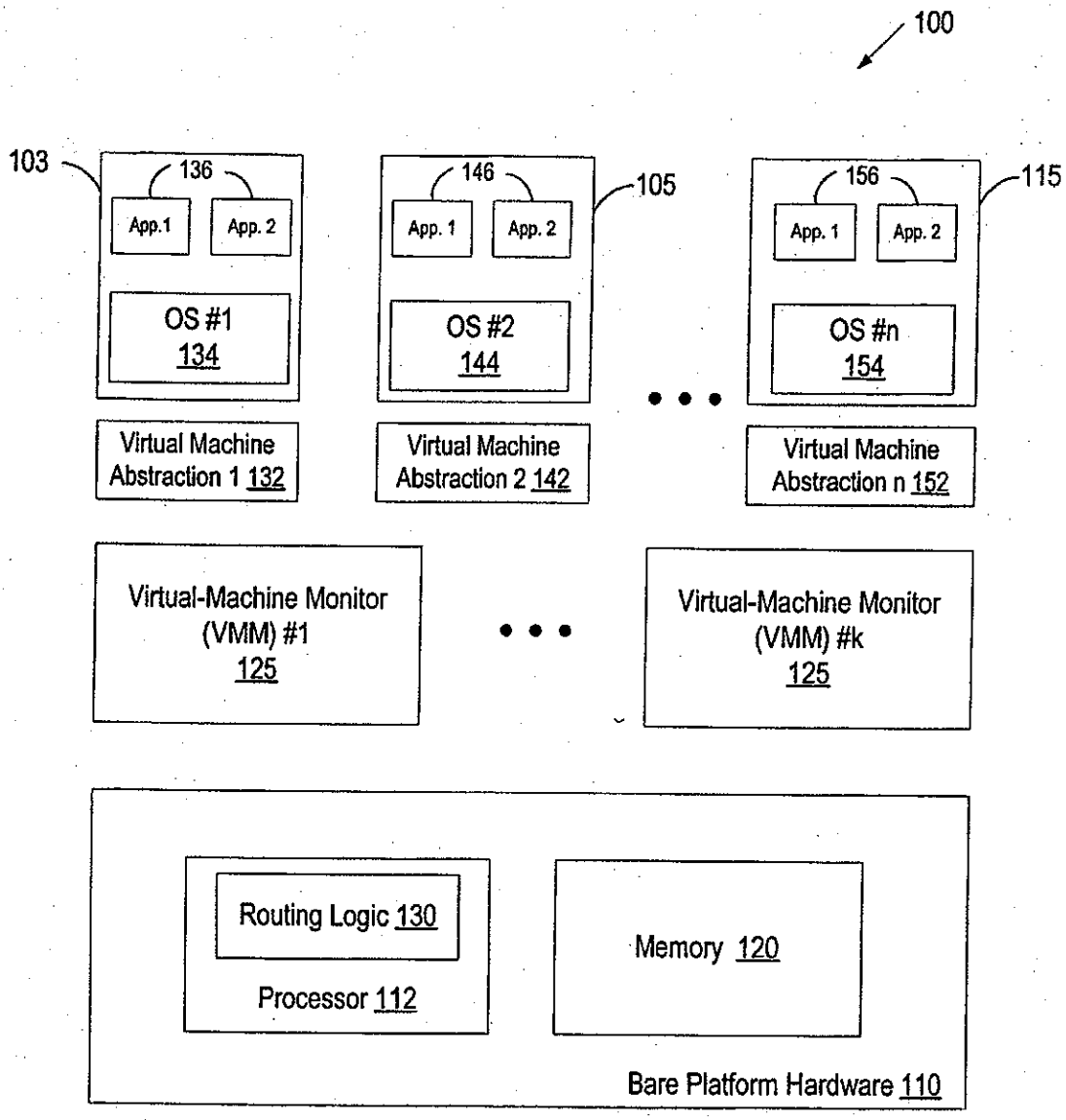

100
103
136
App.1
App. 2
OS #1
134
Virtual Machine
Abstraction 1 132
146
App. 1
App. 2
105
OS #2
144
Virtual Machine
Abstraction 2 142
156
App. 1
App. 2
115
OS #n
154
Virtual Machine
Abstraction n 152
Virtual-Machine Monitor
(VMM) #1
125
Virtual-Machine Monitor
(VMM) #k
125
Routing Logic 130
Processor 112
Memory 120
Bare Platform Hardware 110

FIG. 1

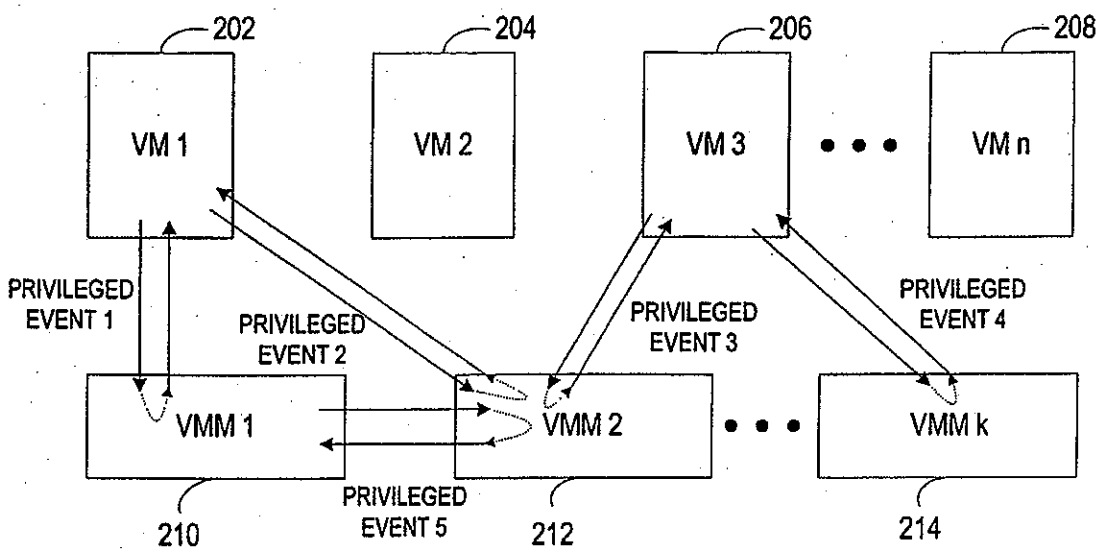

202
204
206
208
VM 1
VM 2
VM 3
VM n
PRIVILEGED EVENT 1
PRIVILEGED EVENT 2
PRIVILEGED EVENT 3
PRIVILEGED EVENT 4
VMM 1
VMM 2
VMM k
PRIVILEGED EVENT 5
210
212
214

FIG. 2

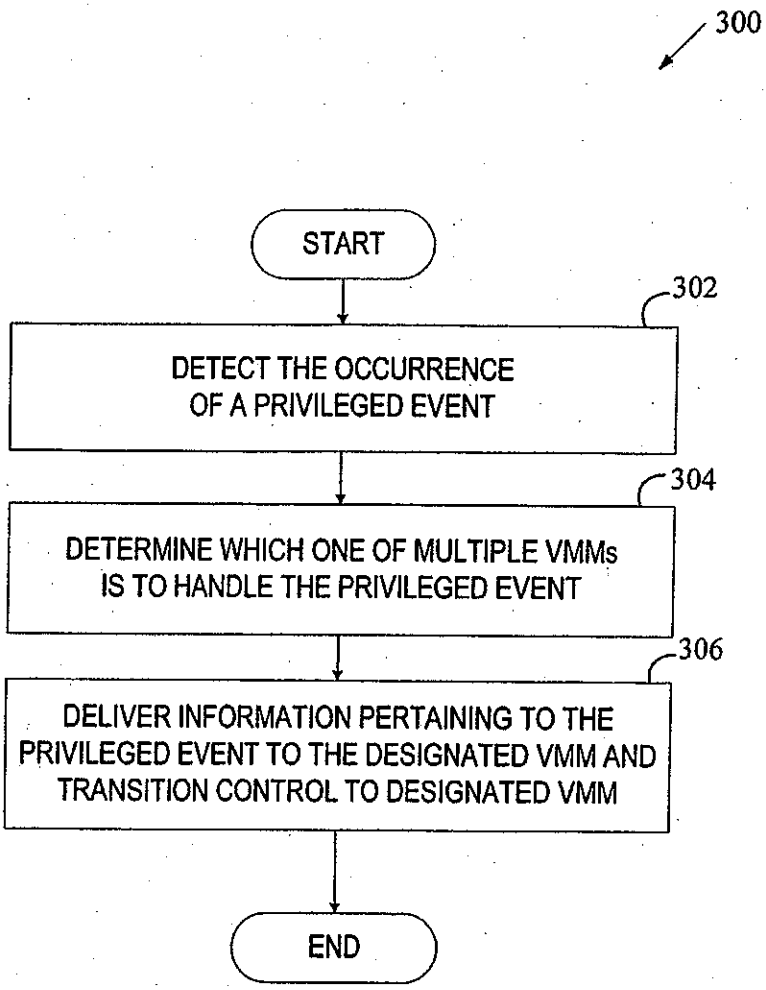

300
START
302
DETECT THE OCCURRENCE OF A PRIVILEGED EVENT
304
DETERMINE WHICH ONE OF MULTIPLE VMMs IS TO HANDLE THE PRIVILEGED EVENT
306
DELIVER INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE PRIVILEGED EVENT TO THE DESIGNATED VMM AND TRANSITION CONTROL TO DESIGNATED VMM
END

FIG. 3

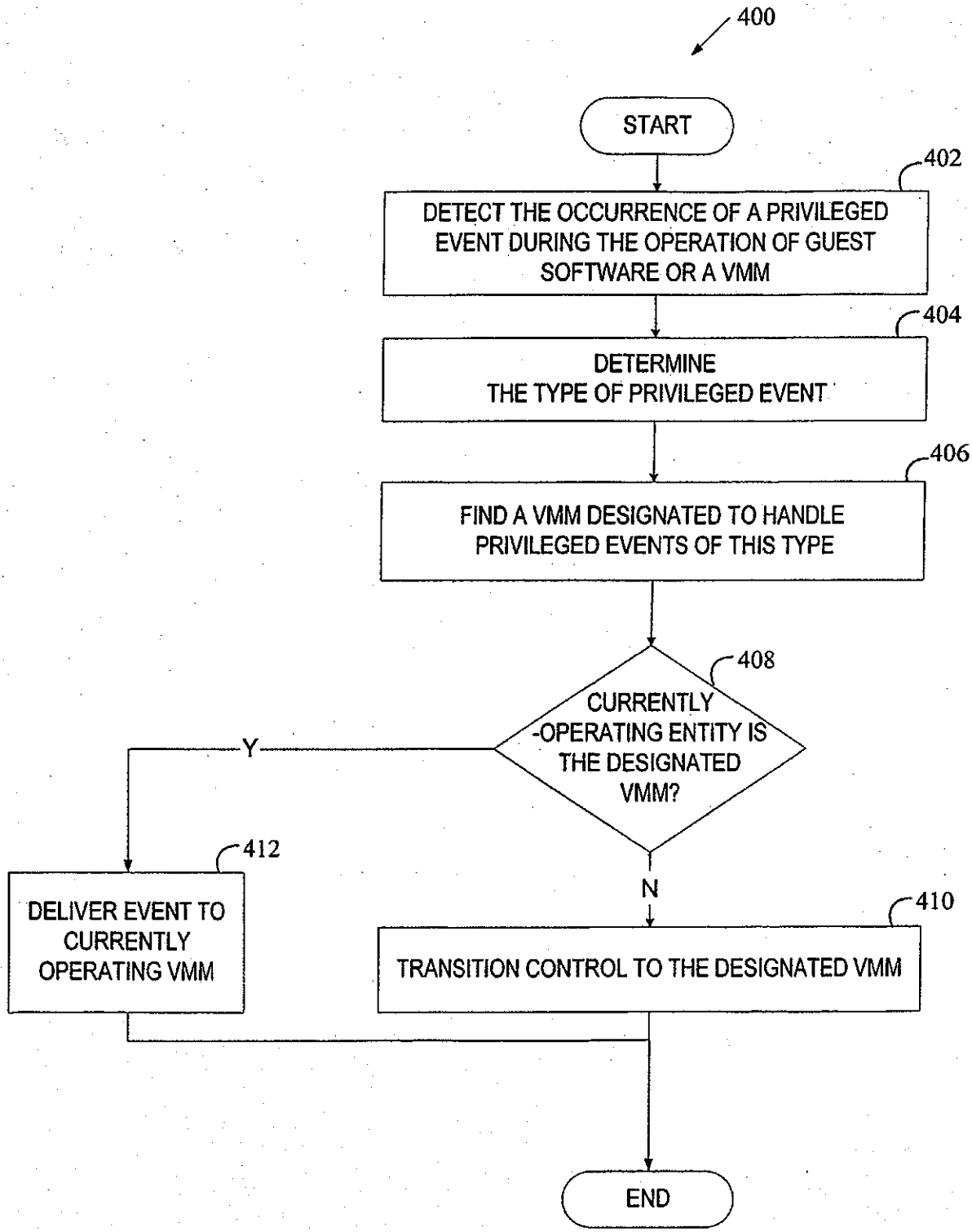

400
START
402
DETECT THE OCCURRENCE OF A PRIVILEGED EVENT DURING THE OPERATION OF GUEST SOFTWARE OR A VMM
404
DETERMINE THE TYPE OF PRIVILEGED EVENT
406
FIND A VMM DESIGNATED TO HANDLE PRIVILEGED EVENTS OF THIS TYPE
408
CURRENTLY -OPERATING ENTITY IS THE DESIGNATED VMM?
Y
N
412
DELIVER EVENT TO CURRENTLY OPERATING VMM
410
TRANSITION CONTROL TO THE DESIGNATED VMM
END

FIG. 4

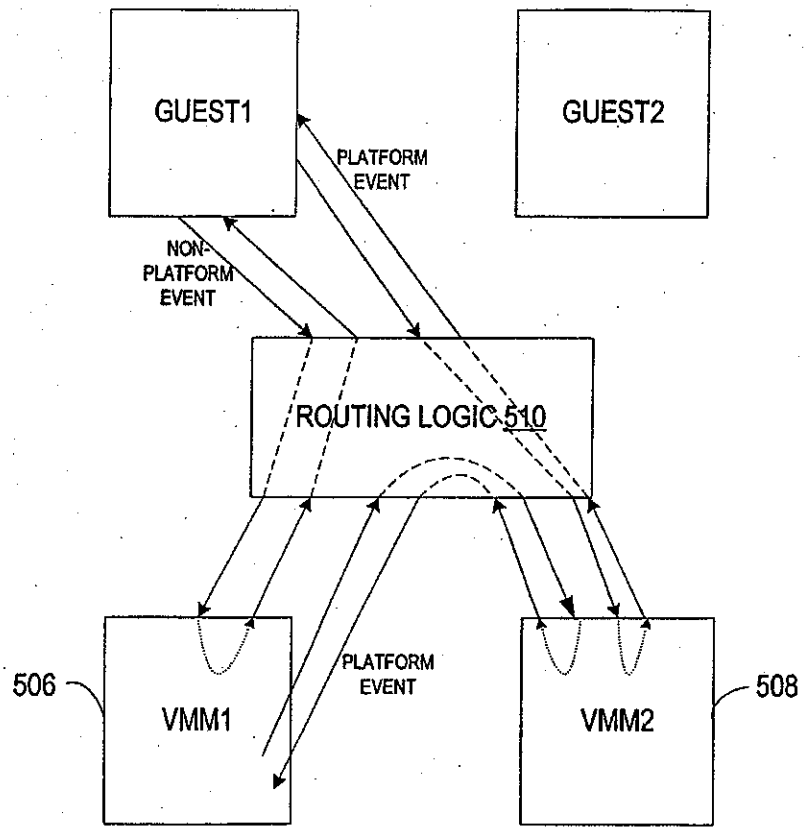

GUEST1
GUEST2
PLATFORM EVENT
NON-PLATFORM EVENT
ROUTING LOGIC 510
506
VMM1
PLATFORM EVENT
VMM2
508

FIG. 5

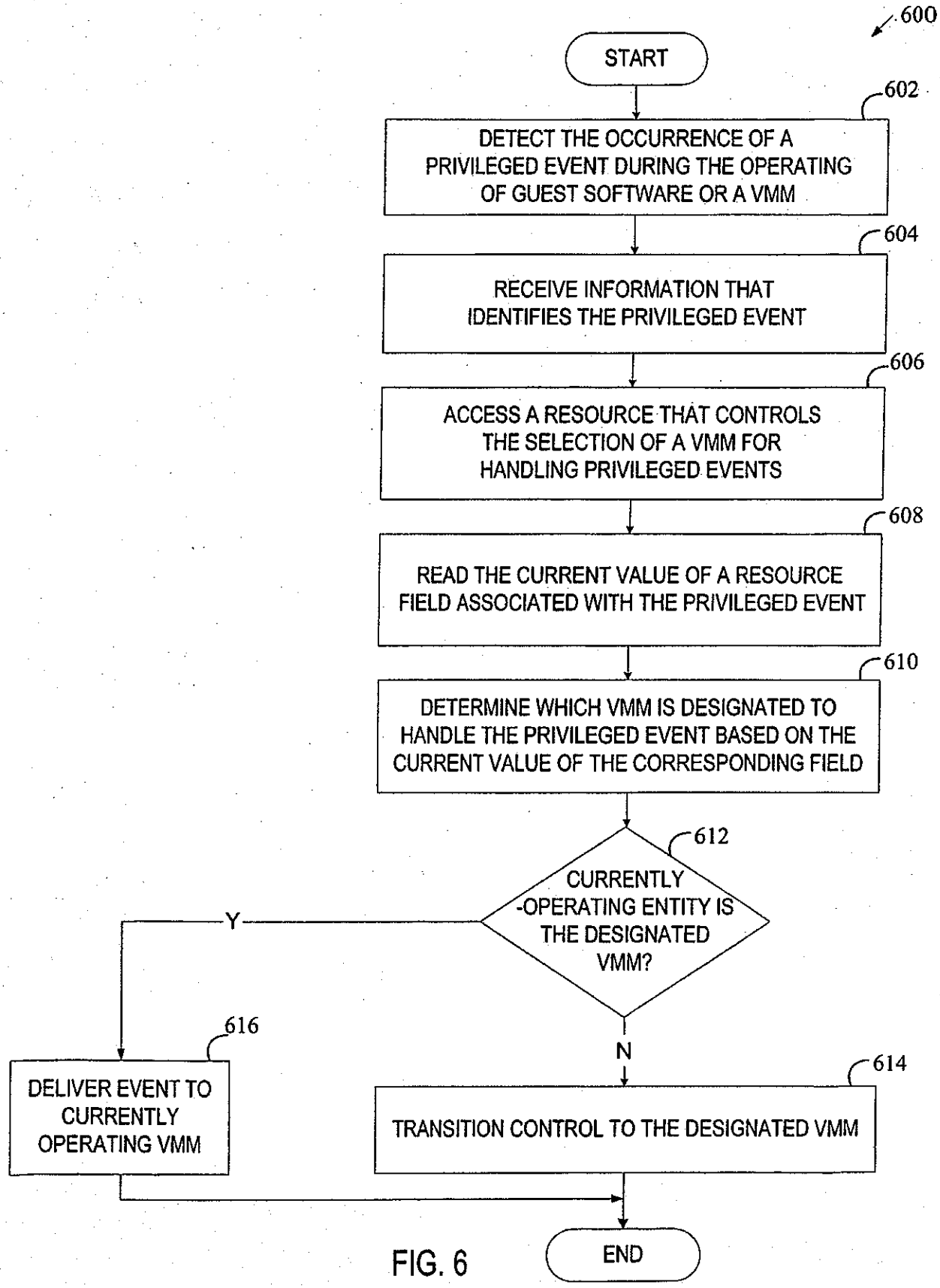

600
START
602
DETECT THE OCCURRENCE OF A PRIVILEGED EVENT DURING THE OPERATING OF GUEST SOFTWARE OR A VMM
604
RECEIVE INFORMATION THAT IDENTIFIES THE PRIVILEGED EVENT
606
ACCESS A RESOURCE THAT CONTROLS THE SELECTION OF A VMM FOR HANDLING PRIVILEGED EVENTS
608
READ THE CURRENT VALUE OF A RESOURCE FIELD ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIVILEGED EVENT
610
DETERMINE WHICH VMM IS DESIGNATED TO HANDLE THE PRIVILEGED EVENT BASED ON THE CURRENT VALUE OF THE CORRESPONDING FIELD
612
CURRENTLY -OPERATING ENTITY IS THE DESIGNATED VMM?
Y
N
616
DELIVER EVENT TO CURRENTLY OPERATING VMM
614
TRANSITION CONTROL TO THE DESIGNATED VMM
END

FIG. 6

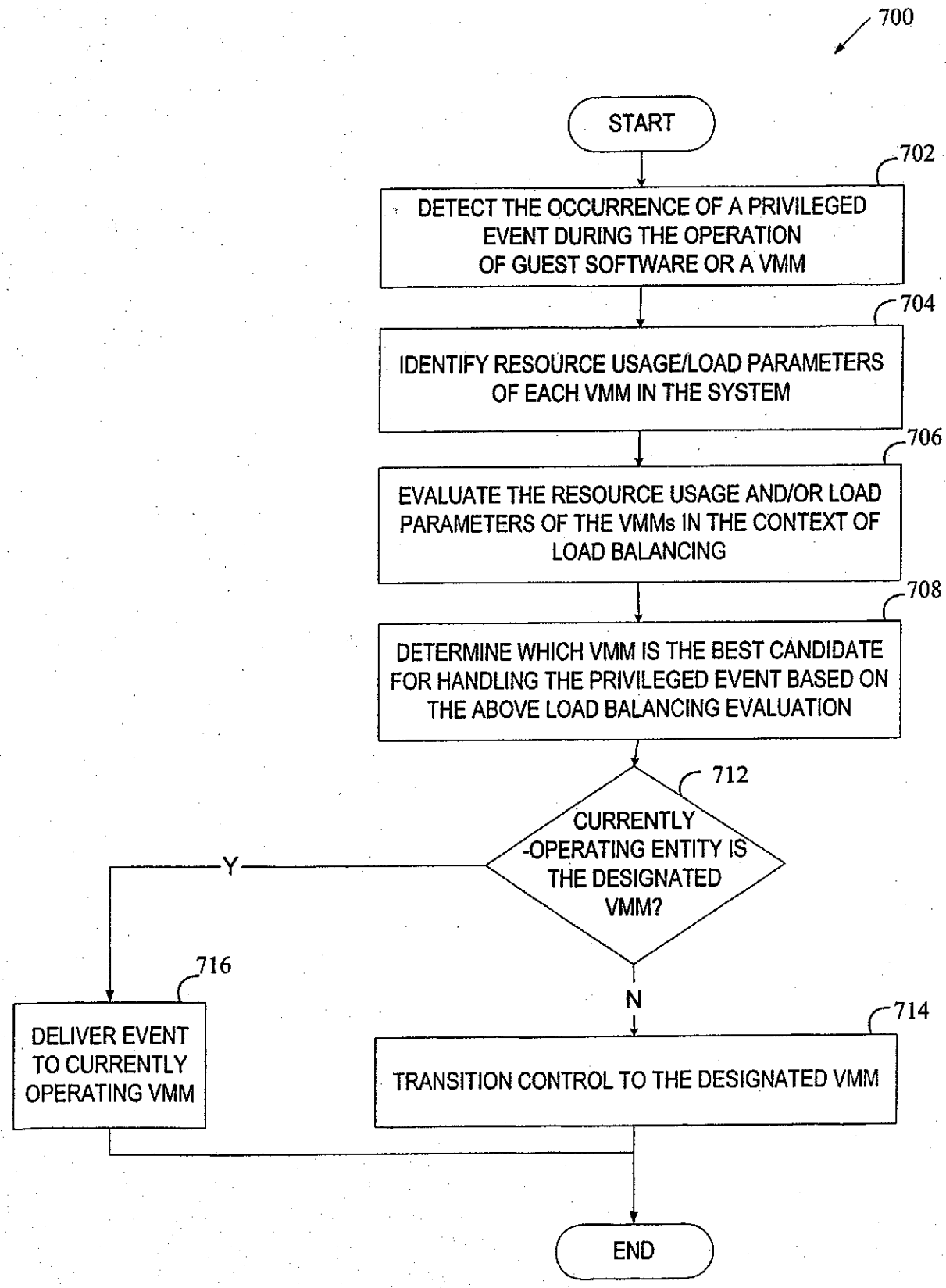

700
START
702
DETECT THE OCCURRENCE OF A PRIVILEGED EVENT DURING THE OPERATION OF GUEST SOFTWARE OR A VMM
704
IDENTIFY RESOURCE USAGE/LOAD PARAMETERS OF EACH VMM IN THE SYSTEM
706
EVALUATE THE RESOURCE USAGE AND/OR LOAD PARAMETERS OF THE VMMs IN THE CONTEXT OF LOAD BALANCING
708
DETERMINE WHICH VMM IS THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR HANDLING THE PRIVILEGED EVENT BASED ON THE ABOVE LOAD BALANCING EVALUATION
712
CURRENTLY -OPERATING ENTITY IS THE DESIGNATED VMM?
Y
N
716
DELIVER EVENT TO CURRENTLY OPERATING VMM
714
TRANSITION CONTROL TO THE DESIGNATED VMM
END

FIG. 7