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United States Patent [19]

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Stone

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- [54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACCELERATED PACKET PROCESSING**
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- [73] Assignee: **Storage Technology Corporation**, Louisville, Colo.
- [*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,546,390.

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Timothy R. Schulte

- [21] Appl. No.: **366,225**
- [22] Filed: **Dec. 29, 1994**

- [51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H04L 12/56; G06F 13/00**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **370/469; 395/800; 395/670**
- [58] Field of Search 370/58.1, 58.2, 370/58.3, 60, 60.1, 61, 79, 82, 83, 85.13, 85.14, 94.1, 94.2, 94.3, 99; 395/200, 325, 375, 650, 800

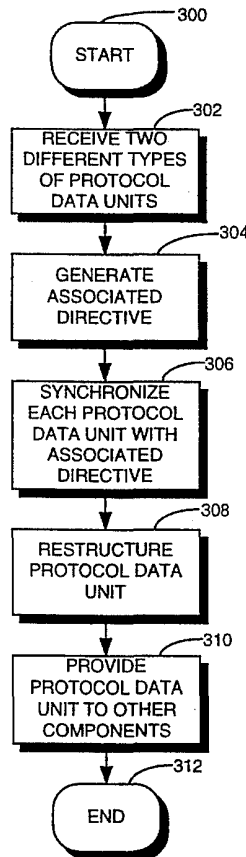
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus are provided to transfer protocol data units within a communication network. This transferring is accomplished with a protocol data unit processor that is operated in the communication network. The processor includes a preprocessor which establishes subsequent processing requirements of a particular protocol data unit received from the communication network to generate at least one associated directive for the particular protocol data unit. Subsequently, a synchronizing mechanism synchronizes the particular protocol data unit with the at least one associated directive to generate a synchronized protocol data unit. A restructuring device restructures the synchronized protocol data unit in accordance with the at least one associated directive for the protocol data unit to generate a restructured protocol data unit. In addition, a method of operating the protocol data unit processor in a heterogeneous communication network is provided.

31 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



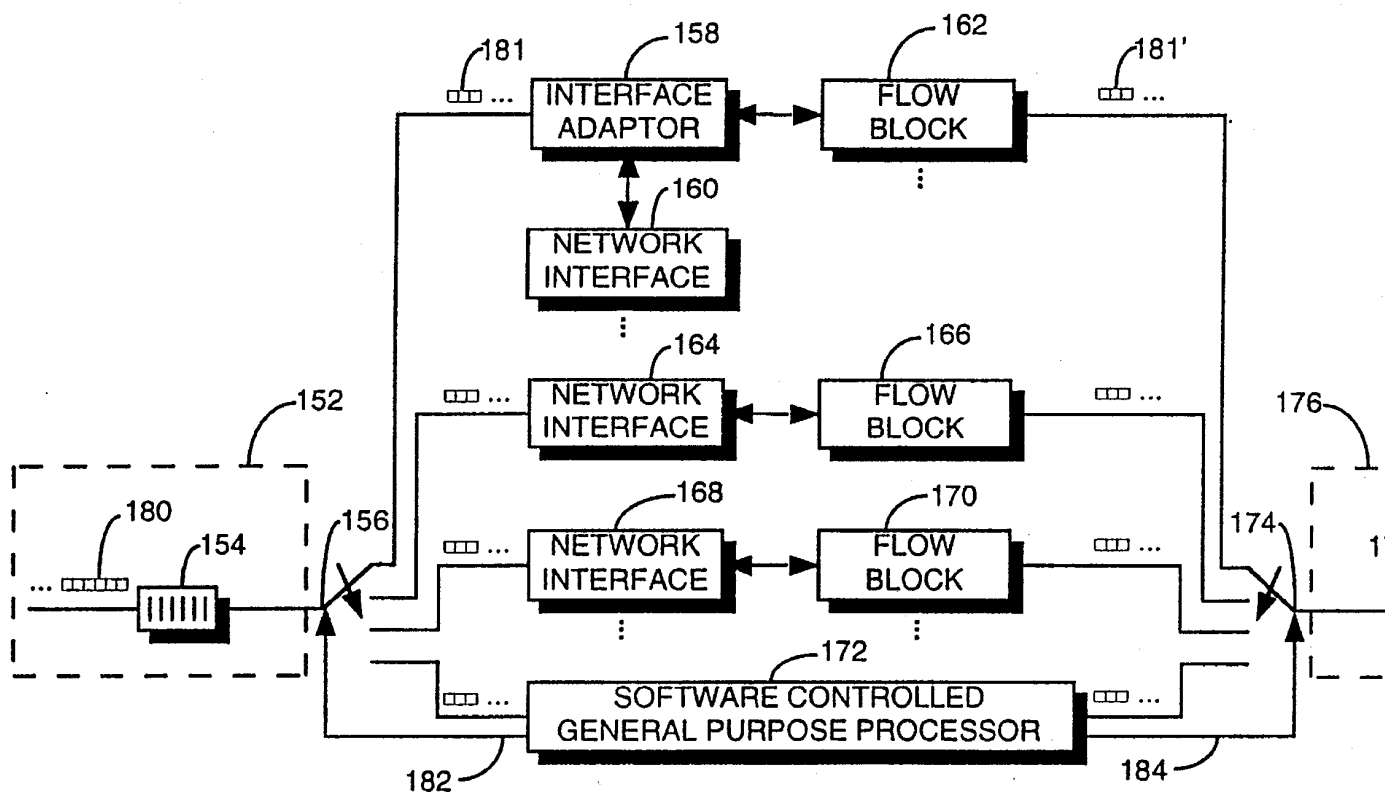


FIG. 1
-PRIOR ART-

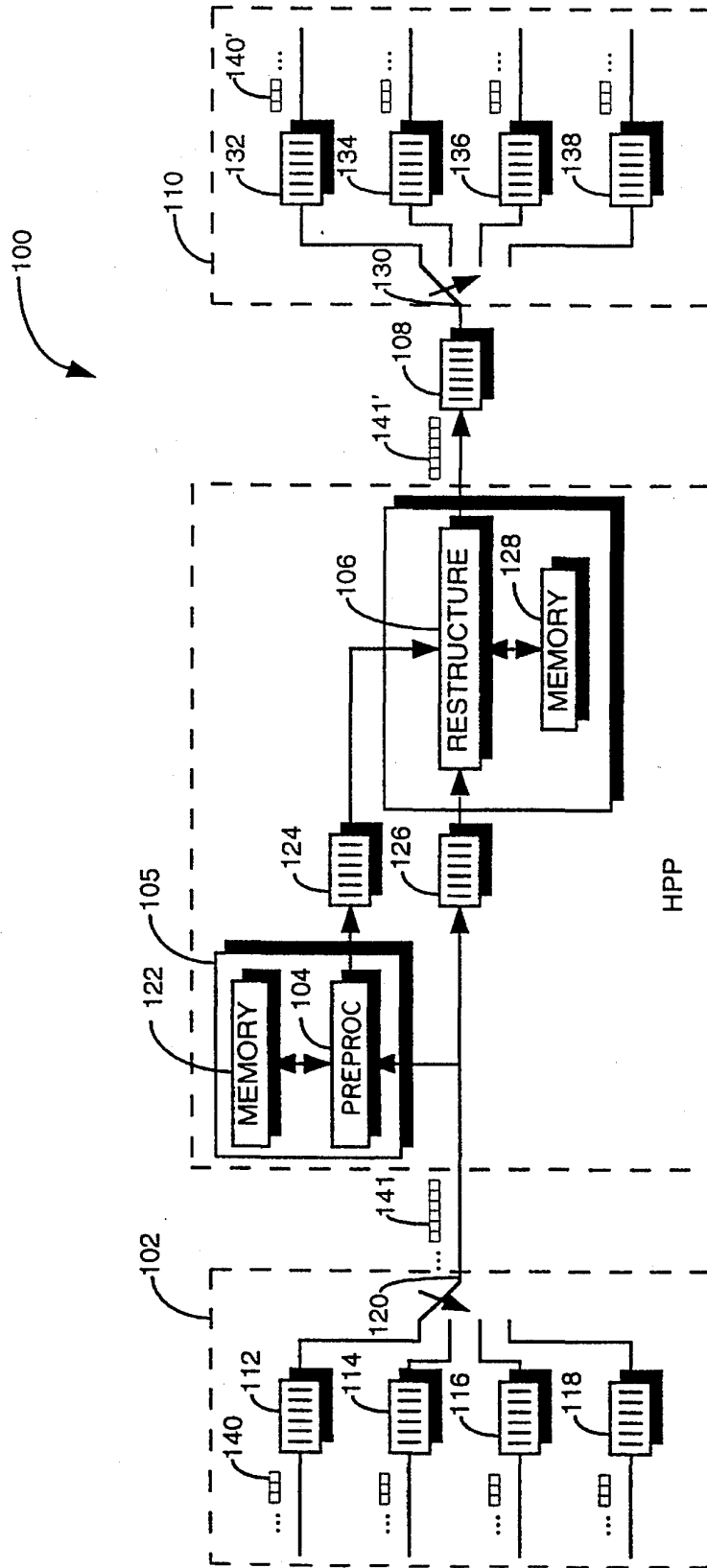


FIG. 2

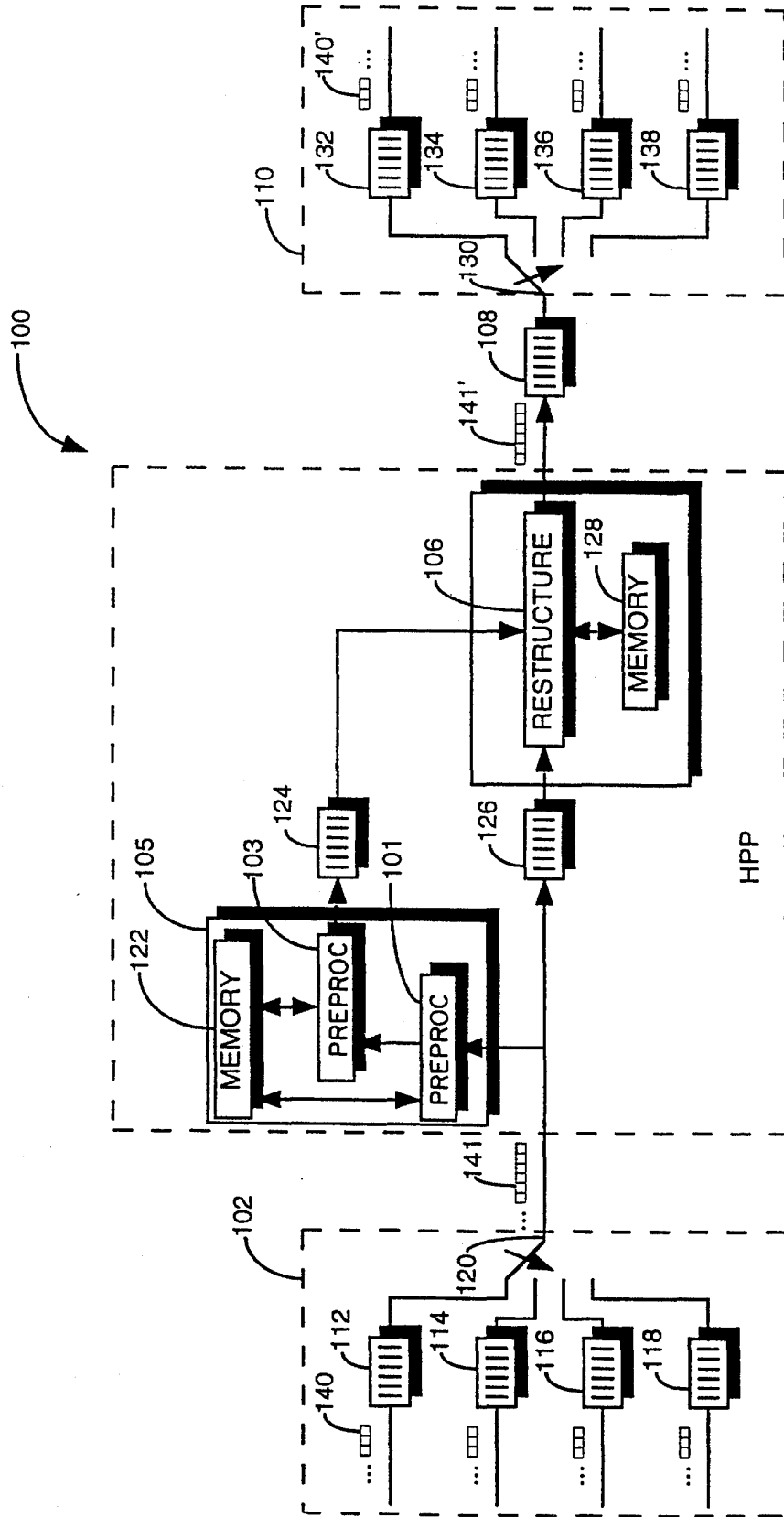


FIG. 3

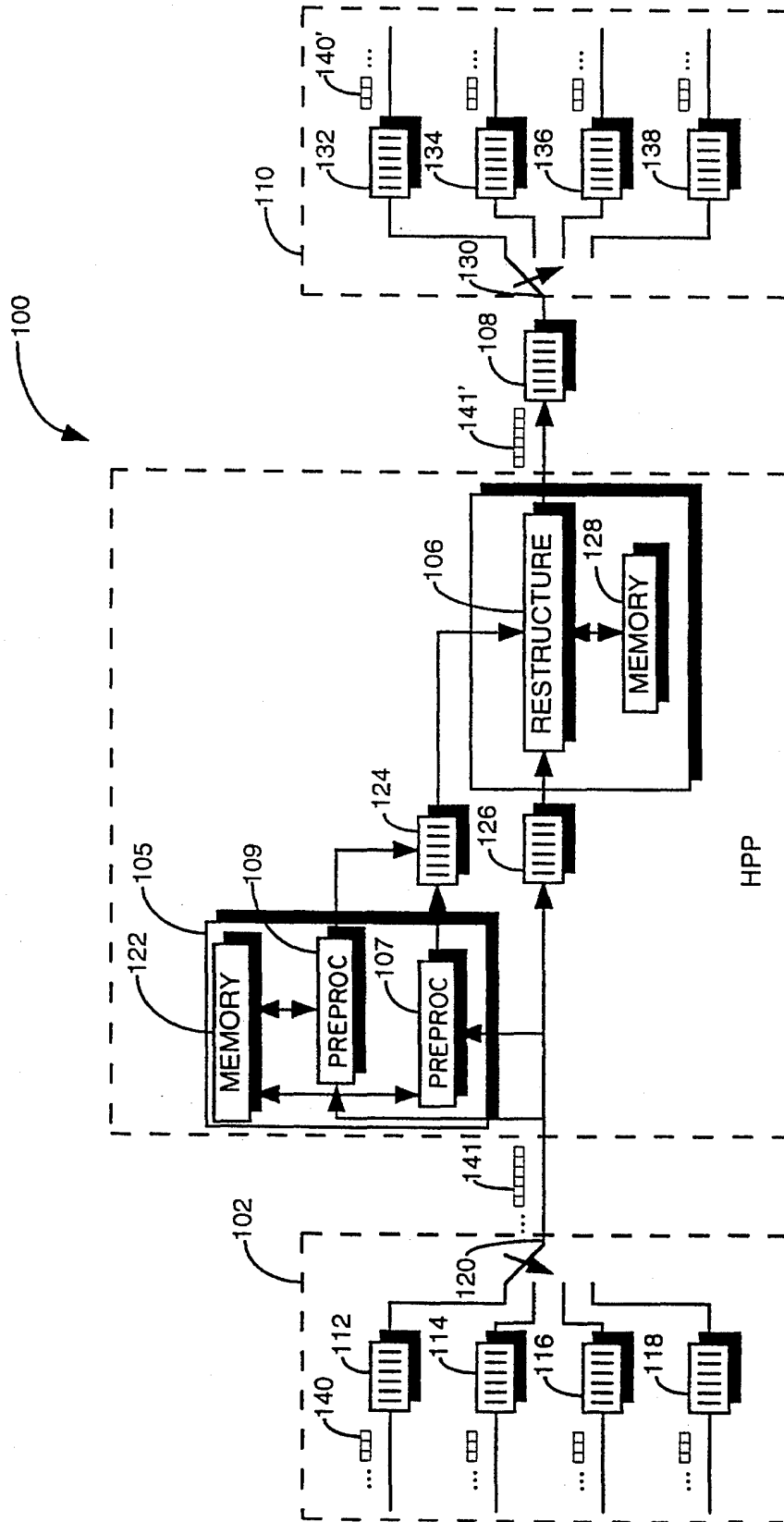


FIG. 4

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