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#### (12) United States Patent Endoh

#### (54) MANAGING THE ALLOWED USAGE AMOUNT OF A PROGRAM USING LICENSE INFORMATION

- (75) Inventor: Tomoaki Endoh, Chiba-ken (JP)
- Assignee: Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, Tokyo (JP) (73)
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G06F 21/00 (2006.01)

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- (58) Field of Classification Search ...... 705/59 See application file for complete search history.

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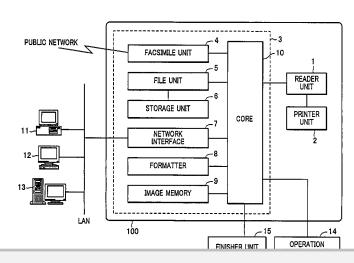
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Primary Examiner - James A Reagan (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto

#### ABSTRACT (57)

A management method is disclosed for managing license information indicating an allowed amount of usage of a program executable on a peripheral device or a function provided by the peripheral device. The method includes the steps of acquiring, from the outside, license identification information for identifying license information, and license information indicating an amount of a change in right of usage of the program, managing license identification information corresponding to license information that has already been installed, determining whether license identification information corresponding to license information is included in license identification information managed in the management step, and performing operation such that if it is determined in the determination step that the license identification information corresponding to the license information is included in the license identification information managed in the management step, changing the value of the already installed right of usage of the program by an amount equal to a change in the right of usage of the program.

#### 11 Claims, 38 Drawing Sheets



# (45) **Date of Patent:**

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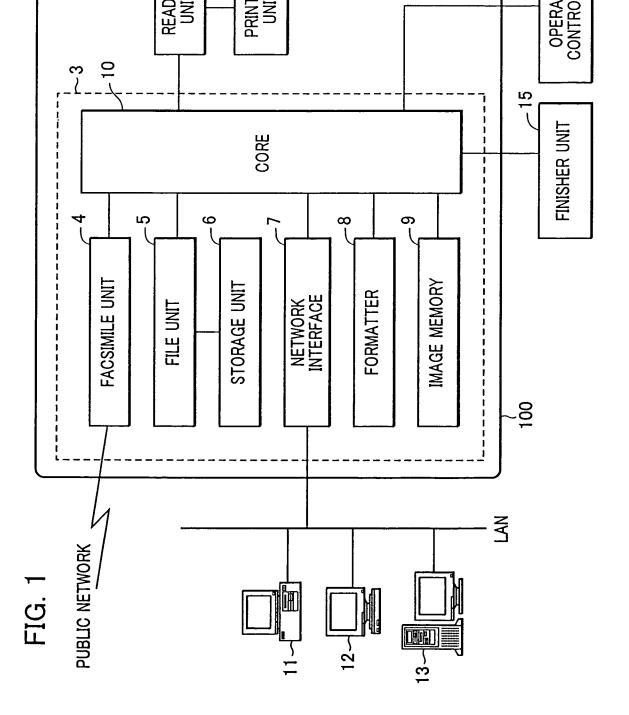
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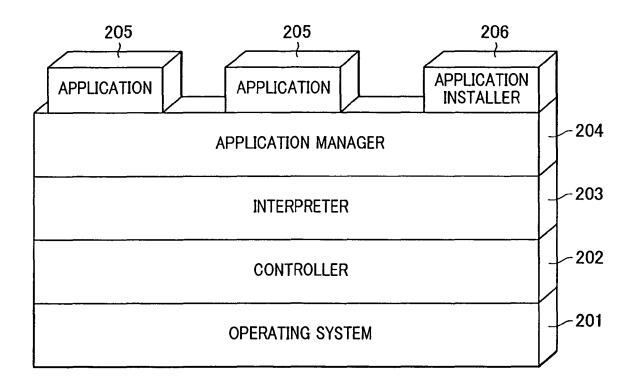
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# FIG. 2



Α

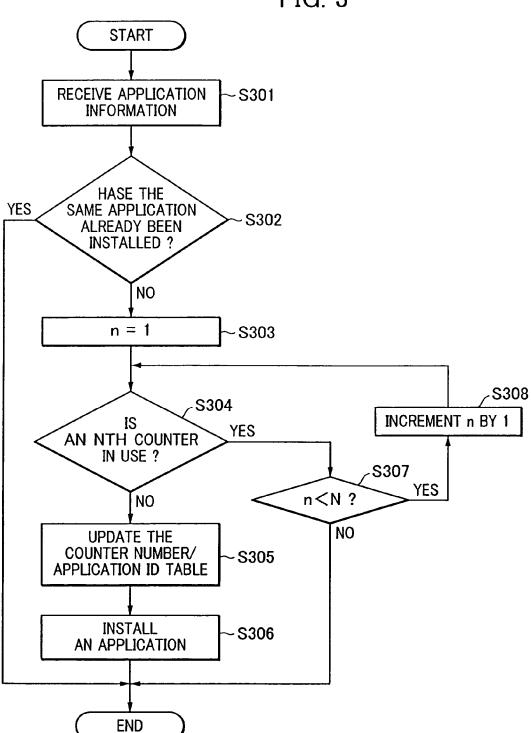


FIG. 3

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