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(54) **VIRTUAL BLOCK DEVICE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A virtual block device is an interface with applications that appears to the applications as a memory device, such as a standard block device. The virtual block device interacts with additional elements to do data deduplication to files at the block level such that one or more files accessed using the virtual block device have at least one block which is shared by the one or more files.

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/414,538, filed on Mar. 30, 2009.

