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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MESSAGING SYSTEM

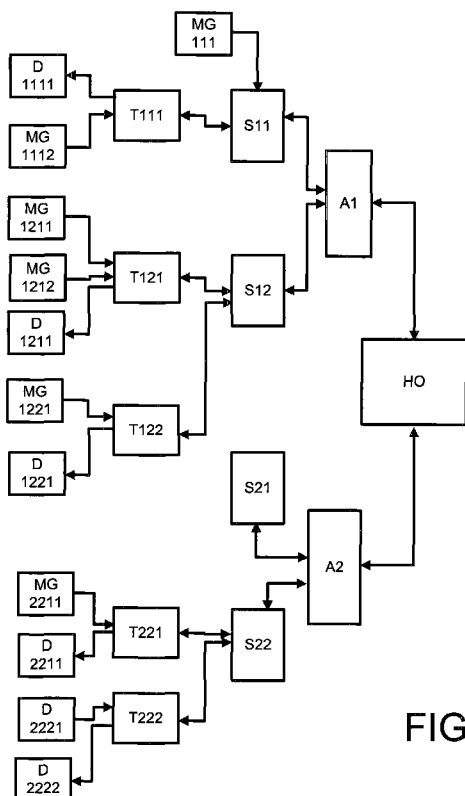


FIG 2

(57) Abstract: There is described a messaging system in which messages are routed from an origin to a destination via a number of communications nodes arranged in a hierarchical manner such that a message sent from a message originator is passed up the hierarchical structure from a communication node to a parent of that node only until it reaches a communication node common to the message originator and the message recipient, whereupon the message is passed back down the hierarchical structure to the recipient.

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