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(54) Title: METHOD FOR BROADCAST ENCRYPTION

(57) Abstract: A tree is used to partition stateless receivers in a broadcast content encryption system into subsets. Two different methods of partitioning are disclosed. When a set of revoked receivers is identified, the revoked receivers define a relatively small cover of the non-revoked receivers by disjoint subsets. Subset keys associated with the subsets are then used to encrypt a session key that in turn is used to encrypt the broadcast content. Only non-revoked receivers can decrypt the session key and, hence, the content.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04L9/08 H04L29/06 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 7 H04L 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 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. EP 0 641 103 A (ALGORITHMIC RES LTD) Α 1 - 131 March 1995 (1995-03-01) page 3, line 17 -page 3, line 24 page 3, line 33 -page 3, line 35 page 4, line 57 -page 5, line 1 ABDALLA M ET AL: "KEY MANAGEMENT FOR Α 1 - 13RESTRICTED MULTICAST USING BROADCAST ENCRYPTION", IEEE / ACM TRANSACTIONS ON NETWORKING, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US, VOL. 8, NR. 4, PAGE(S) 443-454 XP000959120 ISSN: 1063-6692 page 445, left-hand column, line 49 -page 445, right-hand column, line 37 page 448, left-hand column, line 33 -page 451, left-hand column, line 23 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. χ Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: '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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed '&' document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 19 July 2002 26/07/2002 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In tional Application No PCT/GB 02/00305

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Information on patent family members

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