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1 iii) means in the first and at least one other node responsive to the receipt of
2 the commit message for updating the identified transaction.

3 45. A database management system for a logical database comprised of data records
4 organized into tables that is to be accessed from multiple transactional nodes that process
5 transactions related to the logical data base, said system comprising:

6 A) means for parsing the database into fragments wherein each fragment stores a
7 portion of the metadata and/or data pertaining to the logical data base for transfer
8 within the database management system as serialized messages and for storage as
9 a de-serialized message,

10 B) at least one archival node that stores all the fragments in a de-serialized form in
11 permanent storage thereby to constitute a single store for the entire data base,
12 wherein each transactional node comprises:

13 i) means for responding to queries from users by establishing a sequence of
14 low-level commands for identifying fragments that are relevant to the
15 query,

16 ii) means for responding to the low-level commands by obtaining only those
17 copies of existing fragments that are relevant to the query being processed
18 thereat whereby a given fragment might exist at some other node or only
19 at an archival node, and

20 iii) means for replicating any changed fragment to the at least one archival
21 node and each transactional node in which a copy of that fragment resides
22 whereby changes are made to fragments in other nodes on a peer-to-peer
23 basis and whereby any transactional node only contains those fragments
24 that pertain to the queries being made users accessing the data base
25 through that transactional node.

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iii) means in the first and at least one other node responsive to the receipt of the commit message for updating the identified transaction.