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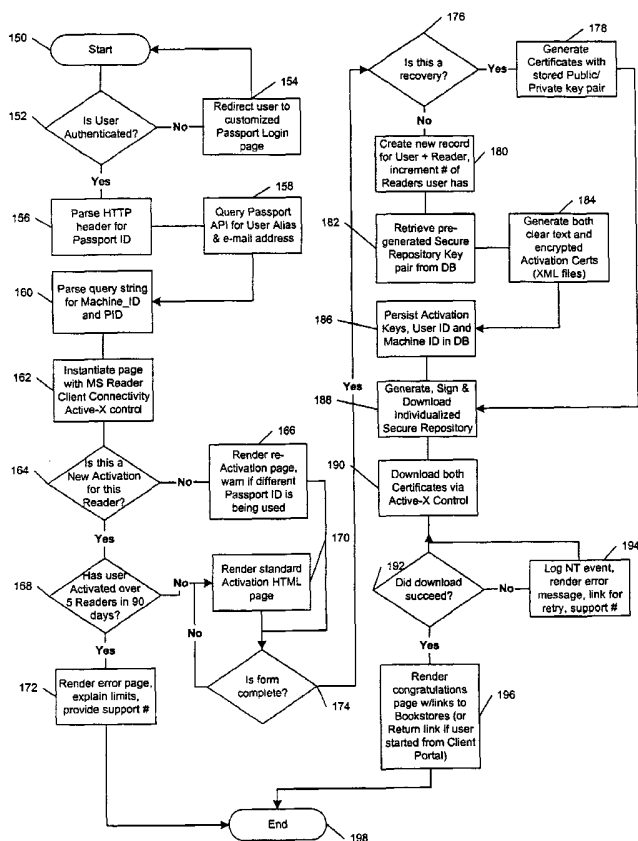
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LIMITING THE USE OF USER-SPECIFIC SOFTWARE FEATURES



(57) Abstract: A server architecture for a digital rights management system that distributes and protects rights in content. The server architecture includes a retail site which sells content items to consumers, a fulfillment site which provides to consumers the content items sold by the retail site, and an activation site which enables consumer reading devices to use content items having an enhanced level of copy protection. Each retail site is equipped with a URL encryption object, which encrypts, according to a secret symmetric key shared between the retail site and the fulfillment site, information that is needed by the fulfillment site to process an order for content sold by the retail site. An activation site provides an activation certificate and a secure repository executable to consumer content-rendering devices which enables those content rendering devices to render content having an enhanced level of copy-resistance. The activation site "activates" client-reading devices in a way that binds them to a persona, and limits the number of devices that may be activated for a particular persona, or the rate at which such devices may be activated for a particular persona.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F1/00

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 035 403 A (SUBBIAH SUBRAMANIAN ET AL) 7 March 2000 (2000-03-07) column 5, line 8 -column 7, line 34	1,2,7-9, 15
Y		11,14, 16,22, 24,26, 37,41
A	figures 1-5	27-36, 42,48
Y	US 5 222 134 A (WAITE DAVID P ET AL) 22 June 1993 (1993-06-22) column 2, line 45 -column 3, line 13 -/--	11,14, 16,22, 24,26, 37,41



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	<p>WO 00 75760 A (FIREPAD INC) 14 December 2000 (2000-12-14)</p> <p>page 1, line 25 -page 2, line 21 page 3, line 16 - line 20 page 4, line 27 -page 5, line 2 page 6, line 9 - line 15 page 12, line 21 - line 22</p> <p>---</p>	<p>1,2,7-9, 14-16, 22,24, 26,37,41</p>
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