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Shapiro

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(45) **Date of Patent:** *Apr. 8, 2008

(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR REMOTELY DETERMINING THE CONFIGURATION OF A MULTI-MEDIA CONTENT USER**

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(73) Assignee: **Sony Corporation**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 499 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 13/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/220**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** .... None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for remotely determining the configuration of a computer of a multimedia content user includes sending player detection code to the user's computer and receiving configuration information regarding the user's computer. A method of determining a connection speed of a computer includes determining a size of a timing block based on an estimated bandwidth and retrieving the timing block. The connection speed is determined based on the timing block size and the times at which transfer begins and ends.

18 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets
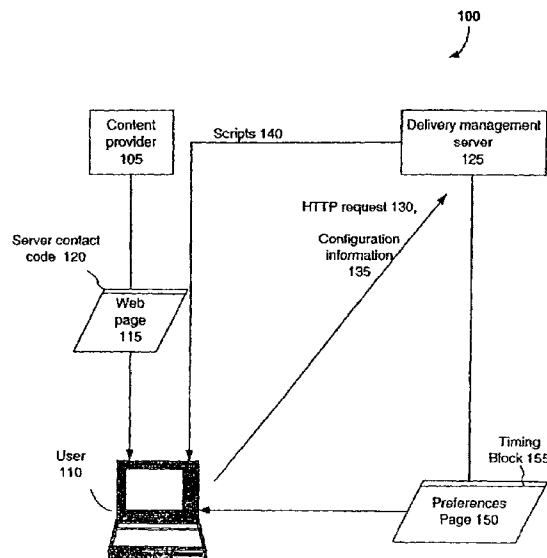
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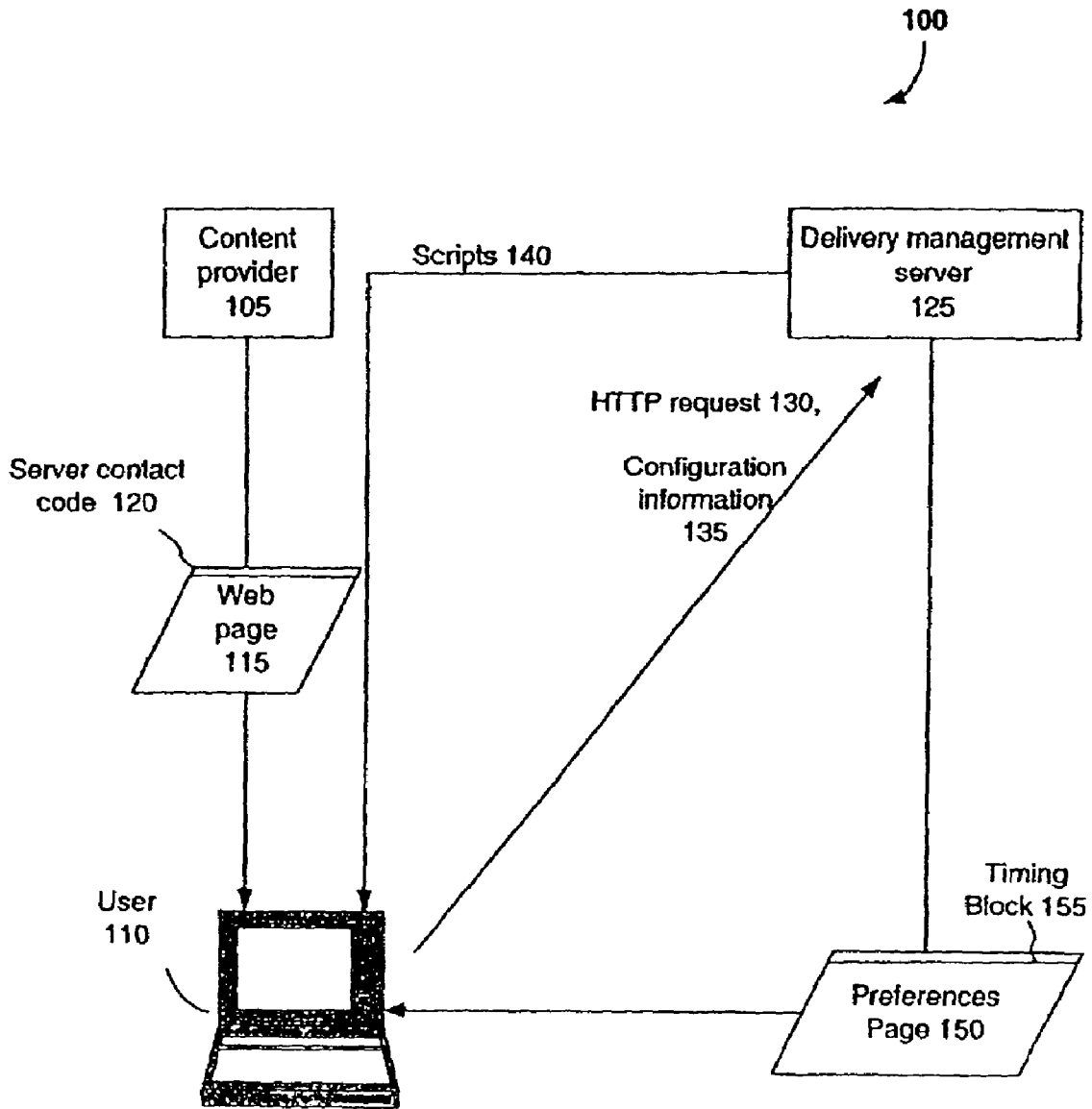
100

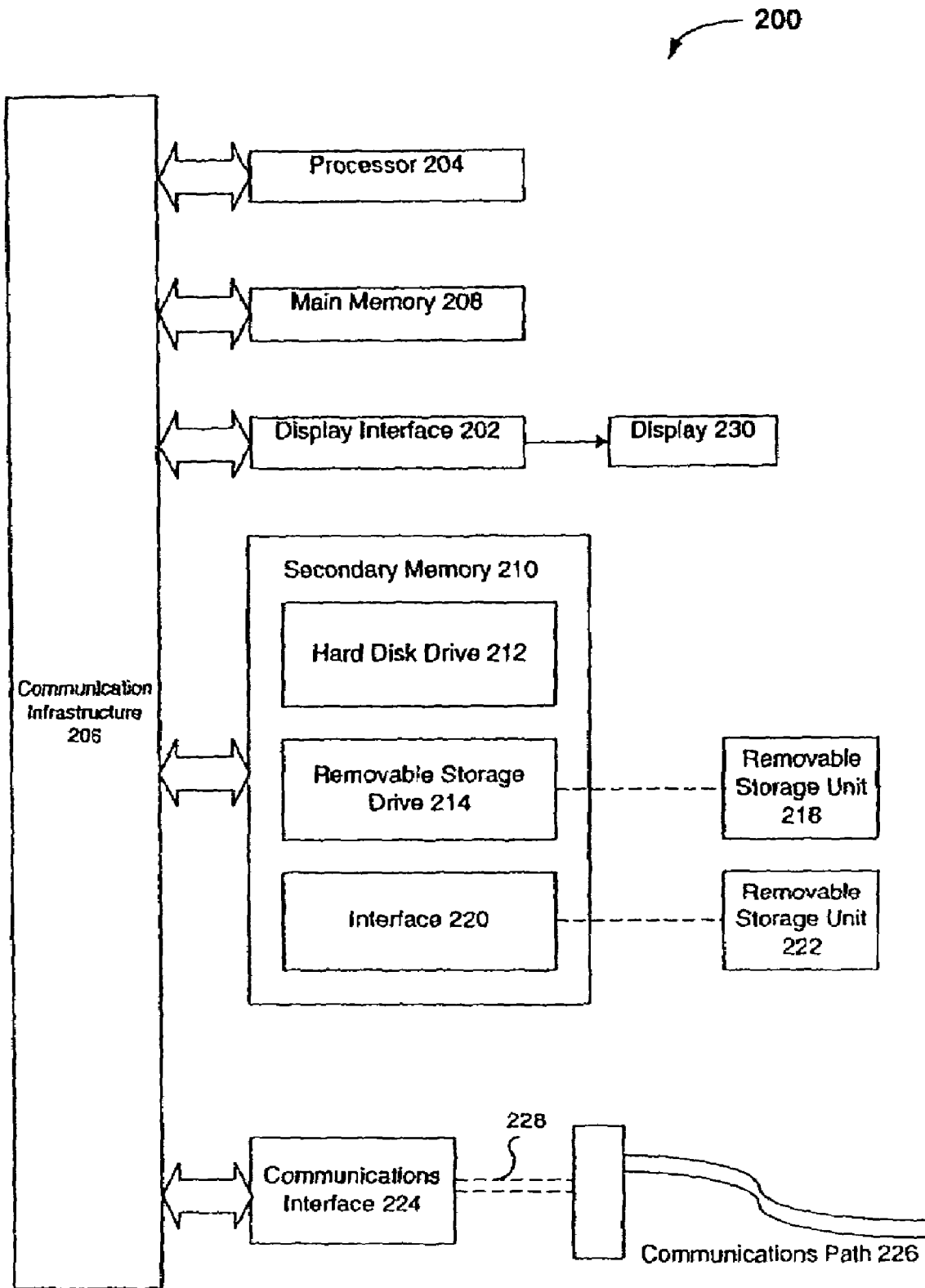Content provider 105

Scripts 140

Delivery management server 125

Server contact code 120

Web page 115

HTTP request 130,

Configuration information 135

User 110

Timing Block 155

Preferences Page 150

FIG. 1

200

Communication Infrastructure 206

Processor 204

Main Memory 208

Display Interface 202 → Display 230

Secondary Memory 210

Hard Disk Drive 212

Removable Storage Drive 214 - - - Removable Storage Unit 218

Interface 220 - - - Removable Storage Unit 222

228

Communications Interface 224

Communications Path 226

FIG. 2

300

Start —305

↓

User loads page of content provider —310

↓

Player detection code is fetched from delivery managment server —320

↓

Perform player detection —325

↓

Store in cookies —330

↓

Sufficient information? —331

No → Present preference page 332

↓

Receive preferences 333

↓

Store in cookies 334 →

Yes ↓

User makes HTTP request, any cookies are sent to delivery management server —335
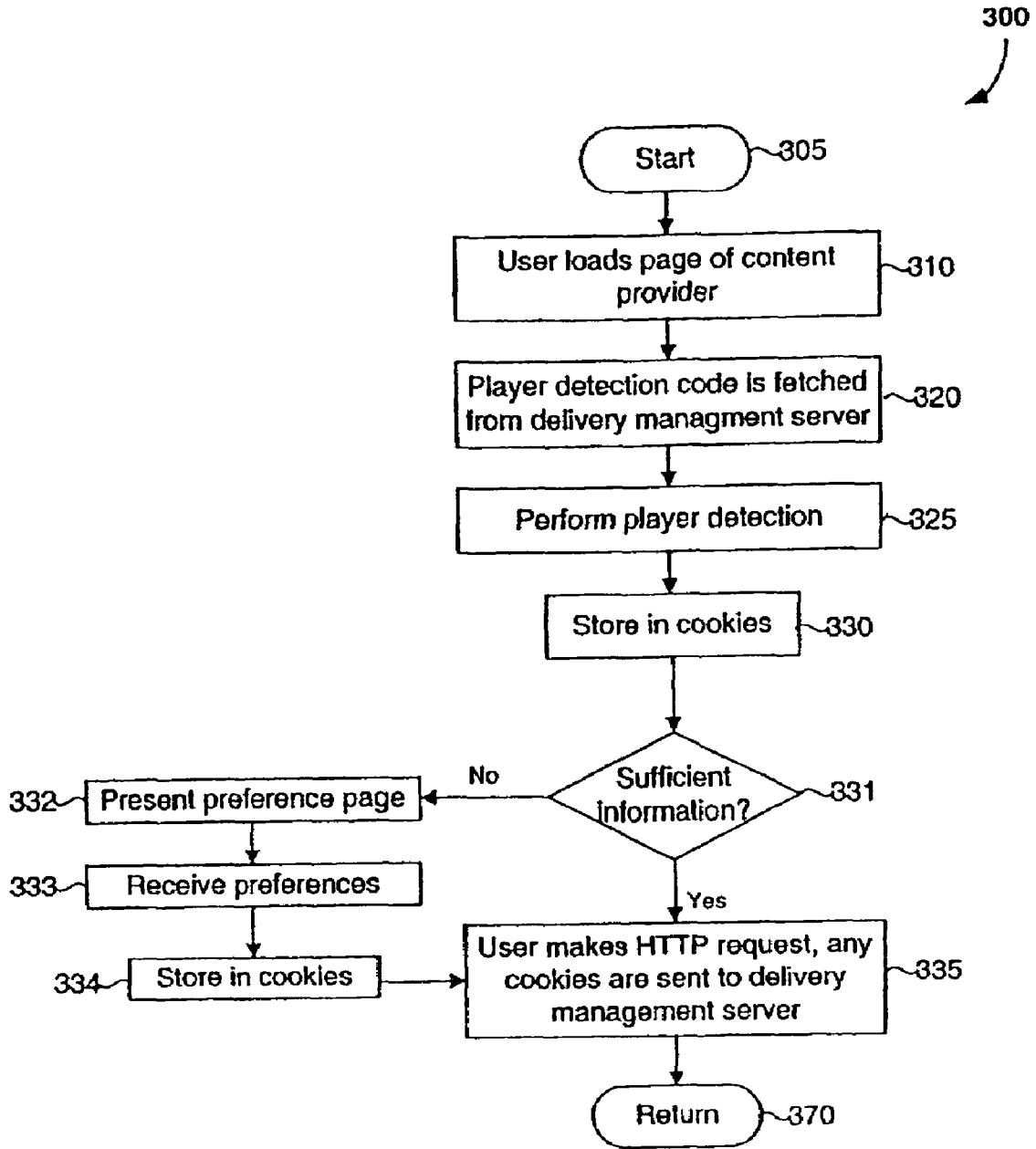
↓

Return —370

FIG. 3A

DOCKET ALARM

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