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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING SECURITY IN A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK**

(75) Inventors: **Mark Moriconi**, Atherton, CA (US);
Shelly Qian, Cupertino, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Bea Systems, Inc.**, San Jose, CA (US)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **726/27; 726/1; 709/223**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **726/27**
See application file for complete search history.

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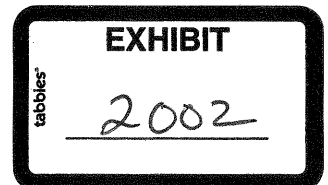
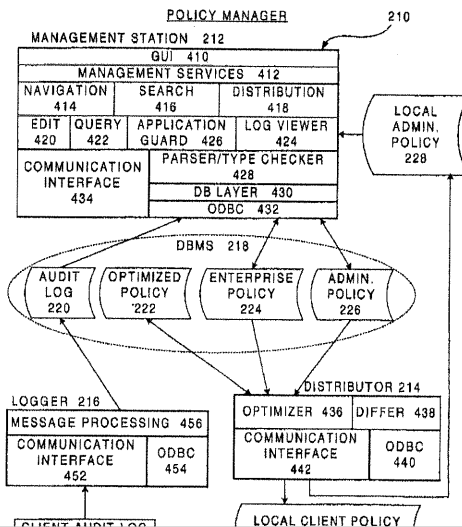
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Primary Examiner—Nasser Moazzami
Assistant Examiner—Brandon S Hoffman
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Fliesler Meyer LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprises a policy manager located on a server for managing and distributing a security policy, and an application guard located on a client for managing access to securable components as specified by the security policy. In the preferred embodiment, a global policy specifies access privileges of the user to securable components. The policy manager may then preferably distribute a local client policy based on the global policy to the client. An application guard located on the client then manages access to the securable components as specified by the local policy.

21 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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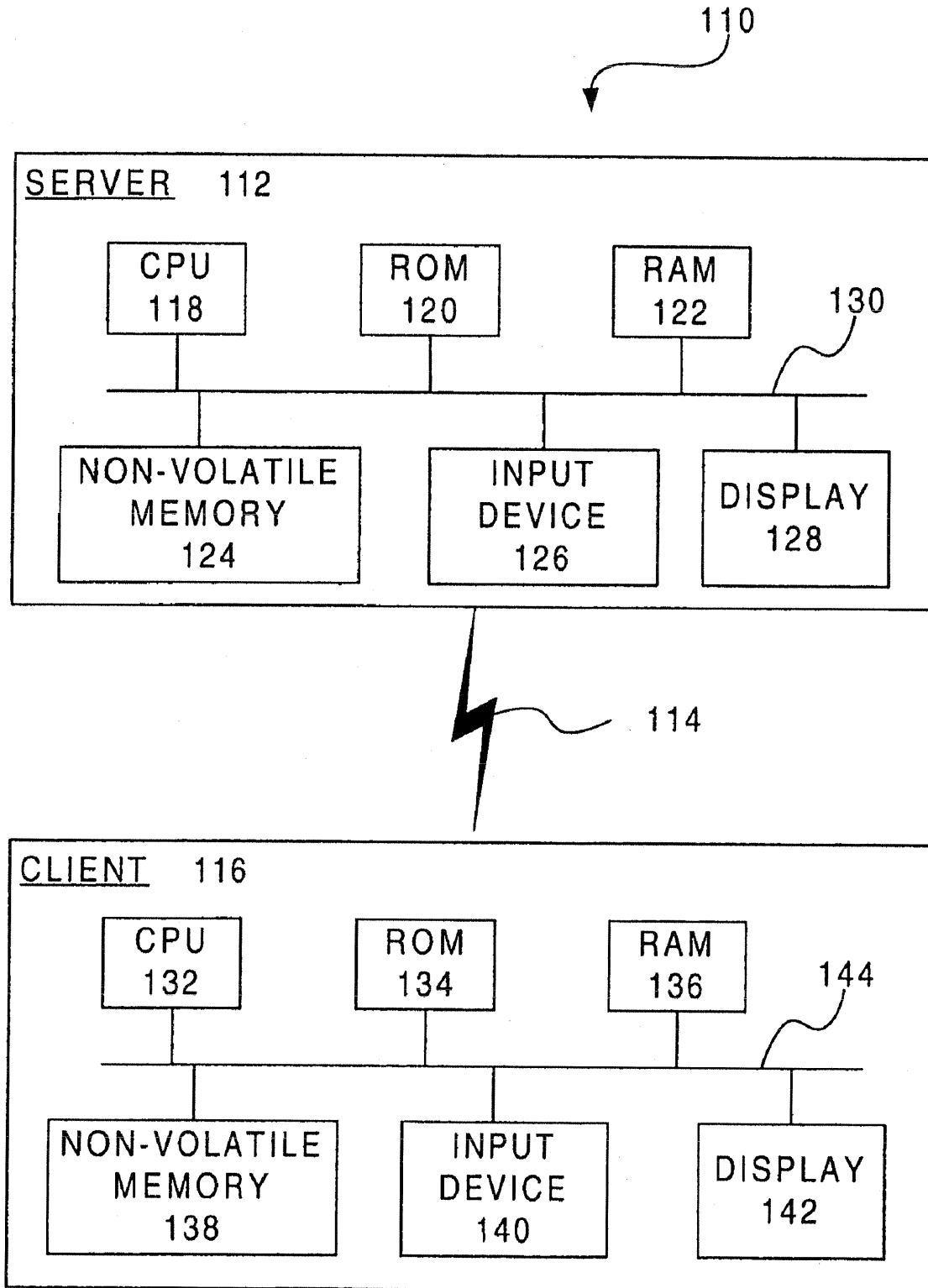


FIG. 1

SERVER

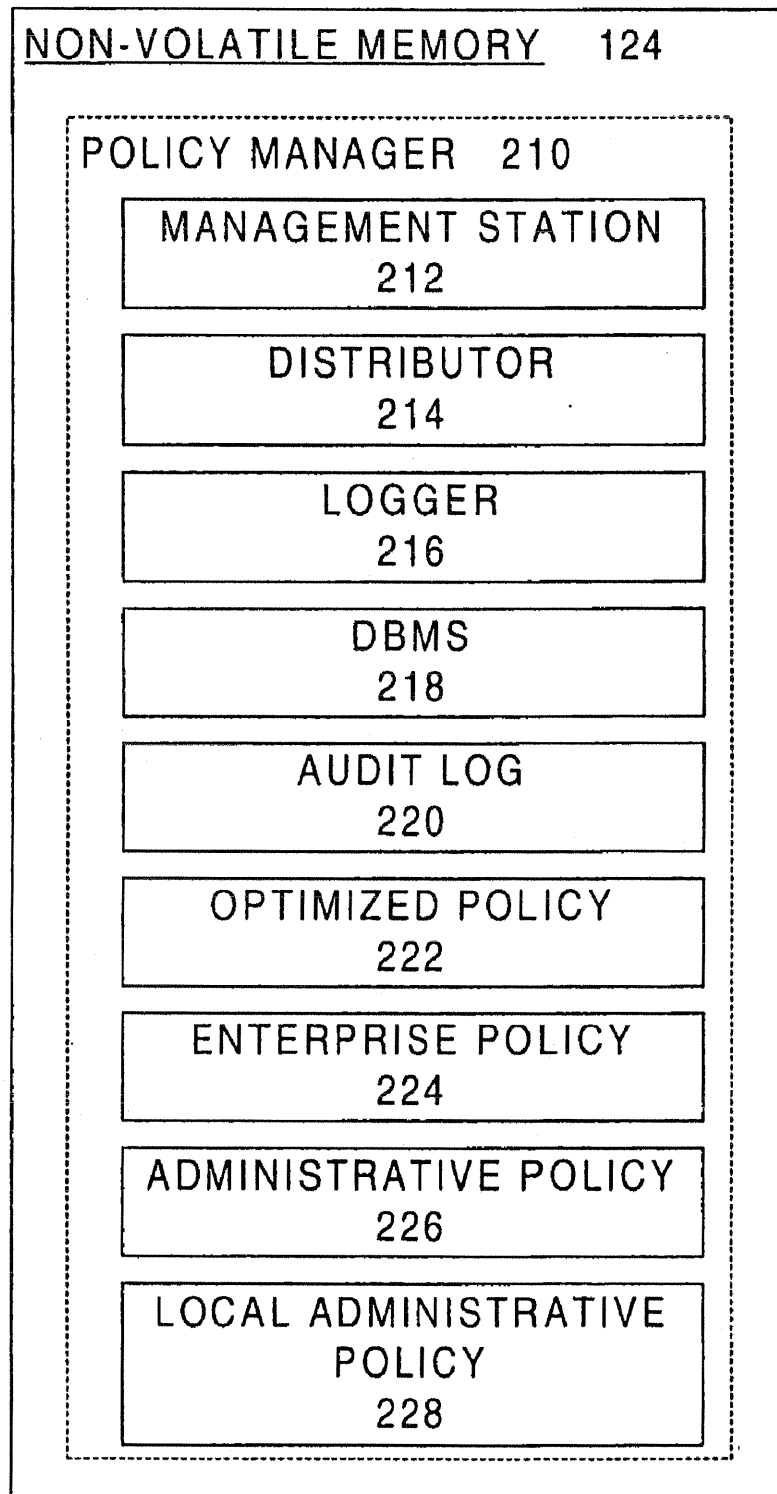


FIG. 2

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