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(54) **VIRTUAL MACHINE BASED NETWORK CARRIERS**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(76) Inventors: **Puneet Dhawan**, Austin, TX (US);
Timothy Abels, Pflugerville, TX (US)

A system and method is disclosed for the secure transfer of data by carrier virtual machines between participating physical hosts through a virtual network (VNET) implemented on one or more internal and/or external networks. The method of the invention can provide additional security controls, comprising parameters that may include, but are not limited to, time-to-live (TTL), access control lists (ACLs), usage policies, directory roles, etc. Additionally, access to one or more of a plurality of carrier virtual machine payloads by security groups, individual access, subdivided individual access, and MIME-like subdivision of a VM-encapsulated payload may be controlled, thereby providing the carrier VM the ability to carry many secured payloads. In addition, VM packets, a group of packets, a single VM, or subpackets within a VM between network endpoints, or at a predetermined intermediary network point, may be quarantined to realize further security. Individual or combinations of these functionalities on carrier virtual machines, and by extension, application and/or one or more sets of secure data may be implemented.

Correspondence Address:
HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720 (US)

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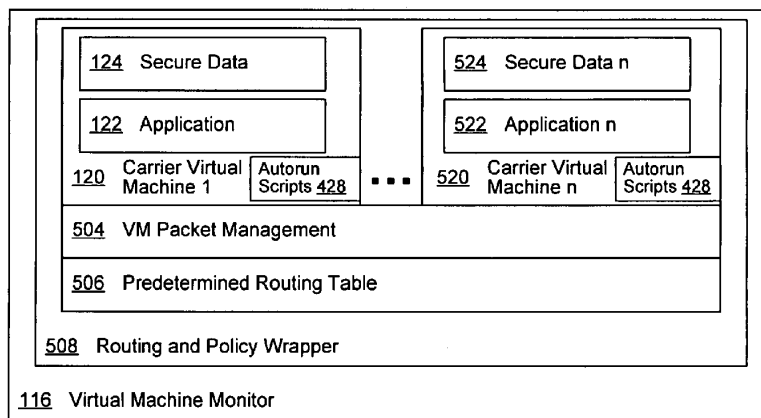
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Carrier
Virtual Machine
500



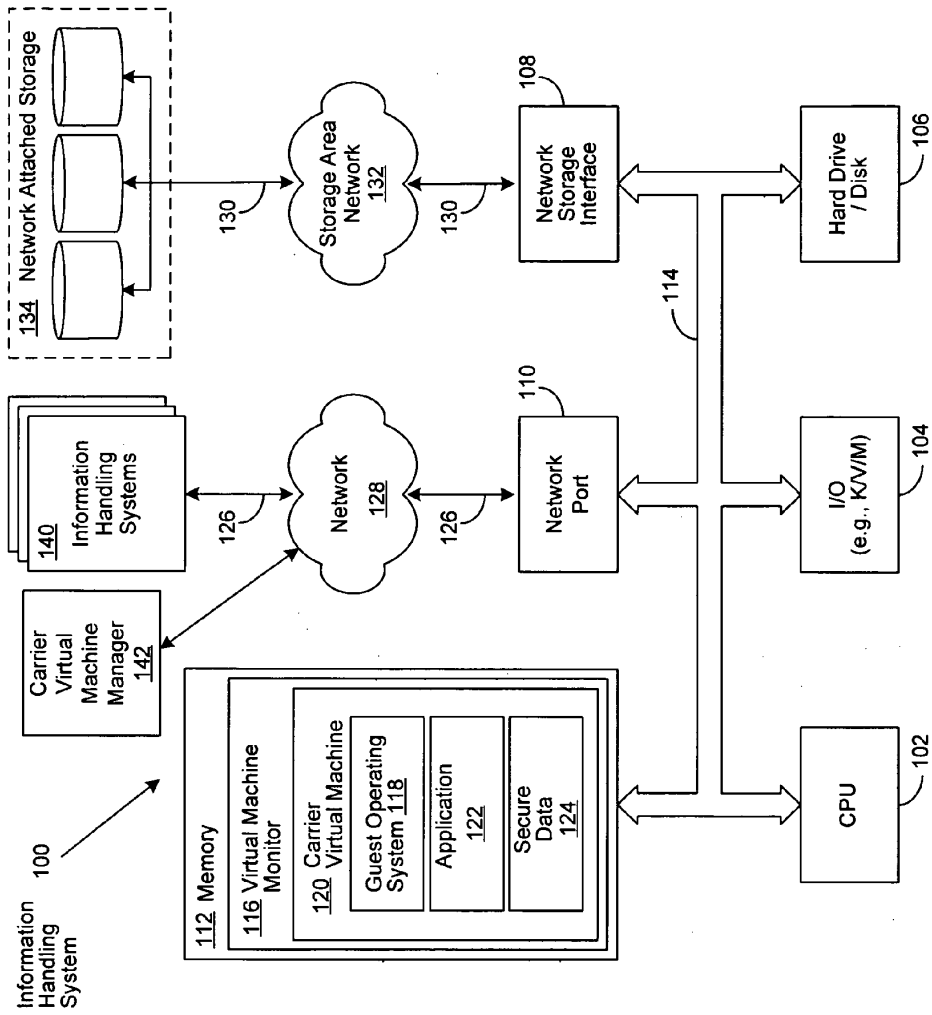


FIGURE 1

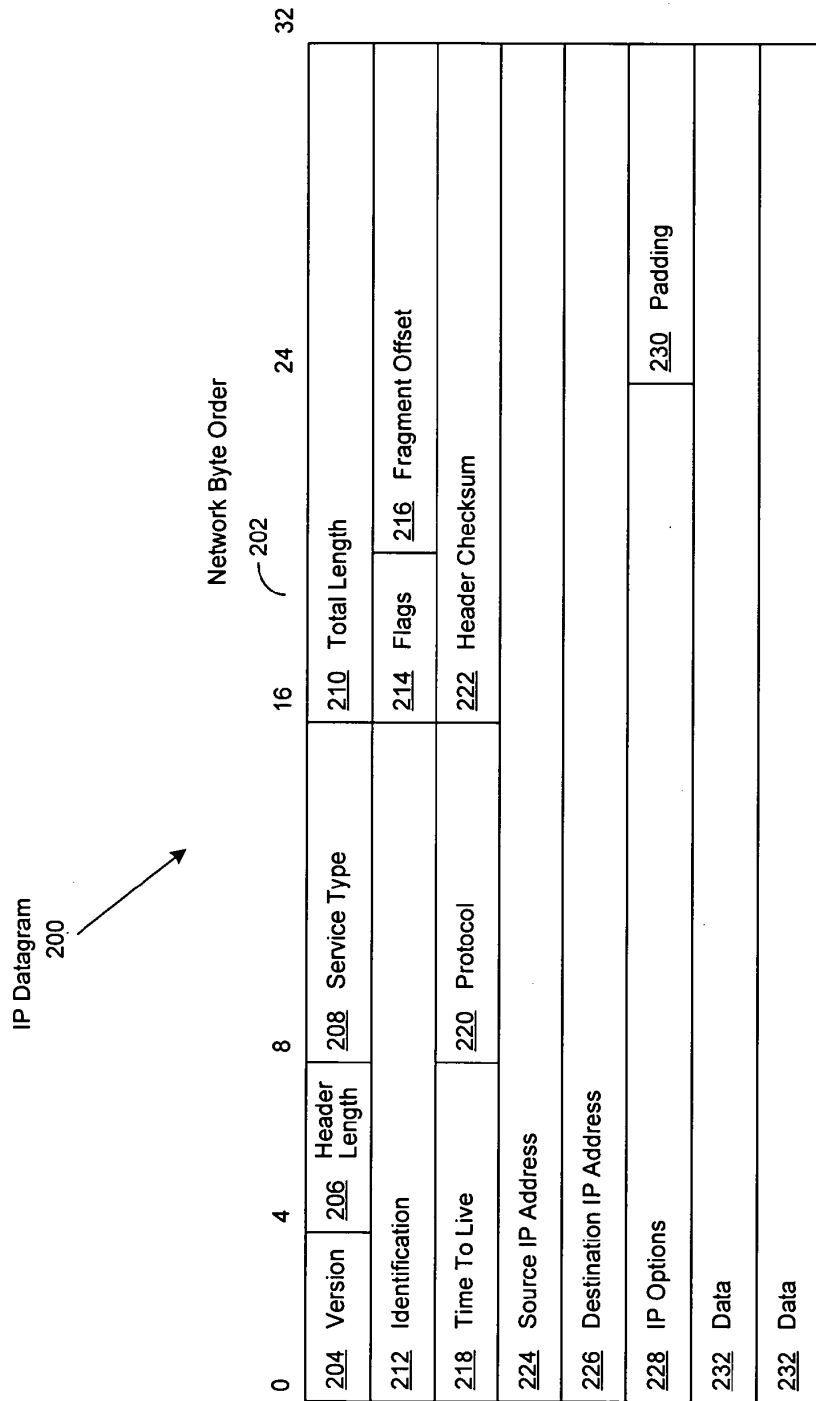


FIGURE 2

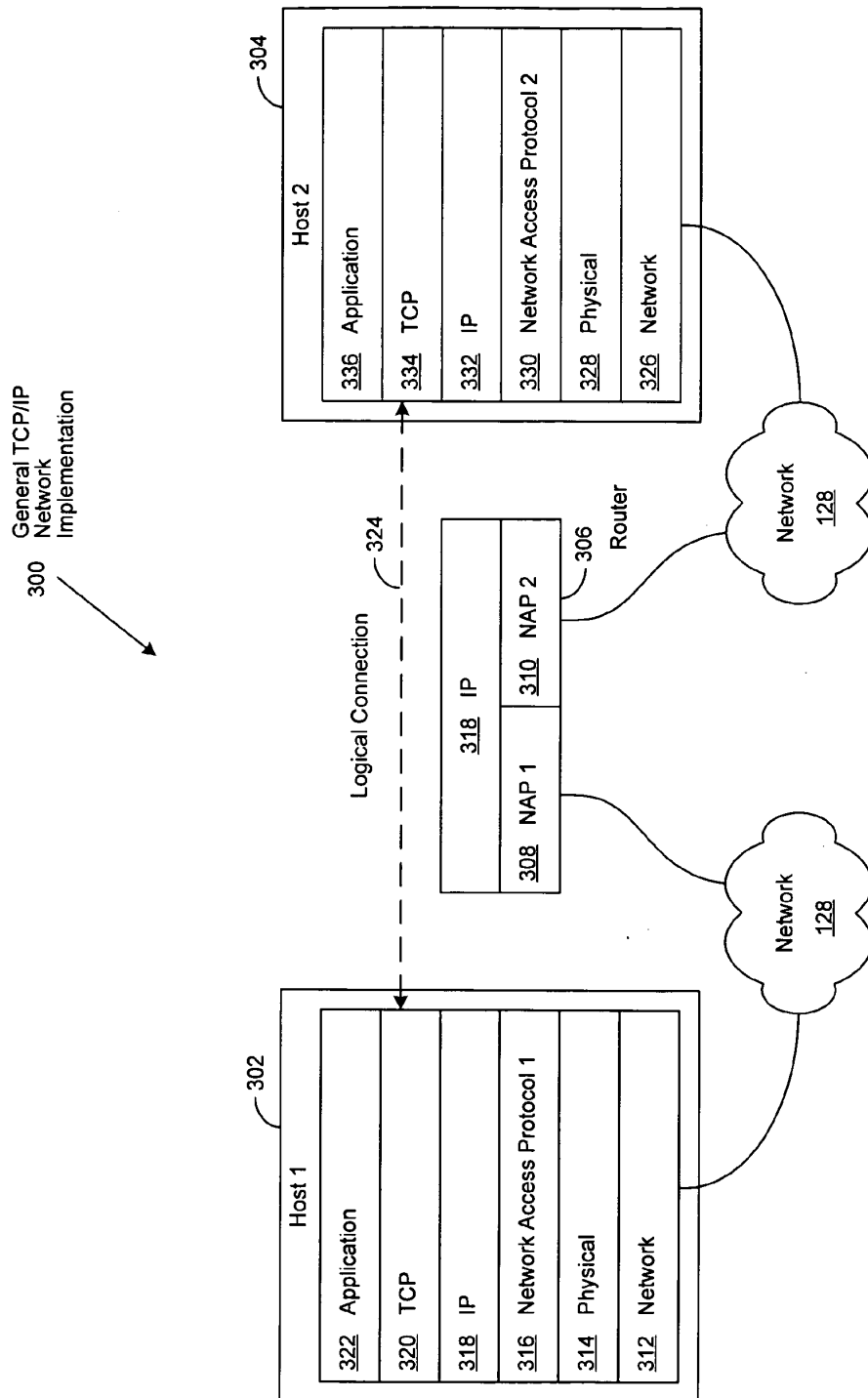


Figure 3

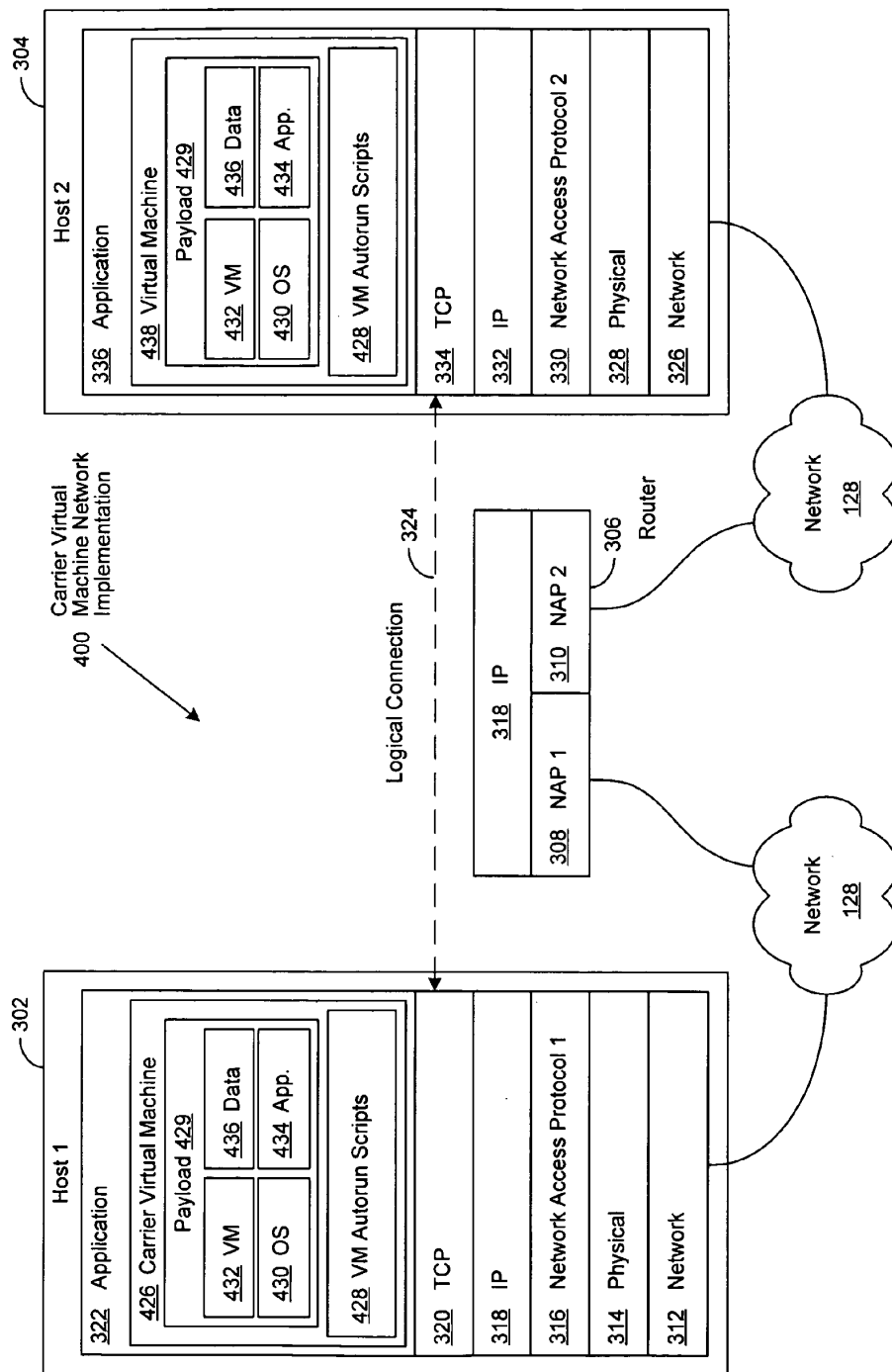


Figure 4

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