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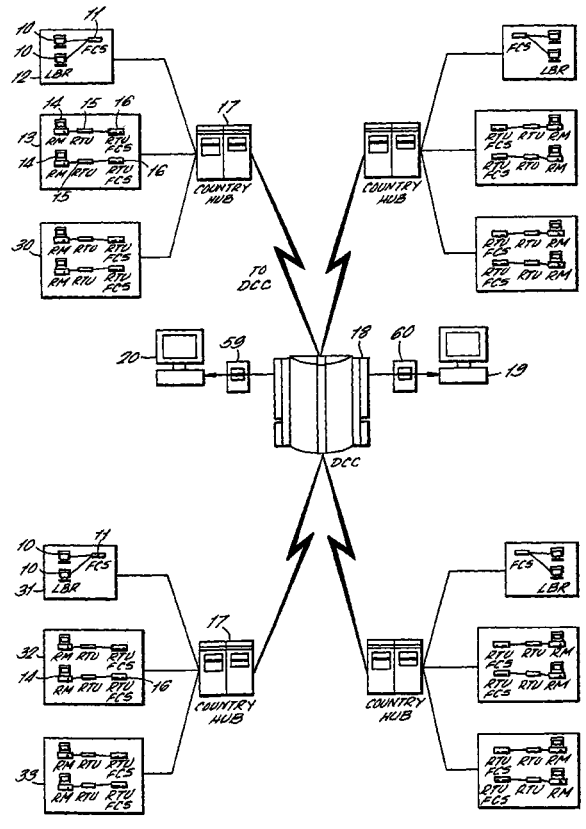
(54) Title: OPTICAL DISKS, A MONITORING SYSTEM FOR MONITORING PRODUCTION OF OPTICAL DISKS, MANUFACTURING METHODS FOR OPTICAL DISKS AND AN AUTHENTICATION METHOD FOR OPTICAL DISKS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides (with reference to Figure 1) a monitoring system for monitoring production of optical disks by replication machines (14) at a number of different production facilities (12, 13, 30, 31, 32). The system has a central computer (18) which records the production activity of all of the monitored replication machines (14) for central monitoring in order to identify production of unauthorised disks. the invention also teaches how a master stamper can include an identifier code which can be used to identify unauthorised copies. The invention further teaches how local monitoring of replication machines (14) can be conducted in order to determine the number of copies produced by the machines (14). The invention additionally provides a method in which a signature code is recorded on a master stamper and fingerprint information derived from content on the master stamper. The signature code and the fingerprint information are stored together on a database. An optical disk can be authenticated by reading from it a recorded signature code and deriving fingerprint information for the recorded content and then consulting the database.

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