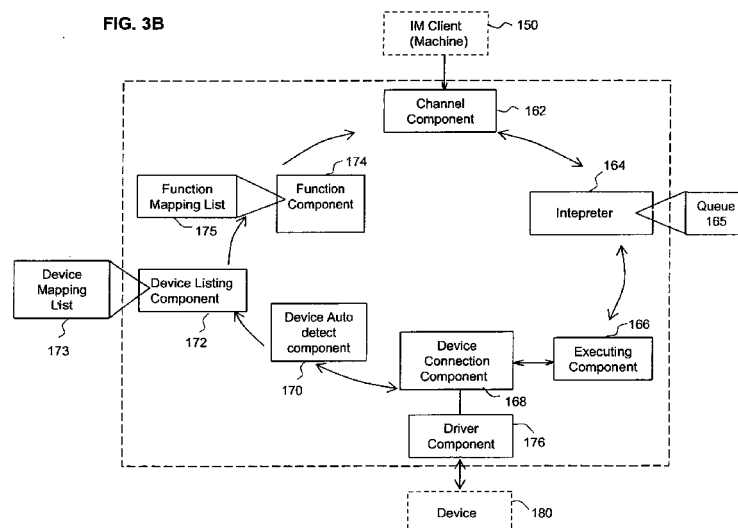
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TEH, Ah Hock** [MY/
SG]; Blk 224, #03-04, Loyang Valley, Singapore 509069
(SG).(74) Agent: **LAWRENCE Y D HO & ASSOCIATES PTE
LTD**; 30 Bideford Road, #02-02 Thongsia Building, Sin-
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(54) Title: REMOTE CONTROL USING INSTANT MESSAGING

FIG. 3B



(57) Abstract: The present invention describes an automated instant messaging client (150) being connected to a device (180) for remote control by an IM user (11,12, etc). To facilitate such remote control of the device, a plug-in (160) is operable in the automated IM client (150). The plug-in (160) requires a supported device to be registered (200). The plug-in (160) then accepts (305) an instructions set containing a string of commands and sorts (325) the commands into a queue (165). Each synchronous loop in the commands is identified and a timer is set, whilst an asynchronous loop is identified separately and a counter is set accordingly.