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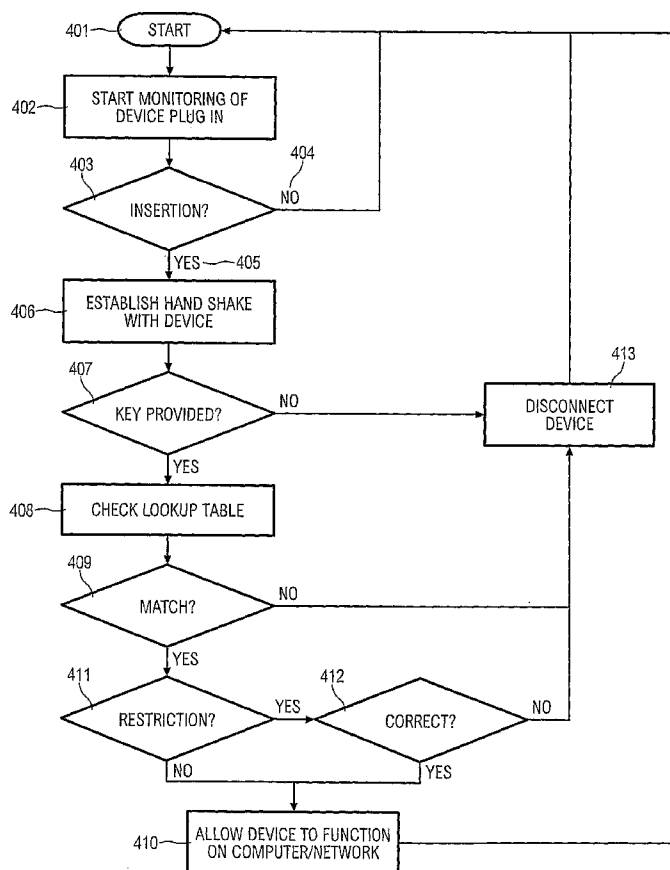
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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATION OF EXTERNAL STORAGE DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A method for authentication of an external storage device (16) operatively connected to a port of a host computer (10) where the host computer (10) conducts a handshake with the external storage device (16) seeking an authentication key from the external storage device. The host computer (10) electrically disconnects the external storage device (16) from the host computer (10) if the authentication key is incorrect or not provided within a predetermined period. The host computer (10) allows access to the host computer (10) by the external storage device (16) if the authentication key is correct and provided within the predetermined period. Corresponding apparatus and systems are also disclosed.



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