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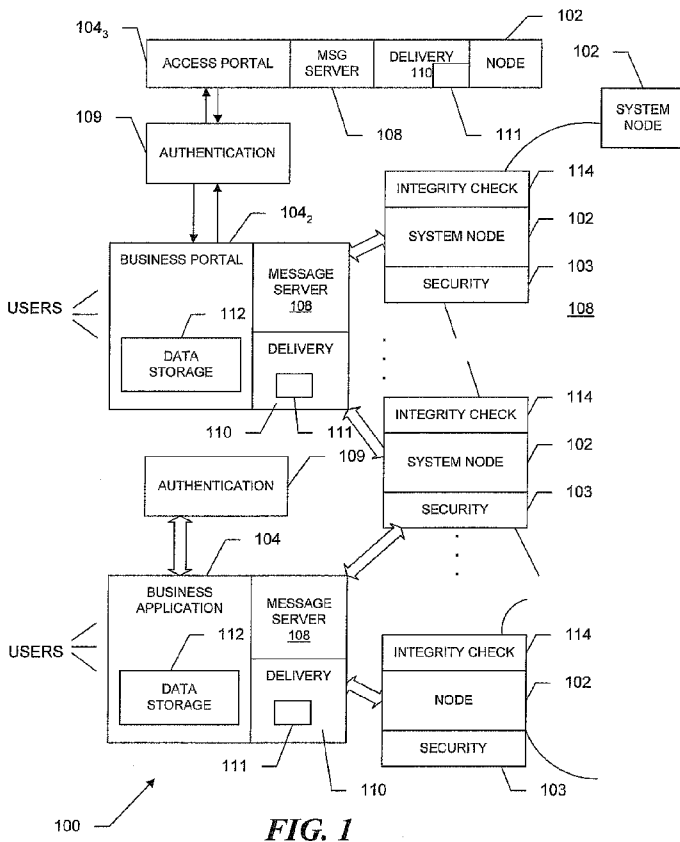
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC BUSINESS POSTAL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An electronic business postal system collects, clears and delivers electronic business mail through a closed access, secure messaging system. A collection subsystem consists of access portals that are associated with secured system nodes. The access portals provide authenticated users access to the system to send and retrieve electronic business mail that includes postal system electronic delivery addresses, physical delivery addresses, or both. Secured message servers that are associated with the respective access portals process the electronic business mail into uniquely identified messages for delivery over the system nodes and also process received messages to provide the corresponding electronic business mail to the intended recipients through associated access portals. A delivery subsystem directs the messages through the system nodes associated with the senders' access portals to the system nodes associated with the recipients' access portals. A clearance subsystem confirms the integrity of both the messages and their delivery and ensures that each message is delivered once and intact.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. G06Q10/00 G06Q50/00

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)
 G06Q

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*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2007/073943 A1 (REGIFY GMBH I G [DE]; SCHMID VOLKER [DE]) 5 July 2007 (2007-07-05) the whole document	1-19
X	US 6 473 407 B1 (DITMER CHRISTINE M [US] ET AL) 29 October 2002 (2002-10-29) the whole document	1-19
X	WO 2008/065346 A2 (IRVINE DAVID [GB]) 5 June 2008 (2008-06-05) the whole document	1-19
X	US 2007/005717 A1 (LEVASSEUR THIERRY [CA] ET AL) 4 January 2007 (2007-01-04) the whole document	1-19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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- "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 in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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			EA 200801600 A1	27-02-2009
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