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Downs et al.

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(54) **ELECTRONIC CONTENT DELIVERY SYSTEM**

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(58) **Field of Search** **705/4, 51, 53, 705/57, 59, 71, 26, 27; 380/4, 44, 23, 25, 281, 282, 279; 707/9**

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Primary Examiner—James P. Trammell

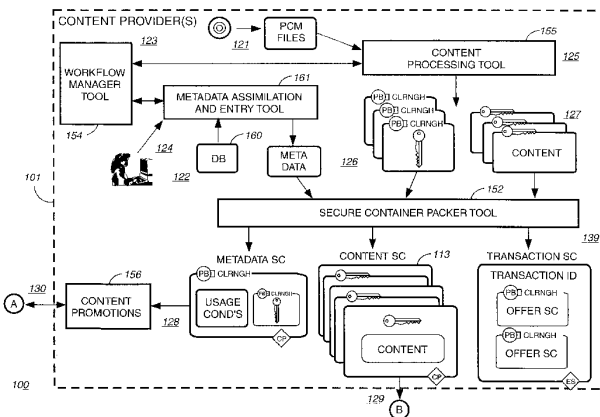
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a method and apparatus of securely providing data to a user's system. The data is encrypted so as to only be decryptable by a data decrypting key, the data decrypting key being encrypted using a first public key, and the encrypted data being accessible to the user's system, the method comprising the steps of: transferring the encrypted data decrypting key to a clearing house that possesses a first private key, which corresponds to the first public key; decrypting the data decrypting key using the first private key; re-encrypting the data decrypting key using a second public key; transferring the re-encrypted data decrypting key to the user's system, the user's system possessing a second private key, which corresponds to the second public key; and decrypting the re-encrypted data decrypting key using the second private key.

26 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets



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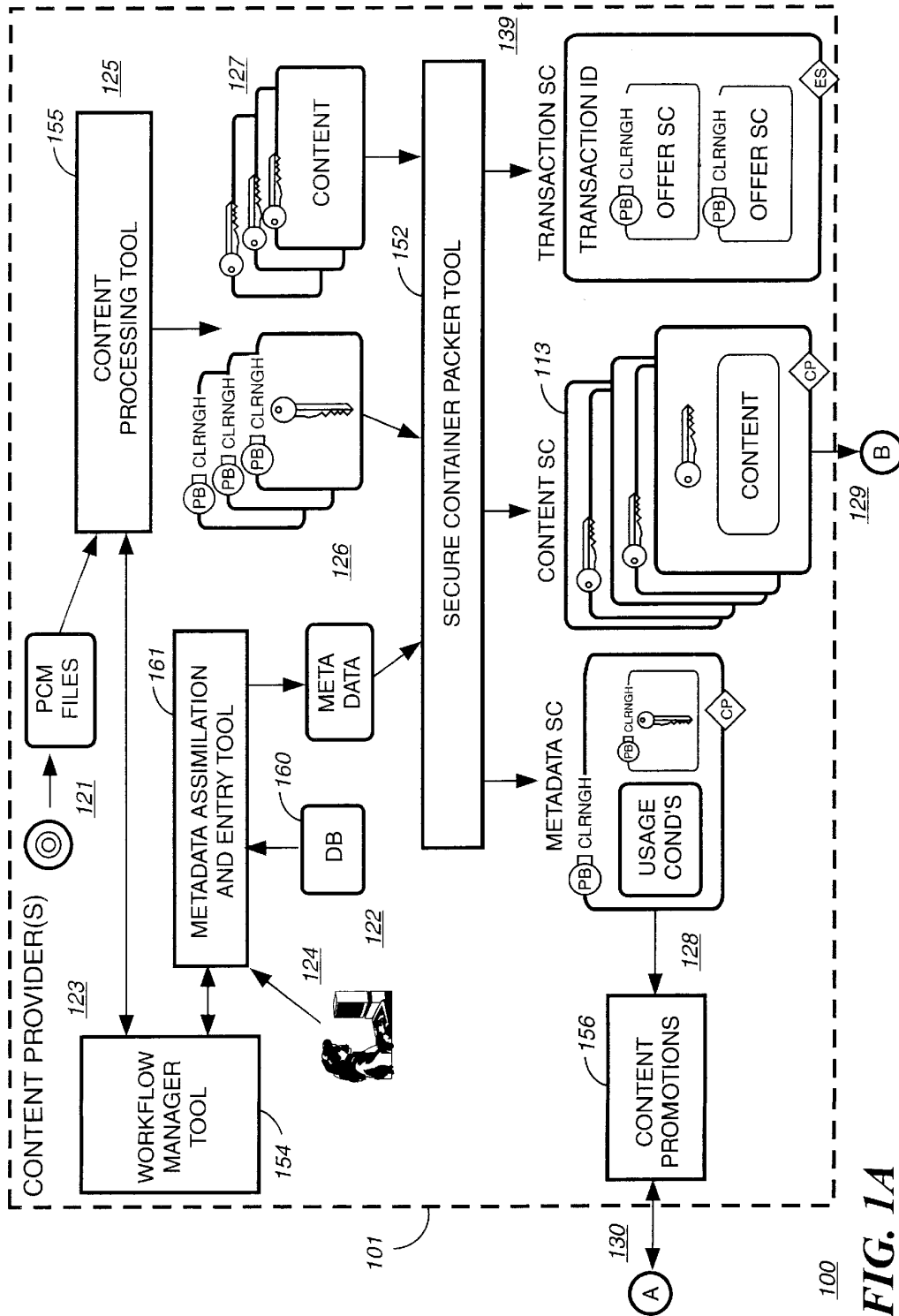


FIG. 1A

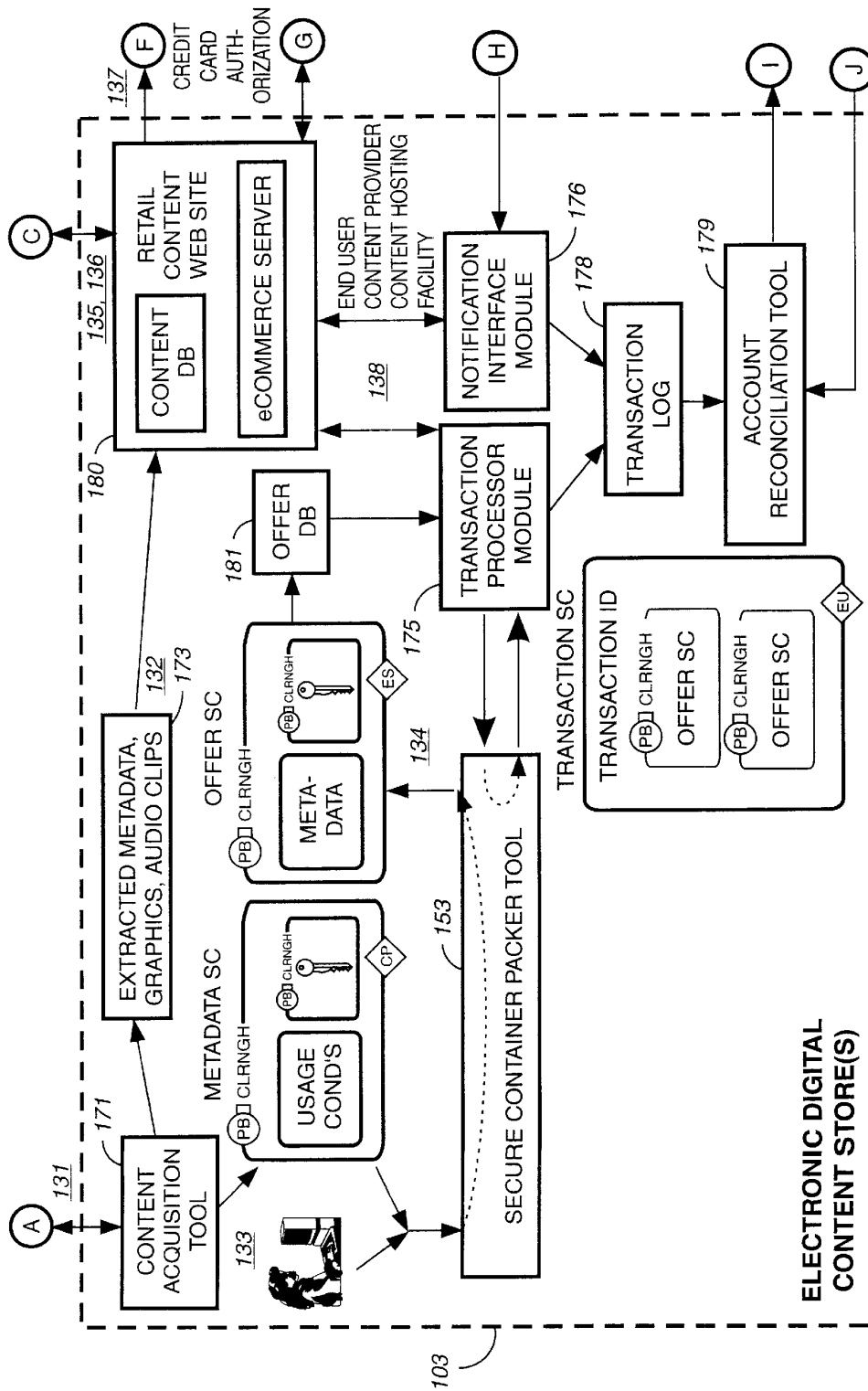


FIG. 1B
ELECTRONIC DIGITAL CONTENT STORE(S)

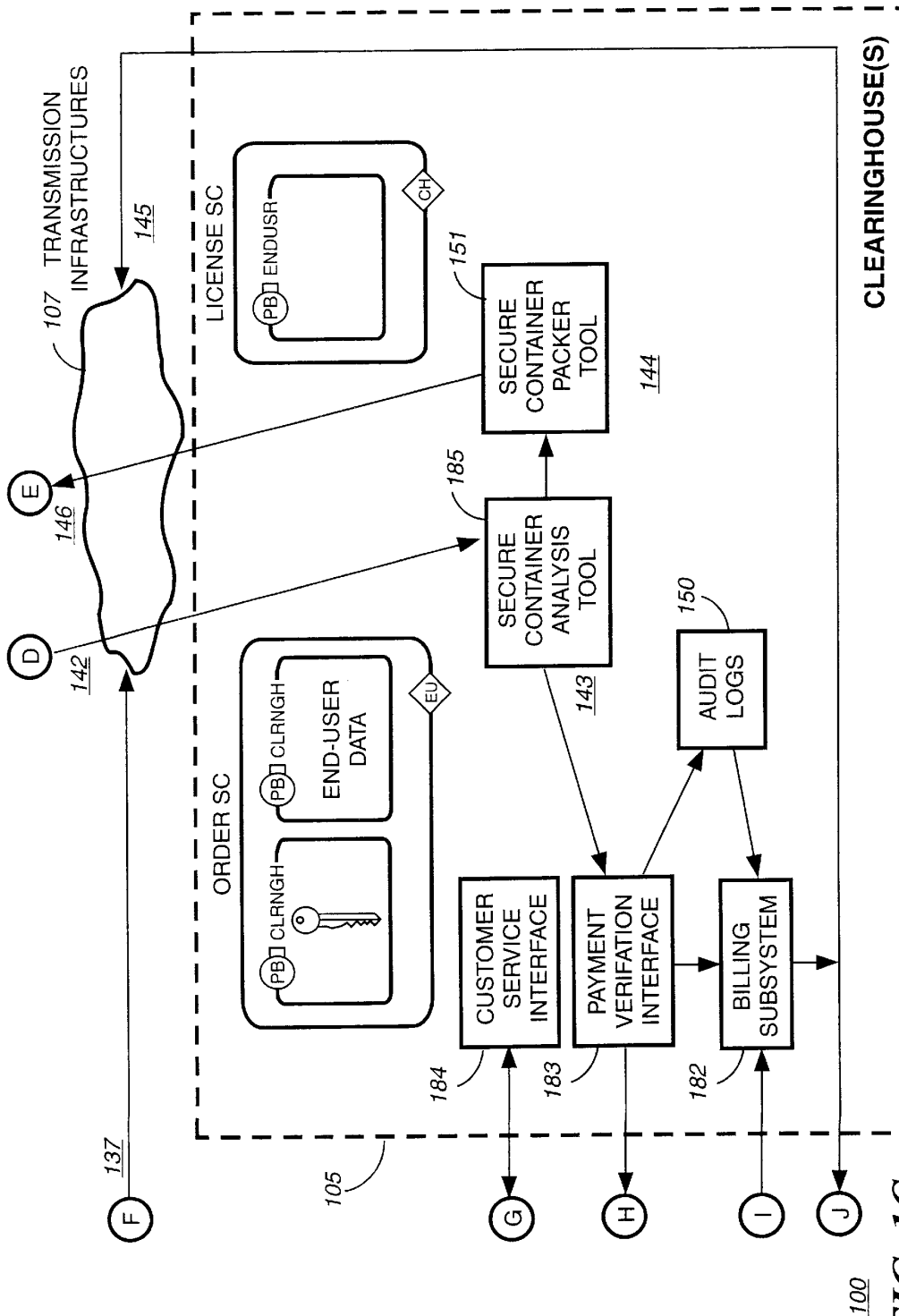


FIG. 1C

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