

CLAIMS

1. A system in communication with a content distribution system and at least one client device, the system comprising:

one or more user account record access components configured to access a plurality of user account records for a plurality of network providers, the plurality of user account records being associated with a plurality of user accounts, each said user account relating to a client device, the user account having one of a plurality of subscription states assigned thereto and the subscription states having defined access rules, wherein the client device accesses the content distribution system via at least one network provider of the plurality of network providers;

one or more subscription management components configured to activate and renew subscriptions for the user account records;

one or more state machine components configured to transition the plurality of user accounts to different assigned subscription states when corresponding state transitions are triggered, at least some of the state transitions being triggered responsive to subscription event messages received from the one or more subscription components and related to the plurality of user accounts;

one or more authorization components configured to:

receive a client request to access content of the content distribution system, the client request transmitted from a client device via a network associated with the at least one network provider of the plurality of network providers; and

authorize the client request using specific access rules of the defined access rules assigned to the subscription state of the user account record relating to the client device;

one or more external configuration interfaces configured to receive configuration instructions from or in association with the plurality of network providers;

one or more configuration components configured to, based on a given instruction of the configuration instructions that is received from or in association with a given network provider of the plurality of network providers, configure one or more of: a given state transition to use for user accounts that pertain to the given network provider, or a given defined access rule to use when user accounts that pertain to the given network provider are in a given state, such that authorization of client requests by the one or more authorization components is based on the given network provider via which the client request was received.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more state machine components are configured to implement different types of state machines for different sets of user account records belonging to different external systems, the different types of state machines including differently-configured state transitions for transitioning between a same plurality of the subscription states.
3. The system of Claim 2, wherein at least some of the different types of state machines conform to different state machine templates selected from a set of state machine templates, the set of state machine templates being fewer in number than the different types of state machines.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein based on the access rules the one or more authorization components are configured to, in response to a first client request for a first user account record, authorize access to first content when the first user account record is assigned to the activation state and to the grace state or the suspend state, and not when the first user account record is assigned to the deactivation state.
5. The system of Claim 1, wherein a first subscription component of the one or more subscription management components is configured to send an initial subscription event message to a first state machine component of the one or more state machine components when activating a new subscription for a user account record, the initial subscription event message triggering a transition to the activated state.
6. The system of Claim 1, wherein a first subscription component of the one or more subscription management components is configured to send a renewal event message to a first state machine component of the one or more state machine components when renewing a subscription for a user account record, the renewal event message triggering a transition to the activated state.
7. The system of Claim 1, wherein a first subscription component of the one or more subscription management components is configured to send a renewal failure event message to a first state machine component of the one or more state machine components when an attempt to renew a subscription for a user account record fails,

the renewal failure event message triggering a transition to the grace state or the suspend state.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein a timer component of the system is configured to send an event message indicating that a grace period or a suspend period is expired to a first state machine component of the one or more state machine components when an attempt to renew a subscription for a user account record fails, the event message triggering a transition away from the grace state or the suspend state.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the subscription states include a parking state, wherein a first subscription component of the one or more subscription management components is configured to send an initial subscription failure event message to a first state machine component of the one or more state machine components when failing to activate a new subscription for a user account record, the initial subscription failure event message triggering a transition to the parking state, wherein while the user account record has the parking state, at least one of the following is configured to occur:

the one or more authorization components authorizes access to first content requested for the user account record;

the first subscription component makes one or more additional attempts to activate the new subscription.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more subscription management components are configured to activate and renew subscriptions for the user account records by at least: sending verification requests to subscription eligibility criteria verification components indicating subscription information, and determining whether to activate or renew the subscriptions based on responses to the verification requests.

11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more state machine components are configured to implement different types of state machines for different sets of user account records belonging to different external systems, wherein different access rules apply to a same state depending on which of the different types of state machines is maintaining the state, the different access rules having been configured in response to configuration instructions from the different external systems.

12. The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more state machine components are configured to implement different types of state machines for different sets of user account records belonging to different external systems, wherein different access rules apply to a same state depending on which of the different types of state machines is used.
13. The system of Claim 2, wherein the subscription states include a grace state and a suspend state, the grace state being associated with an access rule that grants access to at least a first partial set of content permitted for a given subscription, the suspend state being associated with an access rule that grants access to no more than a second partial set of content permitted for the given subscription, second partial set being smaller than the first partial set.
14. The system of Claim 2, wherein a first access rule associated with the grace state or the suspend state permits access to only a lesser-quality version of content permitted for a given subscription.
15. The system of Claim 1, wherein the subscription states include at least: an activated state, a deactivated state, and at least one of a grace state or a suspend state.
16. One or more non-transitory computer-readable media storing instructions that, when executed by one or more computing devices, cause performance of:
- accessing a plurality of user account records for a plurality of network providers, the plurality of user account records associated with a plurality of user accounts, each said user account relating to a client device, the user account having one of a plurality of subscription states assigned thereto and the subscription states having defined access rules, wherein the client device accesses the content distribution system via at least one network provider of the plurality of network providers;
 - activating and renewing subscriptions for the user account records;
 - transitioning the plurality of user accounts to different assigned subscription states when corresponding state transitions are triggered, at least some of the state transitions being triggered responsive to subscription event messages related to the plurality of user accounts;
 - receiving a client request to access content of the content distribution system, the client request transmitted from a client device via a network associated with the at least one network provider of the plurality of network providers;

authorizing the client request using specific access rules, of the defined access rules assigned to the subscription state of the user account record relating to the client device;

receiving, via one or more external configuration interfaces, configuration instructions from or in association with the plurality of network providers;

based on a given instruction of the configuration instructions that is received from or in association with a given network provider of the plurality of network providers, configuring one or more of: a given state transition to use for user accounts that pertain to the given system, or a given defined access rule to use when user accounts that pertain to the given network provider are in a given state, such that authorization of client requests by the one or more authorization components is based on the given network provider via which the client request was received.

17. The one or more non-transitory computer-readable media of Claim 16, wherein the instructions, when executed by the one or more computing devices, further cause performance of implementing different types of state machines for different sets of user account records belonging to different external systems, the different types of state machines including differently-configured state transitions for transitioning between a same plurality of the subscription states.

18. The one or more non-transitory computer-readable media of Claim 16, wherein at least some of the different types of state machines conform to different state machine templates selected from a set of state machine templates, the set of state machine templates being fewer in number than the different types of state machines.