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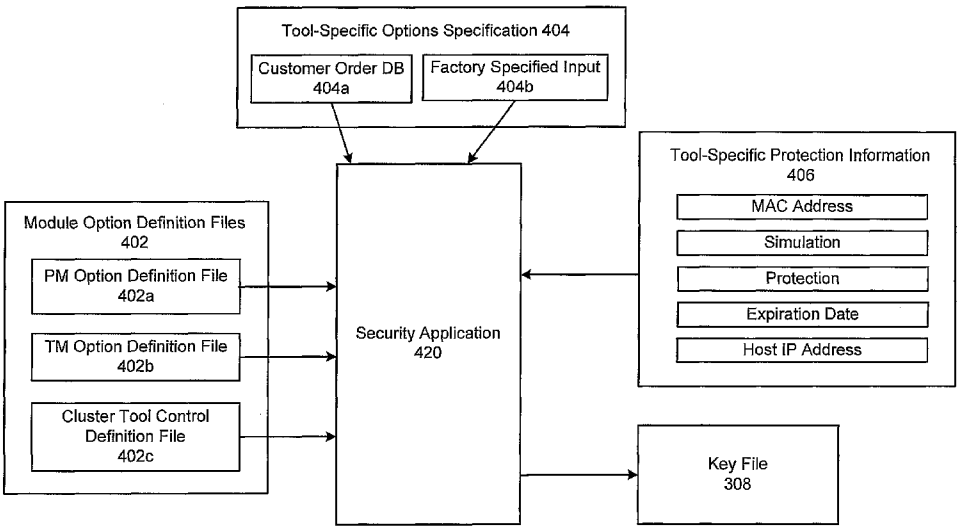
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING PLASMA CLUSTER TOOLS



(57) Abstract: A method for configuring a specific plasma cluster tool having a plurality of modules. The method includes providing a set of module option definition files, the set of module option definition files containing generic configuration definitions for generic plasma cluster tools. The method further includes providing a set of tool-specific protection information, the set of tool-specific protection information including data that specifically identifies the particular plasma cluster tool for which the configuring is intended. The method further includes providing a set of tool-specific options specifications, the set of tool-specific options specifications specifying options that are specified for the specific plasma cluster tool. The method additionally includes generating a key file, the key file encapsulating configuration restrictions imposed on the specific plasma cluster tool, the key file being configured to be a required file in the configuring the specific plasma tool.

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