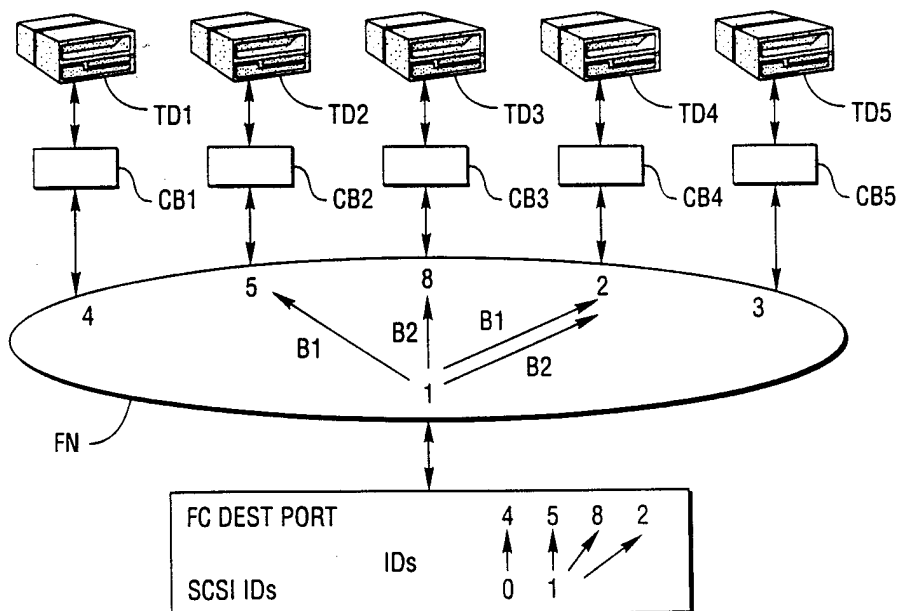




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(54) Title: NETWORK ATTACHED VIRTUAL TAPE DATA STORAGE SUBSYSTEM

The network attached virtual tape storage subsystem interconnects a plurality of tape devices (TD1-TD5) with a plurality of data processors via a high bandwidth switching network (FN) to implement a virtual, distributed tape data storage subsystem. The virtual, distributed tape data storage system realizes multiple virtual devices, which are available to any of the data processors and the bandwidth of the system is scalable and can be changed on demand. The virtual tape storage subsystem is managed by a system controller which contains a plurality of software elements. The use of a networked storage manager enables the tape devices to be managed as a pool and yet attach the tape devices directly to the network as individual resources. The networked storage manager must provide the mechanism for the enterprise management to control tape device allocation and configuration as well as other functions, such as a tape cartridge movement and data migration.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/04910

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G11B 17/22

US CL : 369/34, 711/4, 111,114

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)

U.S. : 369/34, 711/4, 111,114

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,566,331 A (IRWIN JR. et al.) 15 October 1996, see entire document, especially figures 1&2.	1-14
Y	US 4,945,429 A (MUNRO et al.) 31 July 1990, see entire document, especially cols. 2-4.	1-14
Y,P	US 5,630,067 A (KINDELL et al) 13 May 1997, see Figure 1 and Summary.	1-14
Y	US 5,214,768 A (MARTIN et al.) 25 May 1993, see entire document, especially cols. 5-6.	1-14
Y	US 5,506,986 A (HEALY) 09 April 1996, see col 3, line 49 to col. 5, line 38.	1-5, 10-14

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