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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 26006.0002U3

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT
COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT** under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(c).

	Docket Number	26006.0002U3	Type a Plus Sign (+) inside this box → → → →	+

INVENTOR(s)/APPLICANT(s)			
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TITLE OF INVENTION (280 characters max)

"CLIENT/SERVER COOPERATING SECURITY LOCKOUT FEATURE FOR MEDIA PLAYER APPLIANCE"

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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (*Check All That Apply*)

[X] Specification   *Number of Pages*   [2]
[X] Drawing(s)   *Number of Sheets*   [1]

[] Small Entity Statement

[] Power of Attorney

[] Other (specify)

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METHOD PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (*Check One*)		
[] A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.	**FILING FEE AMOUNT**	$

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.
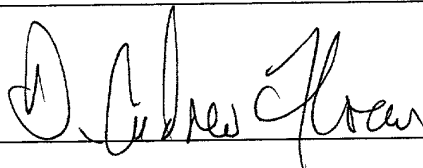
     [X]   No.

     []   Yes. The name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:

_____

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE   _____   Date   1/24/00

TYPED or PRINTED NAME: **D. Andrew Floam**   REGISTRATION NO. **34,597**
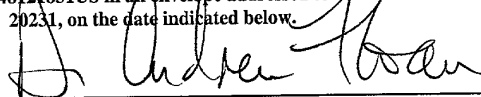   (*If Appropriate*)

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Client/Server Cooperating Security Lockout Feature for Media Player Appliance

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

If a consumer's infotainment appliance is stolen or misplaced, the multimedia assets in the appliance should be protected from abuse by parties unknown. This invention describes a means of protecting those assets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a flow chart showing how assets are protected from use by unauthorized users.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Reference is made to Figure 1 in conjunction with the following description. Within this invention, system, or method, there are several components:

Client Multimedia Player. Software technology that can run on various multimedia computer devices and is capable of decrypting, decoding, and playing a multimedia object based on its embedded security features and rights management rules. The Client Multimedia Player will run on a variety of devices, including home consumer electronics devices, portable devices, computers, car entertainment devices, PDAs, mobile communications devices, and Internet browsers.

Member. Anyone who is enrolled within the network system for virtual distribution of his or her assets. (Each Member will have his or her own security password for system access.)

Member Family. A group of individuals that has been assigned the rights to act on a Member's behalf in accessing and utilizing the Member's multimedia assets within the virtual distribution network.

User. Persons that will use a Client Multimedia Player from within any particular Member Family. These Users will have varying levels of access and privileges to those multimedia assets housed within the invented system. (For example, an adult User might have access to certain "R" rated films, while a child User might have access to only "G" rated films.)

Master Database Server. A server or group of servers that functions to allow for the storage and download of "rented" or "purchased" assets by Members of the network. This server will function to allow for synchronization and replication of a Member's assets between the Member's various Client Multimedia Players and itself. This server also will serve as a central repository within which multimedia assets will be "tagged" with the identity and access privileges of those Members (and Users within a Member Family) that possess ownership rights in the multimedia assets.

<u>Multimedia Object.</u> An element of reference for a Member's Client Multimedia Players and the Master Database Server. This Multimedia Object can be representative of a song, video clip, movie, a television program, interactive animation, or any other data type that can be stored in a binary fashion within a modern database. The Multimedia Object shall be protected, where applicable, from piracy by the use of various methods, including encryption and watermarking.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

To protect the Multimedia Objects on a Client Multimedia Player from being used by parties unknown, a security scheme has been invented to lock out unauthorized Client Multimedia Players.

Client Multimedia Players contact the Master Database Server when they are powered on, and periodically thereafter. If a Client Multimedia Player is stolen, the User informs the maintainer of the Master Database Server of the missing unit (see Figure 1). The Master Database Server flags the User's account as being "on hold" and issues the User a confirmation code. The User is then instructed to power cycle his machines.

As each of the User's Client Multimedia Players are powered on and contact the Master Database Server, they learn that the User's account has a hold placed on them, and they immediately freeze and ask for a confirmation code from the User. The User types in the confirmation code that was assigned to him and the machine is ready to use. If the User does not type in the correct confirmation code, the machine remains locked. If the user cannot type the confirmation code correctly within a to-be-determined number of tries, the machine will cease being usable and must be reenabled.

Figure 1.

Unauthorized
User

Master
Database
Server

Authorized
User

User reports that a machine is missing.

User is given a confirmation code.
Account is placed on hold.

User's machine contacts server.

Account is on hold, so machine
asks for password

User enters
code

Machine is enabled for use

User's machine contacts server

Account is on hold, so machine
asks for password

User tries
incorrect

Codes

After a number of
tries, machine is