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United States Patent [19]

Schneck et al.

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[54] **SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITAL PROPERTY**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **H04L 9/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **380/4**; 380/9; 380/23; 380/25; 380/49; 380/50

[58] **Field of Search** 380/4, 9, 21, 23, 380/24, 25, 49, 50, 51, 55

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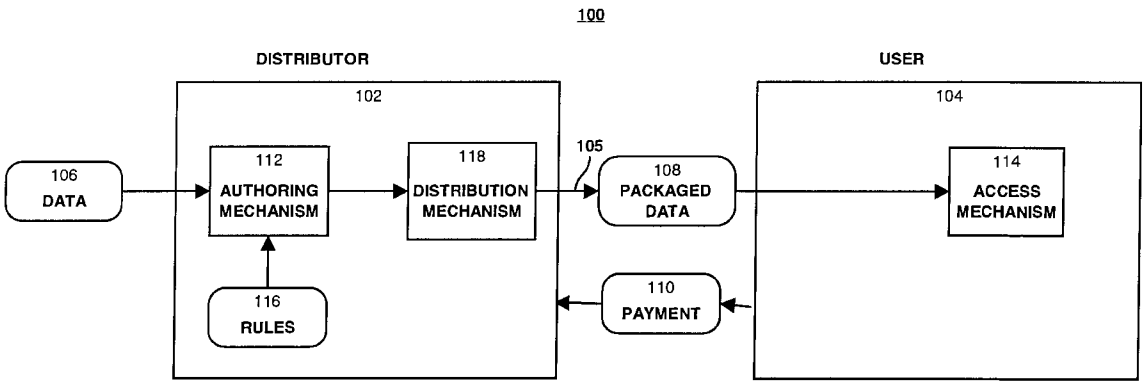
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and device are provided for controlling access to data. Portions of the data are protected and rules concerning access rights to the data are determined. Access to the protected portions of the data is prevented, other than in a non-useable form; and users are provided access to the data only in accordance with the rules as enforced by a mechanism protected by tamper detection. A method is also provided for distributing data for subsequent controlled use of those data. The method includes protecting portions of the data; preventing access to the protected portions of the data other than in a non-useable form; determining rules concerning access rights to the data; protecting the rules; and providing a package including: the protected portions of the data and the protected rules. A user is provided controlled access to the distributed data only in accordance with the rules as enforced by a mechanism protected by tamper protection. A device is provided for controlling access to data having protected data portions and rules concerning access rights to the data. The device includes means for storing the rules; and means for accessing the protected data portions only in accordance with the rules, whereby user access to the protected data portions is permitted only if the rules indicate that the user is allowed to access the portions of the data.

88 Claims, 26 Drawing Sheets



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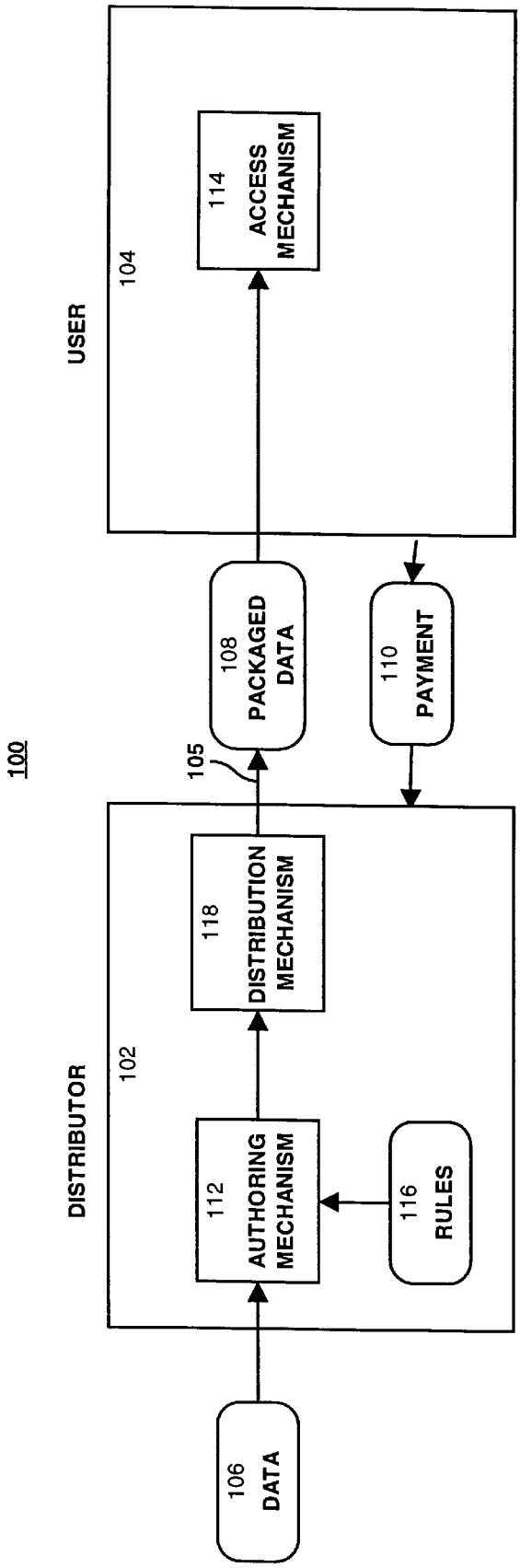

FIG. 1

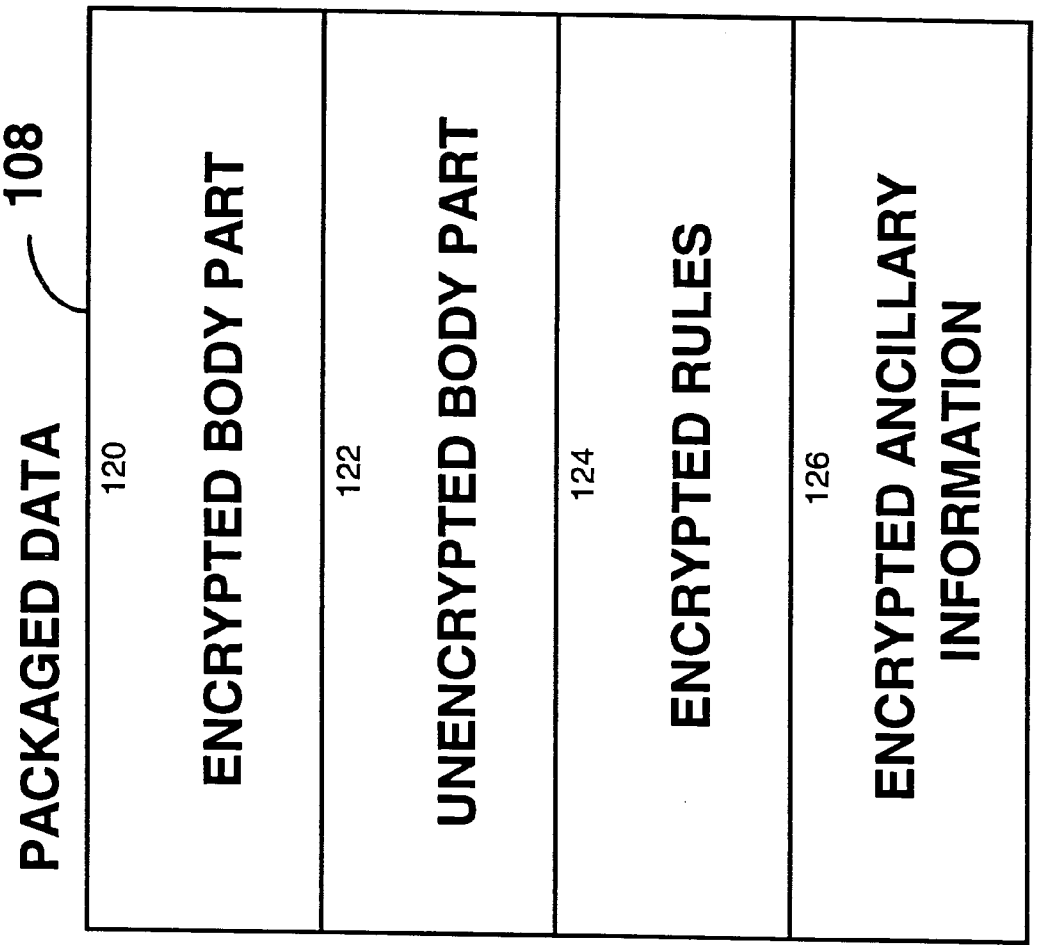

FIG. 2

DOCKET ALARM

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