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Sobel

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(54) **CONTROLLABLE DEPLOYMENT OF SOFTWARE UPDATES**

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G06F 9/44 (2006.01)
G06F 9/445 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/203**; 717/177; 717/172; 708/250

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 717/172, 717/177; 707/203
See application file for complete search history.

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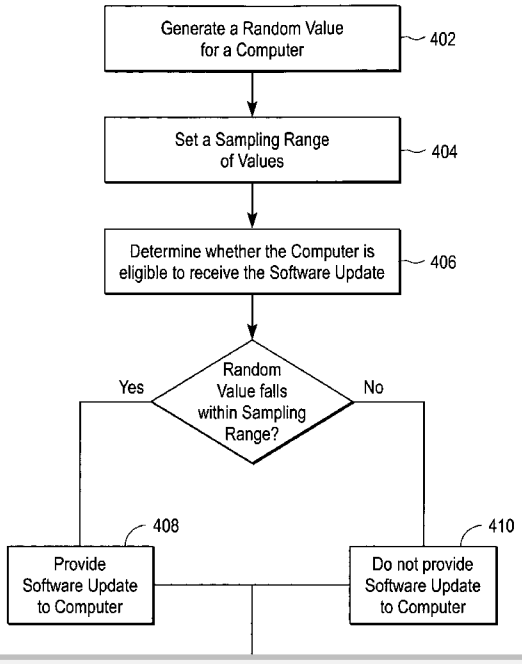
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The risk of inadvertent introduction of software bugs to a large number of users during a software update is minimized by controlling updates using a uniform mechanism of sending updates to seed users. A value-generating module generates a value for a computer, the value falling within a population range of values. A sampling range-generating module generates a sampling range of values as a proper subset of the population range, the probability of the random value falling within the sampling range being predetermined. An eligibility determination module determines whether the computer is eligible to receive a software update, the computer being determined eligible when the random value for the computer falls within the sampling range, and an update module provides the software update to the computer based on the eligibility determination. In some embodiments, a problem review module determines whether the update has caused a problem for computers receiving the update.

26 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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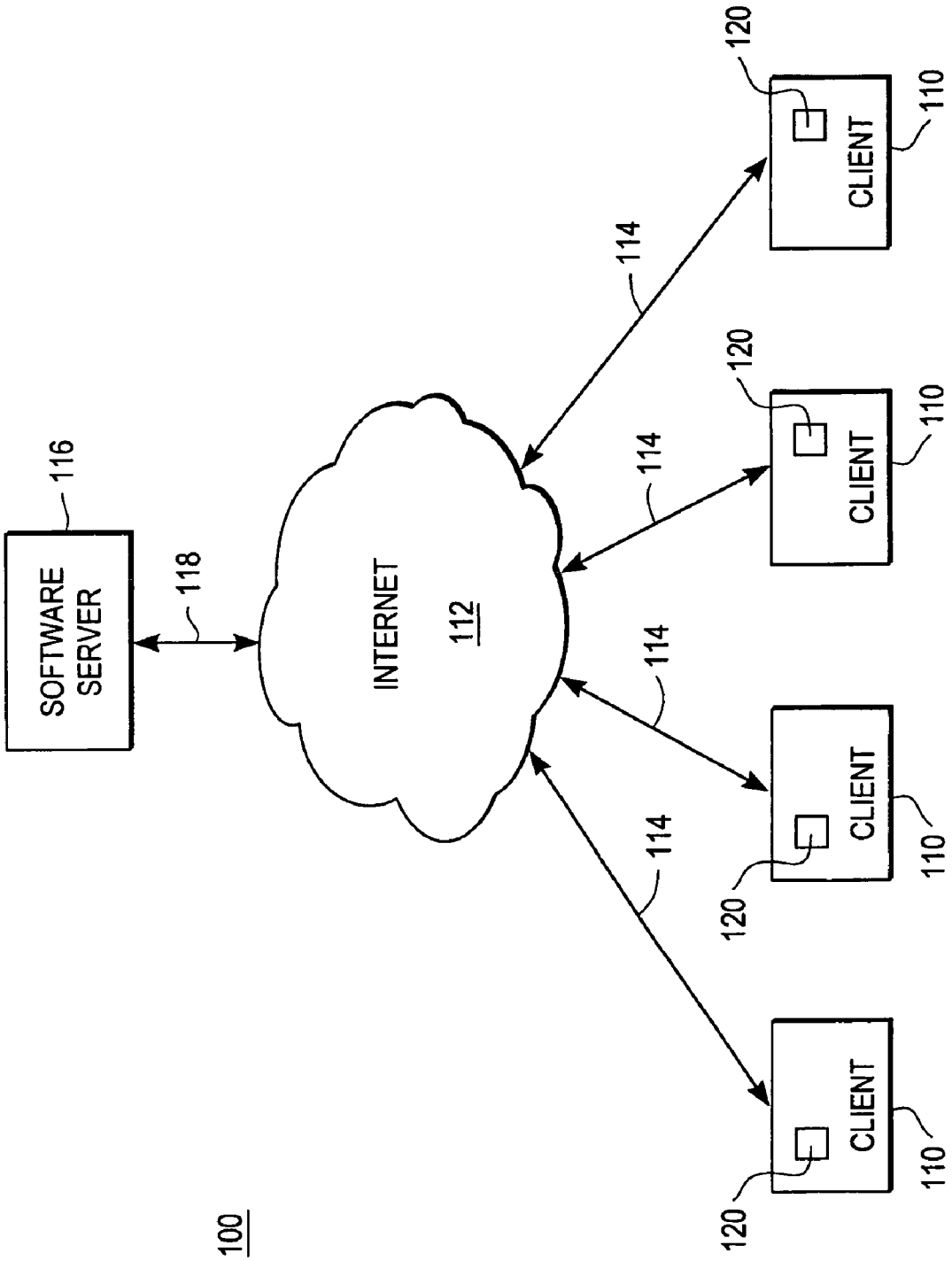

FIG. 1

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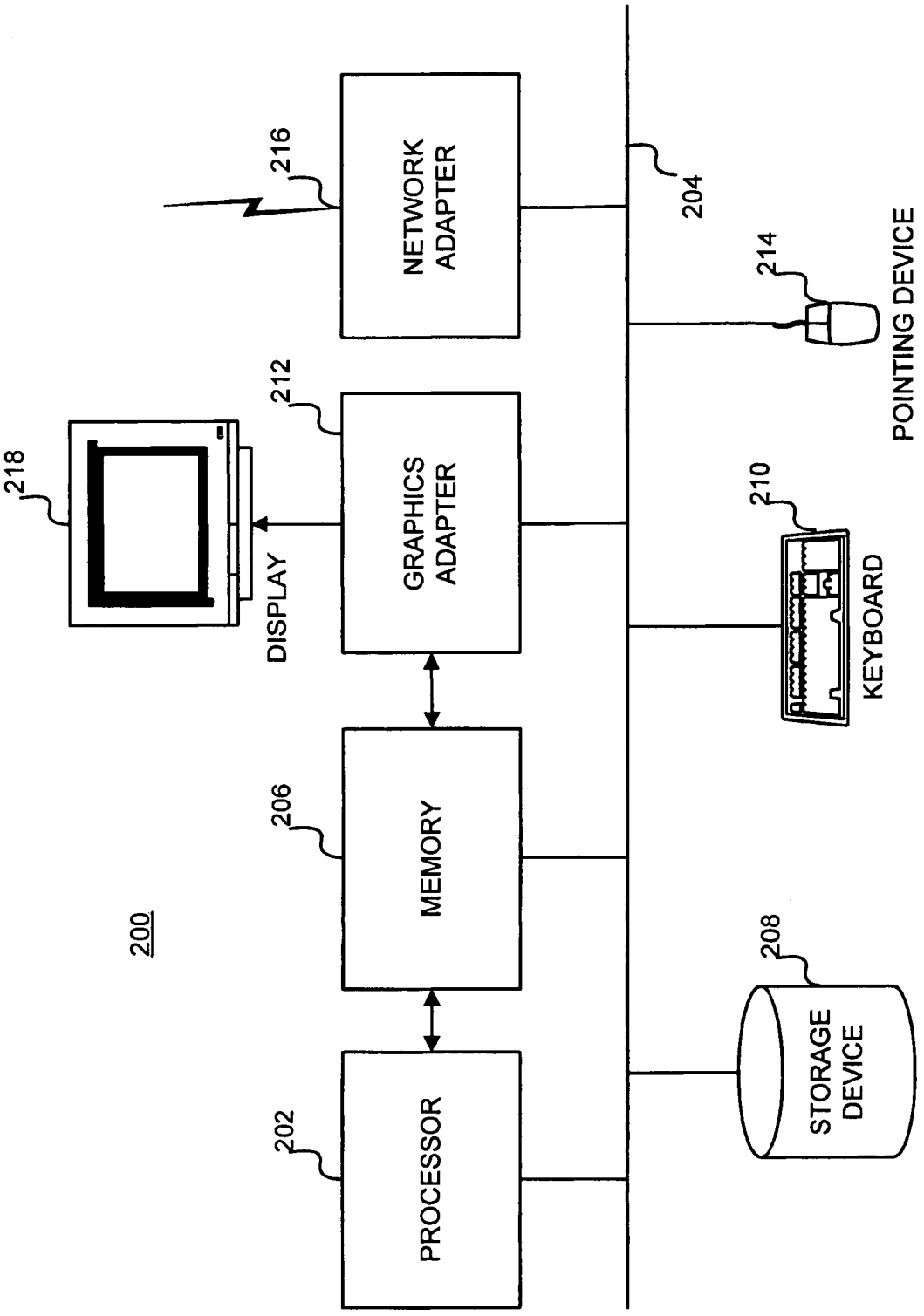

FIG. 2

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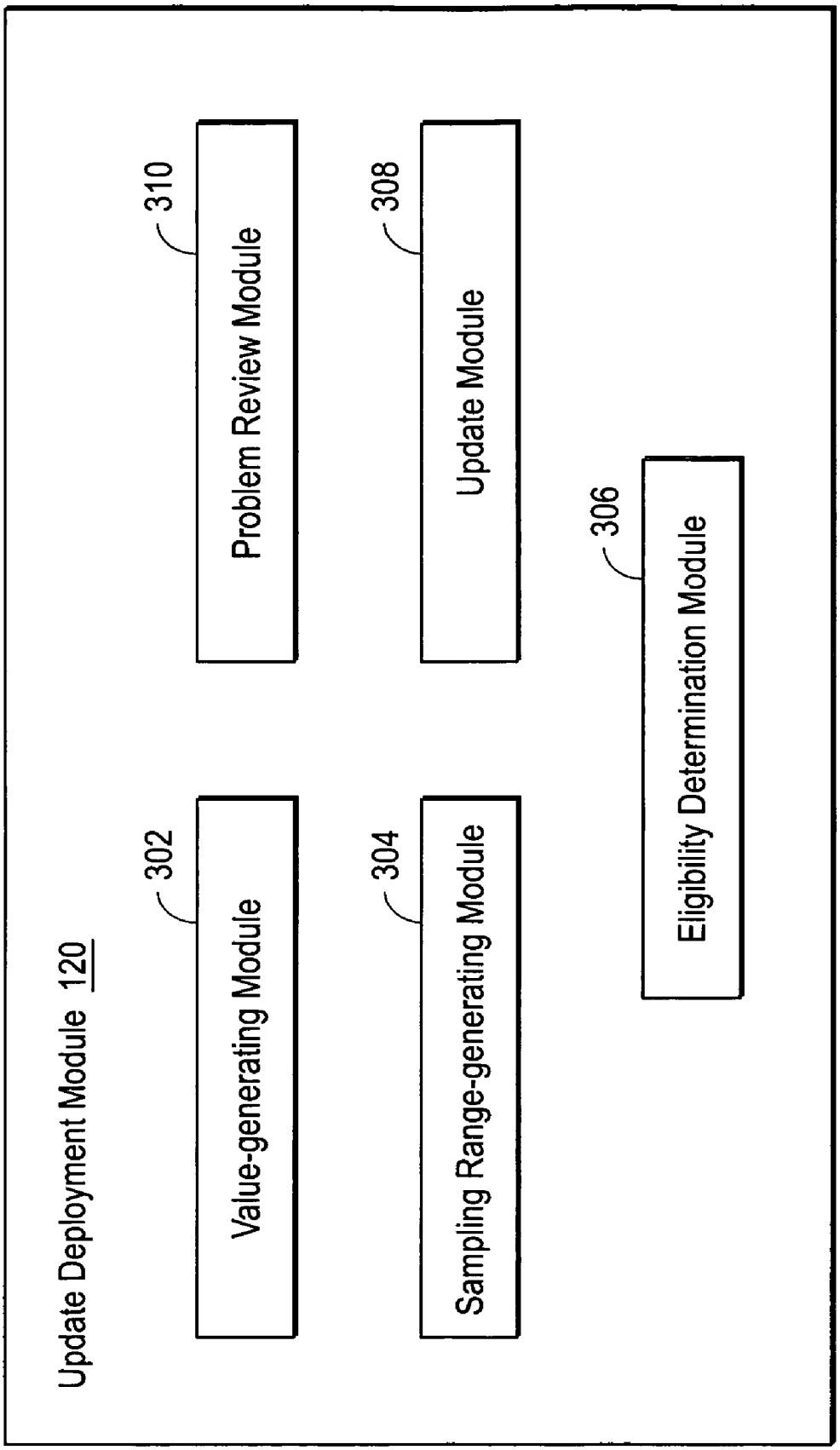

FIG. 3

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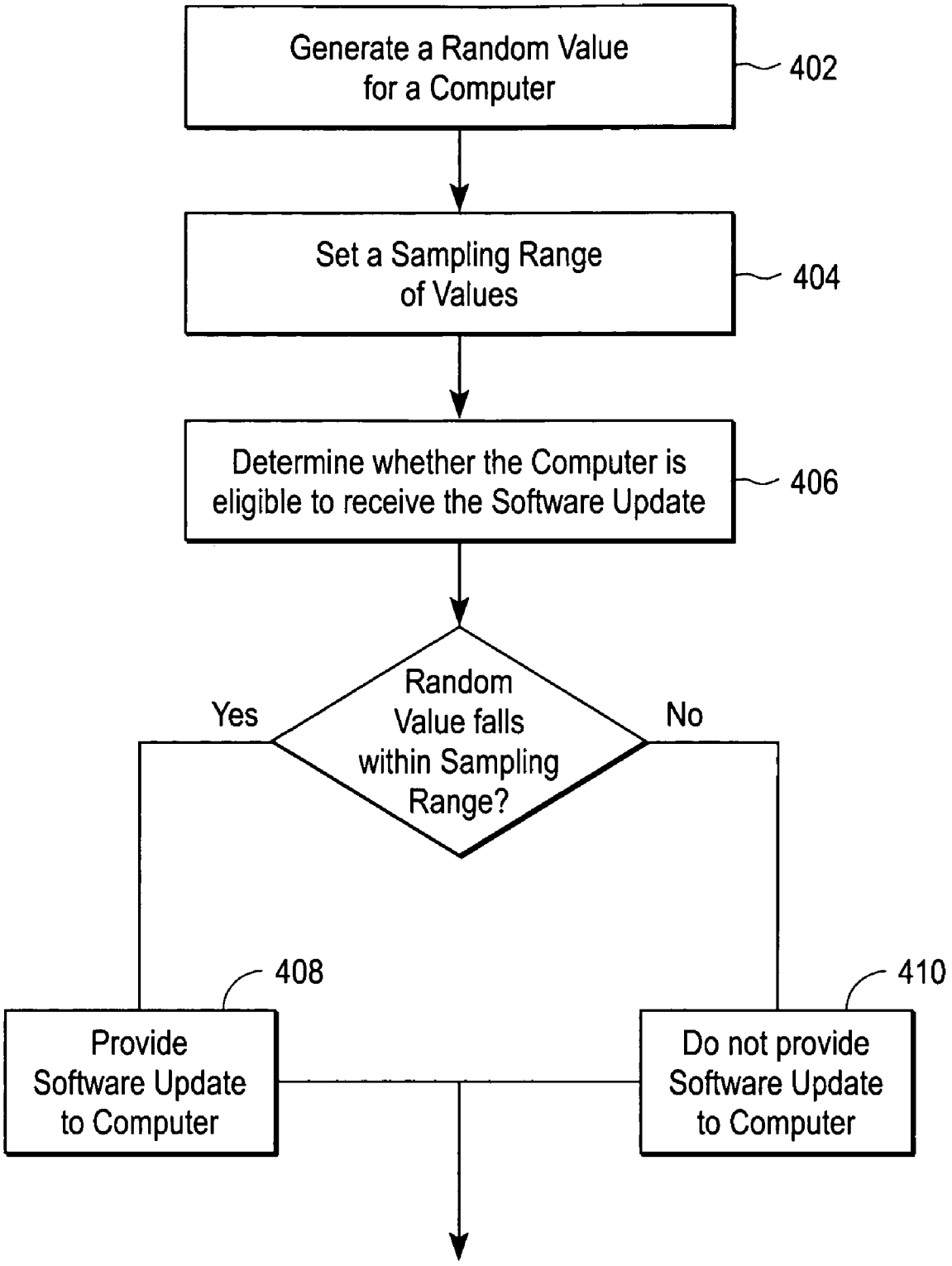

FIG. 4

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