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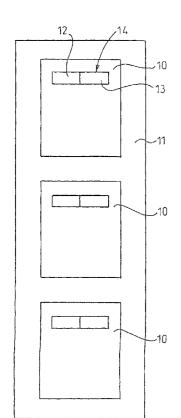
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(54) Title: ATTESTATION LABEL SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MARKING AND CHECKING THE LEGALLY CORRECT NATURE OF PROPRIETORY PRODUCTS



(57) Abstract: Attestation label system for marking and checking the licensed legal status of products, wherein the products (3) are provided with respective attestation labels (10) before they are brought into sale, the affixed attestation label (10) cannot be removed from the associated product (3) without being injured, the surface of the attestation labels (3) comprise structures rendering copying and reproduction very difficult and a code field (14) divided into a first and a second domain (12, 13), the first domain (12) comprises a code characteristic to the owner of rights (1) and/or to the limitations of the license, and the second domain (13) comprises an individual code characteristic to the particular product (3) associated with the attestation label (10). The system is operated by a service provider (4) having a database (5) storing data both of said domains (12, 13); the database (5) following an accessibility check allows through a communication line (16) individual retrieval of said data, and said database (5) comprises information regarding the persons authorized for using the service and regarding the authorization.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/60 G07F G07F7/08 G06F1/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06F G07F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ US 5 984 366 A (PRIDDY DENNIS G) 1 - 716 November 1999 (1999-11-16) abstract column 1, line 57 - line 67; claims 1,5-8 column 6, line 57 - line 66 Υ US 5 892 900 A (GINTER KARL L ET AL) 1-76 April 1999 (1999-04-06) abstract column 6, line 1 -column 8, line 4; figure Α US 5 671 412 A (CHRISTIANO MATT) 1-7 23 September 1997 (1997-09-23) abstract -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 27/02/2003 14 February 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Sündermann, R

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Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.				
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