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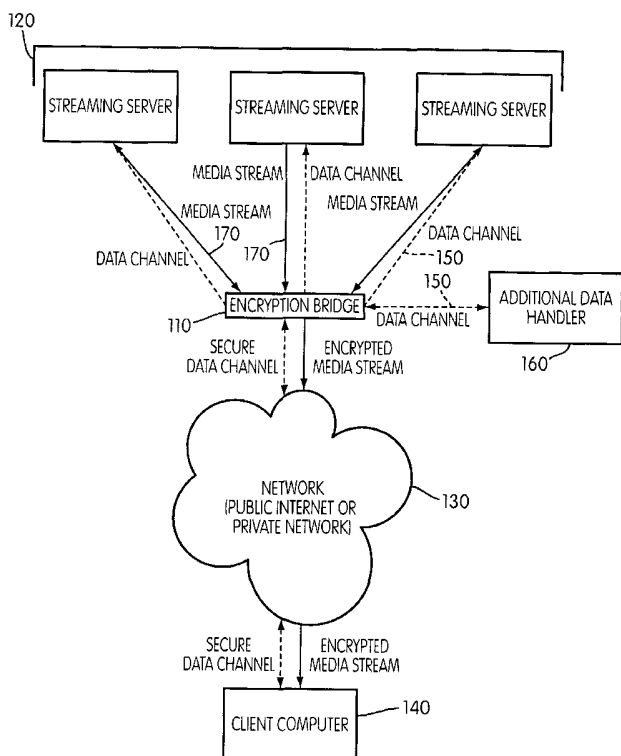
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SELECTIVELY ENCRYPTING DIFFERENT THE PAYLOAD PORTION OF MULTIMEDIA DATA SENT OVER A NETWORK



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for selectively encrypting portions of data sent over a network between a server and a client. The apparatus includes parsing means for separating a first portion of the data from a second portion of the data, encrypting means for encrypting only of the first portion of the data, and combining means for combining the encrypted first portion of the data with the second portion of the data, wherein the second portion of the data is not encrypted. The apparatus further includes decrypting means installed at the client for decrypting the encrypted portion of the data. The apparatus is platform independent in terms of media format and data protocol. The encryption unit encrypts data transparently to the client based on the media format. The apparatus of the invention is implemented as one of an application and a plug-in object. The method for selectively encrypting portions of data which differ from each other in at least on characteristic sent over a network between a server and a client includes parsing the data into a first and second portion, encrypting only the first portion of the data, and sending the encrypted first portion and the second portion of the data over the network to the client. The method further includes receiving data from the server, determining whether a data stream is established between the server and the client, and negotiating an encryption key with a decryption shim of the client.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 640 456 A (ADAMS JR RICHARD L ET AL) 17 June 1997 (1997-06-17)	1,3-6,8, 10-15, 17,18, 20,29, 30,36, 39,42
Y	abstract column 4, line 40 -column 5, line 11	2,7,9, 19,21, 22,24, 25,28, 31,37, 38,40, 41,43
A	column 5, line 61 -column 8, line 63	16,23, 26,27, 32-35, 44-47
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 883 957 A (MOLINE WILLIAM A ET AL) 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16)  abstract column 3, line 45 -column 4, line 64 column 9, line 37 - line 67 column 18, line 61 -column 22, line 19 ---	2,7,19, 21,22, 24,25, 31,37, 38,40, 41,43
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