United States Patent [19]

Richardson, III

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[54] **SYSTEM FOR SOFTWARE REGISTRATION**

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[30]   **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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Oct. 26, 1992 [AU] Australia PL5524

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **H04L 9/00**
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **380/4**; 380/23
[58] **Field of Search** 380/3, 4, 23, 24, 380/25

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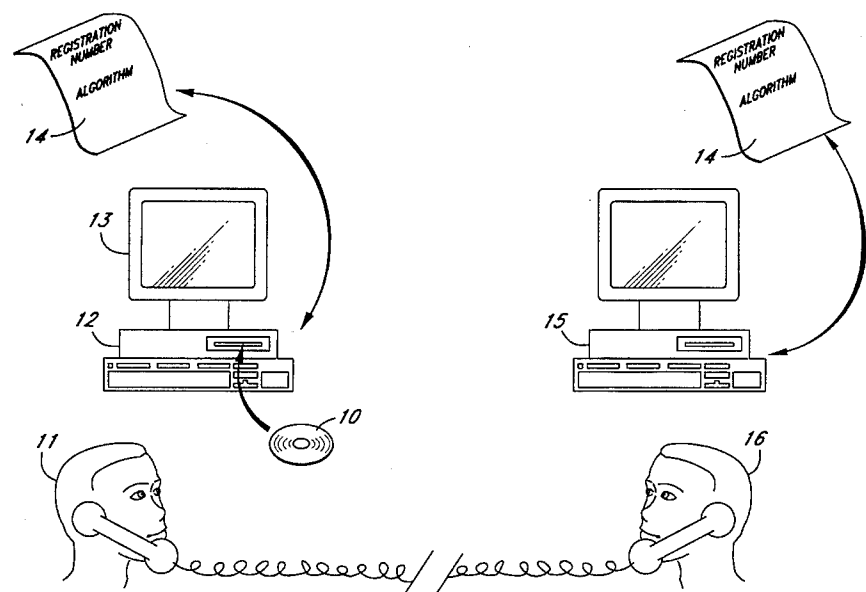|			
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[57]   **ABSTRACT**

A registration system allows digital data or software to run in a use mode on a platform if and only if an appropriate licensing procedure has been followed. Preferably, the system detects when part of the platform on which the digital data has been loaded has changed in part or in entirety, as compared with the platform parameters, when the software or digital data to be protected was last booted or run. The system relies on a portion of digital data or code which is integral to the digital data to be protected by the system. This integral portion is termed the code portion and may include an algorithm that generates a registration number unique to an intending licensee of the digital data based on information supplied by the licensee which characterizes the licensee. The algorithm in the code portion is duplicated at a remote location on a platform under the control of the licensor or its agents, and communication between the intending licensee and the licensor or its agent is required so that a matching registration number can be generated at the remote location for subsequent communication to the intending licensee as a permit to licensed operation of the digital data in a use mode. The code portion can be identical for all copies of the digital data. The algorithm provides a registration number which can be "unique" if the details provided by the intending licenses upon which the algorithm relies when executed upon the platform are themselves "unique".
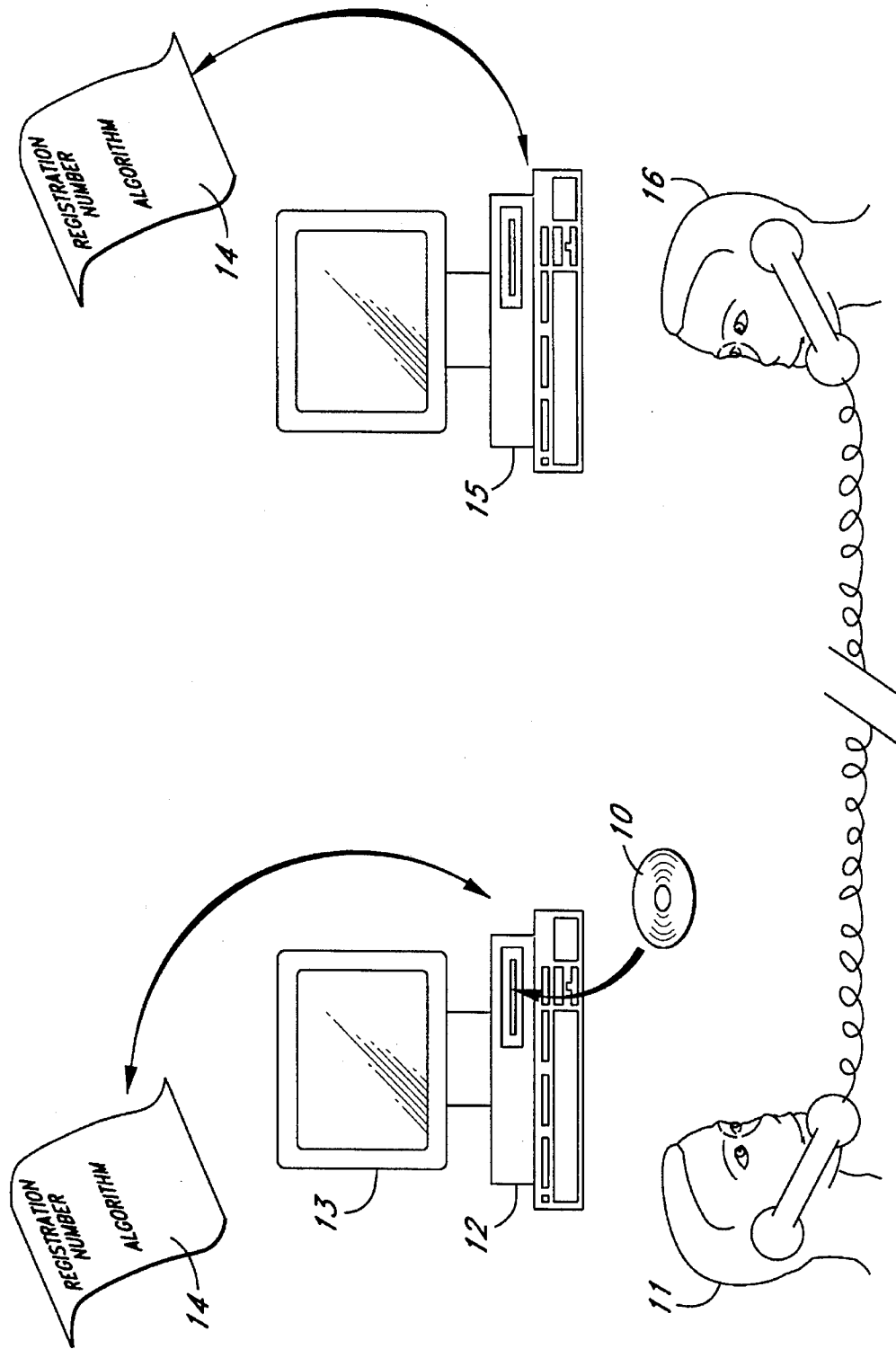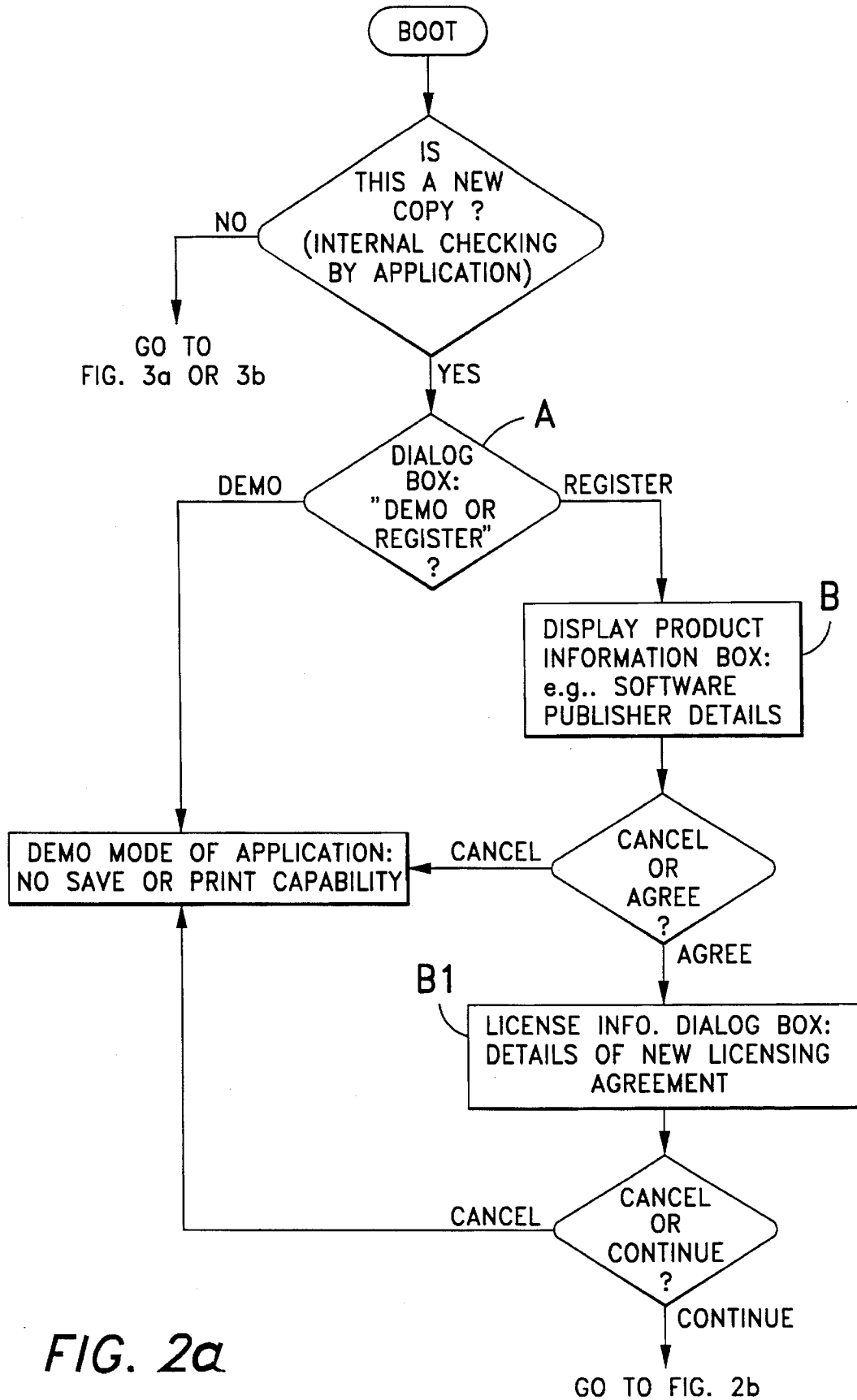
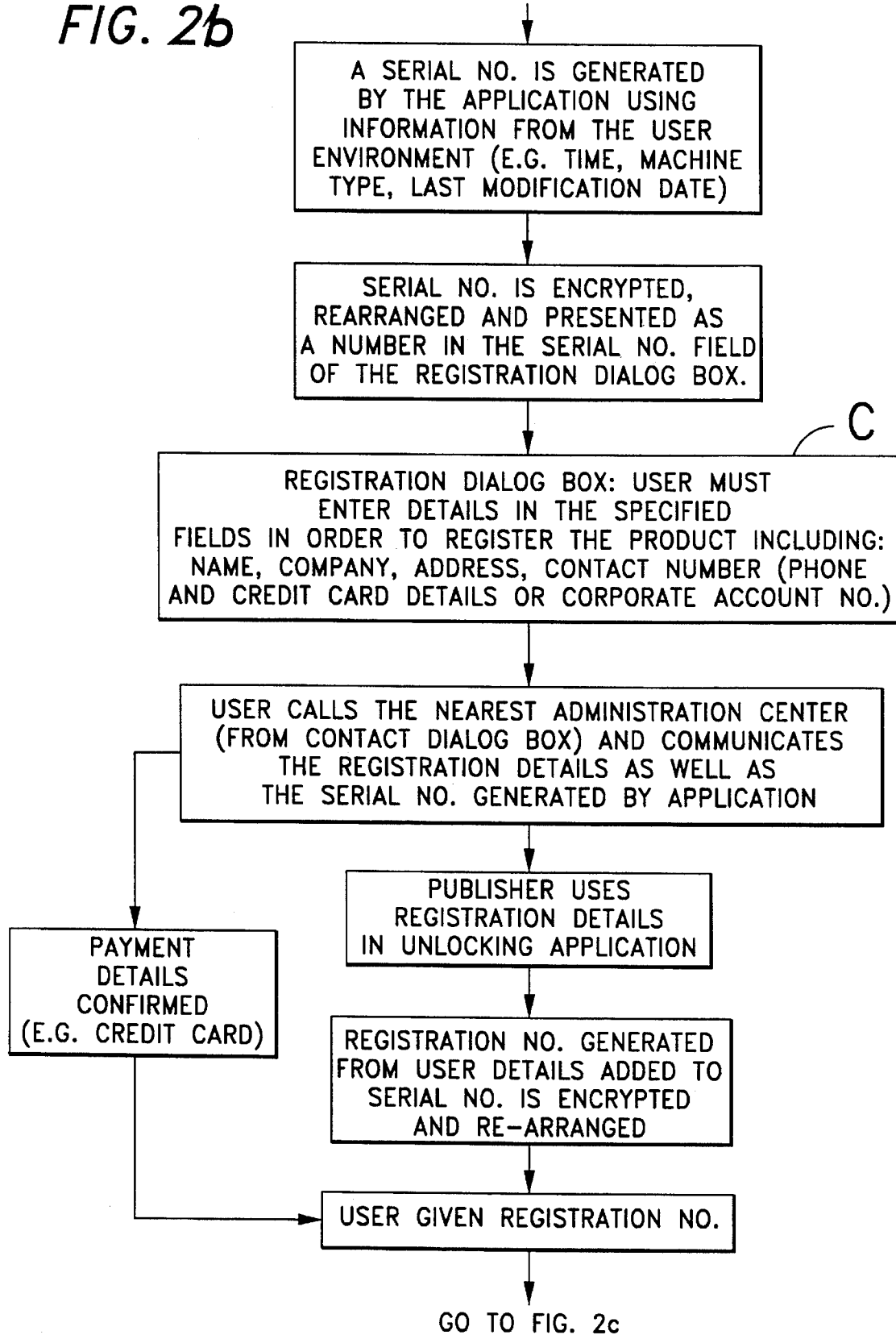**20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**

FIG. 1

FIG. 2a

FIG. 2b

FROM FIG. 2a

A SERIAL NO. IS GENERATED
BY THE APPLICATION USING
INFORMATION FROM THE USER
ENVIRONMENT (E.G. TIME, MACHINE
TYPE, LAST MODIFICATION DATE)

SERIAL NO. IS ENCRYPTED,
REARRANGED AND PRESENTED AS
A NUMBER IN THE SERIAL NO. FIELD
OF THE REGISTRATION DIALOG BOX.

C

REGISTRATION DIALOG BOX: USER MUST
ENTER DETAILS IN THE SPECIFIED
FIELDS IN ORDER TO REGISTER THE PRODUCT INCLUDING:
NAME, COMPANY, ADDRESS, CONTACT NUMBER (PHONE
AND CREDIT CARD DETAILS OR CORPORATE ACCOUNT NO.)

USER CALLS THE NEAREST ADMINISTRATION CENTER
(FROM CONTACT DIALOG BOX) AND COMMUNICATES
THE REGISTRATION DETAILS AS WELL AS
THE SERIAL NO. GENERATED BY APPLICATION

PUBLISHER USES
REGISTRATION DETAILS
IN UNLOCKING APPLICATION

PAYMENT
DETAILS
CONFIRMED
(E.G. CREDIT CARD)

REGISTRATION NO. GENERATED
FROM USER DETAILS ADDED TO
SERIAL NO. IS ENCRYPTED
AND RE-ARRANGED

USER GIVEN REGISTRATION NO.

GO TO FIG. 2c

FIG. 2c

FROM FIG. 2b

USER TYPES IN
REGISTRATION NUMBER

APPLICATION USES UNLOCKING
ALGORITHM TO CHECK VALIDITY

NO   VALID ?   YES

ALERT DIALOG BOX: USER TOLD
THE REGISTRATION NO. IS INCORRECT
AND ASKED TO CALL THE OPERATOR FOR
ASSISTANCE IN CHECKING REGISTRATION
DETAILS. USER GIVEN 3 ATTEMPTS TO
REGISTER AFTER WHICH THE PROGRAM
AUTOMATICALLY REVERTS TO DEMO VERSION

RUN FULL
VERSION

RUN DEMO
VERSION

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