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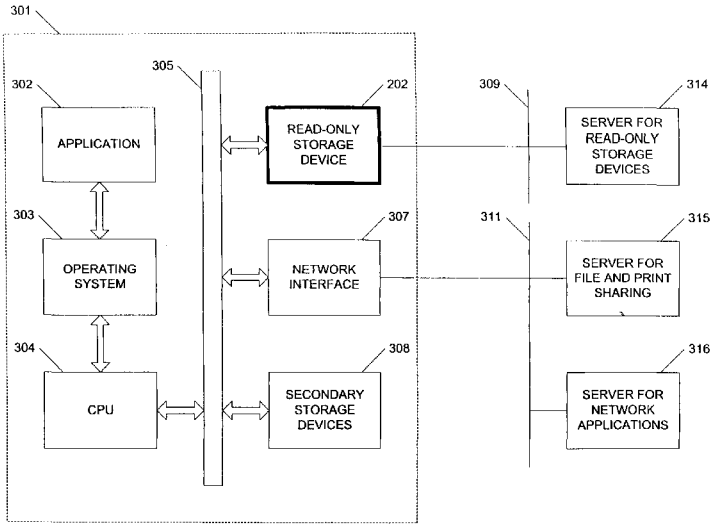
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(54) Title: LOCALIZED READ-ONLY STORAGE DEVICE FOR DISTRUBUTING FILES OVER A NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A Read-only storage device (202) having network interface (307), a system including the device, and a method of distributing files over a network. The storage device comprises a processor .(304) communicably connected to a computer interface, a network interface (307), and a storage means (308). The processor is communicates with a computer and a file server (314, 315, 316) through the computer interface and the network interface, respectively. The computer may request a file from the processor and the processor responds by either (1) providing the requested file to the computer on a read-only basis if the file is cached on the storage means, (2) obtains the file from the file server if the file is available from the file server, caches the obtained file on the storage means, and provides the obtained file to the computer on a read-only basis, or (3) returns a file unavailable notice to the computer.

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