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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED LICENSE MANAGEMENT FOR A DATA LIMITED APPLICATION

(57) Abstract: The invention is directed towards enabling data volume and data type based licensing of software in a distributed system of a plurality of remote and/or local nodes. The invention enables measuring and optionally restricting the use of software based on one or more provided licenses that restrict the amount and type of data that may be processed by the software. New and older licenses may be added together for a single, bulk entitlement for a given volume of data processing for one or all types of data. Different users in the same enterprise may combine license entitlements too. Also, a new license can be acquired repeatedly, without requiring the issuance of combined licenses by the issuing authority and/or the revocation of prior licenses.

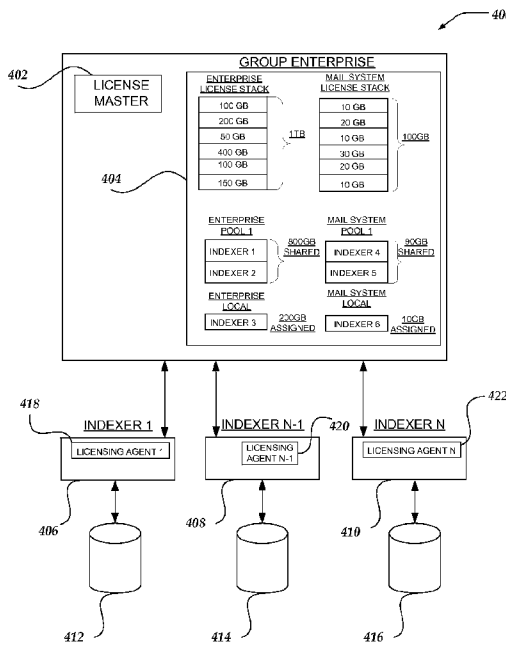
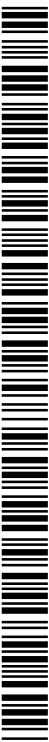


Fig. 4





SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****G06F 21/22(2006.01)i**

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)

G06F 21/22; G06Q 99/00; G06F 21/24; G06F 21/00; G06F 13/00

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) &amp; Keywords: distributed, license, management, data, application, network, index, stack, master, slave, volume, pool

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 7849019 B2 (GRIMM OLAF et al.) 07 December 2010 See abstract; column 5, line 33 - column 8, line 34; figures 1-3	1-24
A	US 7603318 B1 (COLOSSO JUAN-CARLOS et al.) 13 October 2009 See abstract; column 6, line 36 - column 10, line 20; figures 1-2.	1-24
A	US 2010-0333214 A1 (TSUBOI MASANORI) 30 December 2010 See abstract; paragraphs [47] - [72]; figures 5-8.	1-24
A	US 2006-0190647 A1 (ASANO et al.) 24 August 2006 See abstract; paragraphs [34] - [57]; figures 1-4.	1-24

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"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

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 7849019 B2	07.12.2010	CN 101150440 A0 CN 101150440 B EP 1901191 A1 US 2008-0082450 A1	26.03.2008 25.05.2011 19.03.2008 03.04.2008
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