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(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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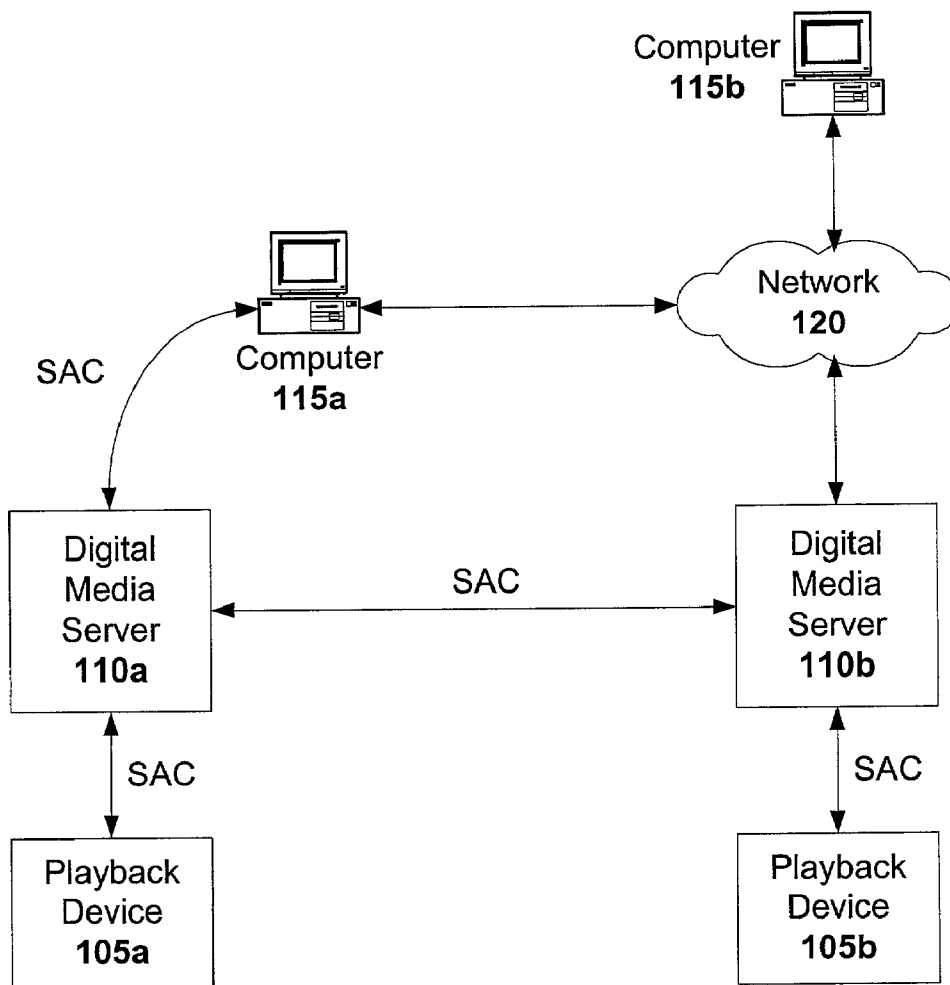
One embodiment of the present invention provides a media server. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a system for enabling protected media content to be shared between playback devices. Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method for enabling protected media content 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.

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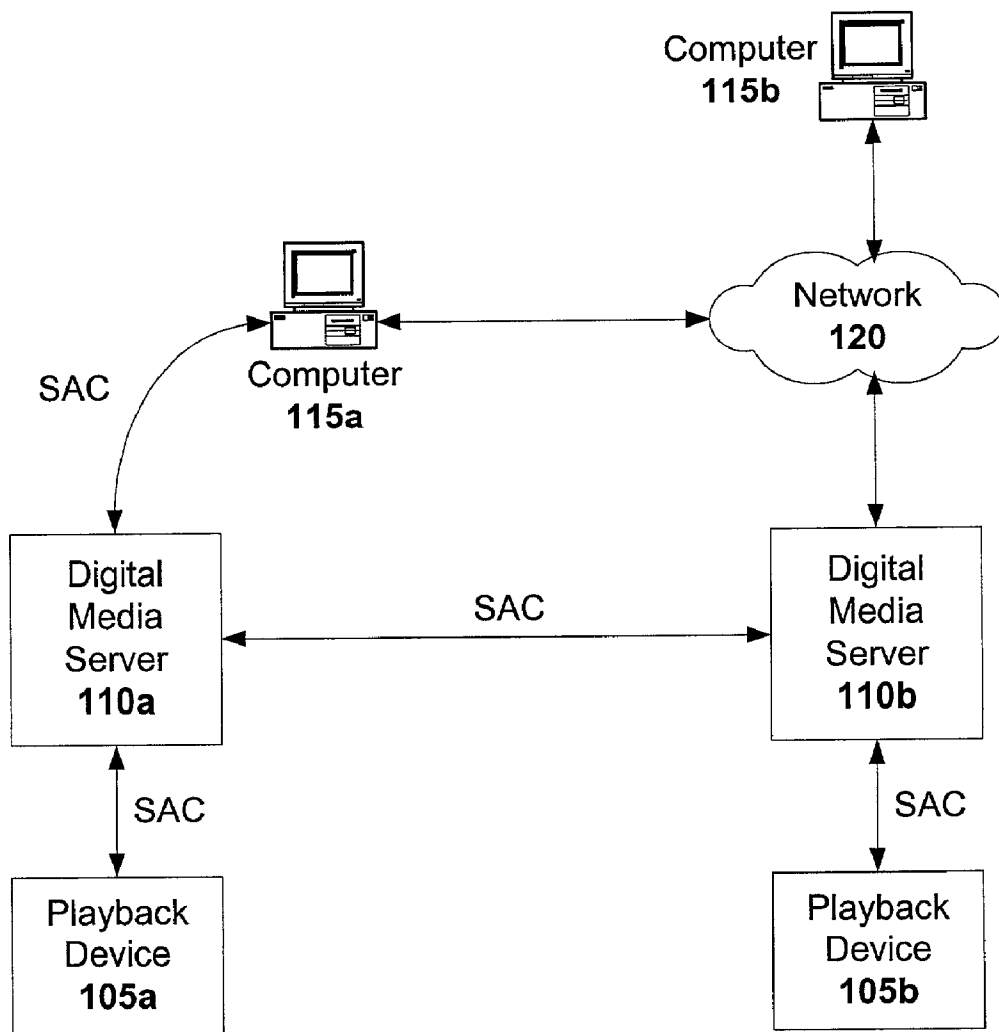


Fig. 1

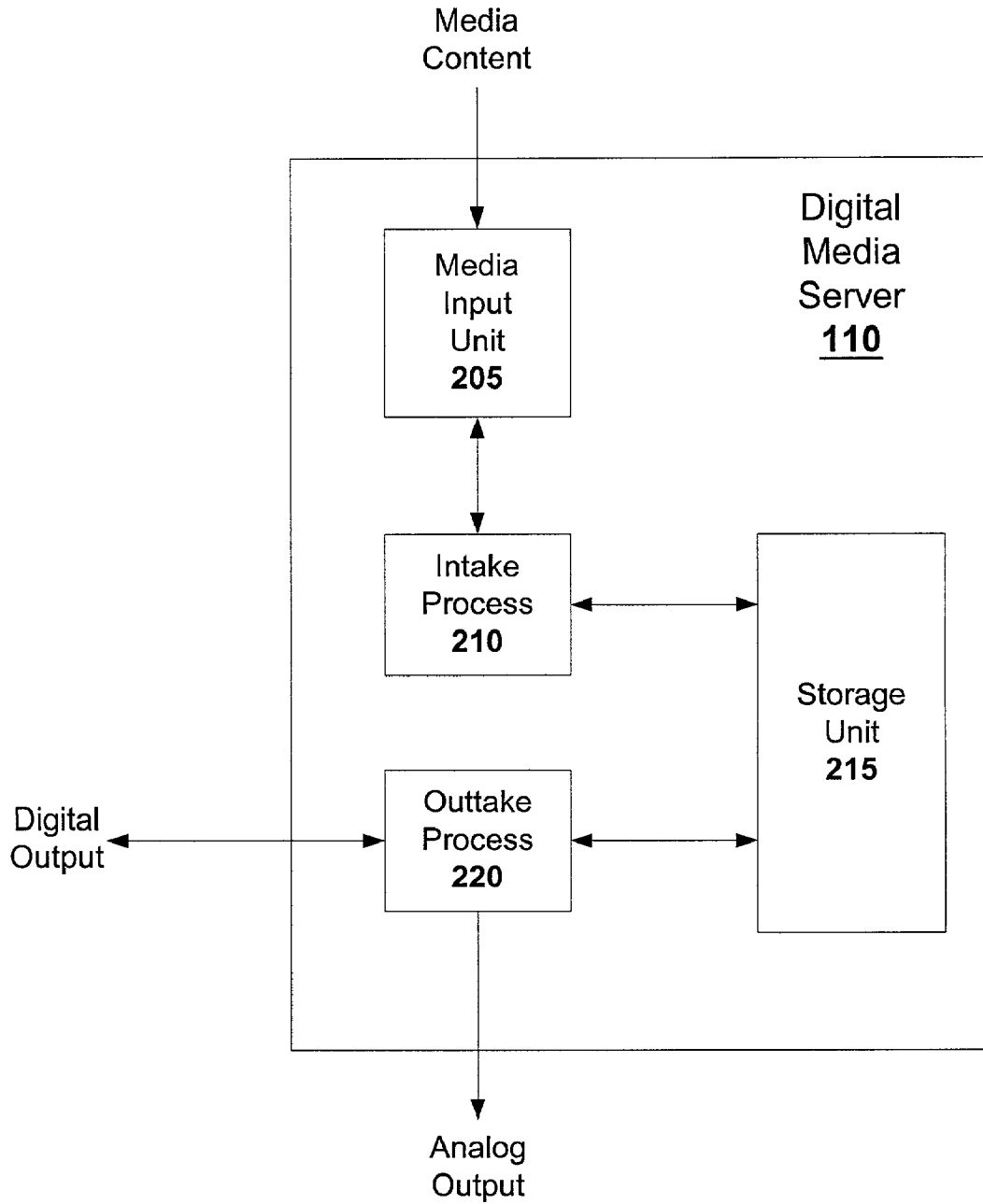


Fig. 2

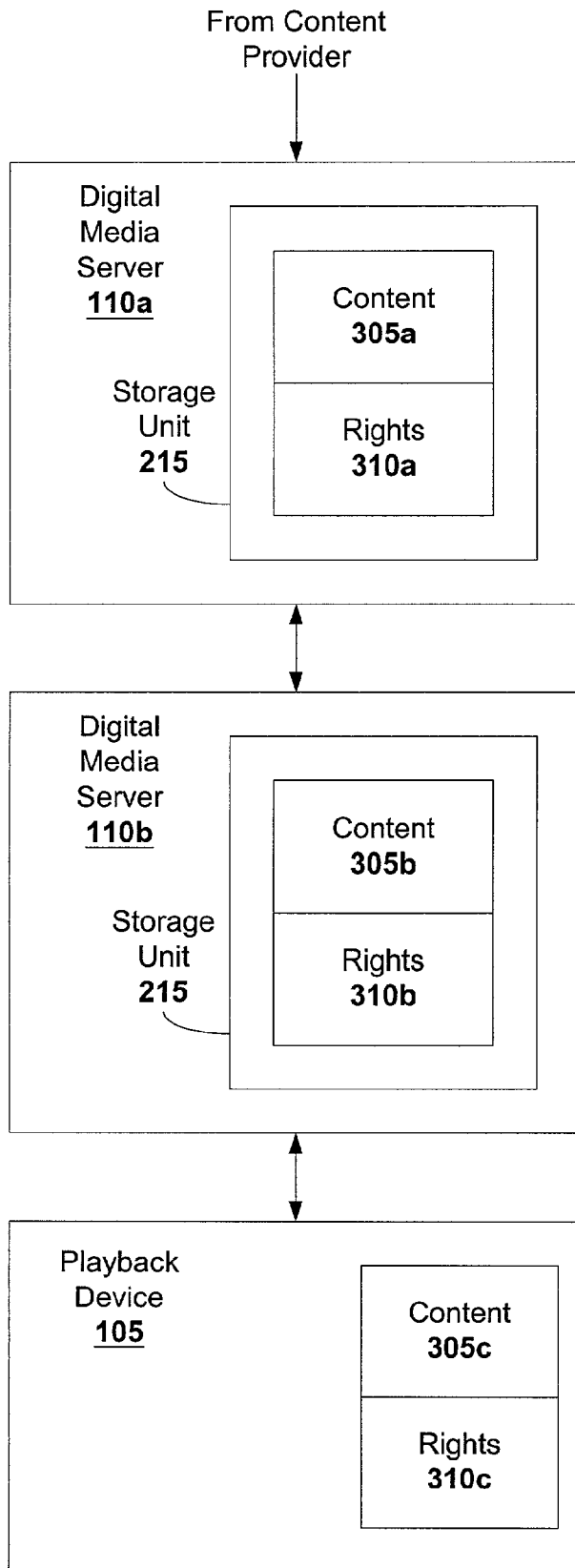


Fig. 3

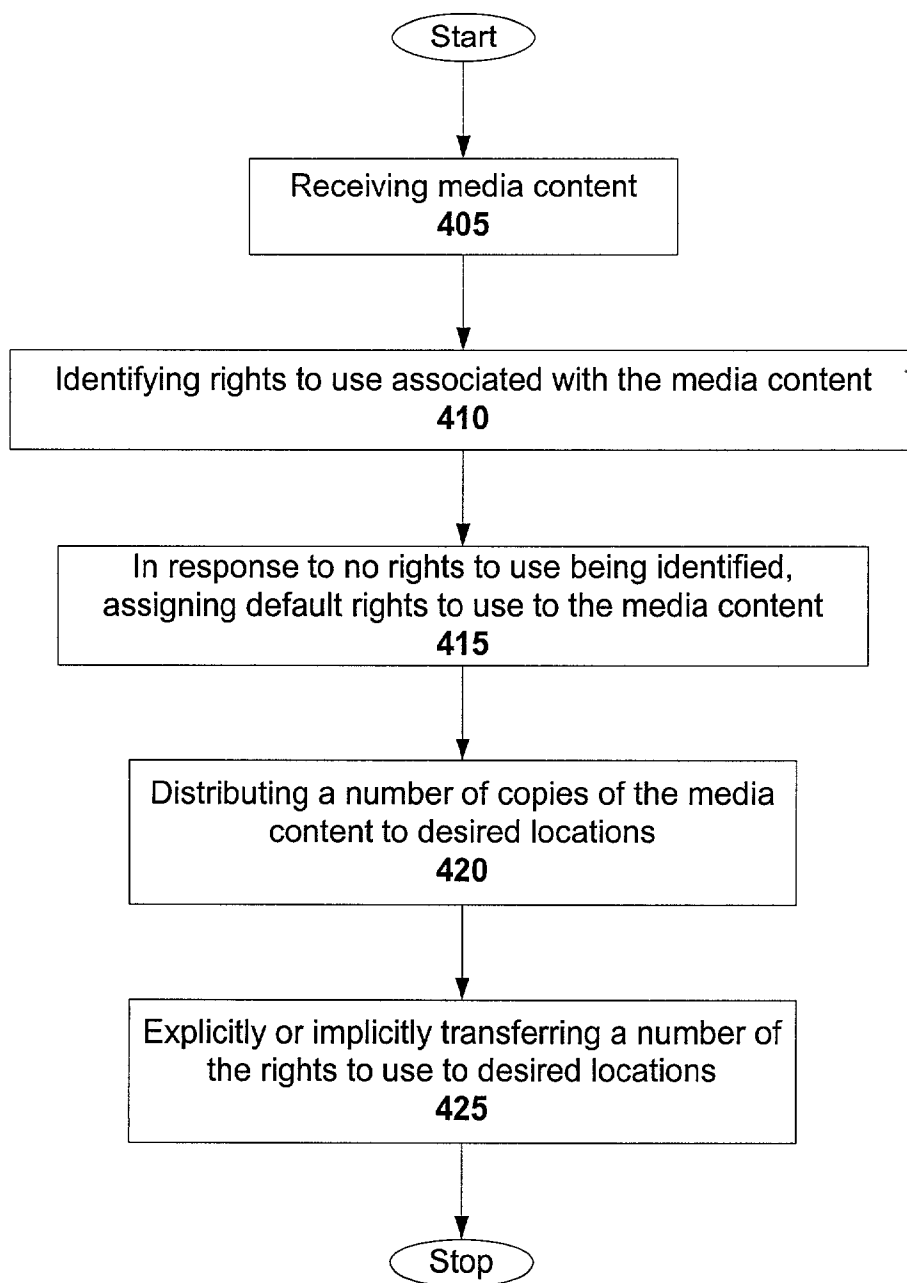


Fig. 4

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