



US006668246B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Yeung et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,668,246 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 23, 2003**

(54) **MULTIMEDIA DATA DELIVERY AND PLAYBACK SYSTEM WITH MULTI-LEVEL CONTENT AND PRIVACY PROTECTION**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/275,905**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 24, 1999**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 17/60**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/57**; 380/211; 705/1; 705/51; 713/150

(58) **Field of Search** 380/200, 201, 380/211; 705/1, 50, 51, 52, 54, 57; 713/150

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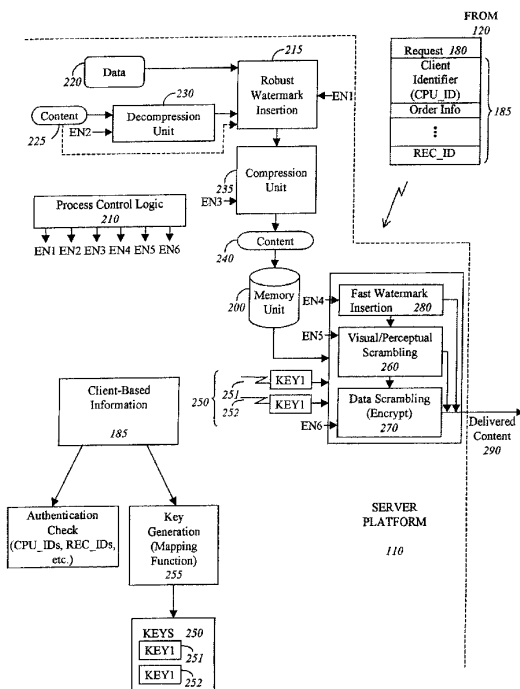
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A content distribution system comprising a server platform and a client platform. The server platform includes a memory unit to store digital content and access control logic to activate content protection mechanisms that provide multiple levels of access protection to the digital content. In communication with the server platform, the client platform plays back segments of the digital content at one of a plurality of quality levels.

24 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



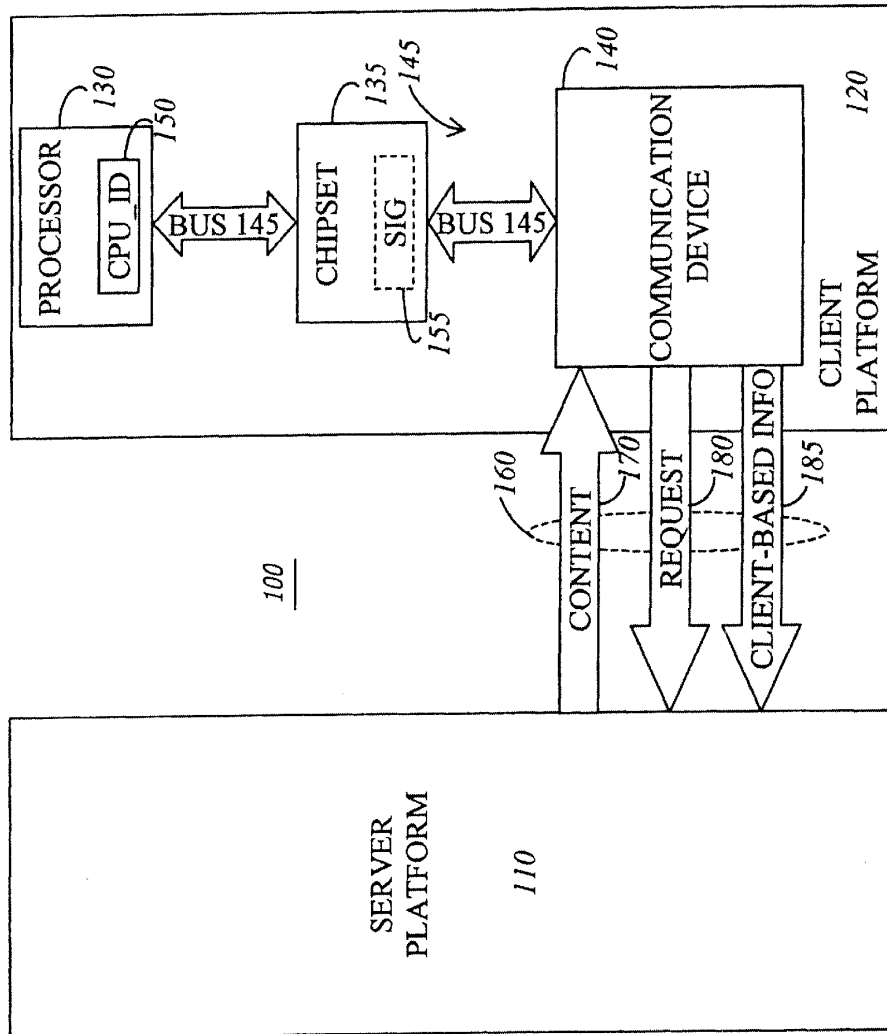
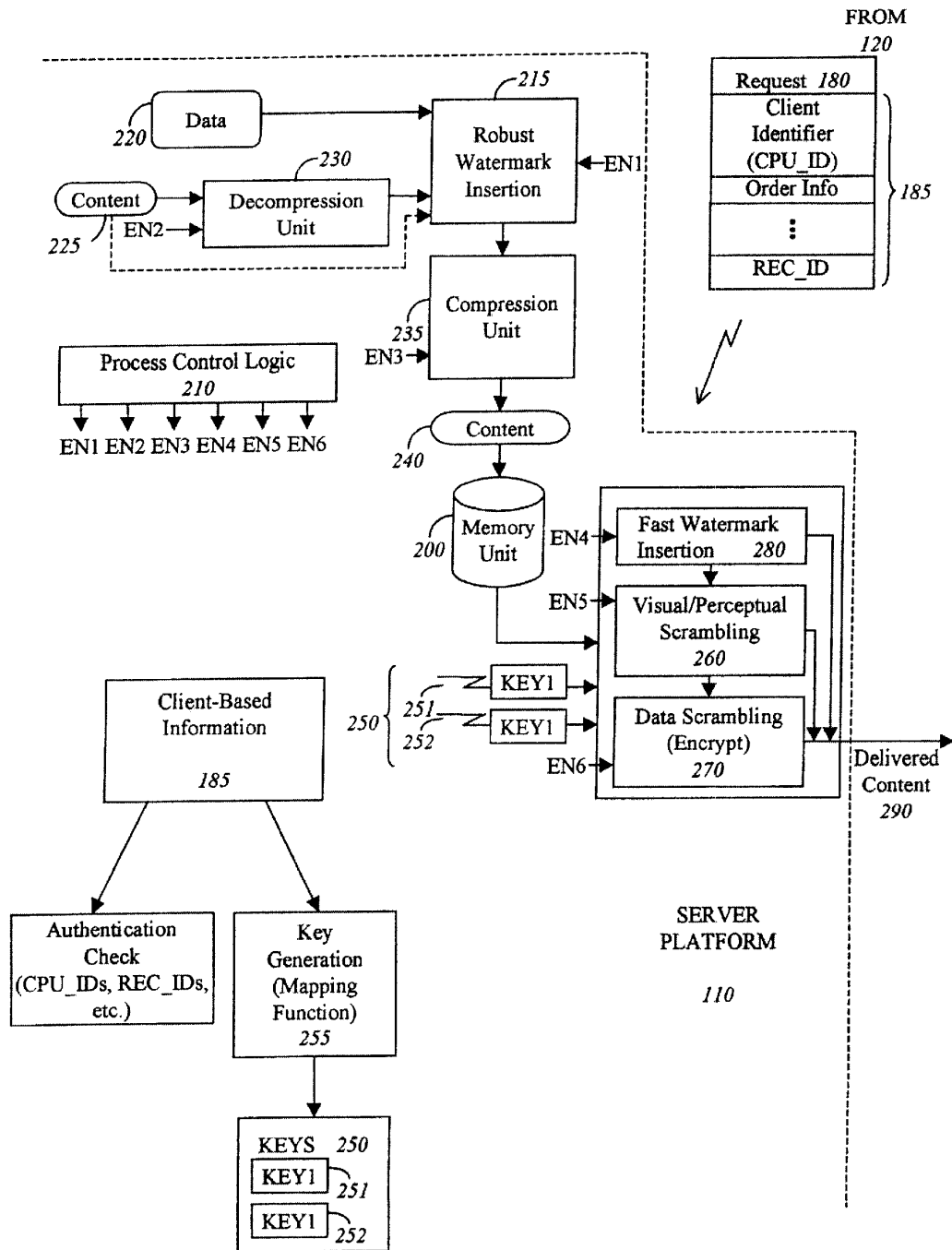


FIG. 1

FIG. 2



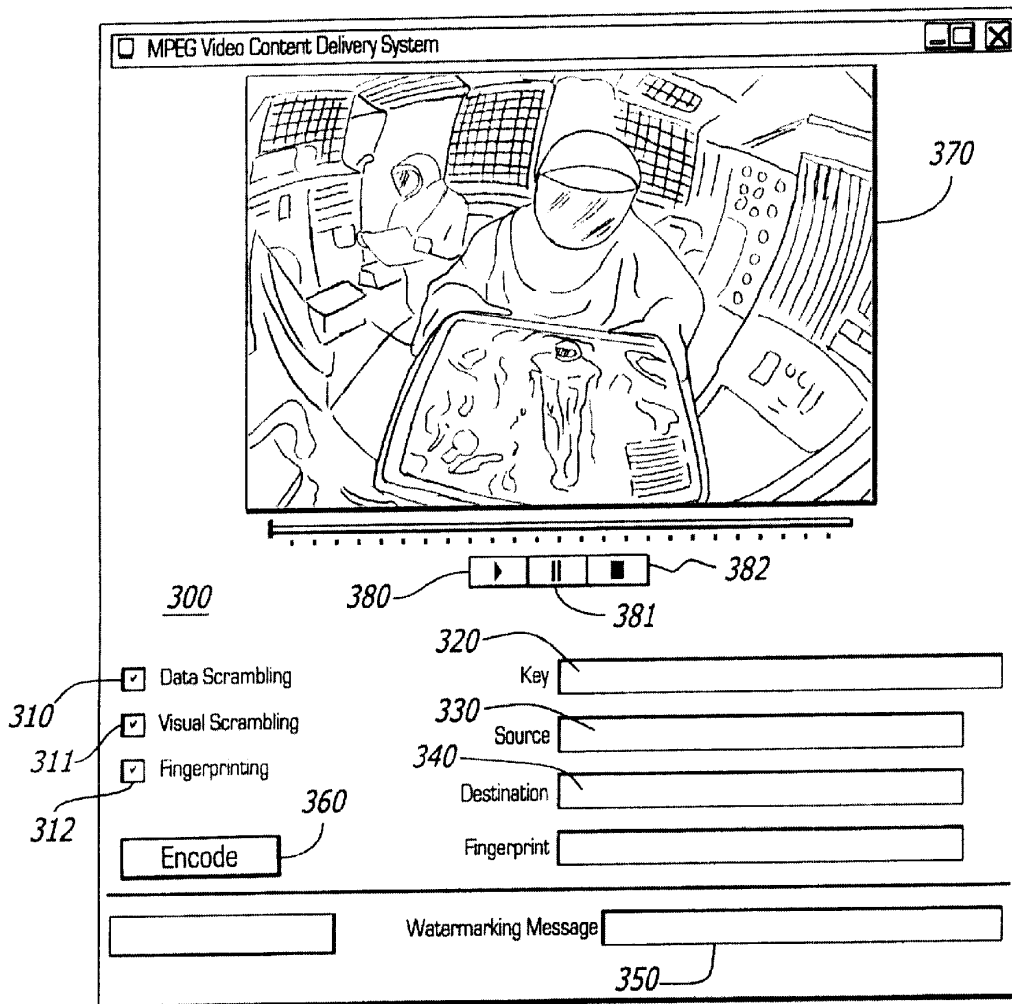


FIG. 3

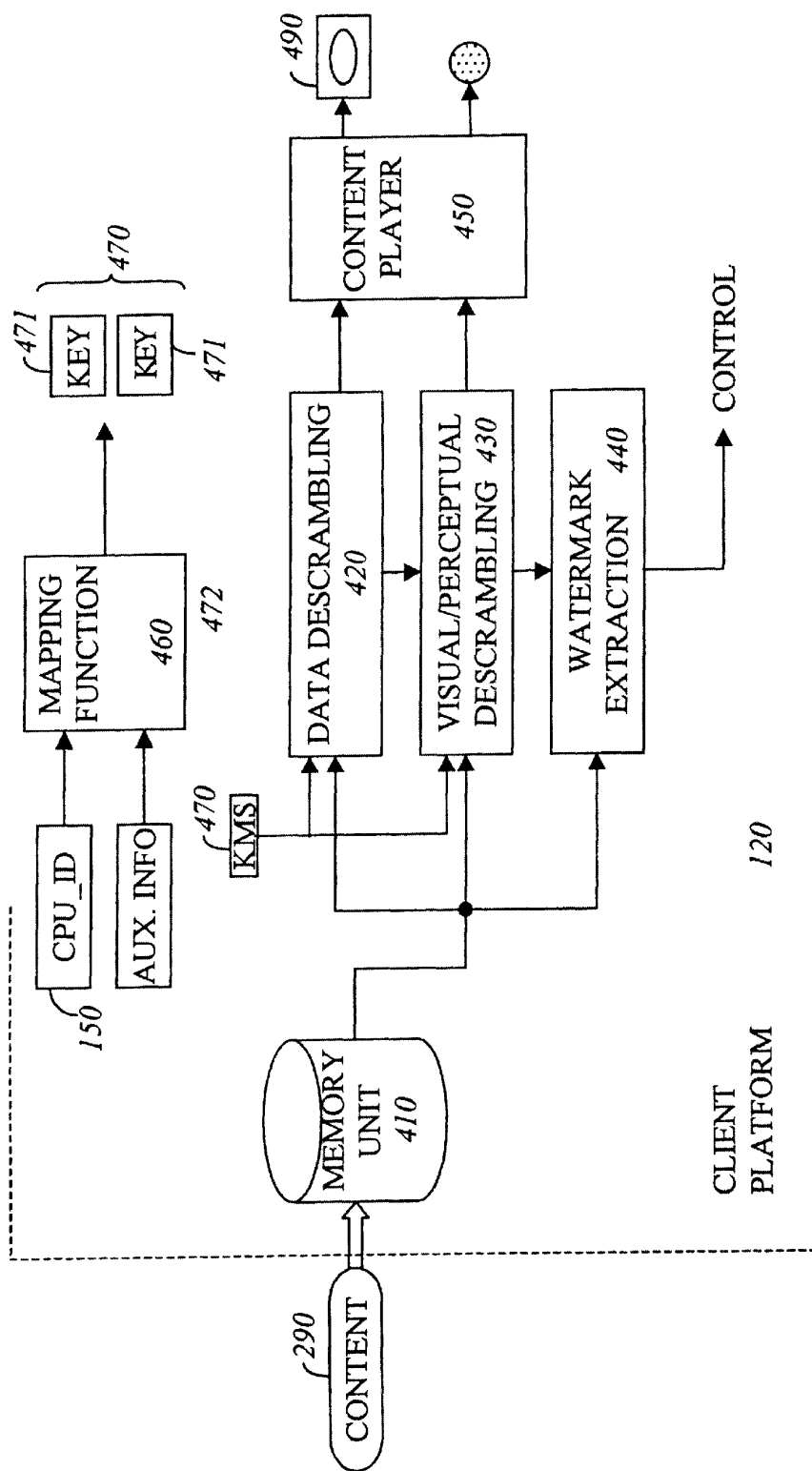


FIG. 4

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