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Gruse et al.

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(54) **SYSTEM FOR TRACKING END-USER ELECTRONIC CONTENT USAGE**

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(List continued on next page.)

(75) Inventors: **George Gregory Gruse**, Lighthouse Point; **John J. Dorak, Jr.**, Boca Raton; **Kenneth Louis Milsted**, Boynton Beach, all of FL (US)

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(73) Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, NY (US)

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Related U.S. Application Data

Primary Examiner—Wynn Coggins

Assistant Examiner—Cuong H. Nguyen

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/133,519, filed on Aug. 13, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,226,618.

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Steven J. Meyers; David M. Shofi; Fleit, Kain, Gibbons, Gutman & Bongini P.L.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 11/30**; G06F 12/14; H04L 9/32

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **713/194**; 713/168; 713/171; 713/182; 705/51; 705/57

A system for tracking usage of digital content on user devices. Electronic stores coupled to a network sell licenses to play digital content data to users. Content players, which receive from the network the licensed content data, are used to play the licensed content data. Additionally, a logging site that is coupled to the network tracks the playing of the content data. In particular, the logging site receives play information from the network, and the play information includes the number of times that the content data has been played by the associated content player. Also provided is a method for tracking usage of digital content on user devices. According to the method, a license to play digital content data is sold to a user, and the licensed content data is transmitted to a content player for the user. Further, information is transmitted to a logging site whenever the content data is played by the content player or copied from the content player to an external medium so that usage of the licensed content data can be tracked.

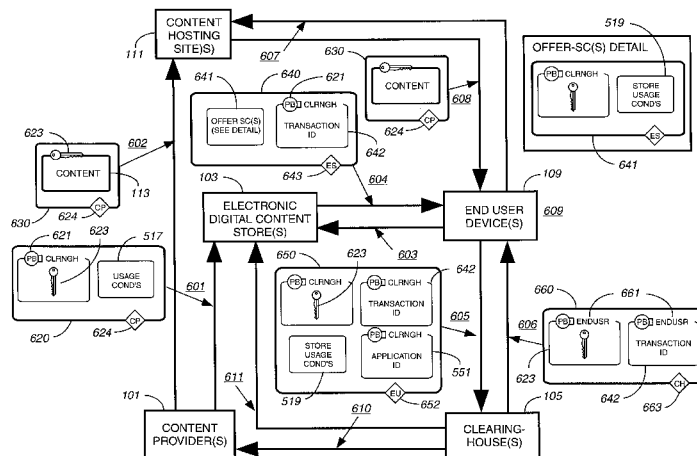
(58) **Field of Search** 705/51, 56-57, 705/55; 380/4, 24, 25; 713/200, 201, 68, 194, 182, 171, 150; 384/4, 3, 6

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44 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets



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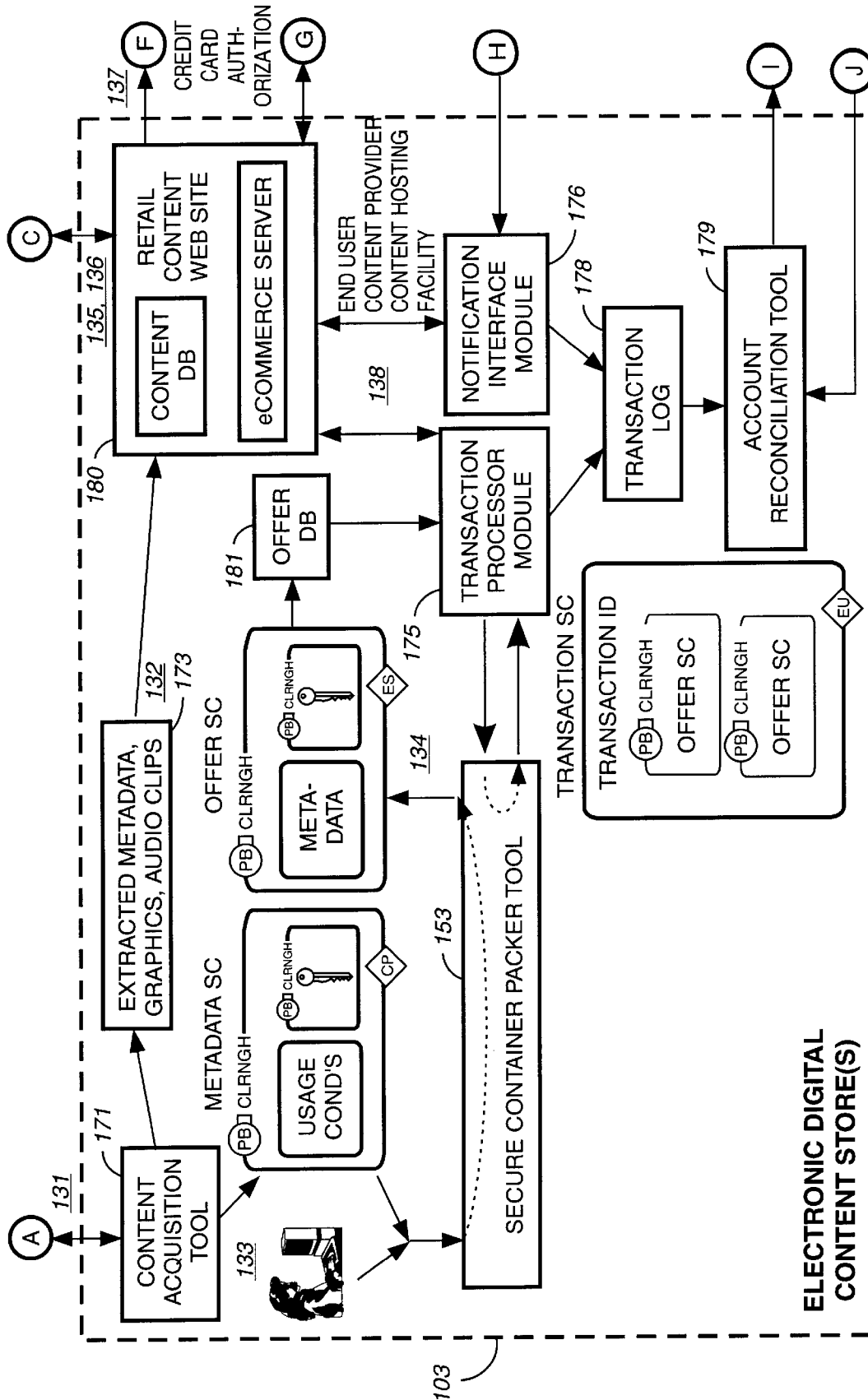


FIG. 1B

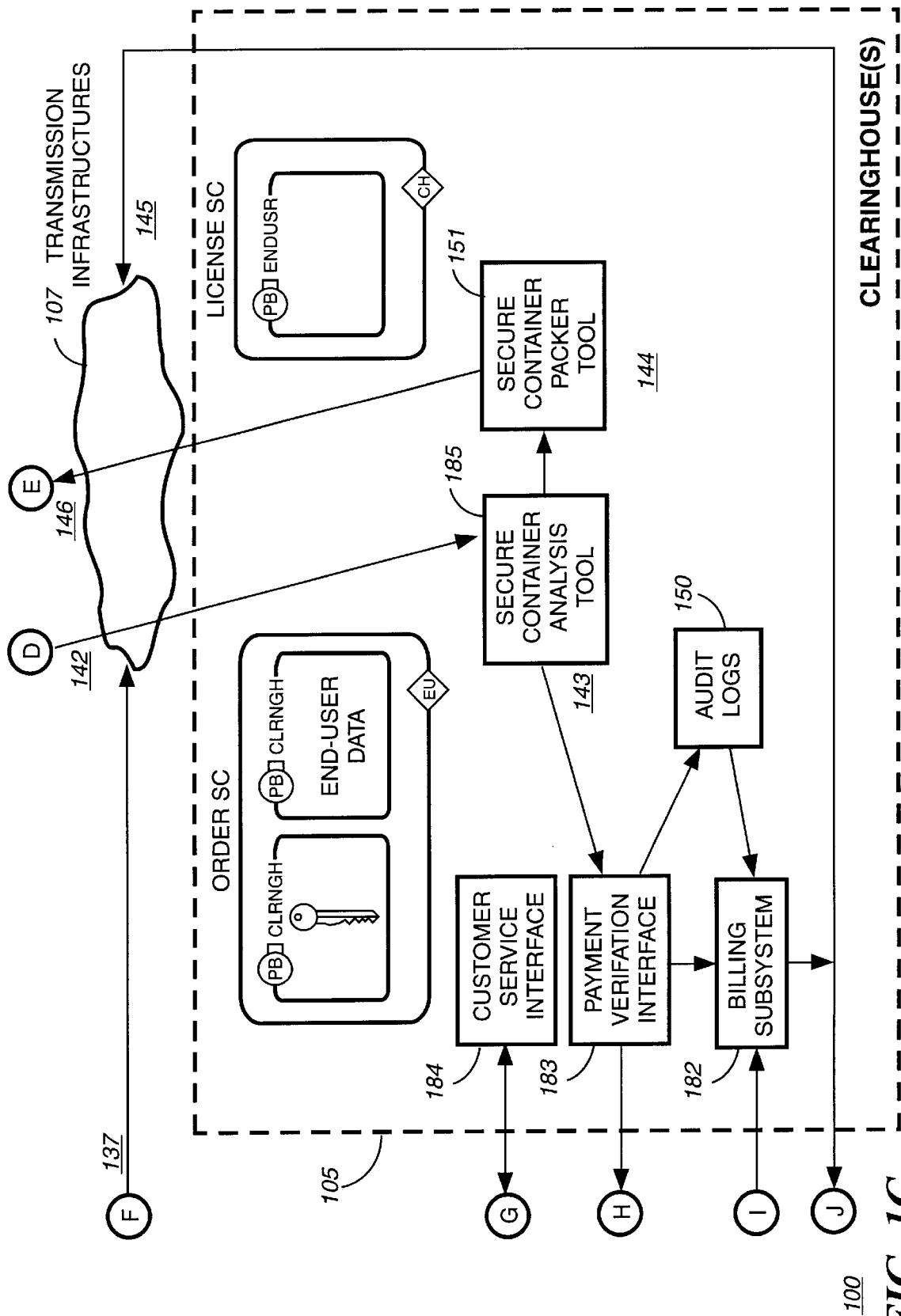


FIG. 1C

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