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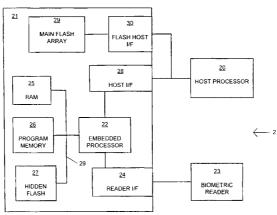
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(54) Title: BIOMETRIC-BASED AUTHENTICATION IN A NONVOLATILE MEMORY DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A biometric-based security circuit in which the user database, processor, and biometric map generation functions are all located on the same integrated circuit whose secure contents are inaccessible from external to the integrated circuit. Biometric data, such as a fingerprint, retina scan, or voiceprint, is taken from a user requesting access to restricted resources. The biometric data is transferred into integrated circuit, where it is converted to a biometric map and compared with a database of biometric maps stored in a non-volatile memory in the integrated circuit. The stored maps represents pre-authorized users, and a match triggers the security circuit to send a signal to a host processor authorizing the host processor to permit the requesting user access to the restricted resources. The integrated circuit essentially serves as a write-only memory for the secure data, because the secure data and security functions in the integrated circuit are not directly accessible through any pin or port, and therefore cannot be read or monitored through a dedicated security attack. A second non-volatile memory, accessible from external to the integrated circuit, can also be provided in the integrated circuit for holding non-secure data. This second memory has its own interface port, and is isolated from the security-related functions and memory so that secure and non-secure functions are physically isolated from each other and cannot be modified to overcome that isolation.

7O 02/01328 A3



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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Gonal Application No

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G07C9/00 G06F 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 GO7C G06F 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 C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages WO 00 65770 A (ROWLEY THOMAS E III 1.5-8.Ρ, Χ ; VERIDICOM INC (US)) 10. 12 - 14.2 November 2000 (2000-11-02) 16,17, 19 - 21page 11, line 18 -page 16, line 22 figures US 6 070 796 A (SIRBU CORNEL) 1,5-8,χ 10, 6 June 2000 (2000-06-06) 12-14, 16,17, 19-21 column 2, line 28 -column 3, line 37 column 7, line 60 -column 8, line 32 figure 7 -/--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 *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 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 *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *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 docucitation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 02/01/2002 19 December 2001 Authorized officer 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. Miltgen, E Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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