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(74) Agent: NAKAJIMA, Shiro; 6F, Yodogawa 5-Bankan, 2-1 Toyosaki 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 531-0072 (JP).

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(71) Applicant: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. [JP/JP]; 1006, Oazakadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 (JP).

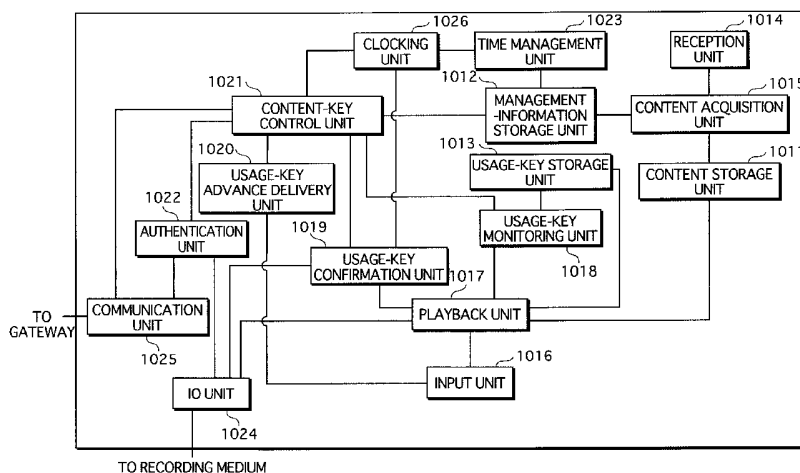
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(72) Inventors: OHTA, Yuusaku; Syofuryo, 3-14, Miyukihigashimachi, Neyagawa-shi, Osaka 572-0055 (JP). YAMAUCHI, Hiroki; 5-3, Funakicho, Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567-0828 (JP). MIYAZAKI, Masaya; 1-6-14, Asahigaoka, Ikeda-shi, Osaka 563-0022 (JP). MATSUZAKI, Natsume; 1-6-7-803, Aomadaninishi, Mino-shi, Osaka

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(54) Title: KEY DELIVERY FOR OPERATING AN HOME NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A key delivery apparatus that prevents the improper use of contents, and manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to one or more terminal apparatuses connected to a network. The key delivery apparatus receives a supply request for the decryption key from a terminal apparatus, and if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target, judges whether the terminal apparatus is a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period or a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period, and if the suppliable number has a remaining number, supplies to the terminal apparatus, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 081 616 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 7 March 2001 (2001-03-07)	1-3, 11-15, 17,18, 21-24
A	<p>abstract</p> <p>page 2, line 21 - line 39</p> <p>page 3, line 8 - line 11</p> <p>page 3, line 35 - line 44</p> <p>page 6, line 47 - page 7, line 31</p> <p>page 8, line 12 - line 26</p> <p>page 8, line 56 - page 9, line 33</p> <p>page 11, line 44 - line 45</p> <p>page 11, line 55 - line 57</p> <p>figures 1,2b,2c,4c,4d,9,11</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-/--</p>	4-10,16, 19,20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fantini, F

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	EP 1 018 733 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRONICS CORP) 12 July 2000 (2000-07-12) abstract column 22, line 51 - column 23, line 2 column 24, line 42 - column 25, line 10 column 26, line 55 - column 27, line 32 column 31, line 56 - column 32, line 27	1-3, 11-15, 17,18, 21-24
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