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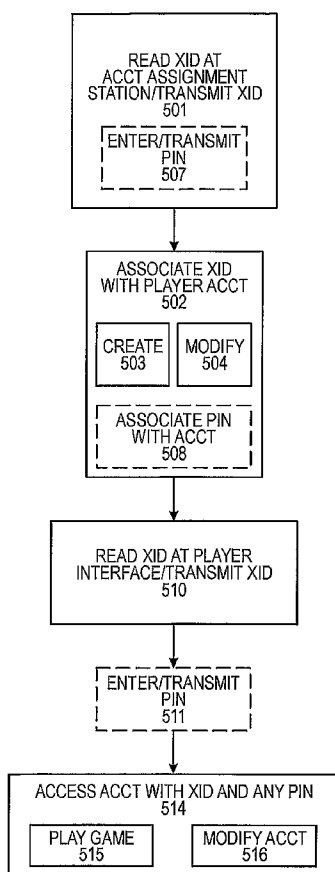
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(54) Title: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR ACCESSING PLAYER ACCOUNTS IN A GAMING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A gaming system method includes first reading external identifying information (308) for a player from an external identification device carried by the player and then associating the external identifying information with a player account in a gaming system (100). The method further includes reading the external identifying information for the player from a player station (104) device included the gaming system (100), and then accessing the player account using that external identifying information read from the player station (104) device.

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— *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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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

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USPC: 463/29

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. : 463/29

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 6,508,709 B1 (Karmarkar) 21 January 2003. Whole document	1-8,10-13,16, and 18-20
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Y		----- 6, 14, 14, 17
A	US 6,612,928 B1 (Bradford et al.) 2 September 2003. Whole document	1-20
A	US 2004/0014523 A1 (Kastner et al.) 22 January 2004. whole document	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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