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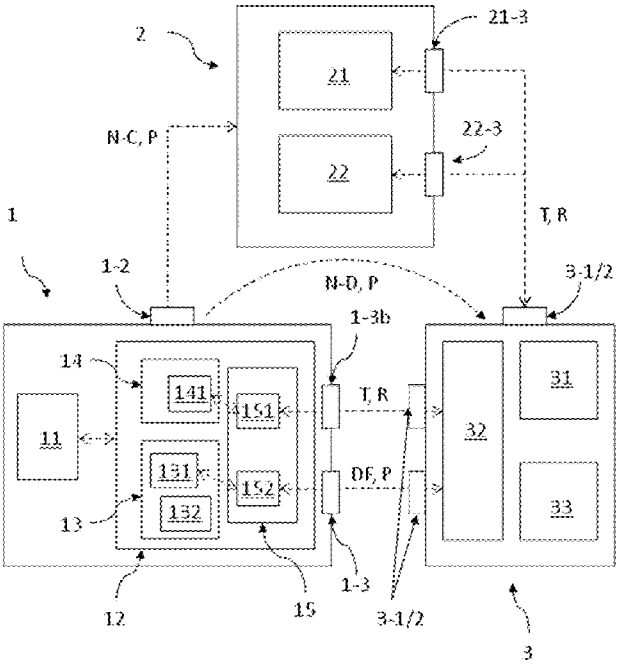
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title**: DISTRIBUTED ARCHITECTURE FOR PAPERWORK IMAGING

Fig.1



(57) **Abstract**: The present invention provides a method for providing data files, comprising the steps of storing the data files on at least one local domain (1) in a data file store (13), of notifying at least a central domain (2) about the data file stored on at least one local domain (1), of providing a reference element to at least the central domain (2), where in the reference element indicates the local domain (1) where the data file was stored, of transmitting search criteria for data files from a destination domain (3) to the central domain (2) in order to retrieve information about available data files and the local domain (1) on which the data files are stored, of sending the reference element assigned to the demanded data file from the central domain (2) to the destination domain (3), of requesting the demanded data file by submitting the reference element from the destination domain (3) to the local domain (1), where the demanded data filed is stored, and of sending the demanded data file from the local domain (1) to the destination domain (3). The invention further relates to a system executing the method.

WO 2012/019963 A1

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

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