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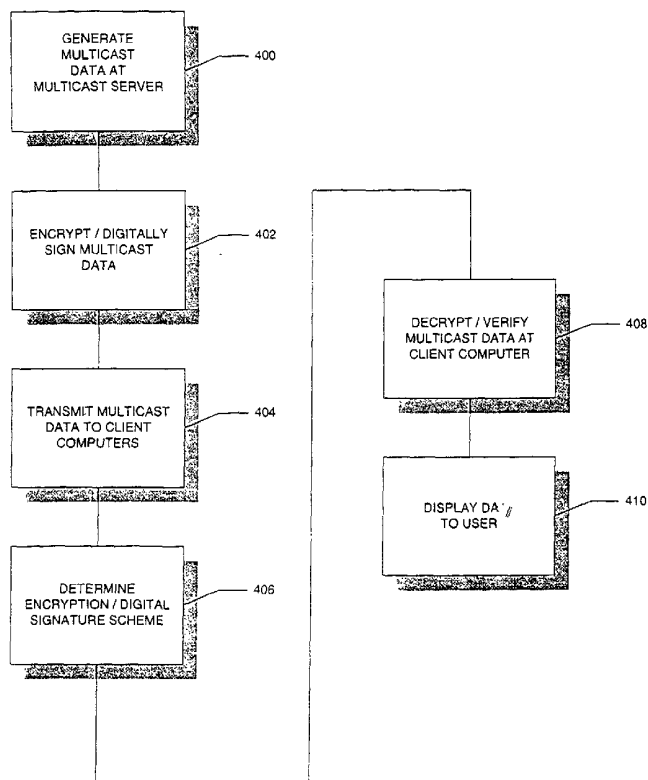
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURELY PROVIDING BILLABLE MULTICAST DATA



(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises a method and apparatus for securely providing billable multicast data. The invention describes a solution that provides an architecture for enabling different types of security devices to operate interchangeably in very large consumer networks, corporate networks, for authentication and metered access to services, as well as payment. An embodiment of the invention comprises a mechanism for ensuring that only authorized parties may obtain access to a particular data stream. For example, the present invention provides a way build a restricted-channel system. In a restricted-channel system, a multicast server transmits encrypted information that can be deciphered by authorized multicast client programs or multicast client programs operating under authorized conditions. Access to the multicast data is allowed when the data is appropriately decrypted or otherwise verified and/or the payment is obtained from a portable device such as a smart card.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L H04N

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 00 04718 A (BENARDEAU CHRISTIAN ; CANAL PLUS SA (FR); DAUVOIS JEAN LUC (FR)) 27 January 2000 (2000-01-27)	1-6, 9-15, 18-23, 26,27
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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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Information on patent family members

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