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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MO-TOROLA, INC.** [US/US]; 1303 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **TIRPAK, Thomas, M.** [US/US]; 1310 Pine Street, Glenview, IL 60025 (US). **ATHALE, Anant** [IN/US]; 131 Stirling Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60194 (US). **BAILEY, Kevin, D.** [US/US]; 122 Lorraine Drive, Lake Zurich, IL 60047 (US). **SAK-LIKAR, Samir, Dilipkumar** [IN/IN]; B-15 Madhav Nagar, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Rd, Wadala, Mumbai 400031 (IN).
- (74) Agents: **WATANABE, Hisashi, David** et al.; 600 North US Highway 45, Libertyville, IL 60048 (US).

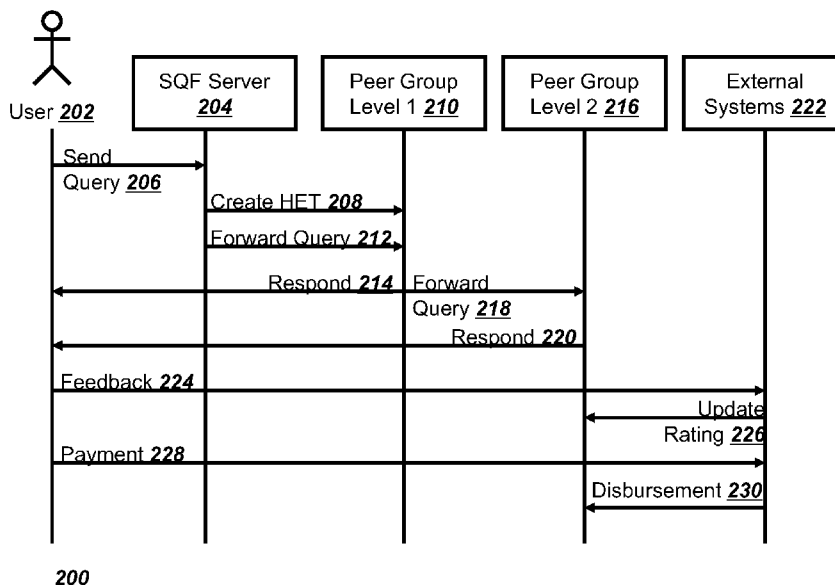
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(54) Title: CALL GROUP MANAGEMENT USING THE SESSION INITIATION PROTOCOL



(57) Abstract: A method, apparatus, and electronic device for hierarchical communications are disclosed. A connection interface (1260) may receive a query. A processor (1210) may select an initial expert from the hierarchical expert tree based upon the query and direct the query towards the initial expert. A session initiation protocol server 418 may generate a hierarchical expert tree from an expert pool.

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**AMENDED CLAIMS****[received by the International Bureau on 06 January 2010 (06.01.2010)]**

1. A method for hierarchical communications, the method comprising:
  - receiving a query;
  - selecting an initial expert from a hierarchical expert tree based upon the query;
  - and
  - directing the query to an initial expert device.
  
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - generating a hierarchical expert tree from an expert pool based upon the query using session initiation protocol.
  
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - using an expert profile to select the initial expert.
  
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
  - adapting the expert profile based upon an expert response.
  
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - using at least one of an expert availability or an expert location to match the query to the initial expert.
  
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the initial expert device forwards the query to a successive expert device upon an input from the initial expert.
  
16. An electronic device for hierarchical communications, the device comprising:
  - a connection interface that receives a query; and
  - a processor that selects an initial expert from a hierarchical expert tree based upon the query and directs the query towards the initial expert device.

17. The electronic device of claim 16 further comprising:  
a session initiation protocol server that generates the hierarchical expert tree from an expert pool.
18. The electronic device of claim 16 wherein the database stores an expert profile to match the query to the initial expert.
19. The electronic device of claim 16 wherein a session initiation protocol user agent on the initial expert device forwards the query to a successive expert upon an input from the initial expert.