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(54) **INTELLIGENT CONTAINER MANAGEMENT**

(57) Managing a lifecycle of a container includes defining a plurality of states, each state corresponding to a particular phase in the lifecycle of the container, determining one or more current properties of the container while a current defined state of the container is in a first defined state of the plurality of defined states, and controlling an action associated with the container based on at least the first defined state and the one or more determined properties of the container. Determining one or more current properties of the container may include determining a current fill level of the container and information about at least one other current physical property of the container. Controlling an action may include changing the defined state of the container from the first defined state to a second defined state of the plurality of defined states.

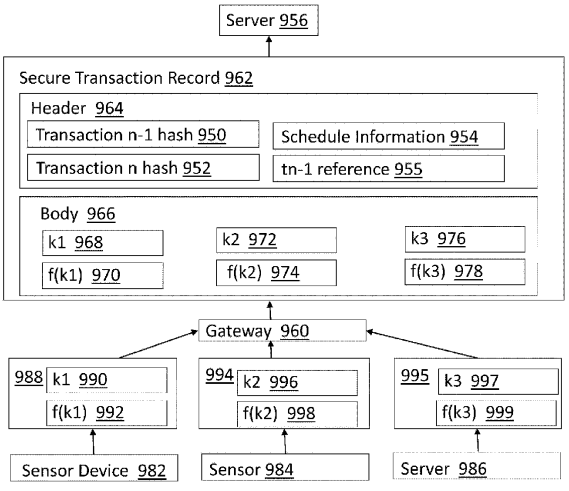

FIG. 9B

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