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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATED INVENTORY TRACKING AND AUTHENTICATION

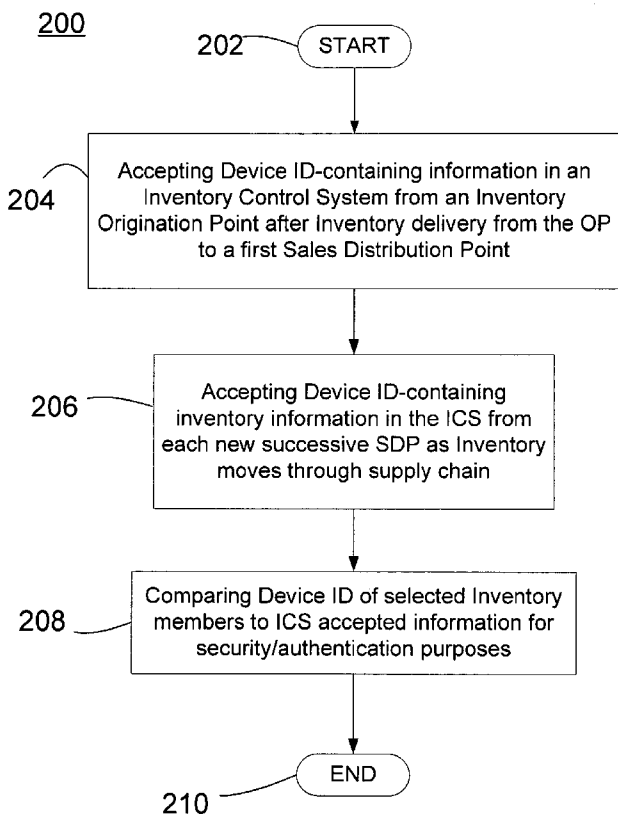


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: Method and apparatus for automated inventory tracking and authentication using device identity-containing information associated with at least one device that is part of an inventory. The method includes accepting initial device identity-containing information from an inventory origination point to a first sales distribution point and accepting additional device identity-containing inventory from each instance of a new and successive sales distribution point as inventory moves through a supply chain. This information is stored and then later compared to a device ID of the at least one device. An authentication action is performed upon the at least one device based upon said accepted initial and additional information. The device identity-containing information includes MAC address information, device serial number information.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC: 340/5.92

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 340/5.92

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,317,028 B1 (VALIULIS) 13 November 2001, see entire document	1-25
Y,P	US 2007/0121803 A1 (KOEPE et al) 31 May 2007, see entire document	2-5, 12, 14-17, 24

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

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