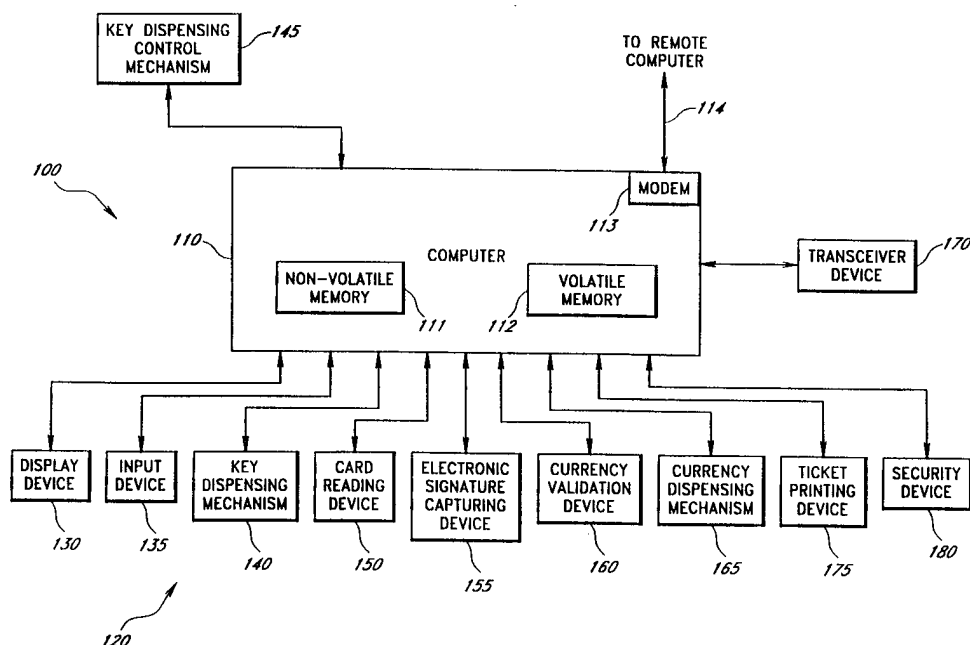




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: AUTOMATED CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An automated check-in system (100) provides a key to a room in a lodging establishment. The check-in system (100) includes a key dispensing mechanism (140) configured to provide a key to the selected room, a payment acceptance module (160) configured to accept payment for the room and a security module (180) to verify the person using the system. The check-in system (100) may include a computer (110) with an input device configured to allow the user to enter information into the computer and a display device (130) configured to display information such as the rate, characteristics and location of the room user to the user. The automated system can be located, for example, in the lodging establishment for use by the employees or patrons of the lodging establishment. The check-in system may also be placed in other locations such as airports and shopping centers.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/21003

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G06F 17/00; G06G 7/48

US CL : 364/479.01, 479.02, 479.03, 479.06, 479.07, 479.11

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)

U.S. : 364/479.01, 479.02, 479.03, 479.06, 479.07, 479.11

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 practicable, search terms used)

APS

search terms: keys, dispensing, room, hotel

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,752,876 A (COUCH et al.) 21 June 1988, col. 2, line 51-col. 3, line 8; col. 3, lines 40-43; Figures 2-5; col. 4, lines 45-64; col. 5, lines 12-28.	1-4, 13-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32-35
Y	US 5,397,884 A (SALIGA) 14 March 1995, col. 6, lines 17-35; col. 3, lines 23-34.	5-7, 12, 17, 23-25, 31
Y, P	US 5,614,703 A (MARTIN et al.) 25 March 1997, col. 8, lines 47-67.	20
Y	US 5,386,104 A (SIME) 31 January 1995, col. 4, lines 19-41.	6-12, 25-31
A	US 5,073,950 A (COLBERT et al.) 17 December 1991.	7, 9, 10, 26, 28, 29

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

WILLIAM E. TERRELL

Telephone No. (703) 308-1113

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International application No.
PCT/US97/21003

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,648,240 A (JACOBY et al.) 07 March 1972.	7, 9, 10, 26, 28, 29
A	US 5,572,596 A (WILDES et al.) 05 November 1996.	7, 8, 26, 27
A	US 5,463,546 A (PARKHURST) 31 October 1995.	1-4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32-35
A	US 5,088,586 A (ISOBE et al.) 18 February 1992.	1-4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32-35.
A	US 5,183,999 A (HAKENEWERTH et al.) 02 February 1993.	1-4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32-35.
A	US 4,803,348 A (LOHREY et al.) 07 February 1989.	1-4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32-35