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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SELECTIVELY TRANSFERRING BLOCK DATA OVER A NETWORK**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for sharing block data includes a non-removable device for storing block data (e.g. a hard drive) that is networked with a plurality of computers. Each computer can initiate discovery commands and read/write commands, and transmit these commands over the network to the non-removable storage device. Computer commands are intercepted and processed by a logical algorithm program at the storage device. One function of the logical algorithm program is to instruct each computer to treat the non-removable block storage device as a removable block device. Because the computers treat the storage device as a removable block device, they relinquish control of the device (after use) to other computers on the network. The logical algorithm program also functions to allocate temporary ownership of the block storage device to one of the computers on the network and passes temporary ownership from computer to computer on the network.

