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United States Patent [19] Wyatt

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[54] **METHOD FOR DEFINING AND VERIFYING USER ACCESS RIGHTS TO A COMPUTER INFORMATION**

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[51] Int. Cl.⁷ **G06F 13/00; H04L 9/32; H04L 9/12; H04K 1/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **713/200; 713/201; 380/4; 380/25; 380/27**

[58] Field of Search **395/186, 188.01, 395/187.01; 380/3, 4, 23, 25, 27; 705/26, 27; 713/200, 201**

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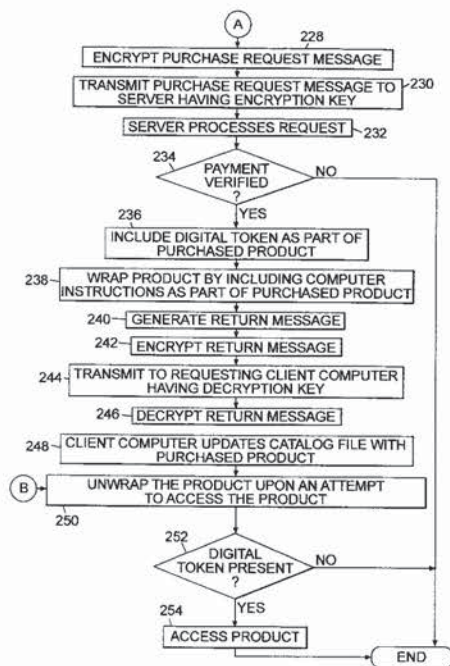
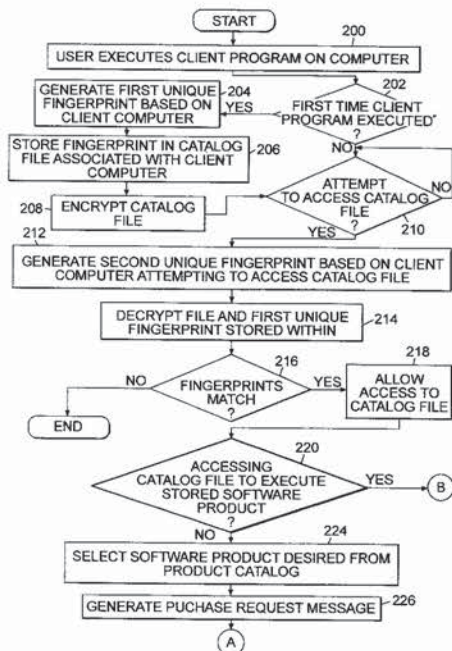
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Primary Examiner—Norman Michael Wright

[57] ABSTRACT

A method for minimizing the potential for unauthorized use of digital information, particularly software programs, digital content and other computer information, by verifying user access rights to electronically transmitted digital information. A second computer system transmits requested digital information to a requesting first computing system in wrapped form, which includes digital instructions that must be successfully executed, or unwrapped, before access to the digital information is allowed. Successful unwrapping requires that certain conditions must be verified in accordance with the digital instructions, thereby allowing access to the digital information. In one embodiment, verification includes locking the digital information to the requesting computer system by comparing a generated digital fingerprint associated with the digital information to a digital fingerprint previously generated which is unique to the requesting computer system.

6 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



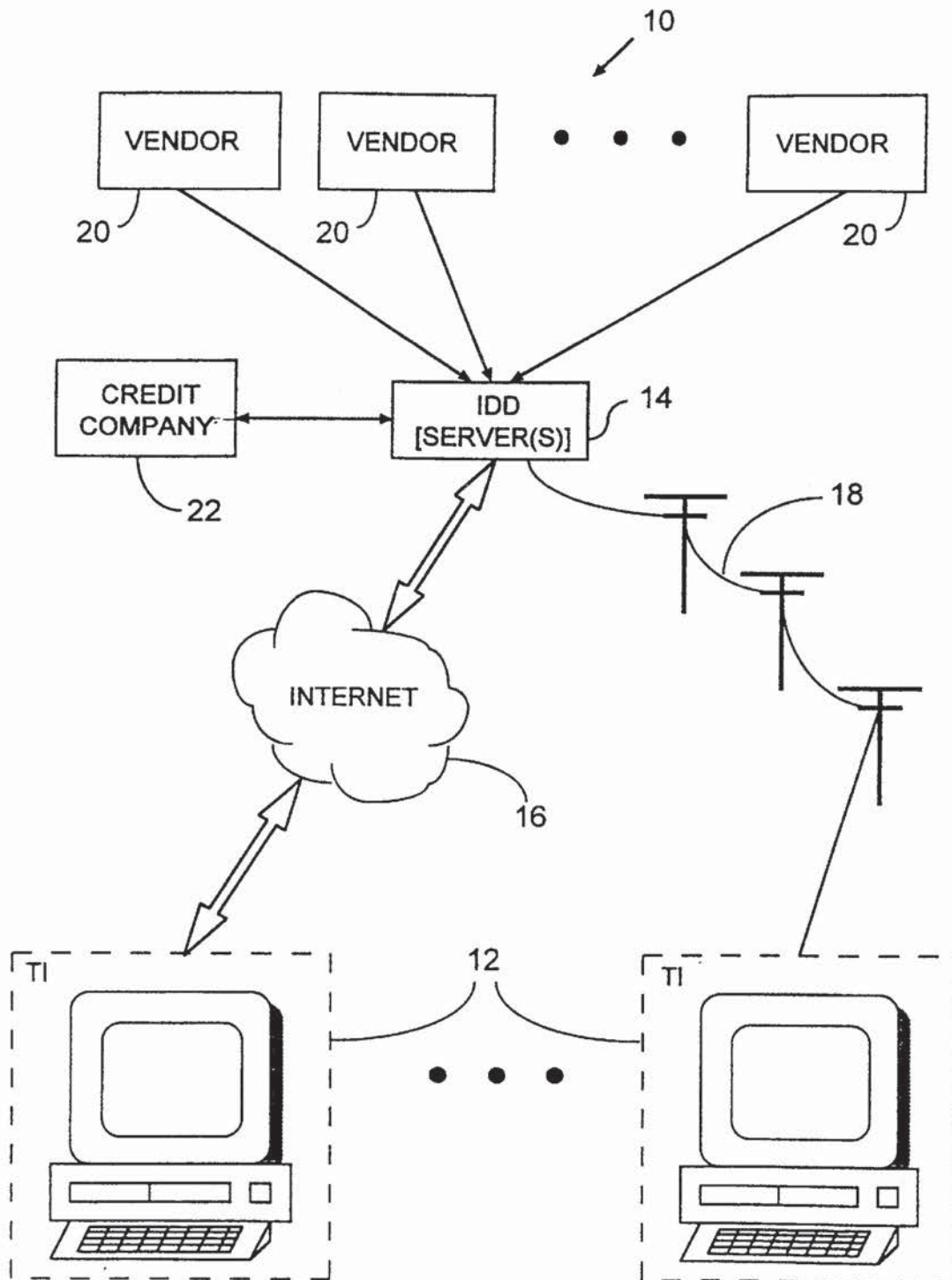


FIG. 1

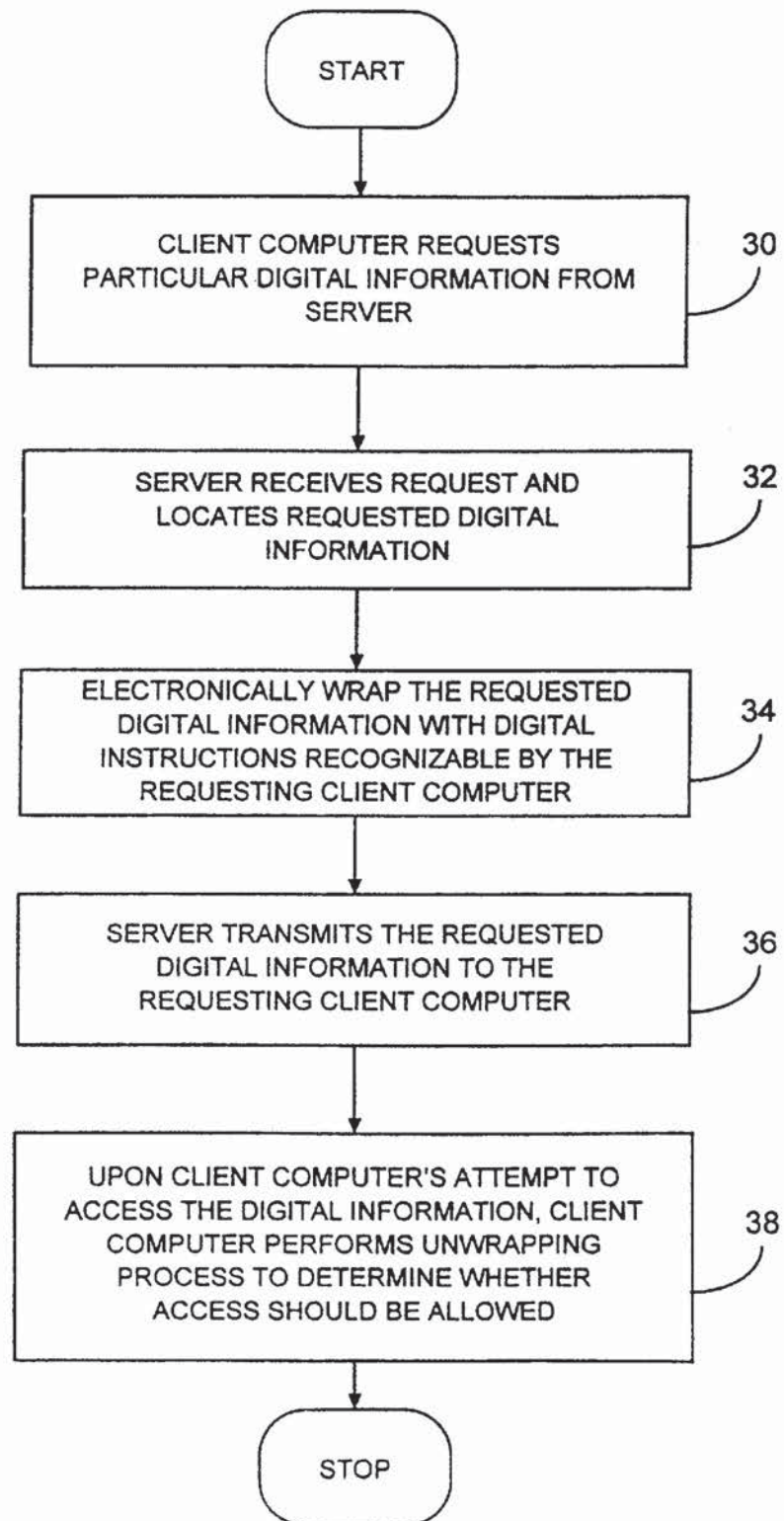


FIG. 2

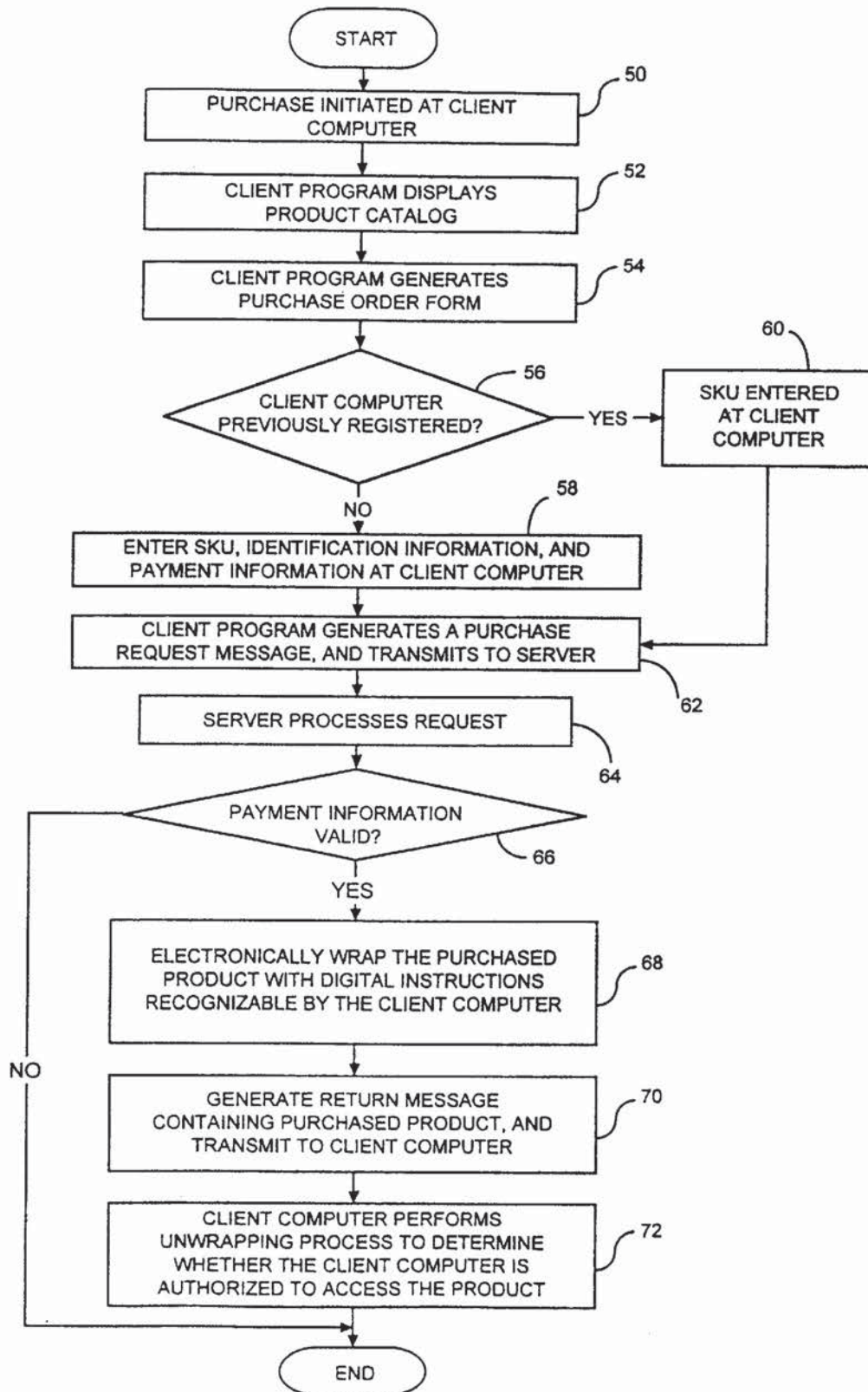


FIG. 3

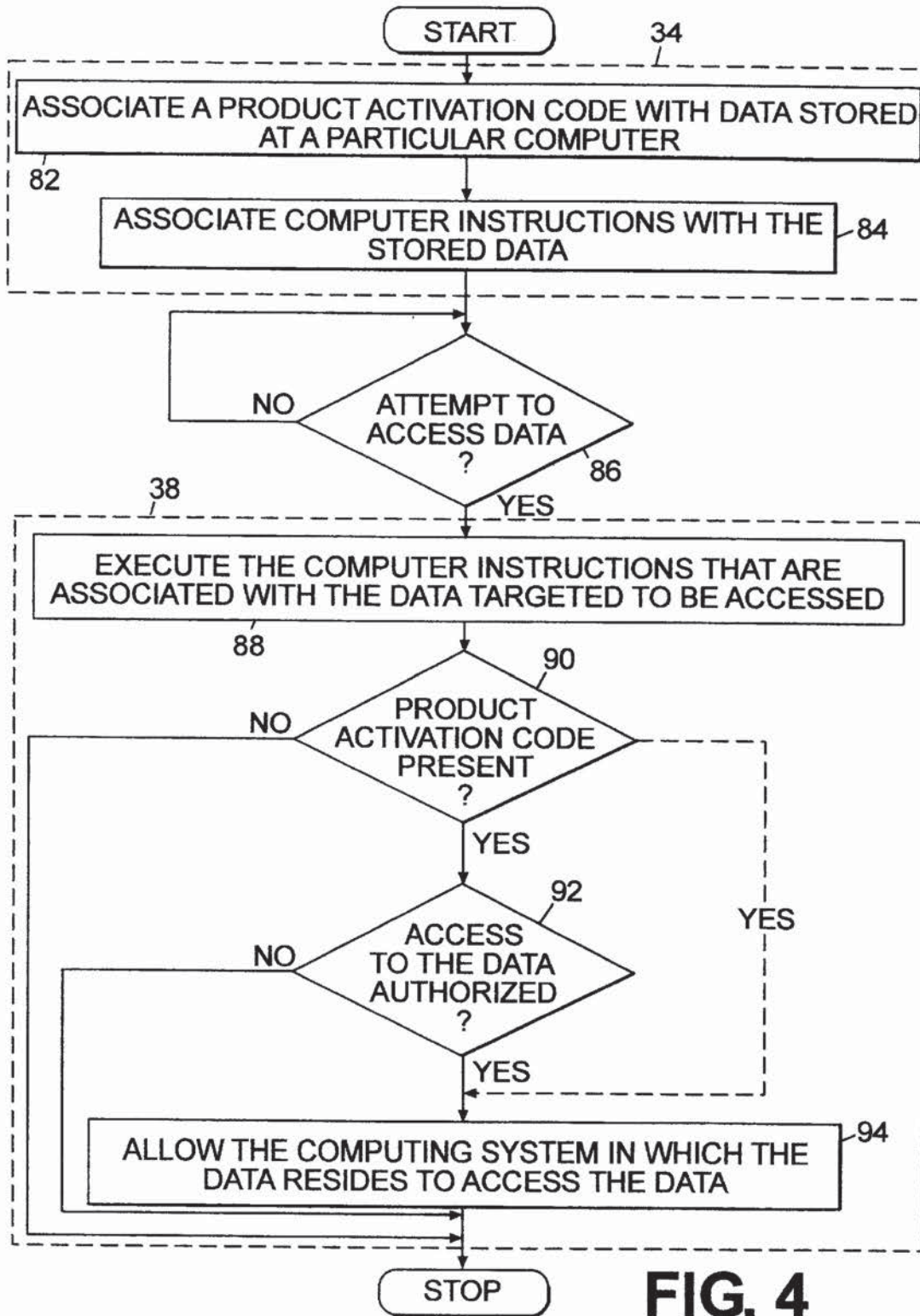


FIG. 4

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