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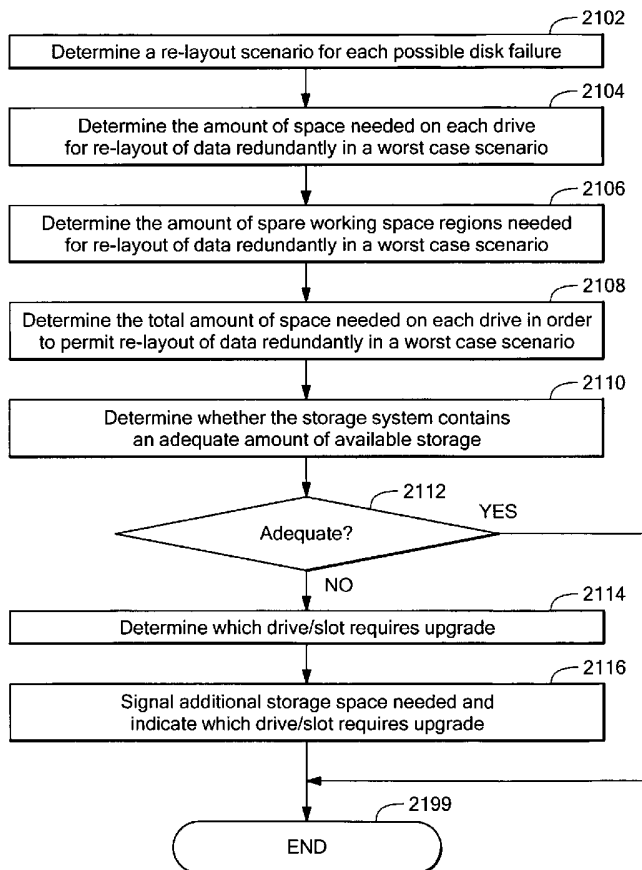
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(54) Title: DYNAMICALLY EXPANDABLE AND CONTRACTIBLE FAULT-TOLERANT STORAGE SYSTEM WITH VIRTUAL HOT SPARE



(57) Abstract: A dynamically expandable and contractible fault-tolerant storage system employs a virtual hot spare that is created from unused storage capacity across a plurality of storage devices. This unused storage capacity is available if and when a storage device fails for storage of data recovered from the remaining storage device(s). On an ongoing basis, the storage system may determine the amount of unused storage capacity that would be required for the virtual hot spare (e.g., based on the number of storage devices, the capacities of the various storage devices, the amount of data stored, and the manner in which the data is stored) and generate a signal if additional storage capacity is needed for a virtual hot spare.

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Int. 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.
X	<p>WILKES J ET AL: "THE HP AUTORAID HIERARCHICAL STORAGE SYSTE," OPERATING SYSTEMS REVIEW, ACM, NEW YORK, NY, US, vol. 29, no. 5, December 1995 (1995-12), pages 96-108, XP000584820 ISSN: 0163-5980 abstract page 97, right-hand column, line 10 - page 98, left-hand column, line 15 page 101, right-hand column, line 5 - line 47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-28
X A	<p>US 5 479 653 A (JONES ET AL) 26 December 1995 (1995-12-26) abstract</p> <p>figure 4 column 2, line 53 - line 7 column 6, line 12 - column 7, line 52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-3, 15-17 4-14, 18-28
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Information on patent family members

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