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**United States Patent** [19]

Wold et al.

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[54] **LAYERING HARDWARE SUPPORT CODE ON TOP OF AN EXISTING OPERATING SYSTEM**

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[73] Assignee: **Sun Microsystems, Inc.**, Mountain View, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **394,859**

[22] Filed: **Feb. 27, 1995**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **G06F 13/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **395/652**

[58] Field of Search ..... **395/700**

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Primary Examiner—Kevin A. Kriess

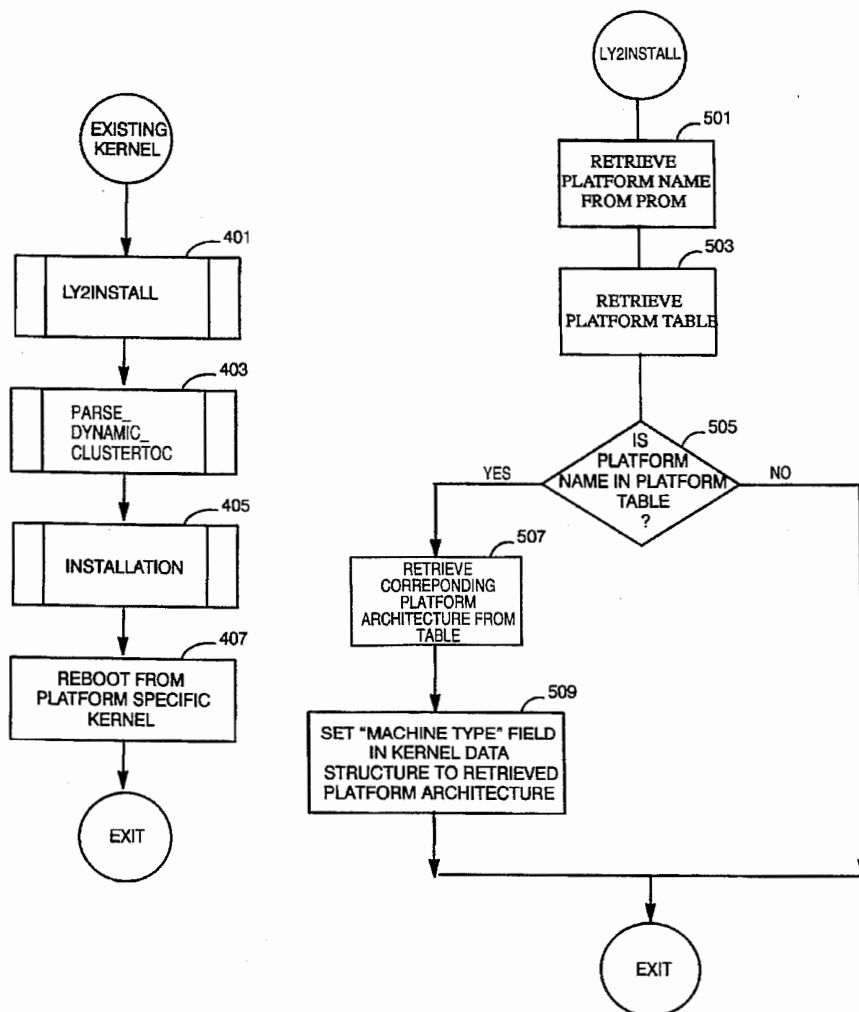
Assistant Examiner—John Q. Chavis

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An embodiment of the present invention provides an efficient and robust way to incorporate new installation scripts into an existing operating system in order to install and reboot a system using a new platform specific kernel and new device specific drivers. The embodiment determines the platform architecture of the system and stores it in an address space of an existing operating system kernel. The embodiment also pre-processes a file with dynamic entries in order to generate device independent package names. If the platform architecture type stored in each package matches the platform architecture type stored in the kernel address space then the file system is used to install the files from the package onto the system. The existing operating system then reboots the system using the installed platform specific kernel.

**16 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**



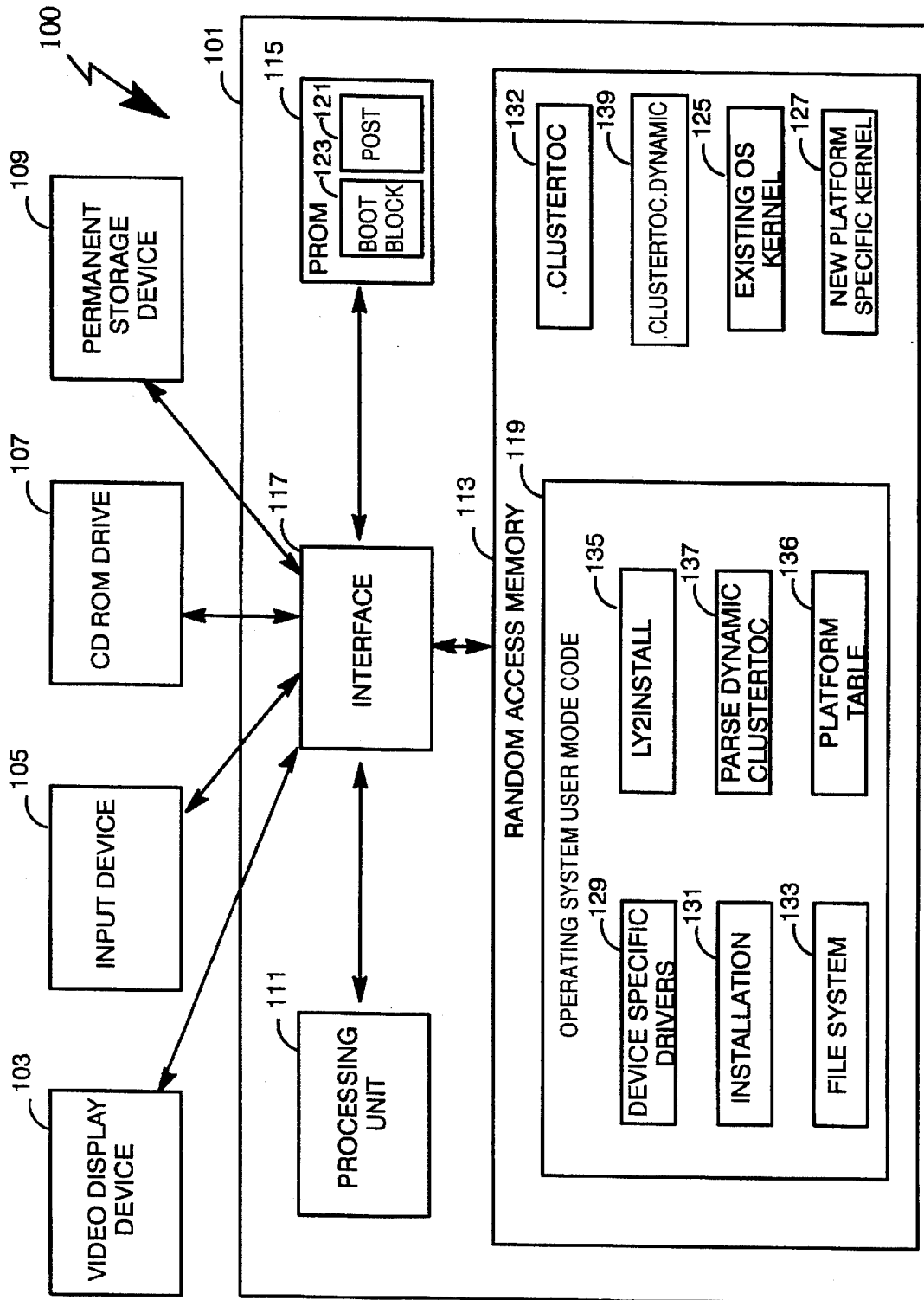


FIG. 1

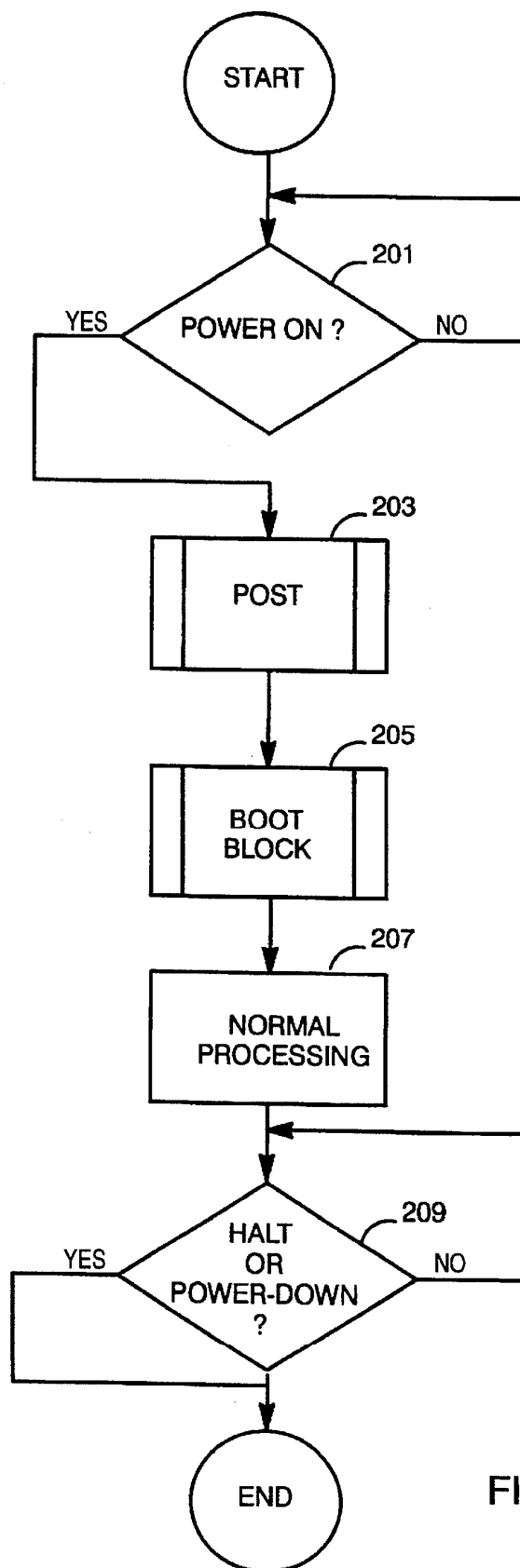


FIG. 2

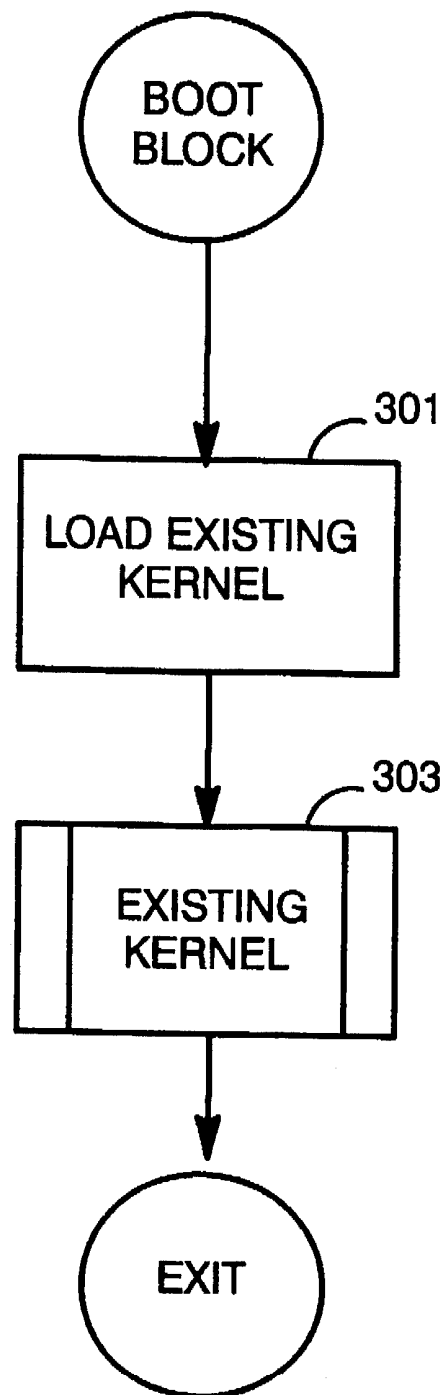


FIG. 3

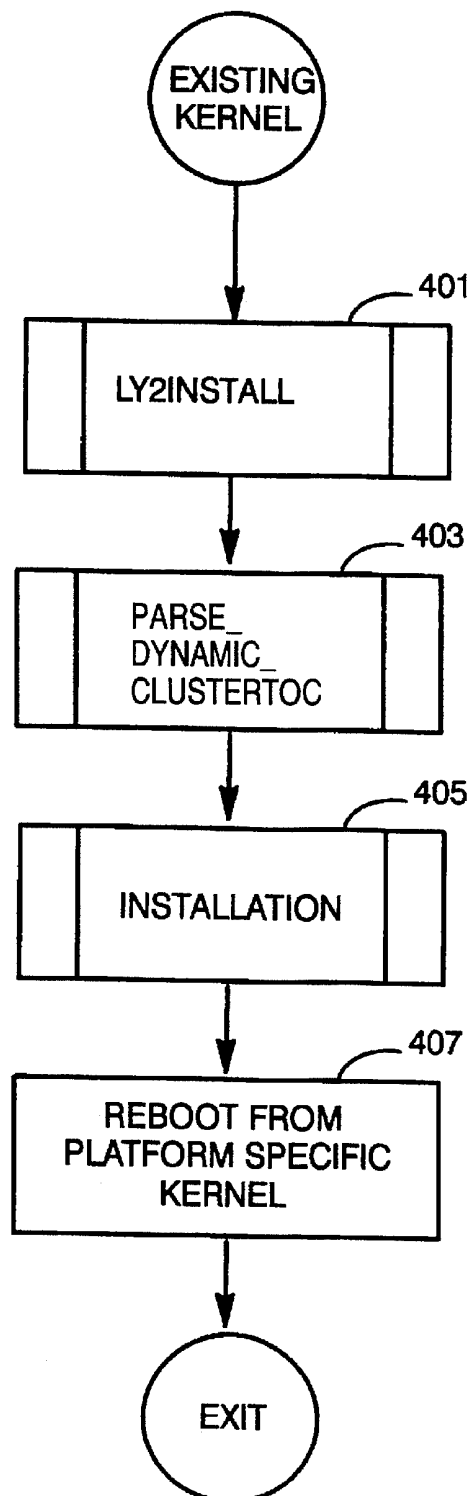


FIG. 4



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