US008112810B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Risan et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 8,112,810 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Feb. 7, 2012**

(54) **PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF MEDIA CONTENT WITHIN A GLOBAL NETWORK**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/479,671**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 5, 2009**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2009/0265789 A1 Oct. 22, 2009

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 10/661,047, filed on Sep. 12, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,584,353.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **726/26**; 726/29; 713/163

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 713/164; 726/26, 29

See application file for complete search history.

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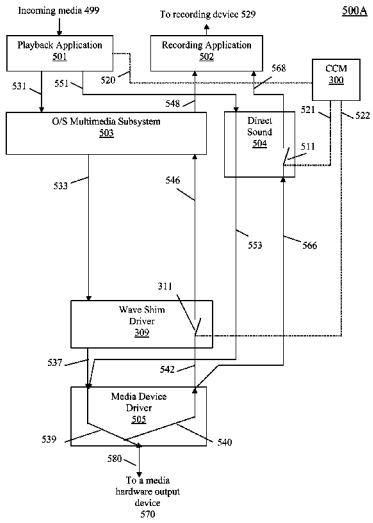
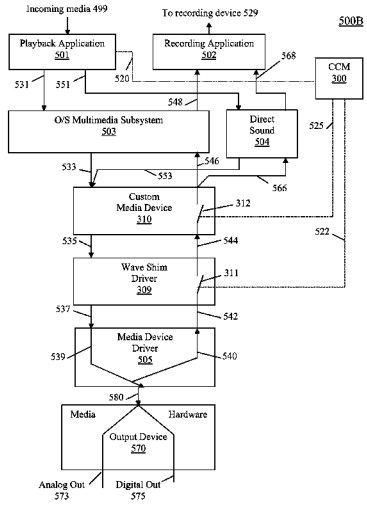
(57) **ABSTRACT**

One embodiment of the invention is a method for providing media content while preventing its unauthorized distribution. The method includes transmitting from a client to an administrative node a request for delivery of an instance of media content (IMC); determining which content source (CS) of a plurality of CSs to provide delivery of the IMC, provided the client is authorized to receive the IMC; transmitting to the client an access key and a location of the IMC; transmitting from the client to the CS a second request and the access key; in response to receiving the second request and the access key, transferring the IMC from the CS to the client; transmitting from the client to the administrative node an indicator indicating a successful transfer of the IMC; and generating a transaction applicable to the client and associated with the transfer of the IMC to the client.

18 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets