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

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING MEDIA ASSETS TO USER DEVICES VIA A PORTAL SYNCHRONIZED BY SAID USER DEVICES**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 709/217–219, 709/225–226, 229, 231–232, 311, 201–203; 713/2; 705/1  
See application file for complete search history.

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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 65 days.

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(22) Filed: **Oct. 5, 2000**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

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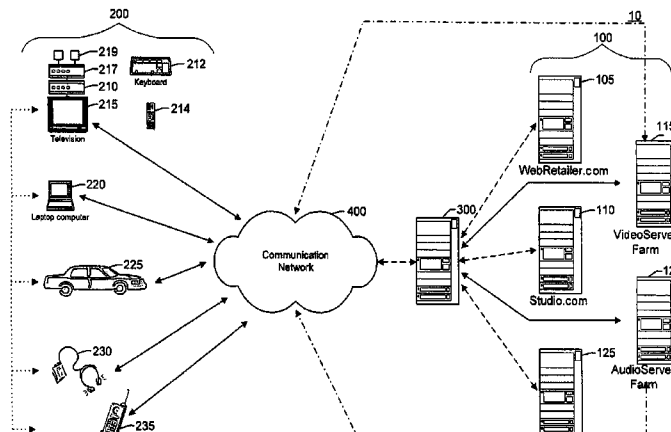
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for distributing digital media assets to a plurality of users. A portal is provided comprising at least one server computer. The portal executes a media library database server application that manages access a master library of media assets that can be accessed by users via one or more communication networks. A plurality of media player devices communicate with the portal to access media assets for use. Each media player device may comprise a processor that executes a database client application that manages media assets licensed for use by a user.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 15/173** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **709/226; 709/217; 709/218; 709/219**

**10 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets**



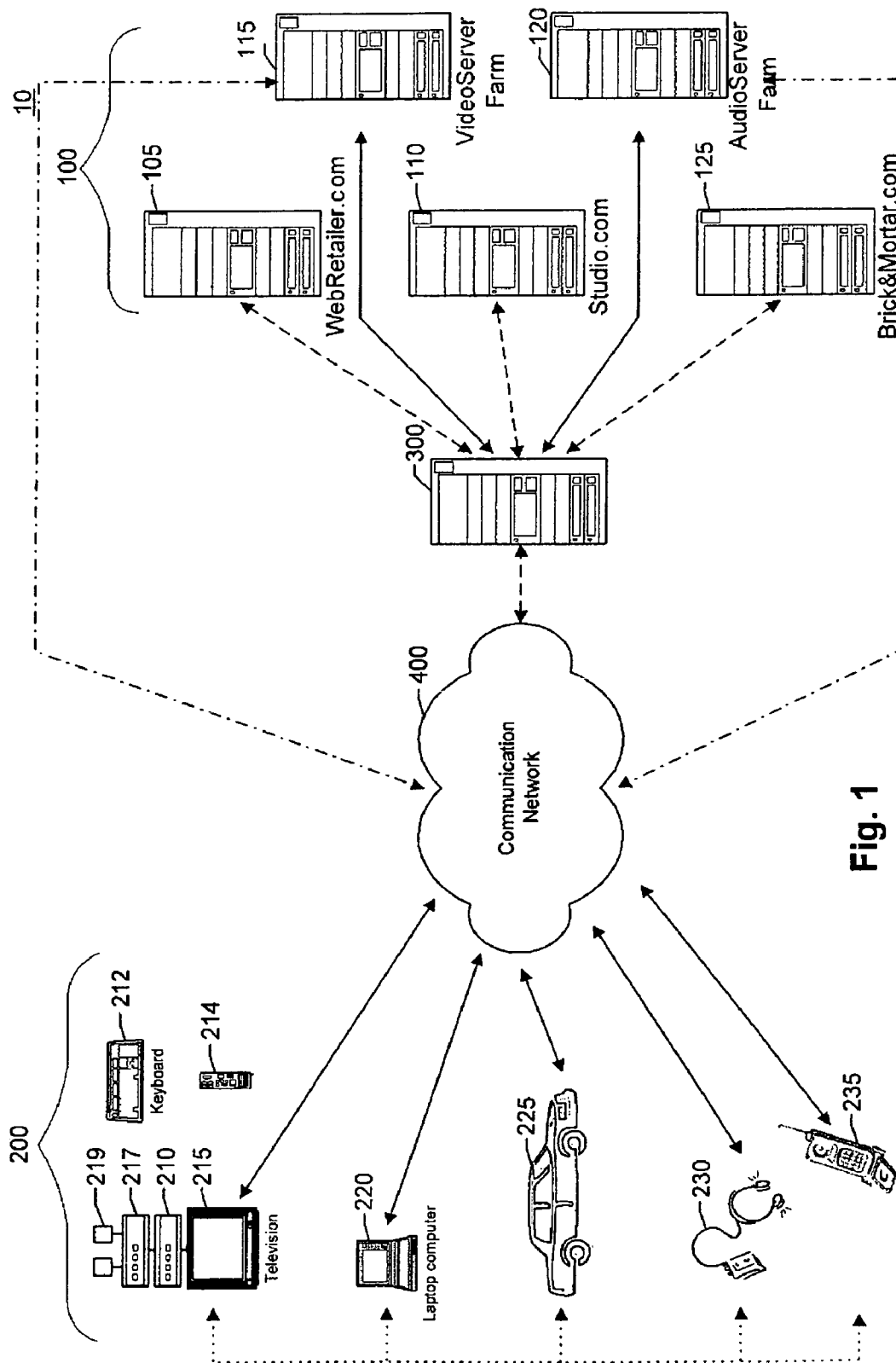


Fig. 1

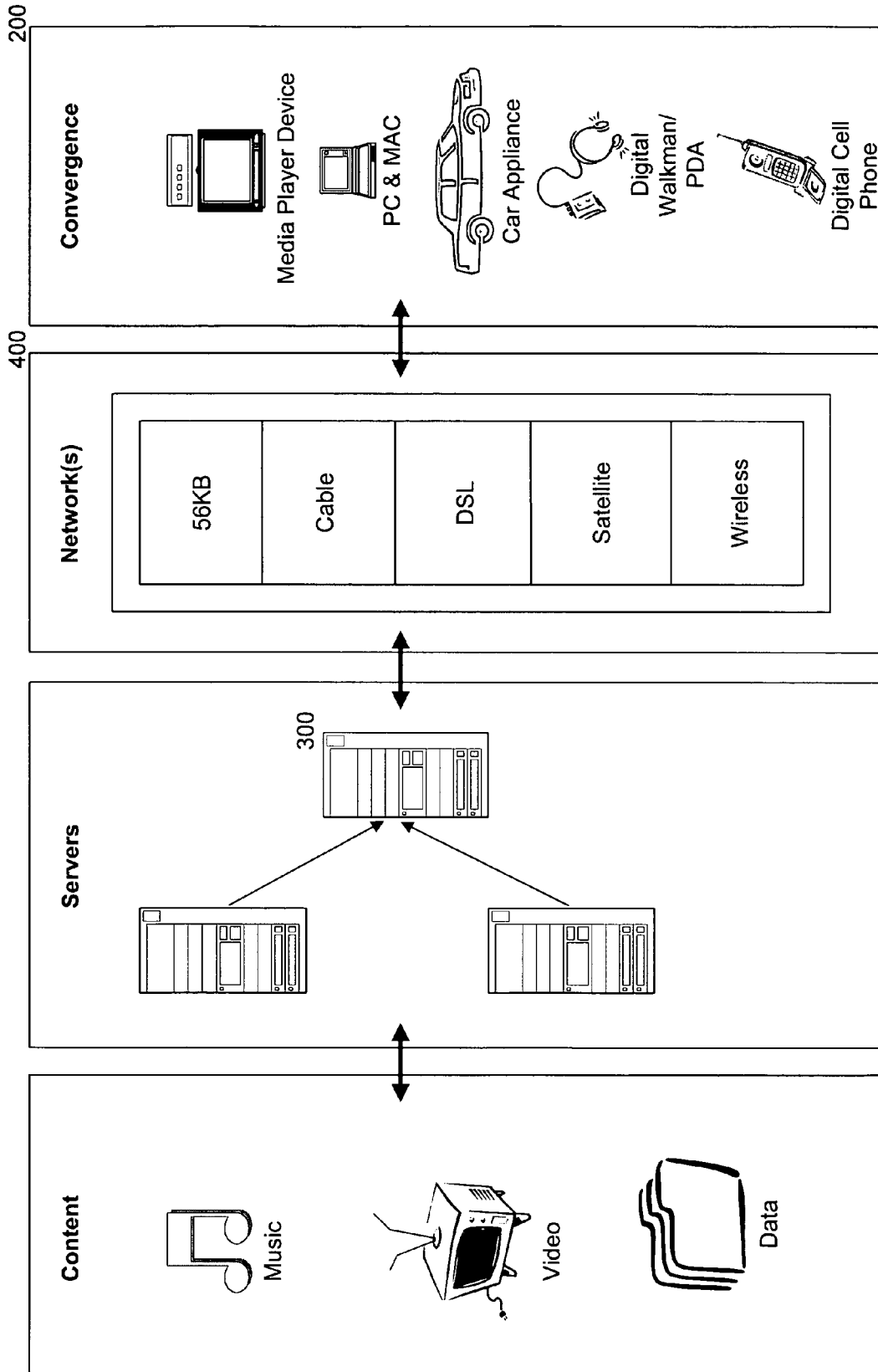


Fig. 2

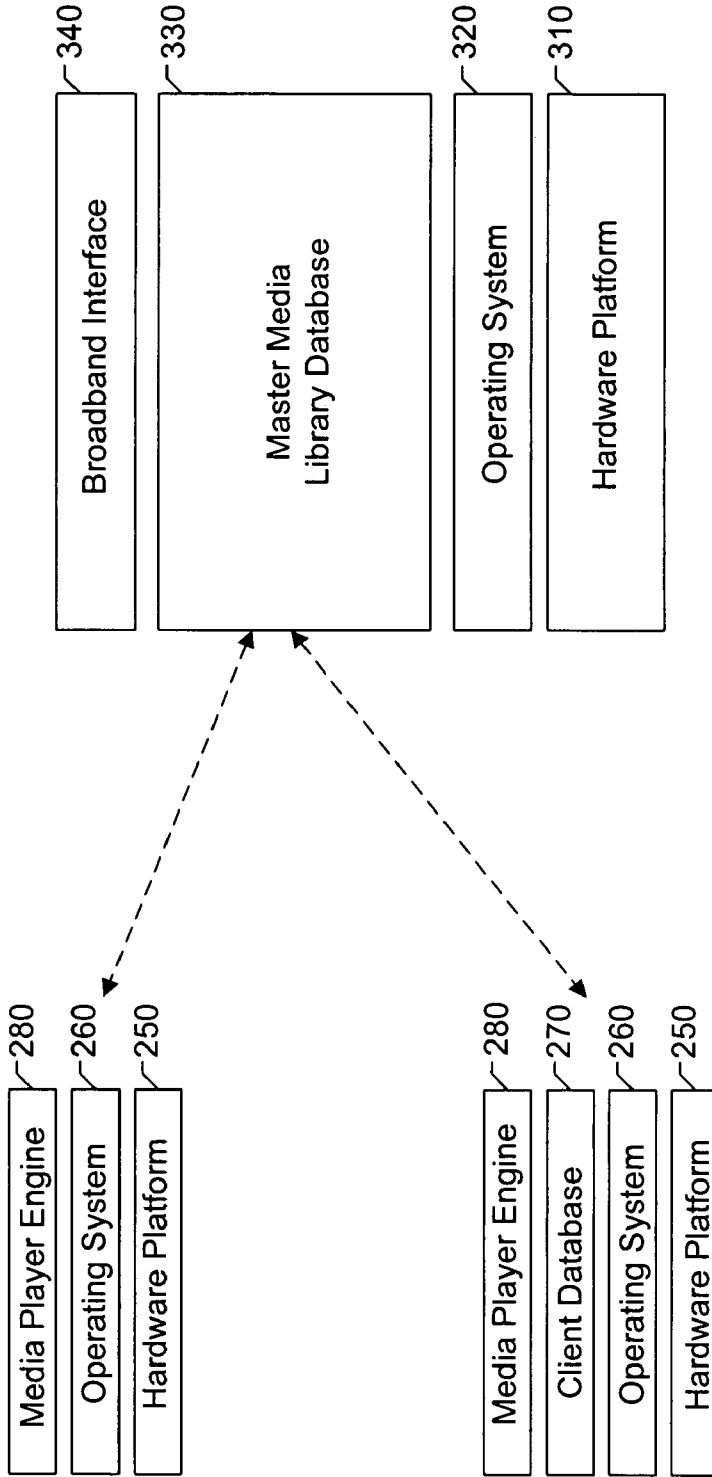


Fig. 3

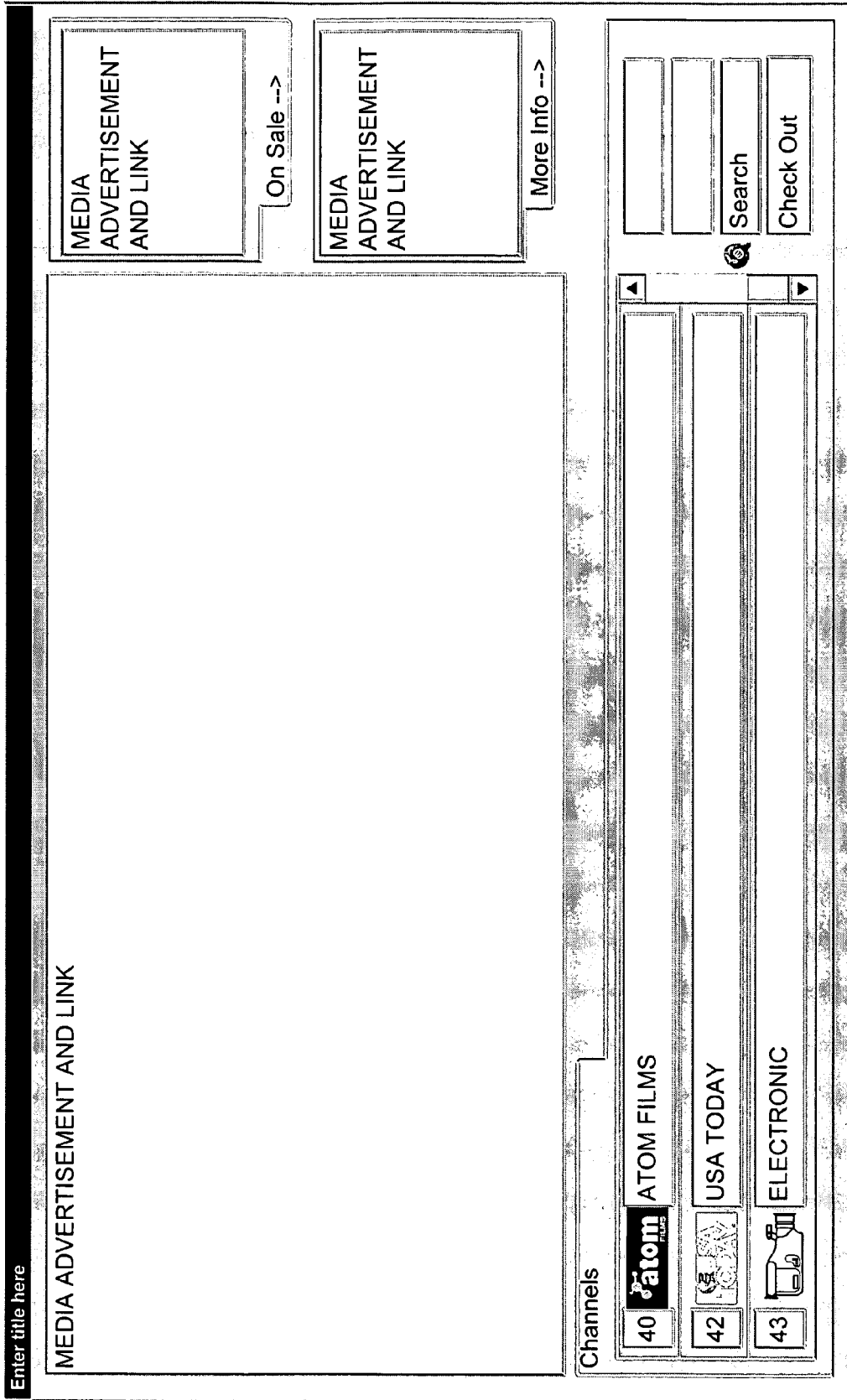


Fig. 4

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