

SECURED STORAGE METHOD OF ENCRYPTED DATA ON A PERSONAL DIGITAL RECORDER

The present application concerns the field of receivers/decoders of conditional access services, particularly of receivers that have a storage unit such as hard
5 disks.

The technological evolution in the field of storage capacities and the speed of the magnetic disks (hard disks) has made it possible to store the broadcasted video content to make it accessible off-line to a user.

Such receivers are known with the brand ReplayTV ® or Tivo ® and propose
10 storages of several tens of hours of digital transmission. These receivers are not always directly integrated in the receivers/decoders of conditional access services; particularly, the content is stored without specific protection on the disk, which makes it impossible to collect the authors' royalties associated to the content in the case where the disk would then be duplicated with
15 commercial redistribution purposes.

Inversely, in a digital pay television system the digital stream transmitted to the receivers is encrypted in order to be able to control the use and to define the conditions for such a use. This encryption is carried out thanks to control words that are changed at a regular interval (typically between 5 and 30 seconds) so
20 as to dissuade from any attack trying to recover such a control word.

For the receiver to be able to decrypt the stream encrypted by these control words, the latter are sent to him/her independently of the stream in control messages (ECM) encrypted by a key specific to the transmission system between the operating system (CAS) and the security module of the user unit.
25 In fact, the security operations are performed in a security unit (SC) that is generally in the form of a smart card, reputed inviolable. This unit can either be of a moveable type or directly integrated in the receiver.

During the decryption of a control message (ECM), the presence of the right to access the considered stream is verified in the security unit (SC). This right can
30 be administered by authorisation messages (EMM) that load such a right in the security unit (SC). Other possibilities are equally possible, such as the sending of decryption keys.

In the following explanation, we will use the name "event" for a content of video, audio (for example MP3) or data (a game, a program for example) that is encrypted according to the known method of control words, that is, with a key that is only valid for all or a part of the content.

5 The accounting of use of such events is based today on the principle of subscription or of unitary purchase. The subscription allows to define the right associated to one or several transmission channels of these events and allows the user to obtain these events in plaintext if the right is present in his/her security unit.

10 At the same time, it is possible to define rights that are specific to an event, such as a film or a football match. The user can acquire this right (purchase for example) and this event will be specifically administered by this right. This method is known as pay-per-view (PPV).

A control message (ECM) does not only contain the control word, but also the
15 conditions for this control word to be transmitted to the receiver/decoder. During the decryption of the control words, one will verify if a right associated to the conditions of access announced in the message are present in the security unit.

The control word is only returned to the user unit when the comparison is positive. This control word is contained in a control message ECM that is
20 encrypted by a transmission key (TK).

For the right to be present in the security unit, it has to be charged by a right management message (EMM), which for security reasons is generally encrypted by a different key namely the right key (RK).

According to a known form of pay television transmission, the three following
25 elements are necessary to decrypt the content at a given moment:

- the event encrypted by a plurality of control words
- the ECM control messages containing said control words
- the corresponding right stored in the security unit to return these control words to the decoder unit.

30 In the following explanation, we will use the name "system keys" for the set of the keys and information linked to the decryption keys allowing access to the

content. In a known configuration of pay television, they are transmission keys for decrypting the control messages (ECM) and right keys for decrypting the right messages (EMM).

5 According to a known layout, the encrypted content that is stored in a storage unit such as a hard disk is accompanied at least by control messages ECM.

Due to the fact that the decryption a posteriori of the ECM messages can be a problem, particularly because of the changing of the transmission key, a first solution is proposed in the document EP 0 912 052, which solution implies the decryption of these messages in the security unit and the re-encryption before
10 the storage on the disk by a local key.

This solution solves the problem of the life time of the transmission key, but charges greatly the security unit at the moment of the recording, without knowing if the recorded content will one day be used. Furthermore, one of the fundamental rules of the security system is to return the control words to the
15 user unit only if the rights exist. In this case, it is very probable that these rights do not exist if we consider a purchase per event. The right will be acquired during the purchase that can be done much later, when the user decides to view this event.

This document EP 0 912 052 does not solve the problem of access to the right
20 as at the moment of the purchase the right message EMM has to be always transmitted so that it is charged in the security unit.

In this way, the solution described in this document is only applicable for transmitted events for which the right is already present in the security unit in order to authorise the decryption and the re-encryption of the ECM.

25 There remains then a non-solved problem when we store events without having the right at the moment of storage or when the conditions of decryption vary between the moment of the storage and the moment of the operation of the event by the user. Another aspect is the supplementary charge required by the security unit for this decryption and re-encryption.

30 The objective of the present invention is to propose a storage method of an event encrypted by control words (CW) that guarantees the access to this event

at whichever moment, even if certain keys of the system have changed for security reasons.

This objective is achieved by a storage method of an event encrypted by control words (CW) in a receiver/decoder unit connected to a security unit (SC), these
5 control words (CW) and the necessary rights being contained in management messages (ECM, EMM) encrypted by system keys (TK, RK), characterised in that it consists in storing the encrypted event and the control messages (ECM) in a storage unit, and in storing in the storage unit the system keys (SK) encrypted by a predefined local key stored in the security unit (SC).

10 In this way, the storage unit contains all the elements that allow at a given moment to view this event, at the same time guaranteeing the security that was initially defined.

According to the invention, for this operation of storage of the system keys, these keys being necessary for the decryption of the control messages and for
15 their operation, a different key is used different from those used in the normal frame of the reception system. It is called predefined because it can be a group of keys that are used for the month of January and another for the month of February; even one key for even days and another for odd days. This date indication is included in the content and thus the adequate key may be used to
20 decrypt the whole of the encrypted keys SK.

In the known systems of pay television, the management messages are composed of control messages (ECM) and right messages (EMM). The transmission key or keys (TK) that allow to decrypt the control messages (ECM) are changed at a regular interval. Furthermore, according to the chosen type of
25 implementation, it is possible to change also the right key or keys (RK) that are in charge of decrypting the right messages (EMM). We must point out here that depending on the chosen implementation it is possible to use more than one key to decrypt a transmission message (ECM) or to decrypt a right message (EMM).

30 During the encryption of the system keys it is possible to create, not only a block containing the transmission keys and the right keys, but two blocks

encrypted by the local key, the first containing the transmission keys, and the second containing the right keys.

In this way, the solution proposed by the present invention is to use a particular key (S1) that will never be changed and thus guarantees that years later it will
5 be possible to access the encrypted event.

In a particular embodiment, a session key AS is generated randomly and this key is used to encrypt the system keys. Beside transferring the encrypted system keys, the security unit encrypt the session key by the local key S1 and transfer it into the storage unit. This embodiment present the advantage to have
10 different algorithms for the encryption of the system keys and the session key, particularly in term of level of security. The encryption of the system keys will be executed with a symmetric algorithm and the encryption of the session key could be executed by a symmetric or asymmetric algorithms.

15 According to the invention, due to the fact that the changing of the keys may occur during the transmission of the encrypted content, it is thus proposed to store all the system keys that are active during the transmission of the content, that is, the keys being used and the following keys ready by the order of changing keys. So that the security unit has permanently the active key and the
20 future key.

For obvious security reasons, the local key used for the encryption of the transmission key must be kept in the security unit of each receiver/decoder, and a particular attention will be paid to the encryption means (algorithm, length of the key) for encrypting the system keys.

25 The invention will be better understood thanks to the following detailed description that makes reference to the annexed figures that are given as a non-limiting example, namely:

- Figure 1 illustrates a decoder containing a storage unit,
- Figure 2 illustrates the data that are stored in the storing unit.

30 The decoder (STB) illustrated in Figure 1 receives input data in encrypted form. These data are stored in the storage unit HD and comprise notably the

considered event EV, the control messages ECM, and the right messages EMM.

According to the invention, in such a storage operation, the security unit SC receives the control messages but does not resend them to the user unit. On the contrary, this unit encrypts the system keys with a secret key S1 and this group of encrypted system keys SK is stored in the storage unit.

This secret key S1 can be a key specific to this decoder STB, specific to a group of decoders, or a single key for all the decoders.

During the reading, a particular mechanism is implemented in the security unit. In fact, it is not possible to replace the existing keys with those contained in the group SK. In such a case, the normal functioning of the decoder would be altered.

The keys contained in the group formed by the encrypted system keys SK are stored in a particular region specific to this reading operation of stored information.

The security unit must be capable of unfolding its functions and of using a different memory zone where these past keys will be stored.

Knowing that one or the other of these system keys can change, according to an embodiment of the invention, this group of keys SK is generated at a regular interval and stored in the storage unit HD.

In one embodiment of the invention, particularly when we desire to avoid encrypting the same content (the system keys) with different keys (the secret key S1 of each decoder), or to make accessible the information of the moment of changing of keys, we can add a random part (padding) to the system keys before the encryption. Thanks to this randomness, even during a period where the keys do not change, each encrypted group SK is different.

In another embodiment of the invention, particularly when we desire to hide the periodicity of change of the system keys, an information of validity period, relative to the encryption of time of the content itself (for example from minute 15 to minute 18 of transmission of the content) is added to the recording of each encrypted group SK. The latter is thus valid only for the period of validity

that is in this way artificially associated to it, and no longer for the period of validity de facto of the system keys that it hides.

For what concerns the secret key S1, many possibilities are foreseen in the frame of this invention. The common characteristic is that this key is known to
5 the operating centre in order to be able to regenerate a security unit SC that would have been lost or destroyed. In fact, from now on, this key becomes the basic element of the access to the stored events and it is imperative that the destruction of a security unit does not make the previously stored data inevitably inaccessible.

10 In an embodiment with the key S1 specific to a user, this key can be generated during the personalisation of the security unit and stored in the operating centre regarding the unique number of the unit.

The description of this method is not limited to the field of pay television, but can also be applied to the field of audio storage in MP3 form for example.

15 Another field of application of the invention concerns the storage of computer programmes or games.

According to another embodiment of the invention, the encrypted content is decrypted thanks to control words that are sent from the security unit to the decoder in encrypted form. This configuration is described in the document WO
20 99/57901 and guarantees that these control words will not serve for another decoder.

The decryption of these words is carried out directly in the integrated circuit that is in charge of decrypting the content and then re-encrypting it with a key that is also supplied by the security unit. The content is from then on stored in the
25 storage unit of the decoder and is accessible by only one key.

According to this configuration and in this mode of re-encryption, the clear data are not outputted of the specialised integrated circuit.

For security reasons, the key used to re-encrypt the content is called session key, because it is generated in a pseudo-random way each time that such an
30 operation is necessary.

This session key is then encrypted in the same way as the system keys and is stored in the storage unit.

With this key it is possible to add the access conditions to this content, conditions that will be verified during the presentation of this encrypted session

5 key to the security unit.

CLAIMS

1. A recording method of a content encrypted by control words (CW) in a receiver/decoder unit (STB) connected to a security unit (SC), said control words (CW) as well as the necessary rights for the access of this content being transmitted in entitlement messages (ECM, EMM) encrypted by system keys (TK, RK) that are shared by a plurality of receiver/decoder units (STB), characterized in that it consists in storing the encrypted content as well as the entitlement messages (ECM, EMM) in the storage unit, in locally encrypting the system keys (TK, RK) by a predefined local key (S1) contained in the security unit (SC), and storing in the storage unit the system keys (SK) in encrypted form by said local key (S1).
2. A method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the system keys (SK) comprise the transmission keys (TK) for the control messages (ECM).
3. A method according to Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the system keys comprise the right keys (RK) for the right messages (EMM).
4. A method according to claims 1 to 3, characterized in that, a session key (AS) is randomly generated and is used to encrypt the system keys (SK), this session key (AS) being encrypted by the local key (S1) and stored with the encrypted system key (SK).
5. A method according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the local key is duplicated in a management centre in order to be able to generate a new security unit in case of need.

6. A method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the transmission key or keys (TK) are encrypted by the local key (S1) to form a first encrypted system block.

7. A method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the right key or keys (RK) are encrypted by the local key (S1) to form a second encrypted system block.