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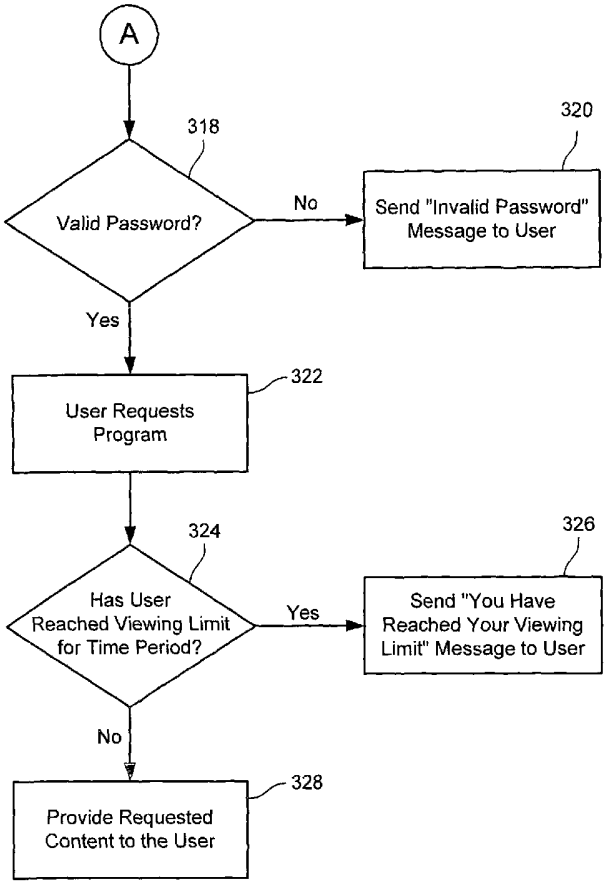
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(54) Title: VIEWING LIMIT CONTROLS



(57) Abstract: One embodiment of the invention comprises a system for controlling the viewing of programs at a user location having one or more viewing devices (106). The system comprises a viewing control system (102), which is adapted to count a number of viewings of a program during a time period, determine whether the number of viewings exceeds a viewing limit for the time period, and prevent further viewings of the program if the number of viewings exceeds the viewing limit for the time period.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/37250

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04N 7/16, 7/173

US CL : 725/25, 29, 30, 87, 93, 116

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. : 725/25, 29, 30, 87, 93, 116

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 6,163,272 A (GOODE et al.) 19 December 2000. Abstract;Dig. 2, el. 228; Fig. 3; Col. 5, lines 50-65+.	1-57
X,P	US 6,445,398 B1 (GERBA et al.) 03 September 2002; Fig. 14, el. 360	1-57

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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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"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		

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