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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING, AGGREGATING, AND COALESCING NETWORK DISCOVERY DATA**

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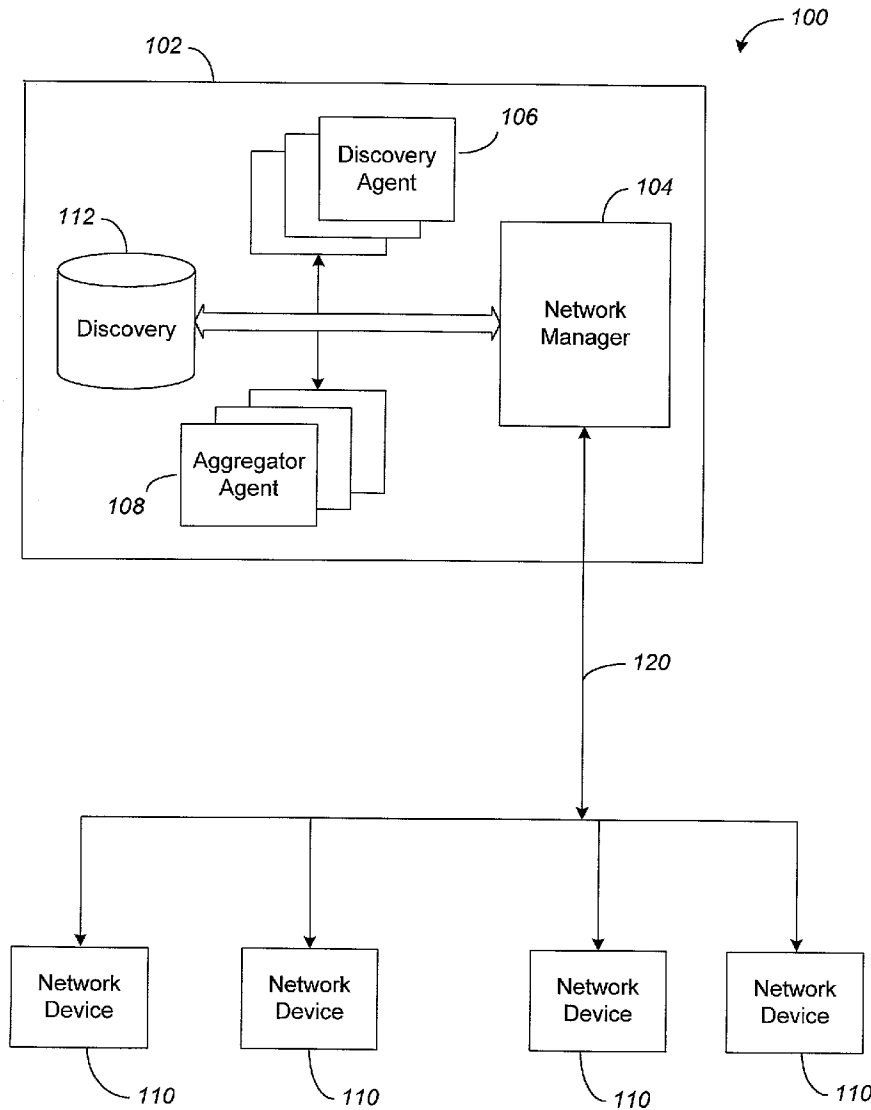
(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **G06F 15/173**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/224; 709/223**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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In an embodiment, a network management system is capable of performing a coordinated discovery operation on devices in a network using a number of discovery and aggregator agents. Data collected and generated by the agents may be coalesced into a database file. New agents may be added to the system as plug-ins by registering an XML file with a network manager.

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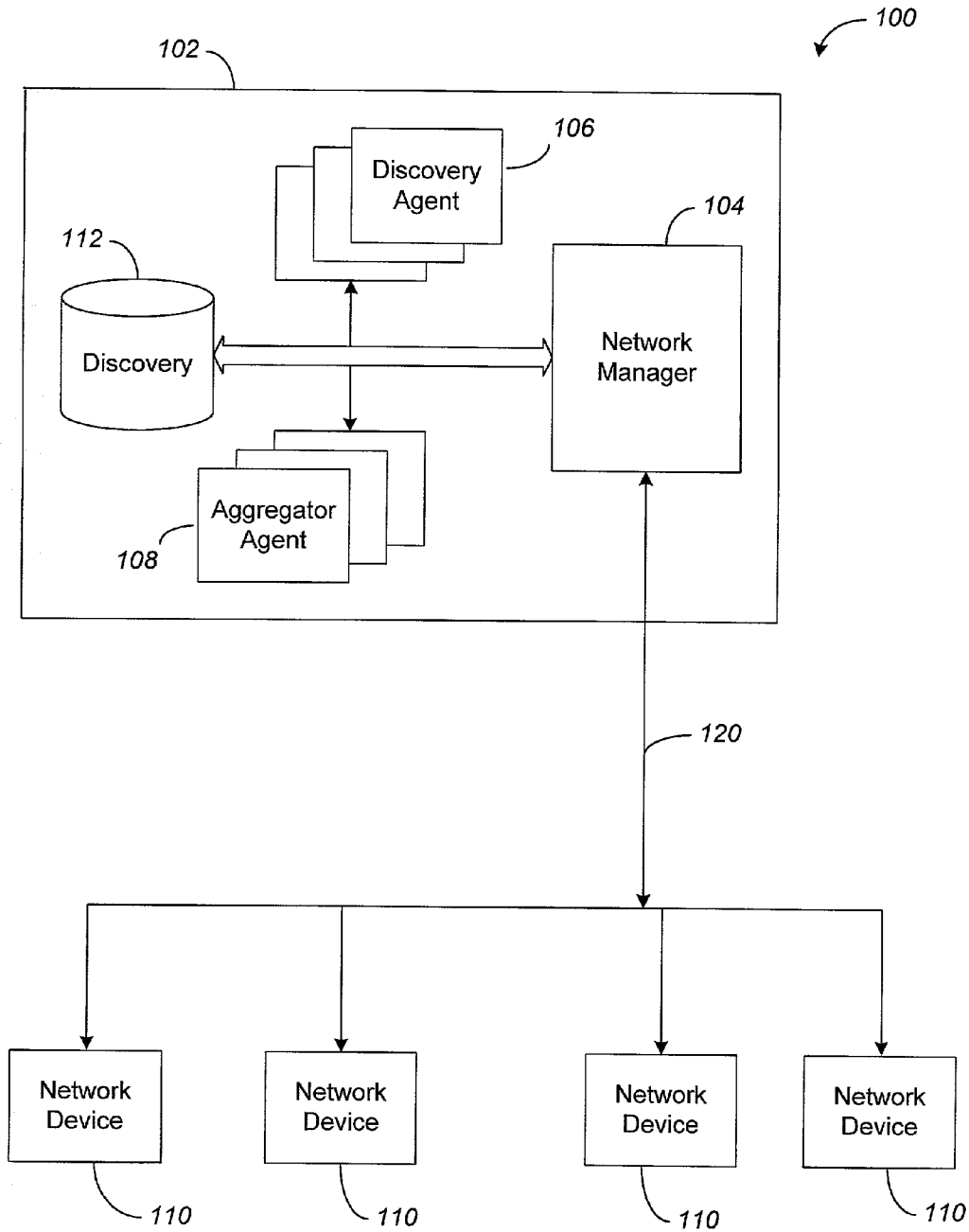


FIG. 1

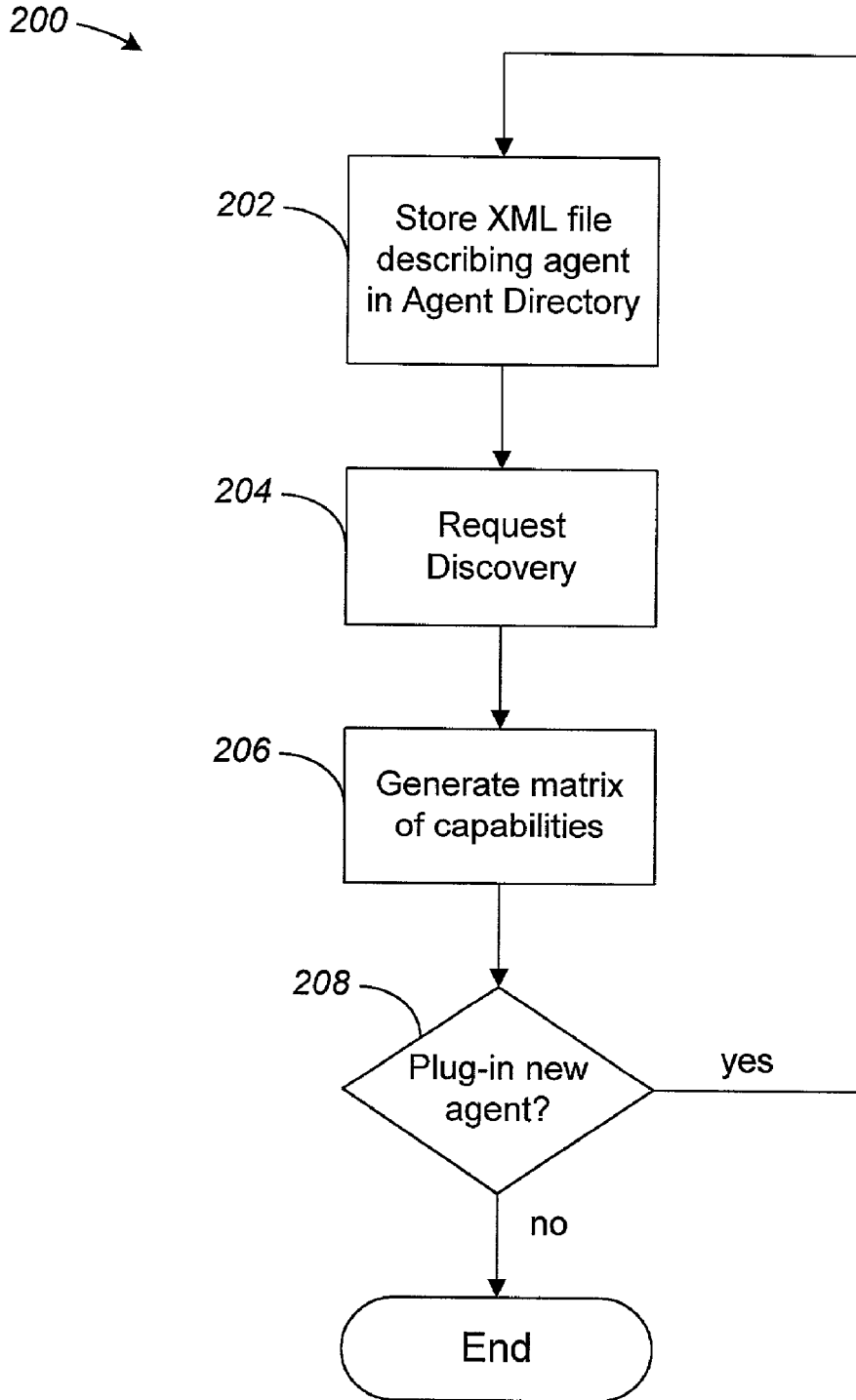


FIG. 2

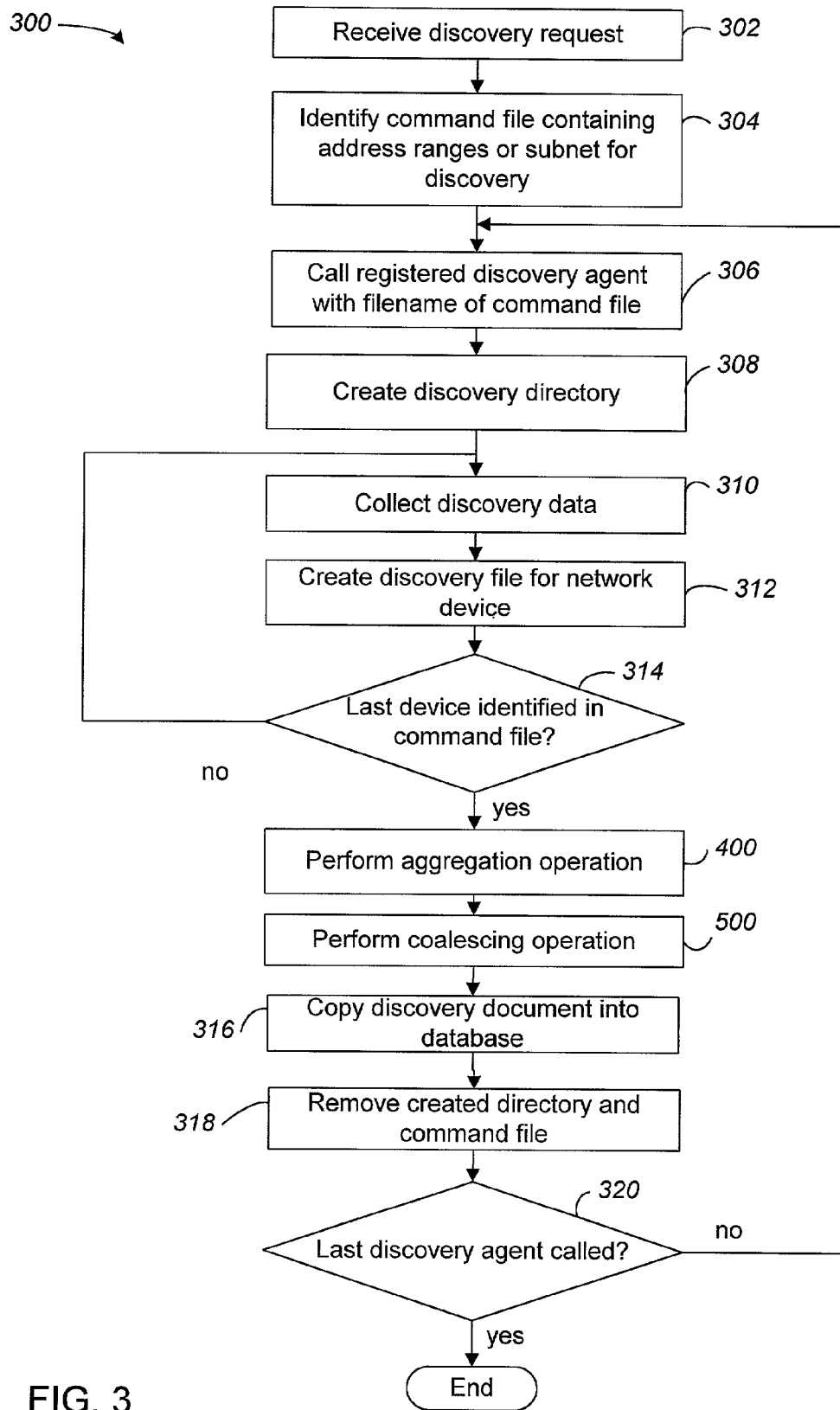


FIG. 3

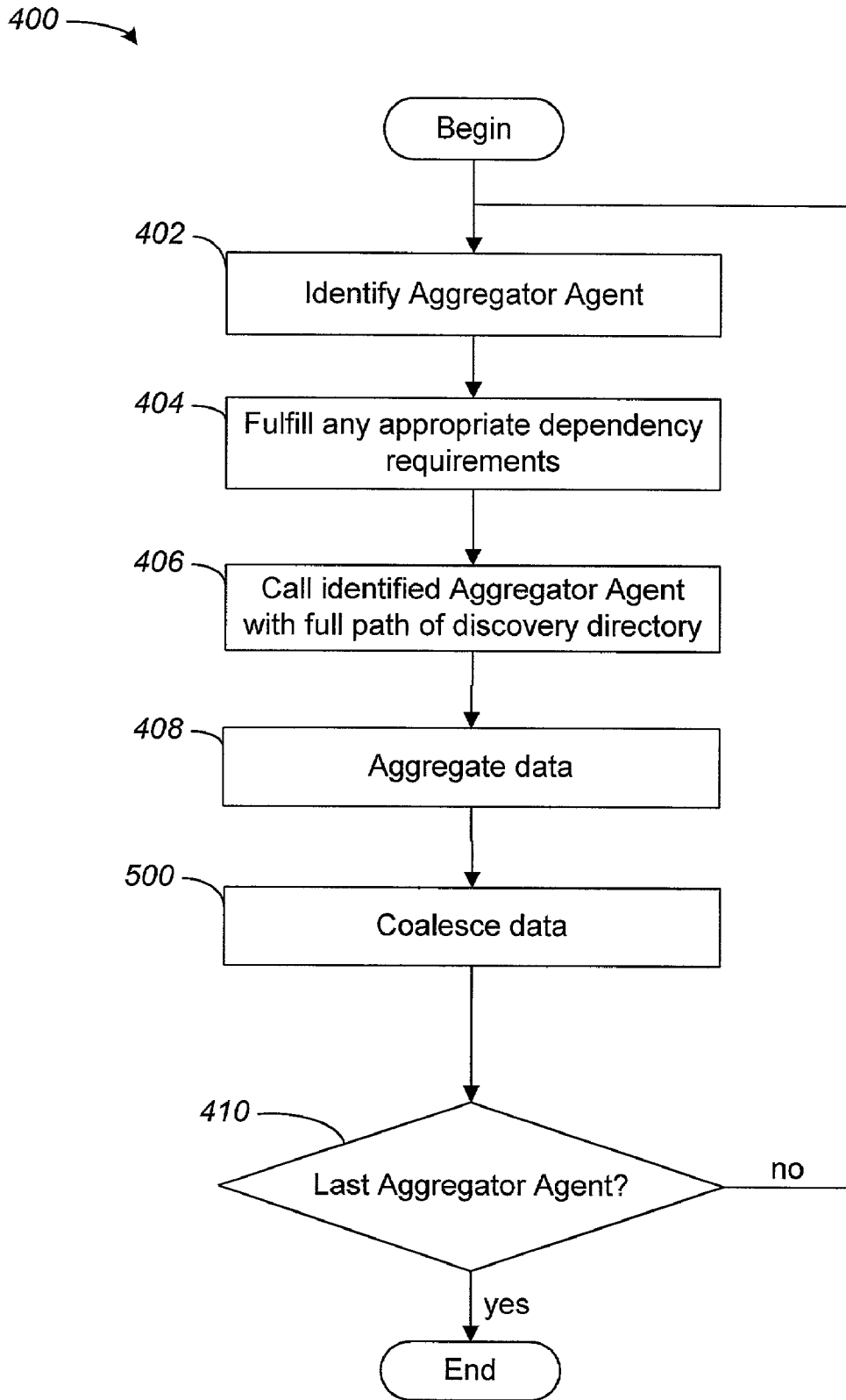


FIG. 4

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