



(51) International Patent Classification:

G06F 16/188 (2019.01) G06F 21/53 (2013.01)
G06F 16/14 (2019.01) G06F 21/78 (2013.01)
G06F 9/455 (2018.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2021/015297

(22) International Filing Date:

27 January 2021 (27.01.2021)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

LU101621 30 January 2020 (30.01.2020) LU

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

(54) Title: EFFICIENTLY PROVIDING A GUEST CONTEXT ACCESS TO FILE CONTENT AT A HOST CONTEXT

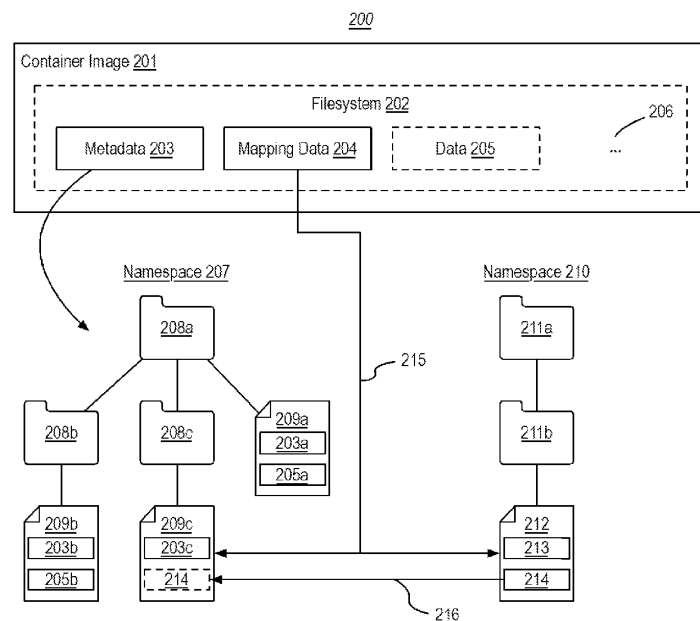


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: Using metadata for a contentless file to provide a guest context access to file content. Within a guest context, a filesystem is mounted from a container image which lacks a first file's content and which includes metadata defining properties of the first file and mapping data defining information for identifying a second file within another filesystem from which the first file's content is obtainable. Based on the properties, a filesystem operation involving the first file is performed without switching to a host context, and a requested access to the first file's content is responded to. Responding includes, based on the mapping data, communicating a request for the host context to supply the first file's content and, after returning from a context switch, responding to the requested access by supplying content of the second file from guest memory page(s) which are mapped to host memory page(s) containing the second file's content.

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DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
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NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW,
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TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))