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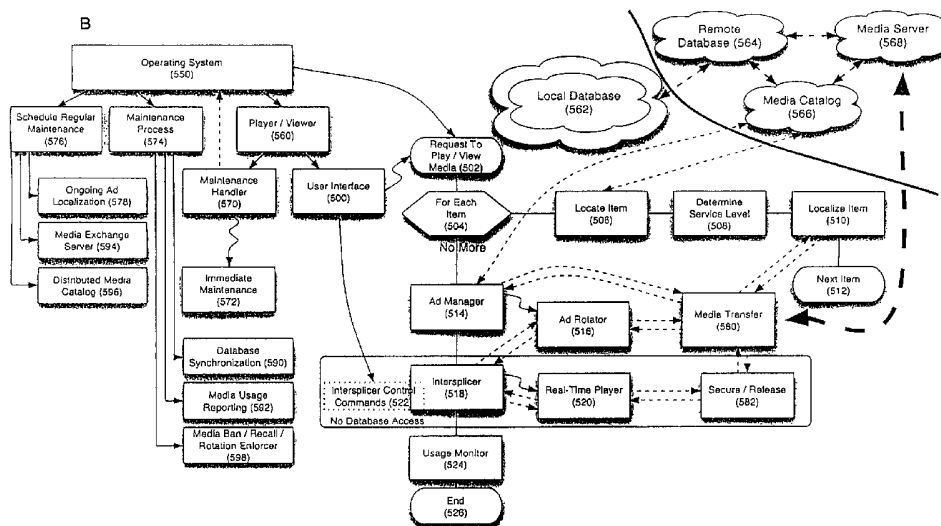
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE FREE LICENSING OF DIGITAL MEDIA CONTENT



(57) Abstract: A system and method for displaying digital media files (566) with compulsory advertisement files is disclosed. In one embodiment, the system includes a user interface (500), a media file decryptor (582), an ad manager (514), an intersplicer (518), and a media player (520). The user interface receives input from a user indicating the selection of media files to be presented. The media file decryptor receives and decrypts the selected media files. The ad manager receives and manages ad files from an ad file source. The intersplicer combines the media files with the ad files by providing control signals to the media player, causing the media player to present the ad files with the selected media files. Various embodiments of the invention facilitate the wide distribution of media content in a way that allows the free use of media properties, on demand, with direct consumer exchange capabilities, while at the same time enabling compensation to copyright holders.

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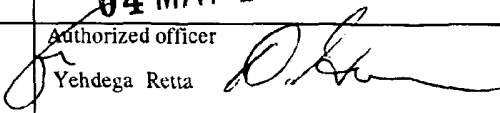
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E	US 6,684,249 B1 (FRERICHS et al) 27 January 2004, whole document.	1-108
X, E	US 6,587,127 B1 (LEBKE et al) 1 July 2003, whole document.	1-49, 54-77, 79-108
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Y, E	US 6,684,249 B1 (FRERICHS et al.) 27 January 2004	50-53, 78
X, E	US 6,687,737 B2 (LANDSMAND et al) 3 February 2004 whole document	1-49, 54-77, 79-108
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Y, E	US 6,684,249 B1 (FRERICHS et al) 27 January 2004, col. 7 lines 5-25	50-53, 78
X	US 6,338,044 B1 (COOK et al.) 8 January 2002, col. 2 line 60 to col. 7 line 31.	1-108
A	US 6,381,362 B1 (DESHPANDE et al.) 30 April 2002, whole document	1-108
A,P	US 6,434,622 B1 (MONTEIRO et al) 13 August 2002, whole document.	1-108
A,P	US 6,434,621 B1 (PEZZILLO et al) 13 August 2002, whole document.	1-108
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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 6,404,441 B1 (CHAILLEUX) 11 June 2002, whole document.	1-108