



US007818261B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Weiskopf et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,818,261 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 19, 2010**

(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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(21) Appl. No.: **11/425,335**

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(22) Filed: **Jun. 20, 2006**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

US 2007/0168513 A1 Jul. 19, 2007

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/760,182, filed on Jan. 18, 2006.

(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.

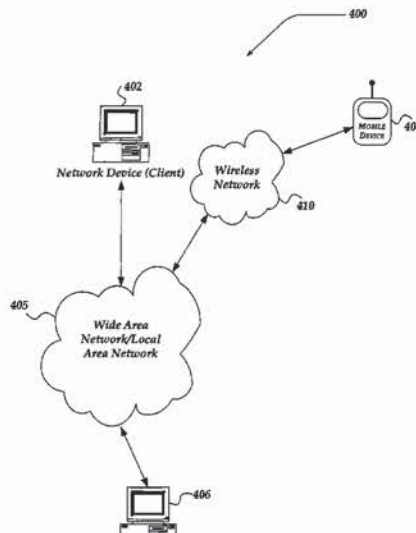
Process for enabling a content provider and its users to easily manage licenses for intended uses for selected or provided content. Licensing information for content previously provided to a user or acquired by the content provider, a digital fingerprint, and/or a digital identifier are employed to uniquely 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).

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35 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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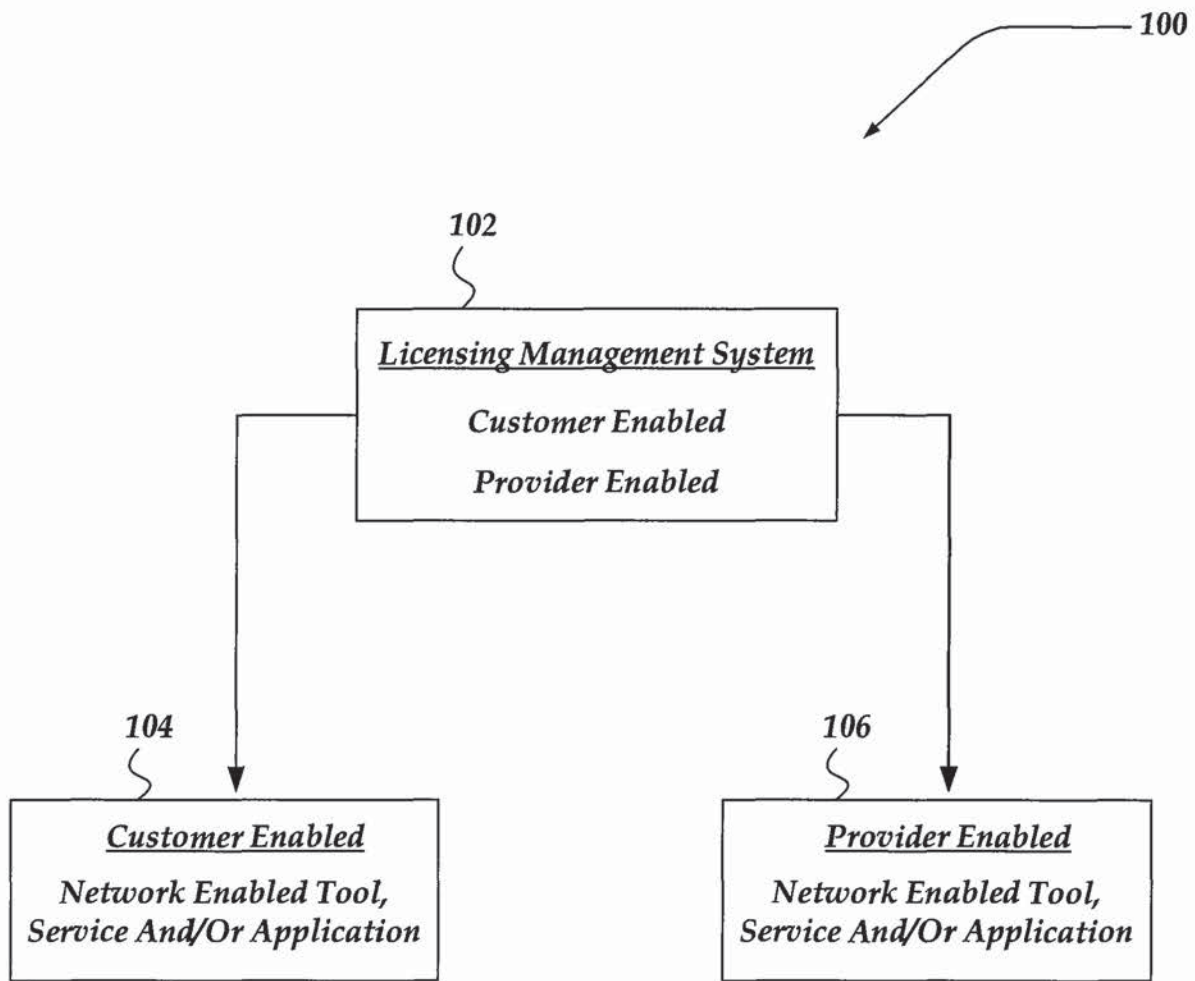
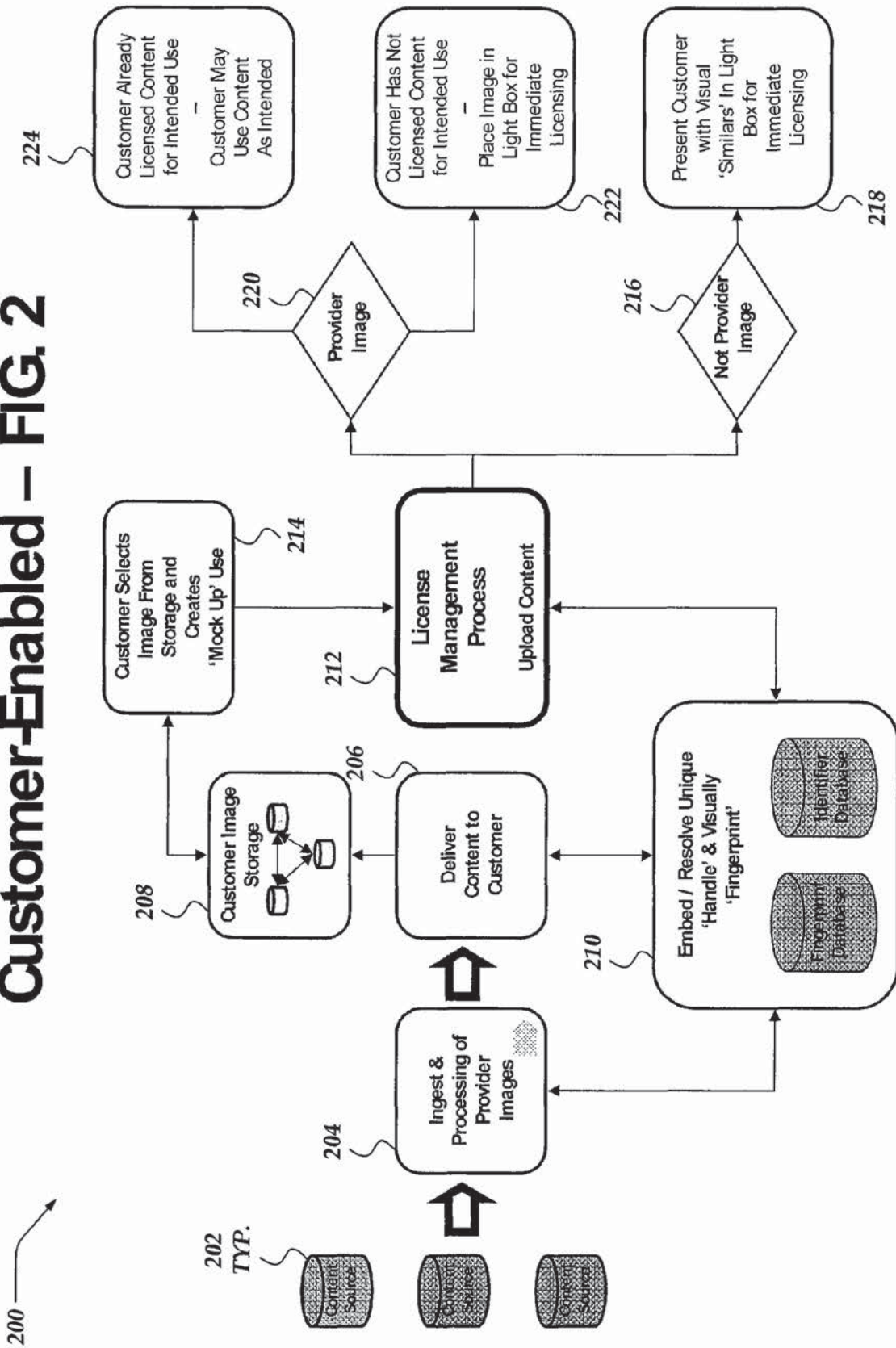
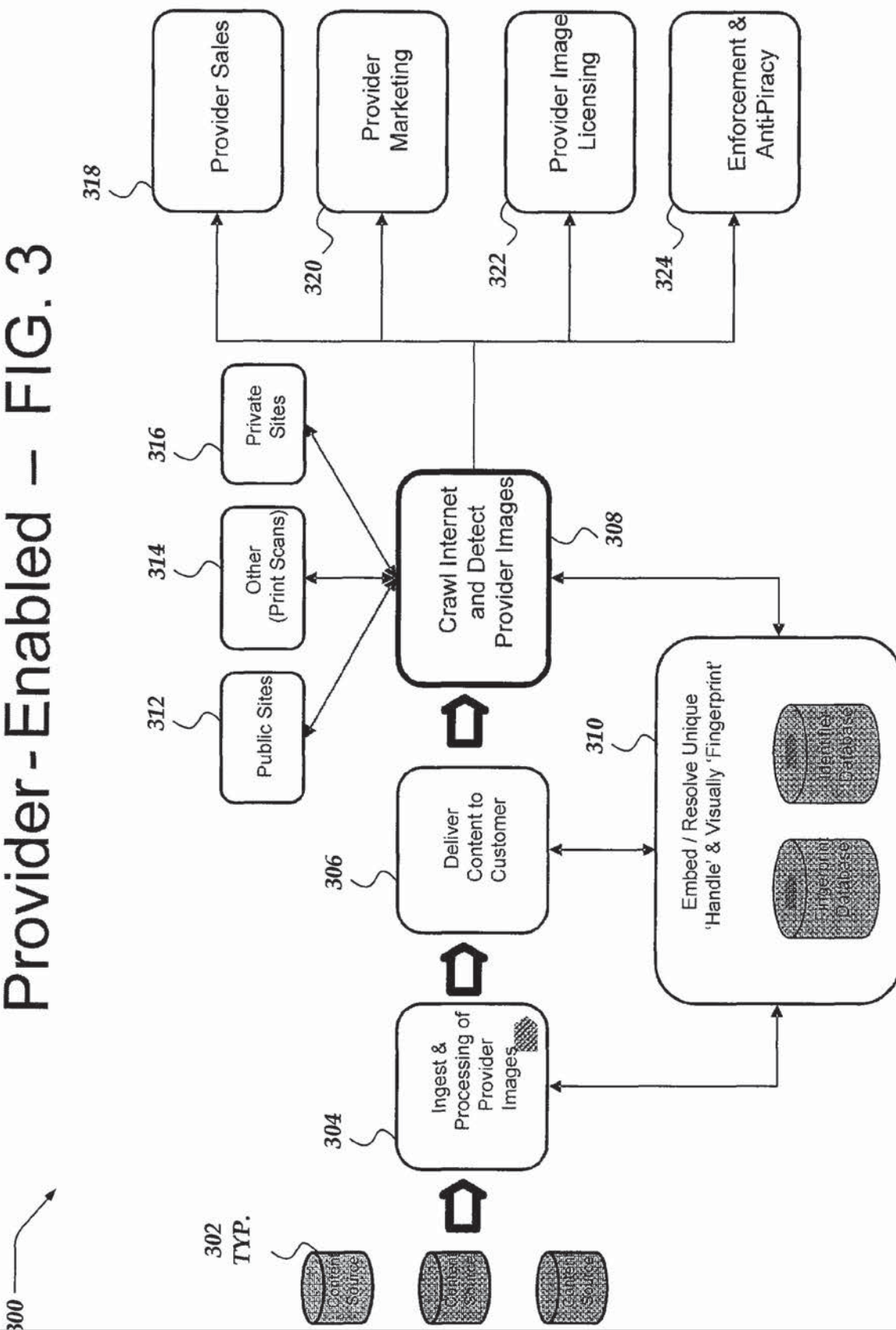


FIG. 1

Customer-Enabled – FIG. 2



Provider - Enabled - FIG. 3



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