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United States Patent [19]

Franklin et al.

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[54] **LICENSING CONTROLLER USING NETWORK DIRECTORY SERVICES**

[75] Inventors: **Nicholas Huston Franklin**, Lehi; **Bill Guy Bodine**, Orem; **Randall R. Cook**, Springville; **Calvin R. Gaisford**, Provo; **Matthew G. Brooks**, Orem; **Carla M. Heesch**, Spring Lake; **Kelly E. Sonderegger**, Santaquin, all of Utah

[73] Assignee: **Novell, Inc.**, Provo, Utah

[21] Appl. No.: **08/970,069**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 13, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/786,918, Jan. 22, 1997, Pat. No. 5,893,118.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[7] **G06F 15/173**; G06F 17/00
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **709/229**; 709/217; 709/223; 709/224; 709/225; 709/226; 395/712
[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.59, 200.11, 395/610, 200.03, 200.56, 187.01, 712; 707/203, 200, 204, 10

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Primary Examiner—Dung C. Dinh
Assistant Examiner—Abdullahi Elmi Salad
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Madson & Metcalf

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A directory services system includes a resource object, such as an application object for accessing a resource associated with the resource object. Attributes of the resource object contain licensing control information. The licensing attributes may be used by executables to control access by a user to properly licensed instances of a resource corresponding to the resource object. Also, a utility may be provided to manage the licensing attributes in the resource object. A licensing function may thus control a resource, via its resource object in the directory services database. Licensing maybe easily implemented by setting a new disabling attribute in the object.
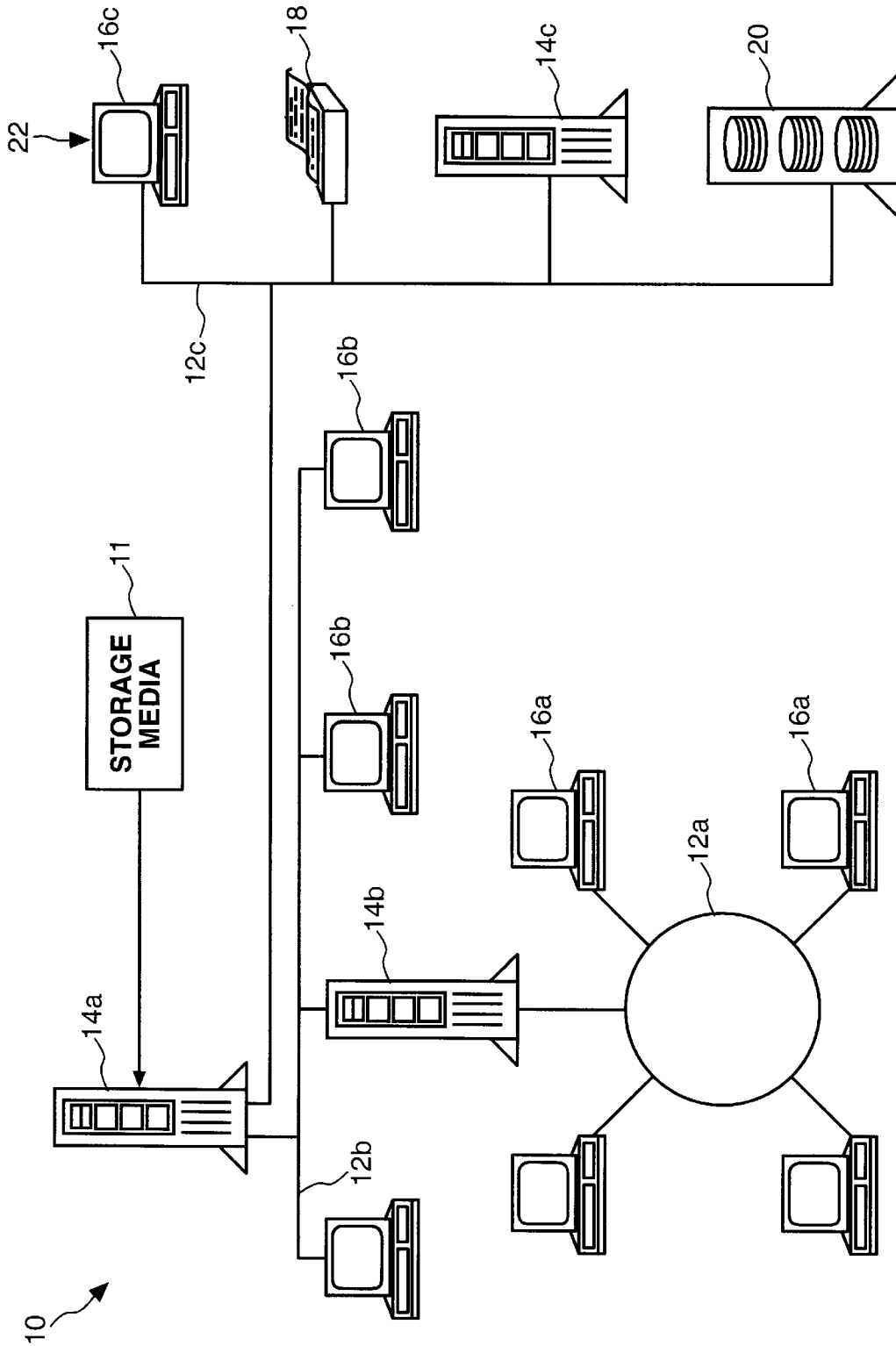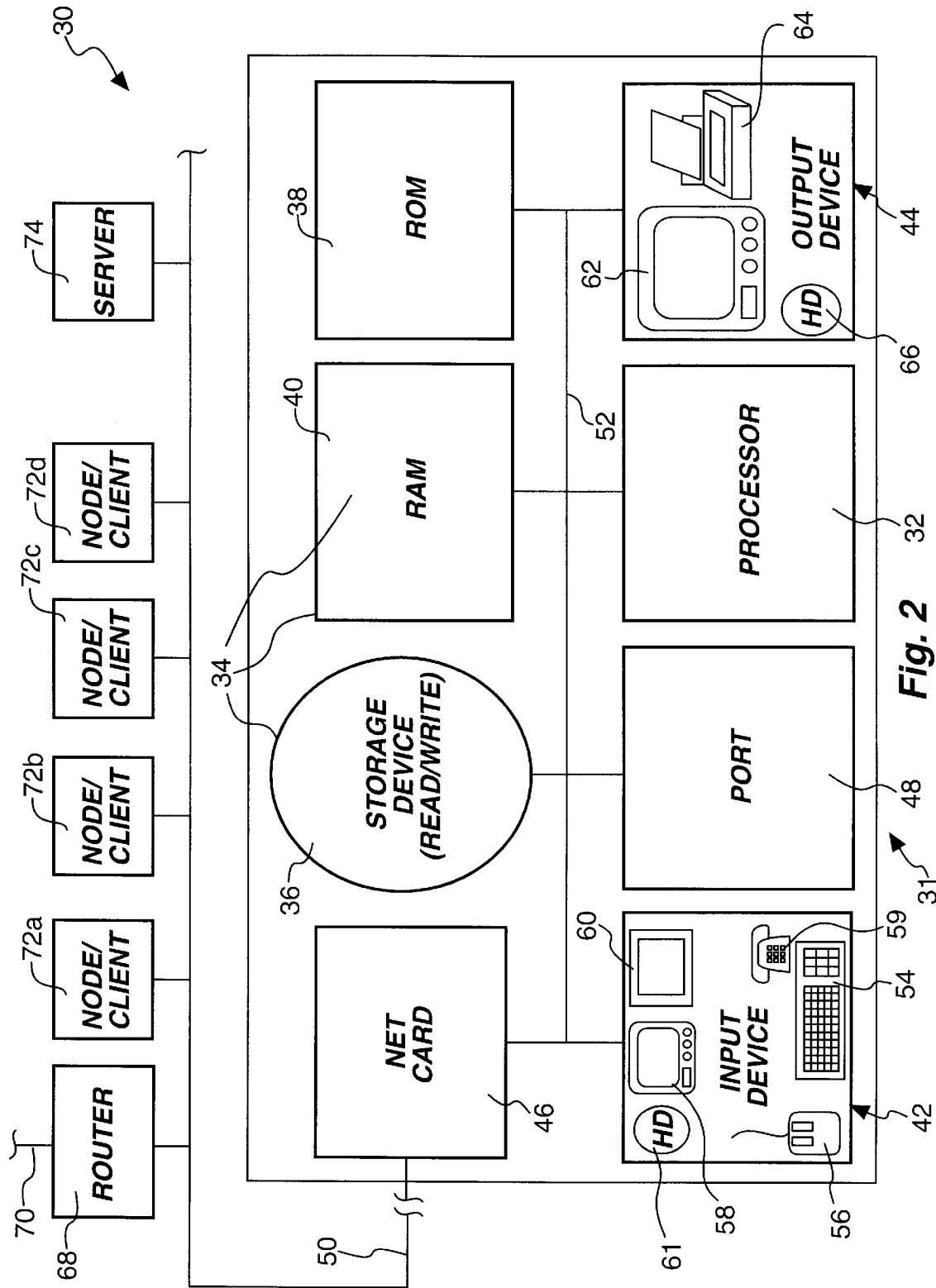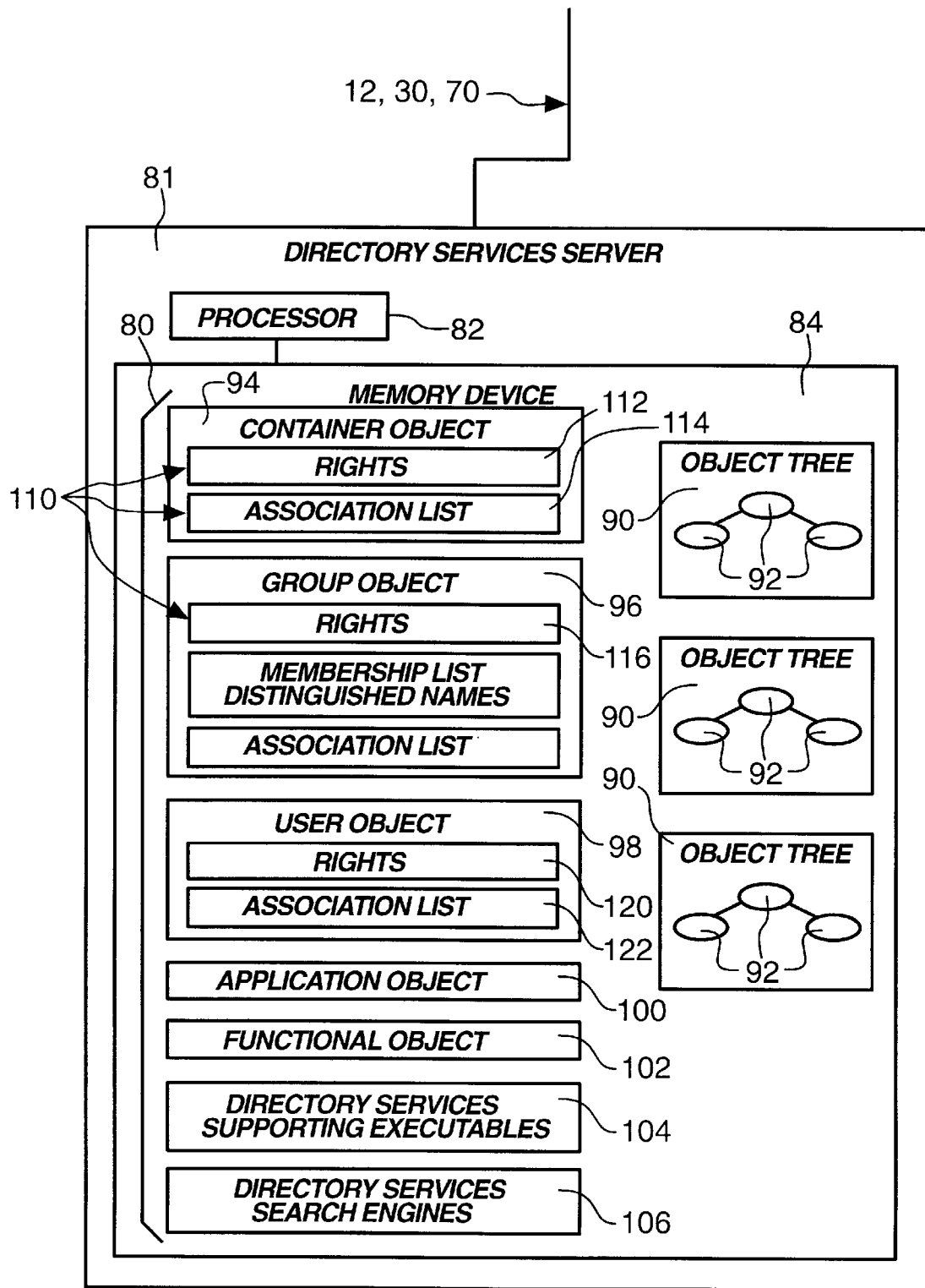
20 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

94

CONTAINER OBJECT

ATTRIBUTES

OWN DISTINGUISHED — 124

CONTAINED CONTAINER OBJECTS — 126
DISTINGUISHED NAMES

— 110

LEAF OBJECTS' DISTINGUISHED NAMES — 128

ASSOCIATION LIST — 114

APPLICATION OBJECT — 130
DISTINGUISHED NAMES

TYPE-A OBJECT — 132
DISTINGUISHED NAMES

TYPE-B OBJECT — 134
DISTINGUISHED NAME

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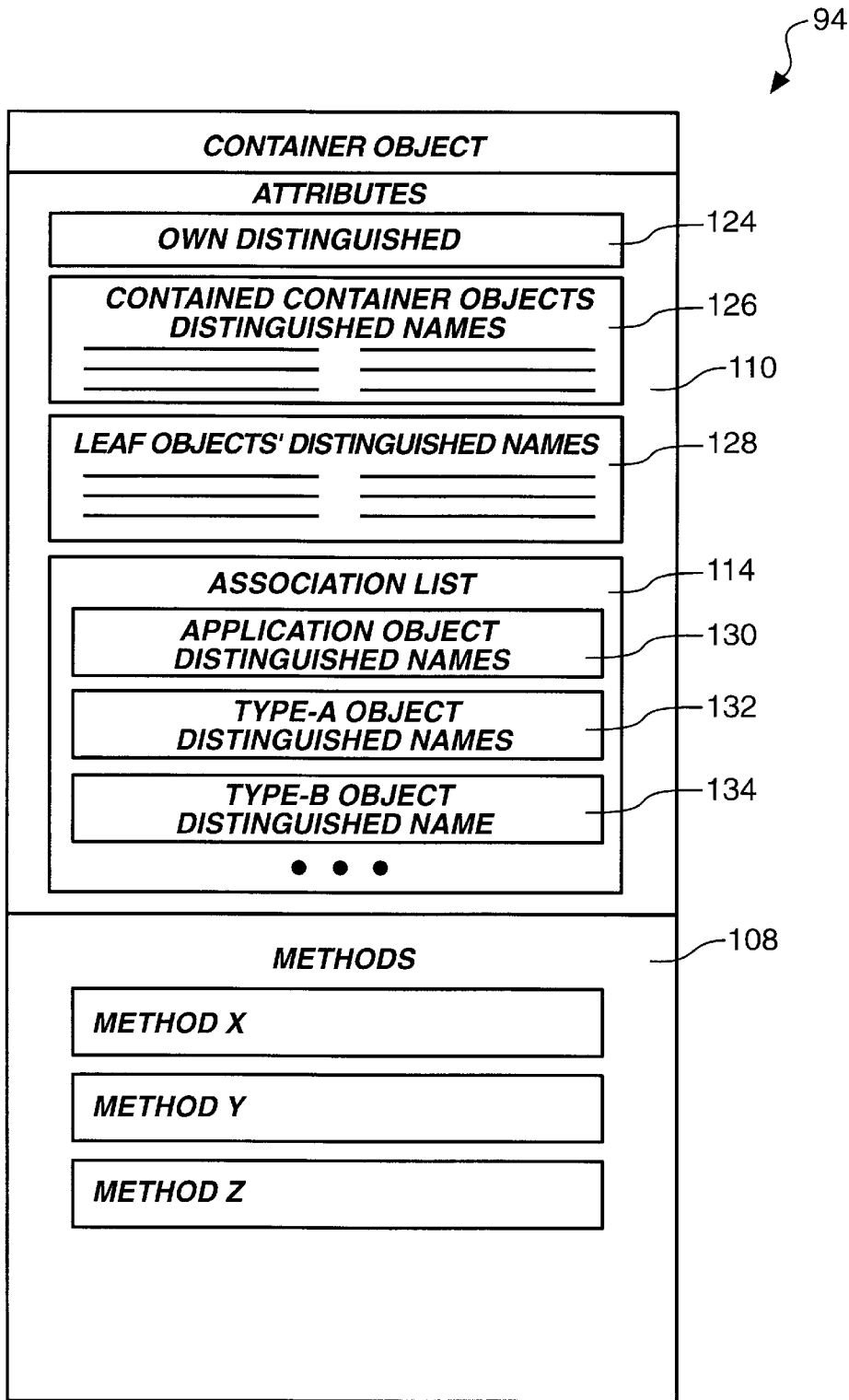METHODS — 108

METHOD X

METHOD Y

METHOD Z
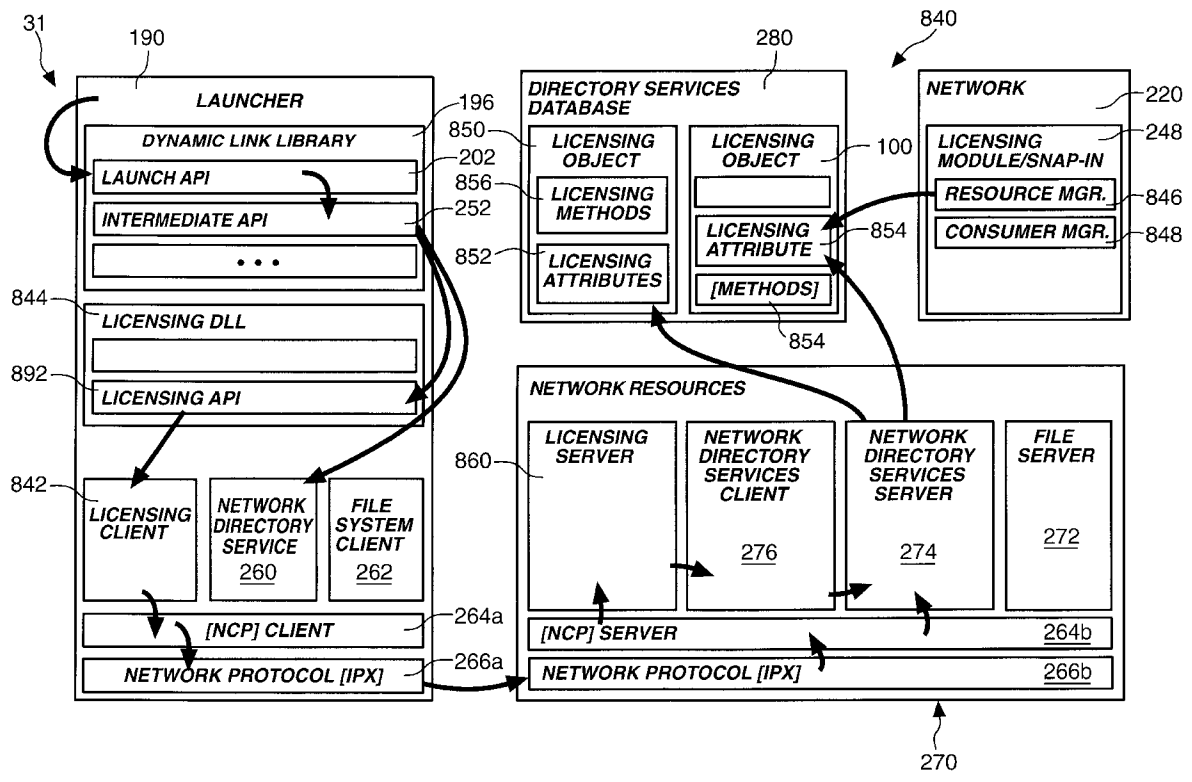
Fig. 4

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