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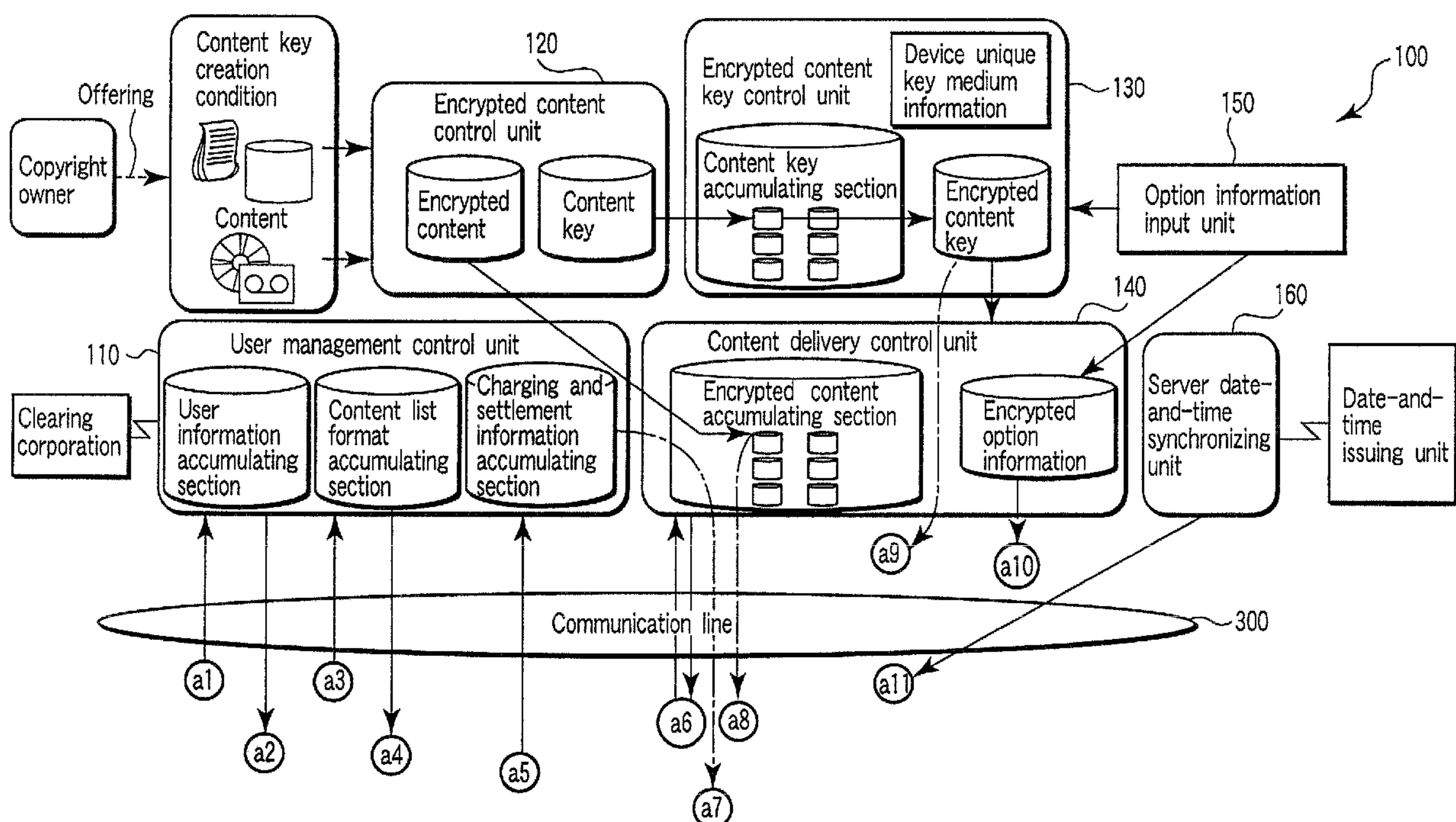
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(54) Titre : APPAREIL FOURNISSANT DES SERVICES DE LIVRAISON DE CONTENU ET TERMINAL DE SERVICES
DE LIVRAISON DE CONTENU

(54) Title: CONTENT DELIVERY SERVICE PROVIDING APPARATUS AND CONTENT DELIVERY SERVICE TERMINAL
UNIT



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

On the content delivery side, a user management control unit manages authentication information and the distribution of a delivery list at the time of delivering service, the acceptance of a content select request, and charging and settlement on a user basis. On the other hand, an encrypted content control unit creates a content key and an encrypted content using the content key on the basis of a content key creating condition from a copyright owner or copyright manager. Then, an encrypted content key control unit encrypts the corresponding content key using medium information, or medium information and terminal device unique key information presented at the content request, delivers the key to the requester. Then, a content delivery control unit delivers the corresponding encrypted content to the requester at the content request.



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

On the content delivery side, a user management control unit manages authentication information and the distribution of a delivery list at the time of
5 delivering service, the acceptance of a content select request, and charging and settlement on a user basis. On the other hand, an encrypted content control unit creates a content key and an encrypted content using the content key on the basis of a content key creating
10 condition from a copyright owner or copyright manager. Then, an encrypted content key control unit encrypts the corresponding content key using medium information, or medium information and terminal device unique key information presented at the content request, delivers
15 the key to the requester. Then, a content delivery control unit delivers the corresponding encrypted content to the requester at the content request.

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

CONTENT DELIVERY SERVICE PROVIDING APPARATUS AND
CONTENT DELIVERY SERVICE TERMINAL UNIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a content delivery
service providing apparatus which performs the service
of delivering content via a communication line to
users' terminal units and to a user terminal unit which
receives the service, and more particularly to the
10 technique for protecting the copyright for content.

With recent advances in communication techniques
as found in the Internet, and in data compression
techniques or the like in digital signal processing,
a tremendous amount of content data, including music
15 data, movies data, and game data, can be delivered,
which enables users to receive content delivery
services, regardless of time and place. Generically, a
system to realize the content delivery service is such
that a person who wants to buy or view (hereinafter,
20 a user) accesses the content delivery center that is
delivering the desired content, via the communication
terminal unit, such as a personal computer or a set-top
box (STB), informs a purchase or view request according
the menu screen, and then is allowed to download or
25 reproduce the content.

Presently, however, even if the user accesses the
center, he or she can only get the introduction of

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content or the advertising content in the case of popular or topical content. Since most of the desired audio-visual full contents have to be bought by mail order, the user cannot view the content immediately.

5 The reason is that the copyright owner of the content (or the copyright manager, hereinafter, both of the concepts are sometimes generically called the copyright owner) has not yet trusted the personal computer using a communication line, because of illegal copying.

10 As described above, in spite of users' requests or business attractions, content delivery services are in a very passive situation in terms of the delivery of important content because of the illegal distribution problem.

15 On the other hand, some apartment house suppliers buy topical content from copyright owners to position themselves from the rest and offer services using a communication line to the customers in their own apartment buildings. In such a content distribution
20 form, however, the following problems arise: a lot of content purchase money is needed and ordinary users cannot join the service.

Prior-art examples of a system related to the present invention include the following patent
25 documents 1 to 5.

Patent document 1 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2001-344216) has disclosed a download

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system using a record-limit-information-added memory card. In the download system, the record limit information key and the content key are recorded as encrypted record limit information in a readable, 5 writable protective area in the data area of a memory card after two-way authentication is successful, thereby preventing illegal download or making it impossible to rewrite or read easily the record limit information to charge for download, which enables 10 content to be downloaded according to the record limit information.

Patent document 2 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2001-306954) has disclosed a data delivery system which acquires usage information from 15 the unit in use each time delivery data is used and distributes the price for the data delivery to the related entities in the desired proportions on the basis of the usage information.

Patent document 3 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI 20 Publication No. 2000-349725) has disclosed a broadcast receiver unit which combines channel reception contract information with channel transmission contract information to form a usable contract information list corresponding to the specified content information, 25 determines conditions for the use of content on the basis of the list, and controls the use of the reception content information on the basis of the

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conditions.

Patent document 4 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-339227) has disclosed a data operation method. In the data operation method, content is encrypted using the content key to create the encrypted content, a part of the content is extracted as sample data, watermark-included sample data in which the secret key obtained by encrypting the content key using the user information has been embedded as invisible information is created, and the combined data obtained by combining the watermark-included sample data with the encrypted content is delivered, thereby preventing not only the infringement of copyright but also the destruction or loss of permission information to decrypt the encrypted content.

Patent document 5 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 09-134311) has disclosed a security system which writes the device ID, medium ID, permission information encrypted using the data encryption key, and encrypted data into a medium. When reading the data, the security system decrypts the data decryption key from the medium ID, permission information, and its device ID read from the medium, and decrypts the encrypted data read from the medium using the decrypted data decryption key, thereby enabling only the device with the device ID to make

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decryption and preventing the encrypted data from being decrypted even if the medium or recovery program is stolen, which maintains the confidentiality of the encrypted data on the medium.

5 Patent document 6 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-196982) has disclosed a system which includes a medium section where copyright-added content data is encrypted in a reproducible manner and recorded, and an information recording medium in which
10 management information to determine whether to record or reproduce the copyright-added content data is recorded and which has a control unit with the function of authenticating each of a recording unit for performing a recording process and a reproducing unit
15 for performing a reproducing process. Only when the authenticating function has authenticated the recording or reproducing unit and the management information has determined that recording/reproducing is possible, the system can record/reproduce the content data, thereby
20 recording the content data, while protecting the data from illegal use.

 As described above, in spite of users' requests or business attractions, content delivery services are in a very passive situation in terms of the delivery of
25 important content, because the illegal distribution problem is an impediment to the trust of copyright owners.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is, accordingly, an object of the present invention to provide a content delivery service providing apparatus which has a copyright protection mechanism to prevent an illegal distribution of content, thereby gaining the trust of content copyright owners or copyright managers, and which is capable of realizing effective content delivery services via a communication line at reasonable price, and a terminal unit capable of receiving the services.

The forgoing object is accomplished by providing a content delivery service providing apparatus which provides content delivery service via a communication line to a user-side terminal unit capable of recording content into an information storage medium into which medium information which includes at least a medium unique identifier and medium key information have been written, or into a different information storage medium from the information storage medium with the information storage medium being set, the content delivery service providing apparatus comprising:

a user management control unit which preregisters user information including personal information about a user applying for subscription to a delivery service, service range, and payment method, and manages the distribution of authentication information and the distribution of a delivery content list at the time of providing service on a user basis, and the acceptance of a content select request;

an encrypted content control unit which acquires not only content but also a content key creation condition from a copyright owner or copyright manager of the content who provides the delivery service, and creates a content key on the basis of the content key creation condition and encrypts content on the basis of the content key;

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an encrypted content key control unit, separate from the encrypted content control unit, which accumulates the content keys created at the encrypted content control unit and, registers all of or a part of the medium information on medium key information in the information storage medium and, using the medium information on medium key information or the medium information on medium key information and terminal device unique key information presented at the user's content request, encrypts the content key corresponding to the requested content, and issues the encrypted content key to the terminal unit of the requesting user; and

a content delivery control unit which accumulates the encrypted contents created at the encrypted content control unit, selects the corresponding content at the user's content request, and delivers the encrypted content to the terminal unit of the requesting user.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a content delivery service terminal unit wherein the content delivery service terminal unit receives the content delivery service from the content delivery service providing apparatus as described herein, and comprises:

a user access content selecting unit which logs in to the user management control unit on the basis of the authentication information and makes a content select request on the basis of the delivery content list;

a medium linking content acquiring unit which acquires the medium information from the information storage medium at the content select request and sends the information to the content delivery service providing unit, receives the encrypted content key and the encrypted content from the content delivery service providing apparatus, and writes

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them together into a writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written, or separately into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written and into a writable area of another information medium; and

a content presentation control unit which reads an arbitrary encrypted content and the corresponding encrypted content key from the information storage medium, decrypts the encrypted content keys on the basis of the medium information or the medium information and the terminal device unique key information, and decrypts the encrypted content on the basis of the decrypted content key.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be clear from the description, or may be

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learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and obtained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out hereinafter.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate presently preferred embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description
10 given above and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIGS. 1A and 1B are conceptual diagrams showing the configuration of an embodiment of a content
15 delivery system according to the present invention;

FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C are block diagrams showing a concrete configuration of the content delivery system of the embodiment;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are flowcharts to help explain
20 the processes of a user management control unit of the embodiment;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are flowcharts to help explain the processes of the user management control unit of the embodiment;

25 FIG. 5 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of an encrypted content control unit of the embodiment;

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FIG. 6 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of an encrypted content key control unit of the embodiment;

5 FIG. 7A, 7B and 7C are flowcharts to help explain the processes of a content delivery control unit of the embodiment;

FIG. 8 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of a server data-and-time synchronizing unit of the embodiment;

10 FIGS. 9A and 9B are flowcharts to help explain the processes of a medium linking content acquiring unit of the embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of the medium linking content acquiring unit
15 of the embodiment;

FIGS. 11A and 11B are flowcharts to help explain the processes of a content presentation control unit of the embodiment;

FIG. 12 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of a terminal date-and-time synchronizing
20 unit of the embodiment; and

FIG. 13 is a flowchart to help explain the processes of a content viewing unit of the embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

25 Hereinafter, referring to the accompanying drawings, an embodiment of the present invention will be explained.

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FIGS. 1A and 1B are conceptual diagrams showing the configuration of a content delivery system according to the present invention. The system comprises a content delivery service center unit (hereinafter, referred to as the center-side unit) 100 and a user-side unit 200 which accesses the unit 100 via a communication line 300, thereby receiving content delivery services.

The center-side unit 100 includes a user management control unit 110, an encrypted content creating section 120, an encrypted content key control unit 130, a content delivery control unit 140, an option information input unit 150, and a server date-and-time synchronizing unit 160. The user-side unit 200 includes a user access content selecting unit 210, a medium linking content acquiring unit 220, an information storage medium 230 with medium information (medium key information and medium unique identifier), a content presentation control unit 240, a terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250, a content viewing unit 260, an information storage medium 270 without medium information (medium key information and medium unique identifier) (hereinafter, just referred to as a storage medium in distinction from the information storage medium 230).

(Center-side unit 100)

When the user selects content using the

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communication line 300, the user management control unit 110 receives information about various requirements necessary to a service subscriber application and the payment method presented by the user and determines whether the applicant user is a qualified person to receive the service.

The service subscriber application method includes contacting the operator by phone, submitting a document by mail, and performing data communications by means of the user access content selecting unit 210. Information about the requirements necessary for service subscriber application includes, for example, name, birth date, address, sex, telephone number, and the type of services subscribed (such as viewing only movies content, viewing only sports content, or viewing all of the contents). The payment method includes a prepaid card method and a credit card method. Information about the payment method includes, for example, the prepaid card number, credit card number, and card expiration date.

At the time of the determination of the requirements, when the payment method is credit card payment, the necessary information is transmitted to the clearing corporation to check if payment is possible. If payment is possible, a settlement identifier is received from the clearing corporation and registered. At this time, to avoid the risk of

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credit card information leaks, the credit card number and the expiration date of the credit card are deleted from the registration information.

5 If it has been determined that the applicant user is an unqualified person who cannot receive the service, the applicant user is informed orally, in writing, or via the user access content selecting unit 210 that he or she cannot subscribe to the service. If it has been determined that the applicant user is 10 a qualified person who can receive the service, he or she is registered as a service permitted user and the information presented by the user is accumulated. Then, the authentication condition (user ID, password, or the like) necessary to log on is issued to the 15 applicant user by word of mouth, in writing, via a storage medium, such as an IC card, or via the user access content selecting unit 210.

When the authentication condition is issued via a storage medium or the user access content selecting 20 unit 210, the identifier (user ID) to identify the user or the identifier (device ID) to identify the unit used on the user side may be encrypted and then issued.

The user management control unit 110 reads the corresponding user information for the user who has 25 logged on according to the authentication condition via the user access content selecting unit 210, determines from the registered service type what services (range)

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the user can receive, and issues authentication information to the user access content selecting unit 210 of the login user. When a content list display request is made from the user access content selecting unit 210 on the basis of the authentication information, the user management control unit 110 selects the content list and format corresponding to the requesting user, edits the selected content list in a format that enables the user access content selecting unit 210 to display, and issues the result to the user access content selecting unit 210.

Furthermore, the user management control unit 110 accepts the content selection from the user access content selecting unit 210 and confirms whether charging requirements are fulfilled before or after the content delivery, on the basis of the settlement identifier received from the clearing corporation (this confirming process is called credit). If the selected content is impossible to buy, the user management control unit 110 informs the user access content selecting unit 210 of the fact as credit information. If it is possible to buy the selected content, the user management control unit 110 informs the user access content selecting unit 210 of the fact as credit information and asks the user again if he or she really wants to buy. When the user eventually acknowledges the purchase, the user management control unit 110

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accumulates not only the information as charging and
settlement information but also information about what
content was selected and purchased at what time and
information about the content viewing condition as user
5 information.

The encrypted content control unit 120 acquires
the content and the condition for creating a content
key used to encrypt and decrypt the content from the
copyright owner or manager of the content, creates
10 a content key on the basis of the condition, encrypts
the content on the basis of the content key, and then
issues the encrypted content and content key. Here,
embedding an electronic watermark into the content
enables the content provider to be identified in case
15 of the detection of illegal copying.

The encrypted content key control unit 130
accumulates the content key created at the encrypted
content control unit 120 in such a manner that the
content key corresponds to the encrypted content.
20 Then, the encrypted content key control unit 130
accepts the content identification information from the
content delivery control unit 140 or the like and the
medium information in the information storage medium
230 (the medium key information and medium unique
25 identifier written in the read-only area of the
information storage medium 230) acquired from the
medium linking content acquiring unit 220 via the

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communication line 300, selects the content key
corresponding to the encrypted content on the basis of
the content identification information, encrypts the
content key on the basis of the previously registered
5 device unique key information and the medium
information in the information storage medium 230 to
create an encrypted content key, and issues the
encrypted content key to such a requester as the
content delivery control unit 140. When option
10 information is given, the encrypted content key control
unit 130 creates the encrypted content key in such
a manner that the key includes the option information,
and issues the key to the requester.

The option information includes information to
15 identify the content delivery control unit 140,
information to identify the medium linking content
acquiring unit 220, information to identify a region,
information to identify a user, information to show
the content viewing condition, and content control
20 incidental information (e.g., menu information,
transition information within the content (e.g.,
thumbnail and menu link)), external link information
(e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), and
guidance information (e.g., characters and still
25 pictures). These pieces of option information are
received from such a unit as the content delivery
control unit 140 or the medium linking content

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acquiring unit 220, or are acquired directly from the option information input unit 150.

5 The medium information in the information storage medium 240, identification information about the content delivery control unit 140, identification information about the medium linking content acquiring unit 220, user identification information, content viewing condition information, content control incidental information, and the like may be not only
10 received via the content delivery control unit 140 but also acquired from another unit, such as the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 or acquired directly by the input operation on the input unit.

Taking into account the security of the center or
15 hacking from the outside, it is desirable that the content key should be encrypted at the encrypted content control unit 120 or encrypted content key control unit 130 and then accumulated. In this case, the encrypted content key control unit 130 accumulates
20 the content keys in an encrypted state. When receiving an encrypted content key issuing request from the content delivery control unit 140 or the like, the encrypted content key control unit 130 reads and decrypts the corresponding encrypted content key.
25 Then, the encrypted content key control unit 130 encrypts the content key again on the basis of one of or a combination of the content identification

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information, medium information in the information
recording medium 230, information to identify the
content delivery control unit 140, information to
identify the medium linking content acquiring unit 220,
5 information to identify a region, information to
identify a user, content key individual information,
and the like. Then, the encrypted content key control
unit 130 issues the encrypted key.

The content key individual information means
10 information included in the content key creation
condition received from the copyright owner of the
content or information created independently and used
for decryption in performing encryption in the process
of creating the encrypted content or issuing the
15 content key.

The content delivery control unit 140 accumulates
a plurality of encrypted contents created at the
encrypted content control unit 120, accepts the content
information selected by the user at the user management
20 control unit 110 and the user information (including
the content viewing condition), and delivers the
encrypted content, encrypted content key, and others
in cooperation with the user-side unit 200 and the
information storage medium 230 mounted on or connected
25 to the unit 200.

To link up with the user-side unit 200 and the
information storage medium 230, the content delivery

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control unit 140 has to start a linking application in the user-side unit 200. To do this, the content delivery control unit 140 issues authorization information to start the linking application to the user-side unit 200 and performs two-way authentication according to the authorization information. On the condition that the two-way authentication is completed according to the authorization information, the content delivery control unit 140 enables the medium information to be issued via the communication line 300 and the delivery content to be written into the information storage medium 230. This makes it possible to disable the communication function of the user-side unit 200 of the user who gained illegal access in the past, which improves the security.

When the linking application on the user-side unit 200 has been encrypted as measures against information leaks, the authorization information is created on the basis of the authentication information created at the user management control unit 110 at the time of login, the user information accumulated in the user management control unit 110, and the identifiers to identify users or identifiers to identify devices stored in the storage medium 270 mounted on or connected to the user-side unit 200 and the user access content selecting unit 210. The authorization information is encrypted as needed and then is issued.

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When delivering the content, the content delivery control unit 140 makes a response request to the interface for realizing a link with the user-side unit 200 or the information recording medium 230 (or may
5 grasp the situation of the communication line, using the response of a ping command or the like) and analyzes the response, thereby grasping the load of the communication line. Repeating this process, the content delivery control unit 140 selects the most
10 appropriate one (because of the lowest load or the like) of the communication lines allowing delivery to the user-side unit 200, calculates an estimated time until the delivery of the content is completed, from the capacity of the selected content, the analyzed
15 communication line load, and the like, and makes the resulting information issuable. In addition, the content delivery control unit 140 makes it possible to issue the designation of reserved delivery, such as by what time the content delivery is required to finish
20 in the end, selects a plurality of candidates, and delivers the contents in the order of time closer to the present time or in the order of specified priority.

Furthermore, the content delivery control unit 140 accepts the content viewing condition (including
25 information representing that the content has a limited viewing period, allowed viewing date-and-time (period) information, information about limits to writing into

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an information storage medium, content protect
information, age limit information, and barrier-free
environment information (including sign language type
and identification information)) and encrypts the
5 condition as needed and issues the result.

The encrypted content viewing condition or content
viewing condition may include content control
incidental information (e.g., menu information,
transition information within the content (e.g.,
10 thumbnail and menu link), external link information
(e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), guidance
information (e.g., characters and still pictures),
and electronic watermark control information (e.g.,
a display on/off flag)) as needed.

15 Furthermore, the content delivery control unit
140 relates option information (including information
to identify the user-side unit 200, information to
identify the medium linking content acquiring unit 220,
information to identify a region, information to
20 identify a user, information to show the content
viewing condition, and content control incidental
information, external link information, and guidance
information) to the encrypted content and the encrypted
content key. Then, the content delivery control unit
25 140 encrypts the resulting information as needed and
issues the encrypted information as encrypted option
information.

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The server date-and-time synchronizing unit 160 acquires the accurate date and time from a known date-and-time issuing unit or the like via a communication line and issues the held date and time to the requester
5 as needed.

(User-side unit 200)

The user access content selecting unit 210 is an information processing unit including a man-machine interface and a communication interface which carry
10 out a series of procedures for the user to receive copyright-protected content delivery services via a communication line in such a manner that the user accesses the center-side unit 100 via the communication line 300, selects contents, and acknowledges the
15 purchase of the contents. For example, the user access content selecting unit 210 is a unit which enables a link with services via a communication line, such as a personal computer, a set-top box, an audio-visual unit, or a household appliance.

20 Specifically, the user access content selecting unit 210 performs the following things with the user management control unit 110: the delivery of service subscriber application information, the acquisition of authentication condition, login on the basis of the
25 authentication condition, the acquisition, display, and browsing of the content list, the delivery of information about the selection of the content from

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the content list, and so forth. When the user looks through the contents of the content list displayed and selects contents, he or she further selects the content viewing condition (e.g., whether the content is of the type that permits viewing only in a specific period or
5 of the type that permits viewing without time limitation) at the same time.

The medium linking content acquiring unit 220 has a linking application between the information storage
10 medium 230 and the center-side content delivery control unit 140. According to an authorization request from any one of the user access content selecting unit 210, content delivery control unit 140, and the user, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 acquires the
15 encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and others from the content delivery control unit 140.

The acquisition method is as follows. The medium linking content acquiring unit 220 sends the medium information in the information storage medium 230 to
20 the content delivery unit 140 and gets the date-and-time information. At the same time, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 links up with the content delivery control unit 140 and writes the encrypted content and encrypted content key sent from the content
25 delivery control unit 140 via the communication line 300 into the writable area of the information storage medium 230. Then, a check is made if all of the

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encrypted contents and encrypted content keys have been written into the writable area of the information storage medium 230 properly. If all of them have been written properly, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 informs the content delivery control unit 140 of the result together with the date-and-time information. On the basis of the notice, the content delivery control unit 140 issues the user's final charging and settlement information and informs the user management control unit 110 of the information.

With the above method, however, it is conceivable that, when the network is cut off by the user before normal writing is notified, the user may not be charged. Therefore, the content delivery control unit 140 sends the encrypted content and then first carries out the charging process, or carries out the charging process and then sends the encrypted content. Here, the following method is effective: when abnormal writing has been notified (a reissue has been requested), the content delivery control unit 140 carries out a reissuing process; and when normal writing has been notified, the content delivery control unit 140 sends the encrypted content key and, when receiving the notice of normal writing of the key, ends the series of processes.

In executing a linking application which links up with the information storage medium 230 or the content

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delivery control unit 140, the application may be encrypted as measures against information leaks and authorization information may be needed for startup. In this case, the medium linking content acquiring unit 5 220 informs the content delivery control unit 140 of the authentication information created at the user management control unit 110 at the time of login, the identifiers to identify the user stored in the storage medium (e.g. IC card) mounted on or connected to the 10 user-side unit 200 and in the user access content selecting unit 210, the identifier to identify the user-side unit 200, and so forth. Then, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 acquires the authorization information from the content delivery 15 control unit 140. Alternatively, in a stand-alone state where the communication line 300 is not used, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 creates authorization information independently by using the previously acquired information. After the startup, 20 the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 performs two-way authentication on the basis of the authorization information.

When accepting the encrypted option information from the content delivery control unit 140, the medium 25 linking content acquiring unit 220 decrypts the encrypted option information using the authorization information, thereby acquiring the option information.

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At this time, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 analyzes the information to identify the content delivery control unit 140, information to identify the unit 220, information to identify a region, information to identify a user, information to show the content viewing condition, content control incidental information, and so forth. Then, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 makes a check on the basis of the resulting information. According to the result of the check, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 performs control, including the limitation of the operation, and updates and stores the storage information in the storage medium (e.g., IC card) 270. Then, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 writes these pieces of information into the writable area of the information storage medium 230.

In addition, when writing the data into the information storage medium 230, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 accepts information including the content viewing condition notified by the content delivery control unit 140. If the content viewing condition in the information is of the limited-period content viewing type, that is, of the conditional viewing type permitting contents to be viewed only in a specific period, the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 encrypts information representing the content viewing type and date-and-time

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information and stores the encrypted information into the storage medium (e.g., IC card) mounted on or connected to the user-side unit 200 or writes the information into the writable area of the information storage medium 230.

The information storage medium 230, which is, for example, a DVD-RAM disk, has the medium key information and medium unique identifier written previously into the read-only area. Each of the medium key information and medium unique identifier can be read and outputted according to the request. Furthermore, the encrypted content, encrypted content key, encrypted viewing condition, option information, and others supplied via the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 can be written into the writable area.

On the basis of the device unique key information held by the user-side unit 200 and the medium information in the read-only area of the information storage medium 230, the content presentation control unit 240 decrypts the encrypted content key written in the writable area, thereby creating a content key. On the basis of the content key, the content presentation control unit 240 decrypts the encrypted content and makes the result presentable. Here, when the option information has been acquired at the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 and stored in the storage medium (e.g., IC card) 270 mounted on or

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connected to the user-side unit 200 or in the writable
area of the information storage medium 230, the content
presentation control unit 240 reads the information and
carries out the presenting process on the basis of the
5 information.

In addition, when the encrypted viewing condition
has been acquired at the medium linking content
acquiring unit 220 and stored in the storage medium
(e.g., IC card) 270 mounted on or connected to the
10 user-side unit 200 or in the writable area of the
information storage medium 230, the content
presentation control unit 240 reads the condition and
at the same time, acquires the information from the
terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250, and
15 makes a check if the previously accumulated contents
have expired. If the contents have expired, the
content presentation control unit 240 informs the user
of the fact and carries out a process so as to make it
impossible to use the contents.

20 The terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250
acquires the date and time from the server date-and-
time synchronizing unit 160 in the user-side unit 200
via the communication line 300, accepts a request from
the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 or the
25 like, and issues the date and time. Unlike a timer
settable on the user side, the unit 250 has a date-and-
time holding system that cannot be externally set.

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Alternatively, when a timer settable on the user-side unit 200 is used, the date and time in the timer may be externally updated in synchronization with the server side. The terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit
5 250 is not necessarily included in the user-side unit 200 and may acquire the information directly from the server date-and-time synchronizing unit 160.

The content viewing unit 260, which is such a device as a display or a TV, accepts the content
10 presentation information from the content presentation control unit 240 and enables the user to view the content.

With the content delivery system configured as described above, gaining simple access and selecting
15 contents via a communication line enables the contents to be written onto a specific information storage medium 230 in a copyright-protected manner and to be viewed (reproduced or browsed) according to the user's request. In addition, various forms of charge setting,
20 the collection of charges, various forms of content acquisition, and timely services can be achieved efficiently, which enables the user to avoid the trouble of going to a shop and buying or renting the contents.

25 Here, the communication line 300 is used between the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 and the content delivery control unit 140. Between the other

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units, not only the communication line 300 but also another information transmission means, including a directly connected line, a circuit, and a storage medium, may be used.

5 The medium linking content acquiring unit 220 may be mounted on or connected to the user access content selecting unit 210 or may stand alone.

 The information storage medium 230 has a read-only area and a writable area as does a DVD-RAM disk.

10 In the read-only area, the medium key information corresponding to each type of user device and the medium unique identifier each medium has is present. Not only a disk medium but also a tape medium or a semiconductor information medium (e.g., memory or IC
15 card) may be used.

 The storage medium 270 is not restricted to an information storage medium having both a read-only area and a writable area, such as a DVD-RAM disk and may be a disk medium, a tape medium, a semiconductor
20 information medium (e.g., memory or IC card), and a medium capable of memorizing information.

 In the embodiment, the place in which the encrypted content key and the encrypted content are stored is not restricted to the information storage
25 medium in whose read-only area the medium information is present, and may be on another storage medium. For instance, the encrypted content may be stored in

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a hard disk and the encrypted content key may be stored in an information storage medium, such as an IC card or a DVD medium. In addition, when the encrypted content and the encrypted content key are both stored in a hard
5 disk and an information storage medium, such as an IC card or a DVD medium, can be read by the user-side unit, such a form as enables both download and viewing may be used.

Furthermore, in the embodiment, when a DVD medium
10 is used as the information storage medium 230, the linking application of the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 may read MKB (Media Key Block: medium key information) in the read-only area of a DVD medium, the hash value (existing in the read-only area
15 of the DVD as MKB identification information like MKB), and the medium identifier (Media ID) and send them to the encrypted content key creating application via the content delivery application.

Instead of the MKB hash value described above,
20 verification data or a part of data in held in the MKB along with the MKB hash value may be used. The verification data is similar to the MKB hash value and is contained in an MKB pack 0 (mkbPack0). The MKB has been read from a DVD in units of packs, and the
25 pack 0 is the data block read first from the DVD.

In contrast, the encrypted content key control unit 130 has the MKBs of all of or a part of the

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patterns licensed and stores them. On the basis of the MKB identification information (hash value) sent from the user-side unit 200, the encrypted content key control unit 130 may select the relevant MKB and, on the basis of the MKB, the server-side device unique key information, and the medium identifier sent from the user-side unit 200, create an encrypted content key.

When the encrypted content key control unit 130 has the MKBs of all the patterns, it need not receive the MKB from the user side. However, when the encrypted content key control unit 130 does not have the MKBs corresponding to the MKB identification information sent from the user-side unit 200, it returns an error state or the like, which might upset the user side. In addition, there is a possibility that licensing fees will rise.

In contrast, when the encrypted content key control unit 130 has only a plurality of MKB patterns and has no MKB corresponding to the hash value sent from the user-side unit 200, it may receive the MKB from the user's DVD medium. This method may cost relatively low licensing fees, but it is necessary to take into consideration that it is difficult to determine whether the MKB is legitimate.

To select the MKB ID information (hash value and verification data) sent from the user-side unit 200, this data is authenticated in accordance with the MAC

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value of the MKB or a value calculated from the MAC value.

Furthermore, in the system of the present invention, the service range for the users may be for
5 movable bodies (e.g., PDAs) or for fixed reception units. In addition, contents may be delivered, selectively switching between encoding systems according to the viewing form, and charging may be done according to each system.

10 Moreover, instead of sending information about the condition to the user-side unit 200, the address (presentation location) of the server to which the condition is presented may be shown as the content viewing condition.

15 (Embodiment)

Hereinafter, an embodiment will be explained by reference to FIG. 2A, 2B and 2C.

(Center-side unit 100)

The user management control unit 100 comprises
20 a user management section (including a user information accumulating section F1) 111, a clearing section 112, a user authenticating section 113, a content list display selecting section (including a content list format
accumulating section F2) 114, and a charging and
25 settlement section (including a charging and settlement information accumulating section F3) 115. The contents of the processes of the individual blocks 111 to 115

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are shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, FIGS. 4A and 4B.

The user management section 111 takes in various requirements presented by the user in applying for subscription (e.g., name, birth date, address, sex, telephone number, the type of services subscribed (such as viewing only movies content, viewing only sports content, or viewing all of the contents), and the payment method (e.g., credit card number and credit card expiration date)) and determines whether the user is eligible for service delivery.

Specifically, as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, the user management section 111 determines the type of service subscriber application (S111-1). In the case of notice from the user access content selecting unit 210, the user management section 111 carries out the process of accepting the input of service subscriber application information shown by the notice (S111-2). In the case of notice by phone or the submission of a document by mail, the operator carries out the process of accepting the input of service subscriber application information presented by the user (S111-3). At this time, the user management section 111 refers to the user information accumulating section F1, acquires information about the applying user's past history (S111-4), and checks the contents of the inputted subscriber application information (S111-5).

Next, the user management section 110 determines

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whether the payment method is credit card payment
(S111-6). If it is credit card payment, the user
management section 110 issues to the clearing section
112 the following information: the user's name, birth
5 date, address, sex, telephone number, credit card
number, card expiration date, and so forth (S111-7).

Receiving these pieces of information (S112-1),
the clearing section 112 checks the contents accepted
(S112-2), selects the best clearing corporation
10 (S112-3), creates information necessary for the
clearing corporation (S112-4), detects the predeter-
mined information linking form (S112-5), and transmits
information to the clearing corporation in that form
(S112-6). Then, accepting the response from the
15 clearing corporation (S112-7), the clearing section 112
confirms whether the applying user can pay (S112-8).
If the applicant can pay, the clearing section 112
receives the clearing identifier issued from the
clearing corporation and issues it to the user
20 management section 111 (S112-9). If the applicant
cannot pay, the clearing section 112 receives an NG
status from the clearing corporation and issues it to
the user management section 111 (S112-10).

The user management section 111 accepts the
25 clearing identifier or NG status from the clearing
section 112 (S111-8). Then, the user management
section 111 determines whether the accepted response is

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the clearing identifier indicating that the applicant can pay (S111-9). If the response is the clearing identifier, the user management section 111 erases such information as credit card number and credit card expiration date to avoid the risk of credit card information leaks (S111-10). If the response is the NG status indicating that the applicant cannot pay, the user management section 111 determines the type of service subscriber application (S111-11) and informs the user via the user access content selecting unit 210 that the user cannot subscribe to the service (S111-12). Alternatively, the user management section 111 informs the terminal or the like used by the operator of the fact (S111-13). Then, the operator or the like phones the user the fact or informs the user of the fact by mail.

On the other hand, if it is determined in step S111-6 that the payment method is not credit card payment, the user management section 111 checks the contents of the payment method and examines the legitimacy of the user (S111-14). In the examination, it is determined whether the applying user can subscribe to the service (S111-15). If it is determined that the applicant can subscribe to the service, the user management section 111 informs the user of a final confirmation whether the user wants to receive the service (S111-16) and determines whether

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there is a request for service subscription (S111-17).

Receiving the acknowledgement of service subscription, the user management section 111 creates authentication conditions (including user ID and password) necessary to log in (S111-18), determines the type of service subscriber application (S111-19), issues the authentication condition to the user via the user access content selecting unit 210 (S111-20) or issues the condition to the user via the operator or the like (S111-21), and stores in the user information accumulating section F1 the following information: various requirements, clearing identifiers, and authentication conditions (S111-22). On the other hand, if the acknowledgement of service subscription is not received in step S111-17, the user management section 111 erases all of the contents of the information accepted on application (S111-23).

The user management section 111 informs the user of the issued authentication condition by word of mouth or by letter or informs the user of the condition via a storage medium (e.g., IC card) or the user access content selecting unit 210. In informing the user of the authentication condition via a storage medium or the user access content selecting unit 210, it is desirable that the identifier to identify the user or the identifier to identify the device should be issued in encrypted form, taking information leaks into

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account.

When the user gets the authentication condition issued at the user management section 310 and, on the basis of the authentication condition, uses the user access content selecting unit 210, and logs in via the communication line 300, the user authenticating section 113, the content list display selecting section 114, and the charging and settlement section 115 carry out the processes shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B.

First, the user authenticating section 113 accepts a login request (S113-1), gets the authentication information (S113-2), then gets the information accumulated in the user information accumulating section F1 (S113-3), and determines whether login is possible (S113-4). If login is impossible, the user authenticating section 113 reports this (S330-5). If login is possible, the authenticating section 113 gets information as to what type of service (range) the user can receive from the service types accumulated in the user information accumulating section F1 (S113-6), creates authentication information on the basis of the acquired information (S113-7), and issues the authentication information to the user access content selecting unit 210 used by the user (S113-8).

On the basis of the authentication information issued by the user authenticating section 113 to the user access content selecting unit 210 or succession

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information (including user information) from the user authenticating section 113 logged into by the user, the content list display selecting section 114 accepts a content list display request from the user (S114-1),
5 determines a content list format corresponding to the requesting user (S114-2), selects it from the content list format accumulating section F2 (S114-3), converts the selected format into a form or the like the user access content selecting unit 210 can display (S114-5),
10 and issues the form to the user access content selecting unit 210 (S114-6).

At this time, the user displays and looks through the content list issued at the content list display selecting section 114 on the user access content selecting unit 210 and, on the basis of the display,
15 selects the content the user wants to get. At this time, the user also selects the content viewing condition (e.g., whether the content is of the type that permits viewing only in a specific period or of the type that permits viewing without time limitation)
20 according to the content list display.

The charging and settlement section 115 accepts the content selection from the user access content selecting unit 210 (S115-1) and at the same time,
25 acquires the succession information from the content list display selecting section 210 (S115-2), and issues acknowledge information about whether the requirement

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for charging can be fulfilled to the user management
section 111 (S115-3). Receiving this, the user
management section 111 acquires the necessary
information from the user information accumulating
5 section F1, makes a determination in cooperation with
the clearing section 112, and informs the charging
and settlement section 115 of the result of the
determination as acknowledge information.

Receiving the acknowledge information from the
10 user management section 111 (S115-4), the charging
and settlement section 115 determines from the result
of the determination of the acknowledge information
whether the selected content can be purchased (S115-5).
If the selected content cannot be purchased, the
15 charging and settlement section 115 informs the user
access content selecting unit 210 of the fact as credit
information (S350-6). If the selected content can be
purchased, the charging and settlement section 115
informs the user access content selecting unit 210 of
20 the fact as credit information (S350-7) and asks
the user again whether he or she really wants to
buy (S115-8).

If the result of the acknowledgment has shown that
the user does not buy in the end, the charging and
25 settlement section 115 informs the user access content
selecting unit 210 that the content is to be selected
again (S115-9). If the purchase has been acknowledged,

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the charging and settlement section 115 accumulates
this information as charging and settlement information
in the charging and settlement information accumulating
section F3 (S115-10) and at the same time, accumulates
5 when and what content the user selected and purchased
and information about the content viewing condition in
the user information accumulating section F1 (S115-11),
and issues the content information selected by the user
and the user information (including the content viewing
10 condition) (S115-12).

The encrypted content control unit 120 is composed
of an encrypted content creating section 121, an
encrypted content issuing section 122, and a content
key issuing section 123. FIG. 5 shows the contents of
15 the processes of the blocks 121 to 123.

The encrypted content creating section 121
specifies or inputs the content provided by the
copyright owner of the content and the content key
creating condition for decrypting the encrypted content
20 (S121-1, S121-2). If the content is not in a digitally
encoded form (such as AVI, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, or MPEG-4),
the encrypted content creating section 131 further
specifies encoding (S121-3, S121-4). Even if the
content is in a digitally encoded form (such as AVI,
25 MPEG-1, MPEG-2, or MPEG-4), the encrypted content
creating section 131 specifies the conversion of the
encoding form, thereby making it possible to specify

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the content encoding form in decryption (S121-5,
S121-6). The content key creating condition may be
inputted directly by hand. Alternatively, electronic
data in which the content key creating condition and
the like are written as the copyright information in
the form of text file, MPEG-7, or the like may be
specified and inputted.

The encrypted content creating section 121
analyzes the contents of the inputted content key
creating condition (S121-7), extracts the content key
creating condition (S121-8), checks the operator and
the like (S121-9), and creates not only encrypted
content C1 on the basis of the specified condition
(S121-10) but also the content key K1 (S121-11).

The encrypted content issuing section 122 observes
whether encrypted content C1 has been created (S122-1,
S122-2). If encrypted content C1 has been created,
the encrypted content issuing section 122 detects
the encrypted content accumulating section (C2 of
the content delivery control unit 140 in FIG. 2A)
previously specified or specified each time encryption
is performed (S122-3), and issues encrypted content C1
to the accumulating section (S122-4).

The content key issuing section 123 observes
whether content key K1 has been created (S123-1,
S123-2). If content key C1 has been created, the
encrypted content key issuing section 123 detects the

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content key accumulating section (K2 of the encrypted
content key control unit 130 in FIG. 2B) previously
specified or specified each time a content key is
created (S123-3), and issues the content key to the
5 accumulating section (S123-4).

The encrypted content key control unit 130
includes a device unique key and medium information
storage section 131, an encrypted content key creating
section 132, a content key accumulating section K2,
10 and an encrypted content key accumulating section K3.
The encrypted content key control unit 130 executes
the processes shown in FIG. 6.

In FIG. 6, the encrypted content key control unit
130 accepts the content key issued at the content key
15 issuing section 123 from the encrypted content control
unit 120 each time encrypted content is created
(S130-1), and accumulates a plurality of content keys
in the content key accumulating section K2 (S130-2).
The encrypted content key creating section 132 accepts
20 not only the content identification information but
also the medium information (medium key information and
medium unique identifier) in the information storage
medium 230 from an information storage medium linking
section 221 of the medium linking content acquiring
25 unit 220 via the communication line 300 and a content
delivery linking control section 142 (S132-1), selects
the content key corresponding to the encrypted content

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from the content key accumulating section K2 on
the basis of the content identification information
(S132-2), creates encrypted content key K3 from the
content key on the basis of the device unique key
5 information stored in the device unique key and
medium information storage section 131 and the medium
information in the information storage medium 230
(132-7), and issues encrypted content key K3 to the
content delivery linking control section 142 (S132-8).
10 All of the key information may be stored in the device
unique key and medium information storage section 131.
Alternatively, the device unique key, together with the
medium information, may be sent from the user-side unit
200 to the device unique key and medium information
15 storage section 131 each time content is requested.

In addition, the encrypted content key creating
section 132 determines whether an increment of
encrypted content keys is specified as option
information (S132-3). If the increment is specified,
20 when creating an encrypted content key, the encrypted
content key creating section 132 accepts option
information (including information to identify the
content delivery unit 140, information to identify the
medium linking content acquiring unit 220, information
25 to identify a region, information to identify a user,
information to show the content viewing condition,
content control incidental information (e.g., menu

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information, transition information within the content
(e.g., thumbnail and menu link), external link
information (e.g., connection addresses for the
Internet), and guidance information (e.g., characters
5 and still pictures)) (S132-4), analyzes the option
information (S132-5), and creates increment information
(S132-6). The encrypted content key creating section
132 creates an encrypted content key in a manner that
includes a part of these pieces of information as
10 conditions (S132-7), and issues the key to the content
delivery linking control section 142 (S132-8).

In addition to receiving the medium information
in the information storage medium 230, information to
identify the content delivery unit 140, information to
15 identify the medium linking content acquiring unit 220,
information to identify a user, information to show the
content viewing condition, content control incidental
information, and so forth via the content delivery
linking control section 142, the encrypted content key
20 creating section 132 may get them directly from another
unit, such as the medium linking content acquiring unit
220, or from direct input means. In this case, too,
the encrypted content key creating section 132 creates
an encrypted content key and issues the key to the
25 requester.

The content delivery control unit 140 is composed
of an information storage medium linking section

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authorization information creating section 141,
a content delivery linking control section 142,
a content viewing condition control section 143,
a relating and encrypting section 144, an encrypted
5 content accumulating section C2, an encrypted option
information accumulating section F4, and an achievement
information accumulating section F5. The content
delivery control unit 140 executes the processes shown
in FIG. 7A, 7B and 7C.

10 In FIG. 7A, 7B and 7C, the content delivery
control unit 140 accepts the encrypted content
encrypted at the encrypted content control unit 120 and
issued at the encrypted content issuing section 122,
accumulates a plurality of encrypted contents in the
15 encrypted content accumulating section C2 (S140-1,
S140-2), accepts the user's selected content
information issued at the charging and settlement
section 115 and the user information (including the
content viewing condition) (S140-3), and delivers the
20 encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and so
forth in cooperation with the user-side unit 200 and
the information storage medium 230 (S140-4).

When cooperating with the user-side unit 200 and
the information storage medium 230, the content
25 delivery control unit 140 needs authorization
information for startup in a case where the linking
application installed in the user-side unit 200 has

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been encrypted as measures against information leaks.
Thus, on the basis of the authentication information
created at the user management control unit 110 at the
time of login, the user information accumulated in the
5 user management control unit 110 (S141-1, S141-2), the
storage medium (such as an IC card) 270 mounted on or
connected to the user-side unit 200, the identifier to
identify the user stored in the user access content
selecting unit 210 or the identifier to identify the
10 device (S141-1, S141-3), and the like, the information
storage medium linking section authorization information
creating section 141 creates authorization information
(S141-5) and issues the information (S141-6).

Acquiring the encrypted content, the encrypted
15 content key, and so forth (S142-1), the content
delivery linking control section 142 delivers the
encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and
others in cooperation with the user-side unit 200 and
the information storage medium 230. For delivery,
20 the content delivery linking control section 142 makes
a response request to the user-side unit 200 (or may
grasp the situation of the communication line, using
the response of a ping command or the like) (S142-2),
gets the response from the user-side unit 200 (S142-3),
25 and analyzes the response time and arrival path
information (142-4), thereby grasping the load of the
communication line.

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The content delivery linking control section 142 repeats the processes in step S142 to S142-4 to get the past achievement information from the achievement information storage section F5 (S142-5), determines
5 a communication line whose response time is short, which has no path to be adversely affected, and which is simplified in terms of path, from the communication lines capable of delivering to the user-side unit 200, and selects it as the most appropriate communication
10 line (S142-6). Furthermore, the content delivery linking control section 142 calculates an estimated time until the delivery of content is completed, from the capacity of the selected content, the analyzed communication line load, and so forth (S142-7), issues
15 the information to the user (S142-8), and confirms whether to deliver (S142-9).

The content delivery linking control section 142 accepts the acknowledgement of delivery from the user and starts to deliver the content. If receiving the
20 acknowledgment of no delivery, the content delivery linking control section 142 gives delivery specify notice (S142-10) to make it possible to specify a reserved delivery regarding, for example, by what time the user wants to end the content delivery (S142-11),
25 selects a plurality of candidates (S142-12), specifies delivery in the order of time closer to the present time (S142-13), and starts to deliver the content.

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The content viewing condition control section 143 acquires the content information selected by the user and the user information from the user information accumulating section F1 (S143-1) or accepts the content information selected by the user, the encrypted content key identifier, and the key information from the content delivery linking control section 142 (S143-2), and acquires the content viewing condition (including information representing that the content has a limited viewing period, allowed viewing date-and-time (period) information, information about limits to writing into an information storage medium, content protect information, age limit information, barrier-free environment information (including sign language type and identification information)) (S143-3). At this time, the content viewing condition control section 143 determines whether there is a piece of information requiring encryption in the accepted or acquired information (S143-4). If there is such a piece of information, the content viewing condition control section 143 performs encryption on the basis of the key information (S143-5) and issues the result as an encrypted content viewing condition (S530-6). If encryption is unnecessary, the content viewing condition control section 143 issues the result as a content viewing condition (S143-7).

The relating and encrypting section 144 accepts

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the content information selected by the user, the encrypted content key identifier, and the key information from the content delivery linking control section 142. The relating and encrypting section 144 further accepts the option information, including information to identify the content delivery control unit 140, information to identify the medium linking content acquiring unit 220 of the user-side unit 200, information to identify a region, information to identify a user, information to show the content viewing condition, content control incidental information, and guidance information (S144-1), relates the option information to the encrypted content and the encrypted content key to create relating information (S144-2), and encrypts the option information on the basis of the key information (S144-3), and issues the result as encrypted option information F4 (S144-4).

The option information input unit 150 issues the option information to the encrypted content key creating section 132 and the relating and encrypting section 144 in response to the input operation by the operator or the like.

The server date-and-time synchronizing unit 160 includes a server date-and-time synchronizing section 161. As shown in FIG. 8, the server date-and-time synchronizing section 161 gets the accurate date and time from a known date-and-time issuing unit or the

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like available to the public on WWW at time intervals set by the manager (S161-1, S161-2), accepts a date-and-time issuing request (S161-3), and issues the stored date and time to the requester according to the request (S161-4).

(User-side unit 200)

The user access content selecting unit 210 includes a man-machine interface and a communication interface which realize a series of procedures for the user to receive content delivery services via a communication line, including service subscriber application, authentication condition acquisition, login, authentication information acquisition, content list display request, content list display and browsing, content selection, credit information acquisition, and purchase acknowledgment. For example, the user access content selecting unit 210 is a unit which enables a link with services via a communication line, such as a personal computer, a set-top box, an audio-visual unit, or a household appliance. The contents of the processes have explained in the user management control unit 110 shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, FIGS. 4A and 4B, so the explanation of them will be omitted.

The medium linking content acquiring unit 220 is composed of the information storage medium linking section 21, a stand-alone authorization information

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creating section 222, a normal writing checking section 223, and a content viewing condition processing section 224. The medium linking content acquiring unit 220 is mounted on or connected to the user-side unit 200.

5 The contents of the processes of the blocks 221 to 224 are shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B and FIG. 10.

The information storage medium linking section 221 accepts an authorization request from the user access content selecting unit 210, content delivery control unit 140, or the user (S221-1) and, according to the

10 authorization request, acquires the authentication information created at the user management control unit 110 at the time of login, the identifier to identify the user stored in the storage medium 270 mounted on or

15 connected to the user-side unit 200 or the user access content selecting unit 210, the identifier to identify the user-side unit 200, and so forth (S221-2). Then, the information storage medium linking section 221 determines whether to get the authorization information

20 via the communication line 300 (S221-3). If it gets the information via the communication line 300, the information storage medium linking section 221 issues the acquired medium information to the information storage medium linking section authorization

25 information creating section 141 of the content delivery control unit 140 (S221-4) and acquires the authorization information from the authorization

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information creating section 141 (S221-5).

In the stand-alone state where the communication line is not used, the information storage medium linking section 221 issues to the stand-alone authorization information creating section 222 the authentication information created at the user management control unit 110 at the time of login, the identifier to identify the user stored in the storage medium 270 mounted on or connected to the user-side unit 200 or in the user access content selecting unit 210, the identifier to identify the user-side unit 200, and so forth (S221-6). The stand-alone authorization information creating section 222 determines the authorization information condition (S222-1). If the situation meets the condition, the stand-alone authorization information creating section 222 creates authorization information (S222-2) and issues the information to the information storage medium linking section 221 (S222-3). Then, the information storage medium linking section 221 acquires the authorization information from the stand-alone authorization information creating section 222 (S221-7).

Then, the information storage medium linking section 221 decrypts the encrypted linking application using the authorization information, starts the process (S221-8), acquires the medium information in the information storage medium 230 (the medium key

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information and medium unique identifier written in the read-only area of the information storage medium) to acquire the encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and the like (S221-9), and issues the information to the content delivery control unit 140 (S221-10). Furthermore, the information storage medium linking section 221 gets the date and time information from the terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250 (S221-11) and accepts the encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and others sent from the content delivery linking control section 141 via the communication line 300 in cooperation with the content delivery linking control section 141 (S221-12).

When accepting encrypted option information F4 from the content delivery linking control section 142, the information storage medium linking section 221 decrypts it using the authorization information (S221-13, S221-14, S221-15), thereby acquiring option information (S221-16). Then, the information storage medium linking section 221 analyzes the information to identify the content delivery unit 140, information to identify the medium linking content acquiring unit 220, information to identify a region, information to identify a user, information to show the content viewing condition, content control incidental information (e.g., menu information, transition information within the content (e.g., thumbnail and

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menu link), external link information (e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), and guidance information (e.g., characters and still pictures)) (S221-17).

On the basis of the information, the information
5 storage medium linking section 221 makes a check (e.g., if the viewing period is met, when the viewing period is written in the content viewing condition, or if the specified region is satisfied, the condition includes information to identify a region) (S221-18). In a
10 manner conforming to this, the information storage medium linking section 221 performs control (such as control of the operation) (S221-19) or updates or holds the secure storage medium 270 mounted on or connected to the user-side unit 200 (S221-20). In addition, the
15 information storage medium linking section 221 writes the specified information as option information into the writable area of the information storage medium 230 in which the encrypted content and the encrypted content key are written as needed (S221-2, S221-22).
20 When the information storage medium linking section 221 cannot get option information in step S221-4, it skips the processes which would be carried out if the option information were present.

Then, the information storage medium linking
25 section 221 determines whether to write the acquired encrypted content and encrypted content key into the information storage medium 230 (S221-21). When

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receiving a write instruction, the information storage medium linking section 221 writes the encrypted content and the encrypted content key into the writable area of the information storage medium 230 (S221-22).

5 After the writing, the information storage medium linking section 221 issues a write end status and informs the normal writing checking section 223 of the end of the writing (S221-23). If not receiving a write instruction in step S221-21, the information storage
10 medium linking section 221 gives notice of the reselection of the content (S221-24).

The normal writing checking section 223 accepts the write end status from the information storage medium linking section 221 (S223-1) and checks whether
15 all of the encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and the like have been written into the writable area of the information storage medium 230 via the communication line 300 by size checking, verification, actual data comparison, and so forth (S223-2).

20 After the checking, the normal writing checking section 223 acquires the date-and-time information from the terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250 (S223-3) and issues it as write normal end time to the charging and settlement section 115 (S223-4). Receiving this,
25 the charging and settlement section 115 stores the write normal end time in the corresponding location of the charging and settlement information accumulating

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section F3.

The content viewing condition processing section 224 acquires the user information and others from the information storage medium linking section 221 (S224-1). On the basis of this information, the content viewing condition control section 143 accepts the encrypted content viewing condition or content viewing condition or the like acquired by the content viewing condition control section 143 from the user information accumulating section F1 and content delivery linking control section 142 in which information about the contents selected by the user (information about the state, such as the write normal end time, information about the viewing period, and the like) have been accumulated (S224-2, S224-3, S224-4, S224-5). The content viewing condition processing section 224 then analyzes the accepted information (S224-6).

When the content viewing condition is of a content viewing type with a limited period, that is, of a conditional viewing type that permits the content to be viewed only in a specific period, the content viewing condition processing section 224 encrypts information about the content viewing type, the date-and-time information, and the like (S224-7, S224-8), and issues the result to the information storage medium linking section 221 (S224-9). The information storage medium

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linking section 221 accepts this and stores it into the storage medium 270 (S22-20) and writes it into the writable area of the information storage medium 230 in which the encrypted content and the encrypted content key are written (S221-21, S221-22).

For example, a DVD-RAM disk is used as the information recording medium 230. In the disk, the medium key information and the medium unique identifier have been written into the read-only area. In cooperation with the medium linking content acquiring unit 220, the information storage medium linking section 2221 writes the encrypted content, encrypted content key, option information, and encrypted content viewing condition into the writable area as needed.

The content presentation control unit 240 is composed of a content presenting section 241 and a device unique key storage section 242. The contents of the processes of the content presenting section 241 are shown in FIGS. 11A and 11B.

In FIGS. 11A and 11B, the content presenting section 241 accepts a viewing request from the user or another unit or function (S241-1) and reads not only the medium information written in the read-only area of the information storage medium 230 and the encrypted content key written in the writable area but also the option information and viewing condition written in the information storage medium 230 or storage medium 270

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and the device unique key held in the device unique key storage section 242 (S241-2, S241-3).

5 In the process of checking the option information (S241-4, S241-5), if the information storage medium 230 or storage medium 270 has the option information, the content presenting section 241 gets and analyzes the option information and issues a presentation condition based on the result of the analysis (S241-6, S241-7, S241-8). If they have no option information, the
10 content presenting section 241 skips steps 241-6, 241-7, and 241-8.

Then, in the process of checking whether there is a viewing condition (S241-9, S241-10), if there is a viewing condition, the content presenting section 241
15 determines whether the viewing condition has been encrypted (S241-11). If it has not been encrypted, the content presenting section 241 acquires the condition directly. If it has been encrypted, the content presenting section 241 acquires not only the encrypted
20 viewing condition but also the option information (S241-13, S241-14) and decrypts the viewing condition on the basis of the key information included in the option information (S241-15). When obtaining the viewing condition this way, the content presenting
25 section 241 analyzes the viewing condition (S241-16) and, on the basis of the result of the analysis, makes a date-and-time information issuing request to the

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terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250, and acquires the date-and-time information issued from the synchronizing unit 250 in response to the request.

When there is no viewing condition, the content

5 presenting section 241 passes control to step S241-23.

Next, the content presenting section 241 checks the time limit (S241-19, S241-20). If the time limit has been expired, the content presenting section 241 issues a time-limit expiration message, verifies
10 whether the content should be disabled (S241-21), and prevents the information written in the information storage medium 230 from being used (S241-22). If the time limit has not been expired, the content presenting section 241 creates a content key on the basis of the
15 medium information, encrypted content key, and device unique key (S241-23) and, on the basis of the content key, decrypts the encrypted content (S241-24), and issues it in presentable form (S241-25).

The terminal date-and-time synchronizing unit 250
20 includes a terminal data-and-time synchronizing section 251. As shown in FIG. 12, the terminal data-and-time synchronizing section 251 acquires a preset time interval (S251-1), acquires date-and-time information from a server data-and-time synchronizing section 161
25 at the acquired time intervals via the communication line and stores it (S251-2). When receiving a date-and-time issuing request from the medium linking

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content acquiring unit 220, content presentation control unit 240, and the like, the terminal data-and-time synchronizing section 251 accepts this (S251-3). If having to getting the latest date and time, the terminal data-and-time synchronizing section 251 acquires the date-and-time information from the server date-and-time synchronizing section 161 and holds it (S251-4, S251-5), and issues the stored date and time (S251-6).

The terminal data-and-time synchronizing unit 250, which is mounted on the user-side unit 200, has a date-and-time holding system that cannot be set from the outside differently from a time that can be set.

The content viewing unit 260 is a known display, such as television, which enables the user to view content. The content viewing unit 260 includes a content viewing control section 261 and a content viewing section 262. The content viewing control section 261 and content viewing section 262 carry out the processes shown in FIG. 13. The content viewing control section 261 accepts the content and others made presentable at the content presenting section 241 (S261-1), and makes an analysis and perform control to enable viewing (S261-2, S261-3), and issues the result to the content viewing section 262 (S261-4). Receiving this, the content viewing section 262 causes the resulting content to be viewed in images and sound

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(S262-1, S262-2).

With the content delivery system configured as described above, the following effects are obtained.

5 (1) The content and the content key creating condition are acquired from the copyright owner or copyright manager of the content, the copyright-protected encrypted content and content key are created, and they are made issuable. Therefore, the content can be encrypted according to the request of
10 the copyright owner or copyright manager.

(2) When the user receives copyright-protected content delivery services via a communication line, the necessary subscriber application procedure is offered so as to comply with a form that allows the user to
15 receive the copyright-protected content delivery services. This simplifies the procedure for the user applying for subscription and enables the user to receive delivery services according to the user's usage environment.

20 (3) It is determined whether the user can receive copyright-protected content delivery services. At this time, if the payment method is credit card payment, the necessary information is transmitted to the clearing corporation and the clearing identifier is received
25 from the clearing corporation. To avoid the risk of credit card information leaks, the unnecessary information is erased. From this point on, a determination is

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made using the clearing identifier. Therefore, it is possible to realize safe electronic settlement, excluding ineligible users.

5 (4) The authentication condition is issued to the registered users beforehand. When the users log in to the copyright-protected content delivery services via a communication line, they present the authentication condition and then receive the copyright-protected content delivery services. Therefore, only the
10 eligible users can log in and ineligible users are prevented from receiving the services.

(5) When the user logs in to a copyright-protected content delivery service according to the issued authentication condition, it is determined what
15 services the user can receive and then the authentication information is issued. Therefore, the contents of services can be managed on a user basis, which enables suitable, thoughtful services.

(6) The content list format corresponding to the
20 user or user-side unit is selected on the basis of the issued authentication information, brought into a form that allows various types of display, and then issued. Therefore, the content selecting operation of each user can be simplified.

25 (7) The user's content selection is accepted on the basis of the issued content list, a check is made with the clearing corporation on the basis of the

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clearing identifier and the user is informed of whether the selected content can be purchased. Therefore, illegal purchase due to the user's mistake can be avoided.

5 (8) A plurality of encrypted contents are accumulated, the content information selected by the user and the user information are accepted, and the encrypted content, encrypted content key, and the like are delivered via the communication line in cooperation
10 with the user-side information storage medium via the communication line. Therefore, it is possible to deliver the encrypted content, encrypted content key, and so forth to only the eligible users.

 (9) The medium information in the information
15 storage medium (the medium key information and medium unique identifier written in the read-only area of the information storage medium) is sent via the communication line, the encrypted content, encrypted content key, and so fourth sent via the communication line are
20 written into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written or into another storage medium, and the content is encrypted on the basis of the medium information. Therefore, decryption is impossible without the device
25 information. As a result, even if the encrypted content and the encrypted content key are copied, neither the creation of the content key nor the

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decryption of the encrypted content can be performed with a user-side terminal unit with no medium information or with different medium information. Therefore, it is possible to limit the viewing of
5 illegally copied content.

(10) When the function of realizing copyright-protected content delivery services installed in the user-side unit is encrypted, various pieces of information are acquired via the communication line,
10 and authorization information is created and issued. Alternatively, in the stand-alone state where no communication line is used, authorization information is created independently. Then, startup is made according to the authorization information. Therefore,
15 a unit other than the registered units is prevented from receiving the services, which eliminates abuse.

(11) When content is delivered by copyright-protected content deliver services, the most appropriate one (because of the lowest load or the
20 like) of the communication lines allowing delivery is selected, information about an estimated time until the delivery of the content is made issuable, and the content delivery is started. Therefore, the load on the user side is alleviated, which improves the
25 usability.

(12) The option information, including information to show the content viewing condition, and content

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control incidental information (e.g., menu information,
transition information within the content (e.g.,
thumbnail and menu link)), external link information
(e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), and
5 guidance information (e.g., characters and still
pictures), is related to the encrypted content and the
encrypted content key. The resulting information is
encrypted as needed and is issued as encrypted option
information via the communication line. Therefore, it
10 is possible to provide content delivery services more
suitable for the user, while improving the problem of
information leaks on the network.

(13) The designation of reserved delivery, such
as by what time the content delivery is required to
15 finish is made issuable, a plurality of candidates are
selected, and the content is delivered in the order of
time closer to the present time or in the order of
specified priority. Therefore, restrictions on the
user's utilization time are removed, which enables
20 efficient delivery.

(14) The content viewing condition (including
information representing that the content has a limited
viewing period, allowed viewing date-and-time (period)
information, information about limits to writing into
25 an information storage medium, content protect
information, age limit information, barrier-free
environment information (including sign language type

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and identification information) are accepted, encrypted as needed, and issued. Therefore, it is possible to set suitable viewing limits according to the user's request or usage restriction.

5 (15) The accurate date and time are acquired from a known date-and-time issuing unit or the like via the communication line and the held date and time are issued to the requester according to the request. The timer mounted in the user-side unit uses a date-
10 and-time holding system that cannot be set from the outside. Alternatively, even when the timer can be set, the date and time of the server are externally updated to the latest date and time in synchronization with the server side. This prevents illegal use, such
15 as lifting time limits by shifting the date and time on the user side.

 (16) A check is made if the encrypted content, the encrypted content key, and others delivered via the communication line have been written properly into the
20 writable area of the information storage medium, the date-and-time information is acquired from the timer in item (15), and those pieces of information are issued to the copyright-protected content delivery service provider side. Therefore, the final result of the
25 information delivered on the delivery service provider side can be checked and the suitable charging process can be carried out.

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(17) When the encrypted option information in item (14) is received, it is encrypted using the authorization information in item (10) to get the option information. Then, various pieces of identification information, information about the content viewing condition, content control incidental information (e.g., menu information, transition information within the content (e.g., thumbnail and menu link)), external link information (e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), and guidance information (e.g., characters and still pictures) are analyzed. A check is made on the basis of the resulting information. On the basis of the result of the check, the limit of operation is controlled and the storage information is updated or stored. In addition, the option-specified information is written into the writable area of the information storage medium as needed. Therefore, the option specifying process can be carried out easily and safely.

(18) When data is written into the information storage medium, if the content viewing condition is of the limited-period content viewing type, that is, of the conditional viewing type permitting contents to be viewed only in a specific period, information representing the content viewing type and date-and-time information are encrypted. The encrypted information is stored into the storage medium of the user-side unit

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or written into the writable area of the information storage medium into which the encrypted content and the encrypted content key are written. Therefore, when the condition is not met, the viewing of the content can be prevented, which improves the copyright protection more.

The content key corresponding to the encrypted content key is selected in accordance with the contest ID information and is then issued. Hence, any other content, if available, cannot be viewed at all.

(20) The encrypted content key is created from the information in the information storage medium (the medium key information and medium unique identifier written into the read-only area of the information storage medium). In addition, the encrypted content key is also created in such a manner that it includes various pieces of identification information, information about the content viewing condition, content control incidental information (e.g., menu information, transition information within the content (e.g., thumbnail and menu link)), external link information (e.g., connection addresses for the Internet), and guidance information (e.g., characters and still pictures). Therefore, it is possible to prevent the content from being written into another information recording medium or from being viewed with another unit.

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(21) A viewing request from the user or the like is accepted. Then, the information in the information storage medium is read and a content key is created on the basis of the device unique key information held in the user-side unit, medium information in the information storage medium (the medium key information and medium unique identifier written in the read-only area of the information storage medium), and the encrypted content key written in the writable area of the information storage medium. On the basis of the content key, the encrypted content is decrypted so as to be presentable. Therefore, even if the content is copied illegally onto another medium, the content key cannot be created, nor can the content be decrypted, which prevents the content from being viewed.

(22) When the storage medium of the user-side unit or the information storage medium has option information, the information is read and a presentation process is carried out on the basis of the information. Therefore, both the service provider and the user can enjoy a variety of services by selecting arbitrary options.

(23) When the storage medium of the user-side unit or the information storage medium has a viewing condition, the condition is read, the date-and-time information is acquired from the timer in item (15), a check is made if the accumulated content has expired.

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If the accumulated content has been expired, the user is informed of the expiration and the content is made unusable. Therefore, it is possible to deal with, for example, a case where management by time limit is
5 needed as in renting content.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments
10 shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

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The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A content delivery service providing apparatus which provides content delivery service via a communication line to a user-side terminal unit capable of recording content into an information storage medium into which medium information which includes at least a medium unique identifier and medium key information have been written, or into a different information storage medium from the information storage medium with the information storage medium being set, the content delivery service providing apparatus comprising:

a user management control unit which preregisters user information including personal information about a user applying for subscription to a delivery service, service range, and payment method, and manages the distribution of authentication information and the distribution of a delivery content list at the time of providing service on a user basis, and the acceptance of a content select request;

an encrypted content control unit which acquires not only content but also a content key creation condition from a copyright owner or copyright manager of the content who provides the delivery service, and creates a content key on the basis of the content key creation condition and encrypts content on the basis of the content key;

an encrypted content key control unit, separate from the encrypted content control unit, which accumulates the content keys created at the encrypted content control unit and, registers all of or a part of the medium information on medium key information in the information storage medium and, using the medium information on medium key information or the medium information on medium key information and

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terminal device unique key information presented at the user's content request, encrypts the content key corresponding to the requested content, and issues the encrypted content key to the terminal unit of the requesting user; and

a content delivery control unit which accumulates the encrypted contents created at the encrypted content control unit, selects the corresponding content at the user's content request, and delivers the encrypted content to the terminal unit of the requesting user.

2. The content delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user management control unit comprises:

user eligibility decision means for determining the eligibility of a user who presents user information including user personal information, service applicable range, and payment method as an application for a subscription to the content delivery service,

user information management means for managing the user information about eligible users determined to be eligible by the decision means,

authentication information issuing means for issuing login authentication information to the user,

list offering means for selecting deliverable content from the service applicable range of the user information managed by the user information management means and offering the list to the user-side terminal unit logged in on the basis of the authentication information,

delivery instructing means for receiving the selection of the content presented on the list from the user-side terminal unit and instructing the content delivery control unit to deliver the corresponding content, and

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charging and settlement means for managing charging and settlement information about the user at the time of delivering the content.

3. The content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

authorization information delivering means for delivering authorization information to startup a content acquiring application to the user-side terminal unit at the time of delivering the content.

4. The content delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said encrypted content control unit comprises:

encrypted content creating means for encoding the content in specified digital encoding form or converting the content into specified digital encoding form, creating a content key on the basis of the content key creating condition, and encrypting the content using the content key,

encrypted content issuing means for issuing the encrypted content encrypted at the encrypted content creating means to the content delivery control unit, and

content key issuing means for issuing the encrypted content key encrypted at the encrypted content creating means to the content key control unit.

5. The content delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said encrypted content key control unit comprises:

a content key accumulating section which accumulates the content keys created at the encrypted content control unit,

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a medium information storage section which stores all of or a part of the medium information in the information storage medium,

an encrypting section which, at the user's content request, reads the content key corresponding to the requested content from the content key accumulating section and, on the basis of the medium information presented by the user, encrypts the content key, and

an encrypted content key issuing section which issues the encrypted content key created at the encrypting section to a requester.

6. The encrypted content key control unit according to claim 5, wherein the encrypting section acquires: terminal device unique key information; content identification information; information to identify a content delivery control unit; information to identify a medium linking content acquiring unit; information to identify a region; information to identify a user; or content key individual information which are presented together with the medium information by the user; or a combination thereof and, on the basis of said acquired information, encrypts the content key.

7. The content delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said content delivery control unit comprises:

an encrypted content accumulating section which accumulates the encrypted contents created at the encrypted content control unit,

an encrypting section which, at the user's content request, reads the corresponding encrypted content from the encrypted content accumulating section and, on the basis of

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the encrypted content key created at the encrypted content key control unit, encrypts the encrypted content, and

a delivering section which delivers the encrypted content created at the encrypting section to a requester.

8. The content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

date-and-time synchronizing means for synchronizing date-and-time information with that in the user-side terminal unit.

9. The content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the encrypted content key control unit and the content delivery control unit selectively include an arbitrary content viewing condition and option information in the encrypted content key creation and the encrypted content delivery, respectively.

10. A content delivery service terminal unit wherein the content delivery service terminal unit receives the content delivery service from the content delivery service providing apparatus of claim 1, and comprises:

a user access content selecting unit which logs in to the user management control unit on the basis of the authentication information and makes a content select request on the basis of the delivery content list;

a medium linking content acquiring unit which acquires the medium information from the information storage medium at the content select request and sends the information to the content delivery service providing unit, receives the encrypted content key and the encrypted content from the content delivery service providing apparatus, and writes them together into a writable area of the information

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storage medium in which the medium information has been written, or separately into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written and into a writable area of another information medium; and

a content presentation control unit which reads an arbitrary encrypted content and the corresponding encrypted content key from the information storage medium, decrypts the encrypted content keys on the basis of the medium information or the medium information and the terminal device unique key information, and decrypts the encrypted content on the basis of the decrypted content key.

11. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, wherein the user access content selecting unit includes:

login means for logging in to the user management control unit on the basis of previously presented authentication information and presenting the information requested; and

content select requesting means for acquiring a delivery content select list presented by the user management control unit in the access, presenting the list, and informing the user management control unit of the content select request specified by the user.

12. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit includes:

information notifying means for acquiring the medium information from the information storage medium at the content select request, and notifying the encrypted content key control unit and the content delivery control unit of

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the medium information or the medium information and the terminal device unique key information; and

information storage means for receiving the encrypted content key and the encrypted content from the encrypted content key control unit and the content delivery control unit, and writing them together into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written, or separately into the writable area of the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written and of another information medium.

13. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 12, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit further includes:

startup means for starting up in response to authorization information delivered from the content delivery service providing apparatus, making mutual authentication with the content delivery service providing apparatus, and giving an instruction to execute processes of the information notifying means and the information storage means after confirmation of the authentication.

14. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, further comprising:

date-and-time management means for executing processes on the basis of the date-and-time information supplied from the content delivery service providing apparatus.

15. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit, when receiving a content viewing condition from the content delivery service providing apparatus, writes the

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viewing condition into the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written or into another information storage medium, and

the content presentation control unit, when decrypting the encrypted content and the encrypted content key, executes processes on the basis of the content viewing condition.

16. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 12, wherein the medium linking content acquiring unit, when the encrypted content viewing condition specifies a viewing period, manages the content written into the information storage medium by date-and-time information and makes the content unusable from the information storage medium after the viewing period has expired.

17. The content delivery service terminal unit according to claim 10, wherein the content presentation control unit, when at least one of the encrypted content and the encrypted content key has been written into a different information storage medium from the information storage medium into which the medium information has been written, executes process of reading and decrypting the encrypted content and the encrypted content key only in a state where the information storage medium in which the medium information has been written is set.

18. The content delivery service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user management control unit manages charging and settlement.

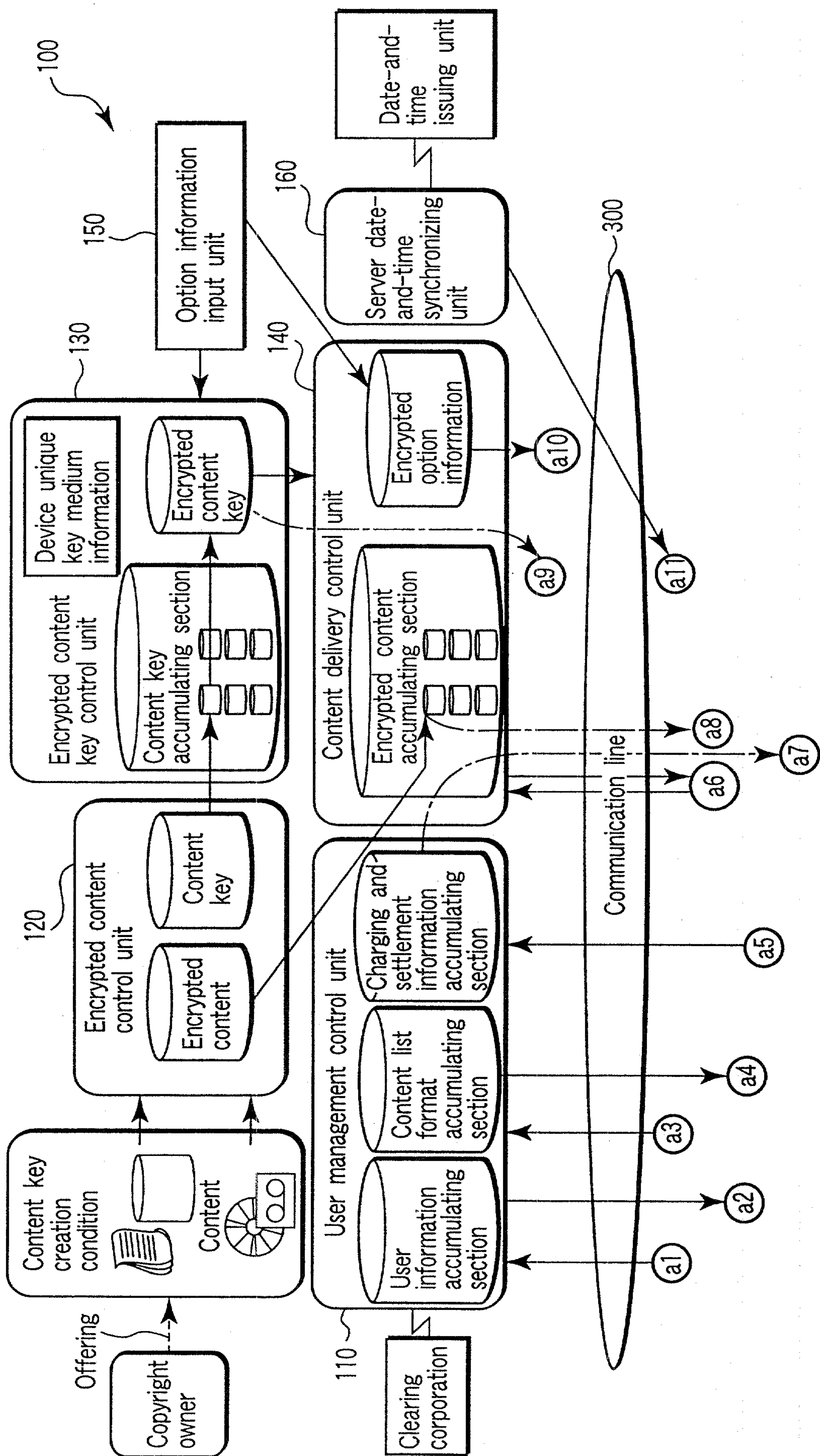


FIG. 1A

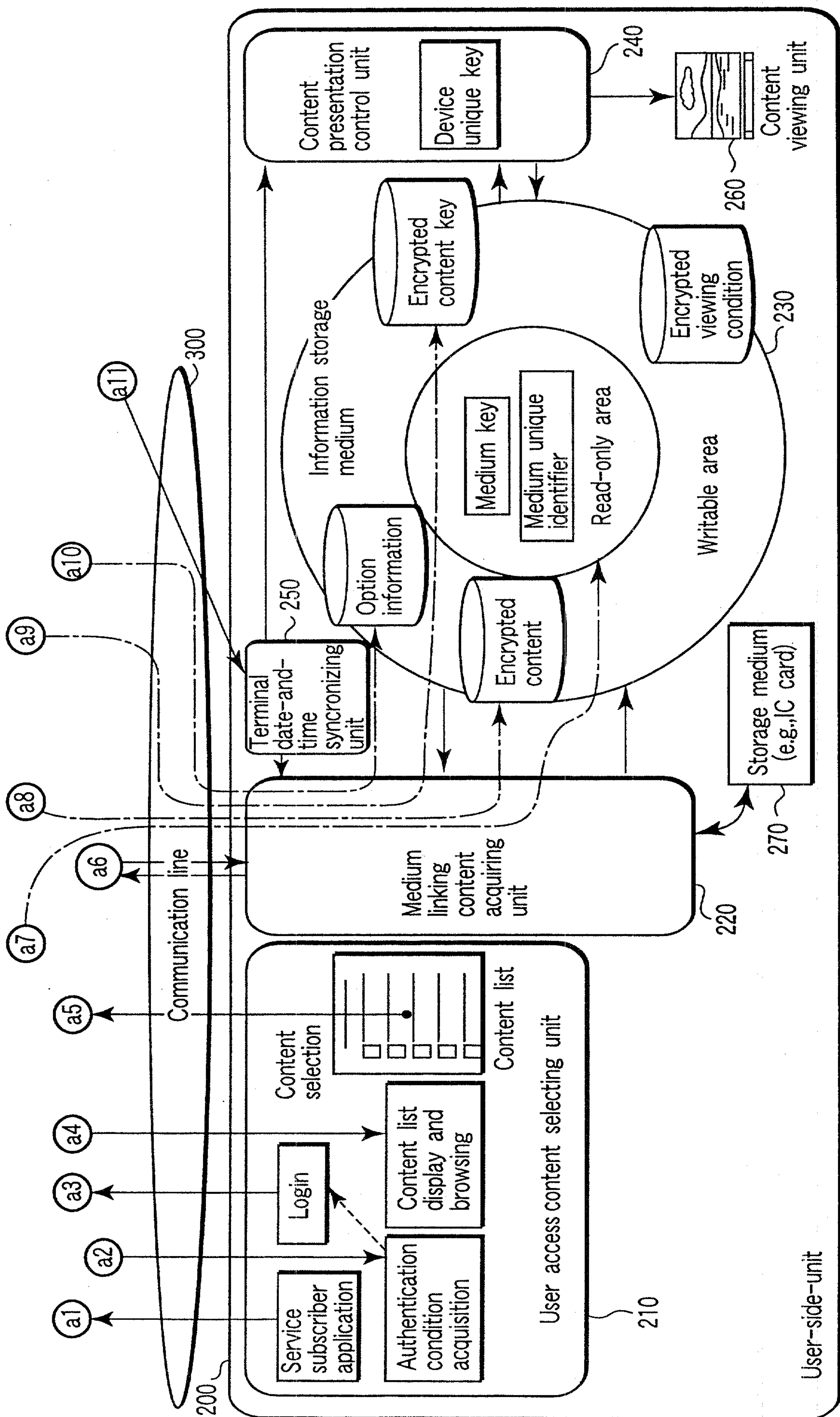


FIG. 1B

FIG. 2A

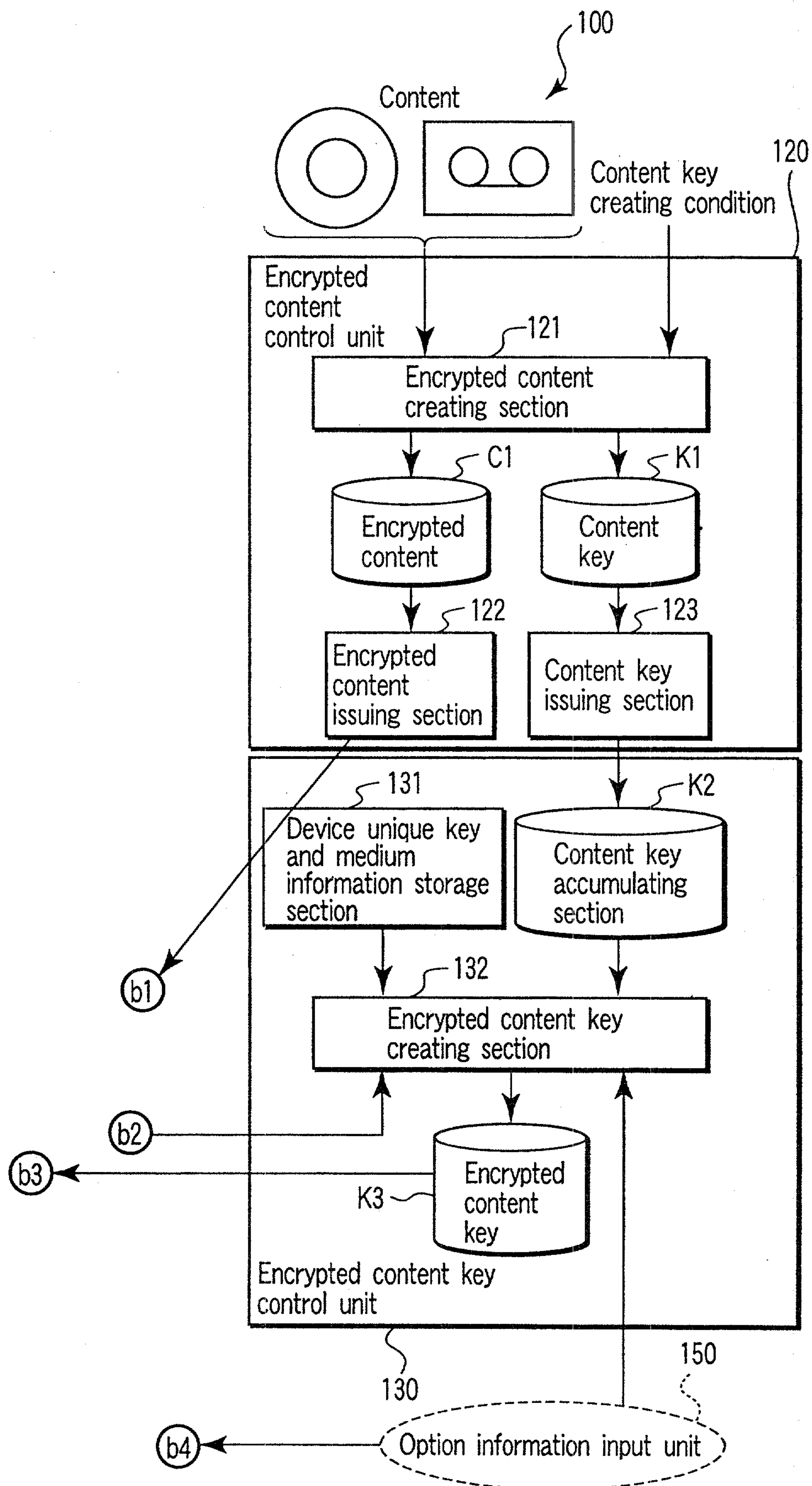


FIG. 2B

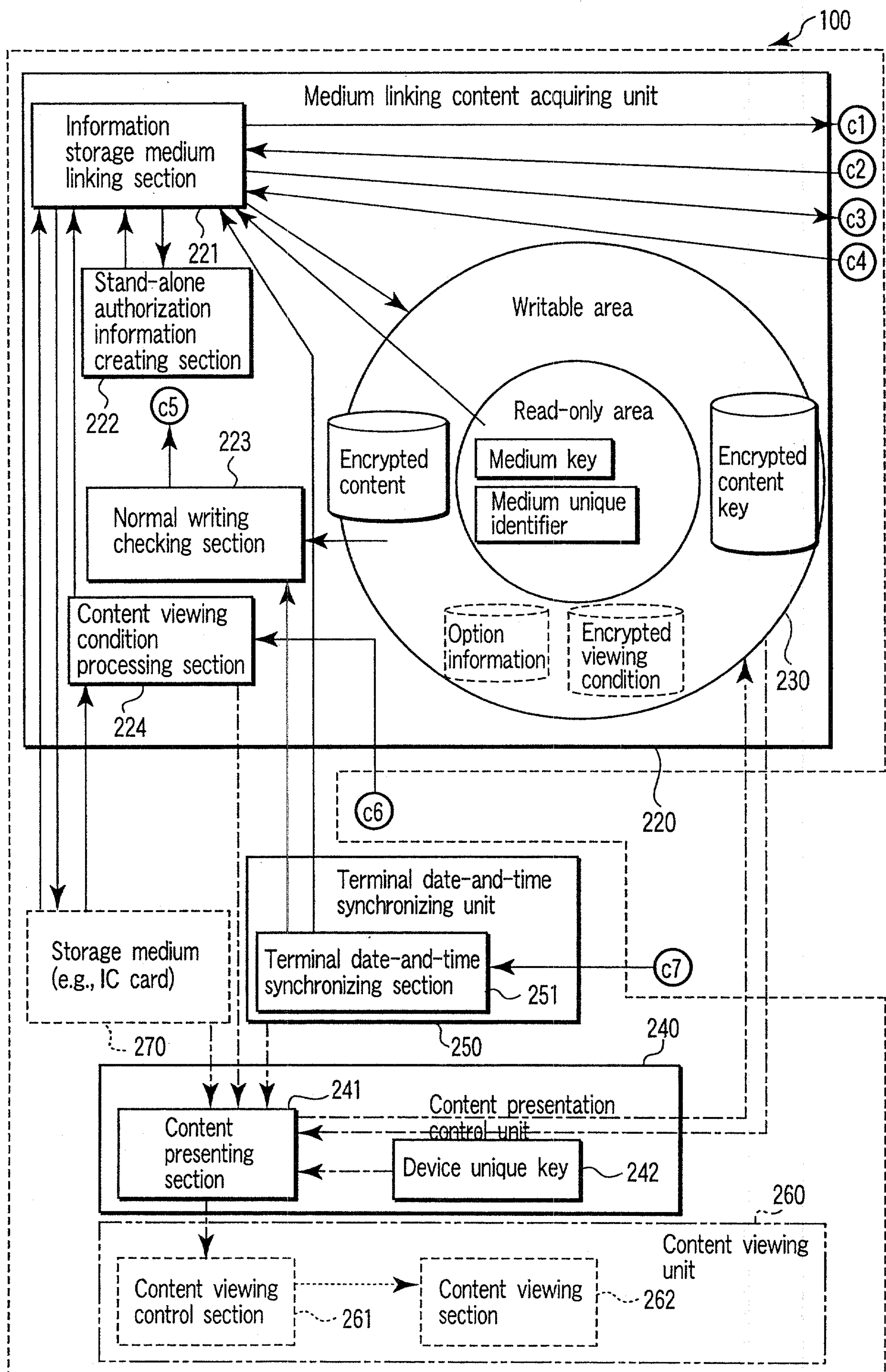


FIG. 2C

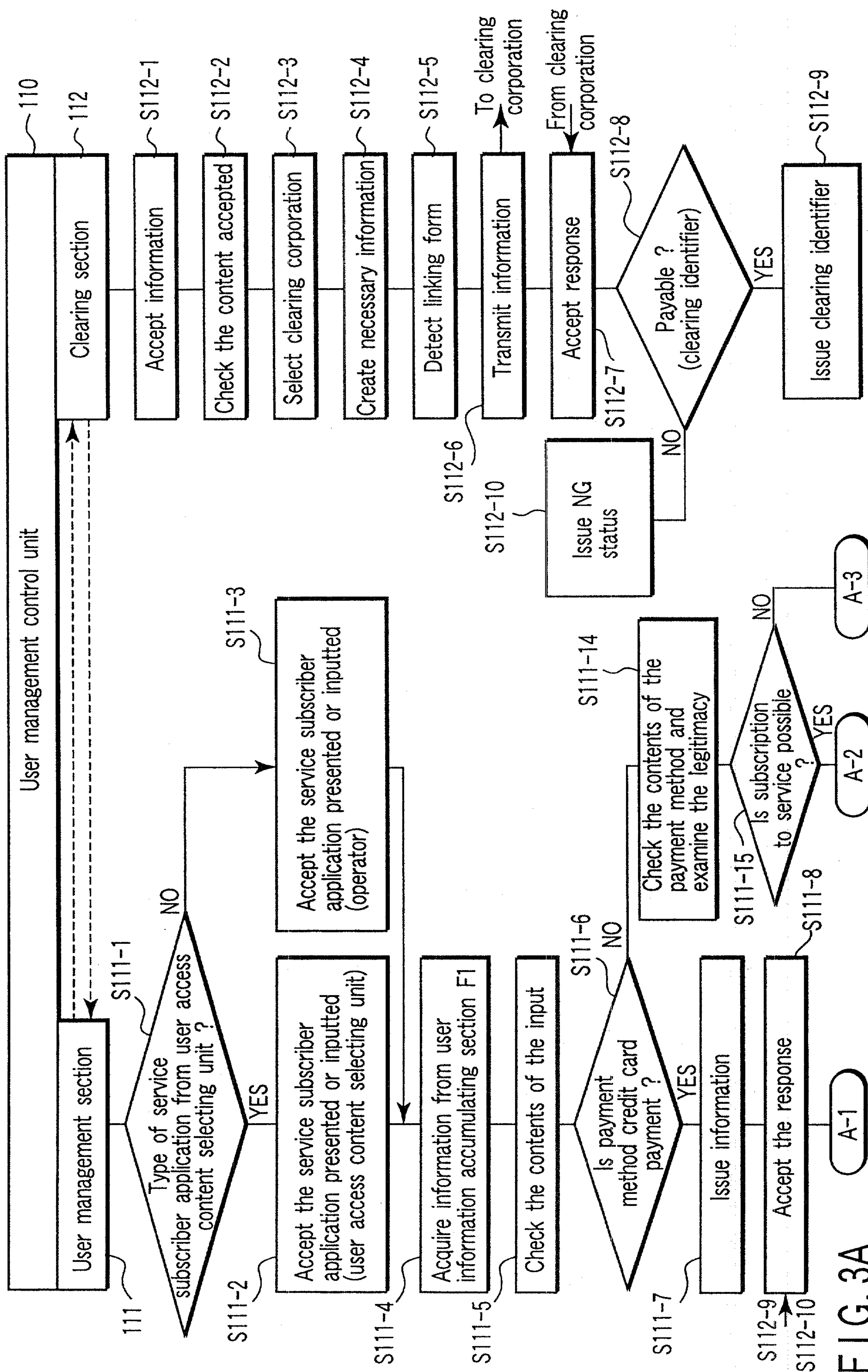


FIG. 3A

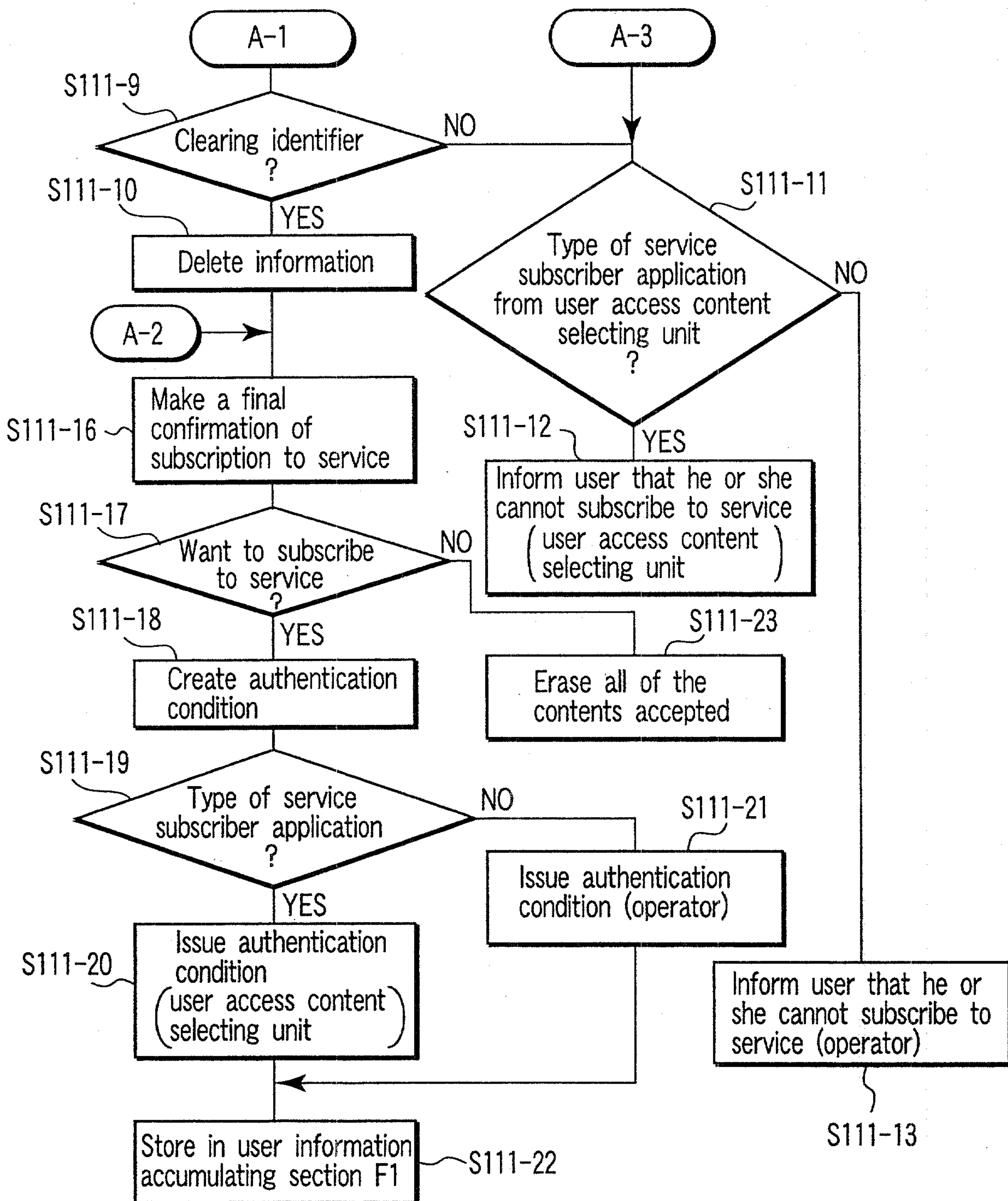


FIG. 3B

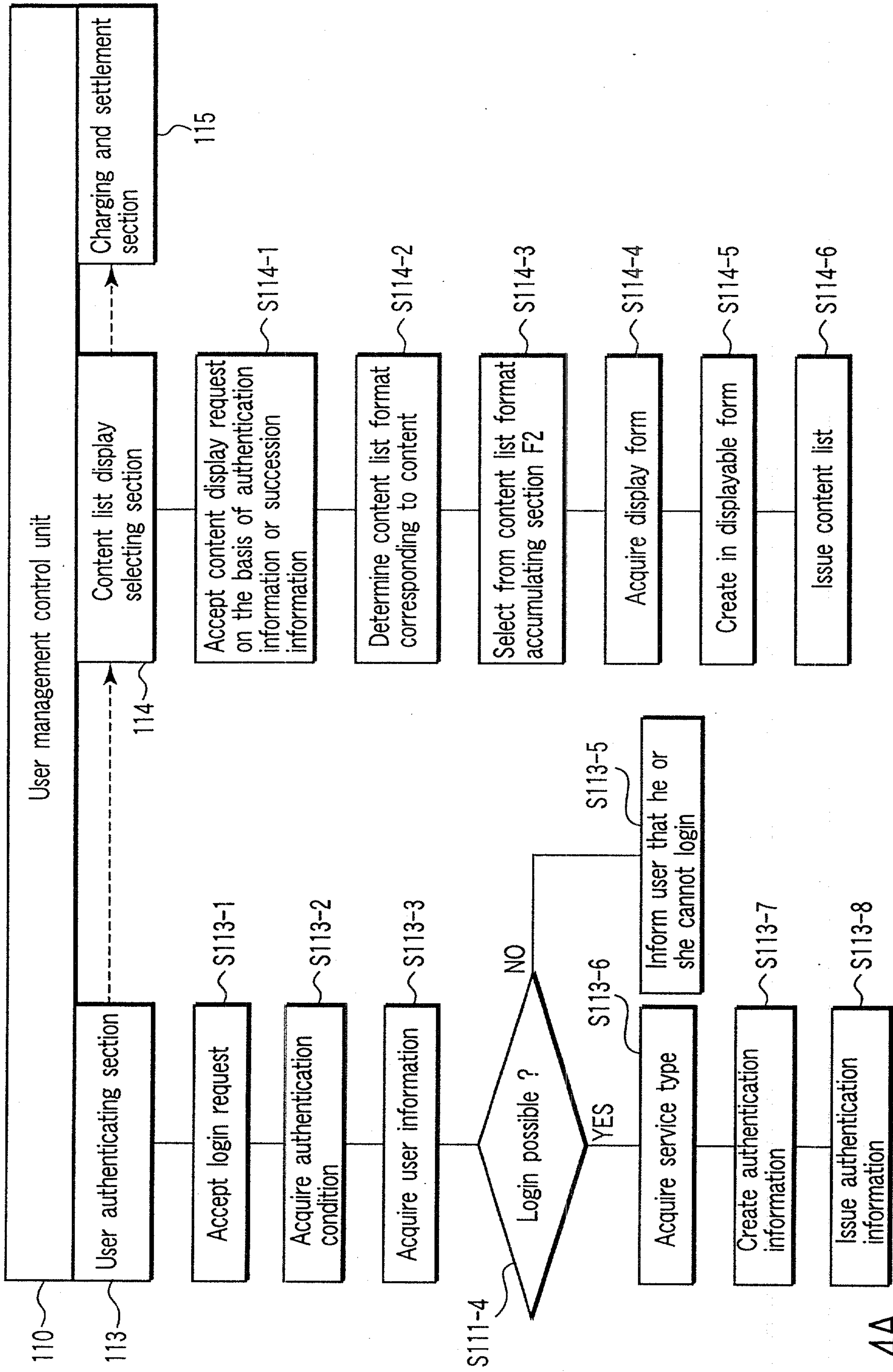


FIG. 4A

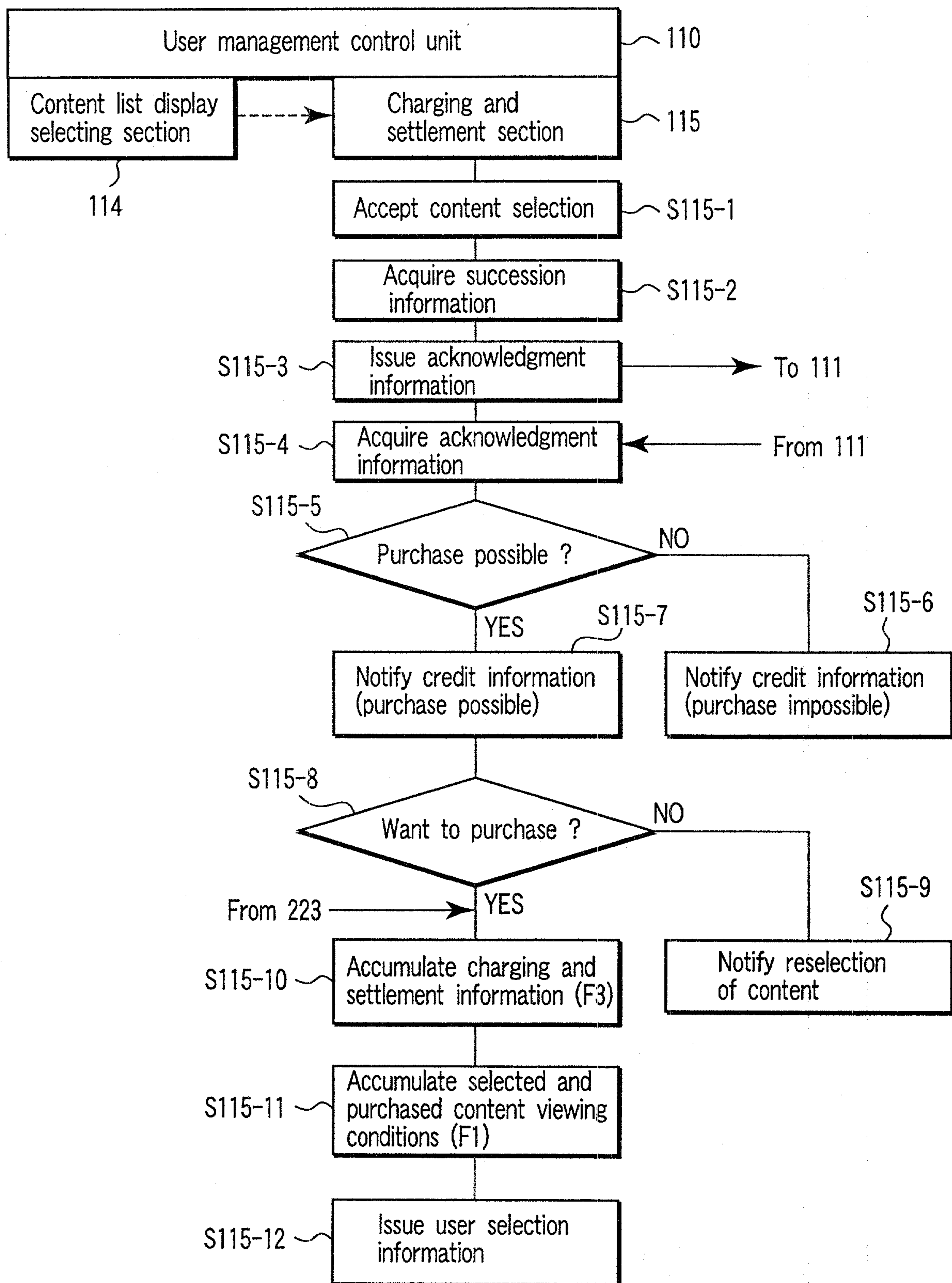


FIG. 4B

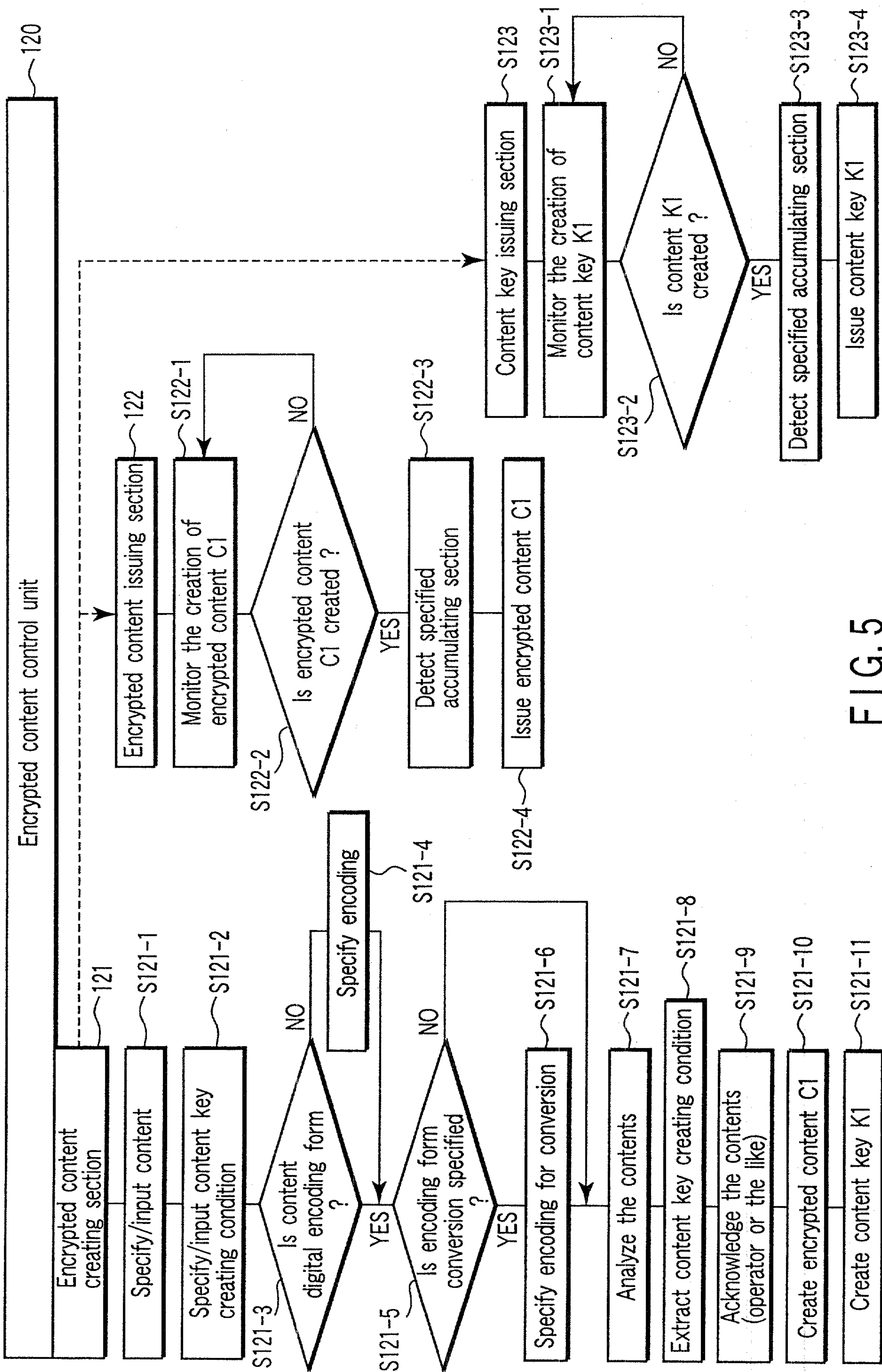


FIG. 5

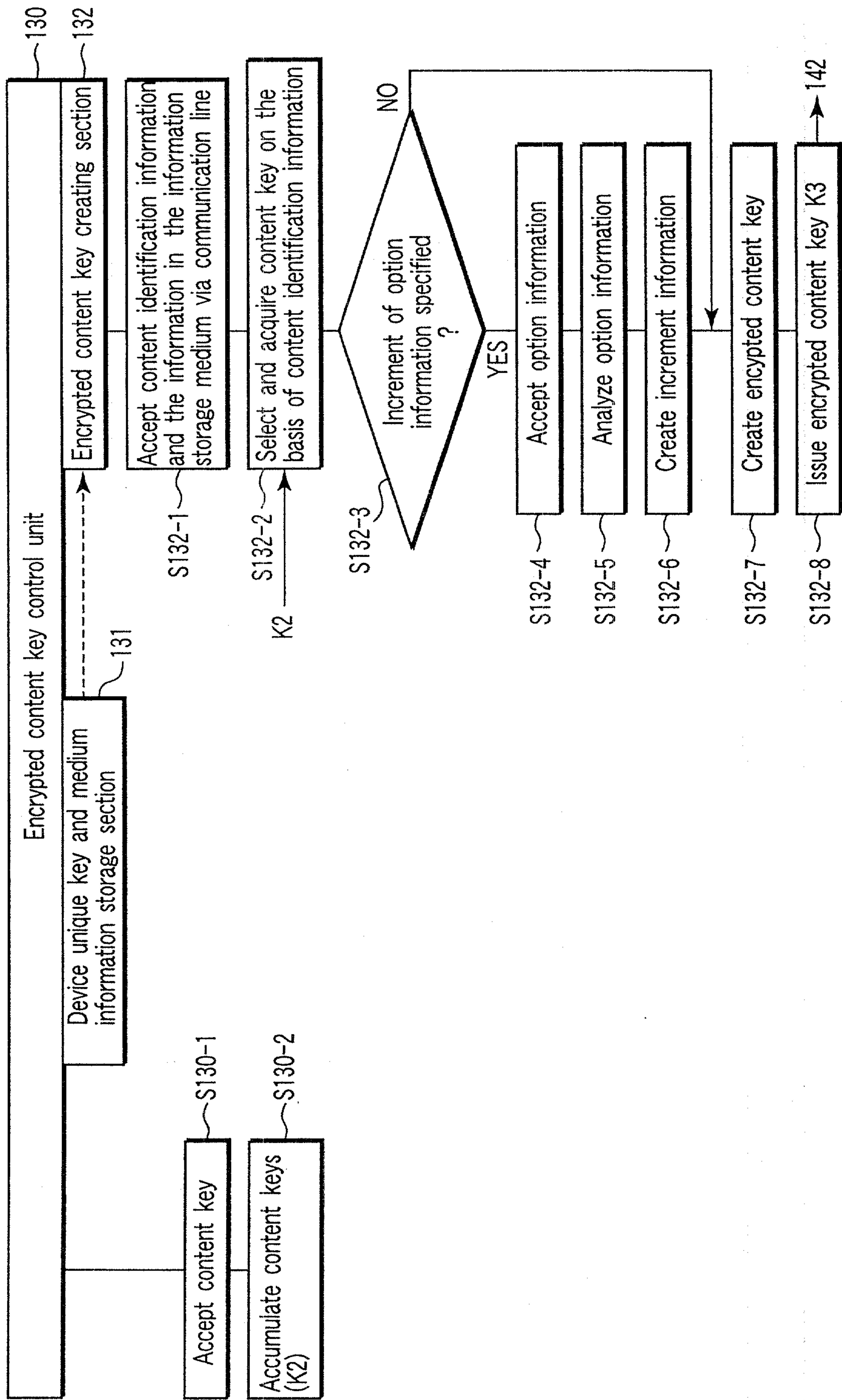


FIG. 6

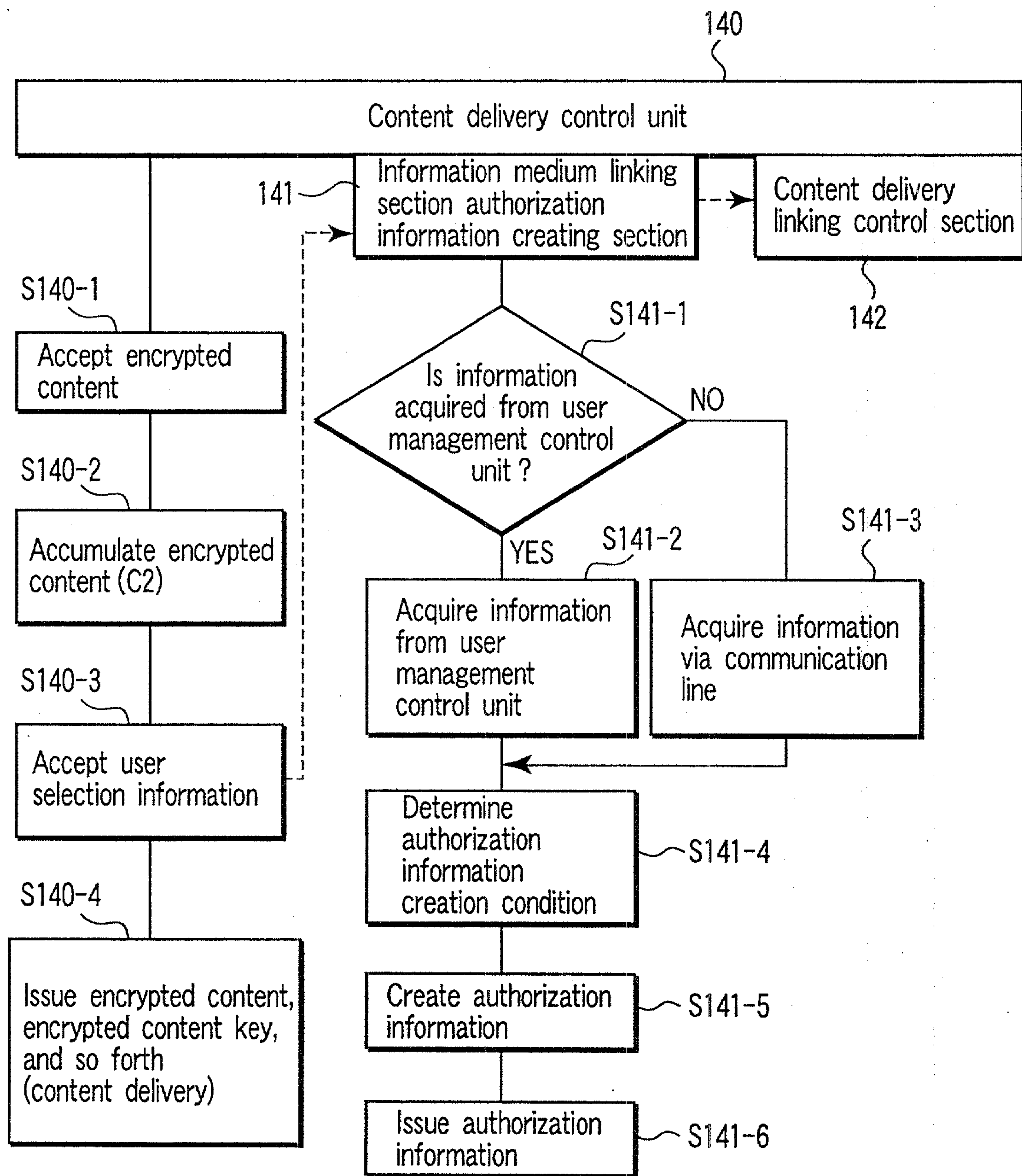


FIG. 7A

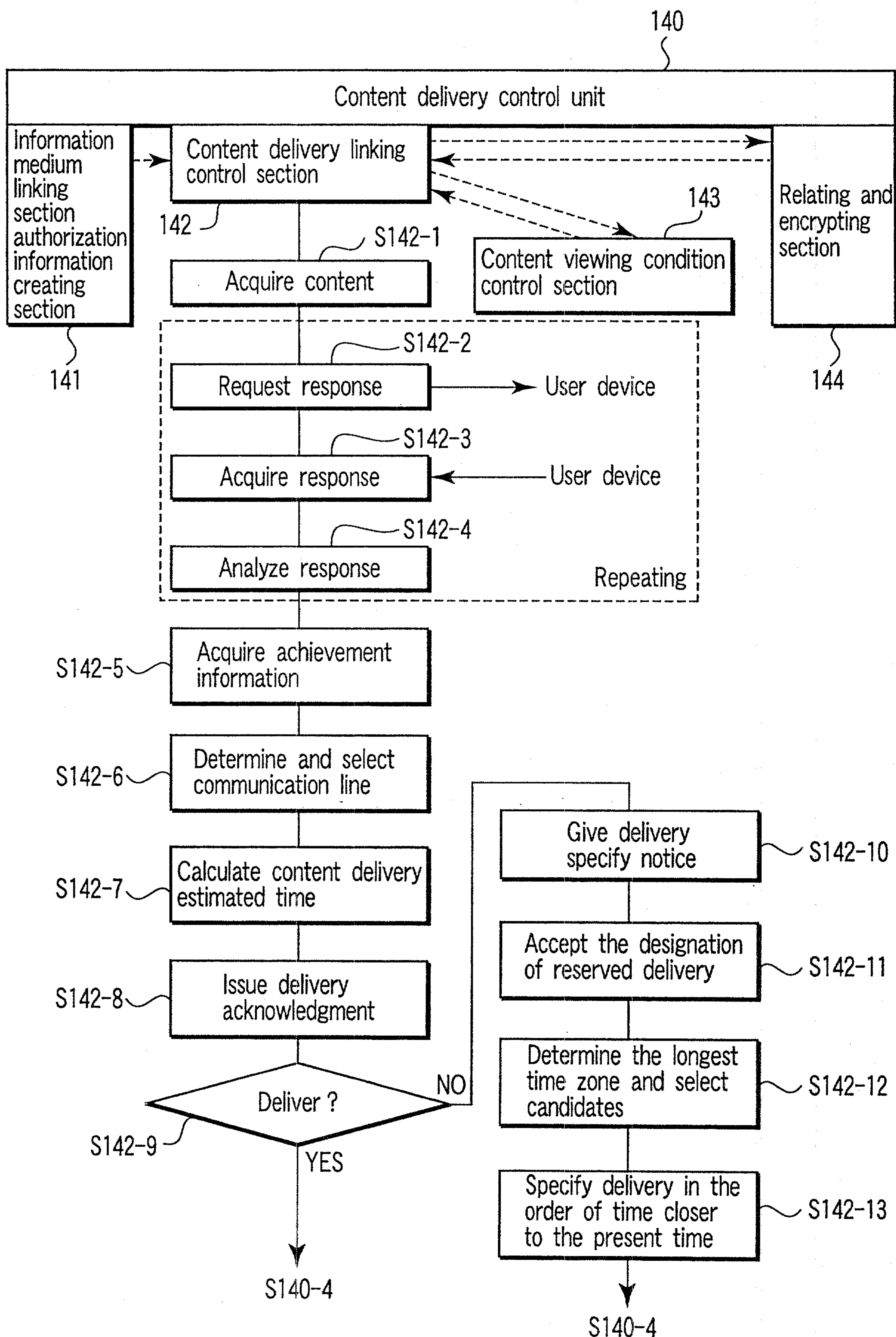


FIG. 7B

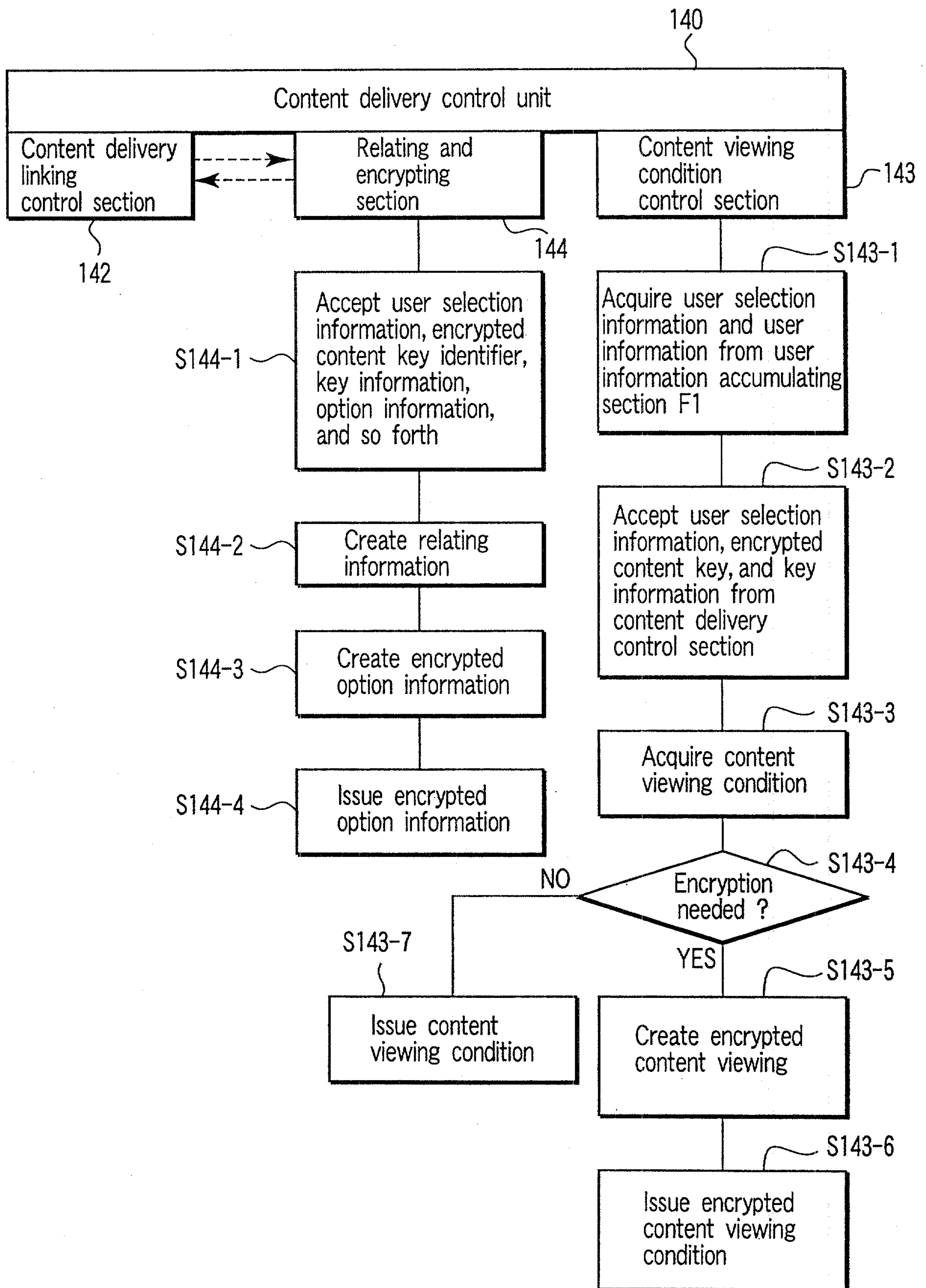


FIG. 7C

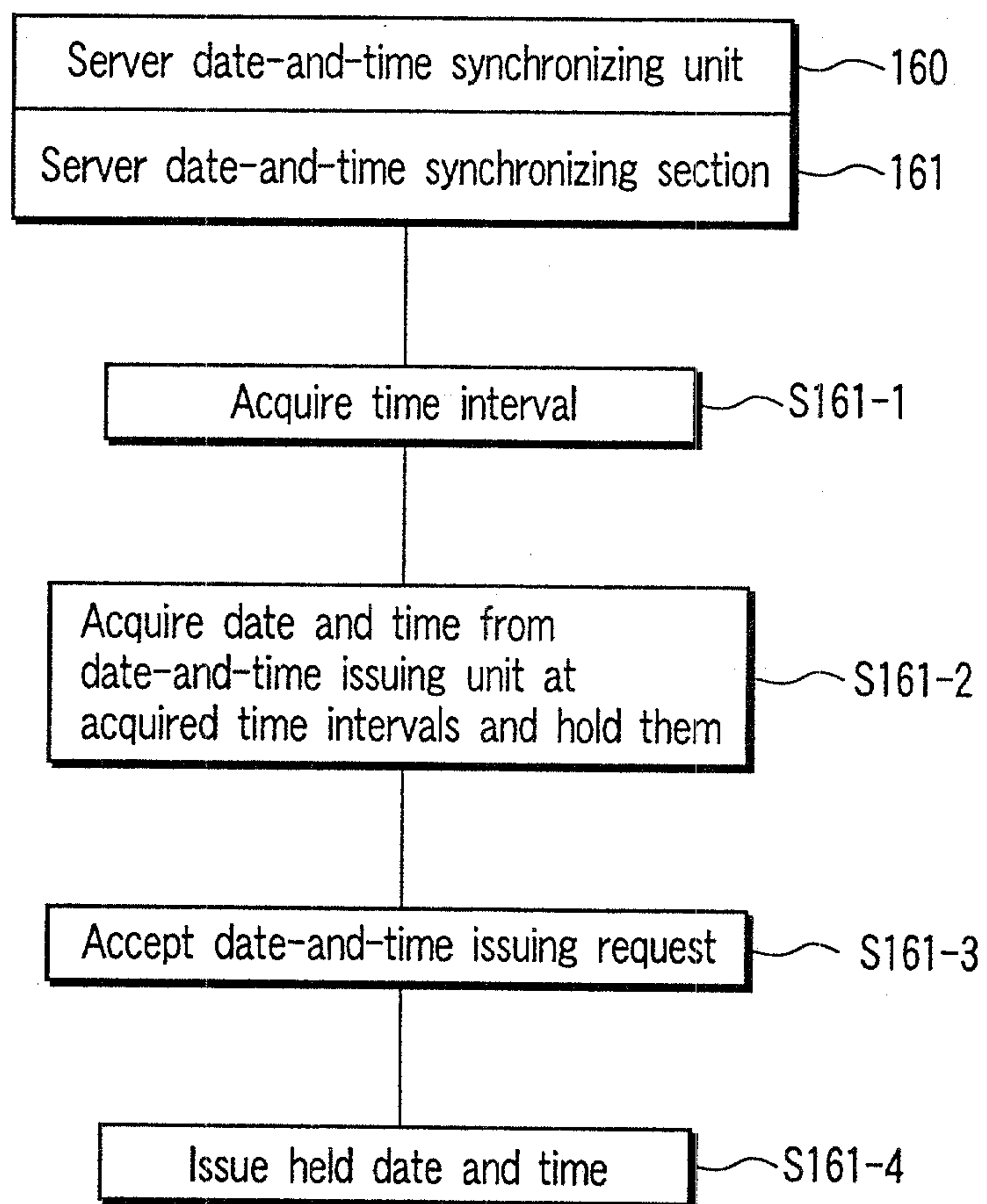


FIG. 8

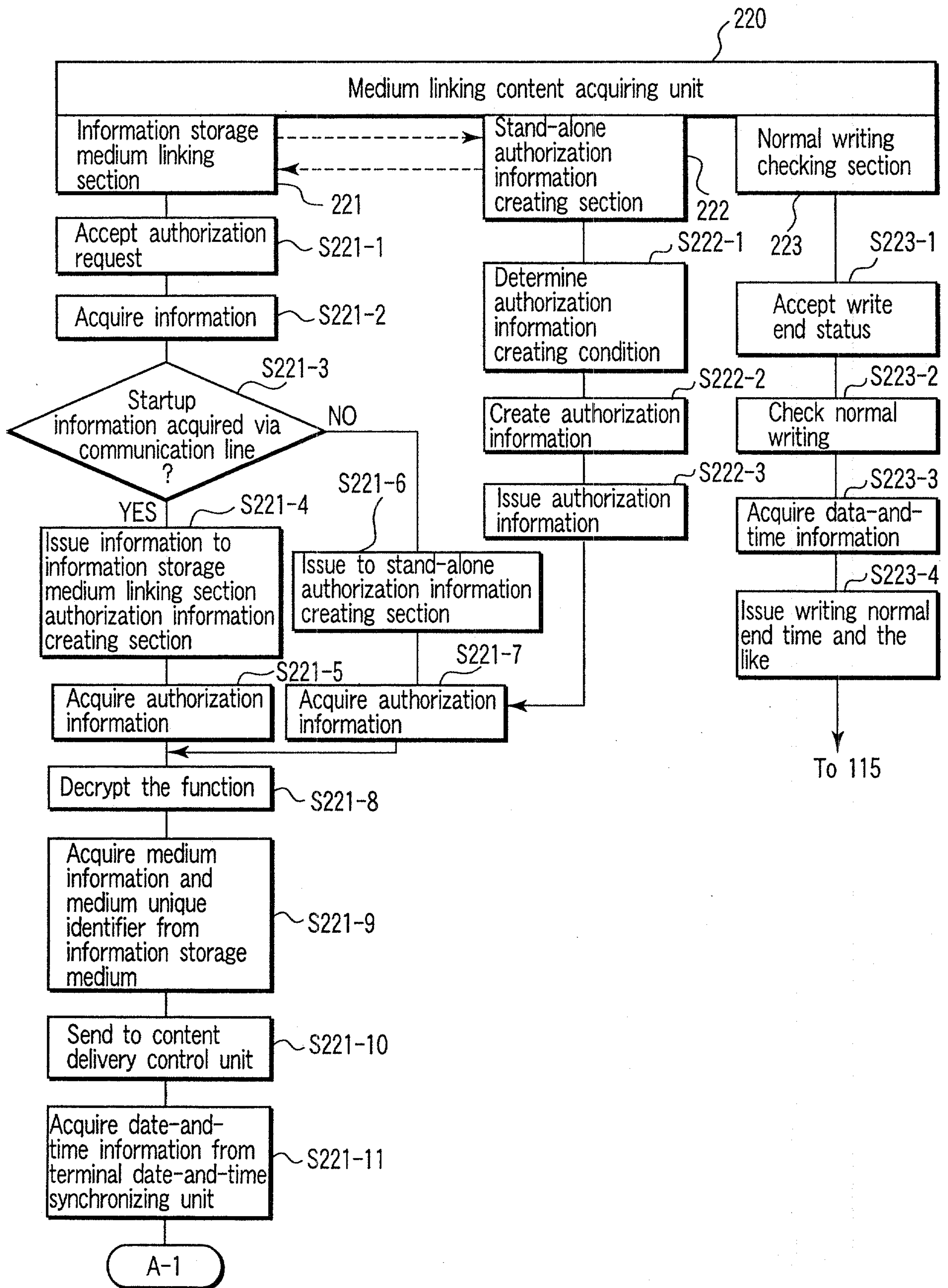


FIG. 9A

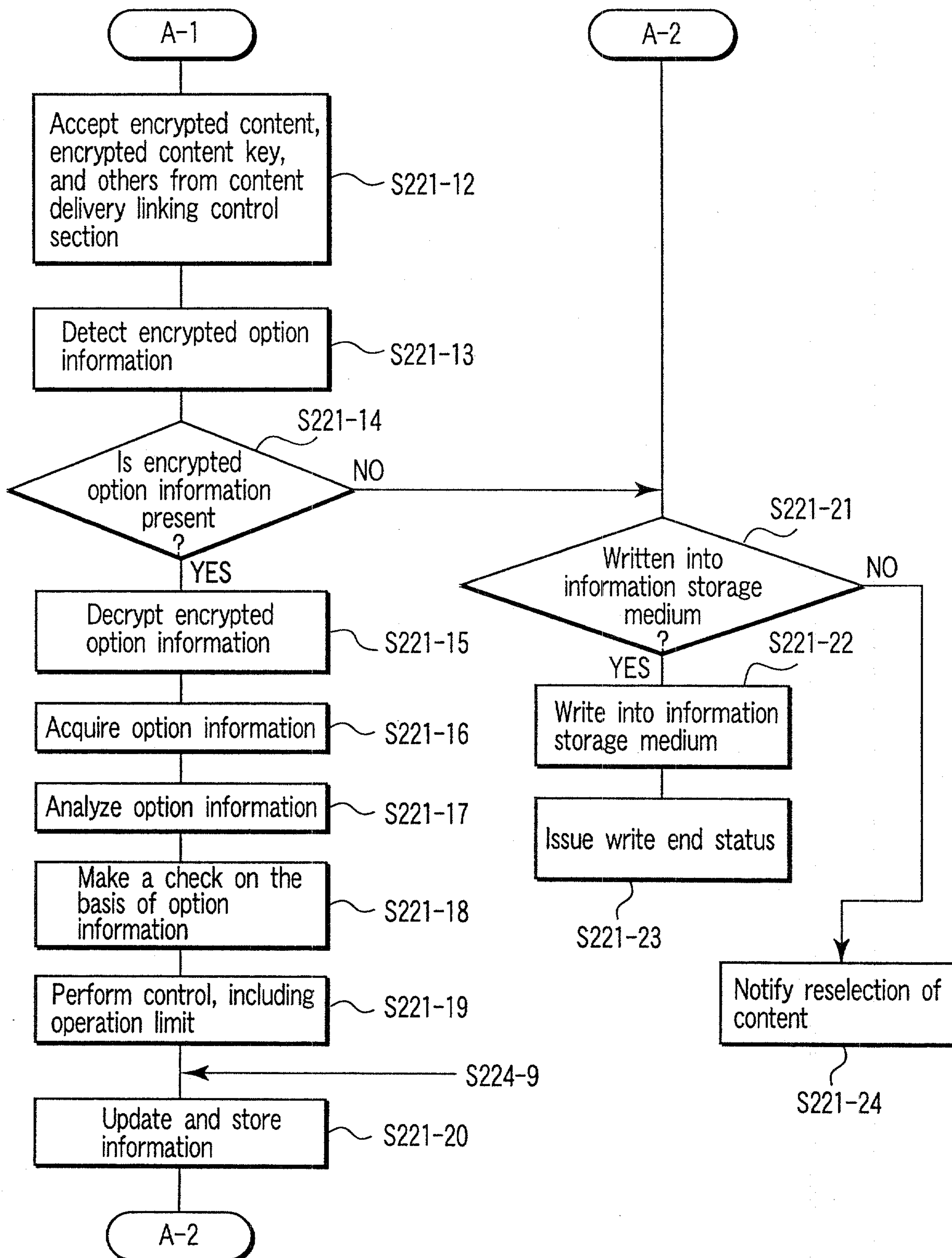


FIG. 9B

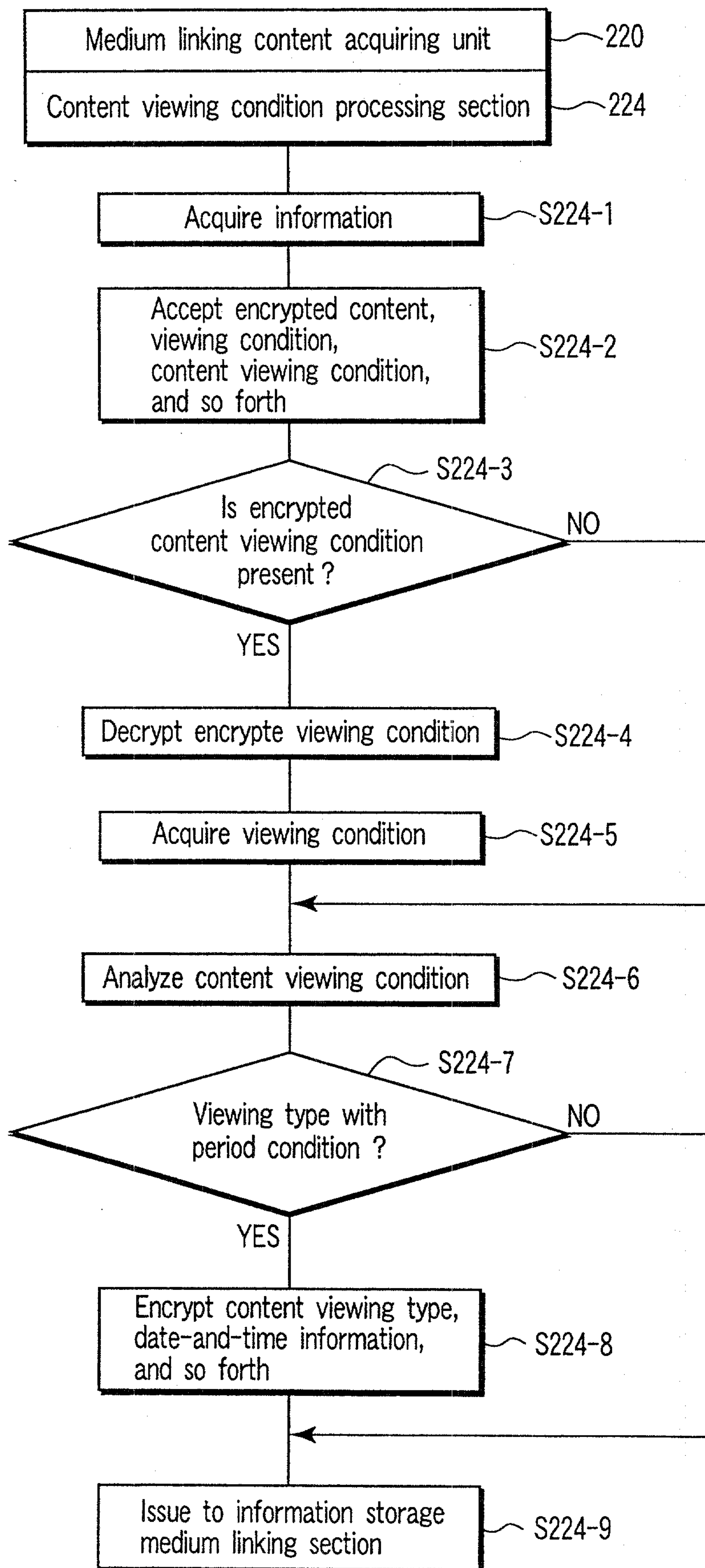


FIG. 10

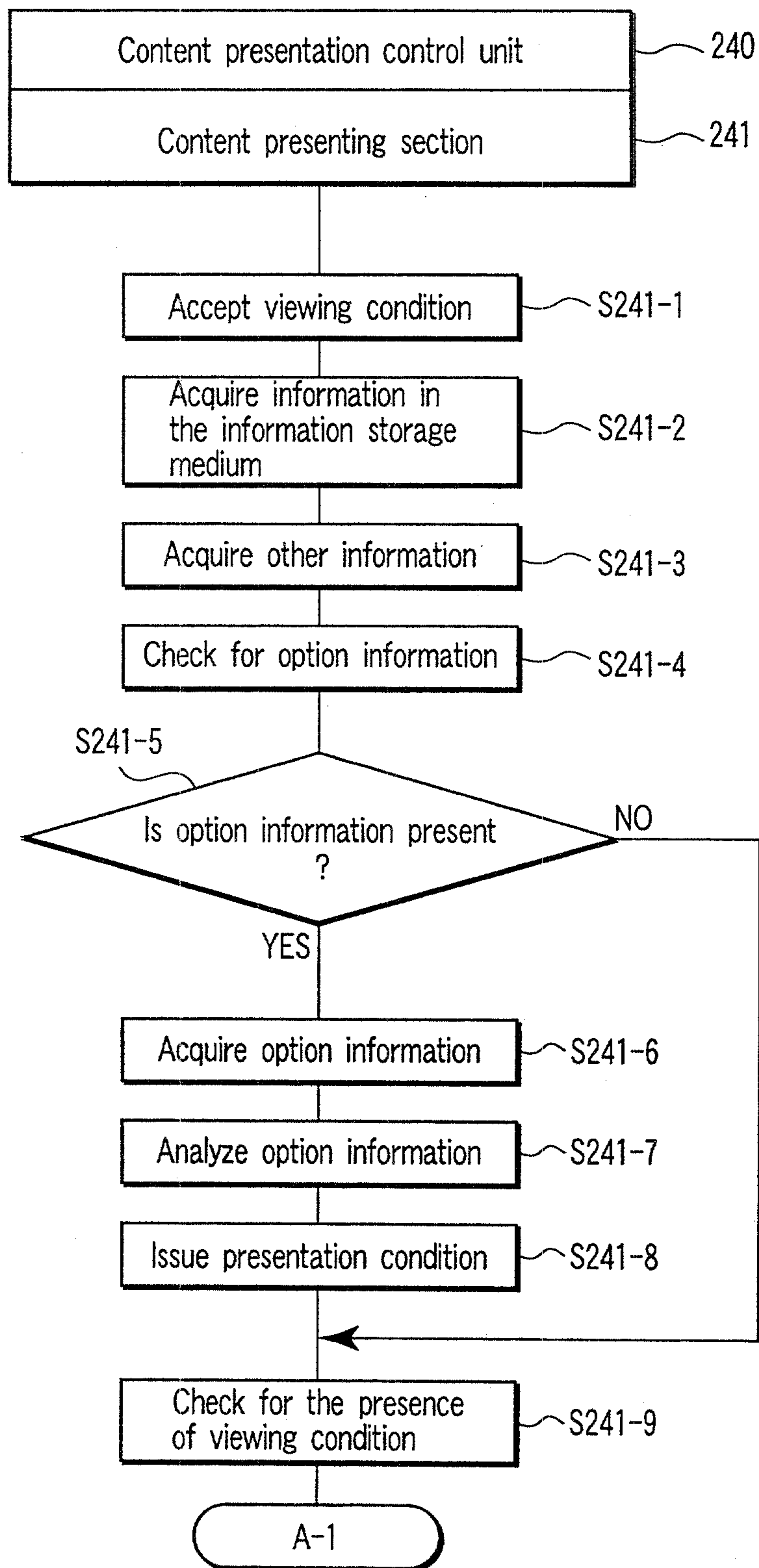
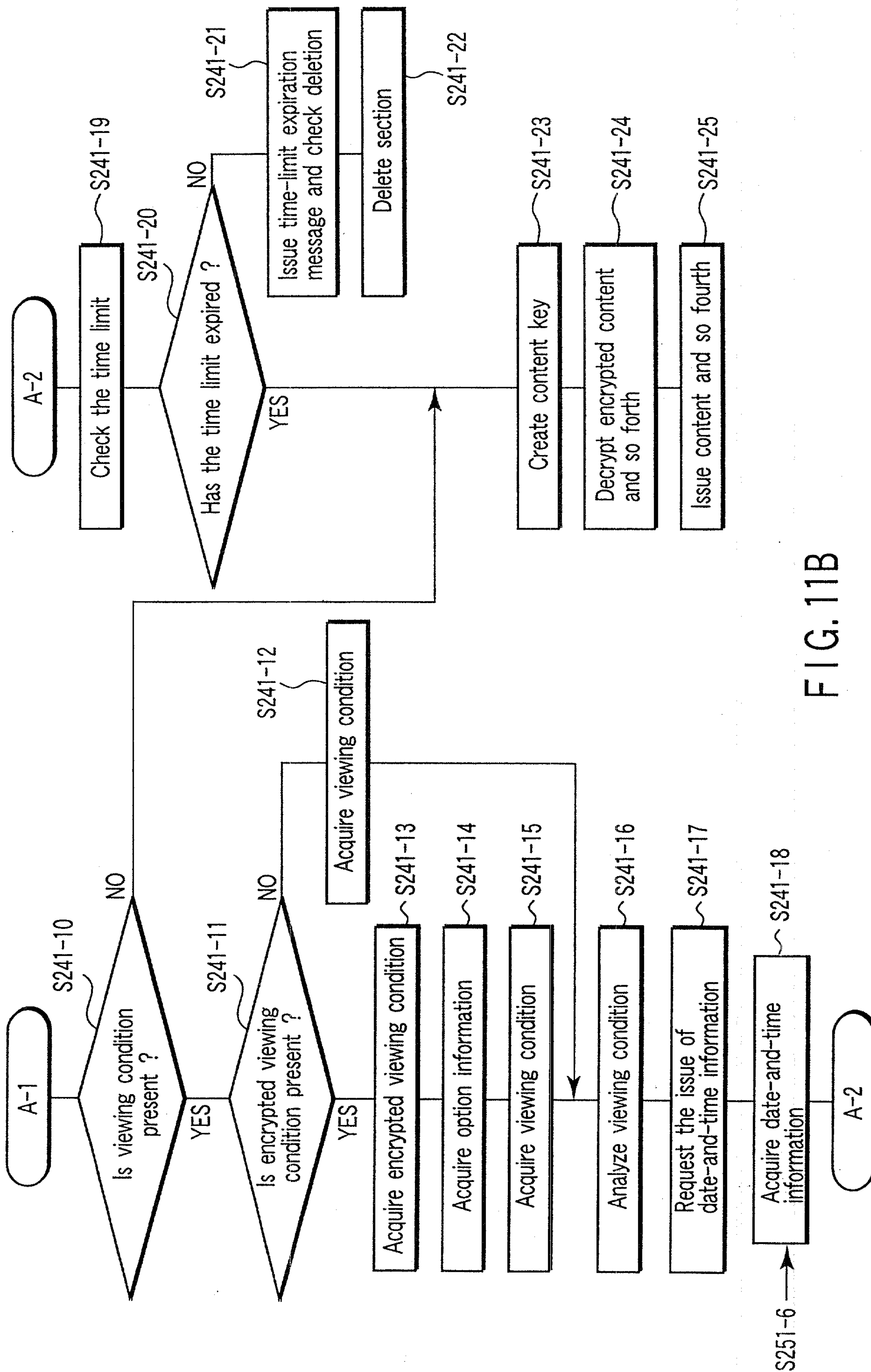


FIG. 11A



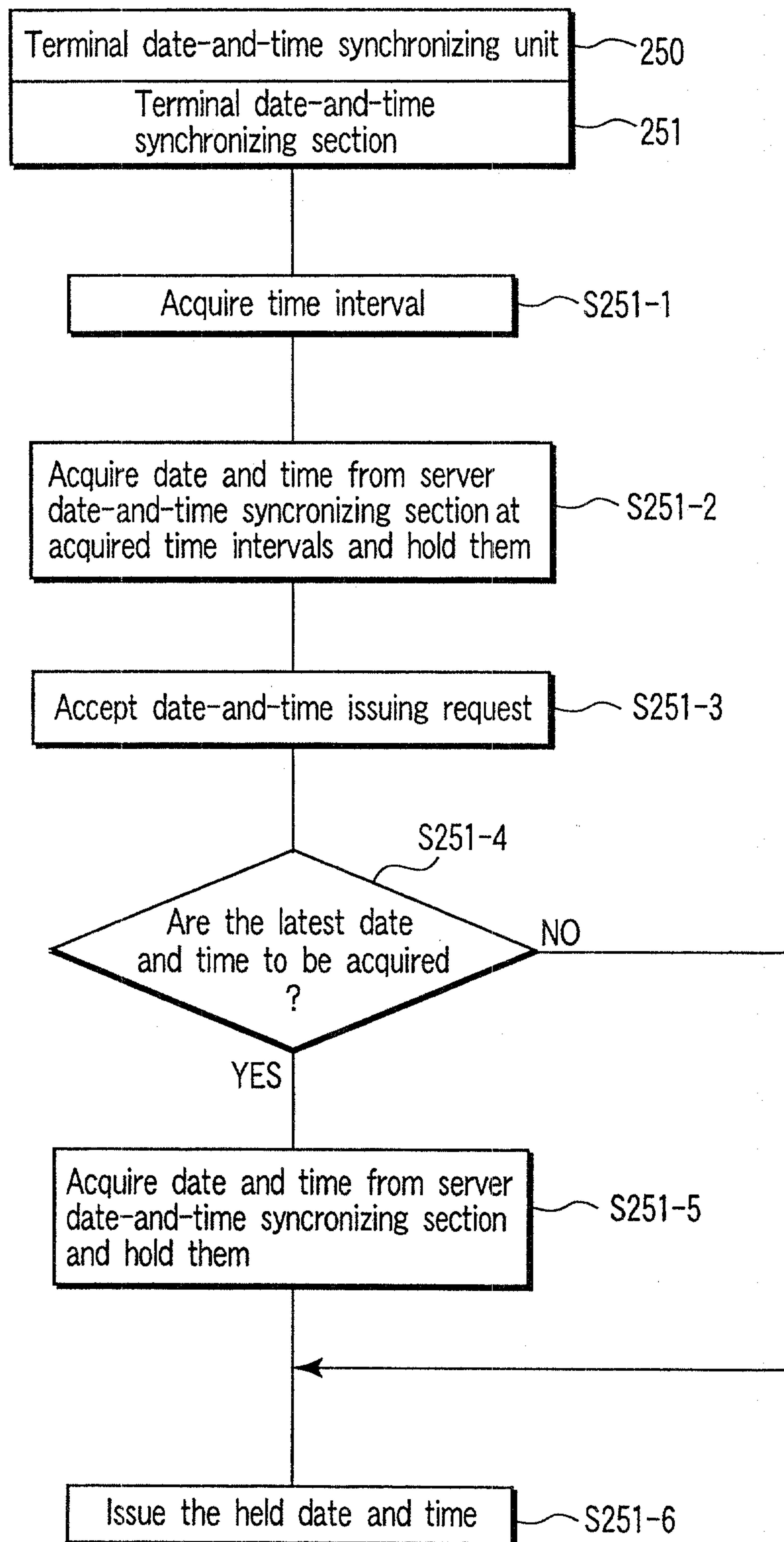


FIG. 12

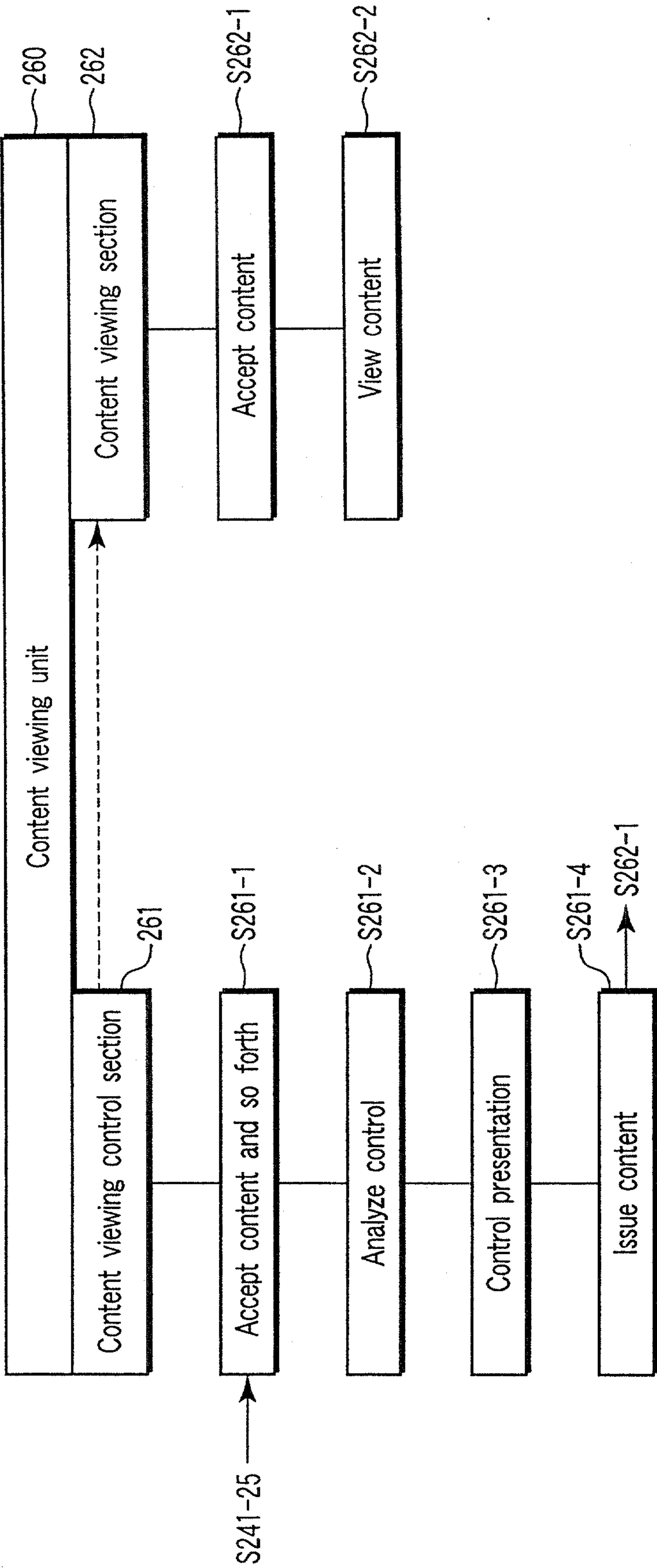


FIG. 13

