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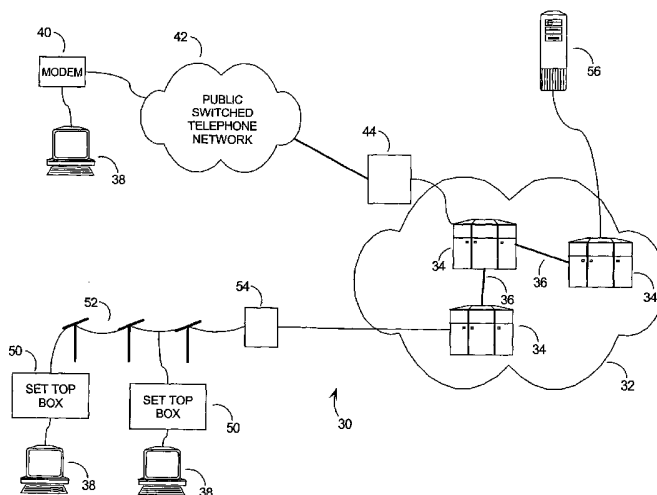
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(54) Title: DIGITAL DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The invention presents a method and system for secure distribution of digital media files including text, video, audio and combinations of these. The preferred embodiment describes the distribution of audio files (particularly music) which are presently being widely distributed over the Internet without compensating the various rights holders. The invention encrypts the audio content (except for an optional preview section) in a single executable file, allowing it to be freely distributed. When Consumers want to access the encrypted portion of the file, a decryption key is obtained from a remote server, but because the file includes an integral decryption engine, a decrypted copy of the file never appears on the Client side. Thus, there is no unprotected copy that the Consumer can illegally distribute. The invention also describes other advantageous techniques, such as bonding the decryption key to the consumer's computer, so it cannot be used by others.

WO 2001/065796 A3



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 H04L29/06 G06F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC 7 H04L G06F

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 11690 A (GLOVER JOHN J) 19 March 1998 (1998-03-19) page 3, line 30 -page 4, line 2 page 12, line 17 - line 20 page 29, line 13 - line 23 -----	1-9, 13-16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.
  Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Veen, G</p>
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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