ABSTRACT

INCREMENTAL BACKUP OPERATIONS IN STORAGE NETWORKS

Exemplary storage network architectures, data architectures, and methods for performing backup operations in storage networks are described. One exemplary method may be implemented in a processor in a storage network. The method comprises generating a snapclone (720) of a source volume (710) at a first point in time; contemporaneously activating a first snapdifference file (730) logically linked to the snapclone; recording I/O operations that change a data set in the source volume (710) to the first snapdifference file (730); closing the first snapdifference file (730); generating a backup copy of the snapclone (720) at a second point in time, after the first point in time; and generating a backup copy of the first snapdifference file (730) at a third point in time, after the second point in time.

(Fig. 15)