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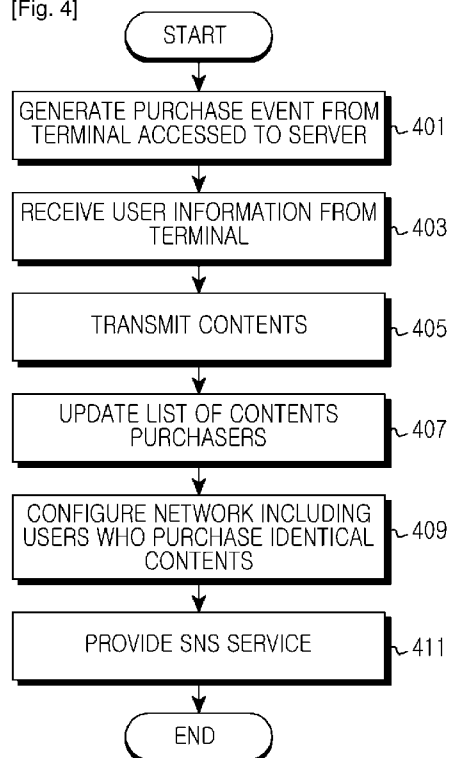
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING NETWORK BETWEEN USERS IN COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

[Fig. 4]



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus configure a network between users in a communication system. In a server, the method includes receiving user information from a terminal for purchasing contents, storing information on a purchaser for each of a plurality of contents, and configuring the network including users who purchase identical contents. Accordingly, the network can be automatically configured between user terminals on the basis of a contents purchase history of the user terminal in the communication system.



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Description

Title of Invention: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING NETWORK BETWEEN USERS IN COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Technical Field

- [1] The present invention relates to a communication system. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a network between user terminals in the communication system.

Background Art

- [2] A social network is defined as a network that horizontally extends from a user on the basis of individual identities on the Internet. As a network configured by adding other people around 'me', the social network includes different features from the conventional community. The social network is well appreciated in social relationships in a sense that personal value evaluation and personal connections have a great effect on human life. Further, the social network has rapidly spread since it is a very useful tool for creating individual personal connections.
- [3] A social network service is provided in such a manner that a user inputs user information to register to a specific site, and thereafter configures a network of users by selecting users for making personal connections or by receiving a recommendation of another user.
- [4] However, the aforementioned method has a risk that user information may be leaked when the user inputs the user information to register to the site. Also, the user experiences inconvenience when directly selecting other users to configure the network. In addition, there is a problem in that even if a different user is recommended, whether the recommended user is a right person cannot be known since there is no correct information on the different user.
- [5] Recently, with the growing demand on contents that can be purchased by using a user terminal, contents to be provided to the user terminal also tend to increase. It becomes difficult for the user terminal to find desired contents from a contents server due to the rapid increase of the contents. Of course, for user convenience, the contents server may show the contents by classifying the contents according to content type or show the contents in a descending order of sales. However, there is a high possibility that this method is not suitable for users' preference or taste. Therefore, the user inconveniently checks for a large amount of contents one by one to purchase desired contents, which may decrease a user's purchase desire.

Disclosure of Invention

Technical Problem

- [6] To address the above-discussed deficiencies of the prior art, it is a primary object to provide at least the advantages described below. Accordingly, an aspect of the present invention is to provide a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a network between user terminals in a communication system.
- [7] Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a network between user terminals on the basis of a contents purchase history of the user terminal in a communication system.
- [8] Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a method and apparatus for configuring a network between user terminals without having to directly input user information in a communication system.
- [9] Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a method and apparatus for recommending contents to each user terminal on the basis of a network configured between user terminals in a communication system.
- [10] In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, a method of a server for configuring a network between users in a communication system is provided. The method includes receiving user information from a terminal for purchasing contents, storing information on a purchaser for each of contents, and configuring the network including users who purchase identical contents.
- [11] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus of a server for configuring a network between users in a communication system is provided. The apparatus includes a communication module for receiving user information from a terminal for purchasing contents, a storage unit for storing information on a purchaser for each of contents, and a controller for configuring the network including users who purchase identical contents.
- [12] Before undertaking the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION below, it may be advantageous to set forth definitions of certain words and phrases used throughout this patent document: the terms “include” and “comprise,” as well as derivatives thereof, mean inclusion without limitation; the term “or,” is inclusive, meaning and/or; the phrases “associated with” and “associated therewith,” as well as derivatives thereof, may mean to include, be included within, interconnect with, contain, be contained within, connect to or with, couple to or with, be communicable with, cooperate with, interleave, juxtapose, be proximate to, be bound to or with, have, have a property of, or the like; and the term “controller” means any device, system or part thereof that controls at least one operation, such a device may be implemented in hardware, firmware or software, or some combination of at least two of the same. It should be noted that the functionality associated with any particular controller may be

centralized or distributed, whether locally or remotely. Definitions for certain words and phrases are provided throughout this patent document, those of ordinary skill in the art should understand that in many, if not most instances, such definitions apply to prior, as well as future uses of such defined words and phrases.

Brief Description of Drawings

- [13] For a more complete understanding of the present disclosure and its advantages, reference is now made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals represent like parts:
- [14] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a communication terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- [15] FIG. 2 is block diagram of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- [16] FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a process of operating a communication terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- [17] FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a process of configuring a network of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- [18] FIG. 5 illustrates purchaser information per contents stored in a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- [19] FIG. 6A and FIG. 6B illustrate examples of configuring a social network based on contents purchaser information in a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention; and
- [20] FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a process of recommending contents of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

- [21] FIGURES 1 through 7, discussed below, and the various embodiments used to describe the principles of the present disclosure in this patent document are by way of illustration only and should not be construed in any way to limit the scope of the disclosure. Those skilled in the art will understand that the principles of the present disclosure may be implemented in any suitably arranged network. Exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described herein below with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description, well-known functions or constructions are not described in detail since they would obscure the invention in unnecessary detail. Also, the terms used herein are defined according to the functions of the present invention. Thus, the terms may vary depending on user's or operator's intension and usage. That is, the terms used herein are to be understood based on the descriptions made herein.
- [22] The present invention described below relates to a method and apparatus for auto-

matically configuring a network between user terminals on the basis of a contents purchase history of the user terminal in a communication system. A communication terminal described below includes all terminals that can communicate with other devices, such as a mobile communication terminal, a Personal Computer (PC), a laptop, a netbook, and the like.

- [23] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a communication terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [24] Referring to FIG. 1, the communication terminal includes a controller 100, a communication module 110, an input unit 120, a display unit 130, and a storage unit 140. The controller 100 includes a contents controller 102.
- [25] The controller 100 provides overall control to the communication terminal, and controls and processes a function for purchasing contents by accessing a contents server via the contents controller 102. That is, at the occurrence of a contents purchase event provided from the contents server based on a user's manipulation, the contents controller 102 provides the contents server with pre-stored user information to use a Social Network Service (SNS) based on the contents, and controls and processes a function for downloading the contents from the contents server. The contents controller 102 displays onto the display unit 130 a message that inquires whether to agree to use user information in order to use the SNS based on the contents to be purchased. Then, the contents controller 102 can receive information indicating whether the user agrees to use the information. The contents controller 102 can transmit the user information to the contents server only when the user agrees to use the information. That is, if the user does not agree to transmit the user information to the contents server, the contents controller 102 does not transmit the user information to the contents server, and the user cannot use the SNS based on the contents to be purchased.
- [26] When the downloaded contents are executed, the contents controller 102 controls a function to provide a menu that can use the contents-based SNS. For example, the contents controller 102 can control a function for receiving a user's opinion on the contents and transmitting the opinion to the contents server, or for receiving an opinion registered by other users who purchase the contents from the contents server and providing the opinion to the user via the display unit 130. Further, the contents controller 102 can control a function for receiving information on the SNS configured based on the contents from the contents server and for performing communication directly to other users belonging to the SNS.
- [27] The communication module 110 communicates with the contents server by using a predetermined communication rule under the control of the controller 100. That is, the communication module 110 accesses the contents server under the control of the controller 100, transmits a specific contents purchase signal and a signal including the

user information to the accessed contents server, and receives the specific contents from the contents server and then provides the contents to the controller 100. Further, the communication module 110 transmits and receives a signal for using the contents-based SNS under the control of the controller 100.

[28] The input unit 120 includes at least one key button or touch sensor, and thus receives data input from the user and provides the received data to the controller 100. That is, the input unit 120 includes a keypad including at least one of a numeric character, an alphabetical character, and a function key, and thus provides data corresponding to a key pressed by the user to the controller 100. The input unit 120 may also include a touch sensor and thus provide the controller 100 with data corresponding to a coordinate touched by the user. In one embodiment, according to the present invention, the input unit 120 can receive data for indicating purchasing of contents, and can receive an indication whether to agree to provide the user information to the contents server in order to use the contents-based SNS.

[29] The display unit 130 displays a variety of state information, numeric characters, alphabetical characters, and images which are generated while the communication terminal is operating. In one embodiment, the display unit 130 can display a contents list that indicates contents provided from the contents server under the control of the controller 100, and can display a message for inquiring whether to agree to provide the user information to the contents server in order to use the SNS based on the contents to be purchased.

[30] The storage unit 140 stores data and various programs for overall operations of the communication terminal, and stores user information and contents downloaded from the contents server. Herein, the user information may be information input by the user, and may be information obtained from a Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) card inserted into the communication terminal. For example, the user information may be information previously input by the user to use the SNS, and may be information obtained when the user information is input for a specific user account. Herein, the user information may include a variety of information (e.g., user identification (ID), nickname, age, gender, address, phone number, hobby, specialty, date of birth, occupation, and the like.)

[31] FIG. 2 is block diagram of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[32] Referring to FIG. 2, the contents server includes a controller 200, a communication module 210, and a storage unit 220. The controller 200 includes a contents purchase manager 202, an SNS creator 204, and a contents recommender 206. The storage unit 220 includes a contents purchase information storage unit 222 and an SNS storage unit 224.

- [33] The controller 200 controls and processes an overall operation of the contents server. In one embodiment, the controller 200 collects purchaser information on each of one or more contents provided from the contents server via the contents purchase manager 202, and controls and processes a function for configuring a network between users via the SNS creator 204 on the basis of the purchaser information on each of the contents.
- [34] That is, upon receiving a purchase signal for specific contents from a terminal via the communication module 210, the contents purchase manager 202 transmits the specific contents to the terminal. The contents purchase manager 202 determines whether a signal including the user information is received from the terminal. Upon receiving the signal including the user information, the contents purchase manager 202 determines the received user information as the contents purchaser, and provides the user information to the storage unit 220. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the contents purchase manager 202 collects user information on users (i.e., UE1, UE4, UE5, and UE8) who purchase e-book1 contents and stores the user information to the storage unit 220, and receives user information on users (i.e., UE1, UE7, UE11, and UE13) who purchase e-book2 contents and provides the user information to the storage unit 220.
- [35] In addition, the SNS creator 204 controls and processes a function for configuring a contents-based user network by using purchaser information per contents stored in the contents purchase information storage unit 222 of the storage unit 220. That is, the SNS creator 204 configures one network between users who purchase at least one identical content, and stores information on the configured information to the SNS storage unit 224. The SNS creator 204 can configure the network between users who purchase one identical contents, and can configure the network between users who purchase a plurality of identical contents. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 6A, the network can be configured between users who purchase one identical content, and as illustrated in FIG. 6B, the network can be configured between users who purchase two identical contents. In addition, at the occurrence of a purchase event for specific contents, the SNS creator 204 controls and processes a function for updating a pre-configured network on the basis of the specific contents by receiving a list of users who purchase the specific contents from the storage unit 220. For example, the SNS creator 204 can configure users (i.e., UE1, UE4, UE5, and UE8) who purchase the e-book1 contents as one network group, and can configure users (i.e., UE4, UE5, and UE8) who purchase both the e-book1 contents and movie1 contents as one network group.
- [36] Further, when it is determined that the communication terminal is accessed via the communication module 210, the contents recommender 206 controls and processes a function for generating a contents recommendation list on the basis of a purchase

history of the terminal. That is, the contents recommender 206 evaluates a network group including the accessed terminal, and controls and processes a function for generating a contents list to be recommended to the accessed terminal on the basis of the a purchase history of terminals belonging to the evaluated network group and for transmitting the generated contents list to the terminal. For example, the contents recommender 206 can evaluate contents purchased by other terminals belonging to the network group including the accessed terminal, and can determine a purchase ratio for each of the evaluated contents. Then, by selecting contents having a purchase ratio higher than a predetermined threshold, the contents recommender 206 can determine the selected contents as contents to be recommended for the accessed terminal. Further, the contents recommender 206 can select a specific number of contents in a descending order of the purchase ratio, and then can determine the selected contents as contents to be recommended for the accessed terminal. Herein, the purchase ratio of each of the contents implies a ratio of terminals that purchase each of contents to the terminals which belong to the network. For example, referring to FIG. 5 and FIG. 6, when the UE1 accesses to the server, the contents recommender 206 confirms that the UE1 purchases the e-book1 contents and the e-book2 contents and that the UE1 corresponds to two network groups, and also confirms that the UE4, UE5, and UE8 included in the network group of the e-book1 and the UE7, UE11, and UE13 included in the network group of the e-book2 purchase a movie1, a movie2, a magazine1, and a magazine2. In this embodiment, the movie1 is purchased by three users (i.e., UE4, UE5, and UE8), the magazine1 is purchased by two users (i.e., UE11 and UE13), and each of the movie2 and the magazine2 is purchased by one user (i.e., UE7 and UE8). Therefore, the contents recommender 206 can select the movie1 and the magazine1 in a descending order of the number of purchasers, i.e., in a descending order of the purchase ratio, and can recommend the selected one to the UE1.

[37] The communication module 210 performs communication with the communication terminal by using a predetermined communication rule under the control of the controller 200. That is, the communication module 210 transmits a contents list to the terminal under the control of the controller 200, and receives a specific contents purchase signal and a signal including user information to the controller 200. Further, the communication module 210 transmits and receives a signal for providing a contents-based SNS to a terminal that purchases the contents under the control of the controller 200.

[38] The storage unit 220 stores data and various programs for overall operations of the contents, and stores a plurality of contents. Further, the storage unit 220 stores purchaser information on each of the contents to the contents purchase information storage unit 222, and stores information on a user network configured based on

contents into the SNS storage unit 224. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the contents purchase information storage unit 222 can store information indicating that users who purchase the e-book1 contents are the UE1, UE4, UE5, and UE8, and can store information indicating that users who purchase the e-book2 contents are the UE1, UE7, UE11, and UE13. Further, under the control of the SNS creator 204, the SNS storage unit 224 can store the users (i.e., UE1, UE4, UE5, and UE8) who purchase the e-book1 contents as one network group as illustrated in FIG. 6A, and can store users (i.e., UE4, UE5, and UE8) who purchase both the e-book1 contents and the movie1 contents as one network group as illustrated in FIG. 6B.

- [39] FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a process of operating a communication terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [40] Referring to FIG. 3, the communication terminal accesses a contents server based on a user's manipulation in step 301, and generates a contents purchase event in step 303. That is, when the communication terminal accesses the contents server and displays contents provided from the contents server onto a screen, a user can generate an event for purchasing specific contents through a key button input or a screen touch.
- [41] The communication terminal transmits pre-stored user information to the contents server in step 305, and downloads the contents from the contents server in step 307. The communication terminal can display onto the screen a message for inquiring whether to agree to provide user information to the contents server in order to use an SNS based on contents to be purchased. Thereafter, the communication terminal can determine whether the user agrees to provide the user information under the control of the user, and can transmit the user information to the contents server only when the user agrees to do so. That is, if the user does not agree to transmit the user information to the contents server, the communication terminal does not transmit the user information to the contents server, and the user cannot use the SNS based on the contents to be purchased.
- [42] In step 309, the communication terminal can use the SNS by executing the contents based on the user's manipulation. For example, the communication terminal can receive a user's opinion on the contents and transmit the opinion to the contents server, or can receive an opinion registered by other users who purchase the contents from the contents server and then display the opinion onto the screen. Herein, the other users may be users who belong to a network configured on the basis of users who purchase the contents from the contents server, and in other words, may be users who purchase the same contents as that used in the communication terminal.
- [43] Although not shown in FIG. 3, the communication terminal may receive information on the SNS generated based on the contents from the contents server and then perform communication directly to the other users who belong to the SNS.

- [44] FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a process of configuring a network of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [45] Referring to FIG. 4, the contents server determines whether an event for purchasing specific contents is detected from a terminal that accesses a server in step 401. Upon detection of the event for purchasing the specific contents, proceeding to step 403, the contents server receives user information from the terminal. Then, in step 405, the contents server transmits the specific contents to the terminal. Although not shown, if the terminal does not want to use an SNS based on the specific contents, instead of receiving the user information from the terminal, the contents server receives a signal indicating that a user does not agree to use the SNS and excludes the terminal from an SNS providing, i.e., a network configuring target, and transmits the contents to the terminal. Thereafter, the procedure of FIG. 4 ends. The terminal may agree to use an SNS for contents B even if the terminal does not agree to use an SNS for contents A. Therefore, the contents server may exclude the terminal from a network configuring target for the contents A, and may include the terminal to a network configuring target for the contents B. In addition, excluding of the terminal from the network configuring target for the contents A may mean that the terminal is not stored as a purchaser of the contents A.
- [46] The contents server that transmits the contents updates a list of users who purchase the specific contents in step 407. That is, the contents server adds user information received in step 403 to the pre-stored specific contents purchaser list, and thus stores the list of users who purchase the specific contents. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the list of users who purchase e-book1 contents are UE1, UE4, UE5, and UE8, and that the list of users who purchase e-book2 contents are UE1, UE7, UE11, and UE13. In this embodiment, information on each user (e.g., user ID, nickname, age, gender, address, phone number, hobby, specialty, data of birth, occupation, and the like) is stored together.
- [47] Thereafter, the contents server configures a network including users who purchase identical contents in step 409. The contents server can configure the network between users who purchase one identical content, and can configure the network between users who purchase a plurality of identical contents. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 6A, users who purchase the e-book1 contents may be configured as one network, users who purchase the e-book2 contents may be configured as one network, and users who purchase the movie2 contents may be configured as one network. Further, as illustrated in FIG. 6B, users who purchase both the e-book1 contents and the movie1 contents may be configured as one network, and users who purchase both the e-book2 contents and the magazine1 contents may be configured as one network. In this embodiment, the contents server may configure users who purchase three or more identical contents

as one network.

- [48] In step 411, the contents server provides an SNS on the basis of the network configured between users. For example, upon receiving a user's opinion from a communication terminal that purchases contents A, the contents server can transmit the received user's opinion to terminals of other users who belong to the network configured based on the contents A. In addition, the contents server can transmit information on the network configured based on the contents A to each UE that purchases the contents A.
- [49] Thereafter, the procedure of FIG. 4 ends.
- [50] FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a process of recommending contents of a contents server according to an embodiment of the present invention.
- [51] Referring to FIG. 7, if it is detected that a communication terminal accesses a server in step 701, proceeding to step 703, the contents server confirms a network group depending on a purchase history of the terminal of which the access is detected. That is, the contents server confirms the configured network group on the basis of contents which have been previously purchased by the terminal of which the access is detected. For example, referring to FIG. 5, if the communication terminal which accesses the server is UE1, the communication terminal confirms a network group (i.e., UE1, UE4, UE5, UE8) configured when the UE1 purchases an e-book1 and a network group (i.e., UE1, UE7, UE11, UE13) configured when the UE1 purchases an e-book2.
- [52] In step 705, the contents server evaluates contents purchased by other terminals that belong to a network group including the accessed terminal. In step 707, the contents server determines a purchase ratio for each of the evaluated contents. In step 709, the contents server generates a list including contents to be recommended to the accessed terminal according to the determined purchase ratio. Herein, the contents server can determine the purchase ratio for each of the evaluated contents and then generate a recommended contents list by selecting contents having a purchase ratio higher than a predetermined threshold. Alternatively, a certain number of contents can be selected in a descending order of the purchase ratio to generate the recommended contents list. For example, referring to FIG. 5, if the communication terminal that accesses the contents server is the UE1, the contents server confirms a network group (i.e., UE1, UE4, UE5, UE8) configured when the UE1 purchases the e-book1 and a network group (i.e., UE1, UE7, UE11, UE13) configured when the UE1 purchases the e-book2, and confirms that terminals (i.e., UE4, UE5, UE8) included in the network group of the e-book1 and terminals (i.e., UE7, UE11, UE13) purchase the movie1, the movie2, the magazine1, and the magazine2. In this embodiment, the server confirms that the movie1 is purchased by three terminals (i.e., UE4, UE5, UE8) and the magazine1 is purchased by two terminals (i.e., UE11 and UE13), and confirms that each of the movie2 and the

magazine2 is purchased by one terminal (i.e., UE7 and UE8). Thereafter, the server can select the movie1 and the magazine1 in a descending order of the number of purchasers, i.e., in a descending order of the purchase ratio, and then can generate a list of contents to be recommended to the UE1.

[53] In step 711, the contents server transmits the generated recommended contents list to the accessed communication terminal, and then the procedure of FIG. 7 ends.

[54] According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, a communication system automatically configures a network between user terminals on the basis of a contents purchase history of the user terminal. Therefore, a user can be prevented from directly inputting information, and a risk of leaking user information can be reduced. Further, purchasing of contents can be promoted, and a social network service can be activated. In addition, by recommending contents to each user terminal on the basis of a contents purchase history of user terminals which belong to the same network in the communication system, the present invention has an advantage in that even if the user does not additionally search for contents, contents suitable for user's preference and taste can be recommended, and consumption of new contents can be promoted while activating a social network service between users who own at least one identical contents.

[55] While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

- [Claim 1] For use by a server, a method for configuring a network between users in a communication system, the method comprising:
receiving user information from a terminal for purchasing contents;
storing information on a purchaser for each of the contents; and
configuring the network including users who purchase identical contents.
- [Claim 2] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring of the network comprises configuring the users who purchase one identical content as one network group.
- [Claim 3] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring of the network comprises configuring users who purchase at least two identical contents as one network group.
- [Claim 4] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, from the terminal that purchases the contents, a signal indicating that the use of the network service is not agreed between users;
and
excluding the terminal that transmits the signal indicating that the use of the network service is not agreed between users for the purchase of contents from a network configuration target.
- [Claim 5] The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the configuring of the network, upon receiving an opinion on specific contents from the terminal, transmitting the opinion to other terminals that belong to a network configured based on the specific contents.
- [Claim 6] The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the configuring of the network, transmitting information of terminals that belong to the same network to a terminal that belongs to a specific network.
- [Claim 7] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
upon detection of an access of the terminal, evaluating the configured network on the basis of the contents purchased by the terminal;
determining recommended contents on the basis of the contents purchased by other terminals that belong to the evaluated network; and
transmitting a list including the recommended contents to the accessed terminal.
- [Claim 8] The method of claim 7, wherein the determining of the recommended contents comprises:
determining a purchase ratio for each of the contents purchased by the

other terminals; and

determining the recommended contents on the basis of the purchase ratio,

wherein the purchase ratio represents a ratio of terminals that purchase corresponding contents to all terminals that belong to the network group.

[Claim 9] An apparatus of a server for configuring a network between users in a communication system, the apparatus comprising:
a communication module (210) configured to receive user information from a terminal for purchasing contents;
a storage unit (220) configured to store information on a purchaser for each of the contents; and
a controller (200) configured to configure the network including users who purchase identical contents.

[Claim 10] The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller (200) configures the users who purchase one identical content as one network group.

[Claim 11] The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller (200) configures users who purchase at least two identical contents as one network group.

[Claim 12] The apparatus of claim 9,
wherein the communication module (210) receives, from the terminal that purchases the contents, a signal indicating that the use of the network service is not agreed between users, and
wherein the controller (200) excludes the terminal that transmits the signal indicating that the use of the network service is not agreed between users for the purchase contents from a network configuration target.

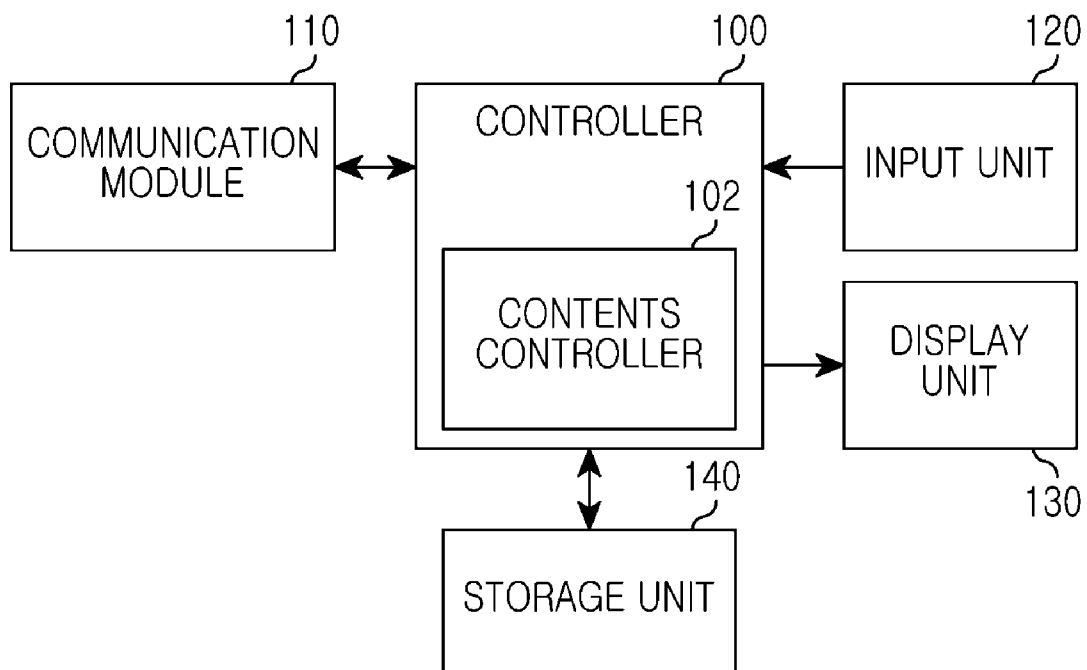
[Claim 13] The apparatus of claim 9, wherein after the configuring of the network, upon receiving of an opinion on specific contents from the terminal, the controller (200) transmits the opinion to other terminals that belong to a network configured based on the specific contents.

[Claim 14] The apparatus of claim 9, wherein after the configuring of the network, the controller (200) transmits information of terminals that belong to the same network to a terminal that belongs to a specific network.

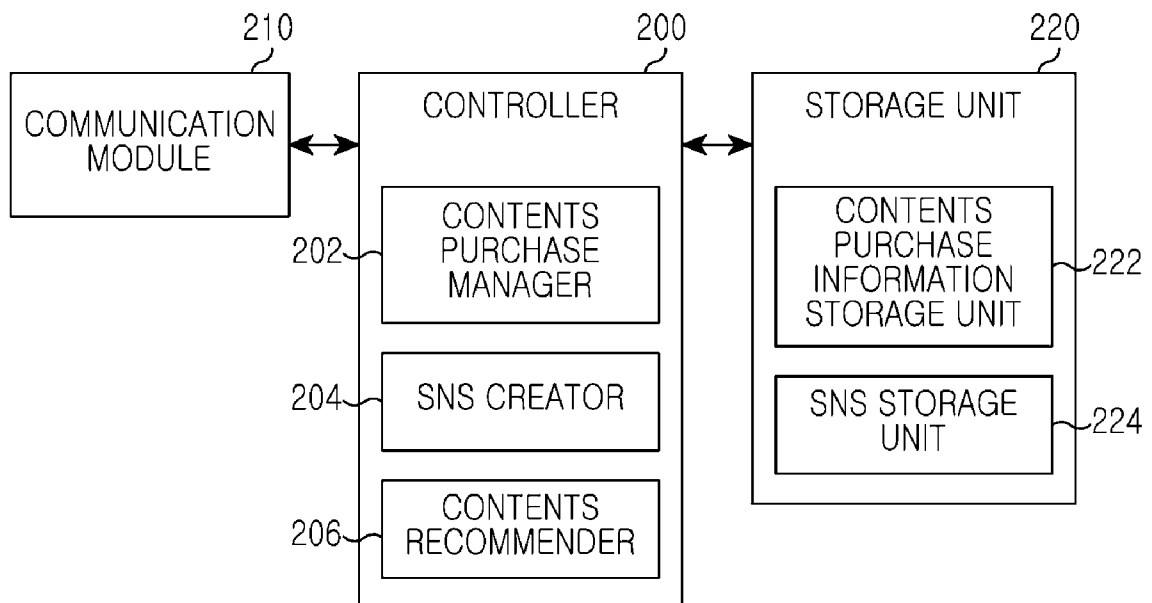
[Claim 15] The apparatus of claim 10, wherein upon detection of an access of the terminal, the controller (200) evaluates the configured network on the basis of the contents purchased by the terminal determines a purchase ratio for each of the contents purchased by other terminals that belong to the evaluated network, and determines the recommended contents on

the basis of the purchase ratio, and transmits a list including the recommended contents to the accessed terminal, and wherein the purchase ratio represents a rate of terminals that purchase corresponding contents to all terminals that belong to the network group.

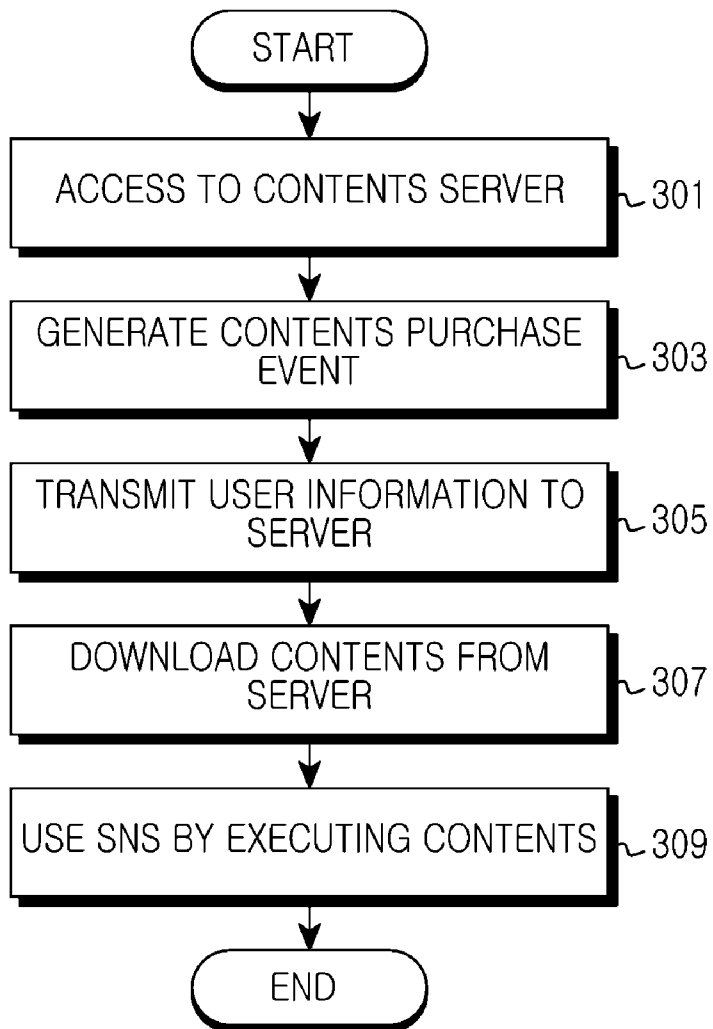
[Fig. 1]



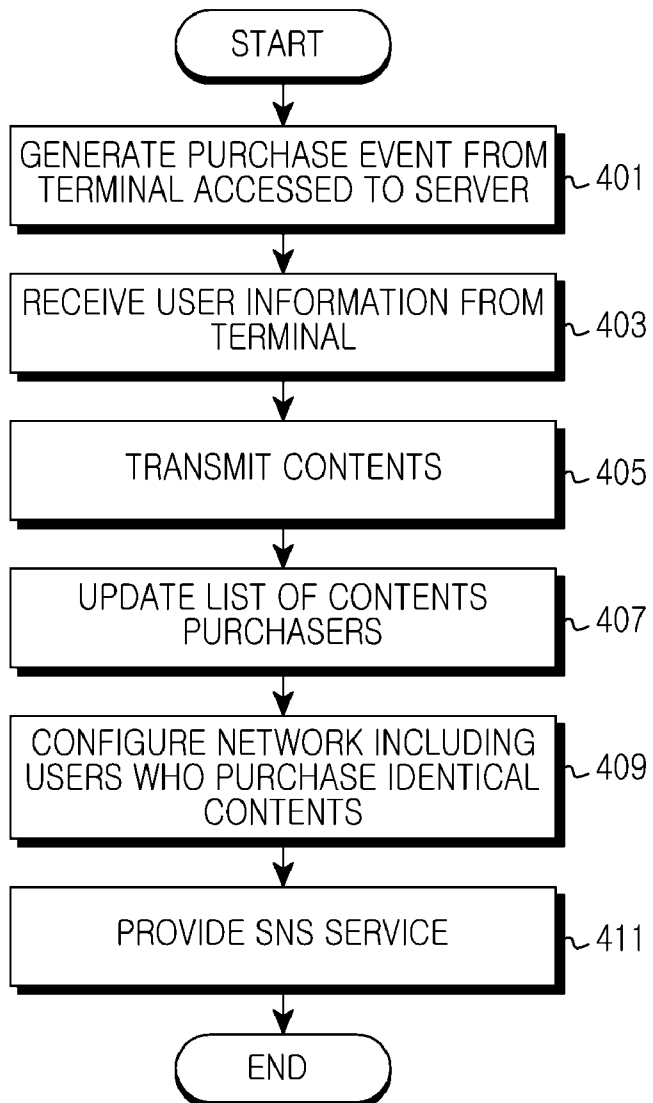
[Fig. 2]



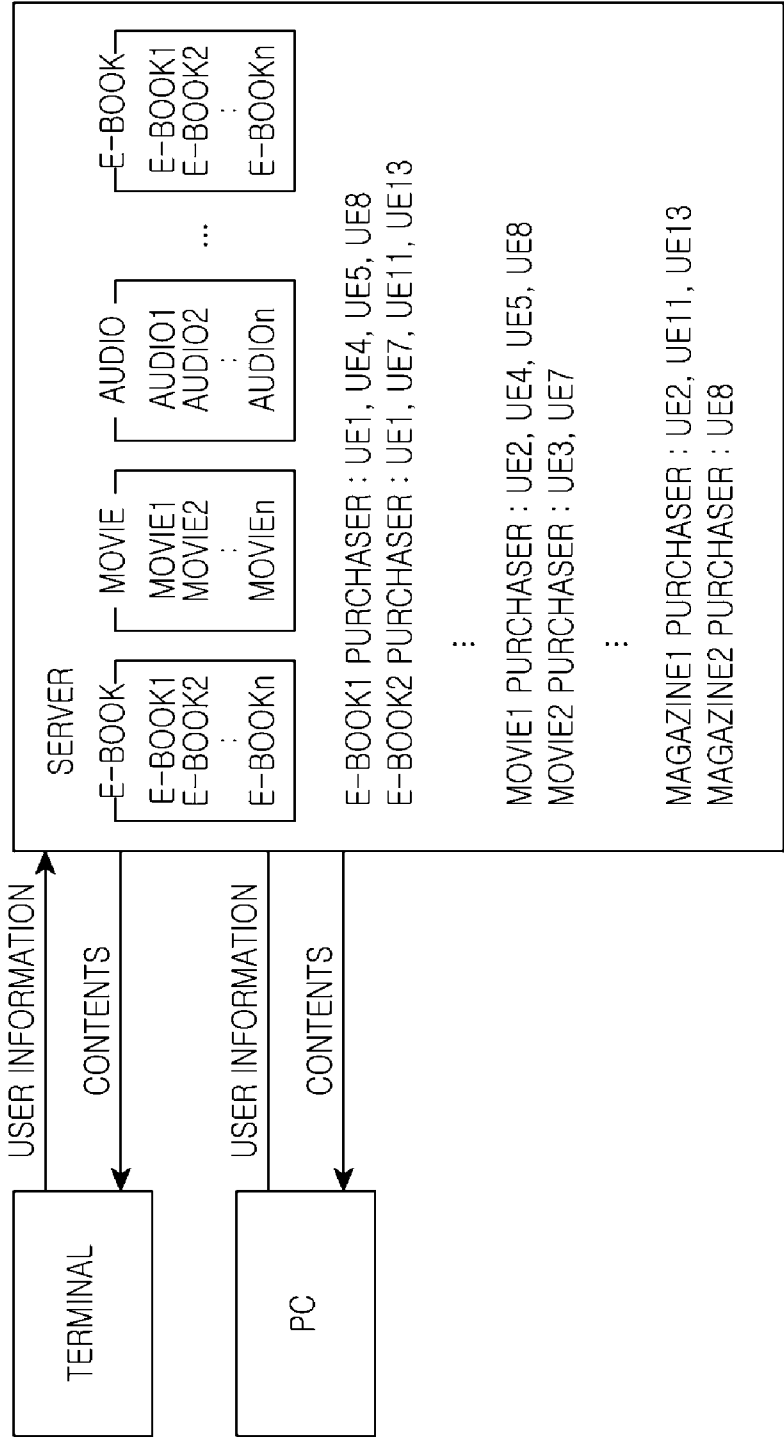
[Fig. 3]



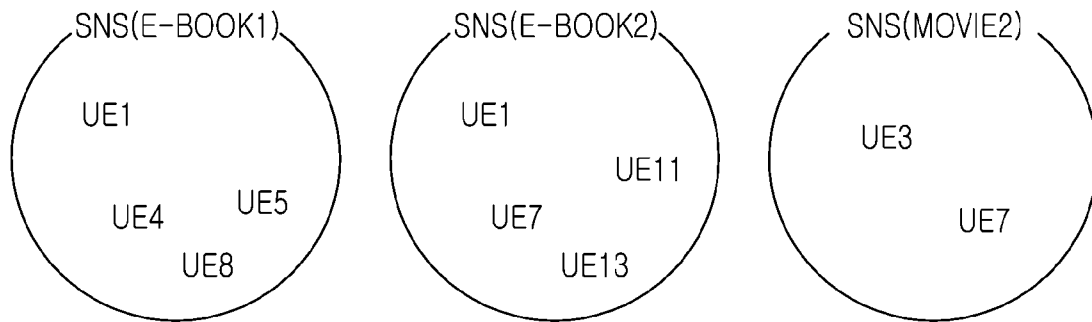
[Fig. 4]



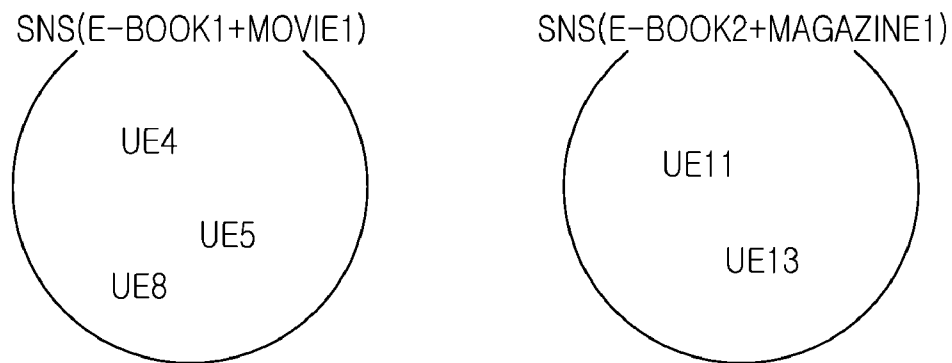
[Fig. 5]



[Fig. 6a]



[Fig. 6b]



[Fig. 7]

