METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SUPPORTING MULTIPLE OPERATING SYSTEMS ON THE SAME DISK RUNNING ON DIFFERENT COMPUTERS AT THE SAME TIME

ABSTRACT

A method and system for running, on different computers at the same time, multiple operating systems from shared system resource is provided. This is accomplished, for example, by using persistent elemental disk reservations. Each machine (e.g.108,110) reads the master boot record (304) without reservation to determine the partition of the operating system to be booted. Each machine (108,110) then makes an elemental exclusive write persistent reservation for accessing the operating system boot partition. This is followed by each machine (108,110) making another elemental exclusive write persistent reservation for accessing the operating system partition itself. Each machine (108,110) is assigned a different operating system partition (e.g. 312) even if they are running the same operating system. The unique reservation key for these reservations is created from at least one of a Processor ID, a Cluster ID, a Multiple Processor partition ID, a Non-Uniform Memory Access complex ID, and/or a Non-Uniform Memory Access node ID.

Figure 4.