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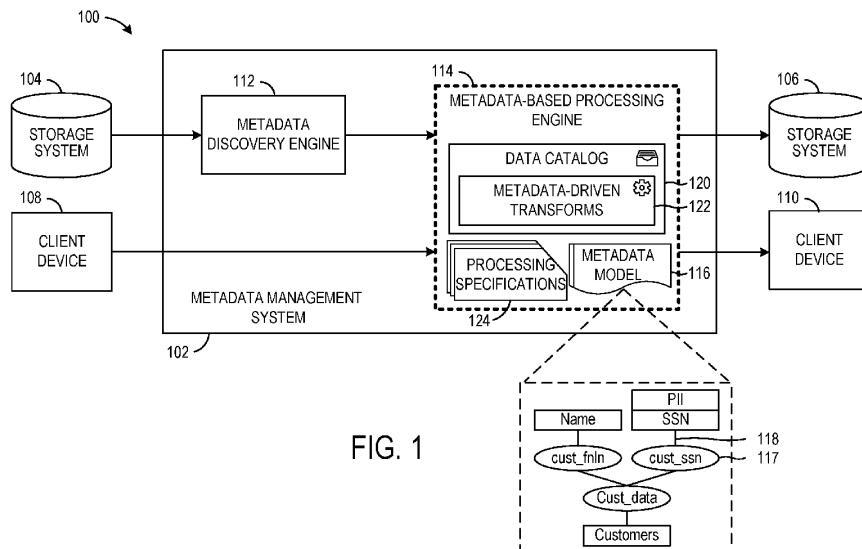


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method for using a metadata model to perform operations on data items, with the metadata model including parent nodes and child nodes connected by edges, with the parent nodes specifying logical metadata and the child nodes specifying physical metadata representing the data items, and with the edges specifying relationships between the nodes. The method includes: identifying a given data item and physical metadata of that given data item, accessing the metadata model, identifying, in the metadata model, a child node representing the physical metadata of the given data item, traversing one or more edges in the metadata model to identify parent nodes of the child node, determining, from logical metadata associated with the identified parent nodes, one or more operations to be performed on the given data item, applying the one or more operations to the given data item to transform the data item, and storing the transformed data item.

[Continued on next page]

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