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*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENTLY STORING DATA FILES

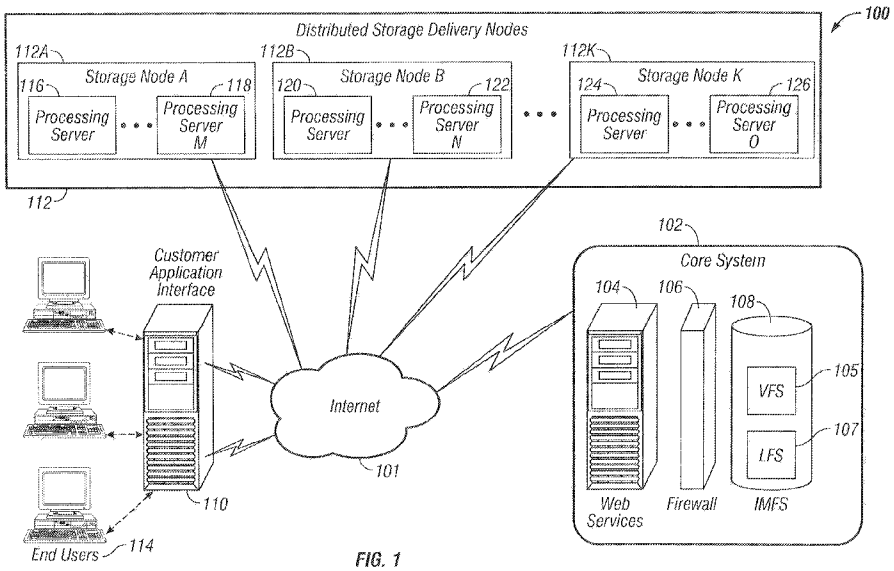



FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method for efficiently storing data files, includes: receiving a data file for storage at one of a plurality of storage devices, wherein the data file is associated with a specified user; determining whether an identical file already exists at one of the plurality of storage devices; deleting the received data file if it is determined that an identical file already exists at one of the plurality of storage devices; and directing subsequent requests to access the data file from the specified user to the storage device containing the identical file.

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

***G06F 15/16(2006.01)i, G06F 17/40(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)

IPC 8: G06F

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

Korean Utility models applications for Utility Models since 1975, IPC as above

Japanese Utility Models and application for Utility Models since 1975, IPC as above

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

eKIPASS, IEEExpl, Google; distributed storage device; duplication file checking; hashing;

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| X | WO 2007/089592 A1(NETWORK APPLIANCE INC.) 9 August 2007<br>See the whole document. | 1-25 |
| A | US 6,745,194 B2(MICHAEL BURROWS) 1 June 2004<br>See abstract and Figure 4. | 1-25 |
| A | US 2007/0043757 A1(JAMES R. BENTON, et al) 22 February 2007<br>See the whole document. | 1-25 |
| A | US 5,732,265 A(F. J. DEWITT; T. D. McGuire) 24 March 1998<br>See the whole document. | 1-25 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Information on patent family members

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| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---|---|
| WO 2007/089502 A1 | 09.08.2007 | None | |
| US 6745194 B2 | 01.06.2004 | US 7406460 B2 | 29.07.2008 |
| | | US 2002-0049753 A1 | 25.04.2002 |
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