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(54) **PROVIDING FIRMWARE UPDATES TO PORTABLE MEDIA DEVICES**

Publication Classification

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for providing a firmware upgrade to a portable media device by comparing a version number of the firmware on the portable media device to the version number of an available firmware upgrade. The available firmware upgrade is provided by the manufacturer of the portable media device or some other trusted source and compiled in a firmware database. The firmware database is accessed when the portable media device is connected to the personal computing device. Additionally, a digital signature may be associated with a certified version of the media device firmware and used by a multimedia management application to verify the functionality of the portable media device.

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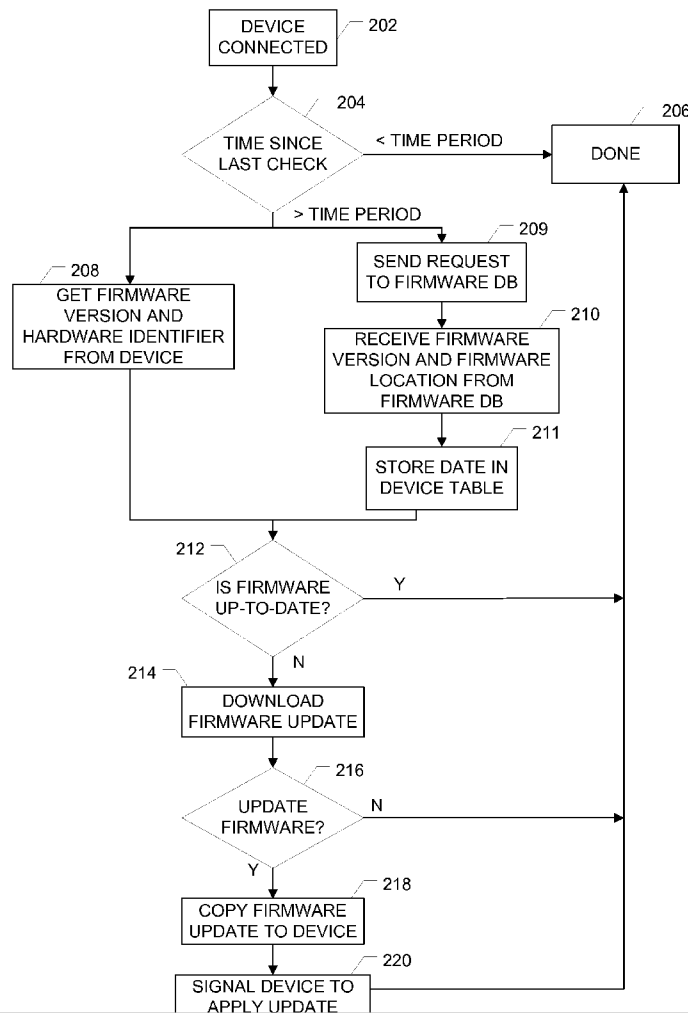


FIG. 1

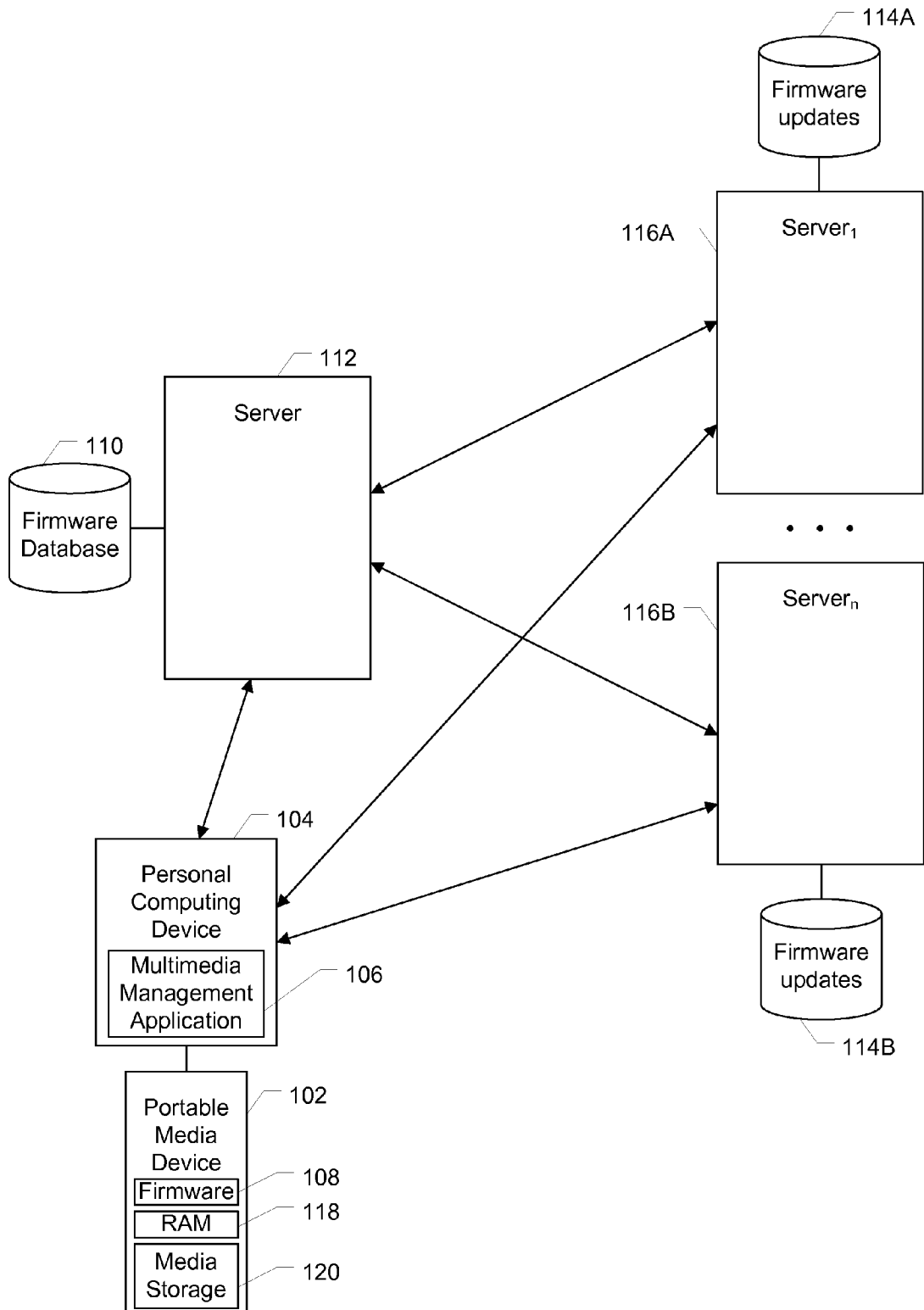


FIG. 2

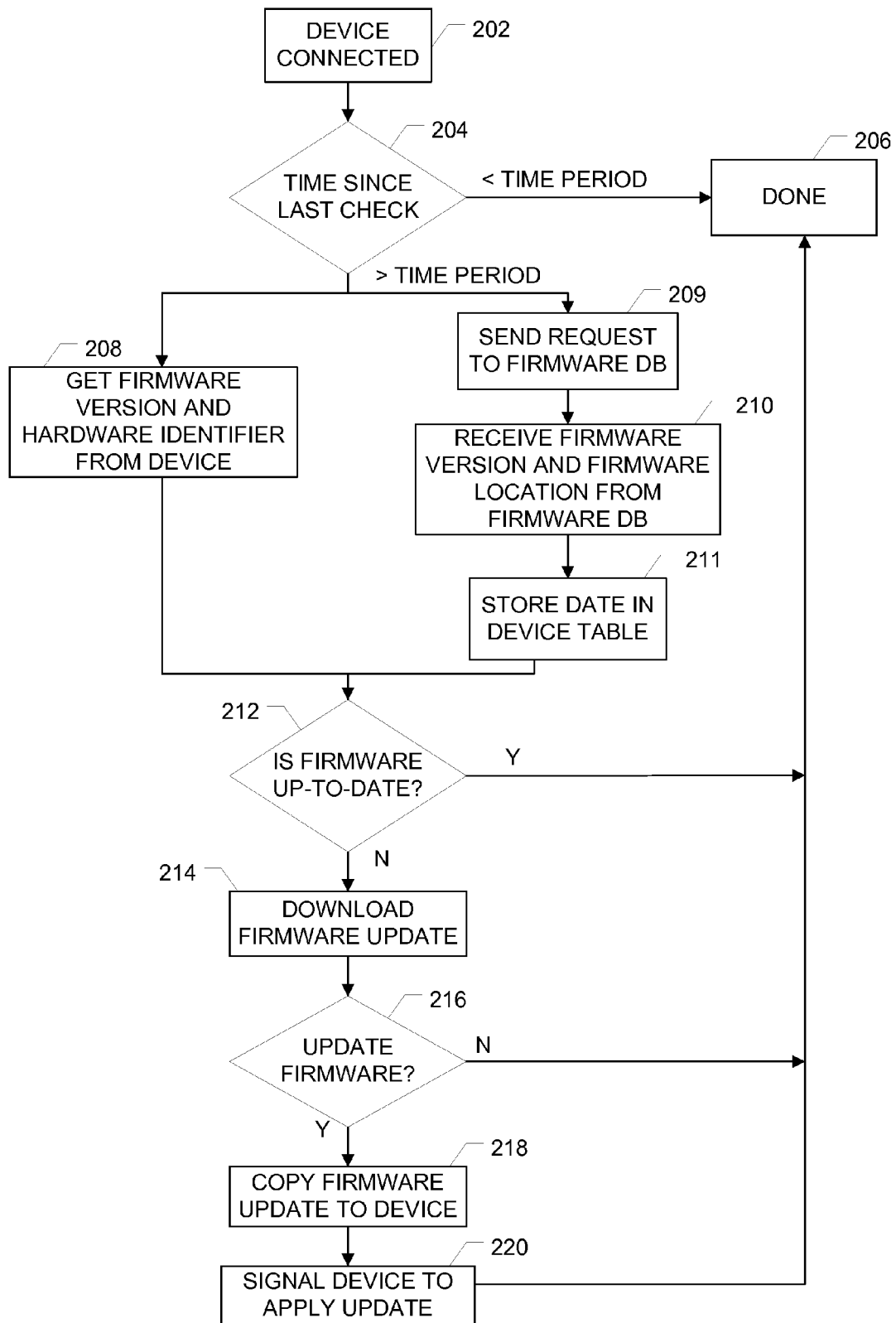


FIG. 3

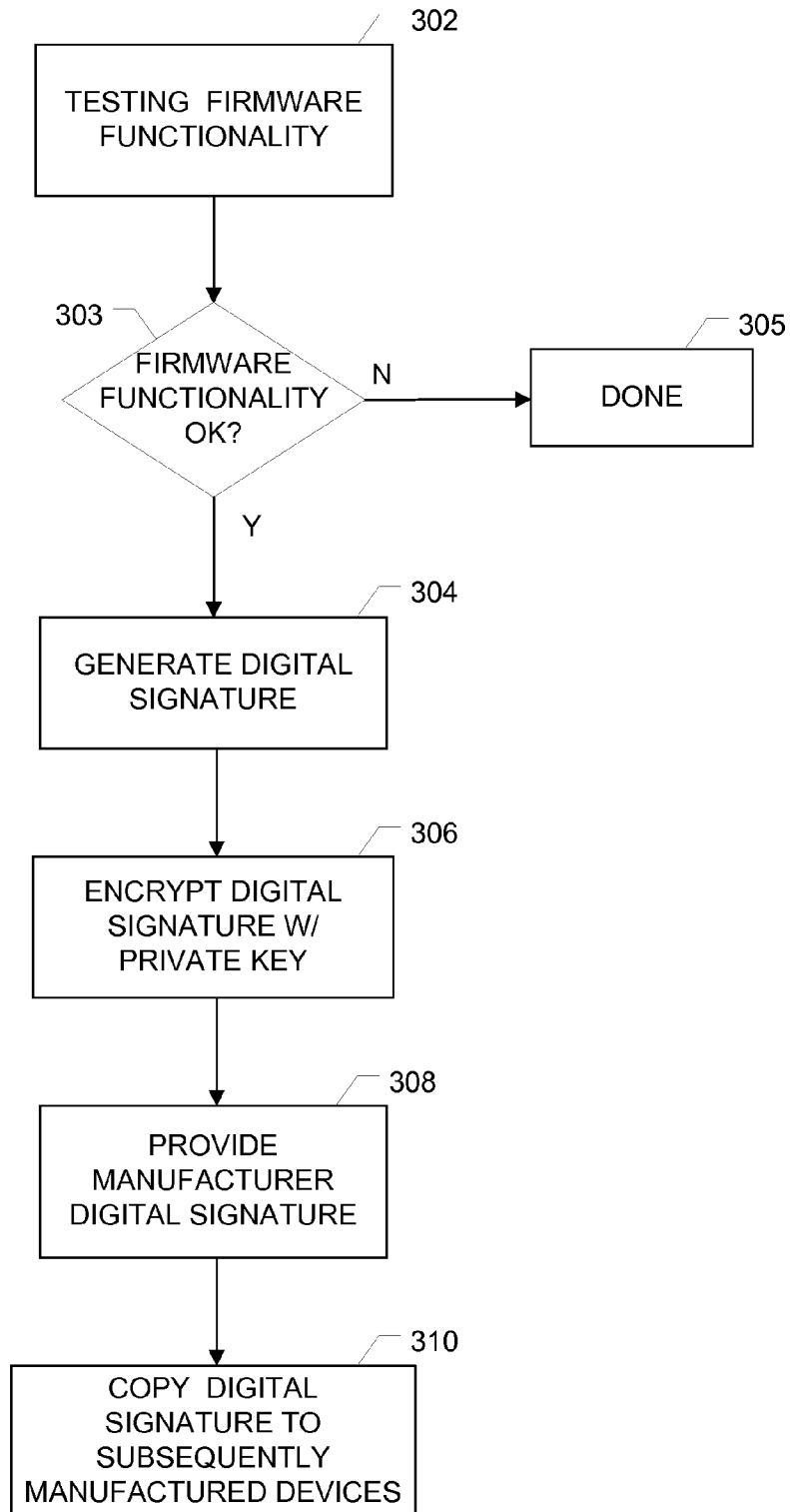
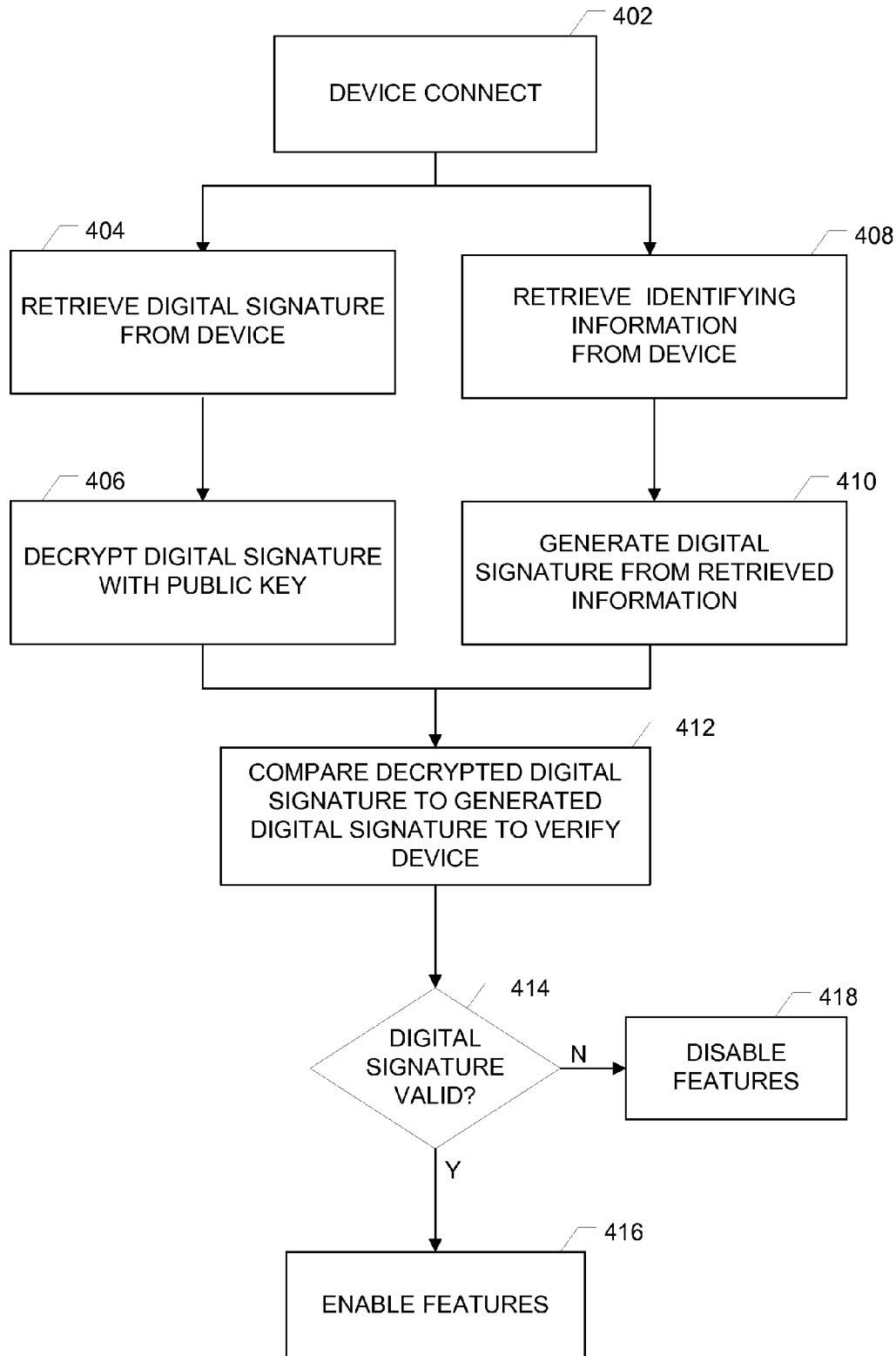


FIG. 4



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