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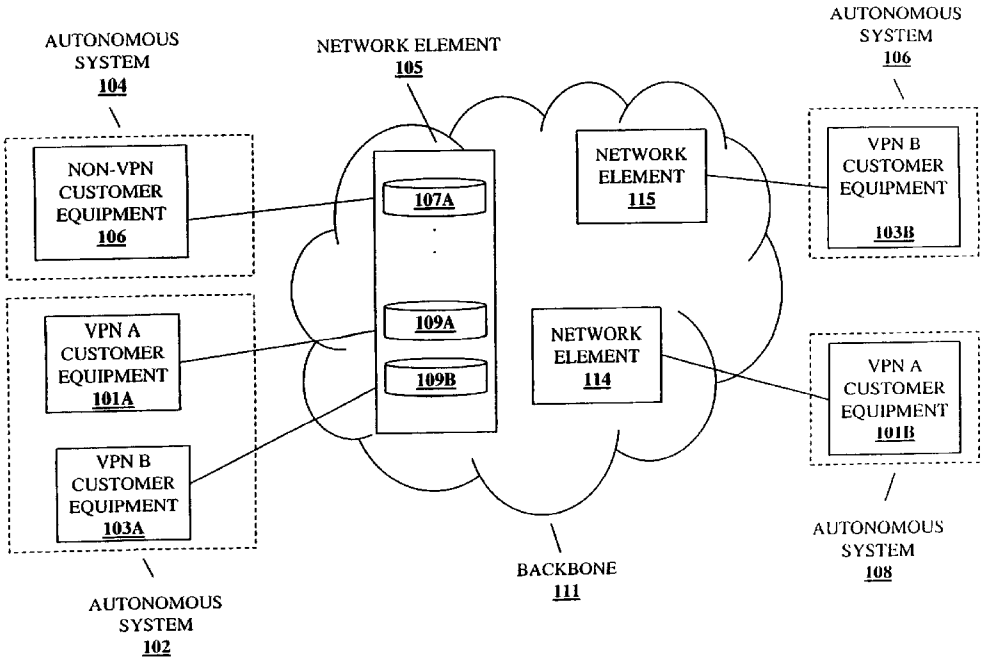
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIPLE CONTEXTS AND LAYER 3 VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: A method an apparatus for multiple contexts and layer 3 virtual private networks is described. A method comprises prividing a layer 3 virtual private network (VPN) to a first customer (101A); providing backbone (111) access to a second customer (103A); and maintaining on a single network element (105) a first set of information (109A) for the first customer separately from a second set of information (109B) for the second customer.

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