

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0077984 A1**

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(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 20, 2002**

(54) **ENABLING PROTECTED DIGITAL MEDIA TO BE SHARED BETWEEN PLAYBACK DEVICES**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 705/51**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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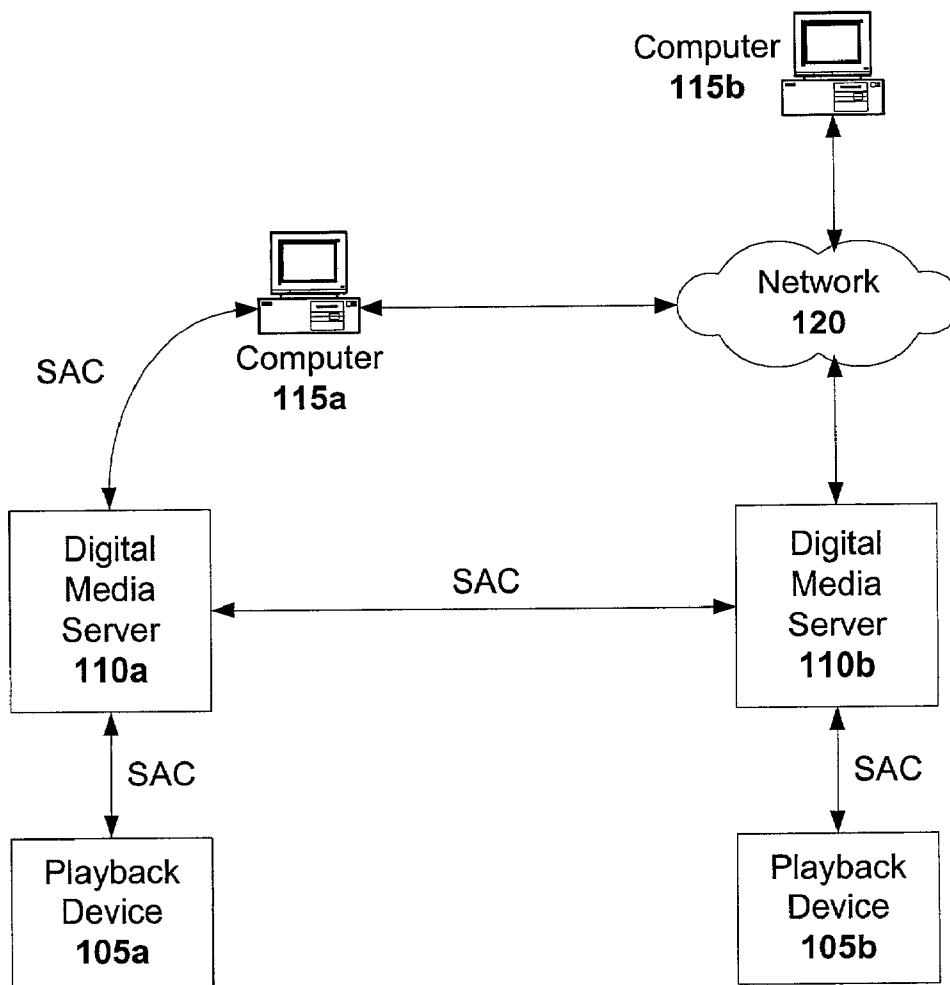
One embodiment of the present invention provides a media server. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a system for enabling protected media content to be shared between playback devices. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method for enabling protected media content to be shared between playback devices. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method for maintaining a desired distribution of acquired rights to use associated with media content. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method for integrating a new component into a system for enabling protected media content to be shared between playback devices.

(21) **Appl. No.: 09/747,351**

(22) **Filed: Dec. 19, 2000**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.7 G06F 17/60**



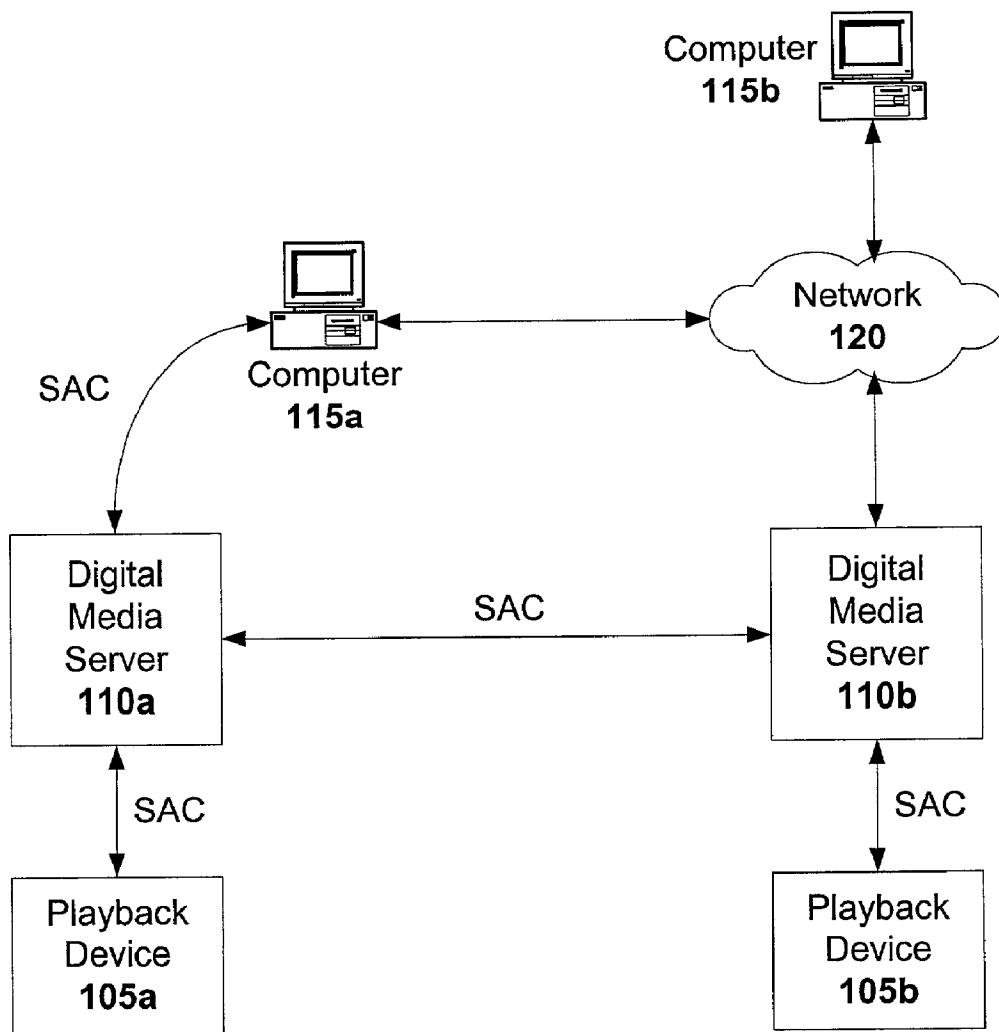


Fig. 1

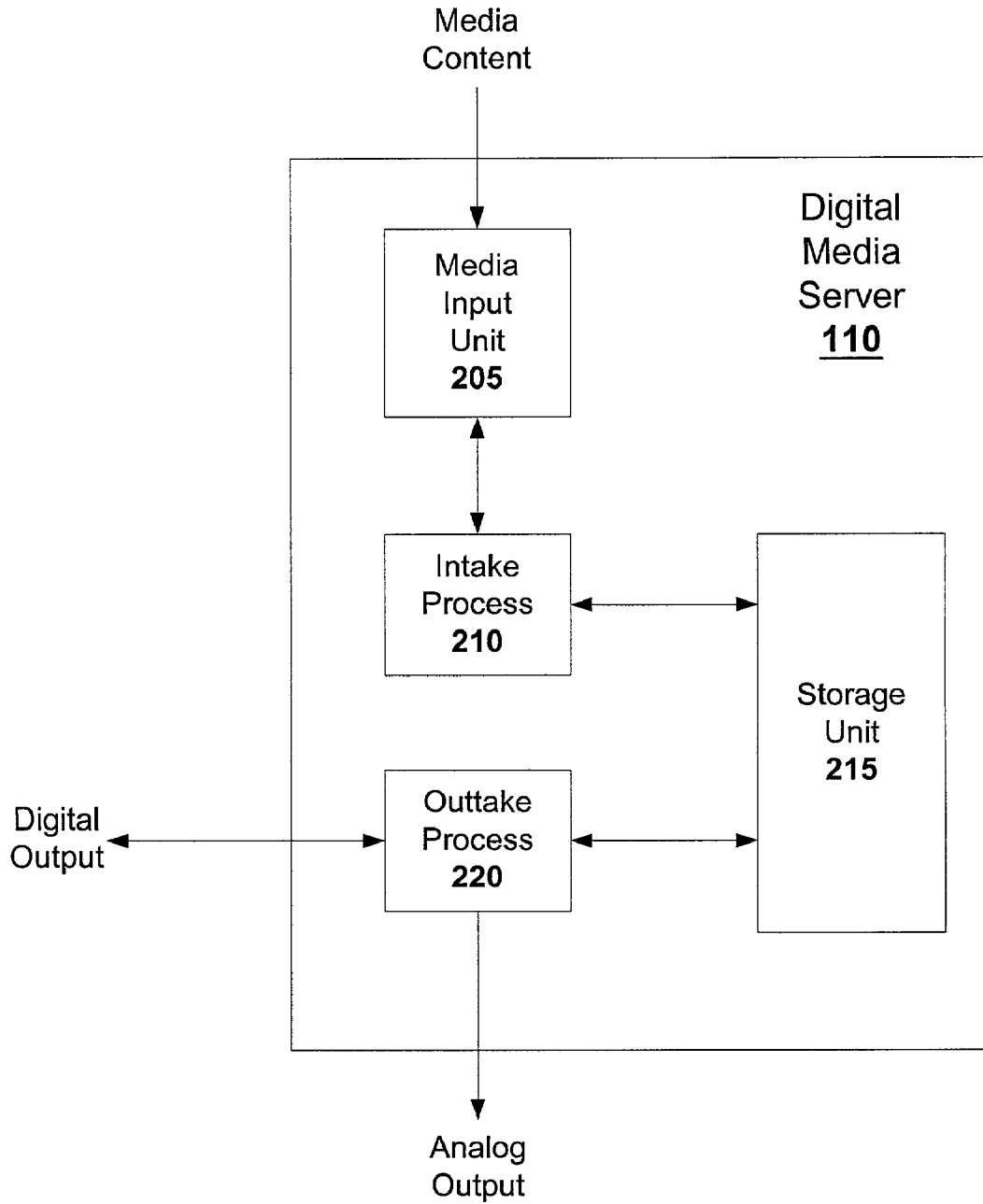


Fig. 2

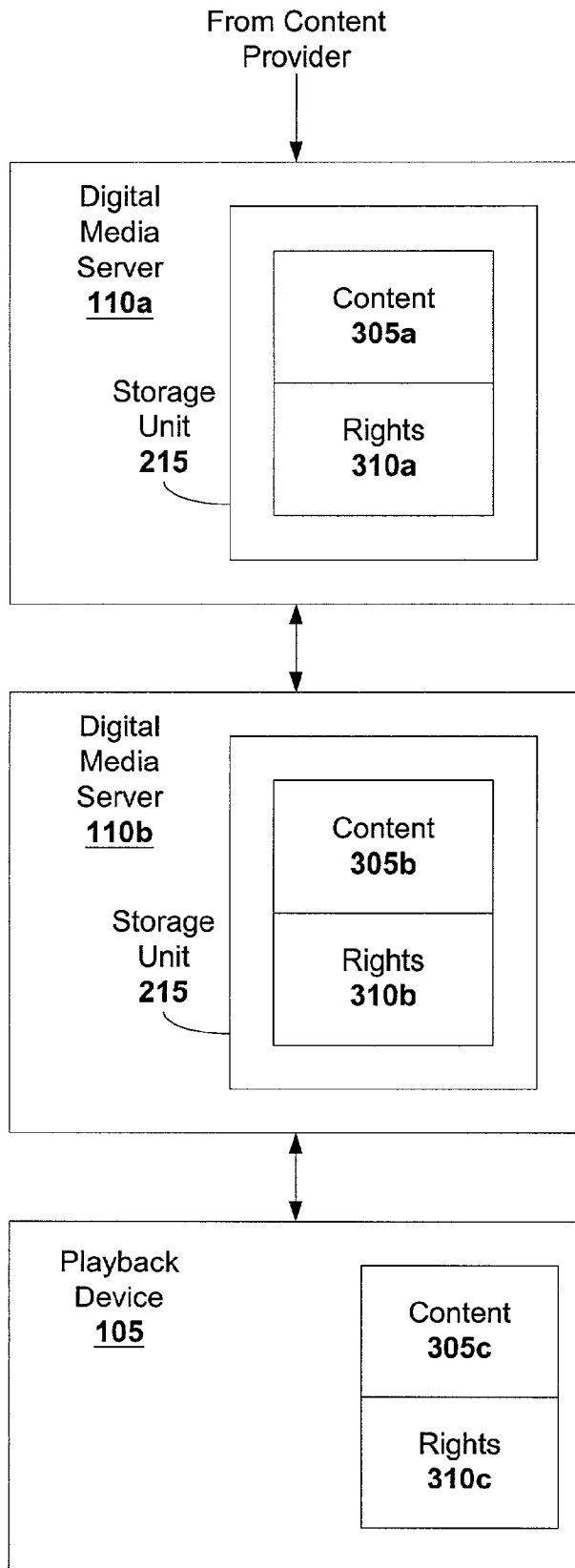


Fig. 3

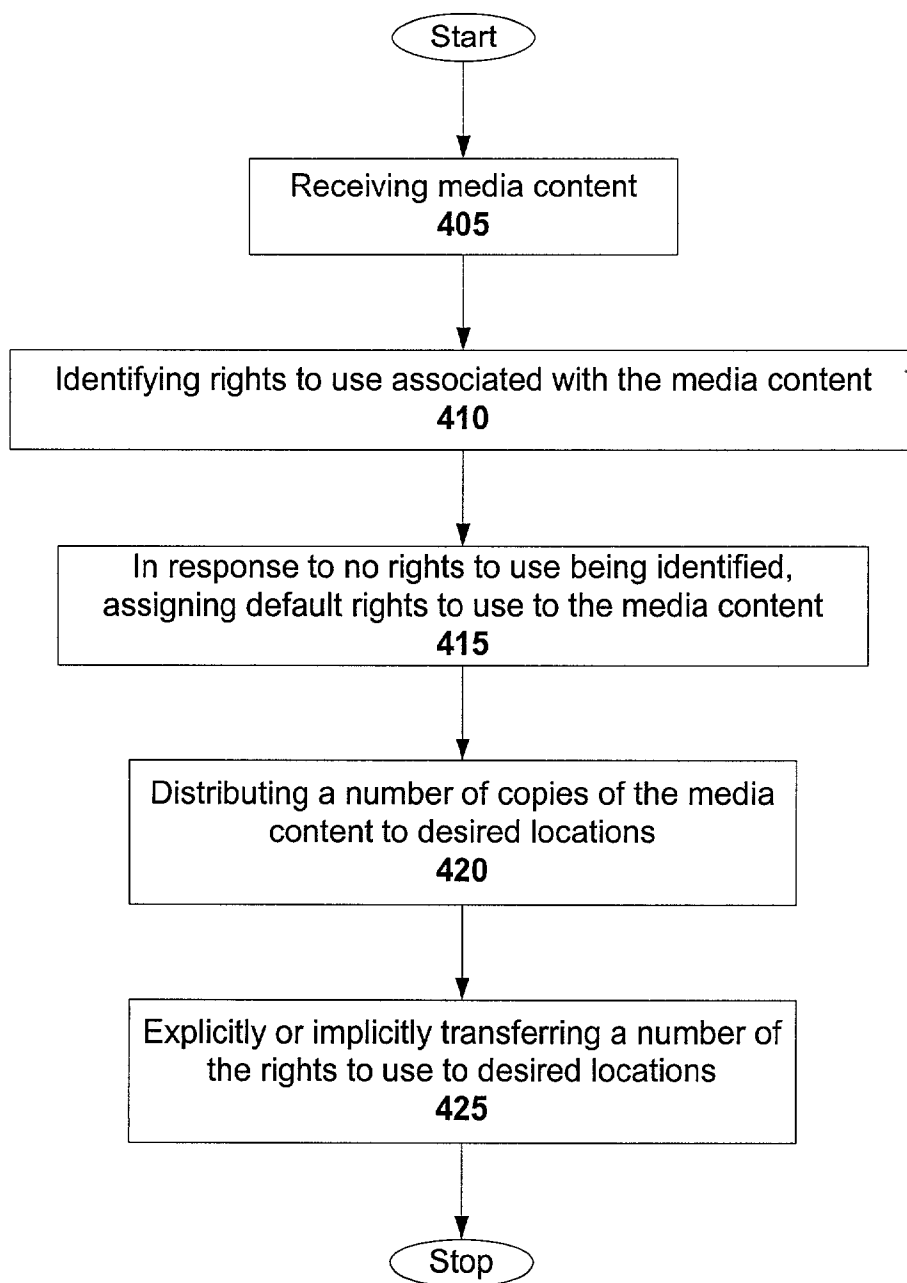


Fig. 4

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