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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXTENDING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN ENTERPRISE SERVICE BUS

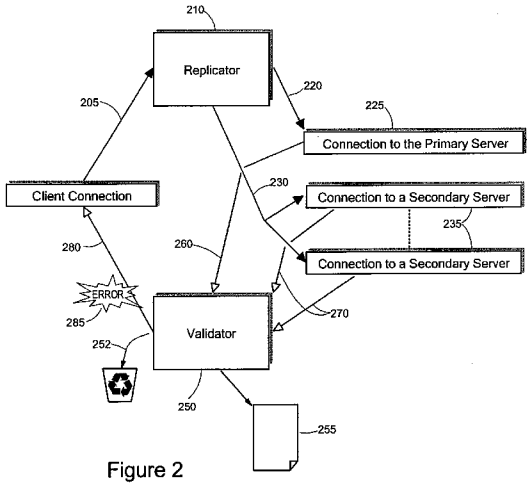


Figure 2

(57) **Abstract:** In a middleware implementing an enterprise service bus (ESB) for interconnecting disparate software applications a method and a system of extending services provided by the ESB are disclosed. All incoming service requests reaching ESB from end-clients are not only forwarded to a primary server but are all, or an adjustable fraction of all of them, replicated to one or more secondary shadow servers. All replies received by ESB from the primary server and from the secondary shadow servers are validated. Validation includes the forwarding to the end-clients of a single validated reply for each incoming service request while all redundant replies are discarded. Replication of incoming service requests and validation of all replies extend the services provided by an ESB allowing e.g., to warm up a newly installed server, to bring up new software applications, to guarantee the integrity of operation of a cluster of servers and to optimize the response times.

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