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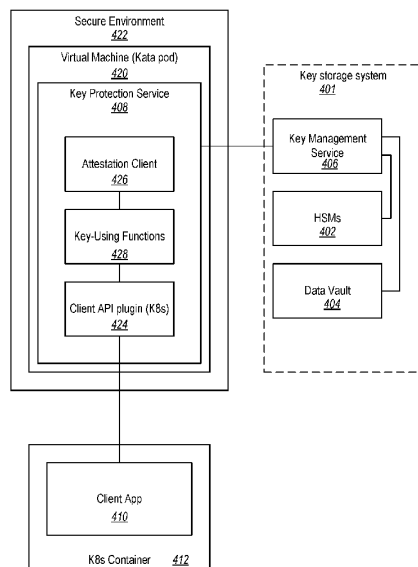


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: Data encryption keys (and other sensitive data) can be secured during use by a key protection service that performs cryptographic operations on behalf of a client application. The key protection service can be implemented as a lightweight virtual machine that appears externally as a container and that can be executed in a secured environment. The lightweight virtual machine can include containerized processes to support an application program interface to interact with the client application and an attestation client to interact with a secured key storage system external to the secured environment.

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