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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION** [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **FUENTE, Carlos,** **Francisco** [GB/GB]; 43 White Hart Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2TY (GB). **SCALES, William, James** [GB/GB]; 5 Portchester Road, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8AD (GB).

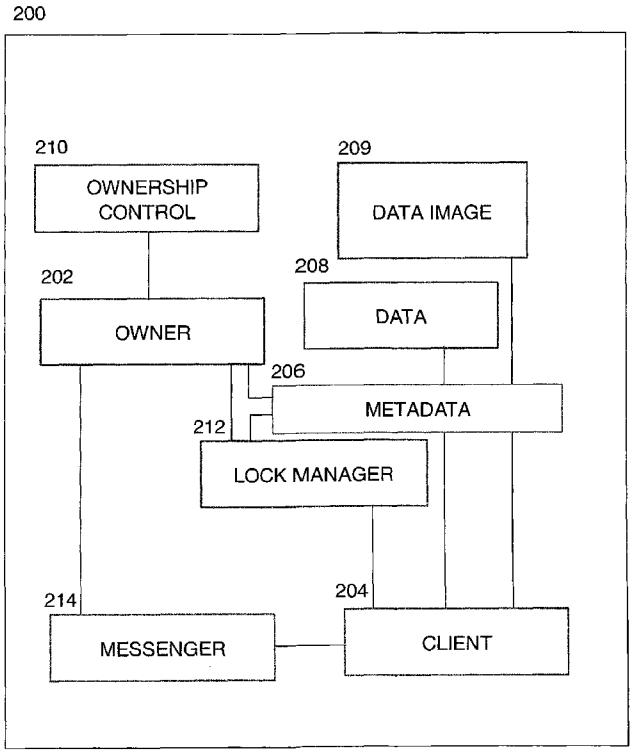
(74) Agent: **BURT, Roger, James**; IBM United Kingdom Limited, Intellectual Property Law, Hursley Park, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB).

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(54) Title: HIGH-PERFORMANCE LOCK MANAGEMENT FOR FLASH COPY IN N-WAY SHARED STORAGE SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: Storage control apparatus is operable in a network of storage controller nodes having an owner node operable to control locking of a region of data during I/O activity, a messaging component operable to request locks, grant locks, request release of locks and signal lock release. The apparatus comprises an I/O performing component to perform I/O on data owned by any owner node, subject to compliance with lock protocols controlled by the owner node. Any Flash Copy image of the region of data is maintained in a coherency relation with the region of data, and the I/O performing component is operable to cache a previous positive confirmation that the region of data has been left in a coherency relation with any said Flash Copy image, and to perform I/O activity on the basis of said previous positive confirmation.

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