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(54) **NETWORK-BASED CONTENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

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(76) Inventors: **Robin Ross Cooper**, La Mesa, CA (US); **Robert T. Kulakowski**, Rancho Santa Fe, CA (US)

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Correspondence Address:
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
620 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE
SIXTEENTH FLOOR
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

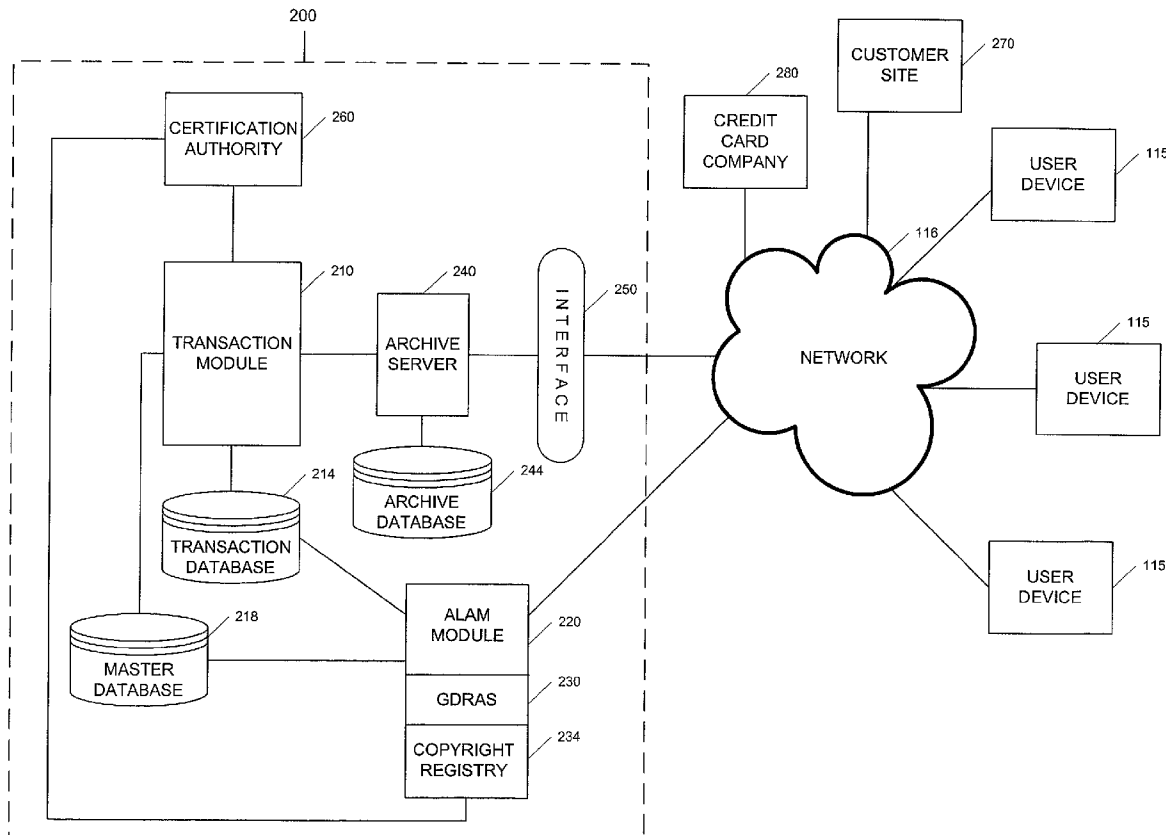
A method and system for transferring electronic media information over a public network in such a way as to provide safeguards for inappropriate distribution of copyright or otherwise protected materials are described. The media information is transparently watermarked with a unique ID, such as one generated from X.509 Digital Certificate and public-key cryptography public/private key pairs, such that the information can be identified as belonging to a particular individual. A system and method for monitoring the movement of such watermarked files, positively identifying people who have inappropriately distributed copyright materials over a public network without permission, and taking appropriate enforcement action against such people.

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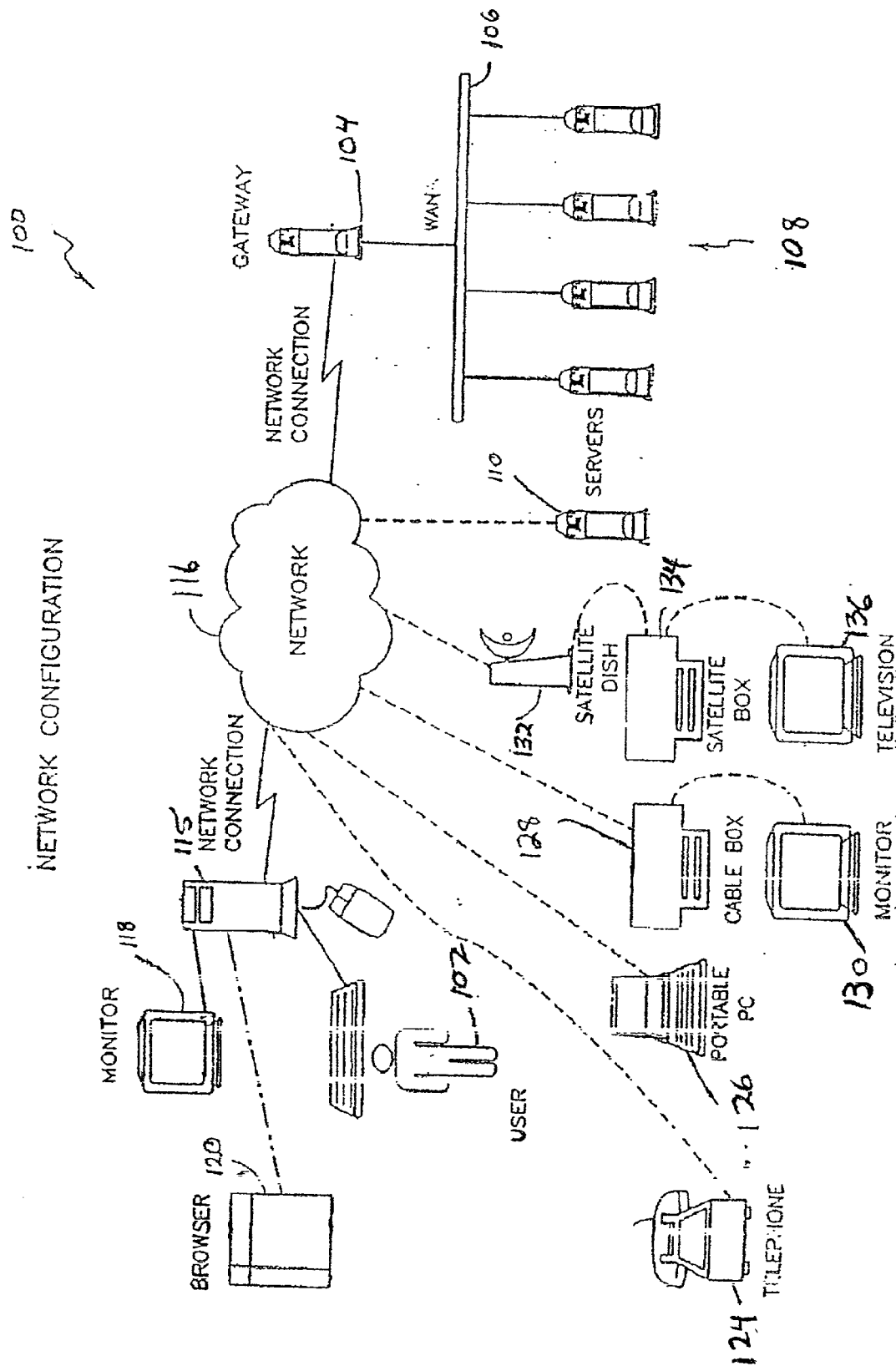


FIG. 1

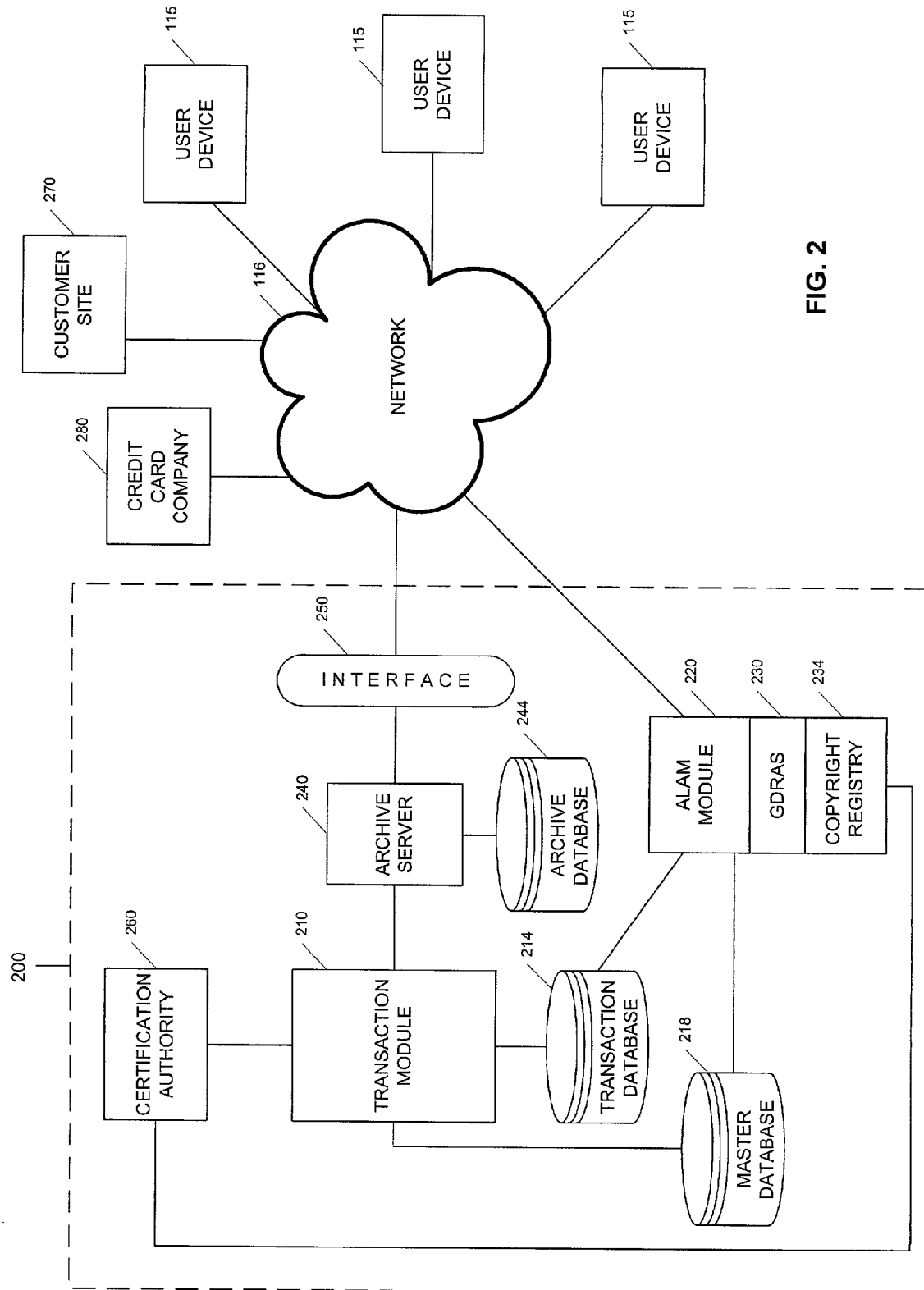


FIG. 2

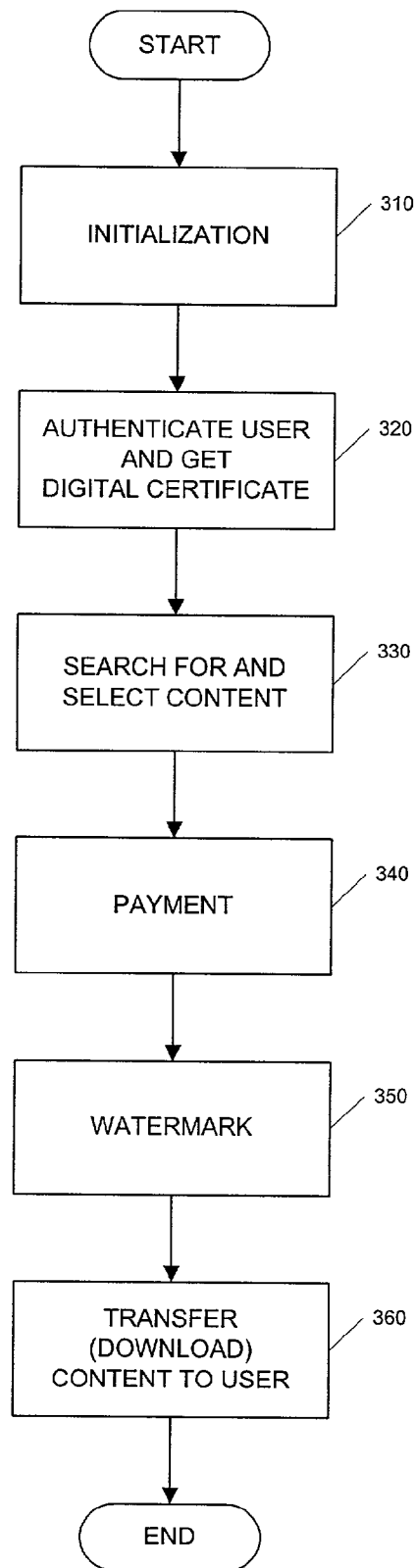


FIG. 3

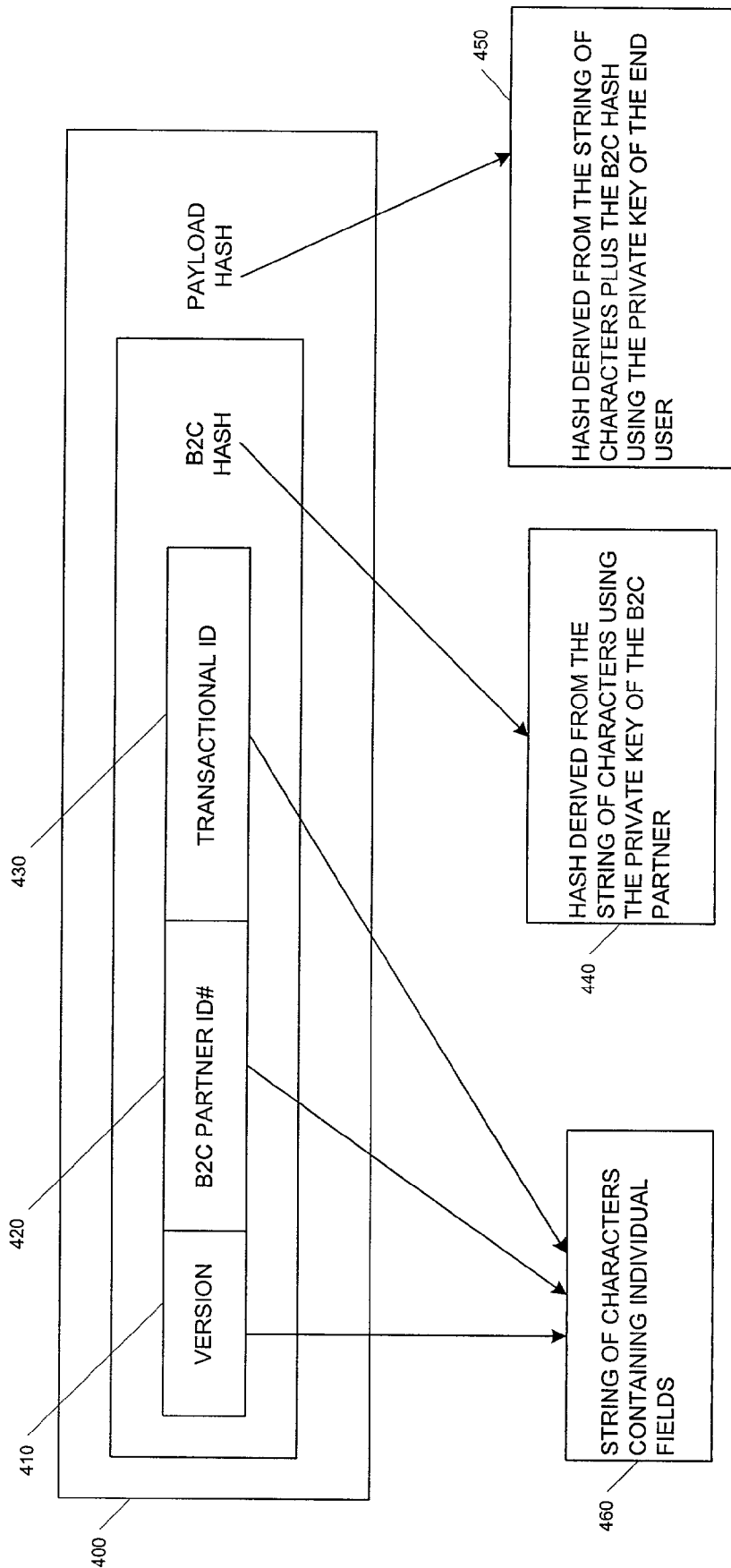


FIG. 4

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