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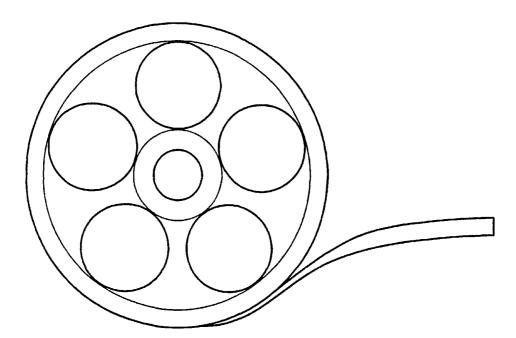
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ENCRYPTION KEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USING MULTIPLE SMART CARDS



(57) Abstract: Initially, a key range variable is created by concatenating the card group value, card number and reference number for an encryption key to be generated. A hashing algorithm generates an encryption key from a master key and the variable key range variable. The encryption key and the key range variable are output to the caller who requested the key. The encryption key is used to encrypt the information, while the variable key range is stored with the encrypted data. Generation of a decryption key requires a user call for a decryption key and includes the key range variable from the encrypted data. A hashing algorithm generates a decryption key from the master key and the key range variable. The decryption key is used to decrypt the information.



01/37478 A3

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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# A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G07F7/10

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)  $IPC\ 7\ G07F$ 

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, WPI Data

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search  15 May 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report  25/05/2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA  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	Authorized officer  Kirsten, K

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