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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
MEDICAL IMAGE DATA ONTO PORTABLE  
DIGITAL RECORDING MEDIA**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 386/46,  
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See application file for complete search history.

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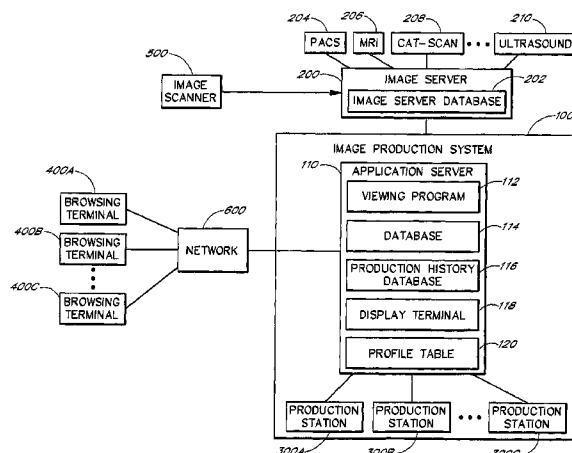
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Bear LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

This application discloses a system for recording medical  
image data for production on a portable digital recording  
medium such as CDs and DVDs. This system includes a  
receiving module, a processing module and an output mod-  
ule, with viewing program for viewing medical image data  
stored on the portable digital recording medium. It also  
discloses a method of storing medical image data on a  
portable digital recording medium, including the steps of  
receiving the medical image data, processing the data and  
storing the data on the portable digital recording medium,  
with a viewing program for viewing medical image data  
stored on the portable digital recording medium. It further  
discloses a method of selecting medical image data for  
recording on a portable digital recording medium, including  
the steps of connecting a browsing terminal to a computer  
database that stores the medical image data, selecting a first  
set of the medical image data from the computer database,  
and recording the selected first set of medical image data on  
the portable digital medium, with a viewing program for  
viewing the medical image data stored on the portable  
digital recording medium. It also discloses the method and  
system of retrieving medical image data that are related to  
the received/selected original medical image data, and  
recording the original and related medical image data on a  
portable digital recording medium.

**27 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



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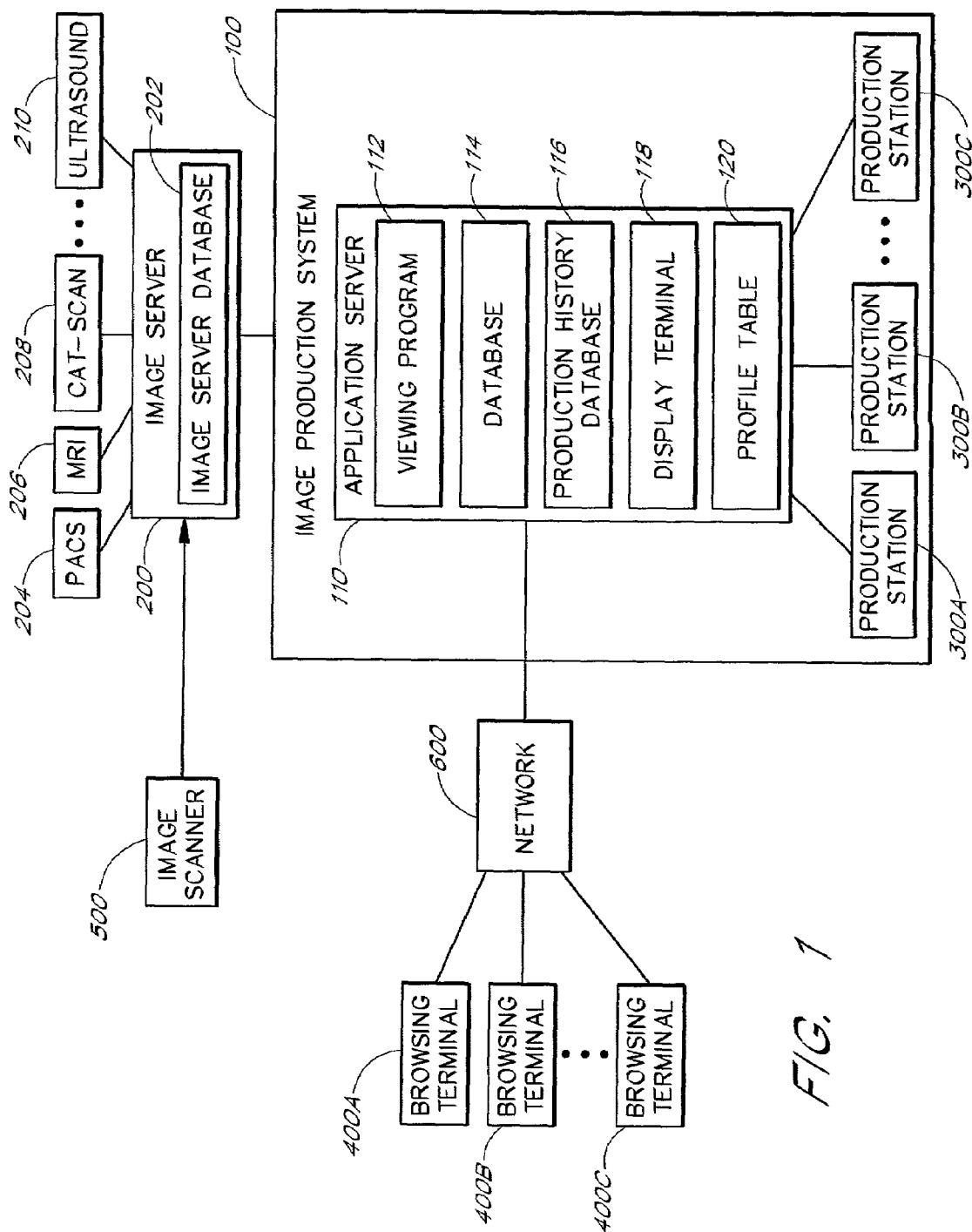
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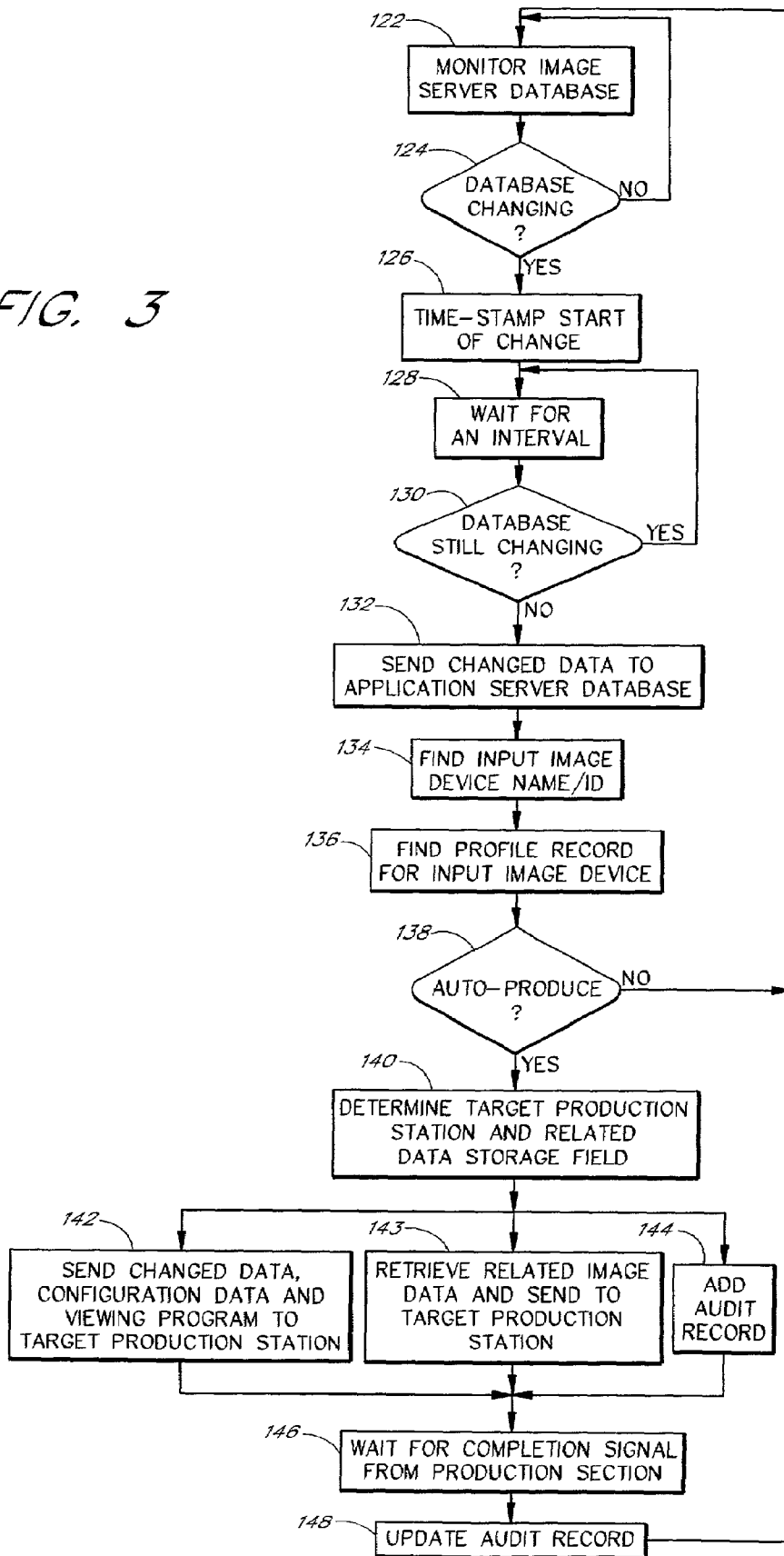


120

250		252		254
IMAGE INPUT DEVICES	FIELDS	AUTO-PRODUCE 1	TARGET PRODUCTION STATION	RELATED DATA STORAGE
MRI MACHINE I		YES	PRODUCTION STATION A	PACS 1
MRI MACHINE II		NO		
ULTRASOUND MACHINE I		YES	PRODUCTION STATION B	PACS 1, PACS 2

FIG. 2

FIG. 3



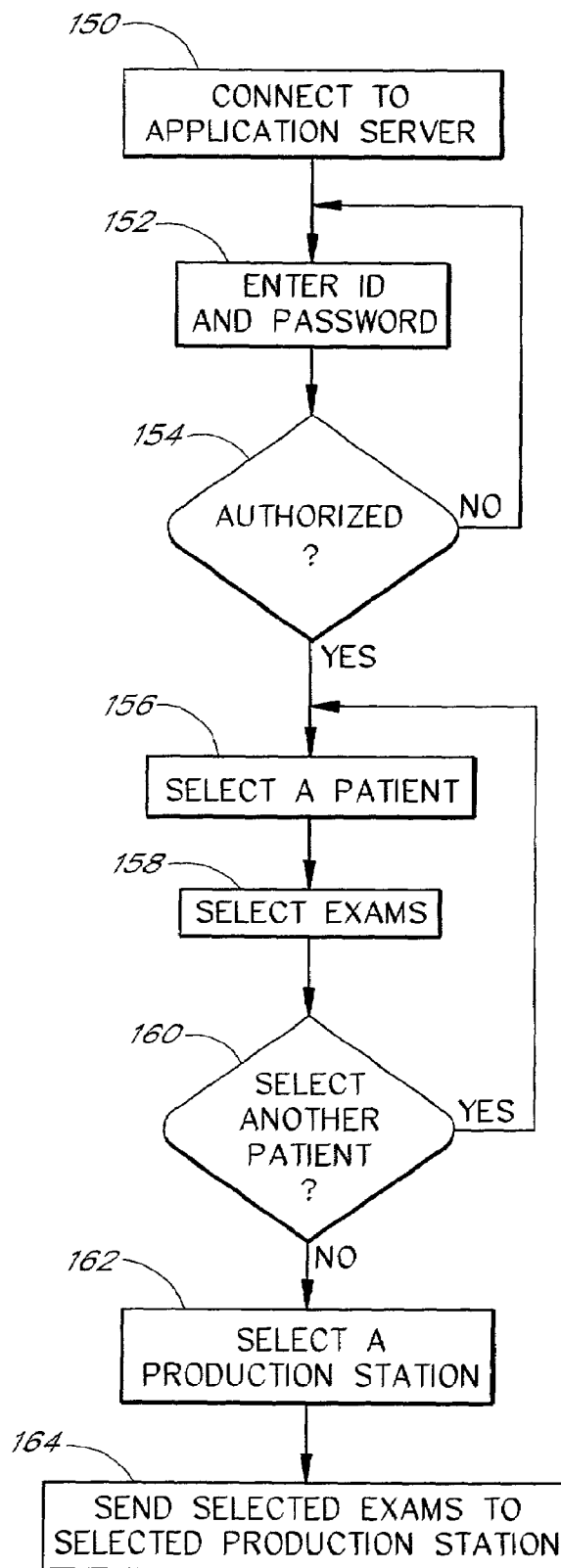


FIG. 4

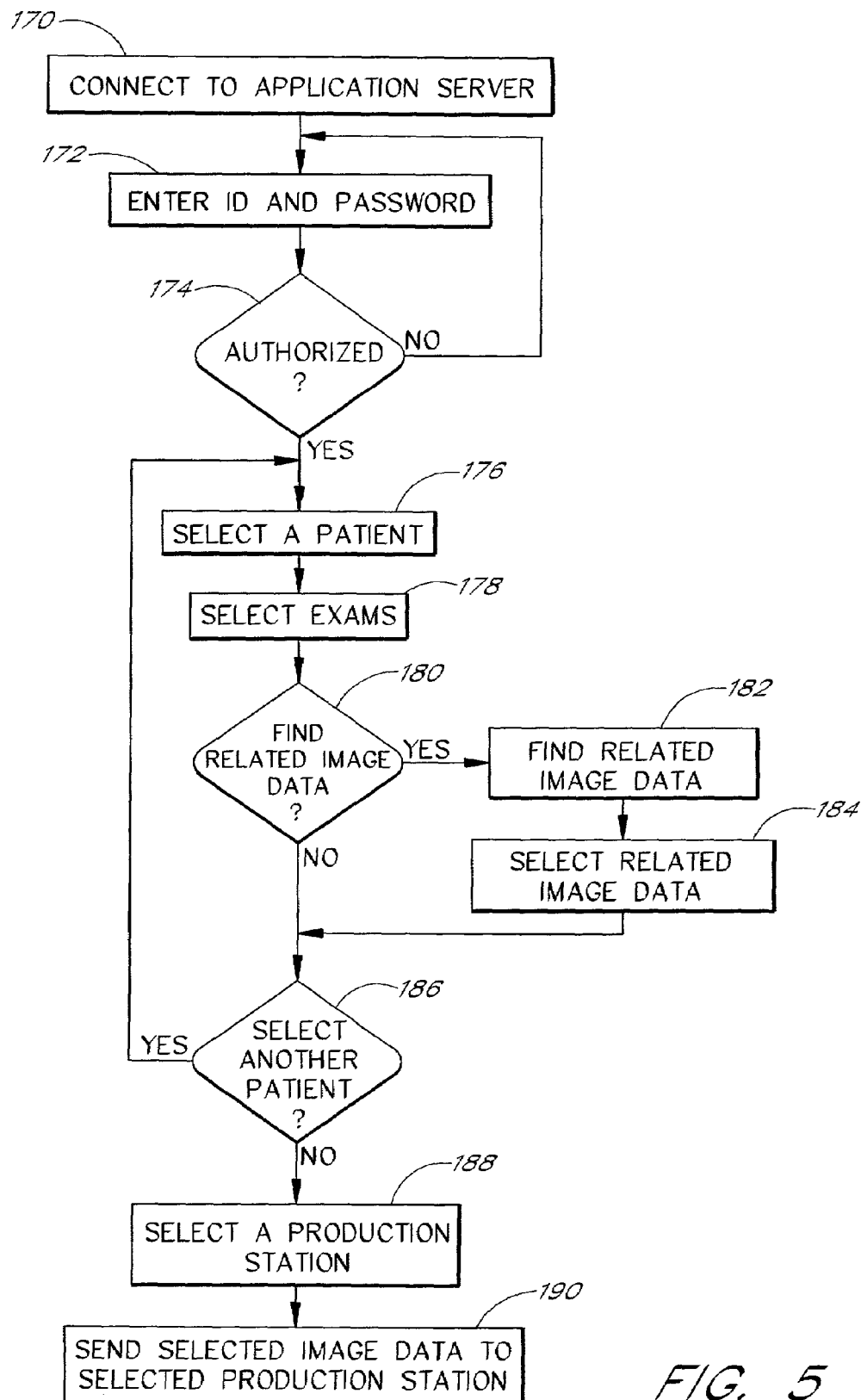


FIG. 5

1

# SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING MEDICAL IMAGE DATA ONTO PORTABLE DIGITAL RECORDING MEDIA

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This non-provisional application claims priority date from the provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/181,985, titled "Medical Information System" and filed Feb. 11, 2000.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a system and method for the production of medical image data on portable digital recording media such as compact discs. More particularly, it relates to a system and method for receiving medical image data, processing medical image data, and transmitting medical image data to be recorded on a portable digital recording medium.

### 2. Description of the Related Art

Since the invention of the x-ray film, film has been the predominant multipurpose medium for the acquisition, storage, and distribution of medical images. However, the storage and distribution of film often requires considerable expenses in labor and storage space.

Today's modern hospitals utilize computer-aided imaging devices such as Computed Tomography (CT), Digital Subtracted Angiography, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). These digital devices can generate hundreds of images in a matter of seconds. Many hospitals require these images to be printed on film for storage and distribution. To print complete sets of medical images from these digital devices, the cost in film material, storage space, and management efforts is often very high.

Some radiology departments have installed digital image storage and management systems known as PACS (Picture Archive Communication Systems). PACS are capable of storing a large amount of medical image data in digital form. PACS are made by manufacturers including GE, Siemens, and Fuji.

To ease the communication of data, the DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine) standard was developed by ACR-NEMA (American College of Radiology-National Electrical Manufacturer's Association) for communication between medical imaging devices and PACS. In addition to the examined images, patient demographics, and exam information such as patient name, patient age, exam number, exam modality, exam machine name, and exam date can also be stored and retrieved in DICOM compatible data format. A DICOM file stores patient and exam information in the header of the file, followed by the exam images. PACS store medical image data in DICOM format.

Digital medical image data can be stored on PACS and distributed using the Internet. However, many physicians' offices do not have the bandwidth suitable for fast download of medical image data. The concerns for medical data privacy and Internet security further reduce the desirability of Internet distribution.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The claimed system allows for digital medical image data to be produced on a portable digital recording medium such as a CD. A CD containing the medical image data can be

2

distributed to physicians, hospitals, patients, insurance companies, etc. One embodiment of the claimed system allows for medical image data to be placed on a CD along with a viewing program, so that a user can use any computer compatible with the CD to view the medical image data on the CD. One embodiment of the claimed system allows for searching medical exam data that are related and placing such data on the same CD.

One embodiment of the claimed system comprises a receiving module configured to receive medical image data, a processing module configured to process the received medical image data, and an output module configured to transmit the processed medical image data to a production station configured to produce the transmitted medical image data on portable digital recording medium, such as a CD. In one embodiment, the output module transmits a viewing program configured to view medical image data to the production station so that the viewing program is produced on the same CD as the medical image data. In another embodiment, the CD already contains the viewing program before the medical image data is transmitted to the CD production station.

In one embodiment of the claimed system, the processing module is configured to create and store audit information of the portable digital recording medium produced by the production station.

In another embodiment of the claimed system, the processing module is configured to identify the originating image input device of the received medical image data, and determine, on the basis of the originating image input device, whether to transmit the received medical image data to a production station. The processing module also selects, on the basis of the originating image input device, one of multiple production stations as the target production station.

Yet another embodiment of the claimed system is configured to retrieve medical image data that are related to the received medical image data, and transmit the retrieved related image data to the production station. In one embodiment, exam images of the same patient are considered related. In another embodiment, exam images of the same patient and the same modality are considered related. For example, two x-ray exams on the left hand of the same patient are considered related. In yet another embodiment, exam images of the same patient, the same modality and taken within a specified date range are considered related. For example, two x-ray exams on the left hand of the same patient taken within a two-month period are considered related. A hospital may also determine other scenarios of relatedness.

One claimed method comprises the steps of connecting a browsing terminal to a computer database configured to store medical image data, selecting medical image data from medical image data stored on the database, and recording the selected medical image data on portable digital recording medium. In one embodiment, the claimed method also comprises a step of recording a viewing program configured to view medical image data on the portable digital recording medium.

One embodiment of the claimed method further comprises the steps of finding and retrieving medical image data that are related to the selected medical image data, and recording related image data to portable digital recording medium.



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of an image production system comprising an application server and portable digital recording medium production stations.

FIG. 2 illustrates sample records of one embodiment of an image input device profile table.

FIG. 3 illustrates a process of receiving image data from image server, processing received image data, and transmitting such data to the production station. This process also retrieves and transmits related image data for production.

FIG. 4 illustrates a process of a user selecting and ordering the production of image data stored on the application server.

FIG. 5 illustrates a process of a user selecting and ordering the production of image data stored on the application server, with the option of selecting and ordering the production of related image data.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of an image production system 100 comprising an application server 110 and one or more portable digital recording medium production stations 300A, 300B and 300C. In the preferred embodiment, the production stations 300A, 300B and 300C are CD (Compact Disc) production stations. Digital portable recording medium comprises CDs and DVDs (Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc). CDs may comprise CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory), CD-R (Compact Disc Recordable), and CD-RW (Compact Disc Recordable and Writable). DVDs may comprise DVD-ROM (DVD Read Only Memory), DVD-R (DVD Recordable) and DVD-RAM (a standard for DVDs that can be read and written many times). Thus, although the following description refers primarily to CDs, those of ordinary skill in the art will understand that any suitable portable digital recording medium can be substituted for CDs.

The application server 110 is connected to one or more physician browsing terminals 400A, 400B and 400C through a computer network 600. Each physician browsing terminal 400A, 400B or 400C comprises a browsing program such as Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator. Physicians or their assistants launch the browsing program to access the application server 110 through the network 600 in order to select medical image data stored on the application server database 114 to be produced by a production station 300A, 300B or 300C. In the preferred embodiment, the physician browsing terminals 400A, 400B and 400C are connected to the application server through an Intranet. One embodiment of the Intranet utilizes TCP/IP network protocol. The Intranet can connect one radiology department, multiple departments within a hospital, or multiple hospitals. In another embodiment the browsing terminals 400A, 400B and 400C are connected to the application server 110 through the Internet.

Still referring to FIG. 1, the application server 110 is also connected to an image server 200. The image server 200 is further connected to image input devices such as PACS 204, MRI machines 206, CT-scan machines 208, ultrasound machines 210, etc. In the preferred embodiment, the image server 200 is a DICOM image server configured to receive and store medical image data in DICOM format. In operation, the image server 200 receives medical image data from image input devices such as PACS 204, MRI machines 206, CT-scan machines 208 and ultrasound machines 210 and

stores such image data in the image server database 202. A high-resolution image scanner 500 is also connected to the image server 200, so that medical image data stored on film can be scanned on the image scanner 500, transmitted to the image server 200 and stored in the image server database 202. In one embodiment, the image scanner 500 also converts the scanned image to DICOM format. The application server 110 receives input image data from the image server database 202, processes the received image data, and sends the image data to one of the production stations 300A, 300B or 300C to produce CDs.

The application server 110 comprises a viewing program 112, an application server database 114 that stores image data received from the image server 200, a production history database 116 that stores audit records on each CD produced, a display terminal 118 for programming and operating the application server 110 by a programmer or physician, and an image input device profile table 120.

Still referring to FIG. 1, the viewing program 112 is configured to allow users to read and manipulate medical image data. The viewing program 112 comprises multiple image manipulation functions, such as rotating images, zooming in and zooming out, measuring the distance between two points, etc. The viewing program 112 also allows users to read the patient demographics and exam information associated with the image data. The viewing program 112 used in the preferred embodiment is produced by eFilm Medical Inc. located in Toronto, Canada. The viewing program 112 used in the preferred embodiment is an abbreviated version with fewer functions and takes less storage space, in order to maximize the storage space for image data on a CD. The image server 200 used in the preferred embodiment is also made by eFilm Medical Inc.

The CD production stations 300A, 300B and 300C in the preferred embodiment are produced by Rimage Corporation in Edina, Minn. Details about the Rimage CD production stations can be found in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,542,768, 5,734,629, 5,914,918, 5,946,276, and 6,041,703, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The application server 110 in the preferred embodiment runs on a personal computer running a 400 MHz Celeron or Pentium II/III chip, with Windows 98 or NT as the operating system.

FIG. 2 illustrates sample records of one embodiment of an image input device profile table 120. The image input device profile table 120 contains a profile record for each image input device. Each image input device's profile record comprises: (1) an "auto-produce" logical field 250 indicating whether medical image data from this image input device should be produced on CD automatically by the image production system 100, (2) a "target production station" field 252 identifying one of the production stations 300A, 300B or 300C on which medical image data is to be produced, and (3) a "related data storage" 254 field identifying the medical image data storage units in which to search for the related image data. A medical image data storage unit is a storage unit that stores medical image data and is connected to the application server 110. In one embodiment, a medical image data storage unit is connected to the application server 110 through the image server 200. In the preferred embodiment, PACS 204 is such a medical image data storage unit.

In FIG. 2, the sample profile table 120 contains profile records for MRI Machine I, MRI Machine II, and Ultrasound Machine I. For MRI Machine I, the "auto-produce" field 250 contains a "yes" value, directing the image production system 100 to automatically produce image data originating from MRI Machine I on portable digital record-

5

ing medium. Its “target production station” field **252** contains a “Production Station A” value, directing the image production system **100** to produce image data originating from MRI Machine I on production station A. Its “related data storage” field **254** is “PACS I”, directing the image production system **100** to retrieve related medical image data from PACS I. For MRI Machine II, the “auto-produce” field **250** is “no”, directing the image production system **100** to not automatically produce image data originating from MRI Machine II on portable digital recording medium. Since image data from MRI Machine II will not be automatically produced, the “target production station” field **252** and the “related data storage” field **254** are irrelevant. For Ultrasound Machine I, the “auto-produce” field **250** is “yes”, and its “target production” field **252** is “Production Station B”. Its “related data storage” field **254** contains a value of “PACS I, PACS II”, directing the image production system **100** to search PACS I and PACS II for related medical image data.

FIG. 3 illustrates a process of the application server **110** receiving image data from the image server **200**, processing the received image data, and transmitting such data to the production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C**. The application server **110** continuously monitors the image server database **202** in step **122**. In one embodiment, the application server continuously “pings” the network address corresponding to the image server **200** on the network that connects the application server **110** with the image server **200**.

Still referring to FIG. 3, the application server **110** determines if the image server database **202** is changing, in step **124**. In the preferred embodiment, the application server **110** makes that determination by detecting whether the image server database **202** is increasing in size. If there is no change in the image server database **202**, then the application server **110** returns to step **122** to continue monitoring. If there is change in the image server database **202**, then the application server **110** proceeds to step **126** and time-stamps the moment that the change started. The application server **110** then proceeds to step **128** and waits for an interval, typically 35 to 65 seconds. After the interval, the application server **110** checks whether the image server database **202** is still changing, in step **130**. If the image server database **202** is still changing then the application server **110** returns to step **128** to wait for another interval. If the image server database **202** is no longer changing, then the application server **110** proceeds to step **132** and copies the data changed since the time-stamped moment. This changed data is copied from the image server database **202** to the application server database **114**.

The application server **110** proceeds to step **134** and finds the input image device name or identification number from the newly received image data. In the preferred embodiment, image data from the image server database **202** are stored in DICOM format, and the input image device name or identification number is stored in the header of the DICOM format image data file. The input image device name/ID indicates the origin of the newly received data. The application server **110** proceeds to step **136** and uses the found input image device name/ID to find a corresponding profile record in the image input device profile table **120**. If the profile record has an “auto-produce” field **250** with a “no” value, the application server **110** returns from step **138** to step **122** to continue monitoring the image server database **202**. If the “auto-produce” field **250** contains a “yes” value, the application server **110** proceeds from step **138** to step **140**, and determines the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** from the “target production station” field **252**

6

of the profile record. In step **140**, the application server **110** also determines the value in the “related data storage” field **254** of the profile record.

Still referring to FIG. 3, in step **142**, the application server **110** sends a copy of the newly received data, along with a copy of the viewing program **112**, to the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** identified in step **140**. With the viewing program attached, the image data on each CD produced by the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** can be viewed on any computer that accepts the CD, regardless of whether that computer has its own viewing program installed. In one embodiment, the data received in step **132** is stored in the application server database **114** before it is transmitted to the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** in step **142**. In another embodiment, the application server **110** transmits the data received in step **132** to the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C**, without storing a copy of the data in the application server database **114**.

In one embodiment, the application server **110** does not send a copy of the viewing program **112** to the target production station during step **142**. Rather, the application server **110** sends a copy of the received medical image data to the production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** to be recorded on pre-burned CDs. Each pre-burned CD contains a viewing program already recorded onto the CD before step **142**.

In step **142**, the application server **110** also sends configuration data to the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C**. The configuration data comprises a label-printing file comprising the specification for printing labels on top of the CDs, and a “number of copies” value indicating the number of copies of CDs to be produced. A typical specification in the label-printing file may specify information such as patient name, exam modality, hospital name, physician name, production date, etc. to be printed by the target production station as a label on the top of each CD produced.

Still referring to FIG. 3, in step **143**, the application server **110** searches the application server database **114** for image data related to the newly received data. The application server **110** then searches the PACS systems identified in the “related data storage” field **254** in step **140** for data related to the newly received data. Some PACS systems each comprise a primary image data storage and an archive image data storage, and the application server **110** searches both the primary image data storage and the archive image data storage on these PACS systems. The application server **110** is connected to the PACS systems through the image server **200**. The application server **110** retrieves found related data from the PACS systems and stores a copy of such found related data in the application server database **114**. The application server **110** sends a copy of related data that are found from the application server database **114** or the PACS systems to the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C**. The medical image data originally received in step **132** and the related medical image data are produced by the target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** on the same CDs for comparative study.

For each CD to be produced, the application server **110** adds one audit record to the production history database **116** in step **144**. The new audit record comprises the identification number of the CD and other relevant information about the CD, such as the physician who requested the production (if any), and the names of the patients whose exam images are on that CD.

Steps **142**, **143** and **144** may be executed immediately before, concurrent with, or immediately after one another.

7

The target production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** produces the CDs containing the medical image data and the viewing program sent to it, and prints a label on top of every CD, corresponding to the specification in the label-printing file. The number of CDs produced corresponds to the "number of copies" number sent by the application server **110** in step **142**. When the target production station has produced the CDs, the production station returns a "completed" signal to the application server **110**. The application server **110** waits for this signal in step **146**.

Still referring to FIG. **3**, in step **148**, the application server **110** updates the audit records in the production history database **116** that were created in step **144**. For each CD produced, the application **110** server updates the date and time of production for that CD's audit record. The application server **110** also updates the status value for that CD's audit storage record from "processing" to "successful". The application server **110** then continues monitoring the image server database **202** as in step **122**.

FIG. **4** illustrates a process of a user selecting and ordering the production of image data stored on the application server **110**. A user, typically a physician or physician's assistant, accesses the application server database **114** from a browsing terminal **400A**, **400B** or **400C** connected to a network **600**. In one embodiment, the user launches a browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator, and specifies a network address corresponding to the application server **110**, in step **150**. In another embodiment, the user clicks a pre-defined icon that directly launches a browser connecting to the application server **110**. The application server **110** prompts the user to enter a password or an identification name coupled with a password, in step **152**. The application server **110** checks if the entered identification/password is authorized in step **154**. If the entered identification/password is not authorized the user is returned to step **152** to re-enter the identification/password, or disconnected from the application server **110**. If the entered identification/password is authorized then the user is allowed access to the application server database **114** and the application server **110** proceeds to step **156**.

Still referring to FIG. **4**, in step **156** the user is prompted to select a patient from a list of patients with exam images in the application server database **114**. The user is then shown a list of the selected patient's exams, and is prompted to select one or more exams of that patient, in step **158**. When the user indicates that he/she has completed selecting all exams for that patient, the user is asked in step **160** whether to select another patient from the list of patients. If the user answers "yes", the user is returned to step **156** to select another patient. If the user answers "no", the user proceeds to step **162**.

In another embodiment, when a user selects a patient, all exams belonging to that patient will be automatically selected without prompting for user selection. In yet another embodiment, the user is not prompted to select patients, but is only prompted to select exams from a list of all exams for all patients contained in the application server database **114**.

When the user indicates that he/she has completed selecting, the user is prompted to select a production station from a list of production stations **300A**, **300B** and **300C** in step **162**. The user is also prompted to enter additional label text to be printed as labels on the CDs to be produced, to supplement the text printed according to the specification of the label-printing file. The user can advantageously select the production station located closest to his/her office. In one embodiment, only one production station is connected to the

8

application server **110**, and the lone production station will be the selected production station without prompting for user selection.

In one embodiment, the user is also prompted to select the number of copies of CDs to be produced. In another embodiment, the number of copies is set at one without prompting for user direction. As described above in connection with FIG. **3**, in step **164**, the application server **110** sends a copy of the image data of the selected exams for the selected patients to the selected production station, along with a copy of the viewing program **112**, and configuration data comprising a label-printing file, additional label text, and a number indicating the number of copies of CDs to be produced. The production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** then produces one or more CDs containing the selected exams for the selected patients and the viewing program, with labels printed on top of the CDs according to the specification in the label-printing file and the user-entered additional label text.

In another embodiment, a user accesses the application server database **114** not from a browsing terminal **400A**, **400B** or **400C**, but directly from the display terminal **118**. In this embodiment the user directly proceeds from step **152**. In this embodiment the user is typically a programmer or operator of the image production system **100**.

FIG. **5** illustrates a process of a user selecting and ordering the production of image data stored on the application server **110**, with the additional option of selecting and ordering the production of related data for comparative study. As described above in connection with FIG. **4**, a user connects to the application server **110** from a browsing terminal **400A**, **400B** or **400C** in step **170**. The user enters identification information and a password in step **172**. Step **174** determines whether the user is authorized to access the application server database **114**. If authorized, the user is prompted to select a patient in step **176**, and selects exams of the selected patient in step **178**. The user is then asked in step **180** if he/she desires to find related data of that patient for comparative study.

If the user answers yes, the application server **110** then searches for related data. The application server **110** finds the image input device profile table **120** profile record corresponding to the image input device from which the selected data originates, identifies the list of PACS systems stored in the "related data storage" field **254**, and searches these PACS systems for related data. In another embodiment, once the user has selected a patient/exam combination, the application server **110** automatically searches for related data without asking for user direction. In this embodiment, the application server **110** alerts the user if related data are found. In one embodiment, the application server **110** also searches the application server database **114** for related medial image data.

Still referring to FIG. **5**, the user is then prompted to select all or some of the related data from the list of found related data for production, in step **184**. In another embodiment, all found related data are automatically selected by the application server **110** for production, without prompting for user selection.

The user is then prompted to select another patient in step **186**. After the user has completed selecting all patients, the user is prompted to select a CD production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** in step **188**. The user is also prompted to enter additional label text. In step **190**, the application server **110** then sends a copy of the original and selected related data, along with a copy of the viewing program **112**, a number indicating the number of copies to be produced, additional

label text, and a label-printing file to the selected production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C** for production.

The above paragraphs describe the application server **110** with one database **114** for image data storage. In another embodiment, the application server **110** includes two data-  
bases for image data storage: a new data database and a  
storage data database. The new data database stores only the  
most recent batch of new data just received from the image  
server **200**. After the data in the new data database is sent to  
a production station **300A**, **300B** or **300C**, the application  
server **110** erases data in the new data database. The storage  
data database stores all data that has ever been received from  
the image server database **202**. In the processes described by  
FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, a user selects images for production from  
the storage data database.

Several modules are described in the specification and the  
claims. The modules may advantageously be configured to  
reside on an addressable storage medium and configured to  
execute on one or more processors. The modules may  
include, but are not limited to, software or hardware com-  
ponents that perform certain tasks. Thus, a module may  
include, for example, object-oriented software components,  
class components, processes methods, functions, attributes,  
procedures, subroutines, segments of program code, drivers,  
firmware, microcode, circuitry, data, databases, data struc-  
tures, tables, arrays, and variables. Modules may be inte-  
grated into a smaller number of modules. One module may  
also be separated into multiple modules.

Although the foregoing has been a description and illus-  
tration of specific embodiments of the invention, various  
modifications and changes can be made thereto by persons  
skilled in the art, without departing from the scope and spirit  
of the invention as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A system for selecting and automatically recording  
medical image data onto a data storage medium, the system  
being connected to a medical image server, the system  
comprising:

- an application server;
- a plurality of production stations;
- a plurality of browsing terminals;
- a network connecting the application server, the plurality  
of production stations and the plurality of browsing  
terminals, wherein the application server is configured  
to receive medical image data from the medical image  
server, the medical images received being formatted in  
a standard medical imaging format used by specialized  
computers configured for viewing medical images, the  
application server further comprising:
  - a selection module configured to allow a user to select  
selected medical image data via at least one of (a) a  
selected one of the plurality of browsing terminals  
and (b) the application server,
  - a search module configured to automatically search the  
medical image server for related medical image data  
that is related to the selected medical image data,
  - a configuration data module configured to allow a user  
to input identifying information relating to the  
selected medical image data,
  - a production station selection module configured to  
allow a user to select one of the plurality of produc-  
tion stations, wherein the selected production station  
is configured to receive the selected medical image  
data and the related medical image data to produce a  
data storage medium that has recorded on it the  
selected and the related medical image data, the

selected medical image data being recorded on the  
data storage medium in the standard medical imag-  
ing format, and

an audit module configured to automatically provide an  
auditable trail of the selected medical image data;

- a viewing program for the standard medical imaging  
format that is recorded on the data storage medium, and  
that is configured to allow viewing of medical image  
data stored on the data storage medium on widely  
accessible computers not specifically configured with  
standard medical imaging software for viewing of  
medical images; and
- a label automatically printed and applied to the data  
storage medium at the production station, the label  
containing the identifying information.

**2.** The system of claim **1**, wherein the data storage  
medium is an optical disk.

**3.** The system of claim **1**, wherein the auditable trail of the  
selected medical image data includes a record of when the  
selected medical image data and the related medical image  
data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

**4.** The system of claim **1**, wherein the medical image  
server is configured to provide medical image data to the  
application server in response to generation of medical  
image data by an imaging modality coupled to the medical  
image server.

**5.** The system of claim **4**, wherein the imaging modality  
is an image scanner configured to generate medical image  
data in a DICOM-compatible format from a film.

**6.** The system of claim **1**, wherein the application server  
further comprises a user authentication module configured to  
authenticate a user's identification before the user is allowed  
to access the selection module.

**7.** The system of claim **1**, wherein the application server  
further includes a database configured to store medical  
image data received from the medical image server.

**8.** The system of claim **7**, wherein the selection module is  
further configured to provide the user with a listing of  
patients having medical image data stored in the database.

**9.** A system comprising:

- a medical image server configured to receive medical  
image data that is generated by a plurality of imaging  
modalities, the medical image data being formatted in  
a standard medical imaging format used by specialized  
computers configured for viewing medical images;
- a database configured to store medical image data gener-  
ated by the plurality of imaging modalities;
- a plurality of browsing terminals configured to receive a  
user selection that defines selected medical image data;
- a search module configured to search the database for  
related medical image data that is related to the selected  
medical image data; and
- a production station that is configured to record all of the  
following onto a data storage medium:
  - the selected medical image data, recorded in the stan-  
dard medical imaging format,
  - the related medical image data, recorded in the standard  
medical imaging format, and
  - a viewing program that is configured to allow viewing  
of the selected and the related medical image data  
that is recorded onto the data storage medium on  
widely accessible computers not specifically config-  
ured with standard medical imaging software for  
viewing of medical images.

## 11

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a configuration data module configured to allow a user to input identifying information relating to the selected medical image data.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the production station is further configured to print and apply a label to the data storage medium, the label containing the identifying information.

12. The system of claim 9, further comprising an audit module that is configured to automatically provide an auditable trail of the selected medical image data.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the auditable trail of the selected medical image data includes a record of when the selected medical image data and the related medical image data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the auditable trail of the selected medical image data includes identifying information corresponding to the production station used to record the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto the data storage medium.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk.

16. A method for selecting and automatically recording medical image data onto a data storage medium, the method comprising:

receiving medical image data from a plurality of imaging modalities, the received medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

storing the received medical image data in a database; providing a user interface configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data; searching the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data;

recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto a data storage medium using a production station, the selected medical image data being recorded on the data storage medium in the standard medical imaging format;

recording a viewing program onto the data storage medium using the production station, the viewing program being configured to allow viewing of medical image data stored on the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images;

printing a label using the production station, wherein the label includes identifying information associated with the selected medical image data; and affixing the label to the data storage medium using the production station.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising generating an auditable trail of the selected medical image data, wherein the auditable trail includes a record of when the selected medical image data and the related medical image data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface is further configured to collect the identifying information from the user.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising providing, via the user interface, a list of patients having medical image data stored in the database.

## 12

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the plurality of imaging modalities includes an image scanner configured to generate medical image data in a DICOM-compatible format from a film.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data further comprising selecting a selected production station from a plurality of production stations that are connected to the database via a computer network.

23. A system comprising:

an application server configured to receive medical image data from a medical image server, wherein the medical image data is received in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

a plurality of production stations;

a plurality of browsing terminals; and

a network connecting the application server, the plurality of production stations and the plurality of browsing terminals;

wherein the application server comprises:

a selection module configured to allow a user to select selected medical image data via a user interface,

a search module configured to search the medical image server for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data, and

a production station selection module configured to allow a user to select one of the plurality of production stations, wherein the selected production station is configured to (a) receive the selected medical image data and the related medical image data, (b) produce a data storage medium that has recorded thereon in the standard medical imaging format the selected medical image data and the related medical image data, and (c) also record onto the data storage medium a viewing program for the standard medical imaging format that is configured to allow viewing of the selected medical image data and the related medical image data on widely accessible computers with standard medical imaging software for viewing medical images.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the selection module is configured to allow the user to select selected medical image data using a selected one of the plurality of production stations or a selected one of the plurality of browsing terminals.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the application server further comprises a configuration data module configured to allow the user to input identifying information relating to the selected medical imaging data.

26. The system of claim 25, further comprising a label applied to the data storage medium, the label containing the identifying information.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the application server further comprises an audit module configured to provide an auditable trail of the selected medical image data.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 7,302,164 C1  
APPLICATION NO. : 90/009347  
DATED : January 4, 2011  
INVENTOR(S) : Ken Wright et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Column 1, Line 40, in Claim 9, after “portable” insert *--digital--*.

In Column 1, Line 40, in Claim 9, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device that is removable from the production station--*.

In Column 1, Line 47, in Claim 9, delete “medium” and insert *-- [medium] device--*.

In Column 1, Line 67, in Claim 15, delete “:” and insert *-- ; --*.

In Column 2, Line 27, in Claim 16, delete “portable” and insert *--portable, digital--*.

In Column 2, Line 28, in Claim 16, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device--*.

In Column 2, Line 30, in Claim 16, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device--*.

In Column 2, Line 32, in Claim 16, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device--*.

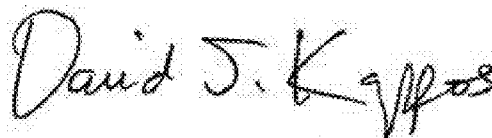
In Column 2, Line 34, in Claim 16, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device--*.

In Column 2, Line 40, in Claim 16, after “data;” delete “and” and insert *--[and]--*.

In Column 2, Line 41, in Claim 16, delete “medium” and insert *--[medium] device--*.

In Column 2, Line 42, in Claim 16, delete “production station.” and insert *--production station; removing the data storage device from the production station.--*.

Signed and Sealed this  
Nineteenth Day of April, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Kappos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

David J. Kappos  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



US007302164C1

(12) **EX PARTE REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE** (7967th)  
**United States Patent**  
**Wright et al.**

(10) **Number:** **US 7,302,164 C1**  
(45) **Certificate Issued:** **Jan. 4, 2011**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING MEDICAL IMAGE DATA ONTO PORTABLE DIGITAL RECORDING MEDIA**

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No. 90/009,347, Nov. 26, 2008

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(51) **Int. Cl.** .....  
**H04N 5/91** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **386/95**; 386/112; 386/126

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... None  
See application file for complete search history.

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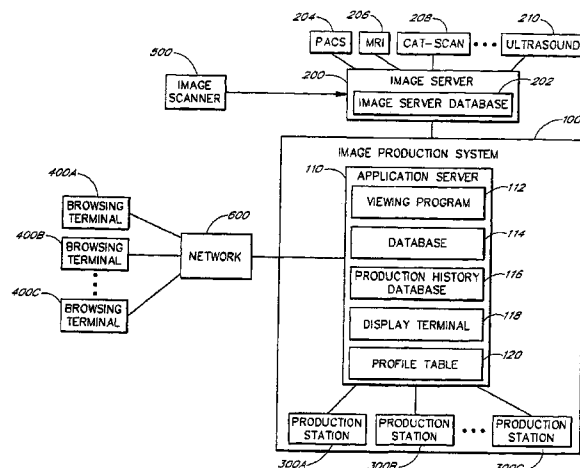
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*Primary Examiner*—Sam Rimell

(57) **ABSTRACT**

This application discloses a system for recording medical image data for production on a portable digital recording medium such as CDs and DVDs. This system includes a receiving module, a processing module and an output module, with viewing program for viewing medical image data stored on the portable digital recording medium. It also discloses a method of storing medical image data on a portable digital recording medium, including the steps of receiving the medical image data, processing the data and storing the data on the portable digital recording medium, with a viewing program for viewing medical image data stored on the portable digital recording medium. It further discloses a method of selecting medical image data for recording on a portable digital recording medium, including the steps of connecting a browsing terminal to a computer database that stores the medical image data, selecting a first set of the medical image data from the computer database, and recording the selected first set of medical image data on the portable digital medium, with a viewing program for viewing the medical image data stored on the portable digital recording medium. It also discloses the method and system of retrieving medical image data that are related to the received/selected original medical image data, and recording the original and related medical image data on a portable digital recording medium.



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**1**  
**EX PARTE**  
**REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE**  
**ISSUED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 307**

THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS  
INDICATED BELOW.

**Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appeared in the patent, but has been deleted and is no longer a part of the patent; matter printed in italics indicates additions made to the patent.**

AS A RESULT OF REEXAMINATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT:

Claims 9, 15, 16 and 21 are determined to be patentable as amended.

Claims 10-14, 17-20 and 22, dependent on an amended claim, are determined to be patentable.

Claims 1-8 and 23-27 were not reexamined.

9. A system comprising:

a medical image server configured to receive medical image data that is generated by a plurality of imaging modalities, the medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

a database configured to store medical image data generated by the plurality of imaging modalities;

a plurality of browsing terminals configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;

a search module configured to search the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data; and

a production station that is configured to record all of the following onto a *single, portable* data storage medium: the selected medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format,

the related medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format, and

a viewing program that is configured to allow viewing of the selected and the related medical image data that is recorded onto the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images.

15. [The system of claim 9.] *A system comprising:*

*a medical image server configured to receive medical image data that is generated by a plurality of imaging modalities, the medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;*

*a database configured to store medical image data generated by the plurality of imaging modalities;*

*a plurality of browsing terminals configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;*

*a search module configured to search the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data; and*

*a production station that is configured to record all of the following onto a data storage medium, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk[.]:*

**2**

*the selected medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format,*

*the related medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format, and*

*a viewing program that is configured to allow viewing of the selected and the related medical image data that is recorded onto the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images.*

16. A method for selecting and automatically recording medical image data onto a data storage medium, the method comprising:

receiving medical image data from a plurality of imaging modalities, the received medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

storing the received medical image data in a database; providing a user interface configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;

searching the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data;

recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto a *single, portable* data storage medium using a production station, the selected medical image data being recorded on the data storage medium in the standard medical imaging format;

recording a viewing program onto the data storage medium using the production station, the viewing program being configured to allow viewing of medical image data stored on the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images;

printing a label using the production station, wherein the label includes identifying information associated with the selected medical image data; and

affixing the label to the data storage medium using the production station.

21. [The method of claim 16.] *A method for selecting and automatically recording medical image data onto a data storage medium, the method comprising:*

*receiving medical image data from a plurality of imaging modalities, the received medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;*

*storing the received medical image data in a database;*

*providing a user interface configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;*

*searching the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data;*

*recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto a data storage medium using a production station, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk[.], the selected medical image data being recorded on the data storage medium in the standard medical imaging format;*

*recording a viewing program onto the data storage medium using the production station, the viewing program being configured to allow viewing of medical image data stored on the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured*

**3**

*with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images;  
printing a label using the production station, wherein the label includes identifying information associated with the selected medical image data; and*

**4**

*affixing the label to the data storage medium using the production station.*

\* \* \* \* \*