(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 9 February 2006 (09.02.2006)

(10) International Publication Number $WO\ 2006/013559\ A3$

(51) International Patent Classification: *G06F 15/16* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IL2005/000822

(22) International Filing Date: 2 August 2005 (02.08.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

163314 2 August 2004 (02.08.2004) I

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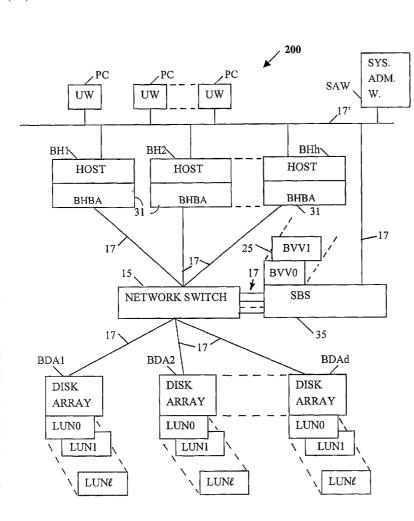
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STORAGE AREA NETWORK BOOT SERVER AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A SAN Boot Server (SBS) (35) and a method operative in association with a host boot SAN (BSAN) (200) having hosts (BH) and devices (DAB) coupled via network links (17) to a network switch (15). The SBS stores a mapping of virtual volumes (25), each with one boot image. The SBS is coupled to the network switch (15) and to the user network. The hosts have access to a virtual boot image when turned on, and each boot image directs each host to a storage device storing a booting program for booting the host. The hosts do not require, but may have an internal disk (21). The SBS is flagged for detection and differentiation, and each host has a modified HBA (BHBA) configured for fast discovery of a flagged SBS. There are groups of hosts having members, and when booting, each host accesses a specific boot image, which has a common portion and a host-specific portion, and each member shares the common portion.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: $7~\mathrm{May}~2009$

Published:

with international search report

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL05/00822

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC: G06F 15/16(2006.01)				
USPC:	709/203			
According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both nati	ional classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)				
U.S.: 709/203				
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)				
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C. DOCI	JMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
A	US 6,597,956 B1 (Aziz et al.) 22 July 2003 (22.07.20		1, 16, 19, 33	
Α	US 6,389,432 B1 (POTHAPRAGADA et al) 14 May	2002 (14.05.2002), column 4, lines 1-	1, 16, 19, 33	
4	24. US 2004/0111559 A1 (HEIL) 10 June 2004 (10.06.2004), page 1, section [0008]. 1, 16, 19, 33			
A 	05 2004/0111339 A1 (HEIL) 10 Julie 2004 (10.00.20	504), page 1, section (5000).		
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T	US 2004/0215749 A1 (TSAO et al.) 28 October 2004 (28.10.2004), page 1, sections [0004-			
•	0012].	(2000)	, , ,	
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Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.		
		"T" later document published after the inter		
"A" document	defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of	date and not in conflict with the application of the principle or theory underlying the inver-		
	relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the c	laimed invention cannot be	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search				
		Date of mailing of the international search	R	
	(11.05.2008) ulting address of the ISA/US	Authorized officer		
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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450		John Follansbee		
	. Box 1450 xandria, Virginia 22313-1450	Telephone No. (866)217-9197		
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201				

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2007)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT	PCT/IL05/00822
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3: EAST Search	
Search Terms: SAN, boot, virtual	

International application No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (extra sheet) (April 2007)