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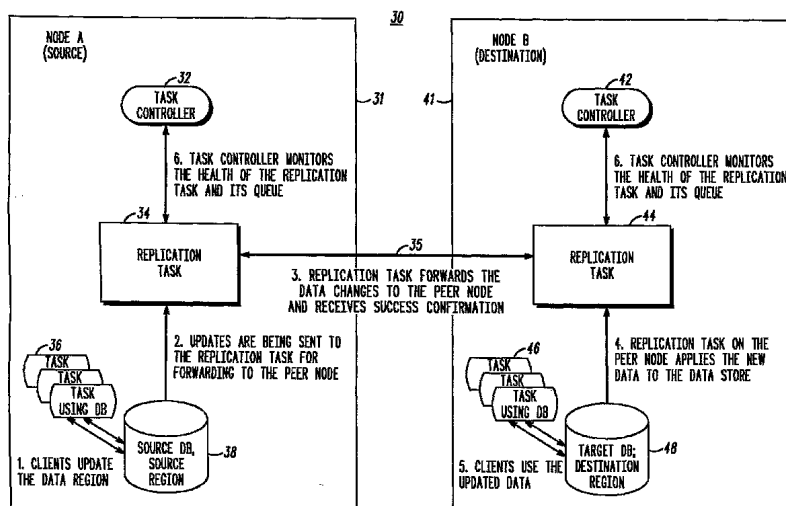


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: A communication system (50) includes a source node (31) coupled to a peer node (41), a source database (38) and a target database (48) at the peer node, and a logical unit (32 or 42). The logical unit is programmed to forward data changes from source to peer node, monitor a health status of a replication task (34 or 44) by performing an audit on the source and nodes, and compare the audits on the source and peer nodes. The logical unit is further programmed to perform among the functions of synchronizing by launching a replication task synchronization thread (52) and a new target database (54) at the peer node and replacing the target database with the new target database upon completion of the synchronizing or switching over to the peer node upon detection of a critical failure at the source node during synchronization.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 370/217,218,219,220,221,225,401,465,503; 714/6,12

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.
X	US 5,968,185 A (BRESSOUD et al) 19 October 1999 (19.10.1999), column 6, line 65 to column 7, line 31, and column 8, line 1 to column 9, line 15.	1,3,4,6-8,10
Y	US 6,594,676 B1 (MOORE) 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003), column 7 line 29 to column 12, line 53.	1-10
Y	US 6,853,617 B2 (WATSON et al) 08 February 2005 (08.02.2005), column 4, line 25 to column 5, line 9.	1-10
Y	US 7,143,092 B1 (GREGORAT) 28 November 2006 (28.11.2006), column 4, line 3 to column 5, line 62.	1-10
Y	US 2005/0058062 A1 (RUDOLF et al) 17 March 2005 (17.03.2005), sections 3 and 23-25.	2,5

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

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&"	document member of the same patent family

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