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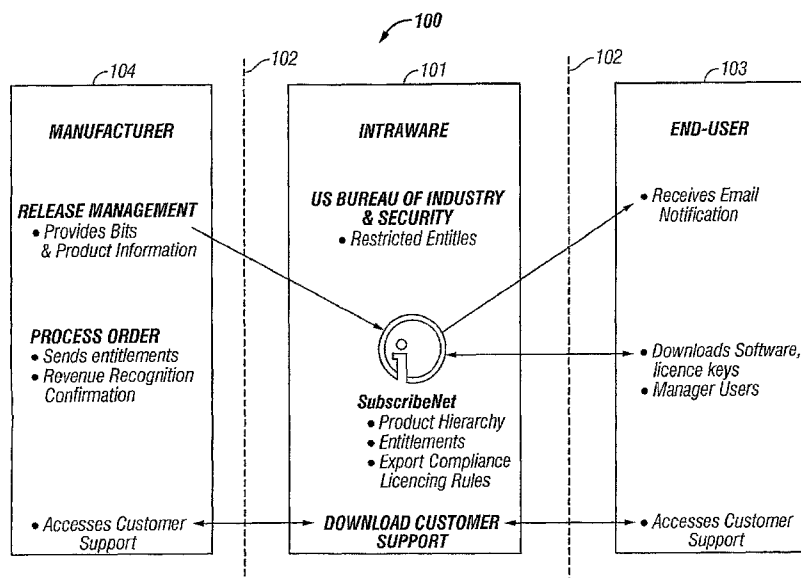
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SUBSCRIPTION-BASED, ENTITLEMENT-DRIVEN LICENSE KEY GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR DIGITAL GOODS



(57) Abstract: A method and system for subscription-based, entitlement-driven license key generation and distribution for digital goods allows digital goods vendors to manage rights of customers having maintenance contracts or subscriptions. Rights management includes the ability of the vendor to specify upgraded license rules and automatically update entitlements for all customers having current contracts and/or subscriptions, as specified by the upgraded license rules. Upgrades and accompanying license keys are proactively offered to customers without requiring additional sales transactions.

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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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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8): H04L 9/00 (2007.01)

USPC: 705/59

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(8): H04L 9/00 (2007.01)

USPC: 705/59

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 705/26, 37, 51, 52

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

Electronic databases: USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); DIALOG PRO

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2004/0249756 A1 (GARIBAY et al.) 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004) (abstract, figs. 1-3, and para [0013]-[0019], [0025]-[0029], [0052]-[0054])	1-47
Y	US 2003/0023963 A1 (BIRKHOLZ et al.) 30 January 2003 (30.01.2003) (abstract, and para [0008]-[0011], [0176]-[0177], [0195]-[0199])	1-47
A	US 2003/0217011 A1 (PEINADO et al.) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003)	1-47
A	US 2002/0138441 A1 (LOPATLE) 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002)	1-47

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