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(54) Title: AN ENHANCED FIELD DEVICE INTEGRATION SYSTEM

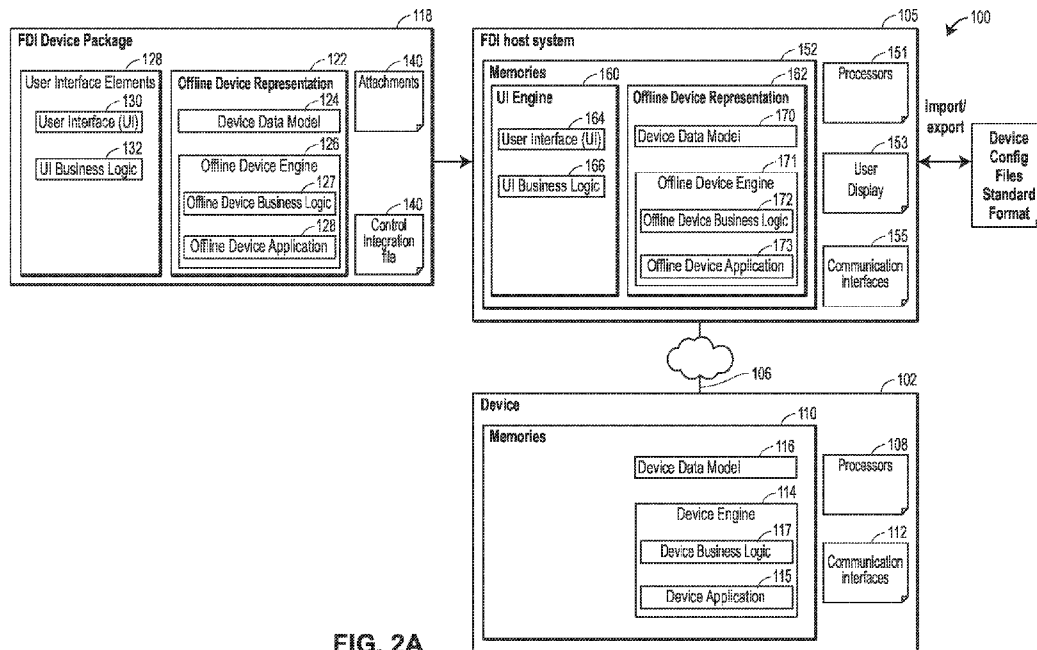


FIG. 2A

(57) Abstract: A field device integration (FDI) system is configured to support the use of OPC UA, OPC UA FX and other flexible (or open) information model based communication protocols in an FDI environment or with an FDI host in a manner that enables the FDI host to fully integrate the support of OPC UA devices with other devices, including other devices that do and that do not support the OPC UA communication protocol. The FDI system design reduces FDI package configuration activities for the OPC UA devices and optimizes the use of the OPC UA data models developed for the OPC UA device within the FDI environment. Still further, the FDI system enables an FDI host to support device communications in both an on-line environment, in which the devices are communicatively connected to the FDI host while operating on-line in a process or factory environment, and in an off-line environment, in which the FDI system simulates or models the operation of a device that is not currently communicatively connected to the FDI host.

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**  
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 See Search History document  
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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. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| A         | WO 2005/109124 A1 (FISHER-ROSEMOUNT SYSTEMS, INC.) 17 November 2005; the entire document. | 1-68                  |
| A         | US 2011/0153786 A1 (MERKEL, J et al.) 23 June 2011; the entire document.                  | 1-68                  |
| A         | US 2008/0028384 A1 (DORN, K et al.) 31 January 2008; the entire document.                 | 1-68                  |
| A         | US 6,138,174 A (KEELEY, T) 24 October 2000; the entire document.                          | 1-68                  |

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