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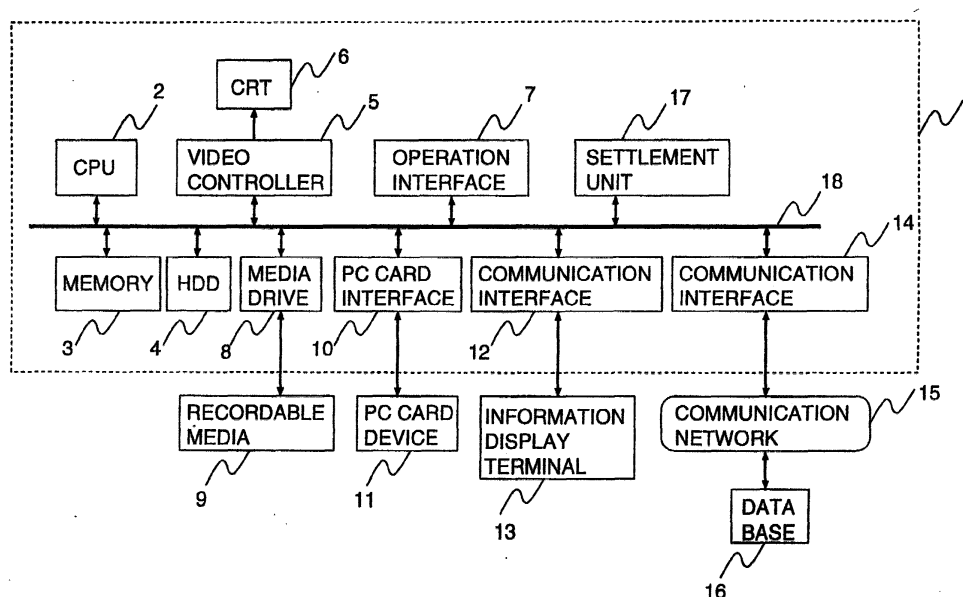
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(54) **Method and apparatus for selling electronic information with or without advertisement**

(57) An apparatus (1) for selling electronic information required by a user by writing the information to a mechanically readable and writable recording medium (9, 11) includes an operation panel (7) allowing the user to determine which electronic information is to be used and to select whether advertising information is to be included in the electronic information determined by the

user, and a CPU (2) for selectively executing an operation of writing the electronic information with advertising information incorporated to recording medium (9, 11) when the user selected to include advertising information, or an operation of writing electronic information only to the recording medium (9, 11) when the user selected not to include the advertising information.

**FIG. 1**





European Patent  
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 12 5799

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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X	EP 0 680 214 A (AT & T CORP) 2 November 1995 (1995-11-02) * abstract; claim 1; figure 3 * * column 5, line 8 * ----	1-18	
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A	US 5 418 713 A (ALLEN RICHARD) 23 May 1995 (1995-05-23) * column 4, line 43 - column 15, line 26; figures 1,8 * -----	1-18	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G06F G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
MUNICH	16 April 2002	Höhn, M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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