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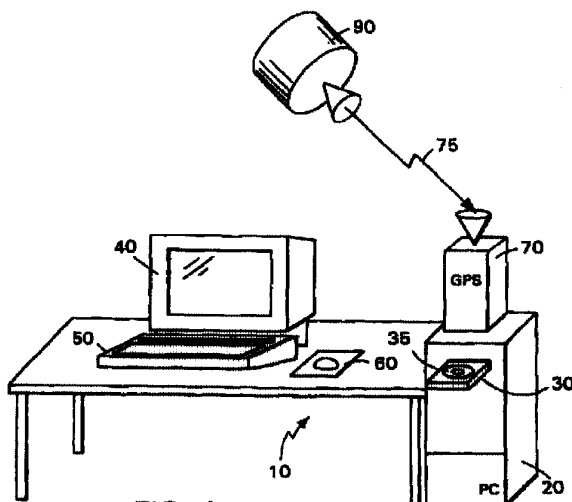
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(54) **Controlling access to stored information**

(57) Access to stored information by a user is controlled by comparing an actual geographic position and/or an actual date/time with a geographic region and/or a date/time interval within which access to the stored information is authorized. The actual geographic position where the stored information is located, and the actual date/time can be determined, for example, based

on signals received at a receiver supplying reliable position and time information, such as a GPS receiver. Access to the stored information is authorized if the actual geographic position and/or date/time falls within the authorized geographic region and/or date/time interval. The position and date/time information supplied by the receiver may be cryptographically signed and encrypted.



**FIG. 1**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 8483

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>6 November 2001</b>	Examiner <b>Powell, D</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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