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(54) **OVERDRAFT LICENSES AND LICENSE DISTRIBUTION**

(75) Inventors: **Juan-Carlos Colosso**, Mt. View, CA (US); **Katherine K. Nadell**, Sunnyvale, CA (US); **Wei Cheng**, San Jose, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Adobe Systems Incorporated**, San Jose, CA (US)

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G06F 21/00 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** 705/50, 705/51, 54, 57, 59, 901–904, 908, 911; 380/227–230, 201–204
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — James A Reagan
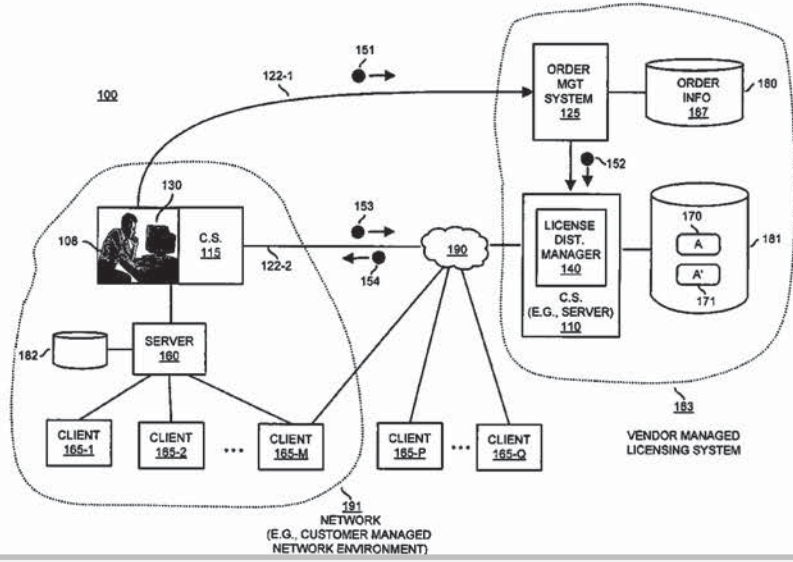(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In response to receiving an order (e.g., including payment for one or more software licenses), a license distribution manager allocates a specified number of software licenses for distribution to a corresponding customer's clients that utilize the licenses to operate software associated with a corresponding vendor software application. The license distribution manager can allocate one or more overdraft licenses for distribution to the customer in addition to the specified number of software licenses associated with the order. Accordingly, the license distribution manager can allocate extra software licenses (e.g., the overdraft licenses) and distribute more software licenses than are actually purchased by a respective customer. This enables the customer to use one or more provisional licenses (e.g., overdraft licenses) that support restricted use of the vendor's software application such as until the customer can replace the provisional licenses with corresponding purchased licenses.
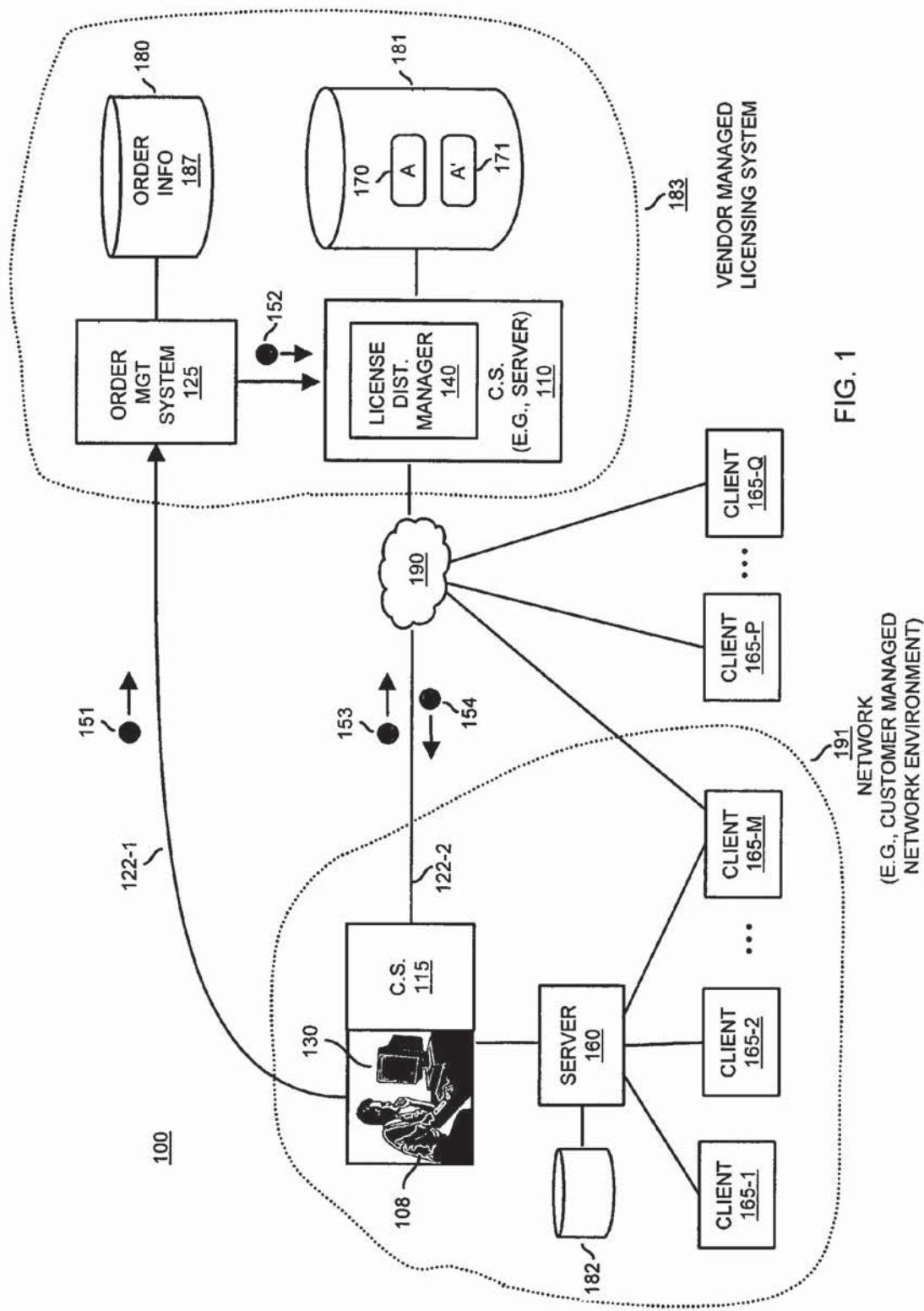
26 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1

CUSTOMER: ACME DEVELOPMENT CO.

PURCHASE ORDER # 123456

	LICENSE-ENABLED PRODUCT	NUMBER OF LICENSES ORDERED	SELECTED SERVER HOSTING DISTRIBUTION TYPE	ENABLED SW FEATURES	EXPIRATION INFO
230	ACROBAT 8.0	100	VENDOR SERVER	W, X, Y, Z	PERPETUAL
	230-1	230-2	230-3	230-4	230-5

	LICENSE-ENABLED PRODUCT	NUMBER OF AVAILABLE OVERDRAFT LICENSES	SELECTED SERVER HOSTING DISTRIBUTION TYPE	ENABLED SW FEATURES	EXPIRATION INFO
171	ACROBAT 8.0	10	VENDOR SERVER	X, Y	120 DAYS
	240-1	240-2	240-3	240-4	240-5

A

A'

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

DOCKET ALARM
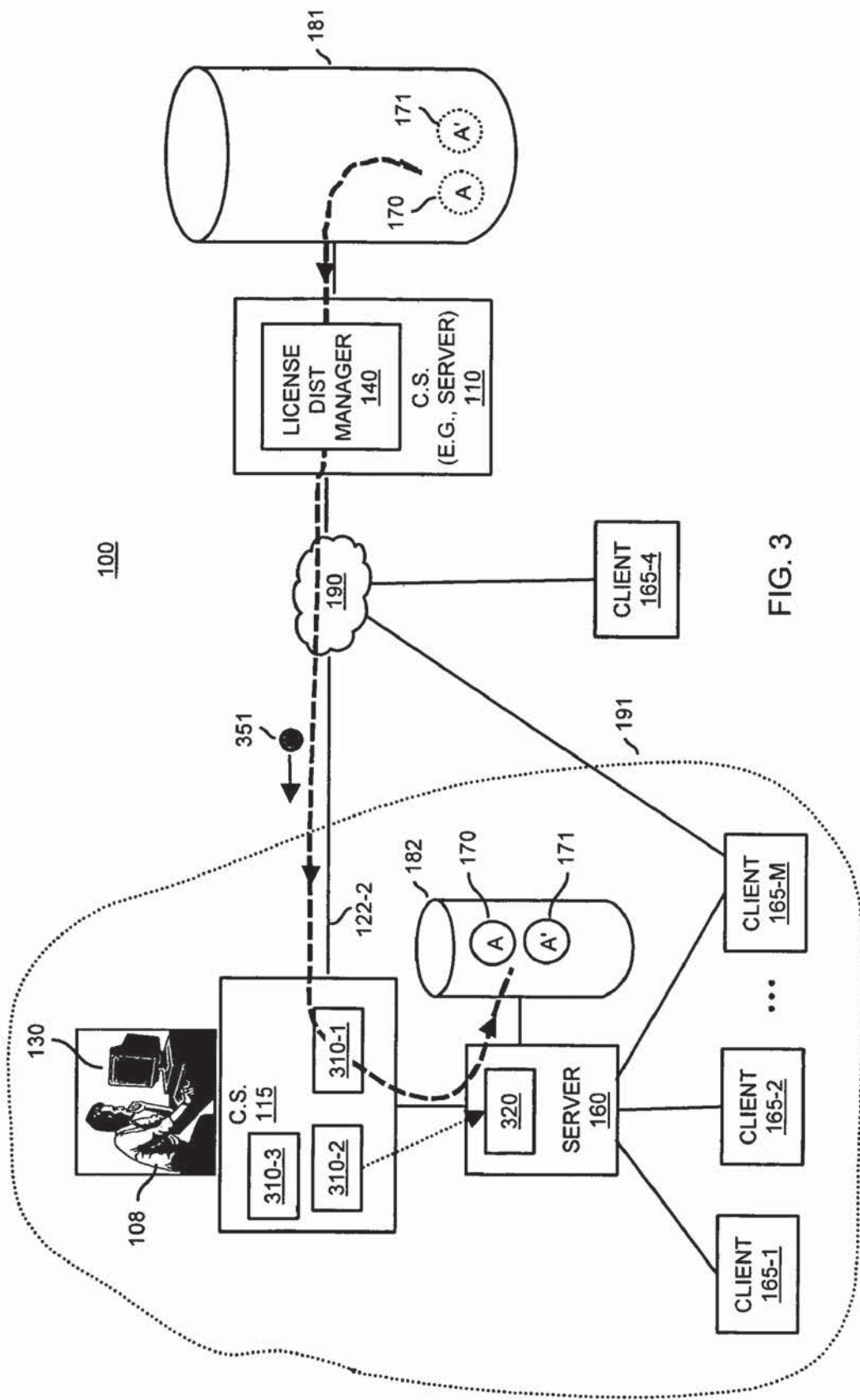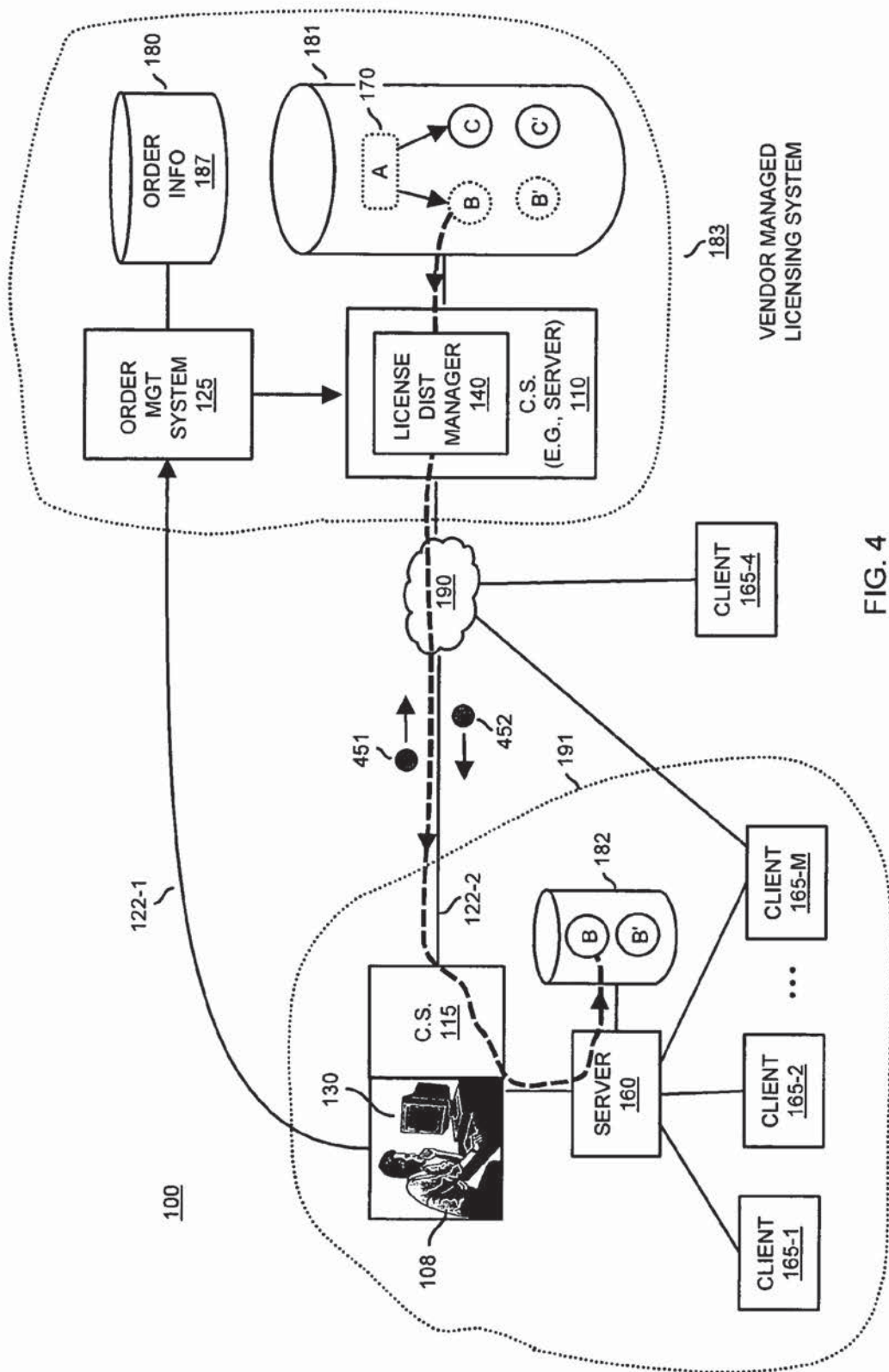
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