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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HISTORICAL CONFIGURATION DATA ASSOCIATED WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSETS

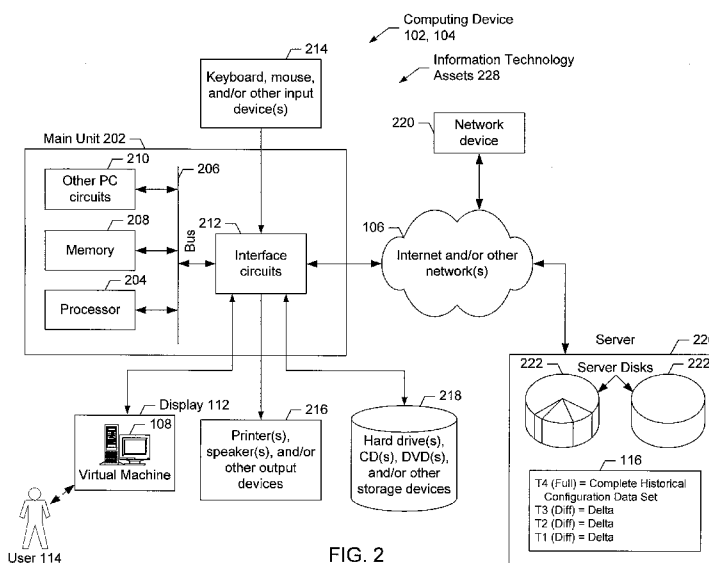


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatus for storing and transmitting historical configuration data associated with information technology assets are disclosed. The system reads and stores a first version of data with a timestamp. The system then performs a local update by reading a second version of data with a timestamp, replacing the first set of data and timestamp, and storing the changes between the first and second versions of data. The system also may receive update requests from a remote location for the latest version of data. The changes between versions of data are sent to the remote location, where the changes between versions of data are stored and are usable to create the requested latest version of data and/or prior versions of data.

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<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - G06F 13/00 (2009.01) USPC - 711/100 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>												
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p>												
<p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) USPC - 711/100</p>												
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<p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); GOOGLE backup, backup server, server backup, incremental, incremental backup, delta, differential backup, virtual, virtual machine, virtual server, configuration data</p>												
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p>												
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
Y	US 2007/0130232 A1 (Therrien et al.) 07 June 2007 (07.06.2007): entire document, especially: Fig. 9; para [0034], [0072], [0078], [0079], [0080], [0085], [0093], [0094], [0099]-[0101], [0103]	1-22										
Y	US 2006/0294421 A1 (Schneider) 28 December 2006 (28.12.2006): entire document, especially: abstract; para [0017], [0018], [0021], [0030], [0037], [0038]	1-22										
Y	US 2006/0225065 A1 (Chandhok et al.) 05 October 2006 (05.10.2006): entire document, especially: abstract; para [0002], [0005]	5, 10, 15, and 21										
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/></p>												
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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											
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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											
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<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer: Lee W. Young</p> <p>PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774</p>										