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[54] **INTERNET ANSWERING MACHINE**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[7] **H04M 1/64**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **379/88.19**; 379/93.24

[58] **Field of Search** 379/67.1, 88.12, 379/88.17, 88.19, 88.2, 88.21, 90.01, 93.01, 93.24, 142

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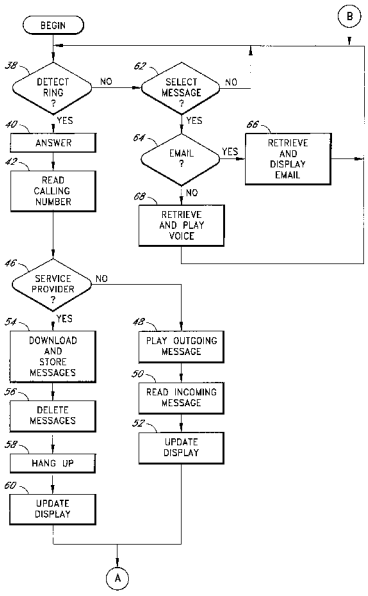
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An answering machine receives and records both voice and email messages. The answering machine includes a telephone line interface, a modem, a processor, memory for storing the processor software and recording the messages, a speaker, a display and a keypad. When the answering machine detects a ring signal on the telephone line to which it is connected, it answers the call. The answering machine plays an outgoing message for the caller to hear and records the caller's incoming voice message. Periodically or at predetermined times, the answering machine may check for email messages by calling a service provider. When the service provider answers the call, the answering machine logs in, downloads and stores at least a portion of email messages that have been received. A user can view the display and review the messages. Voice mail messages are played through the speaker, and email messages are provided on the display.

5 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets