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(71) Applicant: **VIACORE, INC.** [US/US]; 5151 California Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612 (US).

(72) Inventors: **CHEHADE, Fadi, B.**; 5151 California Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612 (US). **CURWEN, Tony, P.**; 5151 California Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612 (US). **YORK, Linda**; 5151 California Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612 (US).

(74) Agents: **HECKER, Gary, A.** et al.; The Hecker Law Group, 1925 Century Park East, Suite 23000, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (US).

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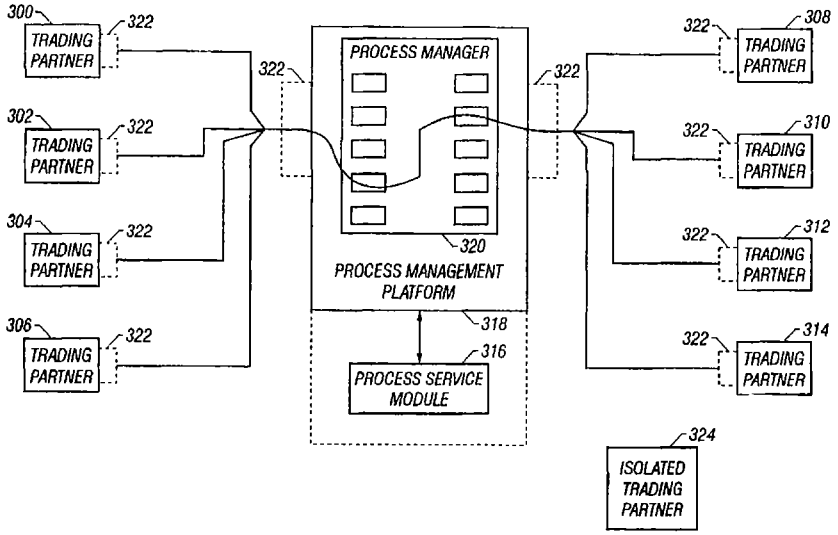
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING BUSINESS PROCESSES



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(57) Abstract: One embodiment of the invention provides a framework for facilitating business processes between multiple trading participants (300-314). Each trading participant (300-314) connects to a centralized process management platform (318) and becomes a member of an electronic trading community. Members of the electronic trading community may utilize the process management platform (318) as a conduit for sending and receiving business process data. The process management platform (318) monitors and manages the flow of business process messages and data to facilitate successful completion of business processes. The process management platform (318) acts as an intermediary for the parties involved in a particular business process. Trading participants (300-314) may connect to the process management platform (318) through process gateways. Each process gateway provides an interface for connecting to the process management platform (318) and may be located at a facility associated with the trading participant (300-314) or the process management platform (318).

WO 02/056147 A3

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