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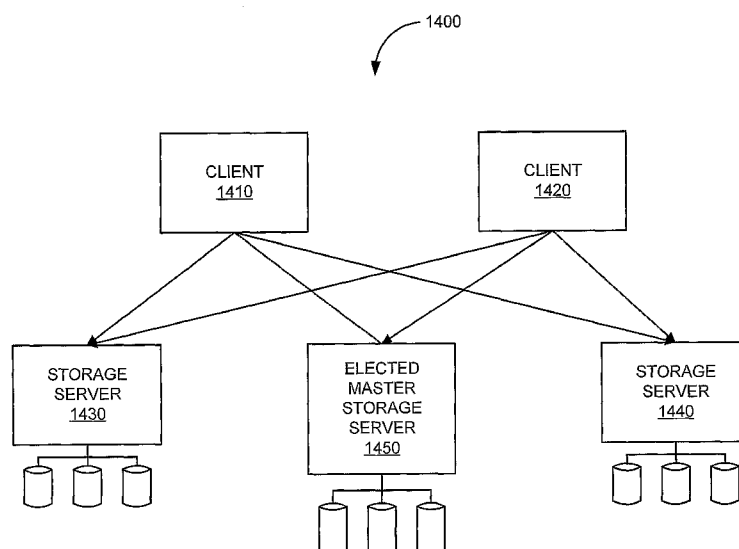
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SCALABLE DISTRIBUTED FILE STORAGE ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT



(57) Abstract: A method of performing remote file operations is disclosed. The method includes receiving a file task description that identifies a remote file, an operation to be performed, and a current status associated with the file task description. A set of persistent work queues associated with a plurality of storage servers is provided that include one or more file task descriptions. An elected work manager is provided that accepts remote file operation requests and translates the requests into corresponding tasks to be placed in the set of work queues. A background replication agent associated with each storage server in the plurality of storage servers is provided. A replication agent monitors a work queue in the set of work queue for an associated storage server and accepts requests in the work queue. The agent performs the accepted tasks using file system independent mechanisms, and updates the status of each task.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. :

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)
WEST (US PG PUB, US PT, EPO, JPO, DERWENT & IBM TDB).

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,718,347 A (Wilson) 6 April 2004 (06.04.2004), see the entire prior art.	2-6, 8-14, 16-22, 24, 26-29, 31-32, 34-43 & 45-48 ----- 1, 25, 30, 33 & 44
Y	US Pub. 20020156613 (Geng et al) 24 October (24.10.2002), see the entire prior art.	1, 25, 30, 33 & 44
Y	US Pub. 20010039548 (Shinkai et al) 08 November 2001 (08.11.2001), see the entire prior art.	7, 15 & 23



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