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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ADAPTIVE  
RULE-BASED CONTENT SCANNERS FOR  
DESKTOP COMPUTERS**

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**G06F 21/00** (2006.01)  
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See application file for complete search history.

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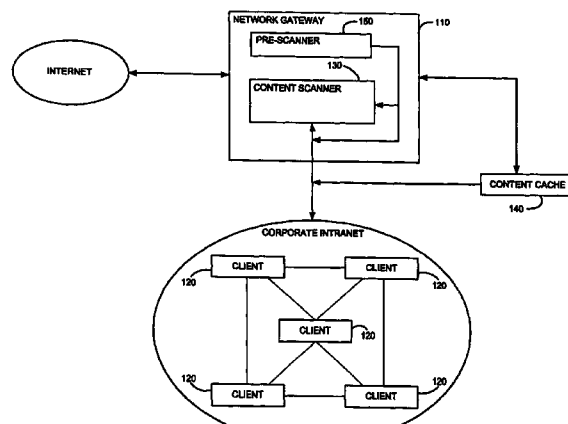
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A security system for scanning content within a computer, including a network interface, housed within a computer, for receiving content from the Internet on its destination to an Internet application running on the computer, a database of rules corresponding to computer exploits, stored within the computer, a rule-based content scanner that communicates with said database of rules, for scanning content to recognize the presence of potential exploits therewithin, a network traffic probe, operatively coupled to the network interface and to the rule-based content scanner, for selectively diverting content from its intended destination to the rule-based content scanner, and a rule update manager that communicates with said database of rules, for updating said database of rules periodically to incorporate new rules that are made available. A method and a computer readable storage medium are also described and claimed.

**25 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**



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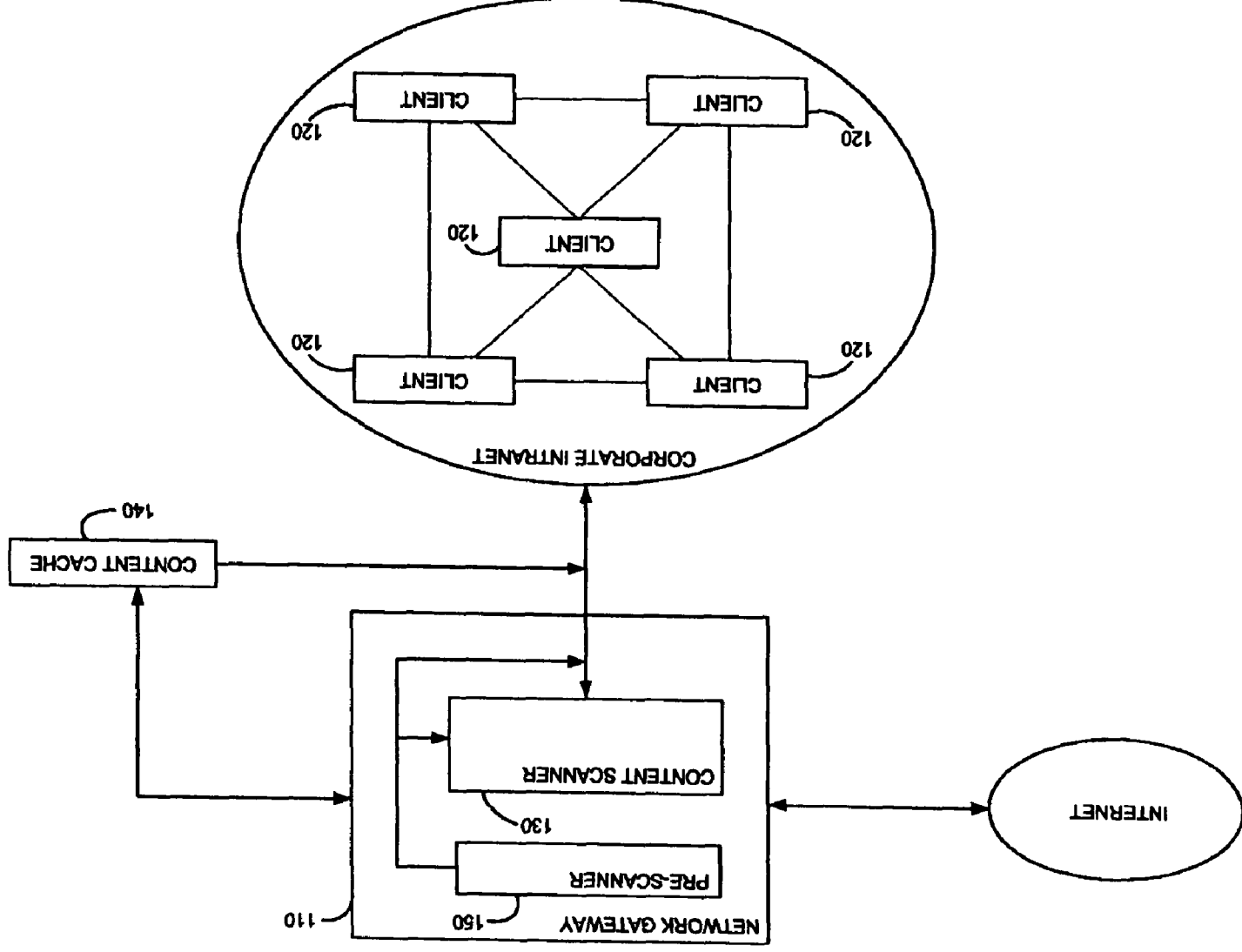
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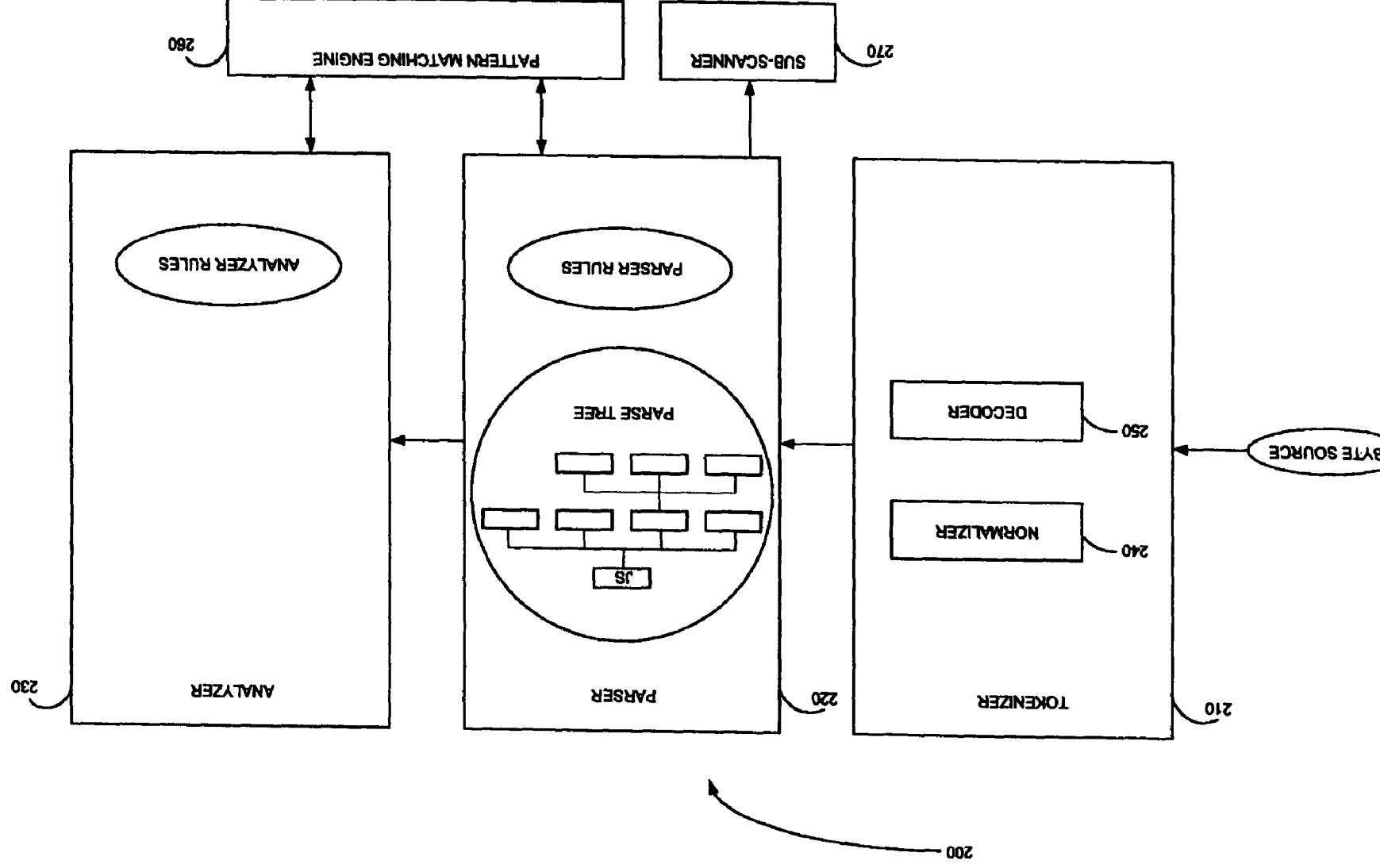
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