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(54) **INFORMATION-STORAGE SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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An information-storage system storing information includes, an information-storage unit configured to store data, an encoding/decoding unit configured to encode and store input data in the information-storage unit, and decode and output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit upon receiving a request for an information output, a transmission unit configured to output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit, the encoded data being left undecoded, and store the encoded data in a backup spot different from the information-storage unit, a status-monitoring unit configured to monitor an unusual status of the information-storage system, and a selection unit configured to select the transmission unit between the encoding/decoding unit and the transmission unit when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status of the information-storage system.

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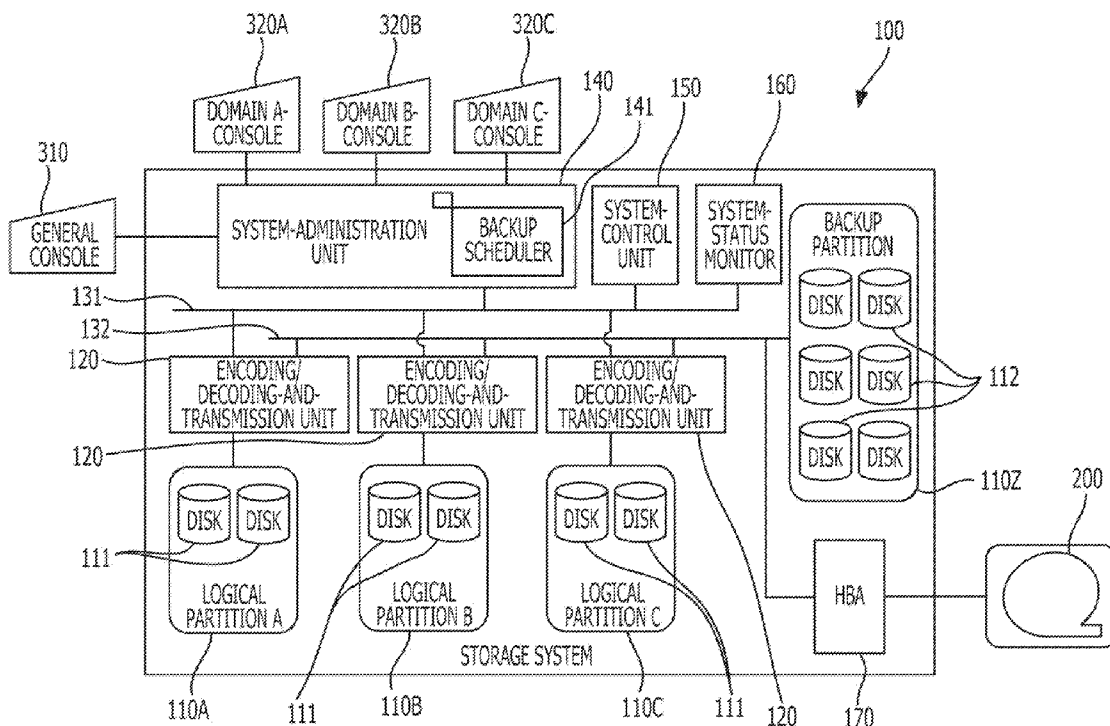


FIG. 1

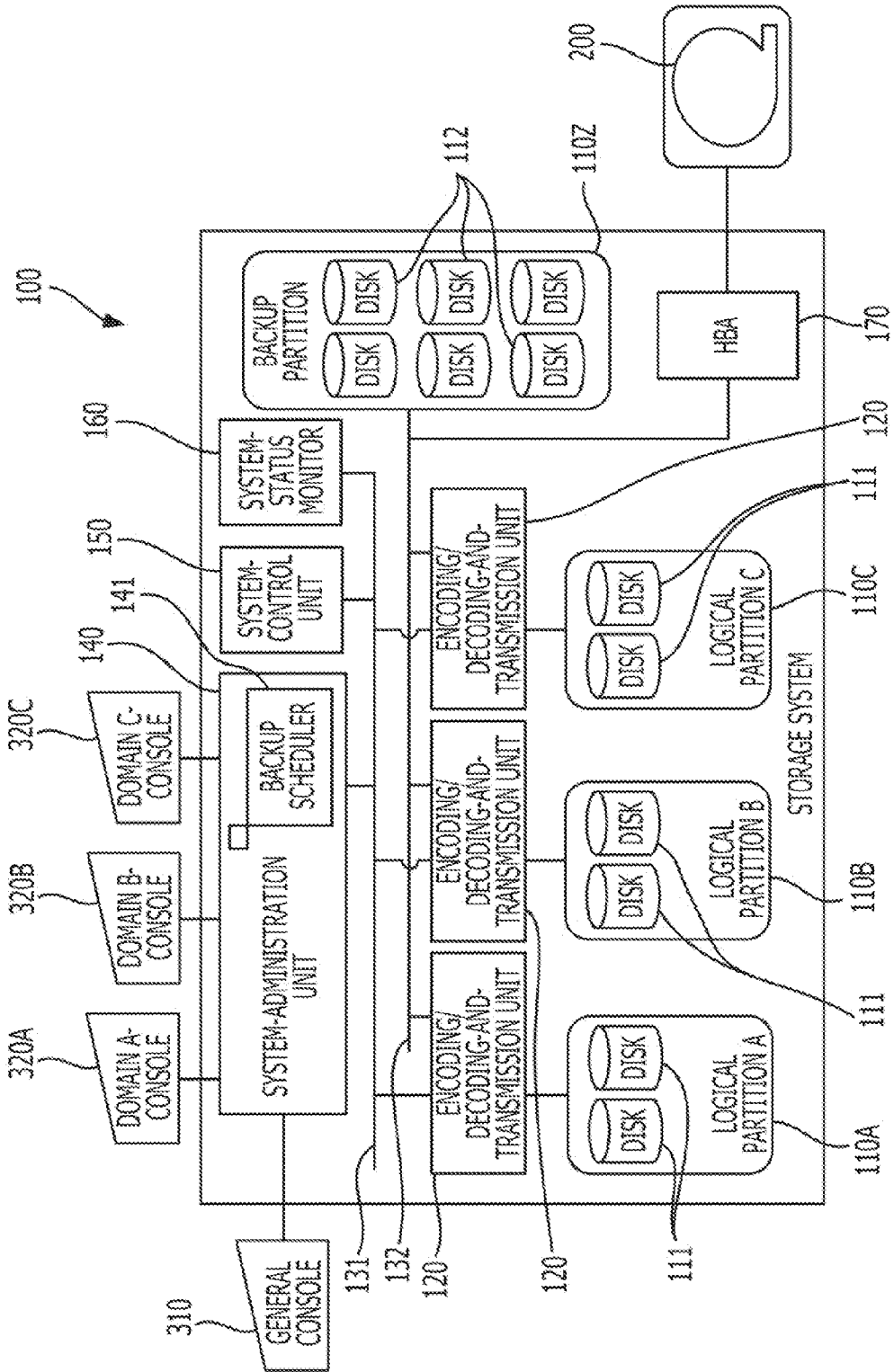


FIG. 2

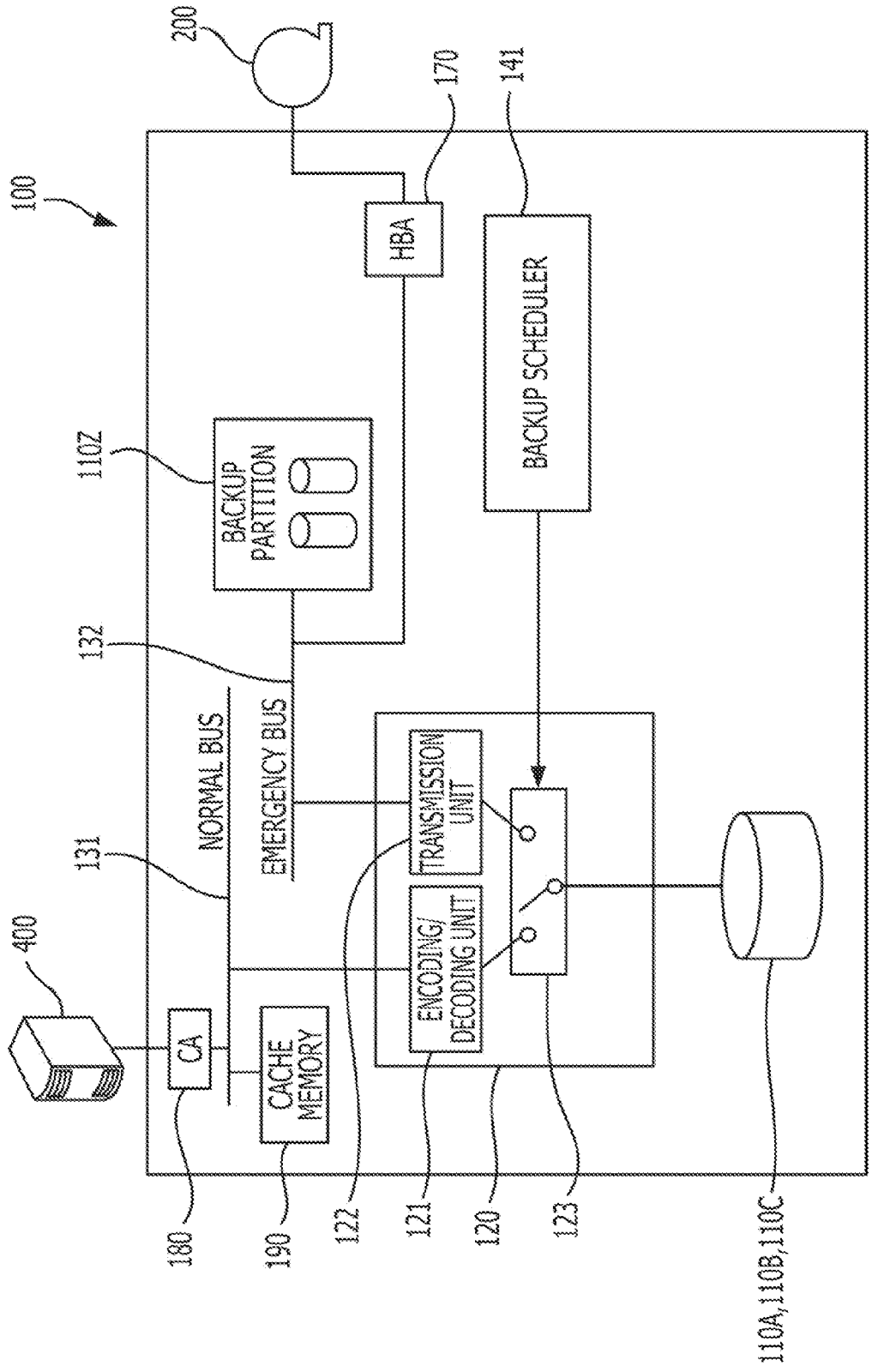


FIG. 3

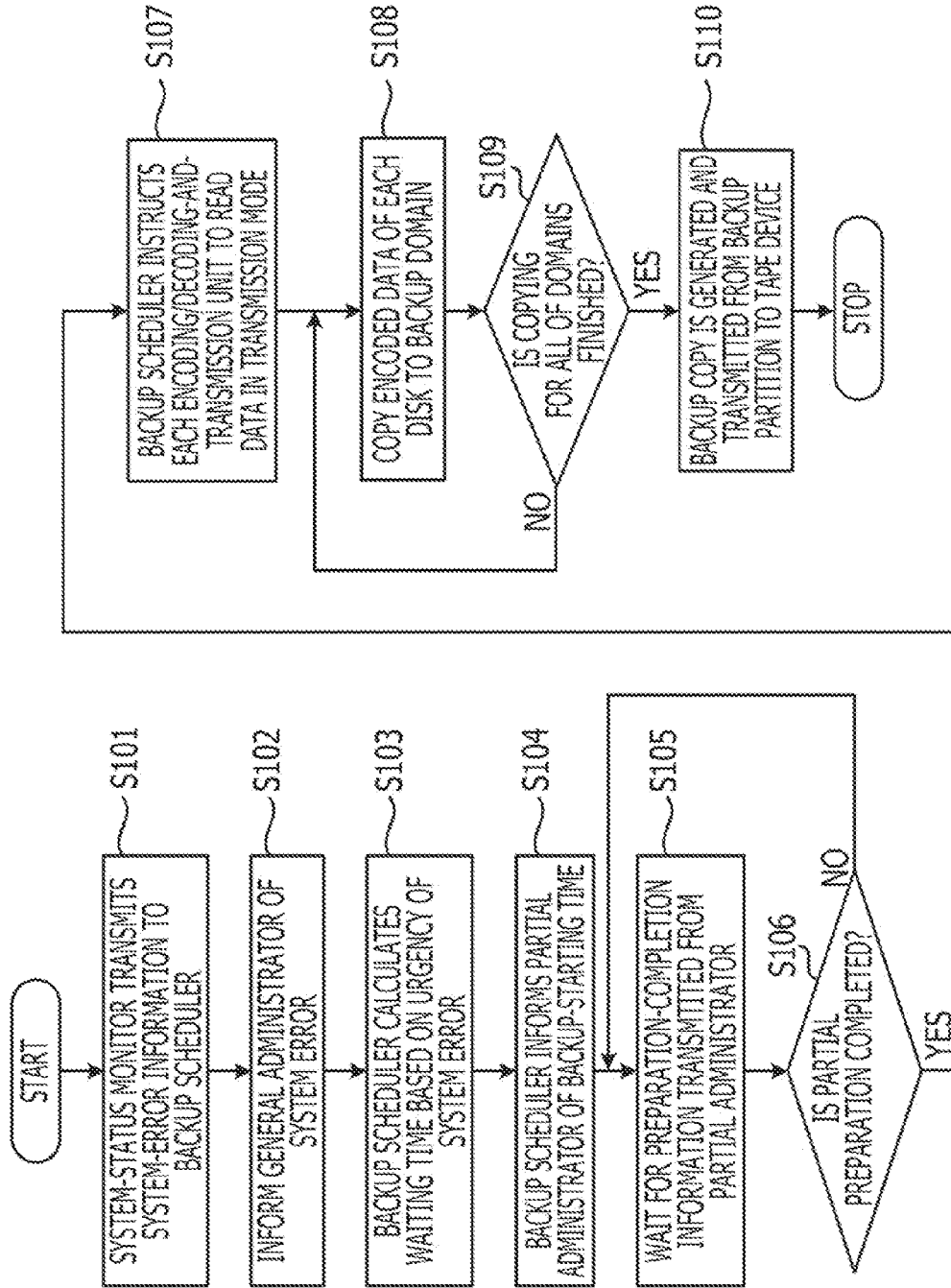


FIG. 4

500

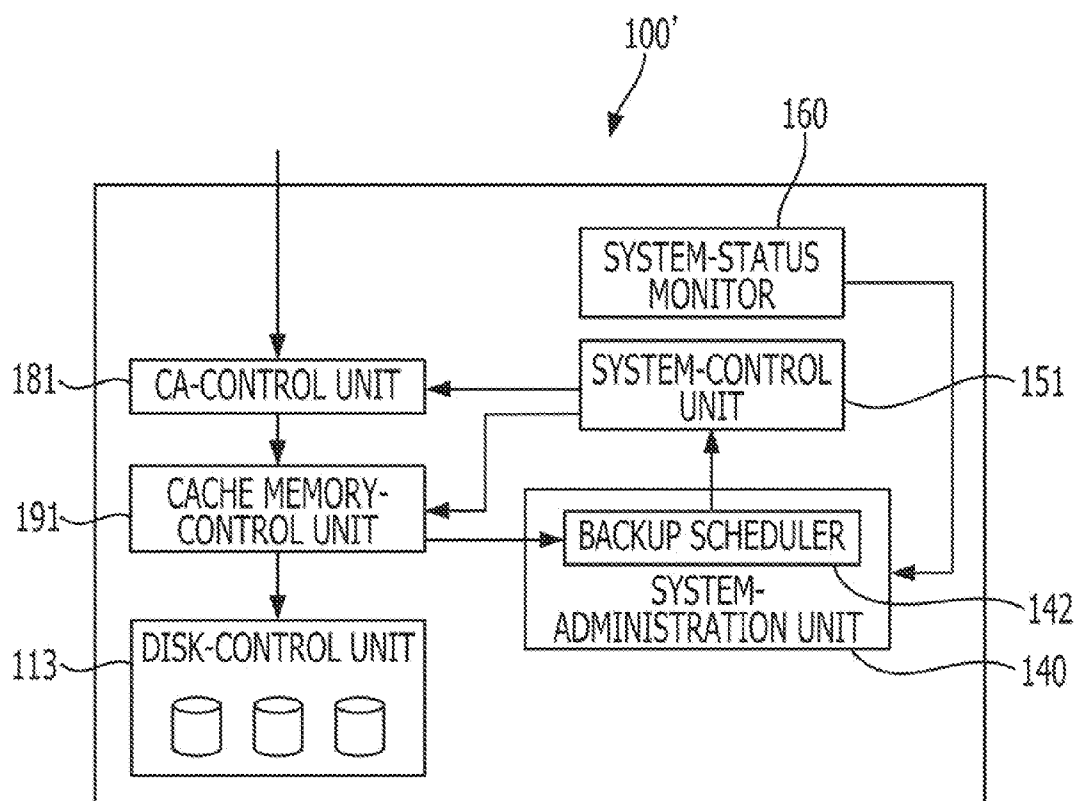
LEVEL	PRIORITY	WAITING TIME (SECOND)
INFO	3	3600
WARNING	2	1800
EMERGENCY	1	300

510

520

530

FIG. 5



**INFORMATION-STORAGE SYSTEM**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority of the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-029237, filed on Feb. 12, 2010, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**FIELD**

[0002] Embodiments discussed herein relate to an information-storage system.

**BACKGROUND**

[0003] Hitherto, information-storage systems have been widely used. In recent years, information is stored in the information-storage systems as digital data. Some of the information-storage systems have large storage capacity. In that case, the system and information stored in the system may be administered by different administrators. For example, there might be a case where the information-storage system is installed in a data center or the like, the logical volume of the information-storage system is divided into at least two division units, and the division units are lent to different companies. In that case, the administrator of the system may be a data center-operation company, for example. The system administrator performs the system-error management, the storage capacity-assignment to each of the division units, and so forth. On the other hand, the information administrator may be each of the companies borrowing the division units. The information administrator makes backup copies of information stored in the division unit lent to the information administrator, for example.

[0004] When the system and the information of the system are administered by different administrators as described above, a password or the like used to access information stored in a logical volume belonging to each of the division units is given only to each of the information administrators of the individual division units for security's sake. The security of the password or the like is ensured so that the system administrator is not informed of the password. Consequently, it is difficult for the system administrator to access the information stored in the logical volume belonging to each of the division units.

[0005] When the security is ensured as described above, it is difficult for the system administrator to view the logical volume of each of the division units even though the system administrator wishes to make backup copies of data of the entire system for the sake of system administration, for example, for making safety provisions when an error occurs in the system. Therefore, it is difficult for the system administrator to make backup copies of data of the entire system, so that a request to make the backup copies should be transmitted to the information administrator of each of the division units and the information administrators should make the backup copies by themselves.

[0006] Accordingly, technologies for making backup copies of data with facility have been proposed (see Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2008-84327, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2009-193258, and so forth).

[0007] However, each of the technologies that are proposed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2008-84327, Japanese

Patent Laid-Open No. 2009-193258, and so forth does not allow the system administrator to make the backup copies of data of the entire system.

**SUMMARY**

[0008] According to an aspect of the embodiment, an information-storage system storing information includes, an information-storage unit configured to store data, an encoding/decoding unit configured to encode and store input data in the information-storage unit, and decode and output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit upon receiving a request for an information output, a transmission unit configured to output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit, the encoded data being left undecoded, and store the encoded data in a backup spot different from the information-storage unit, a status-monitoring unit configured to monitor an unusual status of the information-storage system, and a selection unit configured to select the transmission unit when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status of the information-storage system.

[0009] The object and advantages of the embodiment will be realized and attained by at least the elements, features, and combinations particularly pointed out in the claims.

[0010] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are not restrictive of the embodiment, as claimed.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[0011] FIG. 1 illustrates a storage system corresponding to an information-storage system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0012] FIG. 2 illustrates details of a configuration relating to inputting data to and/or outputting data from logical partitions.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating operations that are performed to back up data.

[0014] FIG. 4 illustrates a waiting-time table provided to calculate a waiting time.

[0015] FIG. 5 illustrates details of a configuration part relating to the determination of the backup-start timing according to a second embodiment.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS**

[0016] Hereinafter, embodiments of an information-storage system will be described with reference to the attached drawings.

[0017] FIG. 1 illustrates the storage system corresponding to an information-storage system according to a first embodiment.

[0018] A storage system 100 illustrated in FIG. 1 includes logical partitions 110A, 110B, and 110C that are obtained by dividing a logical volume into at least two partitions (three partitions in the present embodiment). Physical hard disks 111 are assigned to each of the logical partitions 110A to 110C. An encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit 120 functioning as the entrance and exit of data is connected to each of the logical partitions 110A to 110C. A normal bus 131 and an emergency bus 132, each of which functions as the path of data, are connected to each of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission units 120. The normal bus 131 functions as the path of data exchanged between the storage system 100

and an external server, for example, as will be described later. Each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** corresponds to an exemplary information-storage unit storing data.

**[0019]** On the other hand, the emergency bus **132** functions as the path of data targeted for backup during the emergency as will be described later. A backup partition **110Z** storing data targeted for backup and a host bus adaptor (HBA) **170** provided to output the data targeted for backup from the storage system **100** are connected to the emergency bus **132**. Hard disks **112** that are physically separated from the hard disks **111** that are assigned to the individual logical partitions **110A** to **110C** are assigned to the backup partition **110Z**. A magnetic-tape device **200** provided as a storage spot where the data targeted for backup is stored is connected to the storage system **100** via the host bus adaptor **170**. The data targeted for backup is transferred from the backup partition **110Z** and is stored in the magnetic tape device **200**.

**[0020]** The storage system **100** illustrated in FIG. 1 includes a system-administration unit **140** provided to make settings on the storage system **100** based on, for example, an instruction transmitted from a manager. The system-administration unit **140** includes a backup scheduler **141** provided to lead the creation of backup copies of data during the emergency.

**[0021]** A general console **310** operated by an administrator taking charge of the general administration of the storage system **100** is connected to the system-administration unit **140** via a local area network (LAN), for example. The administrator transmits an instruction to make backup copies of data of the entire system to the system-administration unit **140** and/or makes a diagnosis of the system via the system-administration unit **140** when an error occurs in the system, for example, by operating the general console **310**. Further, the administrator instructs the system-administration unit **140** to assign the hard disks **111** to each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C**.

**[0022]** The system-administration unit **140** is also connected to domain consoles **320A**, **320B**, and **320C** that are operated through administrators administering data stored in the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** via the LAN, for example. The administrators make backup copies of data stored in the individual logical partitions, set a code used through the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120**, etc., via the system-administration unit **140** by operating the domain consoles.

**[0023]** The storage system **100** illustrated in FIG. 1 also includes a system-control unit **150** provided to control operations of the entire storage system **100** based on the settings that are made through the system-administration unit **140**. The storage system **100** further includes a system-status monitor **160** provided to monitor various internal statuses of the storage system **100**. The system-status monitor **160** corresponds to an exemplary status-monitoring unit provided to monitor an unusual status of the information-storage system.

**[0024]** Here, inputting data to and/or outputting data from each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** will be specifically described.

**[0025]** FIG. 2 illustrates the details of a configuration relating to inputting data to and/or outputting data from each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C**.

**[0026]** Of the components of the storage system **100**, the backup partition **110Z**, the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120**, the normal bus **131**, the emergency bus **132**, the backup scheduler **141**, and the host-bus adaptor **170**, which

are illustrated in FIG. 1, are also illustrated in FIG. 2. Further, in FIG. 2, the logical partitions **110A**, **1106**, and **110C** are not separated from one another, but illustrated collectively.

**[0027]** The storage system **100** includes a channel adaptor (CA) **180** and a cache memory **190** that are not illustrated in FIG. 1. The channel adaptor **180** and the cache memory **190** are connected to the normal bus **131** and an external server **400** is connected to the channel adaptor **180** via a fibre channel. The external server **400** transmits data to and/or receives data from at least one of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C**, to which the external server **400** is granted access.

**[0028]** The data which is transmitted from the server **400** and stored in each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** is temporarily accumulated in the cache memory **190** via the channel adaptor **180** and the normal bus **131**. After that, the data stored in the cache memory **190** is forwarded to the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120** via the normal bus **131**.

**[0029]** As illustrated in FIG. 2, the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120** includes an encoding/decoding unit **121**, a transmission unit **122**, and a switch **123**. The switch **123** is provided to selectively connect one of the encoding/decoding unit **121** and the transmission unit **122** to each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C**. Usually, the switch **123** connects each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** to the encoding/decoding unit **121**. The above-described switching is performed through the switch **123** under the control of the backup scheduler **141**. The function of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120** may be achieved through firmware. In that case, the switch **123** can be achieved by providing data of a flag indicating whether or not the program of the switch **123** should be decoded on the cache memory **190** and causing the processing of the program to branch off based on the value of the flag data.

**[0030]** The data transmitted from the cache memory **190** to the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120** is encoded with the encoding/decoding unit **121** and becomes encoded data. The encoded data is transferred and stored in each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C**. The encoding performed with the encoding/decoding unit **121** is set by each of the administrators administering the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** as described above. Consequently, the data is encoded differently for each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** and the security of the data is ensured. That is, the encoding/decoding unit **121** corresponds to an exemplary encoding/decoding unit that encodes and stores the data in the information-storage unit, and that decodes and outputs the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit.

**[0031]** First, the data that is acquired from each of the logical partitions **110A** to **110C** and transferred to the server **400** is decoded with the encoding/decoding unit **121** of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120**. Then, the decoded data passes through the normal bus **131** and is temporarily accumulated in the cache memory **190**. After that, the data accumulated in the cache memory **190** is forwarded to the server **400** via the normal bus **131** and the channel adaptor **180**.

**[0032]** Under normal conditions, the above-described input/output of the data is performed. During the emergency, however, data targeted for backup is output. During the emergency, the backup scheduler **141** switches the switch **123** of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission unit **120** to the transmission-unit **122**-side. Then, the transmission unit **122** transmits the encoded data stored in each of the logical par-



titions 110A to 110C to the emergency bus 132, the encoded data being left undecoded. The encoded data is stored in the backup partition 110Z via the emergency bus 132.

[0033] The transmission unit 122 corresponds to an exemplary transmission unit provided to output encoded data stored in the information-storage unit, the encoded data being left undecoded. The backup partition 110Z corresponds to an exemplary backup spot separate from the information-storage unit. A combination of the switch 123 and the backup scheduler 141 corresponds to an exemplary selection unit provided to select the transmission unit 122 when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status.

[0034] In the present embodiment, the data path which is used under normal circumstances is physically separated from the data path used during the emergency, which increases the safety of the encoded data. The above-described fact indicates that the following application mode is appropriate. The appropriate application mode includes first and second buses.

[0035] The first bus is connected to the above-described encoding/decoding unit so that each of data which is stored in the information-storage unit via the encoding/decoding unit and that which is output from the information-storage unit via the encoding/decoding unit passes through the first bus.

[0036] The second bus, which is isolated from the first bus, is connected to the above-described transmission unit so that the encoded data which is output from the information-storage unit via the transmission unit passes through the second bus.

[0037] The above-described normal bus 131 corresponds to an example of the first bus. Further, the emergency bus 132 corresponds to an example of the second bus.

[0038] Hereinafter, further details of the operations that are performed to back up data in the storage system 100 of the present embodiment will be furnished.

[0039] FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating operations that are performed to back up data.

[0040] In the storage system 100, data is backed up during the emergency. The term “emergency” indicates the time when the system-status monitor 160 illustrated in FIG. 1 confirms an error occurring in the system. Then, during the emergency, the system-status monitor 160 transmits information about the system error to the backup scheduler 141, and the backup scheduler 141 receives the information through operation (S101). The system-error information includes information about the seriousness (urgency) of the system error. Upon receiving the system-error information with the backup scheduler 141, the system-administration unit 140 informs the administrator of the occurrence of the system error through the general console 310 as operation (S102). Further, the backup scheduler 141 calculates a waiting time provided to back up data based on the seriousness (urgency) of the system error with reference to a table which will be described below as operation (S103).

[0041] FIG. 4 illustrates a waiting-time table 500 provided to calculate the waiting time.

[0042] The waiting-time table 500 illustrates a combination of error-level information 510, priority information 520, and waiting-time information 530. The error-level information 510 is included in information transmitted from the system-status monitor 160 to the backup scheduler 141. As a specific example of the error-level information 510, FIG. 4 illustrates three types of levels “INFO”, “WARNING”, and “EMERGENCY”. The level “INFO” indicates the state where the

administrator is informed of the system error, the level “WARNING” indicates the state where the administrator receives a warning, and the level “EMERGENCY” indicates a state of emergency. The priority information 520 indicates the priority order of the above-described levels. That is, the level “EMERGENCY” corresponds to priority “1”, the level “WARNING” corresponds to priority “2”, and the level “INFO” corresponds to priority “3”. As the value of priority decreases, the priority order increases. Further, as the priority order indicated as the priority information 520 increases, the time assigned to the level corresponding to the priority order decreases, the time being indicated as the waiting-time information 530. More specifically, a waiting time of “300” seconds is assigned to the level “EMERGENCY” corresponding to the priority “1”, a waiting time of “1800” seconds is assigned to the level “WARNING” corresponding to the priority “2”, and a waiting time of “3600” seconds is assigned to the level “INFO” corresponding to the priority “3”. Each of the waiting times is exemplarily illustrated in the waiting-time table 500.

[0043] The backup scheduler 141 obtains the waiting-time information 530 corresponding to the error-level information 510 by referring to the above-described waiting-time table 500.

[0044] After the waiting time is obtained through operation S103 illustrated in FIG. 3, the backup scheduler 141 informs each of the administrators of the obtained waiting time via the domain consoles 320A to 320C, as the backup-starting time reckoned from the current time. That is, the starting time is expressed as, for example, “The data backup will be started after MM minutes.” through operation (S104). Upon being informed of the starting time, each of the administrators finishes jobs for which access to data should be made, the data being stored in a logical partition administered by the administrator, so that the data can be backed up. Then, the administrators inform the backup scheduler 141 that preparations for the data backup had been made via the individual domain consoles 320A to 320C.

[0045] After informing the administrators of the starting time, the backup scheduler 141 waits for information about the completion of preparations, the information being transmitted from each of the administrators, as operations (S105 and S106). After receiving the information transmitted from each of the administrators, which indicates that the answer is Yes for operation (S106), the backup scheduler 141 instructs each of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission units 120 to read data in transmission mode. That is, the backup scheduler 141 instructs each of the encoding/decoding-and-transmission units 120 to switch the switch 123. As a result, each of the logical partitions 110A to 110C is connected to the transmission unit 122 and the transmission unit 122 outputs the encoded data through operation (S107). When the switching of the switch 123 is completed, the backup scheduler 141 starts copying the encoded data from each of the logical partitions 110A to 110C, to the backup partition 110Z via the transmission unit 122, and the backup scheduler 141 waits until the encoded data is copied from each of the logical partitions 110A to 110C to the backup partition 110Z, which corresponds to operations (S108 and S109).

[0046] When the encoded data of all of the logical partitions 110A to 110C is copied to the backup partition 110Z, which means that the answer is Yes for operation (S109), the encoded data of the backup partition 110Z is grouped into a single file as an archive under the control of the backup

scheduler **141**. Then, data of the file is stored in the magnetic-tape device **200** via the emergency bus **132** and the host bus adaptor **170** under the control of the backup scheduler **141** through operation (S110). In the present invention, information of the entire storage system **100** is backed up through the above-described operations while saving the information administrator from having to back up the information. Further, since the information is backed up as the encoded data, the administrator, who has no information provided to decode the encoded data, is not able to view the details of the information. Therefore, the security of the information is maintained at the backup time.

[0047] In the present invention, the encoded data of the logical partition is copied to the backup partition **110Z**, and the encoded data of the backup partition **110Z** is stored in the magnetic-tape device **200**. That is, the information is backed up in two stages. Usually, it is preferable that backed-up data be stored in a backup spot such as the magnetic-tape device **200** provided outside the information-storage system to protect the backed-up data against a disaster or the like. However, when data is transferred (copied) to the above-described backup spot provided outside the information-storage system, the time consumed for the data transfer (copying) is usually longer than that consumed for the data transfer (copying) performed inside the information-storage system. Therefore, the operation-interruption time consumed for the data backup is increased. Therefore, when the data backup is performed in two stages as described in the present embodiment, the operation-interruption time occurring in each of the logical partitions due to the data backup can be reduced. Further, the two-stage backup process allows for storing the data at a safe backup spot in the end, the backup spot being provided outside the information-storage system, which means that the following application mode is appropriate. According to the appropriate application mode, the above-described transmission unit stores the above-described encoded data in a first backup spot provided in the information-storage system. Further, according to the appropriate application mode, a backup-transfer unit is provided to transfer the encoded data from the first backup spot to a second backup spot provided outside the information-storage system.

[0048] The host bus adaptor **170** illustrated in each of FIGS. **1** and **2** corresponds to an example of the backup-transfer unit. Further, the backup partition **110Z** illustrated in each of FIGS. **1** and **2** corresponds to an example of the first backup spot. Still further, the magnetic-tape device **200** corresponds to an example of the second backup spot.

[0049] In the present invention, data of all of the logical partitions is archived into a single file so that the data is backed up. However, the method of archiving data to back up the data for each of the logical partitions may be used for the information-storage system disclosed in this specification. If the above-described method is used, the data of all of the logical partitions is copied to the backup partition **110Z** in decreasing order of the reception of information about the data-backup preparation completion, which may reduce the total time consumed for the data backup. Further, according to the information-storage system disclosed in this specification, data of a flag indicating in which unit data is archived may be provided in the system so that the data is archived in a unit indicated by the flag.

[0050] Hereinafter, a second embodiment of the information-storage system will be described. The second embodiment is equivalent to the above-described first embodiment

except that the backup-start timing is determined differently from the first embodiment. Hereinafter, the difference between the first and second embodiments will be mainly described so as to reduce redundancy of the descriptions.

[0051] FIG. **5** illustrates the details of a configuration part relating to the determination of the backup-start timing according to the second embodiment.

[0052] FIG. **5** illustrates a storage system **100'** according to the second embodiment. The storage system **100'** includes the system-administration unit **140** and the system-status monitor **160**, as is the case with the first embodiment.

[0053] Although a disk-control unit **113** provided in the storage system **100'** is not illustrated in each of FIGS. **1** and **2**, the disk-control unit **113** is attached to the hard disks **111** that are described in the first embodiment. Likewise, a channel adaptor (CA)-control unit **181** and a cache memory-control unit **191** are also attached to the individual channel adaptor **180** and cache memory **190** that are described in the first embodiment. As described above, data transmitted from an external server or the like passes through the channel adaptor **180** and flows into the hard disks **111** that are assigned to the logical partition via the cache memory **190**. In accordance with the data flow, the data control is shifted from the CA-control unit **181** to the cache memory-control unit **191**, and to the disk-control unit **113**.

[0054] The storage system **100'** of the second embodiment includes a backup scheduler **142** different from the backup scheduler **141** included in the storage system **100** of the first embodiment. The storage system **100'** further includes a system-control unit **151** different from the system-control unit **150** included in the storage system **100**.

[0055] When the system-status monitor **160** detects a system error so that a data backup should be performed, the backup scheduler **142** of the second embodiment informs the system-control unit **151** that the data backup should be performed. Upon being informed, the system-control unit **151** monitors the CA-control unit **181**. Then, when write data is not transmitted from a server or the like to the channel adaptor **180** for a specified time period, the system-control unit **151** shifts the channel adaptor **180** to suspend mode via the CA-control unit **181**. In the suspend mode, the channel adaptor-control unit **181** suspends transmitting data to the cache memory **190**. Further, write data transmitted from a server or the like to the channel adaptor **180** during the suspend mode is queued within the channel adaptor **180** with the CA-control unit **181**.

[0056] The cache memory-control unit **191** transmits data that is stored in the cache memory **190** and that is not yet written onto the hard disk **111** to the hard disk **111** based on an instruction transmitted from the system-control unit **151**. When the cache memory **190** becomes empty of the above-described data, the cache memory-control unit **191** informs the backup scheduler **142** of the emptiness. By being triggered by the information, the backup scheduler **142** starts making backup copies of the encoded data of the logical partition and transmitting the backup copies to the backup partition.

[0057] Thus, in the second embodiment, the timing appropriate for the data backup is automatically determined based on the state where data is input to the storage system **100'**. Therefore, the data backup can be started without the help of an administrator administering information, which means that the following application mode is appropriate.

[0058] The appropriate application mode provides a timing-determination unit determining the timing when the selection unit selects the transmission unit based on the state where data is input to the information-storage system, when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status.

[0059] A combination of the system-control unit 151 and the backup scheduler 142 that are described in the second embodiment corresponds to an example of the timing-determination unit.

[0060] Each of the above-described embodiments illustrates the storage system including the normal bus through which the normal data passes and the emergency bus through which the encoded data passes during the emergency, as an appropriate example. According to the information-storage system disclosed in this specification, however, the normal data and the encoded data provided for the emergency may pass through a common bus.

[0061] Each of the above-described embodiments illustrates the configuration provided to make backup copies of the encoded data and transmit the backup copies to the backup partition provided in the storage system, as an appropriate example of the transmission unit. However, the transmission unit of the information-storage system may make backup copies of the encoded data and transmit the backup copies to, for example, the magnetic-tape device 200 provided outside the storage system.

All examples and conditional language recited herein are intended for pedagogical purposes to aid the reader in understanding the principles of the invention and the concepts contributed by the inventor to furthering the art, and are to be construed as being without limitation to such specifically recited examples and conditions, nor does the organization of such examples in the specification relate to a showing of the superiority and inferiority of the invention. Although the embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail, it should be understood that the various changes, substitutions, and alterations could be made hereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An information-storage system storing information, the information-storage system comprising:

- an information-storage unit configured to store data;
- an encoding/decoding unit configured to encode and store input data in the information-storage unit, and decode and output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit upon receiving a request for an information output;
- a transmission unit configured to output the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit, the encoded data being left undecoded, and store the encoded data in a backup spot different from the information-storage unit;
- a status-monitoring unit configured to monitor an unusual status of the information-storage system; and
- a selection unit configured to select the transmission unit between the encoding/decoding unit and the transmission unit when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status of the information-storage system.

2. The information-storage system according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a first bus, which is connected to the encoding/decoding unit, through which each of data that is stored in the information-storage unit via the encoding/decoding unit and data that is output from the information-storage unit via the encoding/decoding unit passes; and
- a second bus, which is isolated from the first bus and connected to the transmission unit, through which the encoded data output from the information-storage unit via the transmission unit passes.

3. The information-storage system according to claim 2, further comprising:

- a timing-determination unit configured to determine timing when the transmission unit is selected based on a state where data is input from an external device to the information-storage system, when the status-monitoring unit confirms the unusual status.

4. The information-storage system according to claim 3, further comprising:

- a backup-data transfer unit configured to transfer the encoded data from a first backup spot provided in the information-storage system to a second backup spot provided outside the information-storage system, wherein the transmission unit stores the encoded data in the first backup spot.

5. A method of storing information in an information-storage system comprising:

- encoding input data;
- storing the input data in an information-storage unit;
- transmitting the encoded data stored in the information-storage unit;
- storing the encoded data in a backup spot different from the information-storage unit;
- monitoring an unusual status of the information-storage system; and
- selecting the transmitting when the unusual status of the information-storage system is confirmed at the status-monitoring.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein data is stored in and/or output from the information-storage unit via an encoding/decoding unit by using a first bus connected to the encoding/decoding unit, and wherein the encoded data is output from the information-storage unit via a transmission unit by using a second bus, which is isolated from the first bus and connected to the transmission unit.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising: determining a timing when the transmitting is selected based on a state where data is input from an external device to the information-storage system, when the unusual status is confirmed at the status-monitoring.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising: transferring the encoded data from a first backup spot provided in the information-storage system to a second backup spot provided outside the information-storage system, wherein the encoded data is stored in the first backup spot at the transmitting.

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