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16. The method of claim 4, wherein said applying step comprises applying the first transaction to the second replica atomically.

17. A system comprising at least two computers capable of being connected by a network link, each of said computers comprising:

- a storage device containing a replica, said replica containing entries of a distributed hierarchical database;
- a device controller in signal communication with said storage device;
- a replica manager in signal communication with said device controller and said network link; and
- a database manager in signal communication with said replica manager, said database manager on each computer configured to route database transactions to said device controller only through said replica manager, and said replica managers configured to route such transactions to each other after said computers are connected by said network link.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein each of said replica managers comprises a replica distributor and a replica processor.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said replica distributor comprises a consistency distributor and a location distributor.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said replica distributor comprises a consistency distributor, a location distributor, an object distributor, and an object schema.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein said replica distributor further comprises a file distributor.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein said replica processor comprises a consistency processor and a location state processor.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein said replica processor comprises a consistency processor, a location state processor, an object processor, and a transaction logger.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said replica processor further comprises a file processor.

25. The system of claim 17, wherein said replica manager comprises trigger function registrations, each registration associating a registered trigger function with a database operation such that the registered trigger function will be invoked on each replica, once the computers are connected, if the associated operation is requested of the database manager.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the associated operation belongs to the group consisting of add, remove, modify, and move operations.

27. The system of claim 17, wherein said replicas contain file descriptors and directory descriptors for a file system.

28. The system of claim 17, wherein said replicas contain directory services entries.

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29. A computer-readable storage medium having a configuration that represents data and instructions which cause a first computer and a second computer in a system to perform method steps for synchronizing transactions, the system including at least two computers capable of being connected by a network link, each of the computers including a storage device containing a distributed hierarchical database replica, a device controller in signal communication with the storage device, a replica manager in signal communication with the device controller and the network link, and a database manager in signal communication with the replica manager, the method comprising the steps of:

- routing database transactions with the database managers through the replica managers to the device controllers;
- connecting at least two computers with the network link; and

using each of at least two replica managers to route a transaction to another replica manager after the two computers are connected by the network link by:

- identifying a first transaction that targets an entry in the first replica, which resides on the first computer;
- transferring an update based on the first transaction over the network connection from the first computer to the second computer;
- applying the first transaction update to the second replica, which resides on the second computer;
- identifying a second transaction that targets an entry in the second replica;
- transferring an update based on the second transaction over the network connection from the second computer to the first computer; and
- applying the second transaction update to the first replica.

30. The storage medium of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises the step of entering a representation of a transaction in a transaction log.

31. The storage medium of claim 29, wherein the distributed hierarchical database includes objects and object attributes defined according to a schema that is accessible outside the database.

32. The storage medium of claim 29, wherein the replicas contain file descriptors and directory descriptors for a file system.

33. The storage medium of claim 29, wherein the replicas contain directory services entries.

34. The storage medium of claim 29, wherein the step of transferring an update comprises transferring a transaction sequence number corresponding to the first transaction and a location identifier corresponding to the first computer.

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