

United States Patent [19]

Shipman et al.

5,852,736 [11] **Patent Number:**

*Dec. 22, 1998 **Date of Patent:** [45]

[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROTECTING DATA USING LOCK VALUES IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM

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[73] Assignee: Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, Calif.

[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued pros-

ecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C.

154(a)(2).

[21] Appl. No.: 623,930

Mar. 28, 1996 [22] Filed:

395/481, 961, 520, 326, 856

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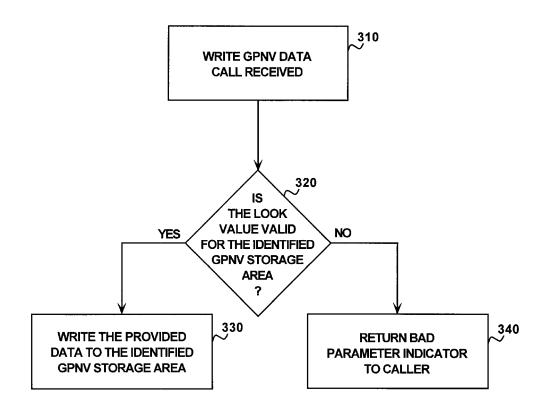
Desktop Management Interface Specification Draft 3.8.2, Mar. 5, 1993.

Primary Examiner—Mehmet B. Geckil Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

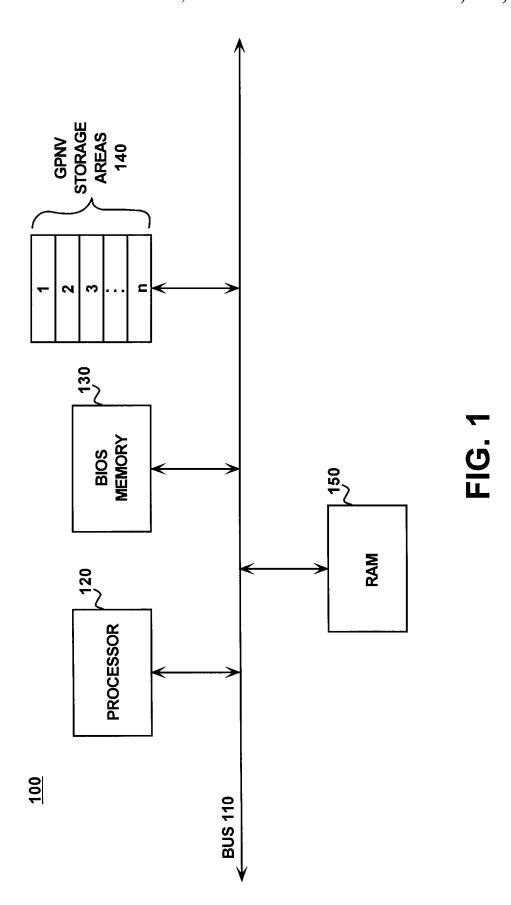
ABSTRACT [57]

A method and apparatus for protecting data using lock values in a computer system includes indicating that the computer system does not support locked accesses to the data. However, upon receipt of a request to write to the storage area where the data is contained, the present invention checks whether a lock value corresponding to the request matches a predetermined lock value. If the lock value matches the predetermined lock value, then the data is written to the storage area; otherwise, the storage area is left unmodified.

23 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets







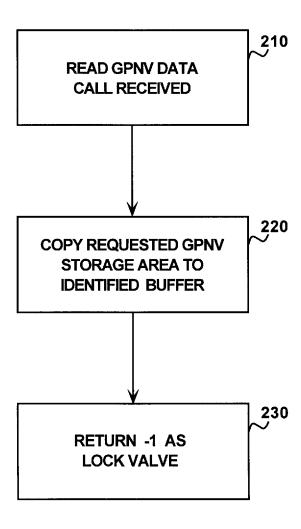


FIG. 2

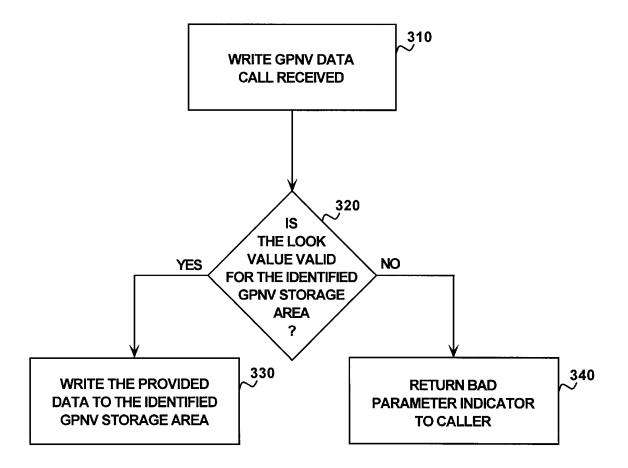
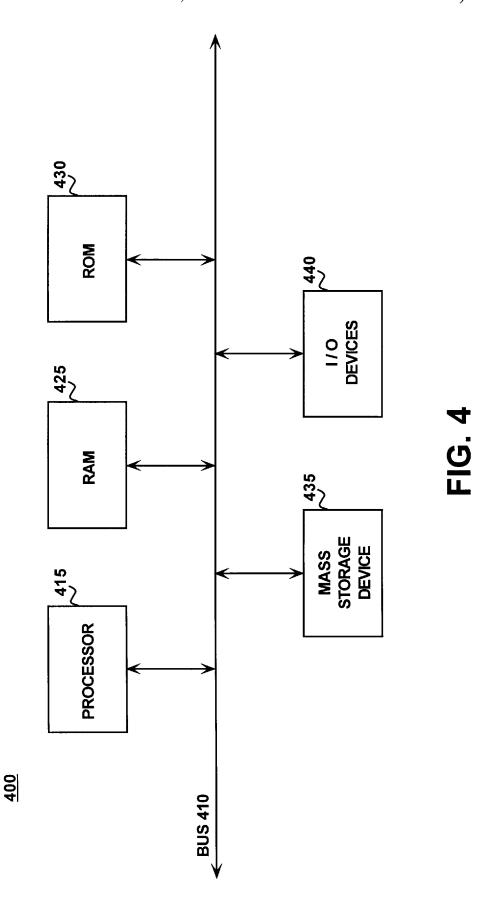


FIG. 3



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