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**Weiskopf et al.**

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING LICENSES TO CONTENT**

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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 591 days.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**  
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

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Process for enabling a content provider and its users to easily manage licenses for intended uses for selected or provided content. Licensing information for content previously provided to a user or acquired by the content provider, a digital fingerprint, and/or a digital identifier are employed to uniquely identify a particular instance of the selected/provided content and manage licenses to use this content. Once the selected content is provided for processing, the invention can notify the user of at least one of four conditions: (1) a user is currently licensed for at least one type of use for the selected content; (2) if a previous license to the selected content is expired, a current license does not include the selected use, or the user doesn't have or has an expired license to use the selected content, and identify steps to obtain a current license for at least one type of use; (3) if a license to use the selected content is not available from the content provider; and (4) identify substantially similar content that is available from the content provider for a license for at least one type of the intended use for one or more of conditions (1), (2), and (3).

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 21/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **705/59**; 705/1; 705/26;  
705/51; 380/231; 713/177; 713/193; 713/201

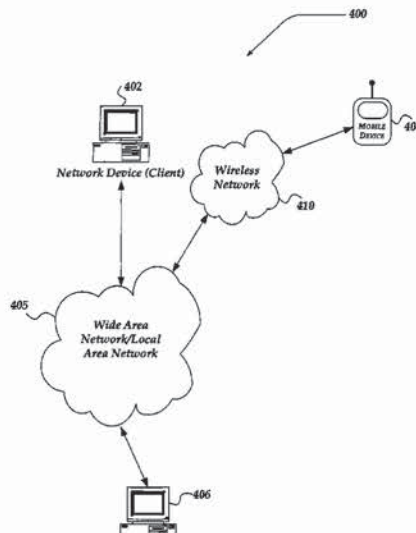
(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 705/1-59;  
380/231; 713/177, 193, 201  
See application file for complete search history.

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**35 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



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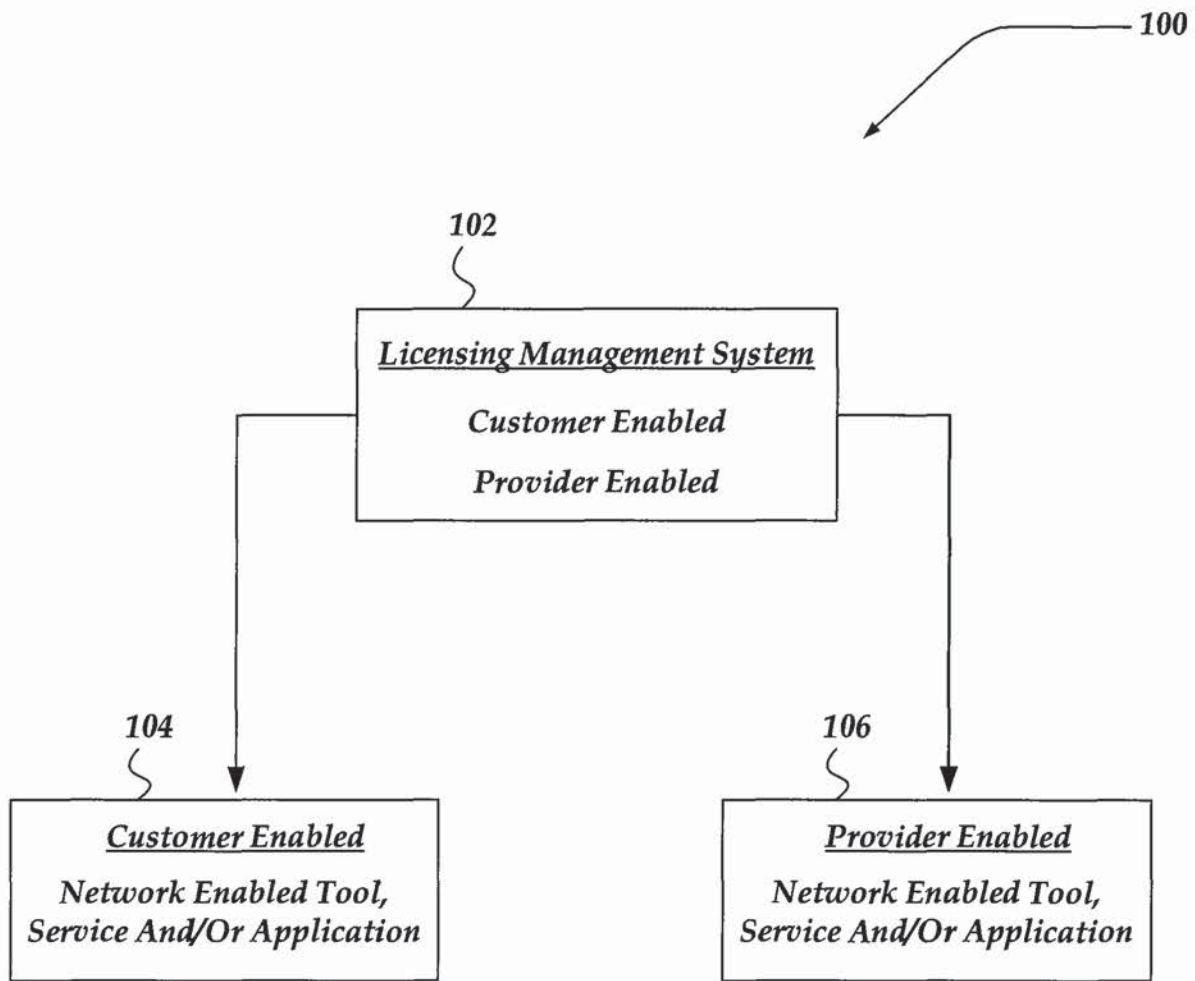
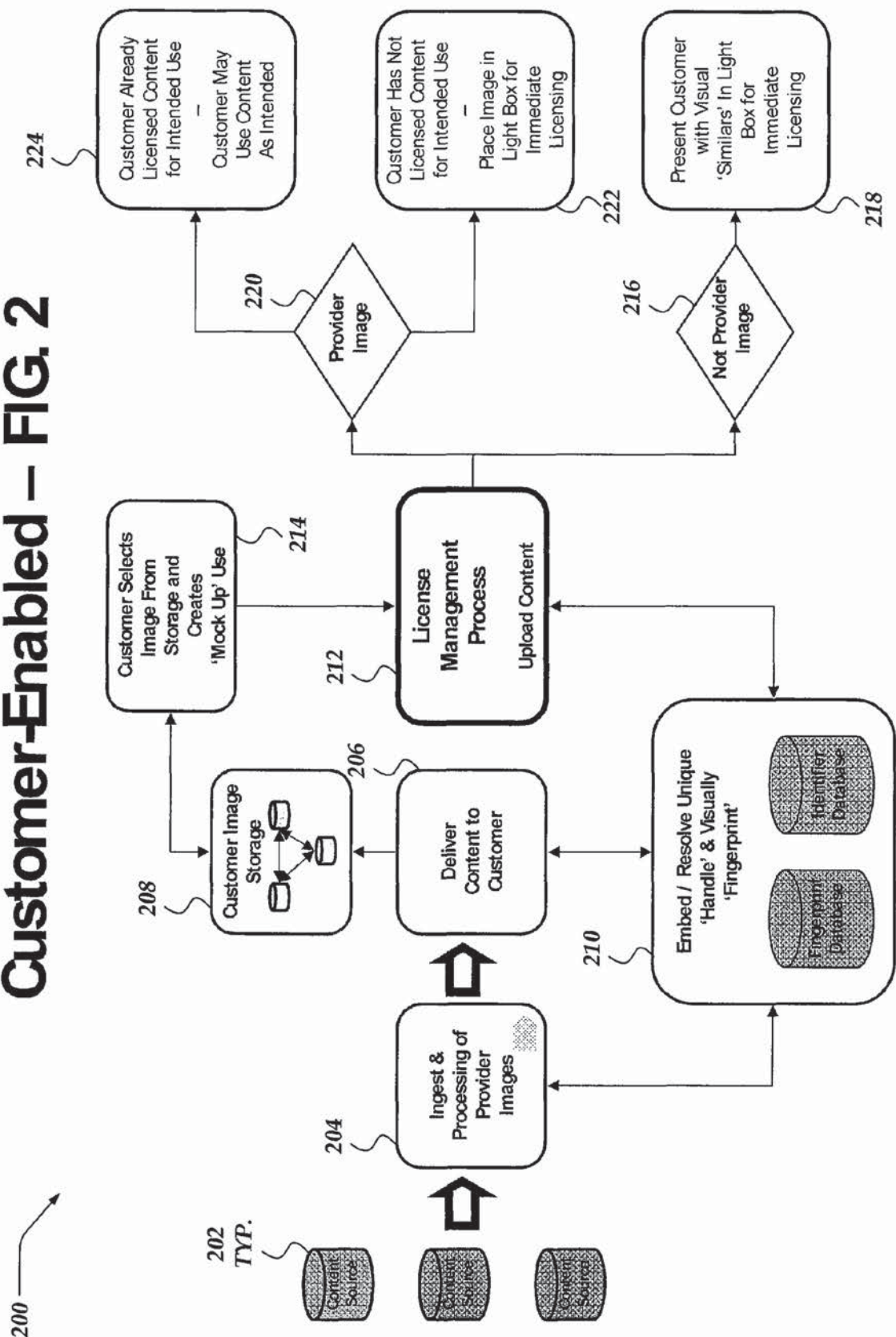
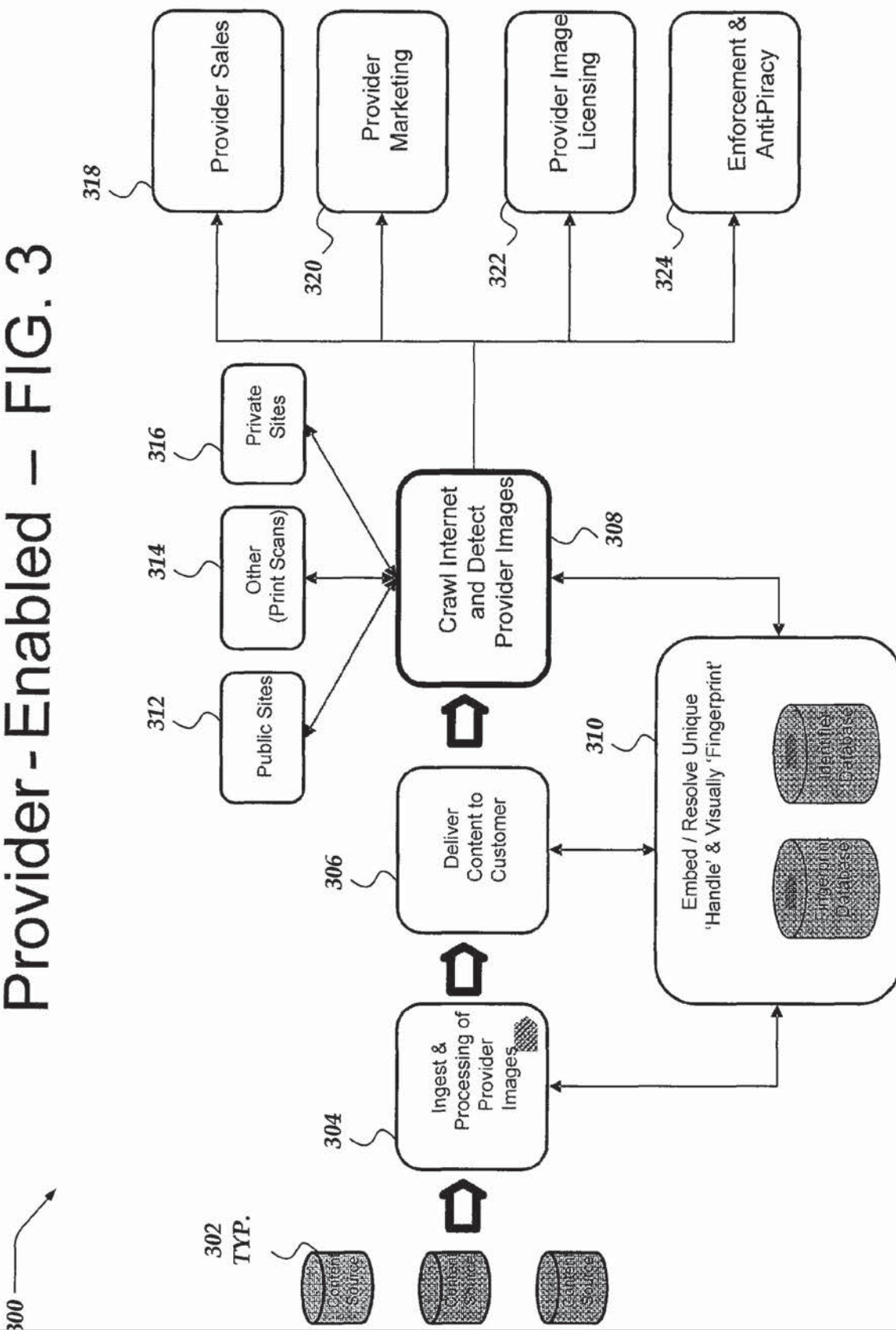


FIG. 1

# Customer-Enabled – FIG. 2



# Provider - Enabled - FIG. 3



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