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ABSTRACT

An information processing system and method are disclosed in which information processing is performed in a highly efficient manner using an enabling key block (EKB) on the basis of a tree structure including category subtrees. A key tree is produced so as to include a plurality of subtrees that are grouped in accordance with categories and managed by category entities. An EKB is produced so as to include data produced by selecting a path in the key tree and encrypting an upper-level key in the selected path using a lower-level key in the selected path, and the resultant EKB is provided to a device. If a change occurs in state of a category tree capable of processing an EKB identified in the EKB type definition list, a notification of the change in state is sent to an entity that uses the EKB thereby making it possible for an EKB requester to perform processing in accordance with a newest EKB.