

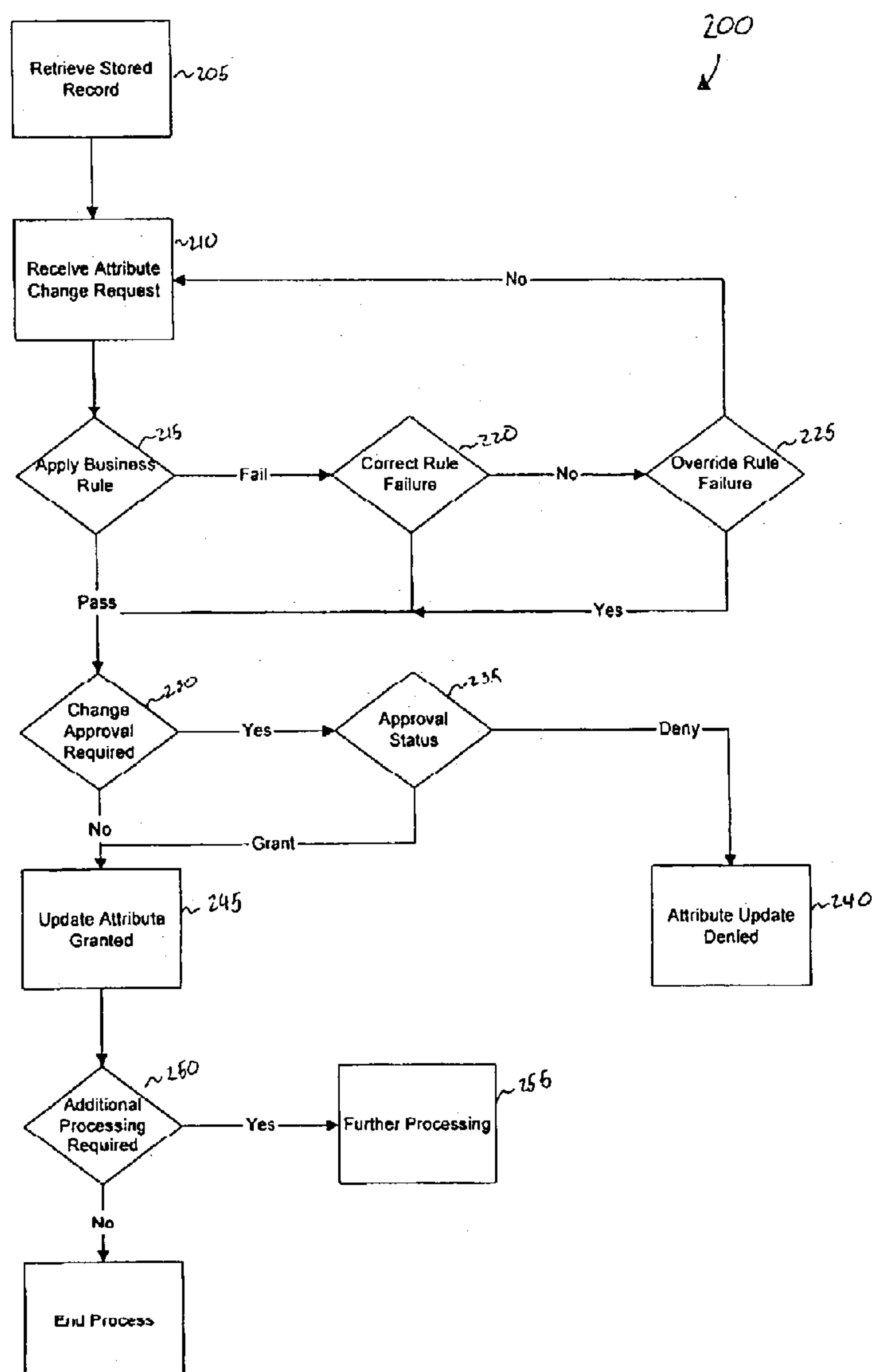
US 20040128230A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Oppenheimer et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0128230 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 1, 2004**(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MODIFYING
ATTRIBUTE DATA PERTAINING TO
FINANCIAL ASSETS IN A DATA
PROCESSING SYSTEM**(22) Filed: **Dec. 30, 2002****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ G06F 17/60**(52) **U.S. Cl. 705/38**(75) Inventors: **Dror Oppenheimer**, Potomac, MD
(US); **Maryann Bastnagel**, Potomac,
MD (US)

Correspondence Address:

FANN-MKE C/O**FOLEY & LARDNER****777 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE****MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5367 (US)**(73) Assignee: **Fannie Mae**(21) Appl. No.: **10/331,866**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A processing system for modifying attributes of a plurality of loans is described. The processing system includes an attribute change processor for receiving and implementing a proposed change to an attribute of at least one of the plurality of loans and a loan pricing processor for generating a pricing value associated with the proposed change to the attribute of the at least one loan.



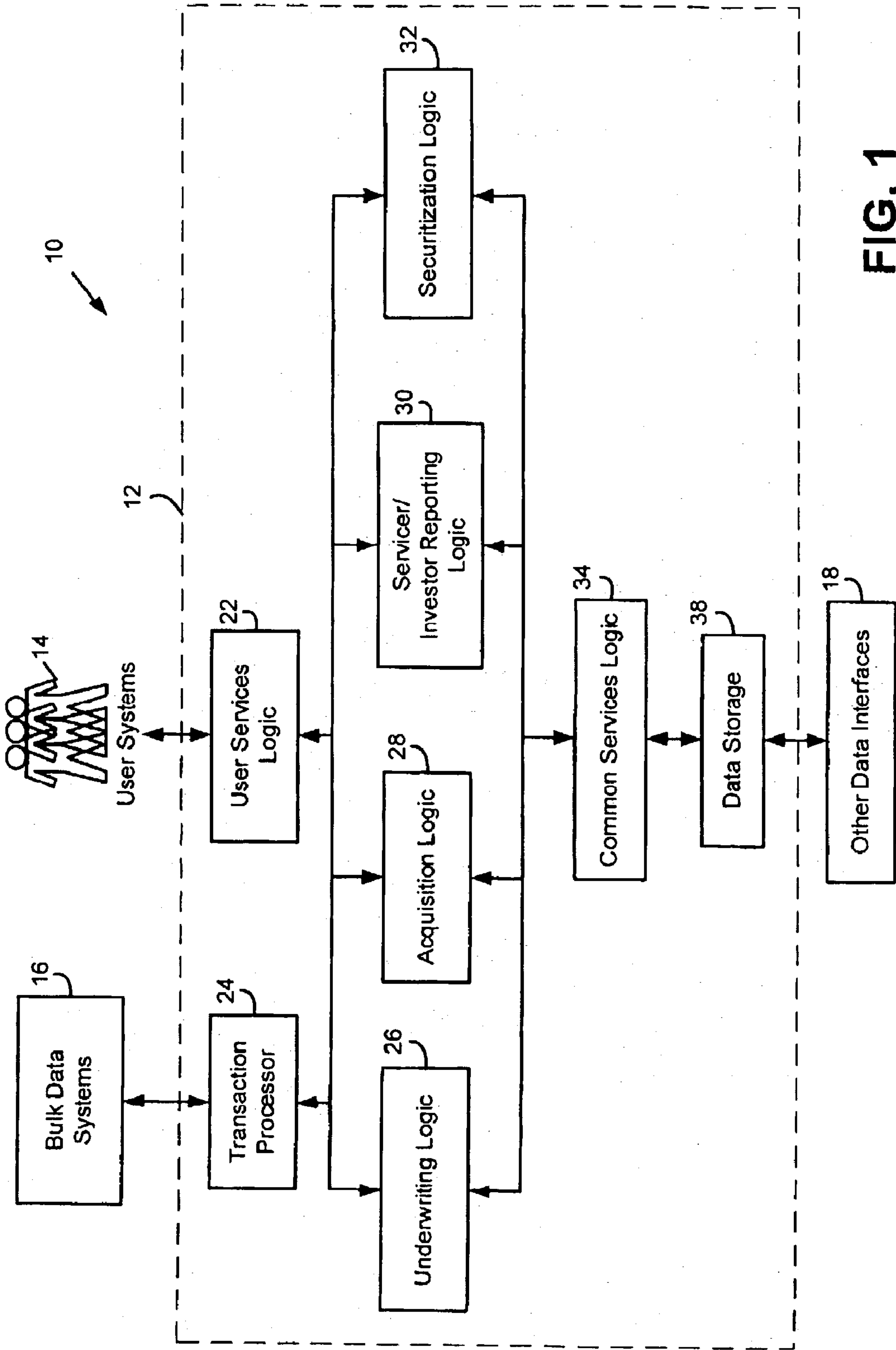


FIG. 1

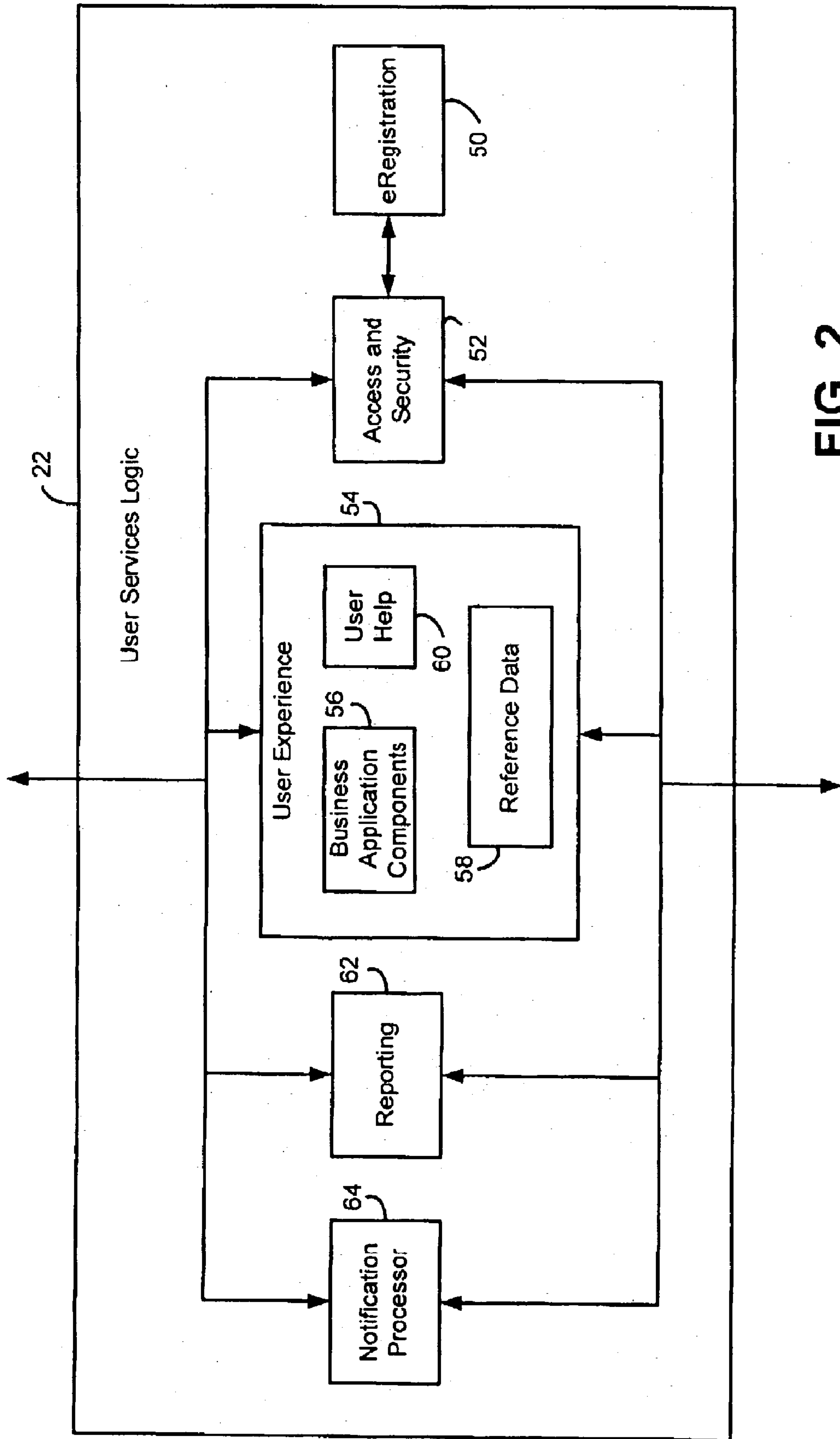


FIG. 2

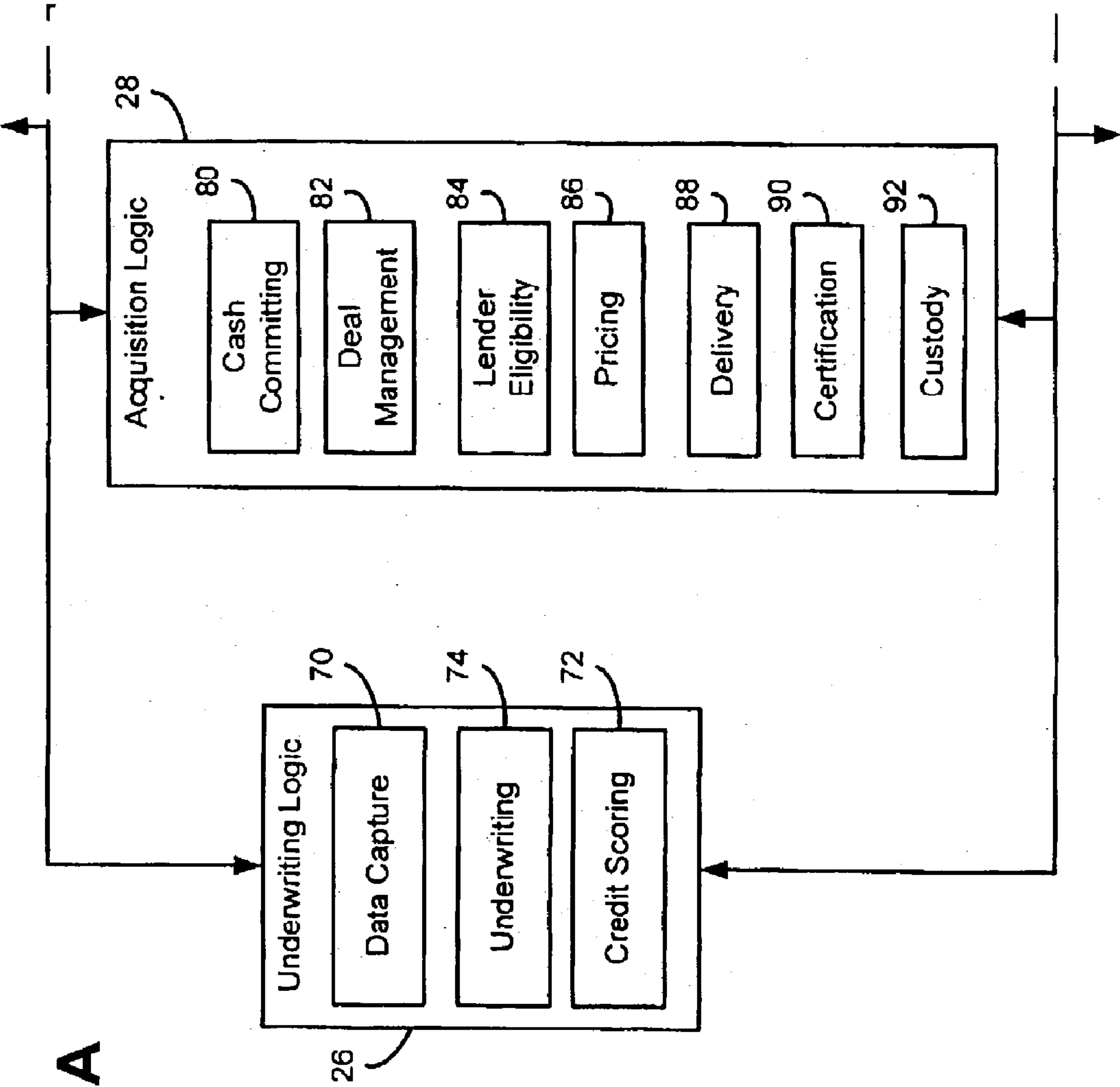
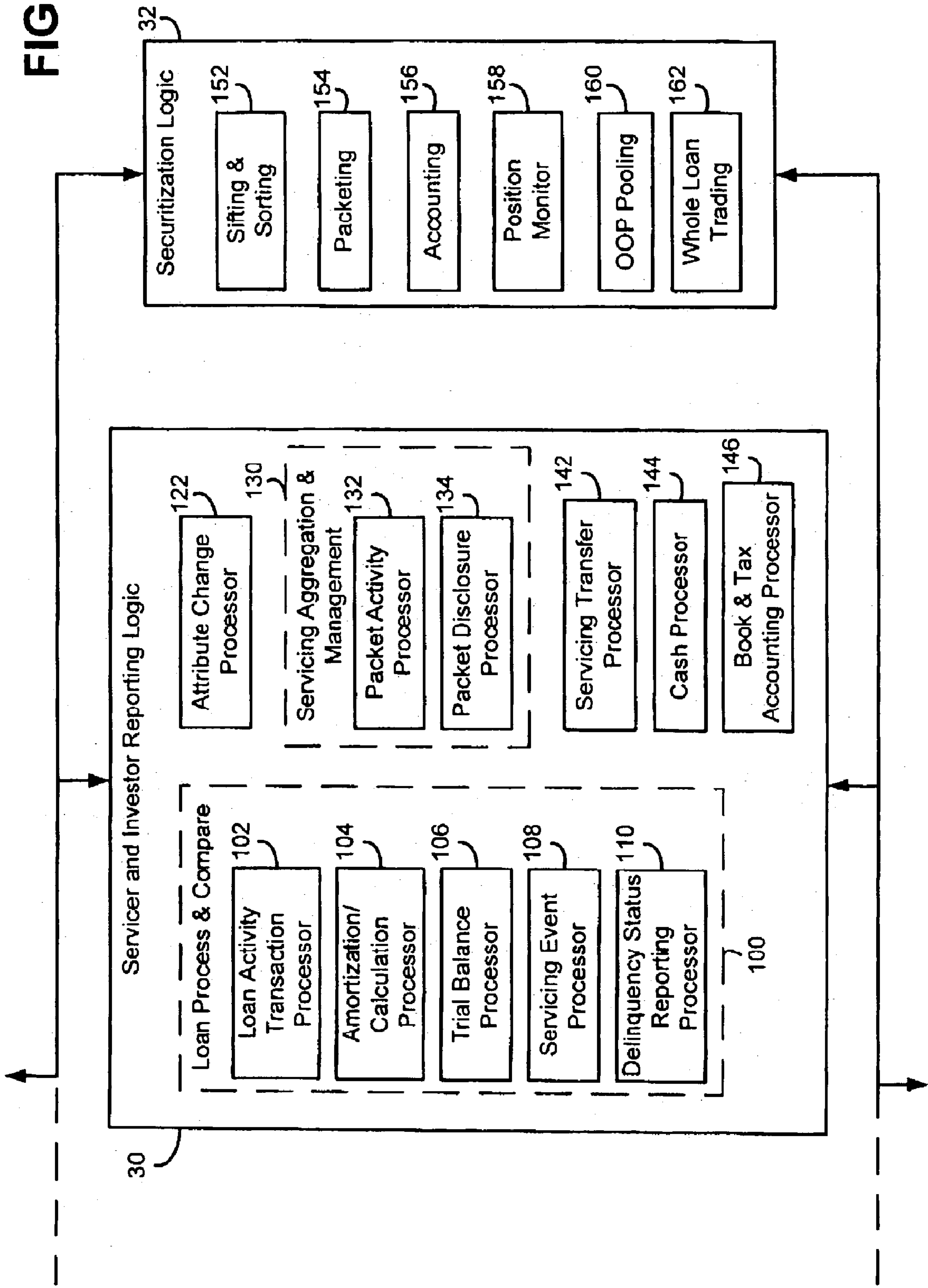


FIG. 3A

FIG. 3B



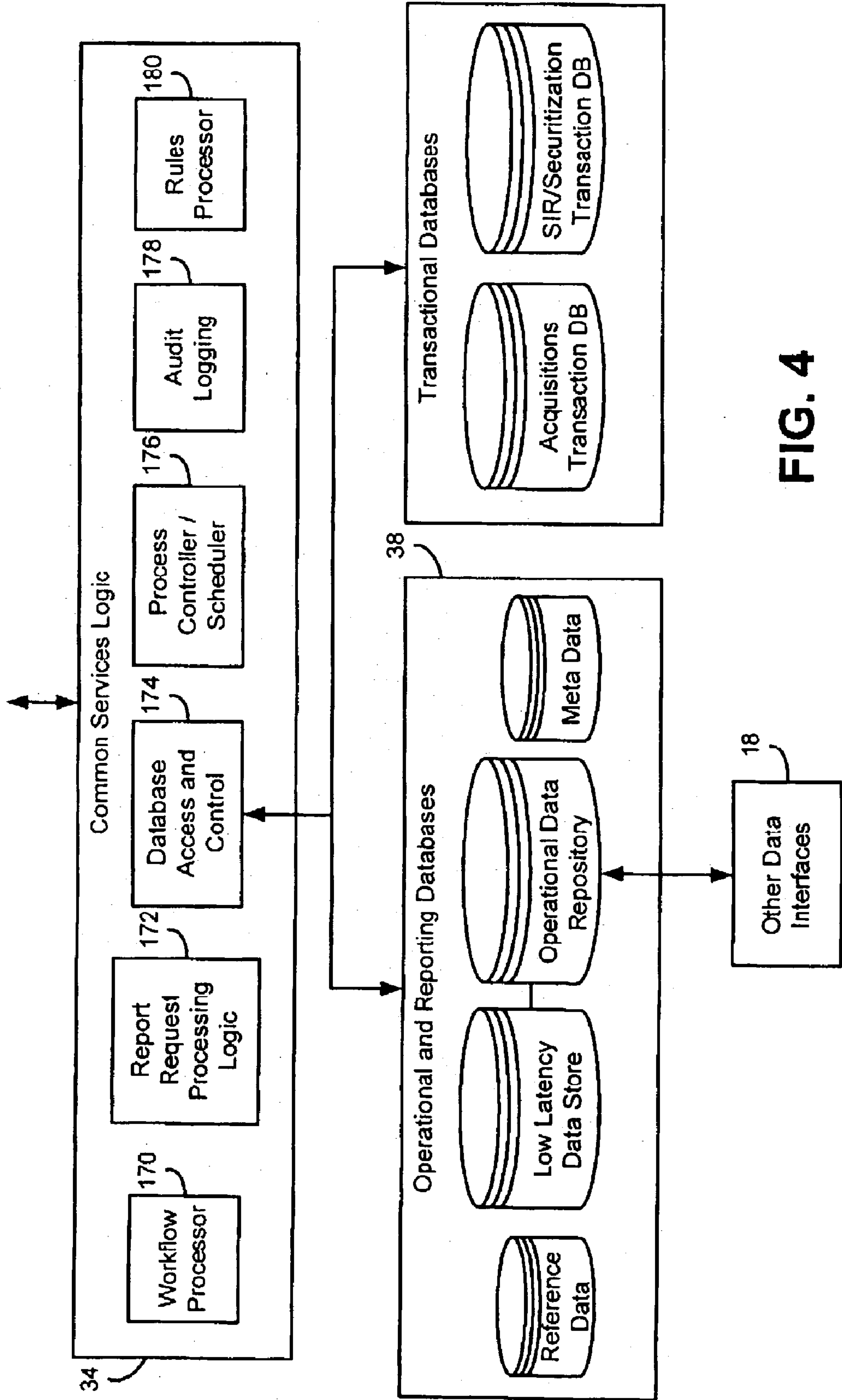


FIG. 4

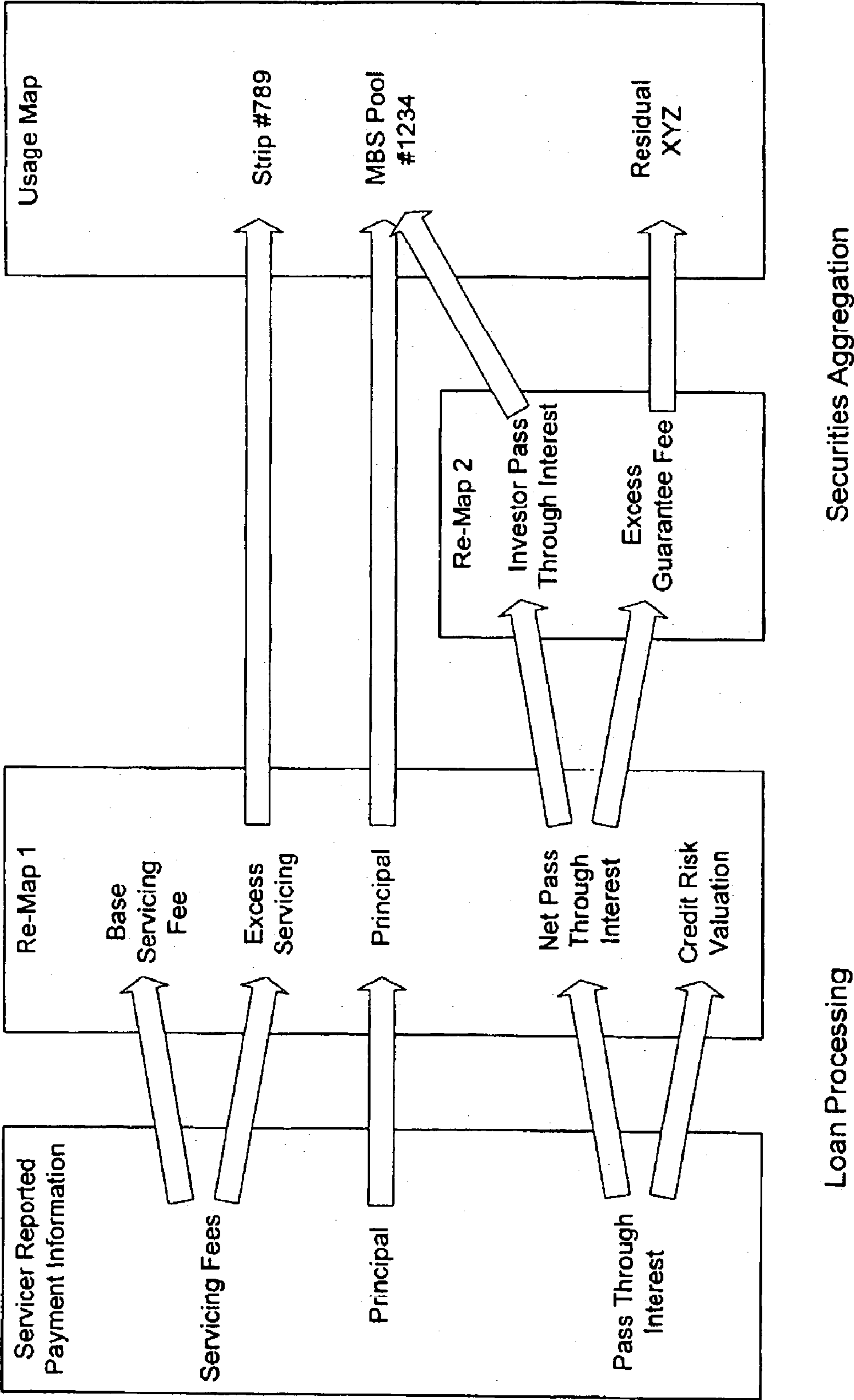


FIG. 5

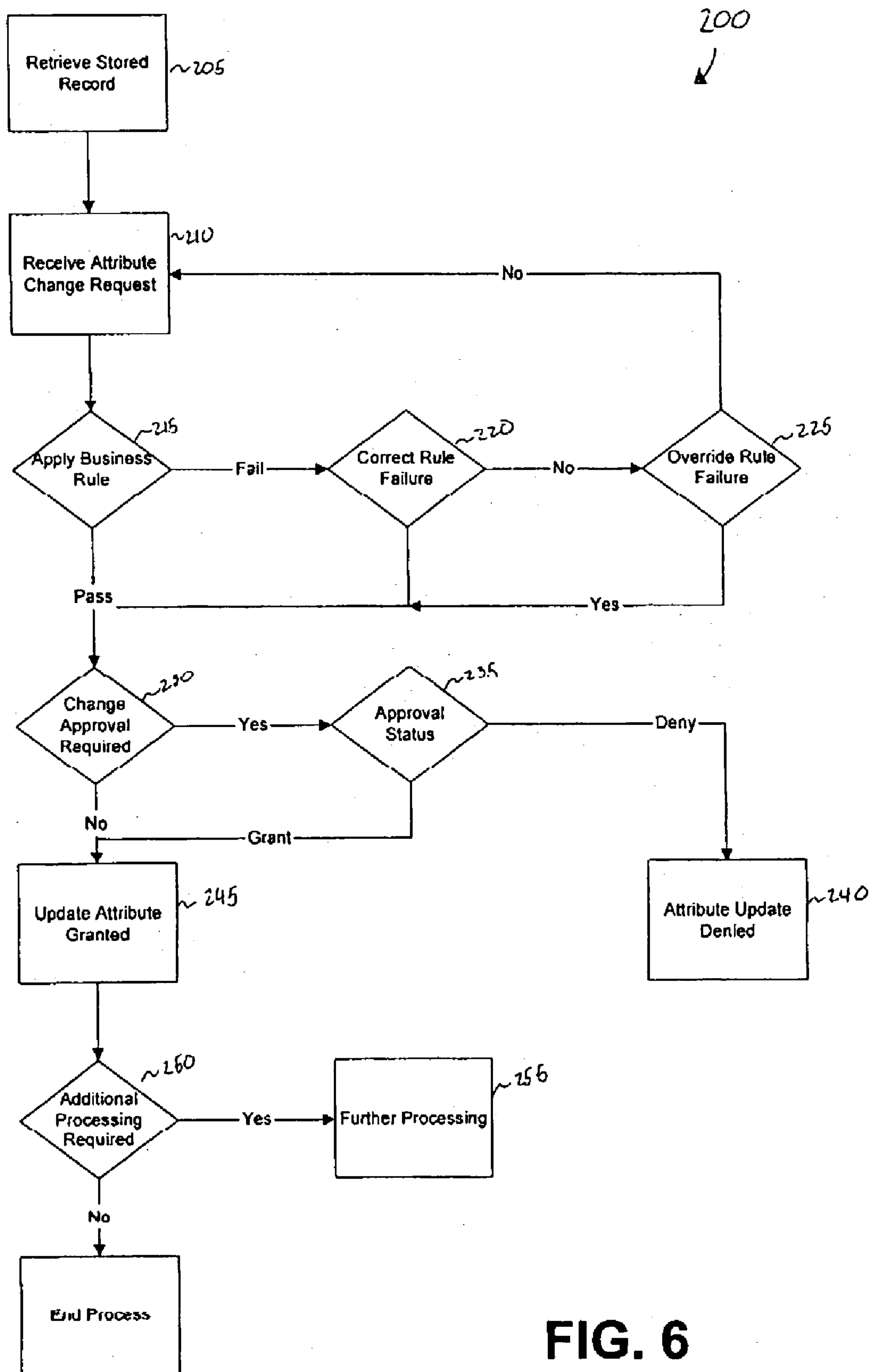


FIG. 6

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MODIFYING ATTRIBUTE DATA PERTAINING TO FINANCIAL ASSETS IN A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates to computer systems and methods used to process data pertaining to financial assets, such as loans, securities, and so on.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] The introduction of the mortgage backed security (MBS) has made the dream of owning a home possible for a much larger number of individuals. Frequently, when a borrower takes out a loan to purchase a home, that loan is subsequently pooled with other loans and used to create an MBS. The MBS is an investment instrument that can be sold to investors on Wall Street. Upon sale of the MBS, lenders can turn around and make new loans using proceeds from the sale. In effect, the MBS is a way for Wall Street to provide capital for loans to fund home ownership. The increased availability of capital reduces interest rates as compared to the interest rates that would otherwise be available, and therefore makes home ownership more affordable for an increased number of individuals.

[0005] While the mortgage backed security approach has worked exceptionally well, home ownership rates could be further improved if loans could be used to create new forms of mortgage backed securities and/or other types of investment instruments or other assets that more optimally align with investor needs. A more optimal alignment would result in further increases in the availability of capital, further reductions in interest rates, and ultimately increased home ownership rates.

[0006] In addition to providing new types of investment instruments, it is also desirable to provide new types of loan products. Different borrowers are in different financial situations and have different financial needs. Providing new types of loan products to meet these needs is a further way of increasing home ownership rates.

[0007] Efforts to offer new types of investment instruments and new types of loan products have been hampered by the fact that current data processing systems for processing loan information (including information on both the borrower side and on the investor side of the process) are not sufficiently efficient and flexible. Modifying the data processing system to support a new type of loan product or a new type of investment instrument is very difficult and expensive. In many cases, inherent limitations in the architecture of such data processing systems make certain types of new loan products or new investment instruments impossible to offer as a practical matter.

[0008] Additionally, such data processing are often limited in offering functionality to maintaining information associated with the loans processed by the system. Loan data processed by the data processing system may be incorrect and this deficiency may not be immediately detected.

[0009] Therefore, a need exists for computer systems and methods that are capable of providing increased flexibility in processing data pertaining to financial instruments and other financial assets. A need also exists for a tool to facilitate the

modification of data pertaining to financial instruments and other financial assets that has been processed by the data processing system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] According to a first preferred embodiment, a processing system for modifying attributes of a plurality of loans is described. The processing system includes an attribute change processor for receiving and implementing a proposed change to at least one attribute of at least one of the plurality of loans and a loan pricing processor for generating a pricing value associated with the proposed change to the at least one attribute of the at least one loan.

[0011] According to a second preferred embodiment, a method of maintaining attributes associated with a financial asset stored on a record in a data storage system is described. The method includes receiving a search request to retrieve at least one record from the data storage system that satisfy the search request. The at least one record contains attributes related to the at least one financial asset. The method further includes retrieving at least one record from the data storage system, displaying at least one attribute associated with at least one retrieved record, receiving a request to modify the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record, and applying at least one business rule to the attribute modification request to validate the attribute modification request.

[0012] According to a third preferred embodiment, a method of maintaining attributes associated with a financial asset stored on a record in a data storage system is described. The method includes receiving a search request to retrieve at least one record from the data storage system that satisfy the search request. The at least one record contains attributes related to the at least one financial asset. The method further includes retrieving at least one record from the data storage system, displaying at least one attribute associated with at least one retrieved record, receiving a request to modify the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record, and generating pricing information based on the modification request to calculate the effect of the modification on pricing information associated with the at least one financial asset.

[0013] According to a fourth preferred embodiment, a data processing system comprises acquisition logic, a data storage system, an attribute change processing system, and a rules engine. The acquisition logic includes logic configured to receive acquisition information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other attributes for a plurality of loans. The data storage system is configured to receive and store the attributes for each of the plurality of loans in a record associated with the loan for storage in a searchable database. The attribute change engine is configured to receive and process requests to modify one or more attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans stored in the searchable database. The rules engine comprises a series of business rules, wherein the rules engine is activated by the attribute change system to apply the business rules to the requests to modify the one or more attributes associated with the one or more of the plurality of loans.

[0014] According to a fifth preferred embodiment, a data processing system comprises acquisition logic, financial asset generation logic, a data storage system, attribute change processing logic, and a rules engine. The acquisition logic including logic is configured to receive information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other parameters for a plurality of loans. The financial asset generation logic includes logic configured to facilitate creation and maintenance of a plurality of financial assets backed by the plurality of loans. The data storage system configured to receive and store the attributes for each of the plurality of loans in a record associated with the loan for storage in a searchable database. The attribute change engine is configured to receive and process requests to modify one or more attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans stored in the searchable database. The rules engine comprises a series of business rules. The rules engine is activated by the attribute change system to apply the business rules to the requests to modify the one or more attributes associated with the one or more of the plurality of loans. The acquisition logic, the financial asset generation logic, and the attribute change processing logic are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

[0015] Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description and accompanying drawings. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the present invention, are given by way of illustration and not limitation. Many modifications and changes within the scope of the present invention may be made without departing from the spirit thereof, and the invention includes all such modifications.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a data processing system according to one preferred embodiment;

[0017] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing user services logic of the system of FIG. 1 in greater detail;

[0018] FIGS. 3A-3B are block diagrams showing underwriting logic, acquisition logic, servicer and investor reporting logic, and securitization logic of the system of FIG. 1 in greater detail;

[0019] FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing common services logic of FIG. 1 in greater detail; and

[0020] FIG. 5 is an exemplary data map used in connection with packeting logic in the system of FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 6 is a flow chart showing operation of an attribute change processor in greater detail.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0022] Referring now to FIG. 1, a computer system 10 for processing data pertaining to financial assets is shown. As shown in FIG. 1, the system 10 comprises a data processing system 12, user systems 14, bulk data systems 16, and other data interfaces 18. The data processing system 12 further comprises user services logic 22, a transaction exchange processor 24, underwriting logic 26, acquisition logic 28, servicer and investor reporting logic 30, securitization logic

32, common services logic 34, a data storage system 38, and other data interfaces 36. Herein, although the term “logic” is used in connection with some blocks and the term “processor” is used in connection with other blocks, these two terms are used interchangeably. The term “processor” is used in the generic sense and is not meant to imply a separate discrete unit of processing hardware.

[0023] The data processing system 12 is configured for processing data pertaining to financial assets, such as loans and securities. In one embodiment, the data processing system 12 is configured to be used by a participant in the secondary mortgage market. Herein, for convenience, the participant is referred to as a “purchaser,” although it should be understood that the purchaser may participate in the secondary market in other, different, or additional ways (e.g., as a loan guarantor, as a loan securitizer, and so on).

[0024] The data processing system 12 is preferably usable to support various types of transactions which may be executed by such a purchaser in connection with one or more loans. For example, the purchaser may purchase loans from lenders or other loan originators as part of a cash execution. The purchased loans may, for example, be held as investments in the purchaser’s investment portfolio. Alternatively, the purchaser may create mortgage backed securities (MBS) as part of an MBS execution, or create other financial instruments or assets that are collateralized by cash flows associated with individual loans, including both loans that have been purchased by the purchaser and other loans that have not been purchased by the purchaser. For example, in the case of MBS, the purchaser may acquire a pool of loans, securitize the pool of loans to create MBS that is then sold to investors, and hold the pool of loans in trust for the benefit of the investors. The purchaser may also receive a fee for guaranteeing to holders of MBS or other financial instruments the repayment of the loans by borrowers. The purchaser may also use loans to create other types of financial assets or instruments, for example, by purchasing loans and selling the financial instruments to investors, or by performing such services for other owners of loan assets.

[0025] The acquisition logic 28 is preferably usable to perform such operations as receiving information such as loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other parameters regarding loans when loans are first purchased or otherwise acquired and entered into the data processing system 12. In the case of cash executions, the acquisition logic 28 is also used to perform such operations as receiving commitments for the purchased loans.

[0026] The servicer and investor reporting logic 30 is used to process periodic loan data for loan accounting purposes and generate accounting output in connection with the purchased loans. Herein, the terms “reporting logic” and “servicer and investor reporting logic” are used interchangeably and both refer to logic that is configured to perform loan accounting and generate accounting output (e.g., for purposes of investor reporting, for purposes of managing a loan portfolio, and so on) in connection with a plurality of loans. The servicer and investor reporting logic 30 preferably performs such functions as receiving loan payment data on an ongoing basis from third party servicers. In this regard, it may be noted that the servicer and investor reporting logic 30 in the illustrated embodiment is not used for servicing loans directly but rather interfaces with a third party servicer.

Of course, the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** could also be configured to include additional logic for servicing loans, either as part of the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** or as part of another functional block. The accounting output generated by the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** may include such things as accounting, tax, performance/valuation, and/or other relevant financial information for the loans retained in the portfolio or sold, in whole or in part.

[0027] The securitization logic **32** is used to generate financial assets. Herein, the terms “financial asset generation logic” and “securitization logic” are used interchangeably and refer to any logic that is used to generate/create financial assets. Herein, the term “financial asset” is used generically to refer to any asset that is backed by one or more cash flows, and includes such things as assets that are created entirely for internal data tracking purposes (e.g., in the case of packets which do not represent securities), as well as assets that have external significance (e.g., in the case of MBS or other security). The securitization logic **32** may be used to generate financial assets such as MBS or assets that are tracked internally in situations where the owner/operator of the data processing system **12** purchases a pool of loans and holds the loans as an investment in its own portfolio.

[0028] It will be appreciated that the data processing system **12** may perform fewer or additional functions as compared to those described herein. For example, an entity that performs only some of the above-mentioned processes may use a computer system that contains only a subset of the functions described herein. Herein, it will be assumed that the data processing system **12** is used to support each of the business processes described above.

[0029] Generally speaking, in the illustrated embodiment, there are three access points for external systems into the data processing system **12**. Access can include data flow into and out of system **12**. A first access point into the data processing system **12** is the user services logic **22** which provides entry to the user systems **14**. A preferred implementation of the user services logic **22** is described in greater detail below in connection with FIG. 2. For purposes of explanation, the user systems **14** are assumed to be operated by human users that participate in some way in the above mentioned business processes. For example, the human user may be an employee of a lender or other loan originator that uploads loan information to the purchaser (or corrects, updates, and so on, information that has previously been provided) in connection with committing to deliver or actually delivering a group of loans to the purchaser, an employee of an owner of a portfolio of loans that uploads loan information in connection with a group of loans the owner wishes to have securitized by the purchaser, an employee of a servicer that uploads payment information regarding a group of loans serviced by the servicer, an employee of an institutional investor that downloads information regarding the financial performance or other data regarding investment instruments created and maintained by the purchaser, an employee of the purchaser itself, and so on.

[0030] A second access point into the data processing system **12** is the transaction exchange processor **24** which provides entry to the bulk data systems **16**. The transaction exchange processor provides an alternative, bulk transfer mechanism for exchanging at least some of the transaction-

related data mentioned above in connection with the user systems **14**, typically without intervention of a human operator. Such bulk data transfers may occur with lenders, servicers, and so on. The transaction exchange processor **24** receives/sends transactions, and prescreens/sorts/translate data if needed, and makes the transactions/data available for further processing in the data processing system **12** or outbound transmission. A third access point into the data processing system **12** is through the data interfaces **18**. The data interfaces **18** may be used to exchange other types of data between other computer systems and the data processing system **12**. For example, the data interfaces **18** may be used to import or export data to other external computer systems (that is, computer systems not under the control of the purchaser) or other internal computer systems (e.g., computer systems that are under the control of the purchaser but that provide functionality that is not integrated into the data processing system **12**).

[0031] The data processing system **12** is described in greater detail below in connection with FIGS. 2-5. As will become apparent from the discussion below, the preferred data processing system **12** exhibits a high level of data, service and time granularity. With respect to data granularity, the system **12** is capable of decomposing loans into a series of highly granular cash flows and tracking all of the cash flows from the point the cash flows enter the data processing system **12** (e.g., as part of a loan payment or other cash flow source) to the point the cash flows exit the data processing system **12** (e.g., as part of a payment on a financial instrument). The decomposition of a particular loan into sub-loan cash flows may occur when the loan is first acquired, later when servicing activity begins on the loan, or at another time. When loan payments are received, the allocation of the loan payment into individual cash flows may be performed by logic executed by the servicer, by the data processing system **12**, or by other logic. Ideally, all or nearly all of the cash flow sources associated with a particular loan can be identified and tracked. Additionally, it is also possible to aggregate cash flows from a borrower perspective or other entity perspective. For example, a series of loans (e.g., all to the same borrower) may be aggregated into a higher order cash flow and then the aggregation of the loans may be decomposed. It is also possible to add cash flows to existing loans, for example, so that a new cash flow (e.g., for a new line of credit) may be established without having to set up a new loan. This provides additional flexibility to modify a borrower's loan over time. Thus, the data processing system **12** not only decomposes and maps cash flows associated with such things as principal and borrower paid interest, but also sub-loan level cash flows arising in association with the borrower paid interest or fees associated with the loan such as servicing fees, guarantee fees, mortgage insurance, prepayment penalties, borrower-paid fees, servicer advances, servicer recoveries, and loss/default components, and provides other flexibility. Additional description regarding exemplary possible sources of cash flows is provided at the end of this section. The decomposition and mapping of cash flows dramatically increases the number of different types of financial instruments that may be created, because it makes it possible to create financial instruments based on these other cash flows. In turn, this makes it possible to create financial instruments that are more optimally configured to meet the needs of the owner of the financial instrument.

[0032] With respect to service granularity, the data processing system 12 represents loans as a series of attributes and uses a business rules engine to process loan information. This dramatically simplifies the process of expanding the capabilities of the data processing system 12 to process data associated with any type of loan. The capability to process a new type of loan may be added by adding an additional attribute to a list of attributes corresponding to the new product feature (or modifying existing attributes), by using the attribute to indicate the presence or absence (and/or other characteristics) of the new feature in a particular loan, and by modifying the rules engine to incorporate additional rules regarding the new loan feature. It is not necessary to build a completely new data processing system for the new type of loan. This makes it easier to offer new types of loans which are more optimally configured to meet the needs of individual borrowers. An exemplary set of attributes is described at the end of this section.

[0033] With respect to time granularity, the data processing system 12 is capable of processing data using a much smaller time slice or update period than has been possible in the past. In the past, systems have typically been constructed around the assumption that servicers provide monthly reports which summarize loan activity that occurred during the previous month. The time slice for reporting has been one month and sub-monthly temporal data has been lost. In the data processing system 12, when information regarding new loans is received by the acquisition logic 28 and/or when information regarding loan payments is received by the servicer and investor reporting logic 30, this information preferably includes information regarding the date the loan was acquired, the date or dates within each month or other period other period on which a payment or other transaction is expected, and/or the date the payment was received. The time slice in the data processing system 12 is therefore one day (or less, if a smaller time slice such as AM/PM, hour, minutes, seconds, and so on, is used). The temporal information is stored and maintained in databases which are synchronized/commonly accessible by the acquisition logic 28, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30, and the securitization logic 32. As a result, the acquisition logic 28, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30, and the securitization logic 32 each have access to this highly granular temporal information regarding loan acquisitions and payments. The increased time granularity supports the above-mentioned capabilities to offer a wider array of loans to borrowers and a wider array of financial instruments to investors. For example, the increased time granularity facilitates offering loan products in which the borrower is expected to make biweekly payments, which may be attractive to borrowers that get paid bi-weekly instead of twice-monthly or monthly. This also facilitates handling loan products in which the date of a transaction is meaningful, such as daily simple interest loans. Further, because sub-loan cash flows can be processed using a one day time slice (or less), it is possible to create financial instruments based on cash flows that are processed on a per day basis.

[0034] Another benefit of the acquisition logic 28, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30, and the securitization logic 32 being provided on a common platform and having access to common/synchronized databases is that each system has an up to date view of the data. As previously indicated, the data processing system 12 has the ability to accept payment and other transaction information from a

servicer as such transactions occur (e.g., using daily, hourly, or near real-time updates) instead of or in addition to receiving end of the month summary transaction information from the servicer. Once the data is received, it is accessible throughout the data processing system 12. For example, it is not necessary to limit the data updates for the securitization logic to a once-per-month basis at the end of a servicing cycle. Therefore, an up to date view of the data is available throughout the data processing system 12.

[0035] It should be apparent that it is also possible to construct data processing systems which do not incorporate the advantages described herein in connection with the data processing system 12, or which also incorporate additional advantages not described herein. Further, it may also be noted that the separation of functionality shown in FIGS. 1-4 is necessarily to some extent conceptual, and it is also possible to provide the same functionality in other ways. Additionally, although numerous functions are described below, it may be noted that it may be desirable to provide fewer, additional, or different functions in a given data processing system depending on the application and what is needed.

[0036] Referring now to FIG. 2, a preferred implementation of the user services logic 22 and subcomponents thereof will now be described. The user services logic 22 includes electronic registration logic 50, access and security logic 52, user experience logic 54, report request processing logic 62, and a notification processor 64. The registration logic 50 is used to register individual users to be able to use the data processing system 12. For example, an employee of a lender may be given a login name and password to access the data processing system 12. User registration preferably includes providing each user with an authorization profile that defines the extent and type of access the user is given to the data processing system 12 and the types of operations that the user may perform while accessing the data processing system 12. The access and security logic 52 cooperates with the electronic registration logic 50 to permit users to access the data processing system 12 in the manner authorized.

[0037] The user experience logic 54 provides a user interface to the data processing system 12. Preferably, the user accesses the data processing system 12 through the Internet or an Intranet by using a personal/laptop computer or other suitable Internet-enabled device. For example, the data processing system 12 may be accessible to users by visiting the purchaser's web site (that is, the web site of the entity that owns/operates the data processing system 12, and that is assumed to be in the business of purchasing, guaranteeing, and/or securitizing loans) and clicking on appropriate links located at the web site. Depending on the authorizations the user has been given in the registration logic 50, the user is able to access different web pages of the web site relating to the underwriting logic 26, the acquisition logic 28, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30, and the securitization logic 32. For example, there may be one or more web pages relating to acquisitions that may be accessed by lenders, one or more pages relating to servicing that may be accessed by servicers, and so on. The user may then perform functions in accordance with what is permitted by the user's authorization profile (which, in turn, is typically based on the user's employer and the user's job function for that employer). For example, an employee of a lender may be given authorization to access web pages associated with the

acquisition logic **28** and commit the lender to deliver a quantity of loans on a future date (i.e., to engage in a forward commitment with the purchaser). The types of operations that different users may perform is described in greater detail in connection with **FIGS. 3A, 3B** and **4** below.

[0038] The user experience logic **54** includes business application components **56**, reference data **58**, and user help logic **60**. These components provide implementation support to the above-described user interface. The business application components **56** includes logic that assists directing the user to the correct web page. The reference data **58** may include data regarding user preferences for the appearance of web pages to the user. The reference data **58** may also provide general reference data and content that assists user interaction with the web site. The reference data **58** may also include data regarding particular lenders, such as the year the lender was first approved to do business with the purchaser, contact information for the lender, and performance information such as statistics and transfer history for the lender. The user help logic **60** provides other help or "How To" components.

[0039] The user services logic **22** also includes report request processing logic **62** and a notification processor **64**. The report request processing logic **62** permits lenders and servicers to access the data processing system **12** and request reports generated from the data the lenders or servicers have provided the purchaser. The reports may be predefined "canned" reports, or may be ad hoc reports defined by the user by drilling down into the data and/or defining data filters. The type of reporting generation capability available may be made dependent on the type of user. The report request processing logic **62** may be used for incoming data in connection with lenders and servicers and/or for outgoing data in connection with investor reporting. Investor reporting may also be handled by other logic described below.

[0040] The notification processor **64** sends notifications/alerts to users. For example, the notification processor **64** may be used to send e-mail (or fax, automated telephone call, and so on) to a user associated with a servicer or lender indicating that data which has been submitted by the servicer or lender has been processed, and that the processed data is ready for review. The notification processor **64** is useful in the context of exceptions processing, when lender/servicer data is processed but the processing indicates that there may be an error in the lender's/servicer's data which requires review by a human operator.

[0041] Referring now to **FIG. 3A**, a preferred implementation of the underwriting logic **26** and subcomponents thereof will now be described. The underwriting logic **26** is typically accessed by users that originate loans, such as lenders and brokers. The underwriting logic **26** includes data capture logic **70**, credit scoring logic **72**, and underwriting logic **74**. The data capture logic **70** is used to receive information to be used in loan underwriting and appraisal (e.g., information from a loan application and a credit report). Typically, the information that is received for loan underwriting is a subset of the information that would be provided on a loan application. The credit scoring logic **72** and the underwriting logic **74** cooperate to analyze the information to determine if the loan meets credit risk and eligibility requirements of the purchaser, and then issue a recommendation based on the assessment of the overall risk

profile of the loan. The credit scoring logic **72** generates a credit score of the loan applicant based on the loan applicant's credit history. The underwriting logic **74** then combines the credit score with other information (e.g., debt-to-income ratios, appraisal value, income verification, borrower contribution, cash reserves of the borrower, the existence and amount of subordinate financing, and other factors) to determine whether to approve loan eligibility. The underwriting logic **26** may also be used to generate reports that provide information regarding the underwriting recommendation for a particular loan, information used in determining the recommendation (e.g., property, loan, and borrower information), and information summarizing key statistics from the credit report (e.g., borrower's open accounts, derogatory accounts, and undisclosed accounts).

[0042] Still referring to **FIG. 3A**, a preferred implementation of the acquisition logic **28** and subcomponents thereof will now be described. The acquisition logic **28** further includes cash committing logic **80**, deal management logic **82**, lender eligibility logic **84**, pricing logic **86**, delivery logic **88**, certification logic **90**, and custody logic **92**.

[0043] The cash committing logic **80** provides a facility for performing all cash commitment functions. Typically, a master agreement/contract may be in place between the purchaser and the lender which defines overall terms of loan sales to the purchaser pursuant to particular commitments. A cash commitment is an agreement (typically, governed by the overall master agreement) in which the mortgage purchaser agrees to buy mortgages from mortgage sellers (e.g., lenders) in exchange for a specified price in cash. Typically, a cash commitment agreement specifies the type of mortgage(s) the seller plans to deliver, the amount of time the seller has to make delivery, the price the mortgage purchaser will pay the seller for the loan(s), other pertinent loan terms, and, in some cases, loan level details pertaining to the mortgage.

[0044] The cash committing logic **80** provides a central point for approved lenders (or other approved sellers) and the purchaser to perform all cash commitment functions. These functions may include, for example, making standard forward commitments, handling pair-off of commitments, extending commitments, over-delivering of a commitment, maintaining configurable parameters, updating contact information, updating commitment records, viewing and selecting from a seller's favorite product list, adding to and maintaining the seller's favorite product list, viewing contracts, fees, prices, price adjustments, and so on. As previously described, the access and security logic **52** verifies the identity of the user (using a login ID and password) and allows the user to gain access to the cash committing logic **80**. Different types of users may be granted different levels of access to the cash commitment logic **80** (e.g., for different employees within a seller organization having different levels of authority to act on behalf of the seller).

[0045] In the preferred embodiment, the system **12** includes the ability to limit the different types of loans that a given seller may sell to a subset of the loans which the purchaser may purchase. The different products may comprise loans of different terms, different interest rates and types of interest rates (fixed or variable), as well as a variety of other features or combinations of features that may be offered in connection with the particular mortgage products.

This information may be stored in the lender eligibility logic **84**, described below, and the cash committing logic **80** may interface with the lender eligibility logic **84** to limit commitment activity to only those products that the seller is eligible to sell. During the committing process, the seller selects the type of product the seller plans to deliver from a list of eligible products. Sellers may be provided the ability to flag any eligible product as a “favorite,” and are able to select products from a favorites list when making commitments. Preferably, sellers are also provided with the option to assign their own marketing name for each eligible product in the seller’s favorites list. In another embodiment, rather than selecting from a list of eligible products, sellers may be provided the ability to define a product they plan to deliver by defining the loan attributes.

[0046] The committing logic **80** provides sellers with the option to apply a commitment to a master agreement. Information regarding master agreements is supplied by the deal management logic **82** and displayed in the cash committing logic **80** for a given seller. The display may, for example, indicate valid master agreement numbers, the unfulfilled commitment amount in dollars for each master agreement, the expiration date for each master agreement, and/or other pertinent information.

[0047] The deal management logic **82** is used to store and track terms of the deals/contracts made between sellers of loans and the purchaser. When a seller contacts the purchaser to initiate negotiation of a new deal, an employee or other representative of the purchaser uses the deal management logic **82** to create a master agreement, MBS pool contract and all the associated variances.

[0048] During the master agreement negotiation process, all terms and stipulations of the agreement are entered into the deal management logic **82**. The deal management logic **82** enables authorized users creating or modifying variances to identify editable variances and facilitates transforming “codeable” variances into business rules in the delivery logic. The deal management logic **82** also facilitates communication of these variances to users responsible for analyzing them. Users responsible for analyzing variances are provided a link to the edit engine where they are able to add, modify, or delete edits based on their analyses.

[0049] The deal management logic **82** also integrates with the pricing logic **86** so that loan level price adjustments that reflect negotiated variances may be entered and displayed in the generated master agreement. The seller’s specific adjustment tables (referencing master agreement and variance reference numbers) may also be stored in the deal management logic or, more preferably, in the lender eligibility logic **84**.

[0050] The lender eligibility logic **84** is logic that maintains information regarding the eligibility of particular lenders to offer particular products made available by the purchaser. The lender eligibility logic **84** allows users (via web interface) to maintain and update product or lender-specific parameters in connection with the committing logic **80**, the delivery logic **88**, the certification logic **90**, the custody logic **92**, and the servicer and investor reporting logic **30**. The lender eligibility logic **84** may also be used to set pricing incentive adjustments, other price adjustments, fees and other parameters at the lender and product levels.

[0051] The pricing logic **86** is the logic used to generate pricing information and provide the pricing information to

other logic in the data processing system **12**, including the underwriting logic **26**, the committing logic **80**, the delivery logic **88**, the certification logic **90**, the custody logic **92**, and the servicer and investor reporting logic **30**. For example, the pricing logic **86** may be accessed during delivery to determine the price to be paid for a particular loan, or after the loan is delivered to determine how changes/corrections in loan information affect pricing. The pricing logic **86** takes into account pricing elements such as commitment/interest price (based on interest and the type of commitment), commitment calculations (e.g., for price adjustments associated with pair-offs, over delivery, extensions), and credit adjustment price (based on loan level credit risk). In addition to cash pricing (i.e., pricing in situations where the loan is paid in cash), the pricing logic **86** may also be used for MBS pricing (i.e., pricing in situations where the loan is paid for using a mortgage backed security). The pricing elements related to a MBS include the guarantee fee, the buy-up/buy-down amount, and the credit adjustment amount.

[0052] The pricing logic **86** interacts with the delivery logic **88** (described in greater detail below) when a seller is unable to fulfill the terms of its original commitment to generate price adjustments associated with pair-offs, over delivery, and extensions. The pricing logic **86** acquires delivery and under delivery tolerance amounts from the lender eligibility logic **84**, processes data from a commitment inventory database to locate expired commitments and under deliveries, based on input from the delivery logic. The pricing logic **86** also processes data associated with the original commitment parameters to generate price adjustments. Additionally, price adjustments may also be assessed at the time of delivery for credit risk in connection with one or more loans that exceeds a pre-determined and agreed-upon level. In particular, at the time a cash commitment or MBS deal is made, a certain level of credit risk is assumed when determining the cash price or MBS guarantee fee. Later, when loans are actually delivered, the true risk level is identified. If the cash price or MBS guarantee fee does not account for this actual level of risk, a price adjustment is made. The system allows the option of selecting either an upfront loan level price adjustment at the time of delivery or a guarantee fee basis point adjustment to permit the payment to be made over time.

[0053] The pricing logic **86** also interacts with the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** when there are loan level changes during the servicing of the loan that result in a request for pricing. The servicing logic **28** sends the pertinent data attributes needed for pricing to the pricing logic **28** and the pricing logic **86** returns pricing information for the loan in question.

[0054] The pricing logic **86** may also be used to access prices set forth in pricing grids that store pricing information as a function of various loan parameters and/or features, e.g., interest rate and remaining term in connection with a particular seller. The pricing grids may be generated manually (e.g., in a spreadsheet which is provided to the pricing logic **86**) or automatically. The pricing logic **86** may also be used to generate reports regarding pricing information.

[0055] The delivery logic **88** is the logic used to process loans when loans are delivered to the purchaser in connection with a purchase. The delivery logic **88** analyzes loan attributes, the associated deal/contract with the seller, and

execution parameters to determine if the loan is acceptable for submission under the terms and conditions of the deal. The delivery logic **88** also invokes the pricing logic **86** to determine the price and/or price adjustments associated with accepting the loan. The delivery logic **88** also allows sellers to set up pools in cases where the loans are pooled in MBS.

[0056] The delivery logic **88** receives electronic loan data by way of the user services logic **22** or the transaction exchange processor **24**. The purchaser will generally also receive paper loan documents that support the electronic loan data received by the data processing system **12**.

[0057] The delivery logic **88** utilizes aspects of the underwriting logic **26**, the deal management logic **82**, and the pricing logic **86**. Each loan that is delivered is checked against business rules and data format rules. Business rules are based on the product, pool/piece/contract, pricing, commitment, and other factors. For example, a seller may inadvertently try to deliver a 15-yr loan in connection with a commitment for 30-yr loans, and the business rules provide a mechanism for identifying that the 15-yr loan can not be used to satisfy that commitment. The delivery logic **88** uses the notification processor **64** to notify the seller when/if the data that is being delivered does not match the commitment. The delivery logic **88** also cooperates with the underwriting logic **26** to confirm that the loans that are being delivered meet underwriting criteria. Sellers are notified using the notification processor **64** when underwriting decisions for a particular loan is different than was anticipated based on the original (typically, incomplete or incorrect) loan data and there is an impact to the price that the seller will be charged. The pricing logic **86** is invoked to determine the change in price.

[0058] The delivery logic **88** allows the user to edit the delivery data for format/field edits and standard/custom edits necessary to deliver loans to the purchaser. Users have a real time view of updates to the delivery data in order to resolve data errors before the loan is purchased or securitized. For example, if the data indicates that a 15-yr loan is being used to satisfy a commitment for a 30-yr loan, the user may edit the data to indicate that the loan is a 30-yr loan (in a situation where the loan data was incorrectly entered and what was originally indicated as being a 15-yr loan is in fact a 30-yr loan). Alternatively, the user may edit the data to instead apply the 15-yr loan to a different commitment for a 15-yr loan. As a further alternative, the user may edit the data to substitute a 30-yr loan for the 15-yr loan. The delivery logic **88** also includes logic for address correction (detecting erroneous address information and correcting the address information) and geographic coding (to provide additional geographic information on the property, such as longitude and latitude, tracked, congressional district, metropolitan statistical area number, and so on). By the end of the process, the delivery logic also generates a unique loan number for each of the loans for tracking purposes.

[0059] The certification logic **90** is logic that supports the process of ensuring that all loan documentation is complete and legally binding and that the paper documentation matches the electronic information delivered by the seller. The certification logic **90** generates, stores and makes available to other aspects of the data processing system **12** information pertaining to which loans have been certified. The certification logic **90** is also able to generate custom

reports regarding certification data including reports on loans that have not been certified so that appropriate action may be taken (e.g., having the seller repurchase the loan). The certification logic **90** facilitates data modification and facilitates data matching when loans are redelivered or resubmitted. The certification logic **90** also generates reports to support management decisions with respect to certification activities.

[0060] The custody logic **92** is logic that is used to support the custody process, or the process whereby the purchaser stores the paper loan documents during the time from when the loans are purchased or securitized until they are released. Custody protects the physical evidence of investment in negotiable assets. The custody logic **92** manages custodial profile/contact information, custodian/seller relationships, and seller/servicer profile/eligibility information related to custody activities. The custody logic **92** also permits information to be retrieved regarding loan investors. If the market purchaser performs the custody function itself rather than having a third party act as custodian, the custody logic **92** also supports document management in connection with incoming and outgoing documents. In particular, the custody logic **92** tracks when loan documents are in the possession of the purchaser and otherwise manages and monitors the position of the physical loan documents. The custody logic **92** also manages and calculates fees charged for custodial and certification services.

[0061] The acquisition logic **28** may also include other logic in addition to the logic described above. For example, the acquisition logic **28** may further include payable/receivable manager logic to track the billing of price adjustments and fees generated by transactions in the committing logic **80**, the pricing logic **86**, the delivery logic **88**, the custody logic **92**, and certain aspects of the servicer and investor reporting logic **30**. The payable/receivable manager logic may also be used to display the status (including payment status) of such price adjustments and fees in a consolidated manner.

[0062] Referring now to **FIG. 3B**, a preferred implementation of the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** will now be described in greater detail. The servicer and investor reporting logic **30** includes loan process and compare (LPC) logic **100**, which monitors and verifies the activities of third party mortgage servicers on an ongoing basis. Alternatively, if servicing is performed internally by the owner of the data processing system **12** and is included as part of the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** or as part of another functional block of the data processing system **12**, the LPC logic **100** may be used to verify internally generated reporting information. Thus, the LPC logic **100** performs such operations as receiving and validating reporting information pertaining to loan activity, loan delinquency information and unpaid balance comparison reported by the servicer, updating the records of the data processing system **100** regarding the status of all reported loans, and determining the remittance and disbursement amounts that are expected for the loans.

[0063] As an initial matter, prior to loan servicing, a comparison is performed of the servicer's data for loans being serviced with the purchaser's data for the same loans. Even if the purchaser's data has already been compared with lender data for the same group of loans, the servicer's data

may for some reason be different. Accordingly, the purchaser may provide a predefined set of acquisition data to the servicer that the servicer can compare with the servicer's data. At any time thereafter, the servicer may perform individual queries of the loan data stored on the purchasers data base via the user services logic **22** (web interface) and download the data for further comparison purposes. When exceptions are noted, the servicer can correct its data or submit a change request via the user interface to the attribute change processor (ACP) logic **122**, described below.

[**0064**] During the life of the loan, when loan activity occurs (e.g., when the borrower makes loan payments), the LPC logic **100** is executed with regard to a particular loan when a servicer reports transactions to the purchaser. A loan activity processor **102** handles expected and scheduled servicing transactions including payments, rate changes, curtailments, and so on. The activity processor **102** receives and validates loan transaction data, such as loan activity, unpaid balance comparison, and delinquency status updates. The activity processor **102** also can be configured to check for duplicate transactions, validate servicer information, determine and validate the type of loan transaction, and validate that the loan activity is being reported in the correct reporting period. The activity processor **102** also confirms that changes in unpaid balance and last paid installment are correct, derives expected interest remittance, derives expected principal remittance, and compares the derived amounts to the reported remittance amounts. After validation, the status of the loan is made available to the servicer through the user services logic **22**. The activity processor **102** also triggers the appropriate cash and accounting transactions in a book and tax accounting processor **146**. When loan activity is processed and does not match the purchasers expectations based on rules and calculations, exceptions are noted and communicated to users using the notification processor **64**.

[**0065**] The amortization/calculation processor **104** is used by the activity processor **102** to calculate loan level amounts, such as principal and interest due, servicing fees and other data pertinent to each loan. Processor **104** may additionally be used to compute derived or decomposed cash flows, such as a guaranty fee or a servicing fee. Business rules are used to identify scheduled and unscheduled principal, calculate fees, calculate remittance and disbursement amounts, calculate amounts to be disbursed to investors, amortization, and accruals. These calculations are used throughout the system **12** to perform functions such as collecting remittances from servicers, dispersing funds to investors and performing accounting activities. The results of processing are available through an interactive user interface to both personnel of the purchaser and personnel of the servicer for correction when transactions do not comply with business rules.

[**0066**] The trial balance processor **106** provides for validation of parameters such as servicer number, purchaser and servicers loan numbers, effective date, ending unpaid balance, note rate, pass through rate, principal and interest payment, last paid installment (LPI) date, pool number, accrued interest receivable balance, available line of credit, conversion date, reverse mortgage payment, net principal limit, taxes and insurance set asides, property charges set asides, repairs set asides, servicing fees set asides, scheduled payments, and so on. Any discrepancies are resolved and

any system updates (loan attribute changes, data updates) are implemented. The LPC logic **100** then reprocesses the activity based on the corrected data.

[**0067**] In addition to borrower payments, the LPC logic **100** may also be triggered with regard to a particular loan when the attribute change processor (ACP) logic **122** makes a change to attributes that affect loan processing or when a loan attribute triggers processing, such as note rate changes, payment changes and loan reporting. The LPC logic **100** may also be triggered by borrower behavior (e.g., loan delinquencies status) at beginning and end of accounting periods.

[**0068**] The servicing event processor **108** identifies and handles business events that are not identified by the activity processor **102**. Examples of these events include identifying delinquent loans and identifying loans that are eligible for reclassification or substitution. The delinquency status reporting processor **110** accepts delinquency reasons from the servicer for loans that have payments that are in arrears.

[**0069**] The attribute change processor (ACP) logic **122** processes loan or security level changes. The ACP logic **122** processes attribute changes regarding loans. As previously described, in the preferred embodiments, loans are characterized in the data processing system **12** by a series of attributes rather than by product codes. Each mortgage product that is purchased is then represented by a series of attributes instead of or in addition to an overall product code. New products may be created by creating new combinations of attributes, or by adding new attributes. An exemplary list of possible attributes that may be used is provided at the end of this section.

[**0070**] The ACP logic **122** processes attribute changes that occur after loans are brought into the data processing system **12**. In particular, after loans are brought into the data processing system **12**, the ACP logic **122** processes attribute changes that are unexpected or are unscheduled whereas the LPC logic **100** handles attribute changes that are both expected and scheduled. The ACP logic **122** also validates the attribute change request, assesses the financial impact of the change, updates the appropriate data and triggers the appropriate cash and accounting transactions.

[**0071**] Unexpected attribute changes are changes that are required due to new features or discrepancies between contract documentation and data captured by the acquisition logic **26**, this can include changes to loan data and/or changes in loan behavior. Unscheduled attribute changes are changes that may occur based on contract documentation but the timeframe is unknown. For example, an unexpected attribute change would be a change for a daily simple interest cash loan that the purchaser has purchased without knowledge of a particular feature. After the purchase, the borrower exercises options under the feature and the servicer advances the next due date of the loan and submits a loan activity transaction record to the purchaser. Not knowing about the feature, the purchaser rejects the transaction since the loan record does not indicate the presence of the feature. After assessing the exception and evaluating the change, the servicer submits an attribute change request to add this feature and keep the loan in the purchaser's portfolio or in the security, pending confirmation of continued loan eligibility. An example of an unexpected and unscheduled attribute change would be the case where the lender submits

an adjustable rate mortgage change request for a loan that the purchaser has set up as a fixed rate mortgage. The request is processed as an unscheduled change because the purchaser's systems have never had an event scheduled to trigger the change. An example of an unscheduled change is a fixed rate convertible loan which has the conversion option indicated in the terms of the note. It is anticipated that an attribute change will occur but the timing of the event is unknown and therefore unscheduled. The two primary types of unexpected attributed changes are post purchase adjustments (data corrections) and modifications (attribute changes driven by a number of business requirements, such as product flexibility, delinquency management, and substitutions/reclassifications).

[0072] In operation, the ACP logic 122 receives attribute change requests which indicate current database values for the loan and the proposed changes. The validation of the loan with the new values is then accomplished by applying the rules processor 180 to the ACP transaction. The business rules engine is applied to determine whether the changes are allowable and any failed business rules are provided to an operator for further review. Next, the original terms of the contract are used to determine any pricing adjustments of the attribute change. The system determines the difference between the current or adjusted price as applicable and the new price for the purchase adjustments. Next, a human operator reviews the requested change, the impact of the requested change, and any required hard copy documentation needed to justify the change. The operator/business analyst either approves or rejects the change. Rejected transactions may be modified and resubmitted. Approved adjustment transaction values are applied to the database and an audit trail history is maintained. If the result of the change request has an accounting impact, the ACP logic 122 also generates the appropriate transactions to trigger the accounting processor 146.

[0073] The ACP logic 122 also includes loan conversion request processing logic for handling loan conversion requests. Thus, when a loan conversion request is received, this logic tracks the request for the change, determines the allowability of the change based on business rules, and employs the remainder of the ACP logic 122 to make the change.

[0074] The securities aggregation and management (SAM) logic 130 receives the loan level cash flow information produced by the LPC logic 100 and aggregates this cash flow information to produce security level information. The security level information is produced at each of the following levels: remittance/express date level within each piece/single pool; single pool level or piece level within each major pool; pseudo pool (pool-like reporting group) level; major header level for each major pool; choice pool level; strip level; mega pool level; and mega in mega (MIM) pool level. In addition to securities, the SAM logic 130 is also capable of processing and managing any grouping of loans, cash flows from loans, and other financial instruments. Using a packet activity processor 132, the SAM logic 130 determines the loans in a given pool, aggregates cash flows based on the pool and loan level attributes for all the loans and then updates the system database. The packet activity processor 132 has the flexibility to aggregate loan level cash flows at the most granular level to security level enabling the SAM logic to also manage specific cash flow

strips (e.g., access yield strips, interest only strips). At the end of appropriate processing periods, the SAM logic 130 finalizes the relevant security information. The SAM logic 130 then uses a packet disclosure processor 134 to make final remittance level principal and interest, guaranty fee, and other draft amounts available to a cash processing logic 144 and to make security accounting data available to a book and tax accounting logic 146. The SAM logic 130 also calculates, at the various MBS security levels, disclosure data for investors and the payment distribution to investors. The SAM logic 130 also includes packet modification request processing logic which is used to modify packets in generally the same manner that the attributes of loans are modified as described above in connection with the ACP logic 122. The operation of the SAM logic 130, and in particular packets and the packet activity processor 132, is described in greater detail in connection with the packeting logic 154.

[0075] Further, the SAM logic 130 can be used to facilitate the provision of real-time data updating. For example, investors may be supplied with real-time analytic data. The analytic data may include any data that allows investors to more accurately determine the value of their holdings, such as data concerning monthly loan payments, loan prepayments, loan pay-offs, and so on. For example, when a loan pays off, investors may be provided immediate access to this information rather than waiting until the next MBS reporting cycle.

[0076] In the illustrated embodiment, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30 and the securitization logic 32 utilize the same data base (see FIG. 4). As a result, the data used by the securitization logic 32 is always synchronized with the data used by the servicer and investor reporting logic 30. Thus, it is not necessary for the securitization logic 32 to wait until the end of a periodic (e.g., monthly) reporting cycle to receive updated data, but rather the securitization logic 32 always has access to up-to-date loan information. In another embodiment, the servicer and investor reporting logic 30 and the securitization logic 32 may utilize different data bases that are synchronized on a weekly basis, on a daily basis, on a sub-daily basis, or in real time, depending on the frequency of update that is desired.

[0077] A servicing transfer logic 142 facilitates the process of transferring loans for the servicing rights of owned or securitized mortgages from one servicer to another or from one portfolio to another within the same servicer as of an effective date. A servicing transfer may be initiated, for example, if a servicer decides to stop servicing loans for business reasons, if a servicer decides to transfer a certain group of loans to another branch or portfolio, if a servicer is involved in a merger or acquisition of the servicer necessitating a transfer to the surviving entity, or for other reasons. The servicing logic 142 processes information regarding the old and new servicers and the loans that are subject to the change in servicing and updates loan record data for the respective affected loans. The effective date of the change in servicing is also specified. Information that is provided to the servicing transfer logic 142 as part of a servicing request includes the transferors servicer number, address and contact information, the transferees servicer number, address and contact information, unique loan numbers to be transferred, effective date, and other data. Additional steps, such as

notifying the transferor of the termination and assessing transfer fees may also be performed.

[0078] The cash processor **144** provides a facility to allow servicers and other vendors to create and maintain bank account information. The accounts are bank accounts established with the purchaser to facilitate loan transactions. Servicers have the ability to create/select/update their account information in real time, including account numbers and remittance/disbursement information. The information captured in this process allows the cash processor **144** to create and execute Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions. Historical records of servicers and vendors account and draft information is maintained to assist in resolving any issues that may arise.

[0079] Additionally, the cash processor **144** retrieves remittance and disbursement information from other areas of the data processing system **12**. The remittance and disbursement information includes effective date, loan number, dollar amount, remittance code, and granular level details. The cash processor **144** performs a rollup of loan level details by servicer number as required. The cash processor **144** also performs a rollup of loan level details by seller number whenever the seller is not the designated servicer. The cash processor **144** triggers appropriate accounting transaction codes as needed that allow the book and tax accounting processor **146** to record applicable accounting entries.

[0080] Finally, the cash processor **144** creates cash transactions, for example, automated clearing house (ACH) transactions, outgoing check transactions, and so on. The cash processor **140** begins this process after the cash processor **144** has completed the process of assessing and validating remittance and disbursement data. The first step in creating a cash transaction is validating servicer/vendor bank account information. Ultimately, an ACH transaction is created that debits or credits the appropriate custodial bank account.

[0081] The book and tax accounting logic **146** manages accounting activities associated with the loans. The accounting logic **146** provides a consistent methodology for the recording of accounting events related to mortgage business activities across the acquisition logic **28** and the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** into subsidiary ledgers for posting to a general ledger. The book and tax accounting logic **146** supports the accounting activities related to the packaging of loan cash flows to the first level packet for the securitization logic **32**. In addition, the book and tax accounting logic **146** supports the accounting activities related to forming securities or packets out of portfolio loan collateral. The investment accounting for securities held in portfolio and for the payment distribution on mortgage derivatives could also be handled by the book and tax accounting logic **146** or, preferably, is handled by separate accounting logic **156**, described in greater detail below.

[0082] The book and tax accounting logic **146** journalizes mortgage related business activity, maintains subsidiary ledgers, provides audit trails, provides data integrity and control within the subsidiary ledgers, facilitates timely reconciliations, provides flexibility to account for new products or changes depending on actual accounting methodologies, and provides information needed to perform financial analysis. In one embodiment, the book and tax accounting logic **146** utilizes an accounting matrix which is a two-dimen-

sional structure comprised of accounting “families” and “family members.” The families are groups of accounting relevant transaction and loan attributes, and the family members are the allowable values for each of the groups. All intersections of families and family members have a debit and credit account number associated with each of the intersections. When the journal entry is created, the appropriate debit and credit account numbers are first assigned to each of the transactions as they are processed. The accounting matrix uses business rules processor **180** to automatically interpret the transactions. As new products are introduced, the accounting matrix is modified to incorporate new family and/or family members to properly record the new business activity. Similarly, as products become obsolete, or as the requirement for breaking out activity on the corporate general ledger becomes less detailed, the accounting matrix can be modified to adapt to those changes as well.

[0083] As business activities are processed, they are recorded/journalized in a subsidiary ledger according to the debit and credit account numbers assigned from the accounting matrix. This occurs by translating business activities into family and family member transactions that can be interpreted by the matrix. A subsidiary ledger provides the capability to view the lowest level of business activity that created the entry in the subsidiary ledger to maintain an audit trail for the subsidiary ledger activity. As activity is recorded, a system walk forward test of the subsidiary ledger balances is also performed to assure data integrity with the subsidiary ledger. At the end of accounting cycles, activity within the subsidiary ledgers is automatically summarized and posted to the general ledger.

[0084] At the end of the accounting cycle, reconciliation is performed between the subsidiary ledger activity and balances, and the general ledger activity and balances using an automated reconciliation tool. An automated reconciliation tool may be provided that generates the results of the reconciliation and, through a user interface, displays the results to an operator. Any reconciling items between the subsidiary and general ledgers may be analyzed and resolved by the operator. Through the operator interface, the operator updates the status of the reconciling items to indicate the results of the analysis. As reconciling items are resolved, the operator triggers the automated reconciliation facility to repeat the reconciliation and display the results.

[0085] The book and tax accounting logic **146** also provides information for financial and operational analysis. Information related to the status of the book and tax accounting logic is provided to operations through an accounting console. The accounting console is a management and operational workflow tool that includes notifications and status information related to the book and tax accounting processes. It also provides summarized reports and the ability to view the detailed information supporting those reports.

[0086] A preferred implementation of the securitization logic **32** and subcomponents thereof will now be described. The securitization logic **32** includes sifting/sorting logic **152** which accesses inventory, identifies collateral or asset attributes and sub-attributes, and categorizes data at its most granular level in both aggregating and segregating cash flows associated with mortgage assets. The sifting/sorting logic **152** provides a user interactive application that allows

users to define selection criteria (loan and/or atomic characteristics), prioritize them, evaluate results, and make decisions about market transactions and their related economics. By sifting and sorting through available inventories, cash flows may be qualified and quantified for optimal aggregation of targeted transactions, given relative market value. The sifting/sorting logic **152** operates under a user maintainable library of business rules associated with mortgage instruments and respective cash flows. An auto sift function is also provided to allow to batch processing of predefined inventory types. For example, a daily auto sift may be executed against “available for sale” loans to aggregate and pre-package the loans for future transactions.

[0087] The purpose of the sifting/sorting logic **152** is to provide a mechanism by which users can examine the entire collateral universe and pair down to smaller groupings of collateral or assets within the universe. Collateral refers to any cash flow derived from loans, pools, securities, commitments, and packets. The purpose of sorting is to group the subset of collateral identified in the sifting process and organize it by a single or multiple attributes to further refine the pool of candidate collateral to be placed into a potential packet. The sifting/sorting logic **152** supports the packeting logic **154**, described below.

[0088] The packeting logic **154** is used to create, maintain, and otherwise support packets. A packet is an aggregation or packaging of cash flows that is treated as an entity separate and distinct from the incoming cash flows that support the packet and from the cash flows that result from the packet. Packets maintain the data integrity of the underlying assets as received by the LPC logic **102** and create an information chain that maps to a higher-order asset (e.g., an MBS or other financial instrument to be sold to an investor). The source data for packets may be loan-level or packet-level information, and the packets themselves may represent actual securities or just a unit of reporting and remittance.

[0089] Packets permit the data processing system **12** to enable and support new transactions by providing a platform for sourcing, normalizing, and centralizing cash flow-related data and building the linkages between loan assets and securities or non-securitized assets. Packets provide greater flexibility in the transformation of cash flows from the primary mortgage/loan level to the secondary market and within the secondary market. Packets provide the flexibility not only to create and sell securities to investors but also to support non-securitized forms of packaging to enable selling or retaining cash flows from individual loans. The ability to create and manipulate packets enables the creation of new types of financial instruments and new types of transactions within the secondary market.

[0090] FIG. 5 depicts a sample data map from a lender reported inbound record, through re-map, to packets. In the example of FIG. 5, a loan acquired on a cash basis has a portion of its cash flows re-mapped, and some of those cash flows participate in two packets, one an out-of-Portfolio MBS pool, the other an excess servicing fee strip. In this arrangement, the incoming data and cash flows is decoupled from the outgoing data and cash flows. This separation allows the timing and collection of cash flows from servicers to be treated independently from timing of payments to investors. This is useful in the case of structured transactions.

[0091] Packets preferably store the following four categories of data: packet header information (creation, purpose, and transaction information); cash flow and disclosure uses (data map); periodic process instructions and information; output requirements information. Thus, a packet stores information about its own attributes, the disposition of its cash flows, and any reported output, including disclosure data. Additionally, a packet stores information that describes its behavior, which may be derived from external business rules. These business rules may be standard (as in the case of MBS packets), or they may apply to a specific packet (as in the case of a structured transaction). Packet data fields may be added or changed to support new products.

[0092] In some cases, it may be necessary to apply data decomposition (or “internal re-mapping”) to lender reported data. Some of the data decomposition steps may precede packet creation and rollup, converting loan level data reported by lenders into a form useful to downstream processes. In cases where the internal use of lender reported inbound data is differs from its use within a packet, data re-mapping is also required for roll-up.

[0093] The accounting logic **156** supports additional accounting functions for the securitization logic **32** that are not already supported by the book and tax accounting processor **146**. In general, the book and tax accounting processor **146** is responsible for performing maintenance accounting at the loan level (i.e., posting transactions), while the accounting logic **156** is responsible for the accounting logic associated with transformative accounting events. Transformative accounting events include, for example, securitization events (in which a loan is to be construed to be sold). Other transformative events include a securitization event in which only a portion of the cash flows are sold, a sale event of a portfolio securities, and a sale event involving a whole loan. In addition, the accounting logic **156** is responsible for ongoing maintenance in connection with the reconciliation of securities cash payables. The accounting logic **156** performs such things as deriving the initial cost basis at the time of acquisition for every loan and inventory, maintaining the cost basis of each loan, tracking accounting intent for each loan, and performing market valuation for each loan. Of course, although the functionality of blocks **146** and **156** are shown as being conceptually separate, this functionality could also be combined.

[0094] The position monitor **158** allows monitoring of the purchaser’s overall trade and investment position. Particularly, the position monitor **158** is an interactive tool that is usable to monitor positions of investors of whole loans and securities, and designate or redesignate inventory between trading accounts. The position monitor **158** is able to provide this information in near real time because the position monitor **158** either uses the same transactional database(s) as the servicer and investor reporting logic **30** and the securitization logic **132** or, preferably, uses a separate data base that is synchronized with these data bases. For both whole loans and securities, the position monitor **158** provides daily and month-to-date commitment/trade and delivery/settlement positions. The position monitor **158** also provides cumulative inventory positions held by the portfolio. The position monitor **158** allows investors to manage inventory from an economic, risk management, and regulatory accounting and taxation perspective. It also allows investors to determine or designate what assets to buy, what assets to

sell, and what assets to retain or hold for investment. The portfolio manager **158** provides investors with a clear and concise view of their current net position of inventory.

[0095] The out of portfolio (OOP) pooling logic **160** permits the data processing system **12** to be used for pooling loans to create financial instruments in situations where the loans are owned by the entity that owns or operates the data processing system **12** or by an entity other than the entity that owns/operates the data processing system **12**. The OOP pooling logic **160** provides the owner of the loans being pooled with the ability to select asset attributes and sub-attributes at a granular level, the ability to select loans to optimize chartered pool statistics, the ability to flexibly map incoming and outgoing cash flows, and the ability to use an on-screen display to manipulate collateral. The out of portfolio pooling processor **160** also has the ability to collateralize asset cash flows as described above in connection with the packeting logic **154**.

[0096] The whole loan trading logic **162** provides a facility for engaging in whole loan trades to permit the owner or operator of the data processing system **12** to identify and sell loans out of its portfolio to other entities. The whole loan trading logic **162** also provides logic for reporting to the servicer of a sold loan (1) that the loan has been sold and (2) the identity of the new owner of the loan, allowing the servicer to begin reporting payment information to the new owner.

[0097] Referring to **FIG. 4**, the common services logic **34** includes work flow processor **170** which generates notifications about required actions and routes the notifications to users of the data processing system **12** according to pre-defined processing sequences for request approvals and exception report resolutions. The work flow processor **170** also keeps track of status and actions related to work items.

[0098] The report processor **172** generates reports based on users' requests. The report processor **172** allows data to be extracted from the data bases to prepare reports that can be sent out through the user services logic **22**. The reports that are returned may be bulk transfers of data. The report processor **172** supports generating the reports described above in connection with the acquisition logic **28**, the servicer and investor reporting logic **30**, and the securitization logic **32**.

[0099] The database and access control logic **174** provides database and user security administration and control for the databases in the data storage system **38** and functions available through system **12**. The database access and control logic also maintains referential integrity, processes queries and updates, and performs all tasks related to access and control of the databases in the data storage system **38**.

[0100] The process controller/scheduler **176** triggers execution of processes based on time schedule and/or events received from application components. The process controller/scheduler encapsulates information on processing inter-dependencies between different components in the data processing system **12**.

[0101] The audit logging logic **178** logs data that is needed for historical tracking of the activities of the data processing system **12**. The purpose of the data logging is primarily to meet audit requirements in connection with the transactions processed by the data processing system **12**.

[0102] The business rules processor **180** is a rules engine that encapsulates business rules to permit the business rules to be applied to the loan data. Examples of the business rules applied by the rules processor **180** have been described throughout the discussion of the data processing system **12**. A user interface is provided that allows the business rules to be modified and that allows new business rules to be added or obsolete business rules to be deleted. The rules processor **180** maintains the business rules separate from the remainder of the application code that implements other aspects of the data processing system **12**. This allows the business rules to be modified/added/deleted without requiring revisions to the application code. The ability to modify or add business rules quickly facilitates the introduction of new types of loan products and investment instruments, because the data processing system **12** may be easily modified to implement any special data processing required for the implementation of the new loan products/investment instruments. Preferably, the rules processor **180** is provided as three separate rules processor, one for each of the acquisition logic **28**, the servicer and investor reporting logic **30**, and the securitization logic **32**, with separate user interfaces for each rules processor.

[0103] As previously indicated, service granularity is achieved in part by representing loans as a series of data attributes. The following is an example of a set of attributes that may be used to characterize loans: accounting class code; accounting close effective period; accounting reporting category code; actual UPB at acquisition; adjusted last paid installment date; adjusted unpaid principal balance; ceiling; change frequency; change method; conduit code; custodian code; downward cap; downward cap code; effective date; excess yield; excess yield adjustment; extended term; purchaser loan number; final step change; first PITI (principal, interest, taxes, insurance) due date; fixed interest rate; fixed pass-thru rate; fixed payment amount; floor; frequency of payment change; frequency of rate change; future feature code; index code; index lookback; interest rate; loan guaranty payment date; loan conversion date; loan guaranty date; loan payoff interest calculation code; loan rate effective date; loan to value ratio; LP control record; lender pass through (LPT) type code; maximum term; months payment control effective; months rate control effective; mortgage margin; mortgage term; net interest adjustment; new payment amount; next control record; next scheduled payment change date; next scheduled rate change date; number of months in effect; other fees collected adjustment; pass-thru rate; payment change amount/percentage; payment change method code; payment control record; payment type code; principal adjustment; processing status code; product code; rate change method code; rate change percent; rate control record; rate conversion status code; rate rounding method; rate type code; reclassification date; remittance day code; required change index; required margin; secured unpaid principal balance; servicing fee; servicing fee adjustment; servicing fee type; servicing remittance option; unpaid principal balance; upward cap; upward cap code. In addition to the above-mentioned attributes, additional attributes may be used in connection with particular types of specialty loan products.

[0104] As previously indicated, data granularity is achieved at least in part by decomposing loan assets into a series of cash flows. A cash flow may be any type of payment, whether of principal, interest, or fees. Cash flow

may also includes credit-related losses, which manifest themselves from the securities standpoint as negative investor payments (i.e., a reduction to positive cash flows). Possible sources of cash flow may be associated with principal, interest, servicing fees, guarantee fees, mortgage insurance, prepayment penalties, borrower-paid fees, servicer advances, servicer recoveries, loss/default components, and REO activity. For principal, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: scheduled principal (amount payable based on scheduled amortization), actual principal (what was applied as principal), unscheduled principal (amount from borrower applied in excess of scheduled), advanced (amount not collected from borrower but remitted to investor), shortfall (underpayment from borrower, usually meaning less than full scheduled amount). For interest, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: scheduled Interest (amount payable), actual (what was applied), excess (interest collection in excess of amount payable), advanced (not collected from borrower but sent to investor), shortfall (underpayment from servicer), capitalized (negative amortization), other capitalized interest (delinquency), unrecoverable prepayment interest shortfall. For servicing fees, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: gross servicing fee, core servicing fee (usually relates to tax), excess servicing fee, safe harbor (tax). For guarantee fees, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following cash flows: gross guarantee fee (GF) (total charged to the lender), cash flows for internally tracking costs (e.g., costs associated with credit risk), base GF, GF variance, and other GF adjustments. For mortgage insurance (MI), individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: lender paid MI, borrower paid MI, portion of GF construed to be MI, back-end MI. For prepayment penalties, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: prepayment penalty, prepayment penalty (borrower-paid), yield maintenance fee (borrower-paid). For borrower-paid fees, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: borrower-paid fees, late payment fee, conversion/modification fee. For seller advances, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: advanced principal, advanced interest, advanced guaranty fee, servicing advances (usually relates to defaults, e.g., T&I). For servicer recoveries, individual cash flows that may be identified include the following: recovered principal advances, recovered interest advances, recovered guaranty fee advances, recovered servicing advances. For default activity, cash flows that may be identified include the following: net realized loss (total amount payable to investors less all recoveries), foreclosure expenses, attorney fees, recoup of non-recoverable advances, loss due to modification, loss due to appraisal reduction, loss due to deficiency valuation, non-capitalized deferred interest (e.g. workout), interest paid on advances. For REO activity, cash flows that may be identified include the following: foreclosure sale proceeds, rental income, insurance proceeds, tax expenses on REO, repair expenses on REO, sale/marketing expenses on REO, REO property maintenance expenses. It may be noted that some of the above cash flows are aggregate cash flows that can be further decomposed. Other cash flow pertinent information that may be tracked includes unpaid principal balance (UPB) (including scheduled UPB and actual UPB), participation percentage (including principal participation percentage, interest

participation percentage, and servicing fee participation (basis points)), discount rate (used to calculate yield maintenance or prepayment penalty), appraised balance, foreclosure sale date, and REO sale date.

[0105] Referring now to **FIG. 6**, operation of the attribute change processor logic **122** is described in greater detail. **FIG. 6** illustrates a method **200** of processing loan or security level changes to attributes or other data describing characteristics of assets that have been brought into data processing system **12** is shown.

[0106] Method **200** is usable to process unexpected or unscheduled attribute change requests that are received in data processing system **12** as described above in reference to attribute change processor logic **122**. The unexpected or unscheduled attribute change request can be received from any input to the system although generally, the attribute change request will be received from the user systems **14**.

[0107] Independent of the type of attribute change or the reasons giving rise to the change, the requirement that an attribute change is needed will be reported to a user of data processing system **12**. Alternatively, the user of data processing system **12** may independently determine the need to change one or more attributes in one or more financial assets previously submitted to data processing system **12**. Yet further, a user of data processing system **12** may wish to add a new attribute to an existing loan record or set of loan records. The user will make a determination that a loan previously submitted to data processing system **12** contains the attribute needing to be changed or added and access data processing system **12** to implement the proposed change or addition.

[0108] In a step **205**, the system **12** retrieves a record embodying the loan containing an attribute to be changed from the data storage **38** associated with the data processing system **12**. According to an exemplary embodiment, the process of retrieving the record containing the attribute to be changed can be managed in accordance with user inputs received by user services logic **22**. The user can use a previously issued login name and password to access the functionality provided through user services logic **22** from any remote or local processing system.

[0109] Upon accessing user services logic **22**, the system provides the user with a search form for searching the database associated with data processing system **12**. The search report can be as simple or as detailed as needed to retrieve the loan information from the database. According to a preferred embodiment, the complexity of the search function form can be customized based upon the login name to provide a preferred search report that is most likely to be useful to the user associated with the login name. Additionally, the information that the user is capable of retrieving from the database can be customized based on the login name. For example, a given user may be given access only to financial assets associated with that particular user.

[0110] According to an exemplary embodiment, the search report can include attribute fields to search for a particular loan number, search for a cash flow, a packet, a loan pool, a contract search, an existing attribute change record, described below, or any other discrete indexed field. Where a search request yields a single record, that record can be displayed to the user. Where a search request yields multiple

records, a navigable list can be displayed to the user, allowing the user to select at least one financial asset record of interest.

[0111] According to an exemplary embodiment, attribute change processor logic **122** includes functionality to allow a user to submit a meta attribute change request that can affect a plurality of financial assets. An example may occur where the records associated with the user contain an attribute field including an address associated with the user and the user has changed his address. The user may use the search logic to retrieve all previously stored records that are associated with that user and submit an attribute change request, described below, to update the address attribute field on all of the retrieved records.

[0112] Following retrieval of the information from the database, the user will be able to select a specific financial asset record or group of financial asset records to be the target of an attribute change request. According to an exemplary embodiment, following selection of the specific financial asset or group of assets, a search can be made to determine whether there exists any pending attribute change requests associated with the asset or assets. The user can be notified if any pending attribute change requests are associated with the selected asset or assets.

[0113] Following retrieval of the asset information from the database, the current asset information can be displayed to the user. According to an exemplary embodiment, the asset information can be displayed in a form including updateable fields that contain all of the attribute fields that the user is authorized to modify.

[0114] In a step **210**, the user can modify information in the updateable form and submit the form to system **12**. The form containing the attribute fields that have been modified by the user will be submitted to data processing system **12** and will become the attribute change request upon submission. According to an exemplary embodiment, the attribute change request displayed to the user can be customized to permit only reasonable attribute change modifications. For example, if the user attempts to enter an letter to update an attribute field that is a number, such as an interest rate, the error can be communicated to the user.

[0115] When the user has completed the attribute change request, the user can be provided with an option to finalize the attribute change request. Prior to finalizing the attribute change request, the user may be provided with an opportunity to review the pending change. The user may be further provided with information relative to any effects that pending attribute change request will have. An example may include where an attribute change will have an effect on a pricing value determined at least in part based on the attribute.

[0116] A change request is an indication on the part of the user that the user desires that the change be made to the selected record independent of the effect the change may have on existing pools, current pricing values, and so on. However, the proposed attribute change may still be denied by data processing system **12** based on a violation of one or more business rules, as described below.

[0117] According to an exemplary embodiment, when the attribute change request is received by data processing system **12**, it is placed in a processing queue for rules

processor **180**. When reviewed, rules processor **180** will make a determination in a step **215**, based on stored rules, whether the proposed change to the selected financial asset is authorized. The rules to be applied can be logical rules, such as whether the submitted change makes sense in the context of the selected loan, loan specific rules, such as whether the proposed change is inconsistent with other information stored regarding the loan, business rules, such as whether the proposed change can be made given rules associated with data processing system **12**, and/or any other type of rules that could affect acceptance of the attribute change request.

[0118] If a business rules failure is indicated, the failure may be reviewed by an administrator in a step **220** to determine the disposition of the attribute change request following the business rules failure. The disposition may be dependent on the nature of the business rules failure. For example, where an obvious error was made during entry, the obvious error can be corrected. Alternatively, where the failure cannot be reconciled by the administrator, the user can be notified to provide the user with an opportunity to correct the deficiency and resubmit the attribute change request. Further alternatively, for relatively minor changes or changes otherwise determined to not require further review, such as the above described update to an address associated with a loan record, the process will not need approval or any human intervention prior to implementation, as long as the applicable business rules are satisfied.

[0119] Alternatively, in limited circumstances, the administrator may be given the capability to overrule the business rule applied by business rules processor **180** in a step **225**. Where the business rule is overridden, the administrator may be given the option of overriding the business rule for the specific attribute change request or modifying the business rule applied by the business rule processor to effect a permanent change in the rule.

[0120] According to an exemplary embodiment, a determination is made in a step **230** whether an attribute change request requires further approval prior to changing the attribute. Prior approval may be required where the proposed change needing approval cannot easily be converted to a business rule, where a law or regulation demands that further scrutiny is required prior to changes, or any other circumstances that may arise.

[0121] A determination is made in a step **235** whether the proposed change is approved following application of the business rules by rules processor **180**. If the proposed change is not granted, the attribute change is denied in a step **240** and the reasons for the denial can be communicated to the user.

[0122] If no prior approval is required, or if the approval is granted, the attribute change can be implemented in a step **245**. Implementing the attribute change request can include updating the record associated with the financial asset in the database. Following the update, the successful attribute change can be reported to the user that submitted the attribute change request.

[0123] Following an attribute change request, a determination is made whether the change has an effect on other information or assets that are dependent or related to the attribute in a step **250**. If necessary, the financial asset can be

subjected to further processing based on the attribute that was changed and the significance of the change in a step 255. For example, an attribute change may result in a change in loan pricing, and more specifically the purchase price that should have been paid to the seller of the loan subject to the attribute change. Therefore, the attribute change processor logic 122 is coupled to the pricing logic 86 and sends the pertinent data regarding the change to the pricing logic 86. When pricing logic 86 is invoked, acquisition logic 28 is configured to “redeliver” to loan to LPC logic 100. Following delivery, normal processing of the loan occurs such that revised pricing information is generated. The pricing logic 86 then returns revised pricing information for the loan in question so that a price adjustment may occur. An additional example of further processing is processing that may occur when a change to an attribute has ramifications on additional attributes such that the additional attributes will require updating based on the change.

[0124] Many other changes and modifications may be made to the present invention without departing from the spirit thereof. The scope of these and other changes will become apparent from the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A processing system for modifying attributes of a plurality of loans comprising:

an attribute change processor for receiving and implementing a proposed change to at least one attribute of at least one of the plurality of loans; and

a loan pricing processor for generating a pricing value associated with the proposed change to the at least one attribute of the at least one loan.

2. A processing system of claim 1, wherein the system communicates the pricing value to a user of the processing system prior to finalizing implementation of the proposed change to the attribute.

3. A processing system of claim 2, wherein the user of the processing system is given the option whether to implement the proposed change based on the communication including the updated price value.

4. A processing system of claim 1, further including a rules processor for determining the validity of the proposed change.

5. A processing system of claim 1, wherein the attribute change processor, the loan pricing processor and the storage system are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

6. A method of maintaining attributes associated with a financial asset stored on a record in a data storage system, the method comprising:

receiving a search request to retrieve at least one record from the data storage system that satisfy the search request, wherein the at least one record contains attributes related to the at least one financial asset;

retrieving at least one record from the data storage system;

displaying at least one attribute associated with at least one retrieved record;

receiving a request to modify the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record; and

applying at least one business rule to the attribute modification request to validate the attribute modification request.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein displaying at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record includes displaying a plurality of retrieved records in a list.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the request to modify the at least one attribute for the at least one record retrieved from the database includes an option to provide a user with information about the effect of the proposed change without changing the at least one attribute.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the request including the option to determine the effect of the proposed change without changing the at least one attribute further includes an option to request implementation of the proposed change following providing a user with information about the effect of the proposed change.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record is modified based on the request to modify the at least one attribute and the at least one modified record is stored in the data storage system.

11. A method according to claim 6, wherein the request to modify the at least one attribute is accepted or rejected based on the application of the at least one business rule.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein a rejection of the request to modify the at least one attribute can be overridden.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein an acceptance of the request to modify the at least one attribute includes modifying the attribute within the record and storing the record containing the modified attribute in the data storage system.

14. A method according to claim 6, further including updating a pricing value associated with the least one financial asset based on the attribute modification request.

15. A method according to claim 6, wherein the financial asset is a loan.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the attributes associated with the financial asset include information related to the loan including information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed, and other attributes for a loan.

17. A method of maintaining attributes associated with a financial asset stored on a record in a data storage system, the method comprising:

receiving a search request to retrieve at least one record from the data storage system that satisfy the search request, wherein the at least one record contains attributes related to the at least one financial asset;

retrieving at least one record from the data storage system;

displaying at least one attribute associated with at least one retrieved record;

receiving a request to modify the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record; and

generating pricing information based on the modification request to calculate the effect of the modification on pricing information associated with the at least one financial asset.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein displaying at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record includes displaying a plurality of retrieved records in a list.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the request to modify the at least one attribute for the at least one record retrieved from the database includes an option to provide a user with information about the effect of the proposed change without changing the at least one attribute.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the request including the option to determine the effect of the proposed change without changing the at least one attribute further includes an option to request implementation of the proposed change following providing a user with information about the effect of the proposed change.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the at least one attribute associated with the at least one retrieved record is modified based on the request to modify the at least one attribute and the at least one modified record is stored in the data storage system.

22. A method according to claim 17, wherein the request to modify the at least one attribute is accepted or rejected based on the application of the at least one business rule.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein a rejection of the request to modify the at least one attribute can be overridden.

24. A method according to claim 22, wherein an acceptance of the request to modify the at least one attribute includes modifying the attribute within the record and storing the record containing the modified attribute in the data storage system.

25. A method according to claim 17, wherein the financial asset is a loan.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the attributes associated with the financial asset include information related to the loan including information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed, and other attributes for a loan.

27. A method according to claim 17, further including receiving a confirmation request based on the generation of pricing information based on the modification request.

28. A data processing system for processing loan information, comprising:

acquisition logic, the acquisition logic including logic configured to receive acquisition information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other attributes for a plurality of loans;

a data storage system, the data storage system configured to receive and store the attributes for each of the plurality of loans in a record associated with the loan for storage in a searchable database;

an attribute change processing system, the attribute change processing system configured to receive and process requests to modify one or more attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans stored in the searchable database; and

a rules engine, the rules engine comprising a series of business rules, wherein the rules engine is activated by the attribute change processing system to apply the business rules to the requests to modify the one or more attributes associated with the one or more of the plurality of loans.

29. A data processing system according to claim 28, wherein the acquisition logic, the data storage system, the attribute change processing system, and the rules engine are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

30. A data processing system according to claim 28, wherein the rules engine comprises a plurality of rules engines.

31. A data processing system according to claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of loans is described using a series of attributes, and wherein the data processing system is capable of being modified to process loan information for new types of loans by modifying the composition of the series of attributes.

32. A data processing system according to claim 28, wherein the records in the data storage system are searchable based on the values stored in the attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans.

33. A data processing system according to claim 32, wherein the attribute change processing system is configured to report the results of the application of the business rules to the attribute modification request.

34. A data processing system according to claim 33, wherein the attribute change processing system is further configured to calculate and report the effect of the attribute modification request.

35. A data processing system comprising:

acquisition logic, the acquisition logic including logic configured to receive information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other parameters for a plurality of loans;

financial asset generation logic, the financial asset generation logic including logic configured to facilitate creation and maintenance of a plurality of financial assets backed by the plurality of loans; and

a data storage system, the data storage system configured to receive and store the attributes for each of the plurality of loans in a record associated with the loan for storage in a searchable database;

an attribute change processing system, the attribute change processing system configured to receive and process requests to modify one or more attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans stored in the searchable database; and

a rules engine, the rules engine comprising a series of business rules, wherein the rules engine is activated by the attribute change processing system to apply the business rules to the requests to modify the one or more attributes associated with the one or more of the plurality of loans, and

wherein the acquisition logic, the financial asset generation logic, and the attribute change processing logic are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

36. A data processing system according to claim 35, wherein the acquisition logic, the data storage system, the attribute change processing system, and the rules engine are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

37. A data processing system according to claim 35, wherein the rules engine comprises a plurality of rules engines.

38. A data processing system according to claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of loans is described using a series of attributes, and wherein the data processing system is capable of being modified to process loan information for new types of loans by modifying the composition of the series of attributes.

39. A data processing system according to claim 35, wherein the records in the data storage system are searchable based on the values stored in the attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans.

40. A data processing system according to claim 39, wherein the attribute change processing system is configured to report the results of the application of the business rules to the attribute modification request.

41. A data processing system according to claim 40, wherein the attribute change processing system is further configured to calculate and report the effect of the attribute modification request.

42. A data processing system comprising:

(A) acquisition logic, the acquisition logic including logic configured to receive acquisition information pertaining to loan term, interest rate, principal owed and other parameters for a plurality of loans, the acquisition logic including

- (1) committing logic configured to permit a seller of the plurality of loans to enter into a commitment to sell the loans,
- (2) pricing logic configured to determine selling prices from the plurality of loans, and
- (3) deal management logic configured to track terms of deals entered into with the seller of the plurality of loans;

(B) a rules engine, the rules engine comprising a series of business rules;

(C) a common data storage system, the data storage system being commonly accessible to the acquisition logic, the rules engine, and an attribute change processing logic; and

(D) attribute change processing logic, the attribute change processing logic including logic configured to receive a

request to modify one or more attributes associated with one of more loans, the attribute change processing logic including logic for

- (1) receiving a request to modify one or more attributes associated with one or more loans,
- (2) retrieving the one or more loans from the common data storage system,
- (3) invoking the rules engine to determine the validity of the modification request;

wherein the acquisition logic and the attribute change processing logic are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

43. A data processing system according to claim 42, wherein the acquisition logic, the data storage system, the attribute change processing system, and the rules engine are provided on a common integrated data processing platform.

44. A data processing system according to claim 42, wherein the rules engine comprises a plurality of rules engines.

45. A data processing system according to claim 42, wherein each of the plurality of loans is described using a series of attributes, and wherein the data processing system is capable of being modified to process loan information for new types of loans by modifying the composition of the series of attributes.

46. A data processing system according to claim 42, wherein the records in the data storage system are searchable based on the values stored in the attributes for one or more of the plurality of loans.

47. A data processing system according to claim 46, wherein the attribute change processing system is configured to report the results of the application of the business rules to the attribute modification request.

48. A data processing system according to claim 46, wherein the attribute change processing system is further configured to calculate and report the effect of the attribute modification request.

* * * * *