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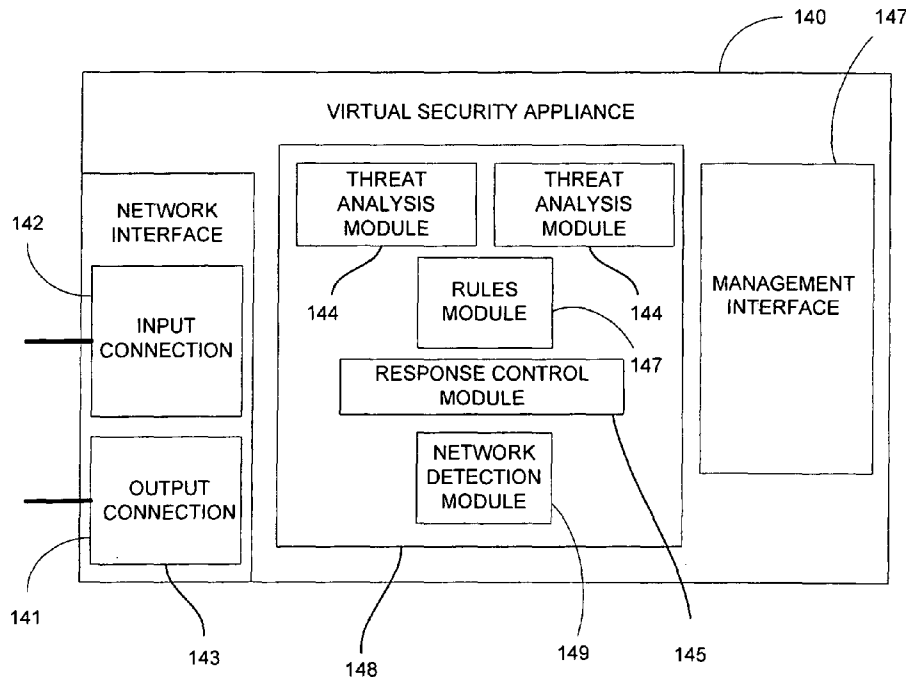
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(57) Abstract: A virtual security appliance (figure 2, 140) is provided for disposition in a virtual network having at least one other virtual network device, the virtual network residing on a host data processing machine. The virtual security appliance comprises an interface configured for receiving a data communication directed to the at least one other virtual network device and a security function module (figure 2, 148) adapted for initiating a security function responsive to said data communication meeting predetermined criteria.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **G06F 9/00(2006.01)**

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 726/15

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 6,154,839 (Arrow et al) 28 November 2000 (28.11.2000), column 6, lines 10-39 and column 8, lines 6-34.	1-41

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

* Special categories of cited documents:	
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