



[54] <b>CONTROLLED USAGE SOFTWARE</b>	5,625,690	4/1997	Michel et al.	380/4
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[76] Inventors: <b>Katherine A. Sprong; Donald J. Sprong</b> , both of 2723 Singer Woods Dr., Abingdon, Md. 21009	5,649,187	7/1997	Hornbuckle	395/610
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*Assistant Examiner*—Paul E. Callahan  
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- [21] Appl. No.: **09/440,944**
- [22] Filed: **Nov. 16, 1999**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

- [63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/004,143, Jan. 7, 1998.
- [51] **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **G06F 11/30**
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **713/190**; 713/164; 713/165; 713/170; 713/200; 380/255; 705/51; 705/56; 705/57; 705/58; 705/67
- [58] **Field of Search** ..... 380/255, 282, 380/283; 705/50, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 67, 72, 77; 713/164, 165, 166, 169, 187, 190, 193, 200

[57] **ABSTRACT**

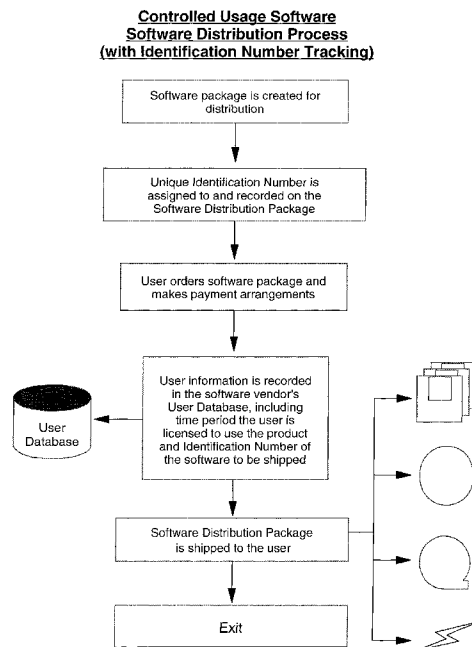
The present invention provides a new and novel system and method for protecting a computer software program from unauthorized use and/or copying. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, each embodiment of the storage medium containing the software also includes means for: (1) inhibiting use of the software unless a valid authorization code for use has been received from a remote authorization unit, (2) generating, storing and retrieving a serial number uniquely associated with the particular host computer on which the software is to be used, (3) inhibiting transfer from one host computer to another of the software unless a valid deauthorization code has been received from a remote authorization unit, (4) uniquely identifying each embodiment of the storage medium, thereby making it possible to individually track each embodiment of the storage medium and to recognize when such an embodiment may have been copied before its installation on a host computer or installed on multiple host computers, and (5) preventing hackers from inputting an unlimited number of authorization codes in an attempt to enable use of the software.

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**20 Claims, 28 Drawing Sheets**



**Controlled Usage Software  
Software Distribution Process  
(with Identification Number Tracking)**

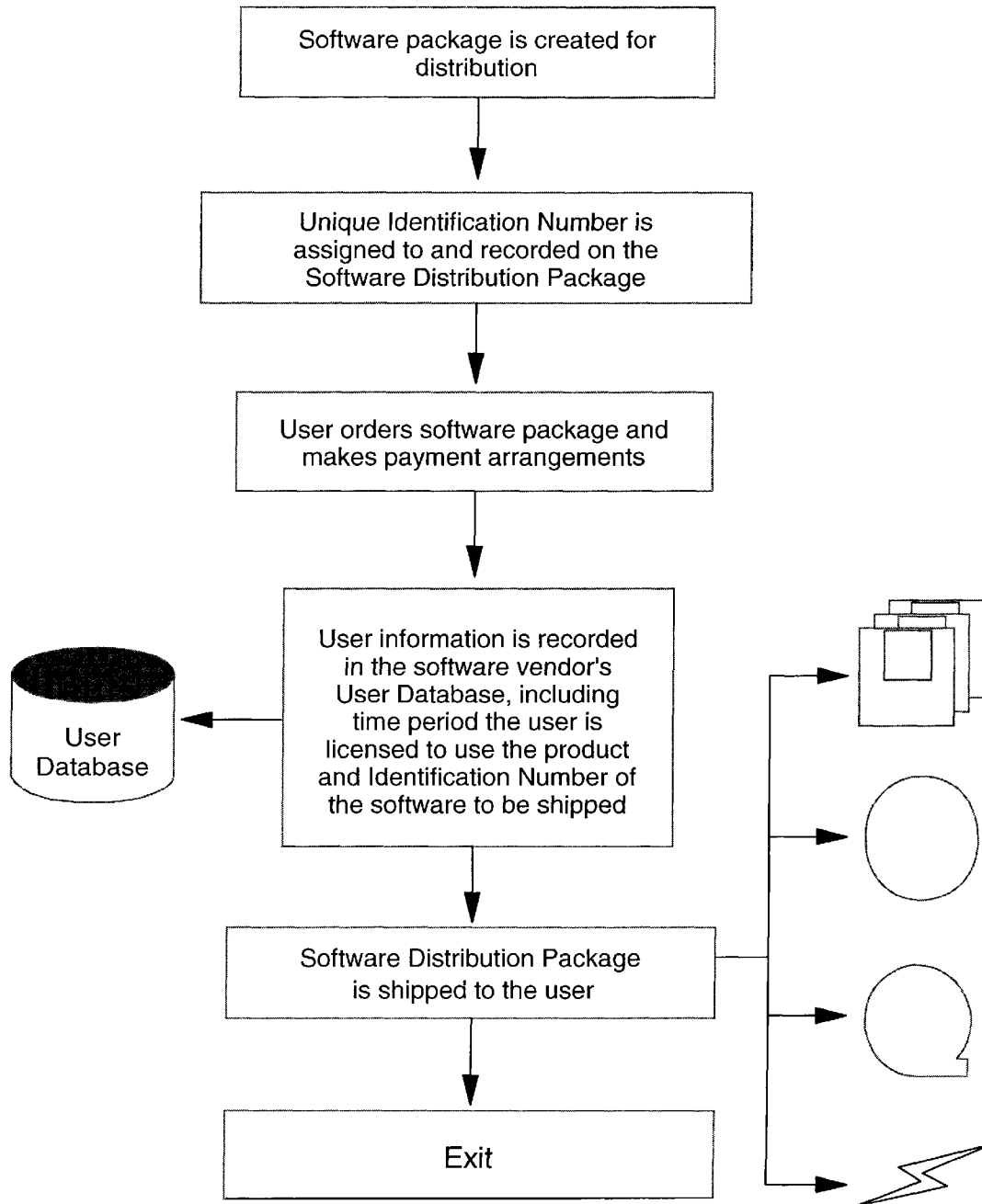


Figure 1

### Controlled Usage Software User Authorization Process (with Identification Number Tracking)

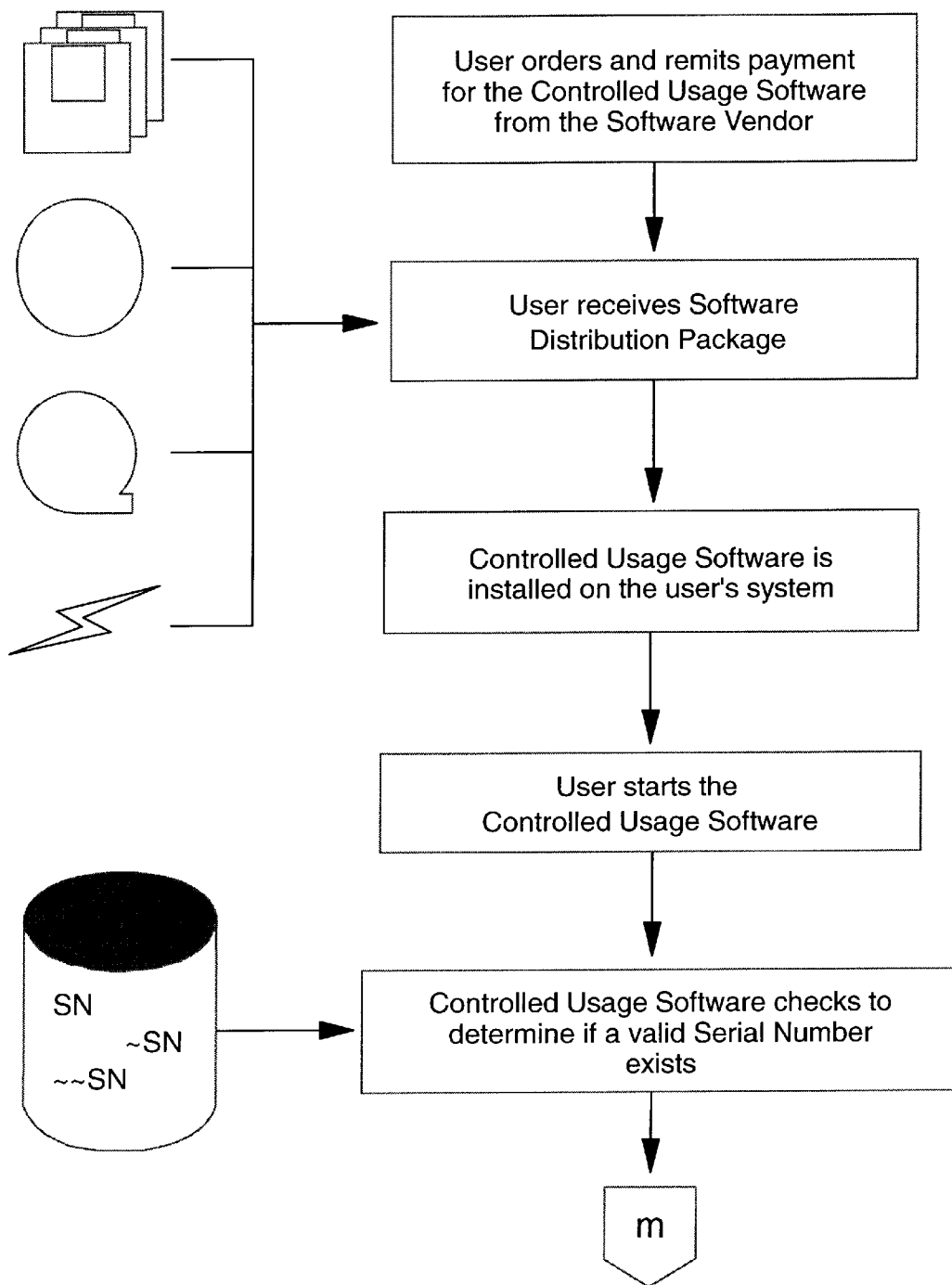


Figure 2-A

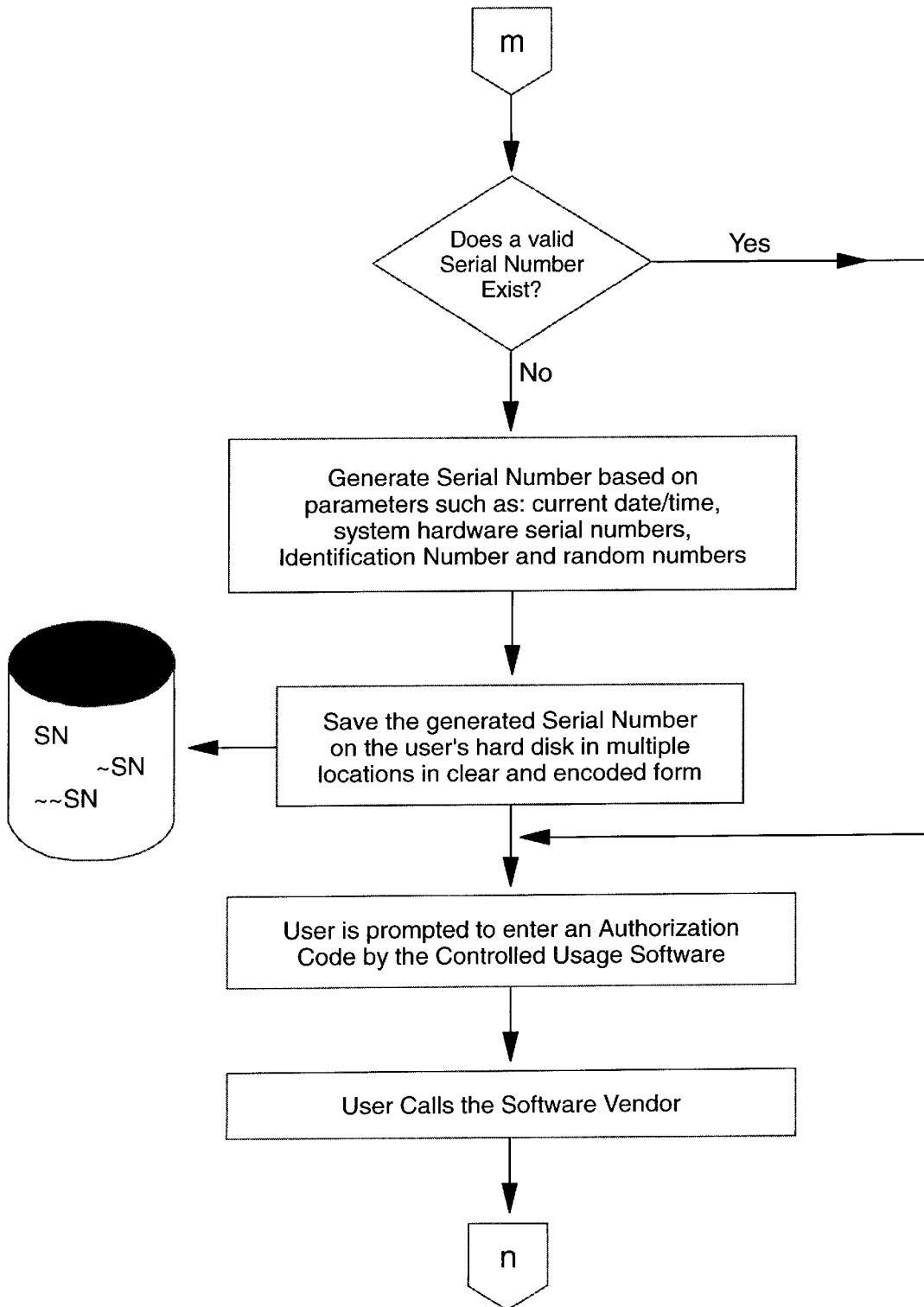


Figure 2-B

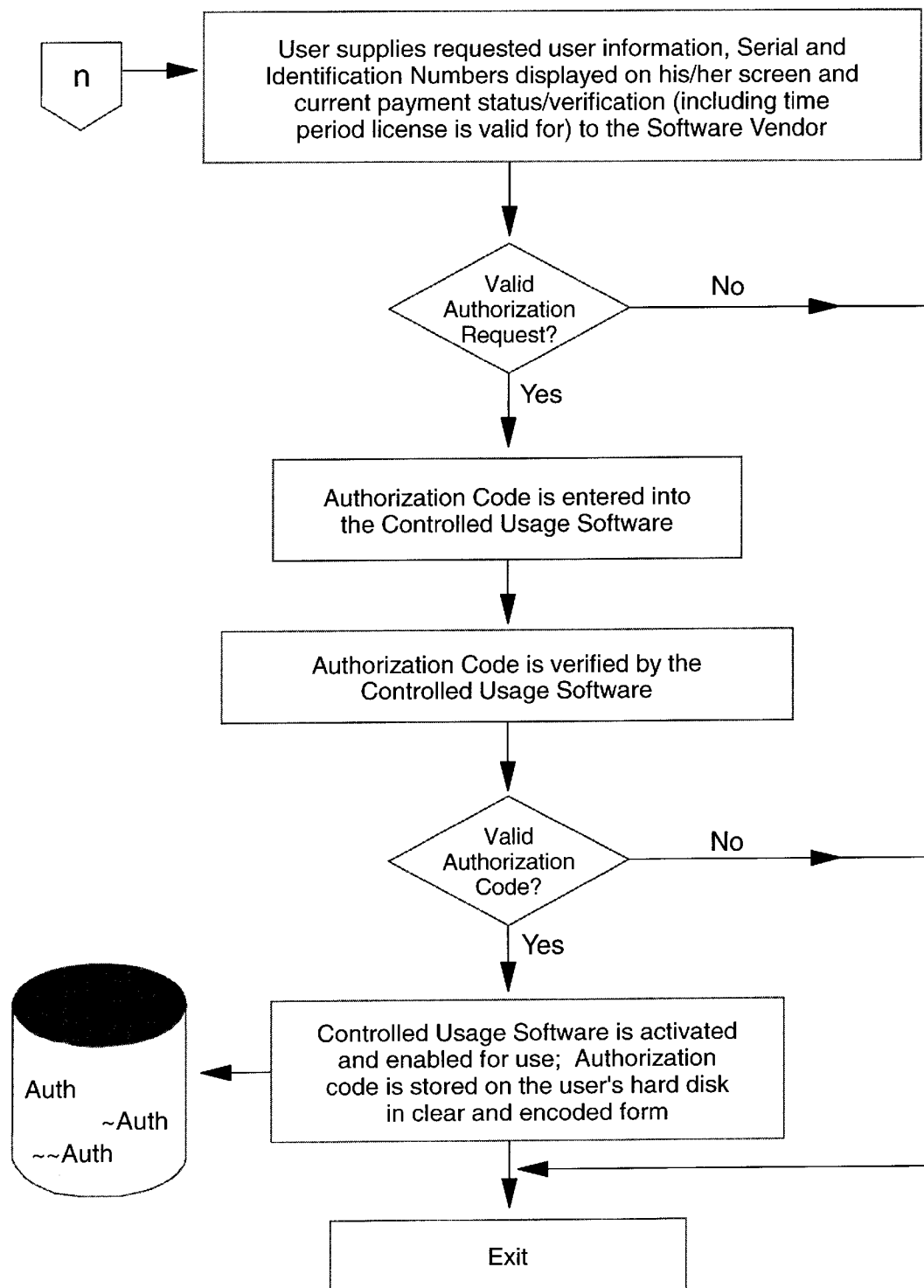


Figure 2-C

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