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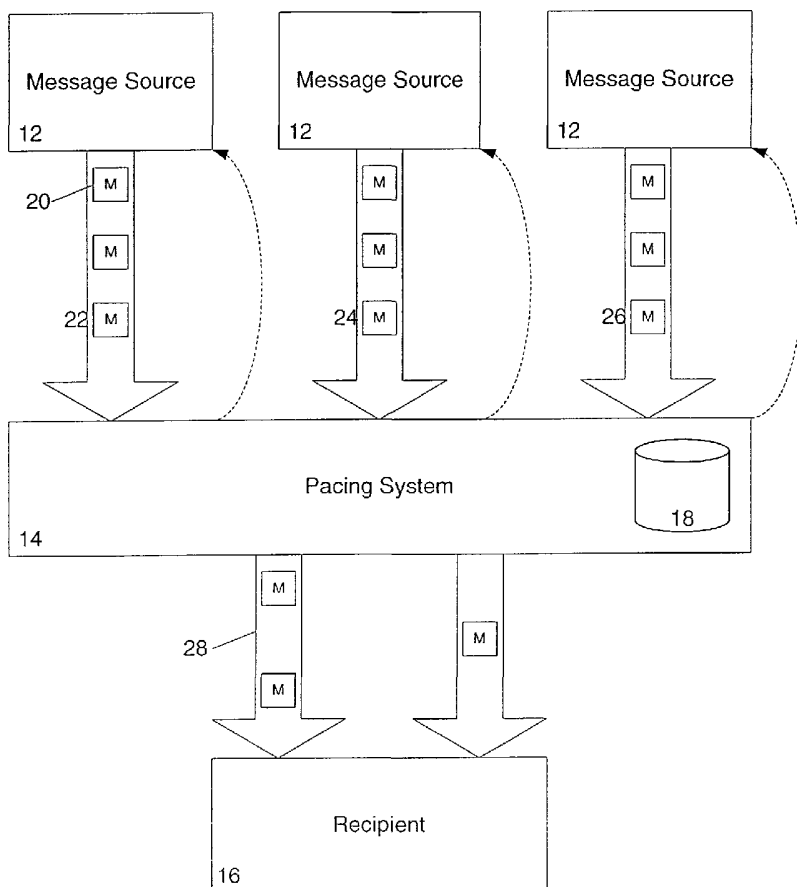
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MESSAGE PACING



(57) Abstract: A system for managing message volume and timing, which permits messages from multiple sources to be spaced apart over time, with the pacing controlled in part by the type or priority of the message. The system permits the volume of messages to be reduced by aggregating messages according to a set of rules and by discarding or delaying messages that are sufficiently similar and sent too close together. In addition, the system allows message sources to be notified when a recipient has not received a message within a designated time period. The system can be implemented as a centralized pacing system or through use of a data storage system accessible by the message sources.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/21403

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 H04L12/58

According to international Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 848 397 A (MARSH BRIAN D ET AL) 8 December 1998 (1998-12-08) abstract column 5, line 5 -column 14, line 64 ---	1-13
X	US 6 073 142 A (GEIGER FRED J ET AL) 6 June 2000 (2000-06-06) column 3, line 1 -column 4, line 54 column 6, line 14 -column 13, line 41 column 19, line 52 -column 20, line 39 claims 1,2 --- -/--	1-13

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	<p>--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 08, 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30) &amp; JP 10 065730 A (CASIO COMPUT CO LTD), 6 March 1998 (1998-03-06) abstract</p>	1-13
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A	<p>--- EP 0 371 607 A (IBM) 6 June 1990 (1990-06-06) column 3, line 13 -column 4, line 31; figure 1</p>	8-12

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