

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 May 2006 (04.05.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/047582 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06Q 99/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/038538
- (22) International Filing Date: 26 October 2005 (26.10.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/622,137 26 October 2004 (26.10.2004) US
60/633,971 7 December 2004 (07.12.2004) US
60/654,384 18 February 2005 (18.02.2005) US

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

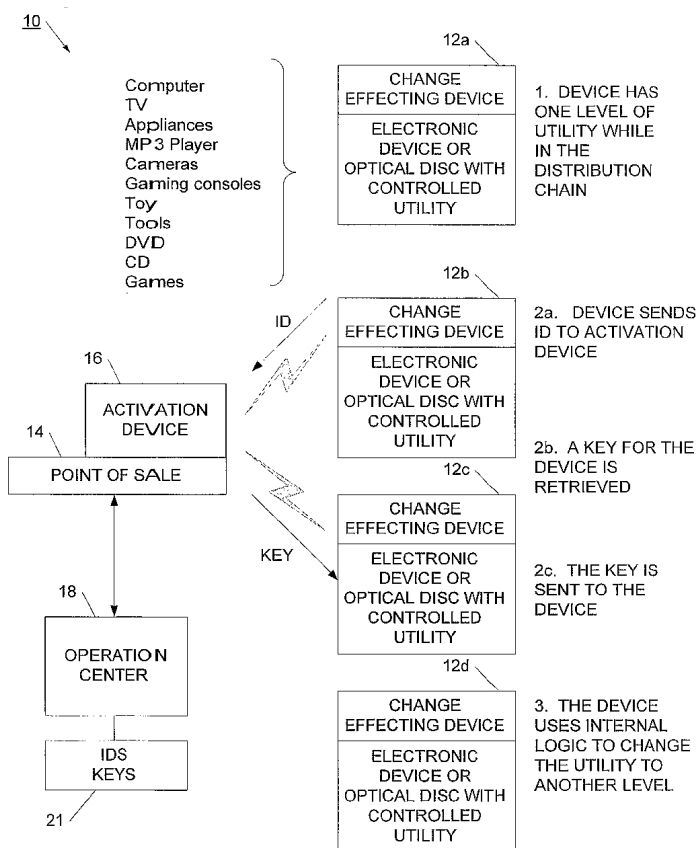
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
16 April 2009

(54) Title: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND NETWORK FOR SELECTIVELY CONTROLLING THE UTILITY A TARGET



(57) Abstract: A distribution control system is provided to support the controlled and selective changing of utility for a target. The target with controlled utility may be an electronic device, or alternatively, may be a tangible media, such as an optical disc. The distribution control system has a target with a change effecting device and a restricted access key. An activation device retrieves or generates an authorization key, and sends the authorization key to the target. The authorization key may be sent to the target wirelessly, for example, using a radio frequency signal. The target has logic that uses the restricted access key and the authorization key to change the utility of the target. In one example, the activation device retrieves the authorization key from a network operation center (NOC) by sending a target identifier to the NOC, and the NOC retrieves the authorization key for the identified target. The activation device may also connect to other systems for obtaining approval to change the utility of the target. For example, the authorization key may be sent to the target upon receiving payment, password, or other confirmation.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/38538

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **G06Q 99/00**(2006.01)

USPC: 705/64
 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. : 340/10; 705/29; 713/189; 349/193; 340/10.1

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)
 Dialog

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2003/0004889 A1 (FIALA et al.) 2 January 2003 (02.01.2003), see paragraphs 0013-0019, figure 54	1-215
A	US 6,317,028 B1 (VALIULIS) 13 November 2001 (13.11.2001), see entire document	1-215
A	US 6,298,336 B1 (DAVIS et al.) 2 October 2001 (02.10.2001), see entire document	1-215
A	US 6,259,506 B1 (LAWANDY) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), see entire document	1-215

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

Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 May 2008 (28.05.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report 20 JUN 2008
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