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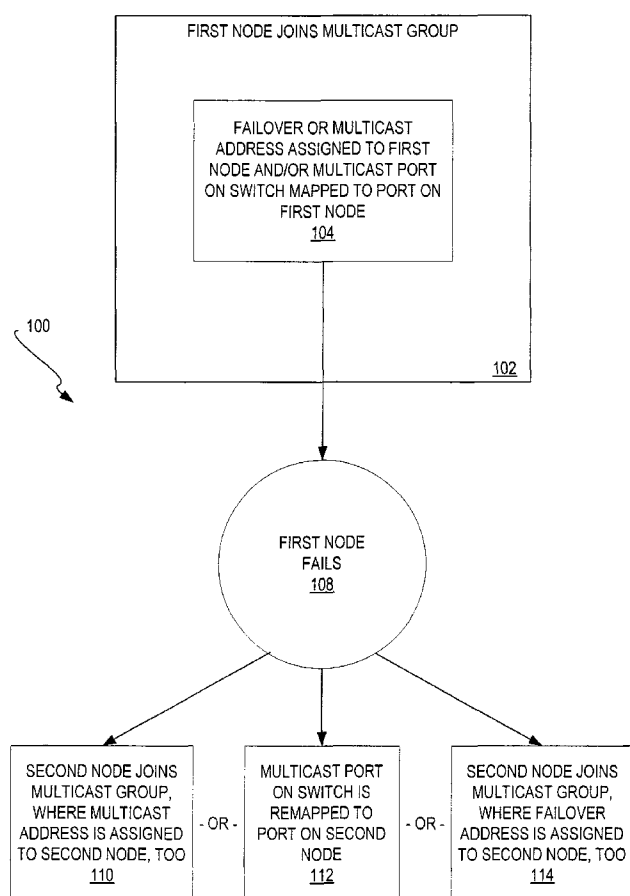
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(54) Title: NETWORK NODE FAILOVER USING FAILOVER OR MULTICAST ADDRESS



(57) Abstract: Failover of network nodes is disclosed. A first node joins a multicast group (102). The joining is performed by performing one of three actions (104). First, a failover address is associated with the first node, and the first node effectively joins the group having this address as a multicast address. Second, a multicast address is associated with the first node. Third, a switch's multicast port is mapped to a first node port. Upon failure of the first node (106), one of three actions is performed. If the joining associated the failover address, this is associated with a second node, and the second node effectively joins the group (114). If the joining associated the multicast address, the second node joins the group and this address is associated with the second node (110). If the joining mapped the switch's multicast port, this port is remapped to a second node port (112).



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