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(54) **Title:** STORAGE TIERING WITHIN A UNIFIED STORAGE ENVIRONMENT

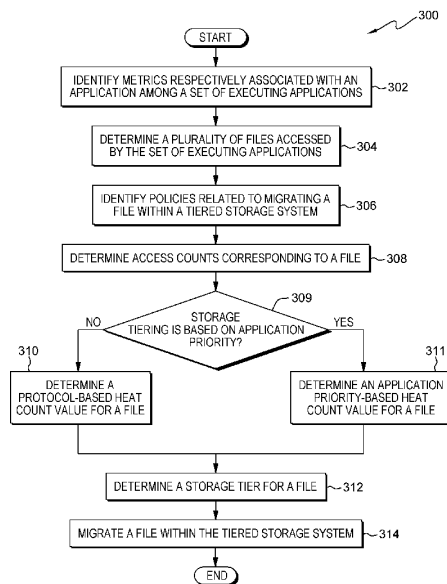


FIG. 3

(57) **Abstract:** A method for assigning and migrating files among tiers within a unified storage environment. The method includes one or more computer processors determining a plurality of files stored within a tiered storage environment that are accessed by a set executing applications. The method further includes determining that one or more files of the plurality of files are accessed utilizing two or more protocols. The method further includes identifying a group of two or more tiering policies utilized within a tiered storage environment. The method further includes determining protocol-based heat count values corresponding to the plurality of files. The method further includes storing the plurality of files among tiers of the tiered storage environment based on the identified group of two or more tiering policies and the protocol-based heat count values corresponding to the plurality of files.

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