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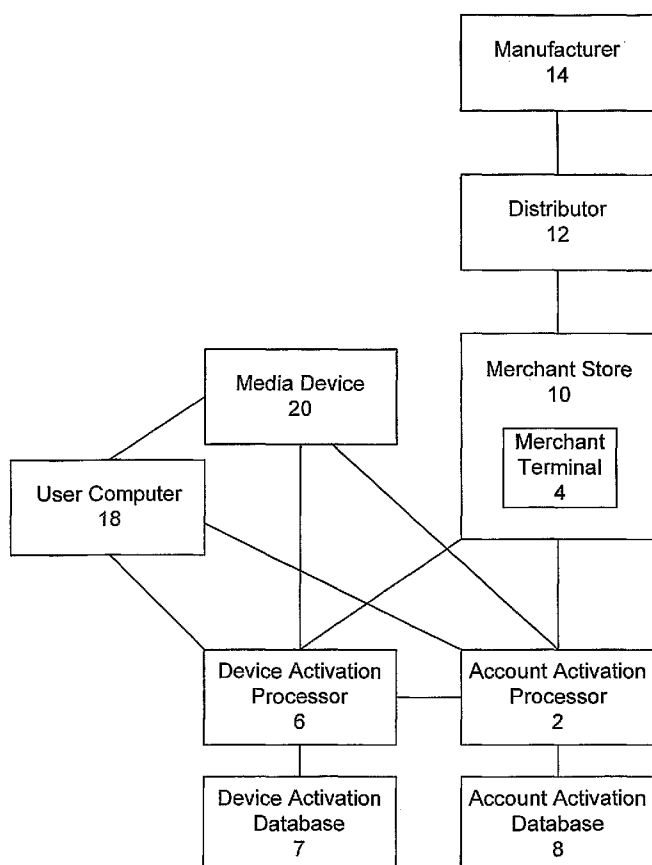
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POINT-OF-SALE ACTIVATION OF MEDIA DEVICE ACCOUNT



(57) Abstract: This method and apparatus may activate removable or portable media devices (or accounts associated therewith), such as flash drives, USB drives, external hard drives, thumb drives, memory cards of various formats (SD, CF, xD, Memory Card Duo), SIM cards, other phone cards, or other devices containing a writable and/or readable memory. The devices may be activated after purchase based on a communication between a central processor and a device or device user. Further, this method and apparatus may activate an account related to a media device at a point-of-sale ("POS"), and may later activate the device by communicating with an account activation processor. Activation and deactivation of the device (or account) may further be based on a confirmation or cancellation of a purchase transaction associated with the device, such as a purchase of the device.

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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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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 06/08909

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8): G06Q 99/00 (2007.01)

USPC: 705/1

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)

IPC(8): G06Q 99/00 (2007.01)

USPC: 705/1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

USPC: 705/1, 44, 50, 65, 77

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Electronic databases: USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); DIALOG PRO

Search Terms Used: activating or deactivating account or device, POS or point-of-sale, merchant or retailer, flash or USB or drive or memory or card or product, sale or purchase or transaction, registration or authorization processor or database etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| X --- Y | US 2003/0197059 A1 (Tidball et al.) 23 October 2003 (23.10.2003) (abstract, figs. 1-2, and para [0005]-[0006], [0010]-[0012], [0017]-[0018]) | 18-21 ----- 1-17 and 22 |
| Y | US 2003/0004889 A1 (Fiala et al.) 02 January 2003 (02.01.2003) (abstract, and para [0013]-[0018], [0107]-[0110], [0126]-[0127], [0142]-[0144]) | 1-17 and 22 |
| A | US 6,829,596 B1 (Frazee) 07 December 2004 (07.12.2004) | 1-22 |



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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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