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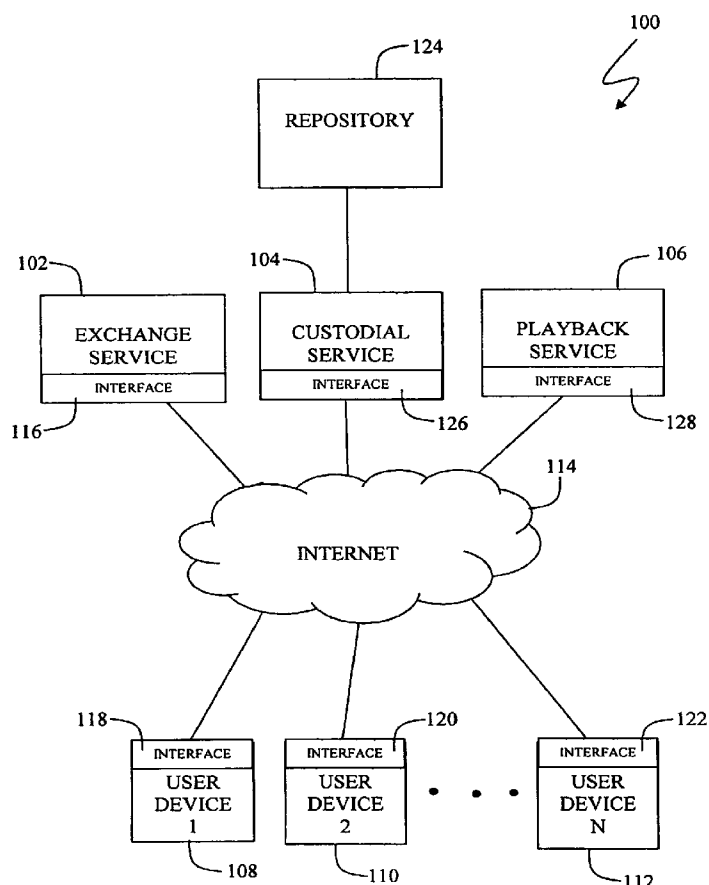
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(81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM,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

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONIC FILE USE AND MANAGEMENT



(57) **Abstract:** Methods and apparatus are disclosed for facilitating online storage of files (e.g., audio tracks, video, etc.) for playback/access or sale/exchange by the owners of the files without violating copyrights that copyright holders have in the files. For example, by providing a playback service that does not store additional versions of an audio file when the file is transmitted to, and immediately played on, a user device without buffering, the present invention avoids violating copyright laws by not making copies of the file. Numerous other aspects are disclosed.



European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, 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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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/11439

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H04K 1/00 (2007.10)

USPC - 705/51

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)

USPC - 705/51

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC - 705/51, 54, 57; 709/203, 217, 218, 219 -- text search, see search terms below

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

PubWEST(PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB); DialogPRO(Engineering); Google Scholar

Search Terms Used: pay, per, view, use, audio, video, media, multimedia, copyright, buffer, buffering, store, storing, storage, without, free, less, play, back, stream, streaming, VOIP, concurrent, max, number, file, copy

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 2006/0015580 A1 (GABRIEL et al.) 19 January 2006 (19.01.2006), entire document especially Figs 1, 2; para [0025], [0027], [0029], [0036]-[0037], [0040]-[0041], [0046]-[0048], [0055]-[0056], [0067], [0071], [0076]-[0078], [0084], [0089].	1-3, 5, 6, 8-15, 17, 21, 26, 28, 32-38, 43-47 and 50 ----- 4, 7, 16, 18-20, 22-25, 27, 29-31, 39-42, 48, 49 and 51
Y	US 2001/0042043 A1 (SHEAR et al.) 15 November 2001 (15.11.2001), especially Figs 3, 3A; para [0078], [0179], [0204], [0199]-[0210], [0220]-[0222], [0228], [0236], [0332].	4, 16, 18-20, 22-25, 39-41, 48, 49 and 51
Y	US 2004/0003090 A1 (DEEDS) 01 January 2004 (01.01.2004), especially para [0040].	7 and 42
Y	US 2002/0107968 A1 (HORN et al.) 08 August 2002 (08.08.2002), especially para [0226].	27, 29 and 30
Y	US 2004/0103189 A1 (CHERKASOVA et al.) 27 May 2004 (27.05.2004), especially para [0014], [0052], [0061].	31

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* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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