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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EYE-FL, INC.** [US/US]; 305 W. Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View, California 94041 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **OZCERI, Berend** [US/US]; 305 W. Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View, California 94041 (US). **FEINBERG, Eugene M.** [US/US]; 305 W. Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View, California 94041 (US).

(74) Agent: **FAHMI, Tarek N.**; SNR Denton US LLP, Post Office Box 061080, Wacker Drive Station, Willis Tower, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (US).

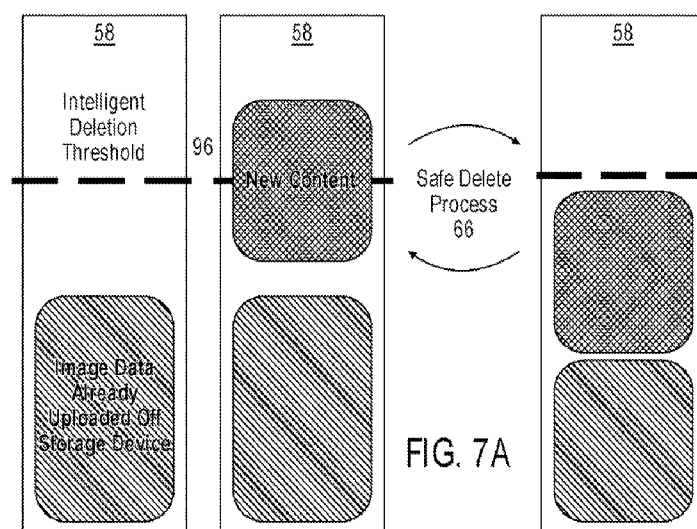
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(57) Abstract: A storage device includes a controller that is configured to execute safe deletion operations so as to free up storage space on the device in response to triggering events. The safe deletion operations ensure that the data states of a host device making use of the storage device and the storage device itself are synchronized so as to prevent deletion of data from the storage device before it is offloaded to another storage platform.