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(54) Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR AN IN-SERVER STORAGE AREA NETWORK

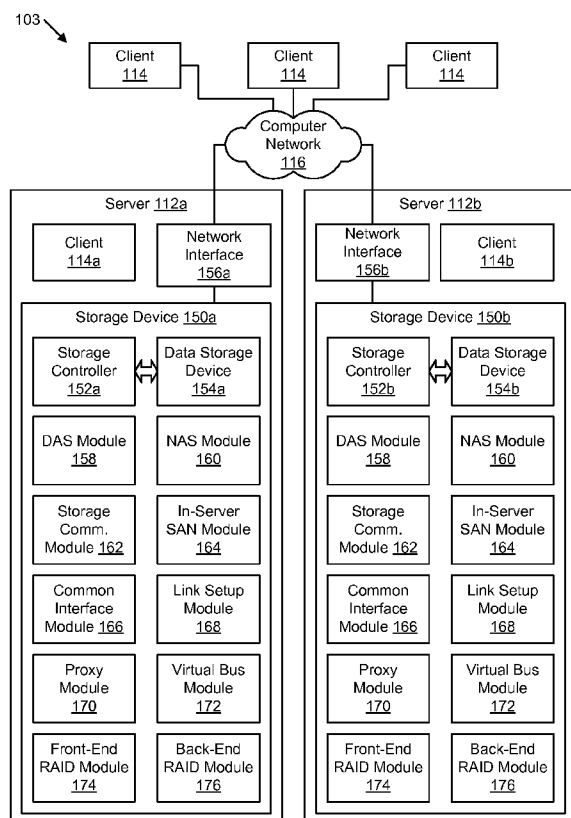


FIG. 1C

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and system are disclosed for an in-server storage area network ("SAN"). A first storage controller 152a is included within a first server 112a. The first storage controller 152a controls at least one storage device 154a. The first server 112a includes a network interface 156a shared by the first server 112a and the first storage controller 152a. A storage communication module 162 is included that facilitates communication between the first storage controller 152a and at least one device external to the first server 112a, where the communication between the first storage controller 152a and the external device is independent from the first server 112a. An in-server SAN module 164 is included that services a storage request using at least one of a network protocol and a bus protocol. The in-server SAN module 164 services the storage request independent from the first server 112a, the service request received from a client 114.



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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 practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 02/067529 A (STORAGEAPPS INC [US]) 29 August 2002 (2002-08-29) page 19, line 1 - page 20, line 25 figure 2 page 22, line 25 - page 23, line 2 figure 3B page 28, line 18 - page 31, line 11 figure 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-29

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

☒ See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 1 280 047 A (HITACHI LTD [JP]) 29 January 2003 (2003-01-29) paragraphs [0019] - [0023] figure 1 paragraphs [0024], [0025] figure 2 paragraphs [0026] - [0028] figure 3 paragraphs [0029] - [0031] figure 4 paragraphs [0083] - [0085] figure 14	1-29
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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