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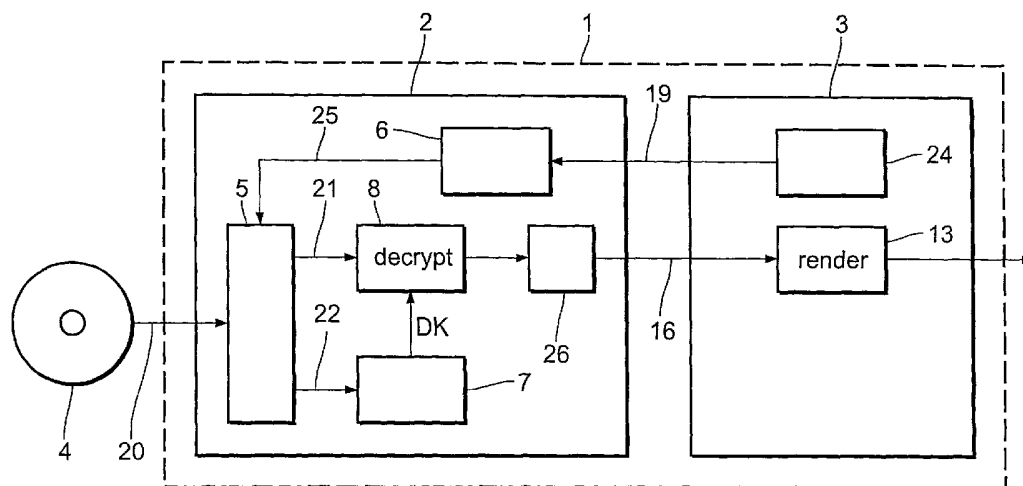
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR READING OR WRITING USER DATA



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an apparatus for reading user data stored block-wise in encrypted form on a storage medium (4), the storage of which is divided into blocks, to an apparatus for writing user data block-wise onto a storage medium (4) and to corresponding methods. In order to inform the apparatus for read or writing, respectively, on the intended use of said user data, particularly if the user data is stored on the storage medium in encrypted form to inform the apparatus for reading about the encryption key for encrypting the user data before writing it on the storage medium or to inform the apparatus for writing about the decryption key for decryption the read user data before outputting it, it is proposed according to the present invention to add a processing information to the read or write command specifying how to process the user data and to provide processing means for processing the user data according to said processing information, e.g. to decrypt the read user data before outputting it or to encrypt the received user data before storing it on the storage medium.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 11, 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28) & JP 9 179949 A (DAINIPPON PRINTING CO LTD), 11 July 1997 (1997-07-11) abstract	1-14
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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