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(54) **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ACCESSING REMOTE STORAGE THROUGH USE OF A LOCAL DEVICE**

(75) Inventors: **Joshua L. Coates**, Orinda, CA (US);
Patrick E. Bozeman, San Francisco, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Intel Corporation**, Santa Clara, CA (US)

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 17/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/10; 707/4**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **707/1-10, 707/100-102, 200-206; 709/200-203**
See application file for complete search history.

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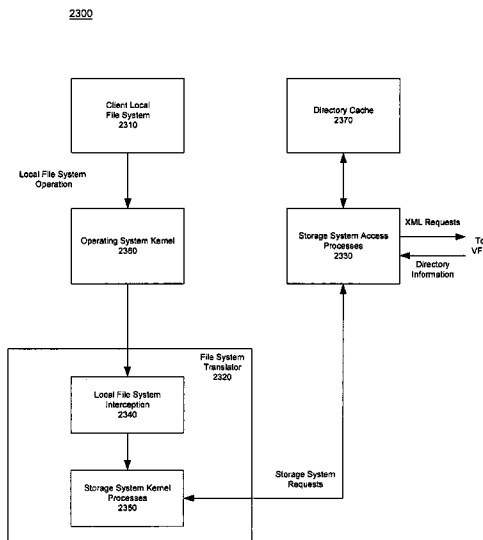
Primary Examiner—Joon Hwan Hwang

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Caroline M. Fleming

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A network storage system includes a virtual file system (“VFS”), to manage the files of the network storage system, and a storage center that stores the files. The VFS and the storage center are separated, such that a client accesses the VFS to conduct file system operations and the client accesses the storage center to upload/download files. The client accesses the network storage system through one or more storage ports. The storage center includes a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) and a storage cluster that includes a plurality of intelligent storage nodes. The network storage system includes additional storage centers at geographically disparate locations. The network storage system uses a multi-cast protocol to maintain file information at the DOSMs regarding files stored in the intelligent storage nodes, including files stored in disparate storage centers.

23 Claims, 32 Drawing Sheets



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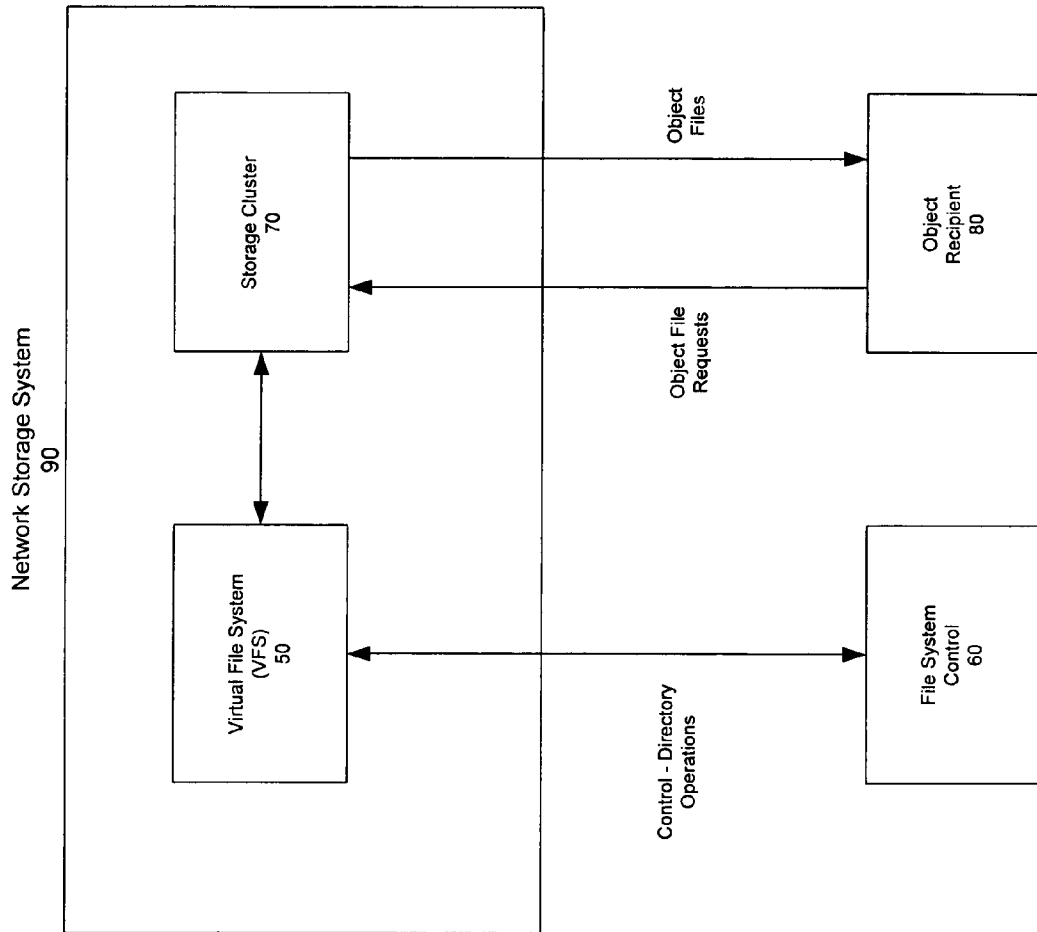


Figure 1

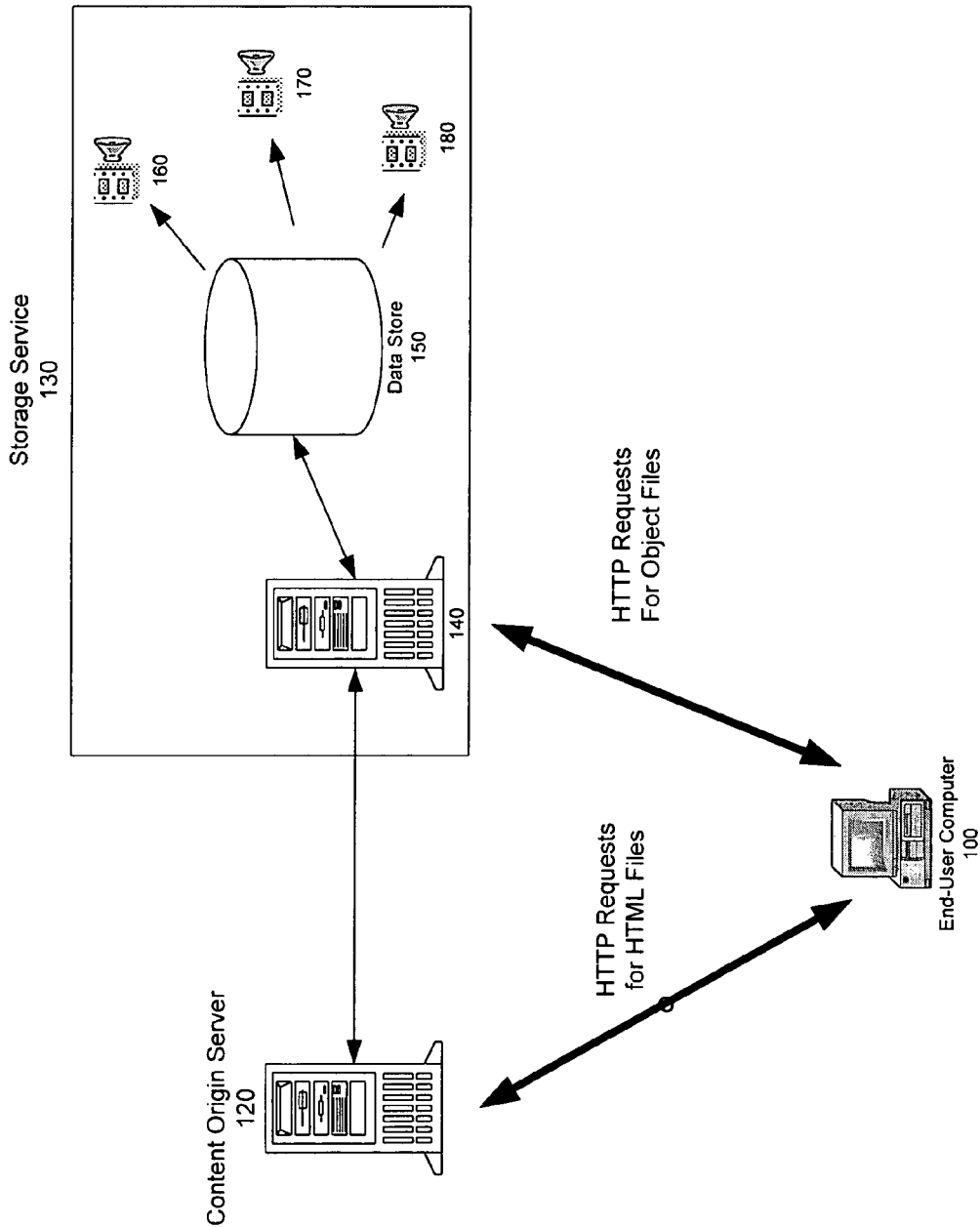


Figure 2

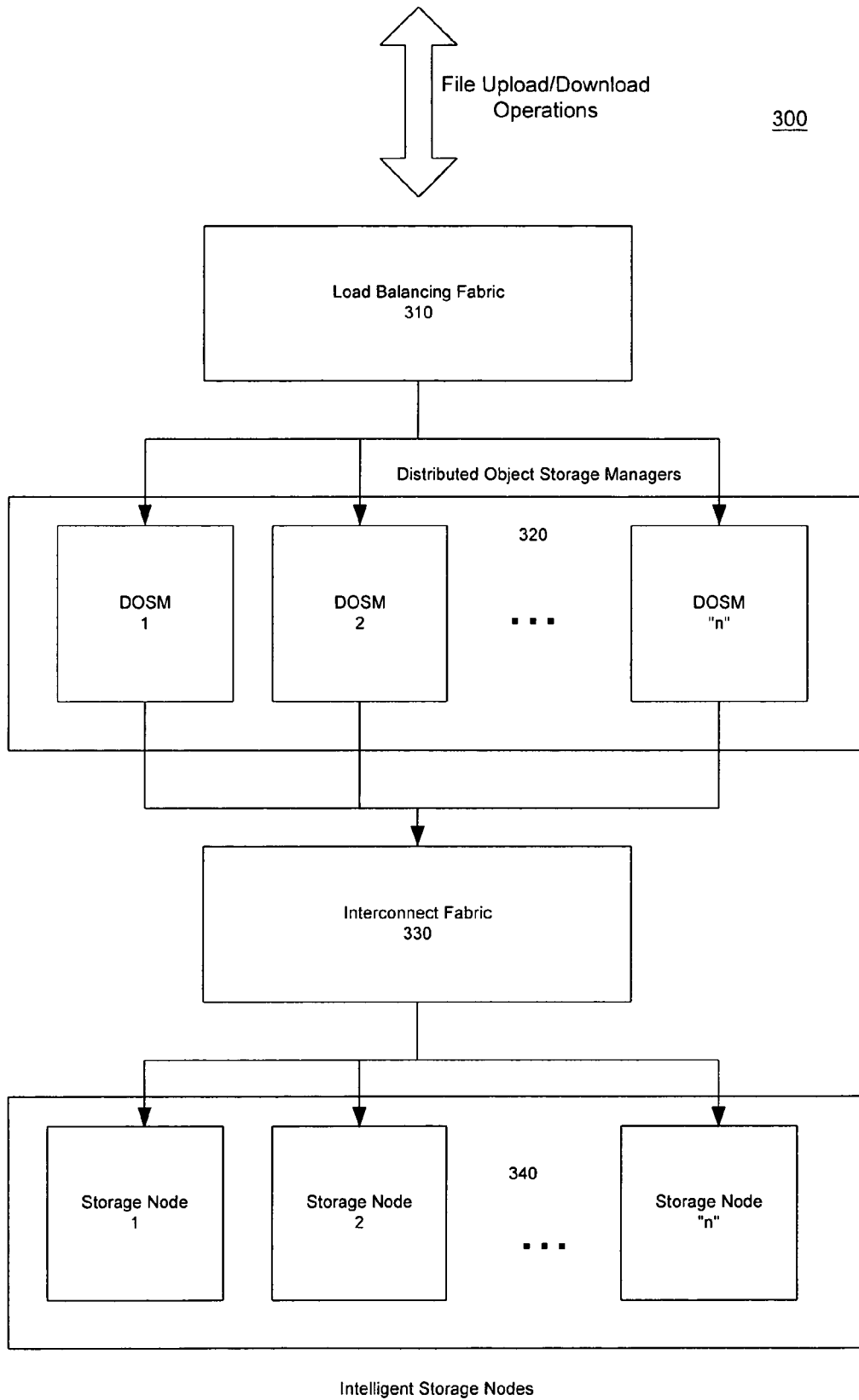


Figure 3

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