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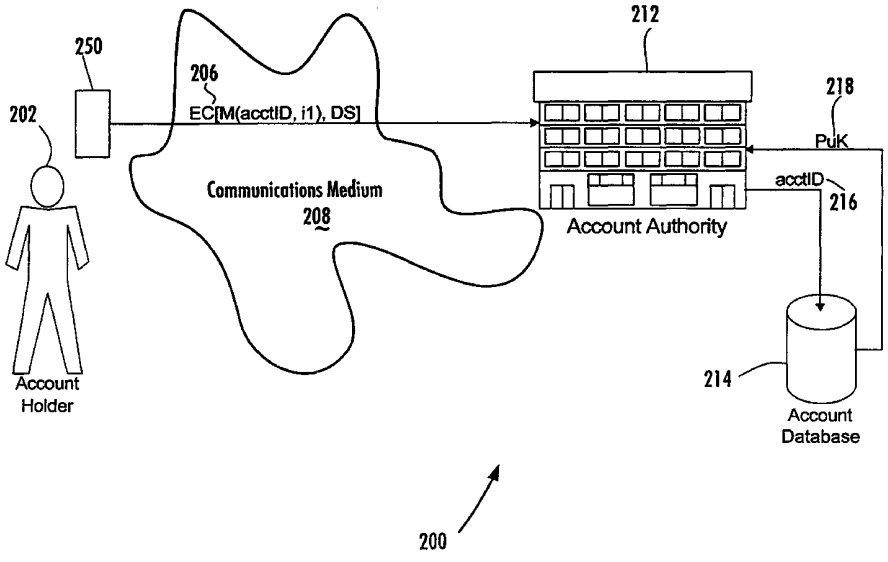
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(54) Title: PERSON-CENTRIC ACCOUNT-BASED DIGITAL SIGNATURE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In a method of managing a database of existing accounts (214) for account holders (202), each account holder (202) has multiple accounts with one or more account authorities (212) for use of a single device with multiple accounts, with each account of each account holder being associated with a public key of a public-private key pair of that accuont holder. A record of information pertaining to all accounts of a particular account holder is maintained in a central location by a central key authority. The information for that account includes the public keys of that account holder. The central key authority transfers information from the record for an account holder to a new account authority for which that account holder desires to establish a new account; the central key authority also receives information from account authorities for inclusion in the record centrally maintained for that account holder.

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PERSON-CENTRIC ACCOUNT-BASED DIGITAL SIGNATURE SYSTEM

I. Cross Reference to Related Applications

This patent application claims priority in the United States under 35 U.S.C. 119, and under the Paris Convention worldwide, to the benefit of the filing date of Wheeler et al. U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/223,076, which was filed on August 4, 2000, and which is incorporated herein by reference. This application also incorporates herein by reference each of three international patent applications and three U.S. patent application to Anne and Lynn Wheeler filed concurrently herewith in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and bearing serial number serial number 09/___,____ (entitled "Account-Based Digital Signature (ABDS) System"); serial number PCT/US___/___ (entitled "Entity Authentication in Electronic Communications by Providing Verification Status of Device") and serial number 09/___,___ (entitled "Modifying Message Data and Generating Random Number Digital Signature Within Computer Chip") collectively referred to hereinafter as the "VS Applications"; serial number PCT/US___/___ (entitled "Linking Public Key of Device to Information During Manufacture") and serial number 09/___,___ (entitled "Manufacturing Unique Devices That Generate Digital Signatures"); and serial number PCT/US___/___ (entitled "Trusted Authentication Digital Signature (TADS) System").

II. Field of the Present Invention

The present invention relates to an improved communication system in which electronic communications regarding accounts are digitally signed.

III. Background of the Present Invention

As used herein, an electronic communication ("EC") is considered to be any communication in electronic form. ECs have become an integral part of transacting business today, especially with the growth of the Internet and e-commerce. An EC can represent, for example, a request for access to information or a physical area, a financial transaction, such as an instruction to a bank to transfer funds, or a legal action, such as the delivery of an executed contract.

Over recent years, digital signatures also have become an important part of e-commerce. The origination of a digital signature generally comprises: (1) the calculation of a message digest—such as a hash value; and (2) the subsequent encryption of the message digest. The message digest is encrypted by an electronic device generally using a private key of a public-private key pair used in asymmetric cryptography. The resulting ciphertext itself usually constitutes the digital signature, which typically is appended to the message to form the EC. The second part of originating the digital signature—encrypting with a private key—is referred to herein as "generating" the digital signature, and the combined two steps (i.e., calculating a message digest and encrypting with a private key) is referred to herein as "originating" the digital signature. Furthermore, while the generation of the digital signature is conventionally understood

as the encryption of the message digest, it is contemplated herein that generating the digital signature also may include simply encrypting the message rather than the message digest. Digital signatures are important because any change whatsoever to the message in an EC is detectable from an analysis of the message and the digital signature. In this regard, the digital signature is used to "authenticate" a message contained within the EC (hereinafter referred to as "Message Authentication").

For example, a message digest may be calculated by applying a hashing algorithm—such as the SHA-1 algorithm—to the message. Such hashing algorithm may be applied either within the device or external to the device with the resulting hash value then being transmitted to the device for generation of the digital signature. In order to perform the Message Authentication in this example, the recipient of the EC must know or be able to obtain both the identity of the hashing algorithm applied to the message as well as the public key ("PuK") corresponding to the private key ("PrK") used to encrypt the message digest. With this knowledge, the recipient applies the appropriate hashing algorithm to the message to calculate a hash value, and the recipient decrypts the digital signature using the public key. If the hash value calculated by the recipient equals the hash value of the decrypted digital signature, then the recipient determines that the content of the message contained in the EC was not altered in transmission, which necessarily would have changed the hash value.

In performing Message Authentication, the recipient also authenticates the sender of the EC, in so much as the recipient thereby confirms that the sender of the EC possessed the private key corresponding to the public key used successfully to authenticate the message. This is one type of entity authentication and is based on what the sender "has" (hereinafter referred to as "Factor A Entity Authentication"). Factor A Entity Authentication is useful when the recipient of the EC has trusted information regarding the identity of the owner of the private key.

This trusted information conventionally is provided based on a digital certificate issued by a trusted third party that accompanies the digital signature and binds the identity (or other attributes) of the private key owner with the public key. A digital certificate (also known as a "digital ID") is a voucher by a third party (commonly referred to as a "Certification Authority") attesting to the identity (or other attributes) of an owner of a public key. Essentially, digital certificates are the electronic counterparts to driver licenses, passports, membership cards, and other paper-based forms of identification. The digital certificate itself comprises an electronic message including a public key and the identity of the owner of the public key. A digital certificate also typically contains an expiration date for the public key, the name of the Certification Authority, a serial number of the digital certificate, and a digital signature of the Certification Authority. One of the reasons for an expiration date is to limit the liability for the Certification Authority due to the likelihood that attributes other than the identity may change over time. The most widely accepted format for digital certificates is defined by the CCITT X.509 international

standard; thus, certificates can be read or written by any application complying with X.509. Based on a digital certificate included in an EC, a recipient is able to authenticate the digital certificate using a public key of the Certification Authority and thereby, presumably, confirm the identity of the owner set forth therein.

The system wherein a digital certificate is included in an EC comprises a "public key infrastructure" (PKI) commonly referred to as the "Certification Authority Digital Signature" (CADS) system. A particular implementation **100** of the CADS system in the context of an electronic transaction between a purchaser **102** and an online merchant **110** is illustrated in **Fig. 1**. Under this system, a purchaser **102** using, for example, a computer **104** creates a purchase order in the form of an electronic message. The purchaser **102** includes in the message relevant account information of a financial institution **112** from which payment is to be made to the merchant **110**. The account information includes, for example, a credit card number and expiration date as well as the name on the card. Software on the purchaser's computer **104** then originates a digital signature for the message using a private key of the purchaser **102** safeguarded in the computer **104**. The software also maintains a digital certificate on the computer **104** issued by a Certification Authority **106a**. The message, digital signature, and digital certificate then are combined into an EC, and the EC is communicated over the Internet **108** to the merchant **110**.

Upon receipt, the merchant **110** authenticates the message using the public key in the digital certificate. If successful, the merchant **110** then authenticates the digital certificate using a public key of the Certification Authority **106a**. Successful authentication of the digital certificate may satisfy the merchant **110** that the purchaser—the sender of the EC—is the owner identified in the digital certificate. If the merchant **110** is so satisfied, then the merchant **110** submits the account information to the relevant financial institution **112** for an approval for payment to the merchant **110** from the account. Upon receipt from the financial institution **112** of approval for payment, the merchant **110** fills the purchase order of the purchaser **102**. Furthermore, confirmation of approval (or rejection) of the purchase order preferably is sent from the merchant **110** to the purchaser **102**.

Unfortunately, while the CADS system enables two parties who otherwise may not have a preexisting relationship with one another to communicate with each other with the confidence of knowing the other's identity, the CADS system does have its drawbacks. For example, a digital certificate typically is issued with an expiration date, and an expired digital certificate generally is not recognized in the industry. Furthermore, if a private key is lost or stolen, then the owner of the private key must notify the Certification Authority to revoke the owner's digital certificate; however, a recipient of an EC with a digital certificate will only know of the revocation of the digital certificate if the recipient cross-references the serial number of the digital certificate against a certificate revocation list (CRL) published by the Certification Authority. Another drawback to the CADS system is that the digital certificate itself is only as good as the particular authority that

issues it, and it often is necessary to obtain multiple digital certificates (i.e., from Certificate Authorities **106a, 106b to 106n**) in order to create a sufficient "chain" or "network" of trust between the purchaser **104** and merchant **110** for a transaction or communication to be accepted and acted upon. Additionally, the entire CADS system rests upon the secrecy of the private key of the Certification Authority issuing a digital certificate, which, if compromised, collapses the CADS system.

In the context of an EC regarding an account, such as the example of an online purchase set forth above, another drawback of the CADS system is that the account information must be encrypted or otherwise protected if sent over an insecure communications medium, such as the Internet **108**. In the example above, a hacker eavesdropping on the communication of the account information could obtain sufficient information to make fraudulent charges to the account of the purchaser, especially as not all merchants require a digital signature and digital certificate to fill a purchase order. Moreover, financial institutions have yet to standardize a requirement that a digital certificate of a purchaser be submitted as a condition precedent to approving a payment request by a merchant; instead, in determining whether a purchaser actually has the authority to effect payment to a merchant, a financial institution relies upon the personal account information provided by the merchant, and whether the account information has been reported lost or stolen. Further, digital certificates raise significant privacy issues in many circumstances.

Accordingly, a need exists for an improved system of communication using digital signatures, especially wherein an EC pertains to an account upon which the person (or device) digitally signing the EC has authority to act.

IV. Brief Summary of the Present Invention

Briefly summarized, a method of communicating electronically over a communications medium regarding accounts includes for each of two separate accounts maintained by separate third parties, the steps of: maintaining information pertaining to the account in an account database such that the information is retrievable based on a unique identifier, associating a public key of a public-private key pair with the unique identifier, generating a digital signature for an electronic message using a private key of the public-private key pair, the electronic message including an instruction and the unique identifier, authenticating the electronic message using the public key associated with the information identified by the unique identifier, and upon the successful authentication of the electronic message, executing the instruction with respect to the account represented by the information that is identified by the unique identifier.

The present invention also includes a method of maintaining a Central Key Authority (CKA) database. The CKA database includes account information of users such as a public key of a user device that generates digital signatures, and third-party account identifiers each of which

identifies to a third-party an account of the user that is maintained with the third-party and that has been associated with the user's public key by the third-party.

The present invention also encompasses a method of managing a database for identification of security features of a device that generates digital signatures, and includes the steps of recording in the database for each of a plurality of devices a public key of a pair of public-private keys of the device and information including security features of the device, the security features being associated with the public key in the database; and identifying security features from the database to a recipient of an electronic message for which a digital signature was originated utilizing a private key of the public-private key pair of a particular one of the devices, the security features being for the particular device.

V. Brief Description of the Drawings

Further features and benefits of these aspects of the present invention will be apparent from a detailed description of preferred methods thereof taken in conjunction with the following drawings, wherein like references refer to like elements, and wherein:

Fig.1 illustrates a prior art Certification Authority Digital Certificate (CADS) system;

Fig. 2 illustrates a preferred Account-based Digital Signature (ABDS) system in accordance with a first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 2a illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with an ABDS system;

Fig. 2b illustrates another account database maintained by an account authority for use with an ABDS system;

Fig. 3 illustrates another preferred ABDS system in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 4a illustrates a flowchart of one embodiment of preferred steps for establishing a new ABDS account in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 4b illustrates a flowchart of another embodiment of preferred steps for establishing a new ABDS account in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 5a illustrates a flowchart of one embodiment of preferred steps for converting an existing account into an ABDS account in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 5b illustrates a flowchart of another embodiment of preferred steps for converting an existing account into an ABDS account in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 6 illustrates a first business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 7 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 6**;

Fig. 8 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 6**;

Fig. 9 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 6**;

Fig. 10 illustrates a second business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 11 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 10**;

Fig. 12 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 10**;

Fig. 13 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 10**;

Fig. 14 illustrates a third business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 15 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 14**;

Fig. 16 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 14**;

Fig. 17 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 14**;

Fig. 18 illustrates a fourth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 19 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 18**;

Fig. 20 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 18**;

Fig. 21 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 18**;

Fig. 22 illustrates a fifth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 23 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 22**;

Fig. 24 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 22**;

Fig. 25 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 22**;

Fig. 26 illustrates a sixth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 27 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 26**;

Fig. 28 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 26**;

Fig. 29 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 26**;

Fig. 30 illustrates a seventh business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 31 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 30**;

Fig. 32 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 30**;

Fig. 33 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 30**;

Fig. 34 illustrates an eighth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 35 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 34**;

Fig. 36 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 34**;

Fig. 37 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 34**;

Fig. 38 illustrates a ninth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 39 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 38**;

Fig. 40 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 38**;

Fig. 41 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 38**;

Fig. 42 illustrates a tenth business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 43 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 42**;

Fig. 44 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 42**;

Fig. 45 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 42**;

Fig. 46 illustrates an eleventh business application in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 47 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 46**;

Fig. 48 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 46**;

Fig. 49 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 46**;

Fig. 50 illustrates a first business application in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 51 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 50**;

Fig. 52 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 50**;

Fig. 53 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an intermediate party in the business application of **Fig. 50**;

Fig. 54 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 50**;

Fig. 55 illustrates a second business/consumer application in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 56 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 55**;

Fig. 57 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the business application of **Fig. 55**;

Fig. 58 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an intermediate party in the business application of **Fig. 55**;

Fig. 59 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 55**;

Fig. 60 illustrates a third business/consumer application in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 61 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the business application of **Fig. 60**;

Fig. 62 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by both an account holder and merchant (intermediate party) in the business application of **Fig. 60**;

Fig. 63 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the business application of **Fig. 60**;

Fig. 64 illustrates a preferred ABDS system in accordance with a second aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 64a illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the system of **Fig. 64**;

Fig. 64b illustrates another account database maintained by an account authority for use with the system of **Fig. 64**;

Fig. 64c illustrates a third account database maintained by an account authority for use with the system of **Fig. 64**;

Fig. 65 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the system of **Fig. 64**;

Fig. 66 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the system of **Fig. 64**;

Fig. 67 illustrates another preferred ABDS system in accordance with a second aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 68 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account holder in the system of **Fig. 67**;

Fig. 69 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an intermediate party in the system of **Fig. 67**;

Fig. 70 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in the system of **Fig. 67**;

Fig. 71a illustrates a preferred ABDS system in accordance with a third aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 71b illustrates another preferred ABDS system in accordance with the third aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 71c illustrates yet another preferred ABDS system in accordance with the third aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 71d illustrates a further preferred ABDS system in accordance with the third aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 72 illustrates an account database maintained by an account authority for use with the system of **Fig. 71a**;

Fig. 73 illustrates a flowchart of steps performed by an account authority in accordance with the fourth aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 74 illustrates use of an EC for session authentication and transaction authentication purposes in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 75 illustrates use of an EC for transaction confirmation purposes in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention; and

Fig. 76 illustrates an electronic communication format or layout in accordance with the various aspects of the present invention.

VI. Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

As a preliminary matter, it readily will be understood by those persons skilled in the art that, in view of the following detailed description of the devices, systems, and methods of the present invention, the present invention is susceptible of broad utility and application. Many embodiments and adaptations of the present invention other than those herein described, as well as many variations, modifications, and equivalent arrangements, will be apparent from or reasonably suggested by the present invention and the following detailed description thereof, without departing from the substance or scope of the present invention. Accordingly, while the present invention is described herein in detail in relation to preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that this detailed description only is illustrative and exemplary of the present invention and is made merely for purposes of providing a full and enabling disclosure of the present invention. The detailed description set forth herein is not intended nor is to be construed to limit the present invention or otherwise to exclude any such other embodiments, adaptations, variations, modifications and equivalent arrangements of the present invention, the present invention being limited solely by the claims appended hereto and the equivalents thereof.

Those skilled in the art will understand and appreciate that the sequence(s) and/or temporal order of the steps of various processes described and claimed herein are those considered by the inventors to be the best mode contemplated by them for carrying out the inventions. It should also be understood that, although steps of various processes are shown and described in some cases as being in a preferred sequence or temporal order, the steps of such processes are not limited to being carried out in any particular sequence or order, absent a specific indication that a step or steps should be carried out in a particular sequence or order to achieve a particular intended result. In most cases, the steps of such processes may be carried out in various different sequences and orders, while still falling within the scope of the present inventions.

Accordingly, while much of the present invention is described in detail herein with respect to computers, networks, integrated circuits, computer chips, and devices, no specific software or logic circuit is intended nor is required to be used in the practicing of the present invention. Indeed, it would be a matter of routine skill to select appropriate computers, networks, integrated circuits, computer chips, and devices in implementing the invention in a particular business application.

The present invention broadly comprises the association of a public key of a device that originates digital signatures using asymmetric cryptography to other information in an account database record. In general, a method in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention includes electronically communicating a message over a communications medium regarding an account that is associated with a public key, the corresponding private key of which is used to digitally sign the message. A method in accordance with the second aspect of the present invention includes associating multiple accounts with the same public key. A method in accordance with the third aspect of the present invention includes maintaining a central database of information on all accounts associated with the same public key. Finally, a method in accordance with the fourth aspect of the present invention includes applying dynamic risk analysis to a specific message to gauge the risk that the digital signature for the message was fraudulently originated and, thus, to determine whether or not to perform an instruction contained within the message.

As used herein, an "account holder" is generally any person possessing a device that is capable of generating a digital signature using a private key retained therein; the private key corresponding with a public key associated with an account upon which the person is authorized to act. An "account authority" is generally a person, entity, system, or apparatus that maintains such an account on behalf of the account holder. In some embodiments, the "account holder" is, itself, a device that is capable of generating a digital signature using a private key retained therein; the private key corresponding with a public key associated with an account upon which the device is authorized to act.

Having briefly described the methodologies of the various aspects of the present invention, general and specific implementations of two-party, three-party, and multiple-party Account-based Digital Signature (ABDS) systems now will be described in greater detail.

1. Account-based Digital Signature (ABDS) Systems

a. General 2-Party ABDS Systems

Fig. 2 illustrates a preferred Account-based Digital Signature (ABDS) system **200** in accordance with a first aspect of the present invention. Specifically, **Fig. 2** illustrates a two-party ABDS system that includes an account holder **202** and an account authority **212**. As shown, the account holder **202** comprises a person who possesses a device **250**, which securely protects a unique private key of a public-private key pair therein. The account authority **212** comprises an entity or system that maintains one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated by account database **214**, which includes an account of the account holder **202**. Preferably, the account is identifiable within the account database **214** based on a unique identifier (acctID) **216**, such as an account number. Further, the account authority **212** maintains an association between the account and the public key **218**, which corresponds with the private key that is securely retained within the device **250** of the account holder **202**.

Communications between the account holder **202** and account authority **212** regarding the account of the account holder **202** occur through any conventional communications medium **208**, such as the Internet, an intranet, a wireless network, a dedicated hardwired network, or the like. Each communication is electronic, and each electronic communication ("EC") **206** from the account holder **202** to the account authority **212** includes an electronic message (M) that is digitally signed by the account holder **202** using the private key retained within the device **250**. The means by which the device **250** communicates with the account authority **212** varies by the form factor of the device **250** and whether or not the device **250** is used in conjunction with a separate I/O support element (not shown) to assist in the generation or creation of the message, in the transmission or communication of the EC to the account authority **212**, or both.

The message preferably includes the unique identifier (acctID) **216** of the account of the account holder **202** and an instruction (i1) for the account authority **212** to perform in relation to the account. The digital signature of the message also preferably includes a unique random number or session key, such as, for example, a date and time stamp, so that no two digital signatures originated by the device **250** would ever be identical (and also so that any duplicate digital signature received by the account authority **212** could be identified as such and disregarded).

Using the unique identifier (acctID) **216**, the account authority **212** is able to retrieve the associated public key **218**, which is necessary for authenticating the message and the sender of the EC **206** (i.e., based on Factor A Entity Authentication). In accordance with this first aspect of the present invention, upon the successful authentication of the message and of the sender of the EC **206**, the account authority **212** performs (or attempts to perform) the instruction (i1) of the message as if the account holder **202** had presented such instruction (i1) in person.

Advantageously, since the unique identifier (acctID) **216** is all that must be included in the message in order for the account authority **212** to retrieve the appropriate public key **218** from the account database **214** for the purpose of authenticating the message and sender of the EC **206** and for having sufficient authorization from the account holder **202** for performing the instruction (i1) contained in the message, the account holder **202** need not include any "identity" information in the message. In addition, since the account authority **212** preferably will not perform any action on the account of the account holder **202** without a valid digital signature originated by the device **250** (or, alternatively, without the actual, physical presence of the account holder **202**) and since no "identity" information needs to be included in electronic communications between the account holder **202** and the account authority **212** regarding the account, such electronic communications, including EC **206**, may be transmitted in unencrypted fashion over an insecure communications medium **208** (such as the Internet) without risk of compromising the privacy of the account holder **202**. Obviously, if the account holder **202** desires to protect the contents of the information contained within the EC **206** for privacy, confidentiality, or similar reasons, the EC **206** may be encrypted by the account holder **202** in conventional manner, for example, using the public key of

the account authority **212** for PGP-type encryption, using secure socket layering (SSL), or other similar encryption techniques; however, encrypting the contents of the EC is not necessary for the functioning of the present invention.

Fig. 2a illustrates a plurality of possible relationships among the information contained within account database **214**. Generally, each account within the database **214**, for example, is identified by its account identifier (acctID) **216** and has associated therewith account information **240**, such as information specific to the account holder (hereinafter "customer-specific information") and information specific to the account (hereinafter "account-specific information"), and public key information **218**. At a minimum, the public key information **218** identifies each public key (PuK) associated with each particular account and/or account identifier **216**. As shown, database **214** maintains a plurality of specific accounts **281,282,283,284,285,288**, with a plurality of accounts (not shown but indicated by the ". . .") existing between accounts **285** and **288**. Accounts **281,288** illustrate a first account setup type in which each account has a single customer or account holder and in which each account has a single public key (PuK) associated for use therewith. Account **282** illustrates a second account setup type in which the account **282** has a single customer or account holder associated therewith, but the account holder has a plurality (two, in this case) of different public keys (PuK) associated for use with the account **282**. Such a setup is beneficial, for example, when an account holder uses more than one device of the present invention for access to the same account **282**. A third account setup type is illustrated in association with accounts **283,284**. Each of these accounts **283,284** has the same account holder, who uses a single public key to access either or both of these accounts **283,284**. Such a setup is beneficial, for example, when an account holder maintains a plurality of accounts (in this case, two) with a single account authority (e.g., primary and secondary bank accounts with the same financial institution). This particular setup is discussed in greater detail in the "person-centric device" section set forth herein with regard to **Figs. 64-70**. A fourth account setup type is illustrated in association with account **285**. Account **285** has associated therewith a plurality of different customers or account holders (three, in this case), each of whom has a different public key (PuK) for accessing the account **285**. Such a setup is beneficial, for example, when an account has two or more authorized users (e.g., husband and wife with access to a joint account; plurality of employees with access to their employer's account). A specific business implementation using this type of account setup is illustrated and discussed in association with **Figs. 46-49**.

Although not shown in **Fig. 2a**, it should be apparent that the above four account setup types may be further combined with each other in a variety of permutations and still fall within the scope and intent of the present invention. As one example of such a combination not shown in **Fig. 2a**, one of the customers accessing account **285** could, in fact, have more than one public key for accessing the joint account **285**.

Turning now to **Fig. 2b**, in a further feature of the present invention, account database **214** may also include Device Profile Information **270**. Each Device Profile includes the Security Profile and transactional history of the device. The Security Profile includes the security features and manufacturing history of the device. The security features include those features of the device that protect the private key and other data within the device from discovery ("Security Characteristics") and features that perform entity authentication ("Authentication Capabilities"). Information contained in the Security Profile is described in greater detail herein in Section VI.4, entitled "Applying Dynamic Risk Analysis to a Transaction." Since it is contemplated that a unique private key associated with the corresponding public key **218** maintained with the account database **214** only exists in a single device of the present invention, there is a one-to-one correspondence between each public key **218** and its respective device profile information **270**. Further, additional security is obtained with a device that is incapable of divulging its private key.

b. General 3-Party ABDS Systems

Fig. 3 illustrates a preferred three-party ABDS system **300** and includes an account holder **302** and account authority **312** as well as an intermediate party **310**. The three-party ABDS system **300** differs from the two-party ABDS system **200** (from **Fig. 2**) in that the message and digital signature from the account holder **302** to the account authority **312** is communicated first to the intermediate party **310** by means of an EC **305**. The intermediate party **310** then forwards the same message and digital signature in another EC **315** to the account authority **312**.

An instruction (i2) is communicated from the account holder **302** to the intermediate party **310**, either as part of the EC **305** or as a separate EC (not shown). The intermediate party **310** does not act upon the instruction (i2) but rather, forwards the EC **315** to the account authority **312** and waits for the account authority **312** to approve or reject the message. As shown, the message and digital signature in EC **315** are the same as the message and digital signature in EC **305**.

Upon receipt of the EC **315**, the account authority **312** attempts to authenticate the message and the sender of EC **305** using the public key of the public-private key pair, which is retrieved from the account database **314** based on the unique identifier (acctID) **316** from the message. If the authentication is successful, the account authority **312** performs (or attempts to perform) the instruction (i1) of the message as if the account holder **302** were presenting the instruction (i1) in person. Based on the results of the attempted authentication of the message and the sender of the EC and based on the attempted execution of instruction (i1), the account authority **312** provides the intermediate party **310** with notification of approval or rejection of the message by means of a reply EC **319**. If reply EC **319** indicates an approval of the message, the intermediate party **310** then executes the instruction (i2) received from the account holder **302**. Preferably, the intermediate party **310** then notifies the account holder **302** either of the approval and execution of instruction (i2) or of the rejection of the instruction (i2) by means of reply EC **309**.

Again, it should be noted that no "identity" information needs to be included in the EC **305** by the account holder **302** under this system **300**. In addition, all of the ECs **305,315,309,319** may be transmitted in unencrypted fashion over any conventional communications mediums **308a,308b**, such as the Internet, an intranet, a wireless network, a dedicated hardwire network, and the like, for the same reasons discussed above with regard to system **200** in **Fig. 2**. Also, as discussed above, if the parties desire to protect the contents of the information contained within the various ECs **305,309,315,319** for privacy, confidentiality, or similar reasons, such ECs may be encrypted by the sender of the particular EC in conventional manner, for example, using the public key of the intended recipient(s) of the particular EC for PGP-type encryption, using secure socket layering (SSL), or other similar encryption techniques; however, encrypting the contents of the various ECs is not necessary for the functioning of the present invention. Further, the communication mediums **308a,308b** may be different from each other (as illustrated) or part of the same medium.

c. Multiple-Party ABDS Systems

Although not shown specifically in **Figs. 2 and 3**, it should be understood that one or more additional parties or entities may be introduced along the communication route between the account holder, intermediate party, and account authority within the scope of the present invention. Among other things, such additional parties may be useful for expediting, screening, and correctly routing electronic communications between the various account holders, intermediate parties, and account authorities.

d. General Account Set-up in ABDS Systems

Of course, before either ABDS system **200,300** is utilized in practice, the account holder **202,302** first must establish an ABDS account with the appropriate account authority **212,312**. The steps involved in establishing a new ABDS account are set forth in **Figs. 4a** and **4b**. The steps involved in converting a pre-existing (and conventional) account into an ABDS account are set forth in **Figs. 5a** and **5b**.

i. Establishing a New ABDS Account

Referring first to **Fig. 4a**, one exemplary process of establishing a new account within the ABDS system is illustrated. In this particular embodiment, the process is initiated by an account authority. For example, the account authority first establishes (**Step 402**) a "shell" account for a prospective account holder using publicly available information about the prospective account holder, such as name and address. The account authority next assigns (**Step 404**) a unique account identifier to the "shell" account and associates it therewith. The account authority then obtains (**Step 406**) the public key from a device of the present invention and records (**Step 408**) the public key in the account database and associates it with the "shell" account or with the unique identifier. In some embodiments of the present invention, the unique identifier may actually be the public key from the device or a hashed version of the public key. The account authority then distributes or

sends (**Step 410**) the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the "shell" account to the prospective account holder with an offer to "open" an account on behalf of the prospective account holder with the account authority and with instructions for doing so. The account authority then waits for a response from the prospective account holder.

If a response is received (**Step 412**), the account authority uses conventional authentication techniques to confirm that it is communicating with the prospective account holder. The account authority then obtains (**Step 414**) additional information, as needed, to populate the account record. The account authority then requires (**Step 416**) the prospective account holder to transmit a test message that is digitally signed using the device. Such test message confirms that the prospective account holder possesses the correct device. If the test message confirms, then the device is "activated" (**Step 418**) for use with the associated account.

In an alternative embodiment, setup of a new ABDS account may be initiated by a prospective account holder who already possesses a device of the present invention, as illustrated in **Fig. 4b**. For example, an account authority may receive (**Step 450**) a request to establish a new ABDS account from such a prospective account holder. If the account authority is willing to accept such a prospective account holder who already possesses such a device, the account authority receives (**Step 452**) sufficient information from the prospective account holder to establish such an account. In some business applications, it is not necessary for the prospective account holder to divulge any "identity" information in order to establish such an account. The account authority then records (**Step 454**) whatever information is provided by the prospective account holder in a record of the account database of the account authority and assigns (**Step 456**) a unique identifier, such as an account number, to the account.

Next and preferably contemporaneously, the account authority obtains (**Step 458**) the public key that corresponds with the private key that is securely retained on the device. In some business applications, the public key is obtained directly from the device in response to a suitable request submitted to the device. In other business applications, the public key is obtained from a database maintained by a third party, such as a Central Key Authority (as discussed below with reference to **Figs. 71a-72**), device manufacturer, device distributor, or the like. The account authority then records (**Step 460**) the public key in such a manner that the public key is suitably bound to or associated with the account record of the prospective account holder. Preferably, the public key is associated particularly with the unique identifier of the account. In some embodiments, the public key itself (or a hashed value of the public key) is used as the unique identifier assigned to the account.

Finally, it also is preferable for the account authority to confirm proper binding of the public key to the account and to confirm that the device retains the private key, which corresponds with the public key bound to the account, by having the account holder submit (**Step 462**) a "test"

EC for authentication, which may contain the corresponding public key being registered. Once the account authority is satisfied that the account has been established properly and that the account holder possesses the device retaining the appropriate private key corresponding with the public key being registered, the account is activated (**Step 464**) so that transactions that are digitally signed using the device will be deemed to have come from the legitimate account holder according to Factor A Entity Authentication.

In the above embodiment, the account authority may desire to confirm that the integrity level of the device, as confirmed by the Security Profile of the device obtained from the Central Key Authority or other reliable source or as confirmed by a physical inspection of the device, meets or exceeds its business standards or requirements for use with the respective account.

ii. Converting a Pre-existing Account Into an ABDS Account

Referring now to **Fig. 5a**, an exemplary process of converting a pre-existing, conventional account into an ABDS account, when initiated by an account authority, is set forth. First, it is assumed that the account authority already maintains a conventional account setup for the account holder in a record of an account database. Further, such record contains personal and other pertinent account information of the account holder. It is also assumed that the existing account already has its own unique identifier.

First, the account authority obtains (**Step 502**) the public key from a device of the present invention and records (**Step 504**) the public key in the account database and associates it with the existing account or with the unique identifier of the account. The account authority then distributes or sends (**Step 506**) the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the existing account to its account holder with an offer to "convert" the existing conventional account to an ABDS account. The account authority then waits for a response from its account holder.

If a response is received (**Step 508**), the account authority uses conventional authentication techniques to confirm that it is communicating with its expected account holder. The account authority then requires (**Step 510**) the account holder to transmit a test message that is digitally signed using the device. Such test message confirms that the account holder possesses the correct device. If the test message confirms, then the device is "activated" (**Step 512**) for use with the newly converted ABDS account.

In an alternative embodiment, conversion of a conventional account to an ABDS account may be initiated by an existing account holder who already possesses a device of the present invention. For example, the account authority receives (**Step 550**) a request to convert a conventional account into an ABDS account, which enables the account holder to transact business on the account using electronic messages digitally signed using the account holder's specified device. If the account authority is willing to accept such a conversion and is willing to allow the account holder to use such a device, the account authority first confirms (**Step 552**), using

conventional entity authentication techniques, that it is communicating or otherwise dealing with the expected account holder. Next and preferably contemporaneously, the account authority obtains (**Step 554**) the public key that corresponds with the private key that is securely retained on the device. In some business applications, the public key is obtained directly from the device in response to a suitable request submitted to the device. In other business applications, the public key is obtained from a database maintained by a third party, such as a Central Key Authority (as discussed below with reference to **Figs. 71a-72**, device manufacturer, device distributor, or the like. The account authority then records (**Step 556**) the public key in such a manner that the public key is suitably bound to or associated with the existing account record of its account holder. Preferably, the public key is associated particularly with the unique identifier of the account. In some embodiments, the public key itself (or a hashed value of the public key) is used as the unique identifier assigned to the account.

Finally, it also is preferable for the account authority to confirm proper binding of the public key to the account and to confirm that the device retains the private key, which corresponds with the public key bound to the account, by having the account holder submit (**Step 558**) a "test" EC for authentication, which may contain the corresponding public key being registered. Once the account authority is satisfied that the account has been established properly and that the account holder possesses the device retaining the appropriate private key corresponding with the public key being registered, the account is activated (**Step 560**) so that transactions that are digitally signed using the device will be deemed to have come from the legitimate account holder according to Factor A Entity Authentication.

e. Devices Useful With ABDS Systems

In accordance with all of the aspects of the present invention, the device comprises hardware, software, and/or firmware, and specifically comprises a computer chip, an integrated circuit, a computer-readable medium having suitable software therein, or a combination thereof. The device further may comprise a physical object such as a hardware token or an embedded token, the token containing such a computer chip, integrated circuitry, or software, or combination thereof. If the device is a hardware token, it preferably takes the form of a ring or other jewelry; a dongle; an electronic key; a card, such as an IC card, smart card, debit card, credit card, ID badge, security badge, parking card, or transit card; or the like. If the device is an embedded token, it preferably takes the form of a cell phone; a telephone; a television; a personal digital assistant (PDA); a watch; a computer; computer hardware; or the like. The device preferably includes a device interface comprising a port—including a wireless communications port, a serial port, a USB port, a parallel port, or an infrared port—or some other physical interface for communicating with an external electronic apparatus, whether contact or contactless. The device also may include a trusted platform module (TPM) comprising hardware and software components providing increased trust in a platform, as set forth and described in *Trusted Platform Module (TPM)*

Security Policy Version 0.45, TRUSTED COMPUTING PLATFORM ALLIANCE, October 2000, and *TCPA PC Implementations Specification Version 0.95*, TRUSTED COMPUTING PLATFORM ALLIANCE, July 4, 2001, both which are incorporated herein by reference (collectively "TCPA Documents").

Preferably, the device is capable of receiving an electronic message and then originating a digital signature for the electronic message utilizing the private key stored therein. The device preferably also performs a hash function on the message received by the device prior to encryption with the private key.

Additionally, it is preferred that the device include a device interface, such as, for example, an alphanumeric keypad, an electrical contact, a touch screen display, a standard electronic interface with a computer bus, or an antenna, so that the device not only may receive a message, but also compose a message. The device interface may also comprise a port, such as a wireless communications port, a serial port, a USB port, a parallel port, or an infrared port.

Some of the above devices require use of an I/O support element to enable the device to receive messages or other input. Some of the devices require use of an I/O support element to transmit information, including digital signatures and messages to recipients of the ECs. Some of the devices are self-contained, which means that they can generate and transmit messages, digital signatures, and other information without the use of external apparatuses; some devices, although self-contained, are capable of interacting with such external apparatuses, such as an I/O support element, if desired. An I/O support element may take the form of any number of different apparatuses, depending upon the particular application in which it is used and depending upon the form factor of device with which it interacts. One example of an I/O support element includes a card reader comprising hardware and software components designed in accordance with the technical specifications published by CEN/ISSS as a result of their *Financial Transactional IC Card Reader Project* (known commonly as "FINREAD").

With regard to the security of the device used in each aspect of the present invention, preferably during the manufacture of the device, a unique and random public-private key pair is generated directly within the device (using a random number generator), preferably on a computer chip, integrated circuit, or other cryptographic module embedded therein, using known manufacturing techniques. Because of the size of the private key and because the key is generated using a random number generator, the likelihood that a duplicate private key might exist in a different device is very low. The private key then is securely stored within a memory location in the device and, preferably, made inaccessible throughout the life of the device (other than for the purpose of generating a digital signature internally within the device). Furthermore, the device preferably includes the following additional characteristics: it is tempested (i.e., designed in such a way to minimize electromagnetic emanations from the device and, thus, minimize its vulnerability to electronic eavesdropping); the device is immune to known electronic attacks; the device is

tamper-resistant with zeroization capability (i.e., physical tampering or intrusion of the device should destroy the functionality of the digital signature component of the device and/or erase the private key); the device maintains the private key securely such that the private key is never divulged outside of the device; and the device allows export of the public key when necessary.

Furthermore, the device preferably originates digital signatures in accordance with an elliptical curve digital signature algorithm (ECDSA) as specified in *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 186-2, Digital Signature Standard*, US DOC/NBS, January 11, 1994 (hereinafter "FIPS PUB 186-2"), which is incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, the device originates digital signatures using a random number generator, and the hash function is performed using the secure hash algorithm ("SHA-1"), which generates a 20-byte output regardless of the size of the message that is input into the device. The SHA-1 itself is specified in *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 180-1, Secure Hash Standard*, US DOC/NBS, April 17, 1995 (hereinafter "FIPS PUB 180-1"), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

In the aspects of the invention, the device preferably is personalized to its authorized user(s). Personalization of the device includes the establishment of a personal identification number (PIN), password, or passphrase (hereinafter "Secret"). Conventionally, such a Secret is prestored within the device and must be input into the device before it will operate to generate digital signatures. Alternatively, but also conventionally, the Secret is shared with the recipient beforehand and, when the EC later is sent to the recipient, the Secret also is sent to the recipient in association with the message. In the first case, verification of the Secret authenticates the user of the device (hereinafter "User Authentication"), and in the second case, verification of the Secret authenticates the sender of the EC (hereinafter "Sender Authentication"). If the Secret is shared and transmitted between the sender of an EC and the recipient, it typically must be encrypted or otherwise protected to maintain its secrecy from others. In either case, confirmation of the Secret represents entity authentication based on what the user or sender "knows" (hereinafter "Factor B Entity Authentication").

Other security measures against fraudulent use of the device through physical theft include the verification of a biometric characteristic—like a fingerprint, retina scan, DNA, voice print, and the like —of the user of the device or sender of the EC. This type of authentication is based on what the user or sender "is" (hereinafter "Factor C Entity Authentication"). As with the Secret, a biometric value is conventionally either maintained within the device for User Authentication, or is shared with the recipient beforehand for Sender Authentication by the recipient. If the biometric value is shared and transmitted between the sender of an EC and the recipient, even greater precautions must be taken to protect such biometric value from interception and discovery by others.

In contrast with both of the above methods of providing Factor B and Factor C Entity Authentication information to the recipient of the EC, an alternative method of providing Entity Authentication status from the account holder to the account authority in which the Secret and/or biometric value(s) is provided to the device and an indicator representing the results of the comparison of such Secret and/or biometric value(s) with data prestored in the device is provided to the recipient of the EC without communicating or compromising the Secret and/or biometric value(s) may also be used with the present invention. Such a methodology is described in greater detail in the VS Applications.

f. Types of and Uses for ECs in an ABDS System

As stated previously with regard to both **Figs. 2** and **3**, an EC from an account holder to an account authority preferably includes both a message (M) and a digital signature of the message (DS(M)). The message preferably includes the unique account identifier (acctID) and an instruction (i1) for the account authority to perform in relation to the account. In many circumstances, however, it is not necessary for the message to contain the unique account identifier. For example, the account authority may have already obtained the unique account identifier from a previous message from the account holder and retransmission of the account identifier is unnecessary for a follow-up message from the same account holder – as long as the account authority knows that it is communicating with the same account holder (e.g., by means of a session key or identifier or during a continuous, uninterrupted electronic connection between the two). Further, it is not always necessary for the message to contain an instruction (i1), such as, for example, when the instruction (i1) is implicit in the mere communication between the account holder and the account authority (e.g., an instruction (i1) in an EC sent to a parking gate controller obviously implies an instruction to "open the parking gate").

ECs, and the ability to authenticate the sender of an EC, are useful for at least three different business purposes within the present invention. These three different purposes are described generally hereinafter as "session authentication," "transaction authentication," and "transaction confirmation." Session authentication and transaction authentication are similar to each other since both typically involve situations in which the account holder must "prove" (at least to the extent possible based on the strength of the entity authentication) to the account authority that he is the legitimate account holder. In contrast, transaction confirmation typically involves situations in which the account holder has already proven to the account authority that he is the legitimate account holder; however, the account authority requires confirmation of a specific digitally-signed message from the account holder before the account authority will perform a requested action (typically, upon the account itself) in response to a specific instruction (i1) contained within the message.

Session authentication and transaction authentication are generally necessary before the account authority will grant the account holder with access to the account of the account holder or

to another resource to which the account holder has rights. Such authentication is also generally necessary before the account authority will perform a requested action on the account or resource. A resource is, for example, a physical space, database, computer file, data record, checking account, computer system, computer program, web site, or the like. A main distinction between session authentication and transaction authentication is what the account authority does as a result of such authentication. For example, once the account holder is authenticated for session authentication purposes, the account authority provides the account holder with access (by means of a session key, entity identifier, and the like) to the requested account or resource for the duration of the "session." The meaning of a session varies depending upon the type of account or resource being accessed and depending upon the business rules of the particular account authority protecting the account or resource; however, a session typically means some period of time during which the account holder is allowed to perform actions on or within the account or resource without providing additional authentication to the account authority. In addition, the amount of access to the account or resource an account holder is granted is also governed by the business rules of the particular account authority and may vary from account authority to account authority and from account to account.

In contrast, transaction authentication is typically only useful for the particular transaction with which it is associated. Transaction authentication associated with a particular transaction is not "carried over" for use with another transaction. Such a transaction may be a request for the account authority to perform a specific action on the account or resource (e.g., a request for the account authority to "provide checking account balance" or "open the door"). In contrast with transaction confirmation (described in the next paragraph), however, transaction authentication is useful when the account authority does not specifically need to know the "intent" of the account holder before performing the requested action.

Transaction confirmation, on the other hand, is useful when the value or risk associated with a particular transaction rises to the level that the account authority will not act unless it receives sufficient assurance that the account holder intended to send and digitally sign the message and, corresponding, intended for the account authority to act in reliance thereupon. Since a digital signature is capable of being generated by a device, potentially without the desire or even knowledge of the owner or user of the device, intent cannot be presumed from the mere receipt of a digital signature from a device of the account holder. For this reason, some means of confirming the account holder's intent with respect to a specific transaction is needed. Such transaction confirmation is preferably obtained by a physical, overt act performed by the account holder that is determinable within the message received by the account authority. For example, in some instances, the contemporaneous provision of Factor B or C entity authentication information by the account holder in conjunction with the message that is digitally signed can imply confirmation or intention. Another method of obtaining such transaction confirmation is through the deliberate and

recognizable modification by the account holder of a "proposed" message generated by the account authority, which is then digitally signed by the account holder.

In light of the above, it should be understood that in many circumstances, even if the account holder has already provided entity authentication information for the purpose of session authentication, it may be necessary for the account holder to provide additional and/or stronger entity authentication information (still for session authentication purposes) before the account authority will provide the account holder, for example, with access to a more restricted portion of the particular account or resource or to another more restricted account or resource. Further, it should also be understood that even during a particular session, it may be necessary for the account holder to provide entity authentication information to the account authority either for transaction authentication purposes (when the transaction requires a stronger level of entity authentication than the particular session required) or for transaction confirmation purposes (when the account authority desires specific assurance of the account holder's intent before performing the requested action). In addition, it should also be understood that a single EC communicated from an account holder to an account authority may be used simultaneously for both transaction authentication and for transaction confirmation purposes in many circumstances.

Turning now to **Fig. 74**, an example of an EC **7406** used for session authentication purposes is illustrated. As shown, an account authority **7412** acts as a type of "gate-keeper" for three resources **7440,7450,7460**, one of which the account holder **7402** desires to access as requested in the EC **7406**. Although only one account authority **7412** is illustrated in this example for ease of reference, it should be understood that each resource **7440,7450,7460** could, in fact, have its own separate account authority (not shown) associated therewith.

Continuing with **Fig. 74**, the account authority **7412** restricts access to the resources **7440,7450,7460**, directly or indirectly, by preventing the account holder **7402** from proceeding through gates **7494a, 7494b**, or **7494c** until the account holder **7402** has provided the account authority **7412** with a "sufficient" level of entity authentication - at least to the extent required by the particular gate **7494a,7494b,7494c**. For reasons that should be readily apparent, the level of entity authentication required by each gate varies depending upon what the specific resource is that is being protected. For example, if the resource is a parking deck, only a minimal level of entity authentication is necessary; if the resource is a corporate checking account, stronger entity authentication is likely required; if the resource is the control system for launching nuclear warheads, even stronger entity authentication is required.

In some circumstances, providing a sufficient level of entity authentication is all that is needed to obtain access to the resource. For example, gate **7494a** provides the only session authentication hurdle to account holder **7402** for accessing resource **7440** (although, of course, the amount of access provided to the account holder **7402** and the process by which the account holder **7440** is able to access the resource may be further restricted by permissions and access rights,

which are not discussed in detail herein). Alternatively, as illustrated by resource **7450**, providing a sufficient level of entity authentication to pass through gate **7494b** enables the account holder **7402** to access resource **7450** generally and to access sub-resources **7450a,7450b** (nested within the confines of resource **7450**) specifically. Notably, stronger entity authentication is necessary before account holder **7402** is given access to sub-resource **7450c**, as indicated by gate **7494d**. In another alternative arrangement, providing a sufficient level of entity authentication to pass through gate **7494c** enables the account holder **7402** to access not only resource **7460** but also independent resources **7470,7480,7490**, which are not within the protective confines of resource **7460** but which allow the account holder **7402** with access therein when the account holder **7402** has provided sufficient entity authentication to pass through gate **7494c**.

As stated previously, in some circumstances, the particular resource **7440,7450,7460** is not only protected but also maintained by the account authority **7412** (for example, if the account authority **7412** is a financial institution and the resource is a bank account of the account holder **7402**). In other circumstances, the particular resource **7440,7450,7460** is merely protected by the account authority **7412**, which is in communication and coordination with another entity, such as a resource manager, access controller, or authorization controller (not shown), that actually maintains the resource (for example, if the account authority **7412** is merely an entity authentication system and the resource is a secure network server, to which access and permissions are controlled by a separate access control server).

The illustration of **Fig. 74** is equally applicable to an EC used for transaction authentication purposes. For example, if EC **7406** contains a specific request for information from one of the resources **7440,7450,7460** or a request for the account authority **7412** to perform a specific action on or in one of the resources **7440,7450,7460**, then the EC **7406** is used for entity authentication solely for that particular request; however, no on-going or session access to the particular resource **7440,7450,7460** is granted as a result.

Turning now to **Fig. 75**, three different examples of ECs between an account holder **7502** and an account authority **7512** over communications medium **7508** are illustrated. In all three examples, the last EC from the account holder **7502** to the account authority **7512** is used for a transaction confirmation purpose.

In the first interchange, designated by EC **1A** in **Fig. 75**, the account holder **7502** transmits an EC, which contains a message (M1) and a digital signature for the message (DS(M1)). In this interchange, the account holder **7502** provides sufficient proof of intent and Factor B or C Entity Authentication such that the account authority **7512** requires no follow-up EC requesting confirmation.

In the second interchange, designated by ECs **2A, 2B**, and **2C** and still with reference to **Fig. 75**, the account holder **7502** transmits an EC, which contains a message (M2) and a digital signature for the message (DS(M2)). In this interchange, the account authority **7512** is not satisfied

that it has received sufficient proof of the account holder's intent as applied to the message (M2). For this reason, the account authority **7512** sends EC **2B** to the account holder **7502**; EC **2B** requests that the account holder **7502** send a new EC with the same message (M2) and digital signature therefor (DS(M2)) but with the additional performance of Factor B or C Entity Authentication, an indicator (EAI) of which is included therewith as "proof" that the account holder **7502** did intend to send EC **2A**. As shown, the message of EC **2C** is essentially the same as the message of original EC **2A** with the addition of the Entity Authentication indicator (EAI). Such Entity Authentication indicator (EAI), preferably, is included within the message (M2) that is digitally signed.

In the third interchange, designated by ECs **3A, 3B**, and **3C** and still with reference to **Fig. 75**, the account holder **7502** transmits an EC, which contains a message (M3) and a digital signature therefor (DS(M3)). In this interchange, the account authority **7512** is not satisfied that it has received sufficient proof of the account holder's intent as applied to the message (M3). For this reason, in this example, the account authority **7512** sends EC **3B** to the account holder **7502**; EC **3B** contains a proposed new message (M4) for review and digital signing by the account holder **7502**. Message (M4) is composed by the account authority **7512** and preferably contains most, if not all, of the information that was contained in message (M3). Message (M4) may also contain additional information not contained in message (M3). Further, EC **3B** requests that, if the account holder **7502** agrees with and accepts the contents of message (M4), that the account holder **7502** modify the message (M4) in a specified manner (indicated in EC **3B** or based on a known protocol) to create a modified message (mod-M4) and then digitally sign the same (DS(mod-M4)). It is possible to perform Factor B or C Entity Authentication and include an indicator (EAI) thereof within EC **3C**; however, it is not required since account authority **7512** did not request it in EC **3B**.

g. Data Structure and Formats for ECs in an ABDS System

Referring now to **Fig. 76**, an electronic communication (EC) **7601** in accordance with various aspects of the inventions described herein includes various data fields, elements, or portions, generally speaking, a message (M) **7603** and a digital signature (DS) **7605**. These components generally form a data structure that may be stored, communicated, or otherwise manipulated with computing and communications apparatuses, according to the methods described herein. The EC **7601** may be included with, and/or form a part of, a financial transaction in accordance with ISO Standard 8583, which is incorporated herein by reference, or an X9.59 transaction.

In accordance with known data communication formats and/or data structure conventions, the EC **7601** typically includes a header portion **7607**, a body **7609**, and a trailer portion **7611**. The header portion **7607** and trailer portion **7611** are conventional in nature and are provided for conventional purposes, such as identification of the EC, routing, error correction, packet counting and sequencing, and other purposes, as will be known to those skilled in the art.

According to a first arrangement of this aspect of the invention, the body portion **7609** comprises a message **7603** and the digital signature **7605** therefor (separated by a hashed line in the illustration). The message **7603** preferably includes an account identifier **7616** and message content **7618**. The message content can include various types of information such as a further identifier, a command or instruction (i1) relating to the account, the public key (PuK) associated with the account, time/date stamp, encrypted message, and the like. The digital signature **7605** comprises information from the message **7603** (for example, a hash of the message, the message itself, or a compressed), signed with the sender's private key.

According to a second arrangement, the body portion **7609** comprises the account identifier **7616** and a message content portion **7618**, which incorporates the digital signature **7605** (ignoring the hashed line). The account identifier **7616** may be considered a separate component from the message content **7618**. Similar to the first arrangement, the digital signature **7605** portion of the message content **7618** comprises other information from the message content **7618**, signed with the sender's private key.

Under either of the above arrangements, the EC **7601** includes the account identifier **7616** and the digital signature **7605** as significant components thereof.

It will be appreciated that the digital signature **7605** of any arrangement of data elements may constitute information such as the account identifier, a further identifier, an instruction or command relating to the account, the public key (PuK) of the sender of the EC, and/or other information, depending upon the particular application contemplated by the user of the invention. AS stated previously, the message **7603** need not contain the account identifier **7616**, e.g. the account identifier is implied or inferred, or obtained from, the message. For example, the recipient of the EC may have already obtained the account identifier **7616** from a previous message from the sender of the EC and retransmission of the account identifier **7616** is not needed. Further, it is not necessary for the message **7603** or message content **7618** to contain an instruction or command, for example, when the instruction is implicit in the communication between the sender of the EC and the recipient thereof.

Finally, it should be noted that these electronic communication and data structure formats of the present invention are not limited to the file format, structure, and contents described above. Other formats, structures, and contents can be used that include different components and arrangements.

h. Specific Implementations of 2-Party ABDS Systems

The preferred ABDS systems **200,300** of **Figs. 2** and **3** may be implemented in a vast number of wide-ranging business applications. Because the specific applications are so numerous, the following specific examples are described in detail herein only to illustrate the scope and breadth of possible implementations and are not intended to be limitations on the type of business applications in which the ABDS systems **200,300** may be implemented. In addition, the specific

device used with each particular business application is chosen merely for illustrative purposes and is not intended to imply or suggest that other devices shown (or not shown) in any other figure cannot be used therewith. To the contrary, any device, regardless of form, can be used in most, if not all, business applications utilizing the ABDS systems **200,300** of **Figs. 2** and **3**, limited only by the available infrastructure within which such device is capable of operating.

In all of the following examples, it is presumed that the account holder has already established an ABDS account with the relevant account authority; thus, the account maintained by the account authority has associated therewith the public key that corresponds with the private key, which is securely protected in the device, which is in the possession of the account holder. In all of the following examples, it is also presumed that there is no need to encrypt the contents of the particular comunications between the various entities, including the account holders and the account authorities; however, if any of the entities desires to protect the contents of the information contained within the various ECs between them for privacy, confidentiality, or any similar reasons, such ECs may be encrypted by the sender of the particular EC in conventional manner, for example, using the public key of the intended recipient(s) of the particular EC for PGP-type encryption, using secure socket layering (SSL), or other similar encryption techniques; however, encrypting the contents of the various ECs is not necessary for the functioning of the present invention.

In addition, in many of the specific business applications described hereinafter, the account holder is prompted or asked to perform Factor B or Factor C Entity Authentication as part of the process of composing and transmitting an EC to the account authority. It should be understood that mere use of the device is sufficient for providing Factor A Entity Authentication (since authenticating the message inherently confirms that the sender of the EC possessed the private key corresponding to the public key used successfully to authenticate the message), which, in many circumstances, is sufficient entity authentication for the account authority to act upon the message or instruction (i1) contained in the EC from the account holder. Performance of Factor B and/or Factor C Entity Authentication, while not necessary for the present invention, does strengthen the entity authentication provided by the account holder and, correspondingly, increases the amount of trust the account authority has in the system and in the fact that it is dealing with the legitimate account holder.

Further, the methodology by which Factor B and/or Factor C entity authentication is managed between the account holder, the device, the account authority, and other entities within the ABDS systems described herein is not specifically set forth in these implementations. It should be assumed that such User or Sender Authentication is handled in conventional manner (as described above) or as described in the VS Applications.

i. Financial Institution Account

A first business application **600** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 6**. In this example, an account holder **602** comprising a person possesses a device in the form of a card **650**, such as an IC card, credit card, or ATM card, which is capable of being used at an ATM machine **660** or the like. The card **650** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The ATM machine **660** includes a display **662**, a card reader **664**, an alphanumeric keypad **666**, and a cash dispenser **668**. The card **650** is associated with a debit or credit account maintained with an account authority comprising a financial institution **612**. The account may be a checking account, savings account, money market account, credit card account, or the like, and the financial institution may be a bank, savings and loan, credit card company, or the like. In this example, the ATM machine **660** communicates electronically with the financial institution **612** over a secure, internal banking network **608**.

Accounts maintained with the financial institution **612** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 6** by account database **614**. With reference to **Fig. 7**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **716**. Each account number **716** identifies within the account database **614** account information **740**, including customer-specific information **742** and account-specific information **744**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **716** also identifies public key information **718**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **716** identifies device profile information **770** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 6**, the customer-specific information **742** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The account-specific information **744** includes, for example, the current account balance, available credit, closing date and balance of current statement, and associated account identifiers. The public key information **718** of the account of the account holder **602** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the card **650**. The device profile information **770** includes information specific to the card **650**.

As stated previously, an EC from the account holder **602** to the financial institution **612** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. In this business application, the most common type of EC is used merely for session authentication, which occurs when the account holder **602** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the ATM machine **660**.

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the account holder **602** to the financial institution **612**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the account holder end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on

the account authority end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 8**, a transaction in accordance with the present invention is initiated (**Step 802**) in the implementation illustrated in **Figs. 6** and **7** when the account holder **602** inserts the card **650** into the card reader **664** of the ATM machine **660**. The insertion of the card **650** initializes the ATM machine **660**, which, using display **662**, prompts (**Step 804**) the account holder **602** to perform entity authentication, such as providing a PIN, using the alphanumeric keypad **666**. Once the PIN is input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 806**) for sending to the financial institution **612**.

The ATM machine **660** displays a menu of available accounts upon which the account holder **602** may perform an action. The available accounts are stored within memory on the card **650** and retrieved by the ATM machine **660** for display to the account holder **602**. Of course, if only one account is available in memory on the card **650**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the account holder **602**.

Upon selection of an account, the ATM machine **660** displays a menu of operations that can be performed on the selected account. Such operations include, for example, money withdrawal, balance inquiry, statement request, money transfer, money deposit, bill payment, and the like. Upon selection of the desired operation by the account holder **602**, and after any additional information relating thereto is obtained from the account holder **602**, such as a withdrawal or transfer amount and the like, the ATM machine **660** composes an electronic message that includes an instruction to the financial institution **612** corresponding to the desired operation of the account holder **602**. The electronic message also includes the account number **716** corresponding to the account selected by the account holder **602**.

The message then is transmitted (**Step 808**) to the card **650** for digital signing by the account holder **602**. In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the card **650** originates (**Step 810**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the card **650**. The card **650** then outputs (**Step 812**) the digital signature to the ATM machine **660**, which then transmits (**Step 814**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the financial institution **612**.

With reference to **Fig. 9**, the EC is received (**Step 902**) by the financial institution **612** from the ATM machine **660**. The financial institution **612** then retrieves (**Step 904**) from the account database **614** the public key that is identified by the account number **716**. Using this public key, the financial institution **612** attempts to authenticate (**Step 906**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 908**) using the public key, then the financial institution **612** responds (**Step 910**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the message authenticates (**Step 908**), then the financial institution **612** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct card **650** associated with the identified account number **716** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is

obtained). The financial institution **612** then determines (**Step 912**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication information or status (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the financial institution **612** responds (**Step 910**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the entity authentication provided is sufficient (in **Step 912**), then the financial institution **612** further processes (**Step 914**) the message.

In this case, further processing (**Step 914**) of the message includes executing the instruction of the message, if possible, and updating the account based on the executed instruction. If it is not possible to execute the instruction, then the financial institution **612** responds (**Step 910**) with a rejection of the message. For example, if the account holder **602** instructs the financial institution **612** to provide an account balance, then the financial institution **612** transmits the account balance to the ATM machine **660** for presentation to the account holder **602**. If the account holder **602** instructs the financial institution **612** to withdraw money from the account, then the financial institution **612** first confirms that the funds are available and, if so, sends an authorization to the ATM machine **660** to dispense the requested amount of funds (up to the limit allowed and/or available on the particular account) to the account holder **602** and updates the account record to reflect the withdrawal. If the account holder **602** instructs the financial institution **612** to transfer funds to another account, then the financial institution **612** first confirms that the funds are available and, if so, initiates the electronic fund transfer to the other account and updates the account records accordingly. If the account holder **602** instructs the financial institution **612** to receive a payment on a bill owed to the financial institution **612**, such as a credit line payment, credit card payment, mortgage payment, or the like, then the financial institution **612** first confirms that the funds are available and, if so, initiates transfer from the account and updates the account records accordingly.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, if the account holder **602** requests an "unusual" transaction, such as the withdrawal or transfer of a large amount of money or closure of the account, the financial institution **612** may request that the account holder **602** digitally sign an EC for transaction confirmation purposes for the specified request. The financial institution **612** may also require that the account holder **602** provide additional entity authentication information or status prior to the digital signature being generated by the card **650**. The ATM machine **660** may be used to advantage to sequence the events properly so that the account holder **602** first sees the proposed confirmation message displayed on the display **662** of the ATM machine **660**, then is prompted to input a Secret or biometric value, after which the ATM machine **660** provides the confirmation message to the card **650** for digital signature. The remaining method of generating and processing such transaction confirmation EC is similar to that described above for the session authentication.

ii. Brokerage Account

A second business application **1000** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 10**. In this example, an account holder **1002** comprising a person possesses a device in the form of a personal digital assistant (PDA) **1050**. The PDA **1050** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The PDA **1050** includes an interactive display screen **1052** and user input keys **1056**. Further, the PDA **1050** has been suitably equipped with a wireless modem for digital communications over a wireless communications network **1008**. The PDA **1050** is associated with a brokerage trading, asset management, and credit account maintained with an account authority represented by a brokerage firm **1012**, which is licensed to buy and sell securities on behalf of the account holder **1002** and which is equipped to received wireless communications over network **1008**.

Accounts maintained with the brokerage firm **1012** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 10** by account database **1014**. With reference to **Fig. 11**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **1116**. Each account number **1116** identifies within the account database **1014** account information **1140**, including customer-specific information **1142** and account-specific information **1144**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **1116** also identifies public key information **1118**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **1116** identifies device profile information **1170** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 10**, the customer-specific information **1142** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The account-specific information **1144** includes, for example, the account status, account balance, available credit, if any, asset holdings, pending transactions, capital gains for the year, associated account identifiers, and the like. The public key information **1118** of the account of the account holder **1002** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the PDA **1050**. The device profile information **1170** includes information specific to the PDA **1050**.

As stated previously, an EC from the account holder **1002** to the brokerage firm **1012** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. In this business application, an EC used for session authentication typically occurs when the account holder **1002** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the online site of the brokerage firm **1012**. Transaction confirmation occurs in this business application when, for example, the account holder **1002** specifically requests the brokerage firm **1012** to buy or sell a specific security – in which case the brokerage firm **1012** requires the account holder **1002** to confirm such a request by digitally signing the request with the PDA **1050** (and, preferably, with reentry of a Secret or biometric value).

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the account holder **1002** to the brokerage firm **1012**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the account holder end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the account authority end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 12**, a transaction is initiated (**Step 1202**) when the account holder **1002** first establishes a wireless connection to the online site of the brokerage firm **1012** or, after such connection has already been established, when the account holder **1002** requests information regarding his account or requests that the brokerage firm **1012** perform an action with regard to the account. Next, the online site causes the PDA **1050** to prompt (**Step 1204**) the account holder **1002** to provide Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, if necessary, using the interactive display **1052**.

Once the PIN is input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 1206**) for sending to the brokerage firm **1012**. For initial login, the message is simply the relevant account number. For other transactions, the message includes an instruction (i1) from the account holder 1002 to the brokerage firm 1012. For initial login, the PDA **1050** displays a menu of available accounts. Such accounts are displayed in response to communications received from the brokerage firm **1012** or from software pre-installed on the PDA **1050** for this purpose. Preferably, the available accounts are stored within a memory on the PDA **1050** and presented on display **1052** to the account holder **1002** for selection. Of course, if only one account is available in memory on the PDA **1050**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the account holder **1002**. For post-login transactions, the PDA **1050** displays a menu of operations that can be performed on the selected account. Again, this menu of options may be preprogrammed into the PDA **1050** or downloaded from the brokerage firm **1012** when the electronic connection is made between the PDA **1050** and the brokerage firm **1012**. Such operations include, for example, a request for an account status, an account balance, available credit, a list of current asset holdings, or a list of pending transactions, or a request to purchase or sell a security. Upon selection of the desired operation by the account holder **1002**, and after any additional information relating thereto is obtained from the account holder **1002**, such as a purchase or sale amount and selection of a particular security, the PDA **1050** composes an electronic message that includes an instruction to the brokerage firm **1012** corresponding to the desired operation of the account holder **1002**. The electronic message also includes the account number **1116** corresponding to the account selected by the account holder **1002**.

The PDA **1050** then originates (**Step 1208**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the PDA **1050**. The PDA **1050** then outputs (**Step 1210**) the message and digital signature therefor to the wireless modem of the PDA **1050**, which then transmits (**Step 1212**) the message and the digital signature in an EC to the brokerage firm **1012**.

With reference to **Fig. 13**, the EC is received (**Step 1302**) by brokerage firm **1012** from the PDA **1050**. The brokerage firm **1012** then retrieves (**Step 1304**) from the account database **1014** the public key that is identified by the account number **1116**. Using this public key, the brokerage firm **1012** attempts to authenticate (**Step 1306**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 1308**) using the public key, then the brokerage firm **1012** responds (**Step 1310**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the message authenticates (**Step 1308**), then the brokerage firm **1012** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct PDA **1050** associated with the identified account number **1116** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The brokerage firm **1012** then determines (**Step 1312**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the brokerage firm **1012** responds (**Step 1310**) with a rejection of the message (e.g., refusal to grant access to the account or perform the requested action). If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 1312**), then the brokerage firm **1012** further processes (**Step 1314**) the message.

In the present example, further processing (**Step 1314**) of the message after initial session authentication includes accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record and displaying the welcome web site screen on the PDA personalized to the account holder **1002**. Further processing of the message after initial login includes executing the instruction (if possible) and updating the account record based on the executed instruction. If it is not possible to execute the instruction, then the brokerage firm **1012** responds (**Step 1310**) with a rejection of the message. For example, if the account holder **1002** instructs the brokerage firm **1012** to provide an account status, an account balance, amount of available credit, a list of current asset holdings, a list of pending transactions, or information regarding a particular security, then the brokerage firm **1012** obtains the requested information and transmits it to the PDA **1050** over the wireless communication network **1008** for display to the account holder **1002** on the display screen **1052** of the PDA **1050**. If the account holder **1002** instructs the brokerage firm **1012** to purchase a specified number of shares of a particular security at a specified price, then the brokerage firm **1012** first confirms that the funds for the purchase are available and, if so, places an appropriate "buy" order in the securities market in conventional manner. If and when the purchase of the securities closes, the account records are updated accordingly (i.e., the shares purchased are added to the list of asset holdings and the purchase price (plus commissions) is debited or charged to the account). If the account holder **1002** instructs the brokerage firm **1012** to sell a specified number of shares of a particular security at a specified price, then the brokerage firm **1012** first confirms that the number of shares of the particular security are owned by the account holder **1002** and capable of being sold and, if so, places an appropriate "sell" order in the securities market in conventional manner. If and when the sale of the securities closes, the account records are updated accordingly (i.e., the shares sold are removed from the list of asset holdings and the sales price (minus commissions) is

credited to the account). For instructions to buy or sell securities, it is preferable for the brokerage firm **1012** to obtain a confirmation transaction, as described above, from the account holder **1002** before executing the requested instruction.

iii. Bill Payment Services Account

A third business application **1400** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 14**. In this example, an account holder **1402** comprising a person possesses a device in the form of a cell phone **1450**. The cell phone **1450** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The cell phone **1450** includes a display screen **1452** and a number pad **1456**. Further, the cell phone **1450** has been suitably equipped for wireless voice and data communications over a wireless communications network **1408**. The cell phone **1450** is associated with a bill payment account (which may include one or more checking accounts, credit card accounts, etc.) maintained with an account authority represented by a bill payment service **1412**, which is authorized to pay bills to third parties on behalf of the account holder **1402** and which has an automated call center equipped to received wireless voice and data communications over network **1408**.

Various payees **1410a,1410b** to which the account holder **1402** owes money are also illustrated in **Fig. 14**. Preferably, the payees **1410a,1410b** are third parties to which the account holder **1402** is obligated to pay periodically and on a recurring basis. Payees **1410a,1410b** may be, for example, mortgage companies, utility companies, credit card companies, retail merchants, department stores, doctors' offices, and other goods and/or service providers that typically bill on a monthly basis for charges incurred by the account holder **1402** during the previous month. In this particular business application **1400**, it is contemplated that the account holder **1402** will provide the bill payment service **1412** with the billing information, such as statement date, bill due date, and bill amount owed to each payee **1410a,1410b**. In an alternative embodiment, the payees **1410a,1410b** can be authorized by the account holder **1402** to provide billing information directly to the bill payment service **1412**. Such billing information may be transmitted by any suitable means, including via dedicated payment network **1411**.

Accounts maintained with the bill payment service **1412** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 14** by account database **1414**. With reference to **Fig. 15**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **1516**. Each account number **1516** identifies within the account database **1414** account information **1540**, including customer-specific information **1542** and account-specific information **1544**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **1516** also identifies public key information **1518**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **1516** identifies device profile information **1570** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 14**, the customer-specific information **1542** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The account-specific information **1544** includes, for example, a list of available payment accounts, account balances for each such payment account, authorized credit card number(s), available credit, if any, with the bill payment service **1412**, current statement, current status report, list of payees registered by the account holder **1402**, customer account number and billing address for each registered payee, and current billing information for each registered payee (if available), and the like. The public key information **1518** of the account of the account holder **1402** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the cell phone **1450**. The device profile information **1570** includes information specific to the cell phone **1450**.

As stated previously, an EC from the account holder **1402** to the bill payment service **1412** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. In this business application, an EC used for session authentication typically occurs when the account holder **1402** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the automated call center of the bill payment service **1412**. Transaction confirmation occurs in this business application when, for example, the account holder **1402** specifically requests the bill payment service **1412** to pay a certain bill – in which case the bill payment service **1412** requires the account holder **1402** to confirm such a request by digitally signing the request with the cell phone **1450** (and, potentially, providing additional entity authentication information or status).

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the account holder **1402** to the bill payment service **1412**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the account holder end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the account authority end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 16**, a transaction is initiated (**Step 1602**) when the account holder **1402** uses the cell phone **1450** to establish a wireless phone call to the automated call center of the bill payment service **1412** or, after such connection has already been established, when the account holder **1402** requests information regarding his account or requests that the bill payment service **1412** perform an action with regard to the account. For initial login or for confirmation of a specifically requested transaction, the account holder **1402** next inputs (**Step 1604**) Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, using the number pad **1456** of the cell phone **1450**.

Once the PIN is input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 1606**) for sending to the bill payment service **1412**. The first message (containing only the account number) is composed by the account holder **1402** depressing keys on the number pad **1456** of the cell phone **1450** followed by a designated key (or series of keys), such as the "#" key, which indicates that the first message is complete. Preferably, depressing the designated key (or series of keys) not only notifies the cell phone **1450** that the first message is complete, but also causes the cell phone **1450** to originate (**Step 1608**) a digital signature for this first message. Next, the cell phone **1450** transmits (**Step**

1610) the message and digital signature in an EC to the bill payment service **1412** over the wireless communications network **1408**.

Now referring to **Fig. 17**, this initial EC is received (**Step 1702**) by the bill payment service **1412** from the cell phone **1450**. The bill payment service **1412** retrieves (**Step 1704**) from the account database **1414** the public key that is identified by the account number **1516**. Using this public key, the bill payment service **1412** attempts to authenticate (**Step 1706**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 1708**), then the bill payment service **1412** responds (**Step 1710**) to the sender of the EC with a rejection of the EC. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection, if desired by the bill payment service **1412**. On the other hand, if the message authenticates (in **Step 1708**), the bill payment service **1412** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct cell phone **1450** associated with the identified account number **1516** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The bill payment service **1412** then determines (**Step 1712**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the bill payment service **1412** responds (**Step 1710**) with a rejection of the message (e.g., refusal to grant access to the account or perform the requested action) and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication (in **Step 1712**) is sufficient, then the bill payment service **1412** further processes (**Step 1714**) the message.

In the present example, further processing (**Step 1714**) of the message, which, in response to the message containing only the account number **1516**, is an automated telephonic response to the account holder **1402** with a menu of options that can be performed on the now-identified account **1516**.

Referring back to **Fig. 16**, the presentation of the automated telephonic response initiates the process of generating (**Step 1612**) a bill payment message. In this specific illustration, the automated telephonic response presents the account holder **1402** with the following: "Press 1 to pay a bill, Press 2 to schedule a payment due date for a new bill for a registered payee, Press 3 to register a new payee." The account holder **1402** is then lead through a hierarchy of menu options over the cell phone **1450** until a complete bill payment transaction can be formulated by the bill payment service **1412**. Preferably, no digital signatures need to be generated or sent during the menu selection/message generation process. Upon completion of the menu selections, the bill payment service **1412** audibly presents the account holder **1402** with a proposed payment transaction. The number (#) key is used in the following example merely for illustrative purposes; however, it should be understood that any other key, sequence of keys, or operation of the phone could alternatively be used. For example, if the account holder **1402** initially selected option 1 (to pay a bill), a proposed instruction could be: "You have requested that we pay [Payee 1] in the amount of $51.00 on November 4, 1998, for a bill dated October 22, 1998, with reference to [Payee 1] customer account number 012-00009-003, using your payment account # 01-009000-

010. If this is correct, please depress the number (#) key on your phone." If the account holder **1402** had initially selected option 2 (to input a new bill for a registered payee), a proposed instruction could be: "You have requested that we schedule a payment due to [Payee 1] in the amount of $51.00 due on or before November 22, 1998, for a bill dated October 22, 1998, with reference to [Payee 1] customer account number 012-00009-003. If this is correct, please depress the number (#) key on your phone." If the account holder **1402** had initially selected option 3 (to register a new payee), a proposed instruction could be: "You have requested that we add [Payee 1] to your list of registered payees. You have indicated that your customer account number with [Payee 1] is 012-00009-003 and that [Payee 1]'s billing address is 123 Main St, AnyTown, AnyState 01234. If this is correct, please depress the number (#) key on your phone."

If the account holder **1402** presses any key other than the number (#) key after this audio prompt, the proposed instruction is not accepted (in **Step 1614**) and the process of composing a message (**Step 1612**) through selection of menu items continues. On the other hand, if the account holder **1402** presses the number (#) key on the cell phone **1450** after one of the above audio prompts, the proposed payment transaction is accepted (**Step 1614**) and the cell phone **1450** originates (**Step 1616**) a digital signature for the proposed payment transaction. The message that is digitally signed can either be the digital audio file of the proposed payment transaction as accepted, which can be temporarily stored in RAM on the cell phone **1450**, or the bill payment service **1412** can transmit a message to the cell phone **1450** for digital signature in response to the number (#) key being depressed in response to the last menu selection. In either case, the cell phone **1450** then transmits (**Step 1618**) the message and digital signature in an EC to the bill payment service **1412** over the wireless communications network **1408**.

As described immediately above, the message that is digitally signed can be a digital audio file of the proposed instruction as accepted by the account holder **1402** by pressing the number (#) key. In an alternate embodiment of this aspect of the invention, rather than pressing the number (#) key to accept the proposed instruction, the account holder **1402** verbally accepts the proposed instruction or verbally composes an instruction, which is temporarily stored in RAM on the cell phone **1450** as a digital file and for which a digital signature is then originated by the cell phone **1450**.

Referring again to **Fig. 17**, the steps performed by the bill payment service **1412** in response to a payment transaction EC received from the account holder **1402** are essentially the same as those performed in response to an account-only EC. The main difference, however, is in **Step 1714**, during which the bill payment service **1412** further processes the payment transaction message by performing or attempting to perform the payment instruction. Performing the instruction typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record, executing the instruction (if possible), and updating the account record based on the executed instruction. If it is not possible to execute the instruction, then the bill payment service **1412** responds (**Step 1710**)

with a rejection of the message. For example, if the account holder **1402** instructs the bill payment service **1412** to pay a bill, then the bill payment service **1412** schedules payment to be made (by mail or electronic transfer through payment network **1411**) on the scheduled payment date and confirms that the funds are currently available from the payment account **1516** specified by the account holder **1402**. Either the funds may be set aside at that time or the bill payment service **1412** may re-confirm availability of funds from the specified payment account **1516** on the scheduled payment date. On the scheduled payment date, if the funds are available, then the bill payment services **1412** mails or electronically transfers the funds to the designated payee and updates the account records accordingly. If the account holder **1402** merely instructs the bill payment service **1412** to schedule a new bill that is due to be paid to a registered payee, then the bill payment service **1412** merely updates the account records accordingly. Likewise, if the account holder **1402** merely instructs the bill payment service **1412** to add a new payee to the account holder's list of registered payees, then the bill payment service **1412** merely updates the account records accordingly.

iv. Credit Bureau Account

A fourth business application **1800** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 18**. In this example, an account holder **1802** comprising a person possesses a device in the form of a dongle **1850** connected via cable **1865** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **1860**. The dongle **1850** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The personal computer **1860** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **1862**, a keyboard **1864**, and a mouse **1866**. The dongle **1850** is associated, among other accounts, with a personal credit report account maintained by an account authority represented by a credit bureau **1812**. The computer **1860** has suitable web browser software installed thereon to enable it to communicate over the Internet **1808**, in conventional manner, such as via a modem, LAN line, etc., with a secure web site hosted by credit bureau **1812**.

Accounts maintained with the credit bureau **1812** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 18** by account database **1814**. With reference to **Fig. 19**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **1916**. Each account number **1916** identifies within the account database **1814** account information **1940**, including customer-specific information **1942** and account-specific information **1944**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **1916** also identifies public key information **1918**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **1916** identifies device profile information **1970** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 18**, the customer-specific information **1942** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The

account-specific information **1944** includes, for example, a list of accounts, payment history on each account, past due amount on each account, if any, total debt, credit score, overall credit status report, and the like. The public key information **1918** of the account of the account holder **1802** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the dongle **1850**. The device profile information **1970** includes information specific to the dongle **1850**.

As stated previously, an EC from the account holder **1802** to the credit bureau **1812** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. For example, a common type of session authentication occurs in this business application when the account holder **1802** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the secure web site maintained by the credit bureau **1812**. A further type of session entity authentication occurs when the account holder **1802** requests access to specific records or pieces of information that are very sensitive, secure, confidential, or private for the account holder **1802**, in which case, the credit bureau **1812** may require a stronger level of entity authentication than is required merely to access the secure web site. Transaction confirmation is applicable in this business application when, for example, the account holder **1802** requests the credit bureau **1812** to add or change information in the account maintained by the credit bureau **1812**, in which case the credit bureau **1812** requires the account holder **1802** to confirm such a transaction by digitally signing the request with the dongle **1850**.

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the account holder **1802** to the credit bureau **1812**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the account holder end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the account authority end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 20**, a transaction is initiated (**Step 2002**) when the account holder **1802** first accesses the secure web site of the credit bureau **1812** over the Internet **1808** using computer **1860** or, after such access has already been established, when the account holder **1802** requests access to specific information or requests that the credit bureau **1812** perform an action on the account. Next, the web site causes the computer **1860** to prompt (**Step 2004**) the account holder **1802** to input Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, using the keyboard **1864**.

Once the PIN is input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 2006**) for sending to the credit bureau **1812**. For initial login, the message is simply the relevant account number. For subsequent transactions, the message includes an instruction (i1) from the account holder **1802** to the credit bureau **1812**. For initial login, the computer **1860** displays on monitor **1862** a data input screen that contains an account number data entry field. For subsequent transactions, the computer **1860** displays on monitor **1862** a data input screen that contains additional data entry or "product" selection buttons with which the account holder **1802** is able to select the type of transaction he would like to initiate, such as, "provide credit report," "provide credit score," "provide total debt," "submit additional information," or "report error." Once any necessary data fields have been filled

in and an instruction selected (if applicable), the account holder **1802** activates the "digital signature" button also displayed on the data entry screen using the mouse **1866**.

Selecting this button causes the computer **1860** to bundle the data entered into the data entry fields and pull down menus into a single message. This message then is transmitted (**Step 2008**) via cable **1865** from the computer **1860** to the dongle **1850** for digital signing by the account holder **1802**. In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the dongle **1850** originates (**Step 2010**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the dongle **1850**. The dongle **1850** then outputs (**Step 2012**) the digital signature, which is received by the computer **1860**. The computer **1860** then transmits (**Step 2014**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the credit bureau **1812**.

With reference to **Fig. 21**, the EC is received (**Step 2102**) by the credit bureau **1812** from the computer **1860**. The credit bureau **1812** then retrieves (**Step 2104**) from the account database **1814** the public key that is identified by the account number **1916** (or other unique identifier such as name or social security number). Using this public key, the credit bureau **1812** attempts to authenticate (**Step 2106**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 2108**) using the public key, then the credit bureau **1812** responds (**Step 2110**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the message authenticates (**Step 2108**), then the credit bureau **1812** concludes that the message in fact, came from the person possessing the correct dongle **1850** associated with the identified account number **1916** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The credit bureau **1812** then determines (**Step 2112**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the credit bureau **1812** responds (**Step 2110**) with a rejection of the message (e.g., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the request action on the account) and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 2112**), then the credit bureau **1812** further processes (**Step 2114**) the message.

In the present example, further processing (**Step 2114**) of the message after initial session authentication includes accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record and displaying the welcome web site screen on the computer **1860** personalized to the account holder **1802**. Further processing of the message after initial login includes accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record, executing the instruction (if possible), and updating the account record based on the executed instruction. If it is not possible to execute the instruction, then the credit bureau **1812** responds (**Step 2110**) with a rejection of the message. For example, if the account holder **1802** instructs the credit bureau **1812** to provide a full credit report, a credit score, or a total debt calculation, then the credit bureau **1812** accesses the account database **1814** to obtain the relevant information, which is then transmitted to the computer **1860** for display on monitor **1862** to the

account holder **1802**. If the account holder **1802** instructs the credit bureau **1812** that it desires to submit additional information for inclusion in the account database **1814**, then the credit bureau **1812** presents a new data entry page into which the account holder **1802** can submit new information. This new data entry page constitutes a new message that is digitally signed using the dongle **1850** and transmitted to the credit bureau **1812** in the same manner described above. Likewise, if the account holder **1802** instructs the credit bureau **1812** that it desires to report an error in the credit report or account database, then the credit bureau **1812** presents a new data entry page to the account holder **1802** into which the account holder **1802** can report the alleged error. This new data entry page constitutes a new message that is digitally signed using the dongle **1850** and transmitted to the credit bureau **1812** in the same manner described above. Once the credit bureau **1812** receives new information or an alleged error notice from the account holder **1802**, then it initiates an investigation into the matter. If the information appears to be accurate, then the appropriate record(s) in the account database **1814** is updated accordingly. For some of the above instructions, it is preferably for the credit bureau **1812** to obtain a confirmation transaction, as described above, from the account holder **1802** before executing the requested instruction.

v. Patient/Personal Medical Records Account

A fifth business application **2200** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 22**. In this example, an account holder comprising a patient **2202** possesses a device in the form of a card **2250**, such as an IC card. The card **2250** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair and is capable of being used in a card reader **2252**. The card reader **2252** includes an alphanumeric keypad **2256**, a display **2254**, and a thumbprint reader **2258**. The card reader **2252** is connected via cable **2265** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **2260**. The personal computer **2260** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **2262**, a keyboard **2264**, and a mouse **2266**. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, using the display **2254** of the card reader **2252** for displaying messages to be digitally signed and using the keypad **2256** and thumbprint reader **2258** on the card reader **2252** for receiving entity authentication information from the patient **2202** provides greater security and less potential for fraud than if the same information was displayed and input on the computer **2260** using monitor **2262** and keyboard **2264**.

The card **2250** is associated, among other accounts, with a medical records' account associated specifically with the patient **2202** and maintained by an account authority represented by a medical records access manager **2212**. The computer **2260** is connected directly with the medical records access manager **2212** and has custom software installed therein for enabling patients registered with the medical records access manager **2212** to access and view selected portions of their personal medical records as maintained by the medical records access manager **2212**.

Accounts maintained with the medical records access manager **2212** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 22** by account database **2214**. With reference to **Fig. 23**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **2316**. Each account number **2316** identifies within the account database **2214** account information **2340**, including customer-specific information **2342** and account-specific information **2344**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **2316** also identifies public key information **2318**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **2316** identifies device profile information **2370** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 22**, the customer-specific information **2342** illustrated in **Fig. 23** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the patient **2202**. The account-specific information **2344** includes, for example, current list of doctors, current insurance information, medical profile and history, known allergies, major medical conditions, organ donor information, and the like. The public key information **2318** of the account of the patient **2202** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the card **2250**. The device profile information **2370** includes information specific to the card **2250**.

As stated previously, an EC from the patient **2202** to the medical records access manager **2212** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. For example, a common type of session authentication occurs in this business application when the patient **2202** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the medical record access software maintained on the computer **2260**. Further session authentication occurs when the patient **2202** requests access to specific records or pieces of information that are very sensitive, secure, confidential, or private for the patient **2202**, in which case, the medical records access manager **2212** may require a stronger level of entity authentication (e.g. Factor C using the thumbprint reader **2258**) than is required merely to access the relevant software. Transaction confirmation is applicable in this business application (during either of the sessions described above) when, for example, the patient **2202** requests the medical records access manager **2212** to perform an action upon the patient's information contained within the medical records database (e.g., updating, adding, deleting, or forwarding such information) and the medical records access manager **2212** requires the patient **2202** to confirm such a request by digitally signing the request with the card **2250** (and, potentially, also providing additional Factor B or C entity authentication information or status).

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the patient **2202** to the medical records access manager **2212**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the patient end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the medical records access manager end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig.**

24, an EC in accordance with the present invention is initiated (**Step 2402**) when the patient **2202** first attempts to login to the computer **2260** for accessing the medical records' software or, after such login has already been completed successfully, when the patient **2202** requests sensitive patient information or requests that the medical records access manager **2212** perform an action with regard to the patient's account. In either case, the computer **2260** prompts (**Step 2404**) the patient **2202** to provide the card **2250** to the card reader **2252** (e.g., by inserting the card **2250** if the reader **2252** is a "contact" type reader or by bringing the card **2250** into close proximity to the reader **2252** if it is a "contactless" type reader) if it has not already been so provided. The computer **2260** then prompts (**Step 2406**) the patient **2202** to provide Factor B and/or C entity authentication information using the alphanumeric keypad **2256** and/or the thumbprint reader **2258**. Once such entity authentication information is provided, an electronic message is composed (**Step 2408**) for sending to the medical records access manager **2212**. In this case, with an initial EC that merely requests access to the system, the message is merely the account number **2316** associated with the account maintained by the medical records access manager **2212**. Preferably, the reader **2252** displays on display **2254** a menu of available accounts from which the patient **2202** can select. Preferably, such available accounts are stored within memory on the card **2250** and retrieved by the reader **2252** for selection by the patient **2202**. Of course, if only one account is available in memory on the card **2250**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the patient **2202**. For subsequent transactions, the patient **2202** is able to select (on the computer **2260**) what information she wants to view or what action she wants the medical records access manager **2212** to perform.

In either case, once the computer **2260** has composed the message, it is transmitted (**Step 2410**) to the card reader **2252** for display on display **2254** and for forwarding to the card **2250** for digital signing by the patient **2202**. In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the card **2250** originates (**Step 2412**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the card **2250**. The card **2250** then outputs (**Step 2414**) the digital signature, which is received initially by the reader **2252**. The reader **2252** then transmits (**Step 2416**) the digital signature along with the message as an EC to the computer **2260**, which forwards the same to the medical records access manager **2212** for authentication.

With reference to **Fig. 25**, the EC is received (**Step 2502**) by the medical records access manager **2212** from the computer **2260**. The medical records access manager **2212** then retrieves (**Step 2504**) from the account database **2214** the public key that is identified by the account number **2316**. Using this public key, the medical records access manager **2212** attempts to authenticate (**Step 2506**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 2508**), then the medical records access manager **2212** responds (**Step 2510**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the web site or refusal to perform the requested action). Such a

response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message does authenticate (in **Step 2508**), then the medical records access manager **2212** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct card **2250** associated with the identified account number **2316** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The medical records access manager **2212** then determines (**Step 2512**) whether or not the Factor B and/or C entity authentication (e.g., PIN and/or thumbprint) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the medical records access manager **2212** responds (**Step 2510**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 2512**), then the medical records access manager **2212** further processes (**Step 2514**) the message.

For initial login, further processing of the message merely means providing the patient **2202** with access to the records access program on the computer **2260** and with rights to view private but not sensitive information pertaining to the patient **2202** as maintained in the database **2214** and displayed in response to suitable inquiries using the custom software on the computer **2260**. If the message is an request by the patient **2202** for access to sensitive information pertaining to the patient **2202**, the medical records access manager **2212** may require stronger entity authentication information from the patient **2202** (due to the increased risks and potential liability for displaying such sensitive information to unauthorized persons). Thus, in this situation, the computer **2260** prompts (in **Step 2406**) the patient **2202** to provide both a PIN and thumbprint. If the determination (in **Step 2512**) is positive in this situation, then further processing (**Step 2514**) includes providing the patient **2202** with access to the requested, sensitive information. If the EC contains a request by the patient **2202** for the medical records access manager **2212** to perform an action on the account or on information contained within the account, such as, for example, a request to forward a specific medical record, report, or piece of information to a third party, such as a hospital, insurance company, or medical practitioner, such an EC can be processed as generally described in **Figs. 24** and **25**. In contrast with the above two ECs, however, the purpose of obtaining a digital signature from the patient **2202** is not only for entity authentication but primarily for "confirmation" of the requested action. In this scenario, if the entity authentication information or status provided is sufficient (as determined in **Step 2512**), then further processing (**Step 2514**) of the message includes performance of the requested action.

vi. (Medical) Practice Management Account

A sixth business application **2600** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 26**. In this example, an account holder comprising a medical professional **2602** possesses a device in the form of a personal item **2650**, such as a watch (as shown), jewelry, key ring, or the like, which is capable of receiving and transmitting radio-frequency (RF) data transmissions to and from an RF receiver/transmitter **2652**. The personal item **2650** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. In this example, the RF

receiver/transmitter **2652** is connected via cable **2665** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **2660**. The personal computer **2660** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **2662**, a keyboard **2664**, and a mouse **2666**. In the present example, the computer **2660** also includes a microphone **2668** for receipt of audio input, such as the voice of the medical professional **2602**, for entity authentication purposes.

The personal item **2650** is associated, among other accounts, with a medical practice management account maintained by an account authority represented by a medical practice management server **2612**. The computer **2660** has installed thereon suitable database management and access software to enable it to interact, for example, over an internal or external network **2608** (in this case, it is an internal network) with information contained within an account database maintained by server **2612**.

Accounts maintained by the server **2612** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 26** by account database **2614**. With reference to **Fig. 27**, each authorized user of the account database **2614** is identified by a unique account identifier comprising an account number **2716**. Each account number **2716** identifies within the account database **2614** account information **2740**, including entity-specific information **2742** and accessible databases **2744**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **2716** also identifies public key information **2718**, which includes at least the public key of the user of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **2716** identifies device profile information **2770** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 26**, the entity-specific information **2742** includes, for example, the name, position, field of practice, and a listing of the groups to which the account holder belongs (for a determination of access rights to other database records and sub-records (not shown)). The list of accessible databases **2744** includes, for example, group calendar, personal calendar, group contact list, personal contact list, group patient list, personal contact list, list of accepted insurance policies/carriers, and the like. The public key information **2718** of the account of the medical professional **2602** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the personal item **2650**. The device profile information **2770** includes information specific to the personal item **2650**.

As stated previously, an EC from the medical professional **2602** to the server **2612** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. For example, a common type of session authentication occurs in this business application when the medical professional **2602** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the database management and access software maintained on the computer **2660**. Transaction confirmation is applicable in this business application when, for example, the medical professional **2602** requests the server **2612** to perform an action upon a record of one of the patients contained

within the database (e.g., updating or adding information) and the server **2612** requires the medical professional **2602** to confirm such a request by digitally signing the request with the personal item **2650** (and, potentially, also providing additional entity authentication information or status).

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the medical professional **2602** to the server **2612**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the medical professional end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the server end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 28**, a transaction is initiated (**Step 2802**) when the medical professional **2602** accesses the login screen for access to the various medical practice records maintained on server **2612** by connecting over the internal network **2608** using computer **2660** or, after such login has already occurred, when the medical professional **2602** requests information from the database or requests the server **2612** to perform an action on information in the database. Next, the server **2612** causes the computer **2660** to prompt (**Step 2804**) the medical professional **2602** to input Factor C entity authentication information, such as a voiceprint, by speaking into the microphone **2668**.

Once the computer **2660** has obtained a suitable voiceprint, an electronic message is composed (**Step 2806**) for sending to the server **2612** for authentication and access to database records. For initial login, the computer **2660** displays a menu of available accounts from which the medical professional **2602** can select. Preferably, such available accounts are stored within a memory on the personal item **2650** and retrieved by the computer **2660** for selection by the medical professional **2602**. Of course, if only one account is available in a memory on the personal item **2650**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the medical professional **2602**. Alternatively, the list of available accounts may be maintained in memory on the computer **2660** itself and displayed for selection by the medical professional **2602**. For post-login communications, the computer **2660** displays, for example, a menu of available patient records that the medical professional **2602** is allowed to review and actions that can be performed with respect to each such patient record. The computer **2660** also displays, for example, group and personal calendars, address books, and electronic mailboxes to which the medical professional has access rights.

Once the computer **2660** composes the message, it is transmitted (**Step 2808**) via cable **2665** to the RF receiver/transmitter **2652**, which then sends an RF signal (containing the message) to the personal item **2650** for digital signing by the medical professional **2602**. In this regard, upon receipt of an RF signal containing data representing the message, the personal item **2650** originates (**Step 2810**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the personal item **2650**. The personal item **2650** then outputs (**Step 2812**) the digital signature, which is received by the RF receiver/transmitter **2652**, which forwards the same to the computer **2660**. The computer **2660** then transmits (**Step 2814**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the server **2612**.

With reference to **Fig. 29**, the EC is received (**Step 2902**) by the server **2612** from the computer **2660**. The server **2612** then retrieves (**Step 2904**) from the account database **2614** the public key that is identified by the account number **2716**. Using this public key, the server **2612** attempts to authenticate (**Step 2906**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 2908**) using the public key, then the server **2612** responds (**Step 2910**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the message authenticates (in **Step 2908**), then the server **2612** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct personal item **2650** associated with the identified account number **2716** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The server **2612** then determines (**Step 2912**) whether or not the Factor C entity authentication information or status (e.g., voiceprint) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the server **2612** responds (**Step 2910**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 2912**), then the server **2612** further processes (**Step 2914**) the message.

For initial login, further processing of the message merely means providing the medical professional **2602** with access to the main user screen displayed by the computer **2660**. For subsequent communications, further processing often means displaying information obtained from the database **2614** in response to suitable inquiries made by the medical professional using the computer **2660**. In some circumstances, for example, if the message is a request by the medical professional **2602** for access to sensitive information pertaining to one of his patients, the server **2612** may require stronger entity authentication information from the medical professional **2602** (due to the increased risks and potential liability for displaying such sensitive information to unauthorized persons). Thus, in this situation, the computer **2660** prompts (in **Step 2806**) the medical professional **2602** to provide both a PIN (using the computer keyboard **3064**) and voiceprint. If the determination (in **Step 2912**) is positive in this situation, then further processing (**Step 2914**) includes providing the medical professional **2602** with access to the requested, sensitive information. If the EC contains a request by the medical professional **2602** for the server **2612** to perform an action on the account or on information contained within the account, such as, for example, a request to add or change information on a patient record to which the medical professional **2602** has rights to modify or append, such an EC can be processed as generally described in **Figs. 28** and **29**. In contrast with the above two ECs, however, the server **2612** may require a digital signature for this EC primarily for "confirmation" of the requested action. In this scenario, if the entity authentication information or status provided is sufficient (as determined in **Step 2912**), then further processing (**Step 2914**) of the message includes performance of the requested action.

vii. Government Benefits Account

A seventh business application **3000** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 30**. In this example, an account holder comprising a citizen **3002** possesses a device in the form of a personal item **3050**, such as a watch, necklace or dog-tag (as shown), other jewelry, key ring, or the like, which is capable of receiving and transmitting radio-frequency (RF) data transmissions to and from an RF receiver/transmitter **3052**. The necklace **3050** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. In this example, the RF receiver/transmitter **3052** is connected via cable **3065** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **3060**. The personal computer **3060** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **3062**, a keyboard **3064**, and a mouse **3066**. The necklace **3050** is associated, among other accounts, with a governmental records account maintained by an account authority represented by a citizen records manager **3012**. The computer **3060** has suitable web browser software installed thereon to enable it to communicate over the Internet **3008**, in conventional manner, such as via a modem, LAN line, etc., with a secure web site hosted by citizen records manager **3012**.

Accounts maintained by the citizen records manager **3012** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 30** by account database **3014**. With reference to **Fig. 31**, each authorized user of the account database **3014** is identified by a unique account identifier comprising an account number **3116**. Each account number **3116** identifies within the account database **3014** account information **3140**, including citizen-specific information **3142** and account-specific information **3144**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **3116** also identifies public key information **3118**, which includes at least the public key of the citizen associated with a respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **3116** identifies device profile information **3170** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 30**, the citizen-specific information **3142** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number, tax-ID number, occupation, place of birth, age, and the like, of each citizen. The account-specific information **3144** includes, for example, Social Security benefits, welfare benefits, Medicare/Medicaid benefits, Universal Prescription Drug benefits, Universal Health-care benefits, tax returns (electronic format for previous five years), bank account information, and the like. The public key information **3118** of the account of the citizen **3002** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the necklace **3050**. The device profile information **3170** includes information specific to the necklace **3050**.

In this business application, an EC from the citizen **3002** to the citizen records manager **3012** is generally only used for the purpose of session authentication. For example, a first session authentication occurs when the citizen **3002** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the secure web site maintained by the citizen records manager **3012**. A further session authentication

occurs when the citizen **3002** requests access to specific records or pieces of information that are very sensitive, secure, confidential, or private for the citizen **3002**, in which case, the citizen records manager **3012** requires a stronger level of entity authentication than is required merely to access the entry level of the secure web site.

Regardless of which session authentication EC is communicated from the citizen **3002** to the citizen records manager **3012**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the citizen end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the citizen records manager end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 32**, a transaction in accordance with the present invention is initiated (**Step 3202**) in the implementation illustrated in **Figs. 30** and **31** when the citizen **3002** initially accesses the login screen for access to the secure web site maintained by citizen records manager **3012** by connecting over the Internet **3008** using computer **3060** or, after such secure web site has been successfully accessed, when the citizen **3002** requests access to very sensitive, secure, confidential, or private information, as stated above. Next, the secure web site causes the computer **3060** to prompt (**Step 3204**) the citizen **3002** to provide Factor B or C entity authentication information, such as a PIN or biometric information, by typing the PIN into the computer **3060** using keyboard **3064** or by providing a biometric sample to a suitable biometric reader (not shown) attached to or otherwise in electronic communication with the computer **3060**.

In this case, once the PIN has been input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 3206**) for sending to the citizen records manager **3012** for authentication and access to the citizen's personal records. For login purposes, the message need only contain the relevant account number. For subsequent transaction authentication communications or requests for access to information, the message includes an instruction (i1) from the citizen **3002** to the citizen records manager **3012**. For initial login, the computer **3060** displays a menu of available accounts from which the citizen **3002** can select. Preferably, such available accounts are stored within memory on the necklace **3050** and retrieved by the RF receiver/transmitter **3052** (as commanded by the computer **3060**) for selection by the citizen **3002**. Of course, if only one account is available in memory on the necklace **3050**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the citizen **3002**. Alternatively, the list of available accounts may be maintained in memory on the computer **3060** itself and displayed for selection by the citizen **3002**. For post-login communications, the computer **3060** displays, for example, a menu of available citizen records and governmental benefit accounts that the citizen **3002** is allowed to view.

Once the appropriate account number or menu item is selected, the computer **3060** converts the information into a message, which is transmitted (**Step 3208**) via cable **3065** from the computer **3060** to the RF receiver/transmitter **3052**, which then sends an RF signal (containing the message) to the necklace **3050** for digital signing by the citizen **3002**. In this regard, upon receipt of an RF signal containing data representing the message, the necklace **3050** originates (**Step**

3210) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the necklace **3050**. The necklace **3050** then outputs (**Step 3212**) the digital signature, which is received by the RF receiver/transmitter **3052**, which forwards the same to the computer **3060**. The computer **3060** then transmits (**Step 3214**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the citizen records manager **3012**.

With reference to **Fig. 33**, the EC is received (**Step 3302**) by the citizen records manager **3012** from the computer **3060**. The citizen records manager **3012** then retrieves (**Step 3304**) from the account database **3014** the public key that is identified by the account number **3116**. Using this public key, the citizen records manager **3012** attempts to authenticate (**Step 3306**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 3308**) using the public key, then the citizen records manager **3012** responds (**Step 3310**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the account or to perform the requested action). If the message authenticates (in **Step 3308**), then the citizen records manager **3012** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct necklace **3050** associated with the identified account number **3116** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The citizen records manager **3012** then determines (**Step 3312**) whether or not the Factor B or C entity authentication information or status (e.g., PIN and/or biometric information) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the citizen records manager **3012** responds (**Step 3310**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 3312**), then the citizen records manager **3012** further processes (**Step 3314**) the message.

For initial login, further processing of the message merely means providing the citizen **3002** with access to the main user screen of the secure web site displayed by the computer **3060**. For subsequent communications, further processing means displaying for the citizen **3002** the requested citizen record or governmental benefit information. As stated previously, for added security, the citizens records manager **3012** may require additional digital signatures for some instructions and requests made on the web site (e.g., transactional confirmation or further session authentication). If necessary, messages are generated when the citizen **3002** selects particular options or menu items on the web site. When such an option or item is selected, the citizens records manager **3012** transmits a data packet of information to the computer **3060** along with an instruction to request a digital signature. The computer **3060**, in response, transmits the information to the necklace **3050** via RF receiver/transmitter **3052**. This information constitutes a new message. To prevent unauthorized or unintentional digital signatures being generated in response to unwanted RF signals transmitted to the necklace **3050**, it is preferable that the citizen records manager **3012** not trust an EC received from the necklace **3050** unless Factor B or C Entity Authentication is performed.

viii. Internet Service Provider

An eighth business application **3400** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 34**. In this example, an account holder **3402** comprising a person possesses a device in the form of a dongle **3450**, which is directly plugged into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) on the back side of a personal computer **3460**. The dongle **3450** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The personal computer **3460** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **3462**, a keyboard **3464**, and a mouse **3466**. The dongle **3450** is associated specifically with an Internet Service Provider account maintained by an account authority represented by an Internet Service Provider **3412**. The computer **3460** has suitable web browser software installed thereon to enable it to communicate over network **3408**, in conventional manner, such as via a modem, LAN line, etc., with the Internet Service Provider **3412**. The computer also has software installed that enables the computer **3460** to communicate with the attached dongle **3450**.

Accounts maintained with the Internet Service Provider **3412** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 34** by account database **3414**. With reference to **Fig. 35**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **3516**. Each account number **3516** identifies within the account database **3414** account information **3540**, including customer-specific information **3542** and account-specific information **3544**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **3516** also identifies public key information **3518**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **3516** identifies device profile information **3570** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 34**, the customer-specific information **3542** includes, for example, the name, billing address, email address, credit card information, and the like of the account holder. The account-specific information **3544** includes, for example, ISP connection means (e.g., telephone modem, cable modem, ISDN, T1 connection, etc.) and speed, Internet hours used and available, email accounts and aliases, web page address(es), and the like. The public key information **3518** of the account of the account holder **3402** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the dongle **3450**. The device profile information **3570** includes information specific to the dongle **3450**.

In this business application, an EC from the account holder **3402** to the Internet Service Provider **3412** is generally only used for the purpose of session authentication (i.e., for initially logging-in to or otherwise accessing the Internet access portal of the Internet Service Provider **3412** for the purpose of accessing the Internet). For this reason, the only message that generally needs to be communicated from the account holder **3402** to the Internet Service Provider **3412** is one that includes the account number **3516** for the relevant account. The instruction (i1) (i.e., "give

me access to the Internet") is implicit in the mere communication of the EC containing the account number.

As illustrated in **Fig. 36**, session authentication is initiated (**Step 3602**) when the account holder **3402** activates the automated login software installed on the computer **3460** by "double-clicking" the Internet access icon on his computer desktop in conventional manner. The automated login software sends (**Step 3604**) a request for digital signature message from the computer **3460** to the dongle **3450** connected thereto. In response, the dongle **3450** retrieves (**Step 3606**) the account number from its internal memory and provides (**Step 3608**) the account number, as the message, to the digital signing component of the dongle **3450**. Next, the dongle **3450** originates (**Step 3610**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the dongle **3450**. The dongle **3450** then outputs (**Step 3612**) the digital signature, which is received by the computer **3460**. The computer **3460** then transmits (**Step 3614**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the Internet Service Provider **3412** in conventional manner.

With reference to **Fig. 37**, the EC is received (**Step 3702**) by the Internet Service Provider **3412** from the computer **3460**. The Internet Service Provider **3412** then retrieves (**Step 3704**) from the account database **3414** the public key that is identified by the account number **3516**. Using this public key, the Internet Service Provider **3412** attempts to authenticate (**Step 3706**) the message. If the message authenticates (**Step 3708**), then the Internet Service Provider **3412** concludes that the message is, in fact, from the computer **3460** having the legitimate dongle **3450** connected thereto (which is presumably the computer **3460** of the account holder **3402**) and provides (**Step 3712**) the computer **3460** with access to the Internet **3408**. On the other hand, if the message does not authenticate (in **Step 3708**), then the Internet Service Provider **3412** responds (**Step 3710**) with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection.

Obviously, the above process does not provide very strong entity authentication since any computer having the appropriate dongle **3450** attached thereto is able to obtain access to the Internet (per **Step 3712**). Should stronger entity authentication be desired, the above process can be modified to be more similar to the previous business applications, which require the account holder **3402** to provide Factor B and/or C entity authentication information. In this case, for example, the account holder **3402** may be required to input Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, which is transmitted by the computer **3460** to the dongle **3450** along with the above-mentioned "request for digital signature" message. The Internet Service Provider **3412** then determines (in a step not shown) whether the entity authentication information or status provided by the account holder **3402** is sufficient enough for the Internet Service Provider **3412** to determine that the account holder **3402** is the entity sitting at the computer **3460**. In this case, the EC is still used for session authentication.

ix. Employee Database Authorization Account

A ninth business application **3800** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 38**. In this example, an account holder comprising a computer programmer **3802** possesses a device in the form of an electronic key **3850**, which is designed to interface with an electronic lock **3852**, which is connected via cable **3865** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a computer terminal **3860**. The electronic key **3850** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The personal computer **3860** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **3862**, a keyboard **3864**, and a mouse **3866**. The electronic key **3850** is associated with an employee's database authorization account maintained by an account authority represented, in this example, by an authentication server **3812** operated by the employer (not shown) of the computer programmer **3802**; the employer being engaged in the business of creating, designing, and writing computer programs and code. The computer **3860** has direct access over an internal computer network **3808** to the authentication server **3812**, and indirect access through server **3812** and through internal firewall **3894** to secure server **3892**, upon which is stored source code of a computer program upon which the legitimate computer programmer **3802** is authorized to work and needs access. Each time the computer programmer **3802** wants to access the secure server **3892**, however, the computer programmer **3802** must first be authenticated and approved by the authentication server **3812**.

Accounts maintained by the authentication server **3812** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 38** by account database **3814**. With reference to **Fig. 39**, each authorized user identified in the account database **3814** is identified by a unique account identifier (such as an employee ID) comprising an account number **3916**. Each account number **3916** identifies within the account database **3814** account information **3940**, including employee-specific information **3942** and accessible databases **3944**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **3916** also identifies public key information **3918**, which includes at least the public key of the user of the respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **3916** identifies device profile information **3970** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 38**, the employee-specific information **3942** includes, for example, the name, email address, department, supervisor name, authorized project(s) names, building location, room location, computer serial number, and the like. The list of accessible databases **3944** includes, for example, a plurality of projects, identified herein by project 1, project 2, project 3 up to project n. The public key information **3918** of the account of the computer programmer **3802** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the electronic key **3850**. The device profile information **3970** includes information specific to the electronic key **3850**. In this context, the message from the computer programmer **3802** includes the account number **3916**

for the relevant account and an instruction to the authentication server **3812**, for example, to provide access to the secure server **3892**.

In this business application, an EC from the computer programmer **3802** to the authentication server **3812** is generally only used for the purpose of session authentication (i.e., for initially obtaining access to the protected computer program or source code maintained on secure server **3892**). For this reason, the only message that generally needs to be communicated from the computer programmer **3802** to the authentication server **3812** is one that includes the account number **3916** for the relevant account and the name of the project, program, or source code file upon which the computer programmer **3802** is authorized to work.

As illustrated in **Fig. 40**, session authentication is initiated (**Step 4002**) when the computer programmer **3802** requests access to secure server **3892**. Such request is formulated using suitable operating system computer commands on computer **3864** and presented to authentication server **3812**. In response to the request, authentication server **3812** causes the computer **3860** to prompt (**Step 4004**) the computer programmer **3802** to insert the electronic key **3850** into electronic lock **3852** (if not already done) and to provide Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, by inputting the PIN into the computer **3860** using keyboard **3864**. Once the key **3850** has been inserted into the lock **3852** and once the PIN has been input, an electronic message is composed (**Step 4006**) for sending to the authentication server **3812** for authentication and approval for access to secure server **3892**. The message is composed, for example, in the following manner.

The computer **3860** prompts the computer programmer **3802** to specify a "project name" for requested access. Once a project name is input, the computer **3860** combines the project name and account number **3916** into a message for digital signing. The message is then transmitted (**Step 4008**) via cable **3865** from the computer **3860** to the lock **3852** and then into the key **3850**. Once the message is received by the key **3850**, it originates (**Step 4010**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the key **3850**. The key **3850** then outputs (**Step 4012**) the digital signature, which is received by the lock **3852**, which forwards the same to the computer **3860**. The computer **3860** then transmits (**Step 4014**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the authentication server **3812**.

With reference to **Fig. 41**, the EC is received (**Step 4102**) by the server **3812** from the computer **3860**. The authentication server **3812** then retrieves (**Step 4104**) from the account database **3814** the public key that is identified by the account number **3916**. Using this public key, the authentication server **3812** attempts to authenticate (**Step 4106**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 4108**), then the server **3812** responds (**Step 4110**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the secure server **3892**). Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 4108**), then the authentication

server **3812** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct electronic key **3850** associated with the identified account number **3916** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The authentication server **3812** then determines (**Step 4112**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication information or status (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the authentication server **3812** responds (**Step 4110**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 4112**), then the authentication server **3812** further processes (**Step 4114**) the message. In this case, further processing includes a separate determination as to whether the computer programmer **3802** has any rights or permissions associated with the requested program or file. If not, then the authentication server **3812** responds (**Step 4110**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the computer programmer **3802** does have some rights or permissions with respect to the requested program or file, then the computer programmer **3802** is given access, as limited by those rights and permissions.

x. Secure Area Authorization Account

A tenth business application **4200** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 42**. In this example, an account holder **4202** comprising an employee possesses a device in the form of an electronic key **4250**, which is designed to interface with an electronic lock **4252**, which is connected via cable **4265** into a suitable port of a control server **4292**. The electronic lock **4252** also has associated therewith an alphanumeric keypad **4254** for input, for example, of a PIN, if necessary or desired. The electronic key **4250** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The control server **4292** electronically controls via line **4267** the locking and unlocking mechanism **4263** associated with secure door **4262** into building **4260**. The electronic key **4250** is associated with a secure area authorization account maintained by an account authority represented by a security account manager **4212** operated by the employer (not shown) of the employee **4202**. Each time the employee **4202** wants access to the building (or other secure areas that are not shown in this example), the employee **4202** must first be authenticated and approved for access to the requested area by the security account manager **4212**, which communicates with the control server via line **4269**.

Accounts maintained by the security account manager **4212** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 42** by account database **4214**. With reference to **Fig. 43**, each authorized user identified in the account database **4214** is identified by a unique account identifier comprising an account number **4316**. Each account number **4316** identifies within the account database **4214** account information **4340**, including employee-specific information **4342**, secured spaces or areas **4344**, and access requirements **4346** associated with each secured space. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **4316** also identifies public key information **4318**, which includes at least the

public key of the user of each respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **4316** identifies device profile information **4370** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 42**, the employee-specific information **4342** includes, for example, the name, email address, department, supervisor name, project(s) assignments, building location, room location, computer serial number, and the like. The list of secured spaces or areas **4344** includes, for example, the parking lot, main building entrance, floors 1-6, floors 7-10, room 610, other secure rooms, and other unspecified but secured areas. The list of access requirements **4346** identifies what "type" of entity authentication is required for access to the corresponding secured space **4344** (e.g., *none* – meaning that even a digital signature does not grant access to the corresponding space; *device* – meaning that presentation of a digital signature by the device is sufficient for access; *device* + *PIN* – meaning that a digital signature from the device plus a correct PIN is required for access to the corresponding space; *device* + *BIO* – meaning that a digital signature from the device plus a sufficient biometric specimen is required for access to the corresponding space; and *device* + *PIN* + *BIO* – meaning that a digital signature from the device plus a correct PIN plus a sufficient biometric specimen is required for access to the corresponding space). Additional business rules implemented by the security account manager **4212** determine how strong the entity authentication must actually be in order to grant access to a requested area in the building **4260**. The public key information **4318** of the account of the employee **4202** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the electronic key **4250**. The device profile information **4370** includes information specific to the electronic key **4250**. In this context, the message from the employee **4202** includes the account (employee) number **4316** for the relevant account and an instruction to the security account manager **4212**, for example, to provide access to a specified space or area **4344**.

In this business application, an EC from the employee **4202** to the security account manager **4212** is generally only used for the purpose of transaction authentication (i.e., for obtaining access to the requested secure area or resource). For this reason, the only message that generally needs to be communicated from the employee **4202** to the security account manager **4212** is one that includes the account number **4316** for the relevant account. The instruction (i1) (i.e., "give me access to the area protected by this lock **4252**") is implicit in the mere communication of the EC containing the account number **4316**.

As illustrated in **Fig. 44**, transaction authentication is initiated (**Step 4402**) when the employee **4202** attempts to access a secure space or area, such as main building entrance **4262** of main building **4260**. This occurs when the employee **4202** physically inserts the electronic key **4250** into electronic lock **4252** (since this particular lock **4252** is of the "contact" variety rather than of the "contactless" variety). The control server **4292** prompts (**Step 4404**), using an audible message that is output from a speaker (not shown) near the secure door **4262**, the employee **4202**

to input a PIN for Factor B entity authentication purposes by typing the PIN into the keypad **4254**. With the key **4250** still inserted and after the PIN has been entered, an electronic message is composed (**Step 4406**) for sending to the server **4212** (via control server **4292**) for authentication and approval for access to the main building **4260**. The message is composed, for example, by the control server **4292**, which retrieves the account number **4316** from the key **4250** and combines it with the name (or computer identification number) of the secured door **4262** the employee **4202** is trying to enter. Preferably, the control server **4292** also includes a unique session key within the message to prevent the possibility of a "replay attack" (i.e. reuse of a previous digital signature originated from the key **4250**).

The message composed by the control server **4292** is then transmitted (**Step 4408**) via cable **4265** back to the key **4250** for the origination of a digital signature. Once the message is received by the key **4250**, it originates (**Step 4410**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the key **4250**. The key **4250** then outputs (**Step 4412**) the digital signature to the lock **4252**, which forwards the same on to the control server **4292**. The control server **4292** then transmits (**Step 4414**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the security account manager **4212**.

With reference to **Fig. 45,** the EC is received (**Step 4502**) by the security account manager **4212** from the control server **4292**. The security account manager **4212** then retrieves (**Step 4504**) from the account database **4214** the public key that is identified by the account number **4316**. Using this public key, the security account manager **4212** attempts to authenticate (**Step 4506**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 4508**), then the security account manager **4212** responds (**Step 4510**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the building **4260**). Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 4508**), then the security account manager **4212** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct electronic key **4250** associated with the identified account number **4316** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The security account manager **4212** then determines (**Step 4512**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient (based on the type of entity authentication required for the particular door **4262** and based on the above-mentioned business rules) for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the security account manager **4212** responds (**Step 4510**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 4512**), then the security account manager **4212** further processes (**Step 4514**) the message.

In this case, further processing includes a separate determination as to whether the employee **4202** has any right or permission to obtain access to the requested secure area through secure door **4262**. If not, then (and even though the employee **4202** provided sufficient entity

authentication) the security account manager **4212** responds (**Step 4510**) with a rejection of the message (refusal to grant access to the requested area) and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the employee **4202** does have rights or permissions to enter the requested area, then the security account manager **4212** provides the employee **4202** with access to the requested area. More specifically, the security account manager **4212** sends an appropriate signal to the control server **4292**, which, in turn, sends a signal via line **4267** to unlock and/or open the entrance **4262**.

xi. Electronic Data Interchange with Multiple Purchasing Agents

An eleventh business application **4600** implementing the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** is illustrated in **Fig. 46**. In this example, two account holders comprising purchasing agents **4602a,4602b** each possess a device in the form of a card **4650a,4650b**, respectively, such as an IC card, which is capable of being used in a card reader **4652a,4652b**. Each card **4650a,4650b** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. In this example, each card reader **4652a,4652b** is connected via cable **4665a,4665b** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **4660a,4660b**. Both personal computers **4660a,4660b** are conventional in that they each include a monitor **4662a,4662b**, a keyboard **4664a,4664b**, and a mouse **4666a,4666b**. Both cards **4650a,4650b** are associated with a corporate purchasing account maintained by an account authority represented by a supply company **4612**. Both computers **4660a,4660b** have installed thereon suitable web browser software to enable them to communicate over the Internet **4608**, in conventional manner, such as via a modem, LAN line, etc., with a web site hosted by the supply company **4612**.

Accounts maintained with the supply company **4612** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 46** by account database **4614**. With reference to **Fig. 47**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **4716**. Each account number **4716** identifies within the account database **4614** account information **4740**, including account-specific information **4742** and purchasing agent-specific information **4744**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **4716** also identifies public key information **4718**, which includes at least a public key of each purchasing agent of each respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **4716** identifies device profile information **4770** for each device that retains a private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 46**, the account-specific information **4742** includes, for example, company name, primary company contact, email address, billing address, billing information, and list of authorized purchasing agents for the account. The purchasing agent-specific information **4744** includes, for example, agent name, purchasing agent identification number, contact information for the purchasing agent, purchasing restrictions, if any, imposed by the company on the purchasing agent, and the like. The public key information **4718** of the account of the company

includes each public key corresponding to the private key retained within the cards **4650a,4650b** of each purchasing agent. The device profile information **4770** includes information specific to each card **4650a,4650b**. Although **Fig. 46** illustrates only two purchasing agents, **Fig. 47** illustrates the fact that many more purchasing agents (n) may also be associated with this particular company account.

As stated previously, an EC from the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** to the supply company **4612** may be used for three different purposes: session authentication, transaction authentication, and transaction confirmation. For example, a common type of session authentication occurs in this business application when the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** initially attempts to login to or otherwise access the secure web site operated by the supply company **4612**. Transaction confirmation is applicable in this business application when, for example, the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** requests the purchase of a high ticket item and/or when the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** is ready to "check out" and pay for the list of items purchased. In such case, the supply company **4612** requires the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** to confirm such request by digitally signing the request with the card **4650a,4650b** (and, potentially, also providing additional entity authentication information or status).

Regardless of which type of EC is communicated from the purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** to the supply company **4612**, the basic methodology for composing and digitally signing the message (on the purchasing agent end) and for authenticating the message and authenticating the entity (on the supply company end) is essentially the same. For example, turning now to **Fig. 48**, a transaction (in this case, session authentication) is initiated (**Step 4802**) when either purchasing agent **4602a,4602b** accesses the web site of the supply company **4612** over the Internet **4608** using computer **4660a,4660b**, respectively. For the remainder of this example, we will assume that this transaction is initiated and carried out by the first purchasing agent **4602a**. First, the web site of the supply company causes the computer **4660a** to prompt (**Step 4804**) the purchasing agent **4602a** to input Factor B entity authentication information, such as a PIN, into the login screen. Once the PIN has been input into the login screen, an electronic message is composed (**Step 4806**) for sending to the supply company **4612**.

The message in this example is merely the account number **4716** associated with the corporate account maintained by the supply company **4612** on behalf of the employer of both purchasing agents **4602a,4602b**. The computer **4660a** displays a menu of available accounts from which the purchasing agent **4602a** can select. Preferably, such available accounts are stored within memory on the card **4650a** and retrieved by the computer **4660a** for selection by the purchasing agent **4602a**. Of course, if only one account is available in memory on the card **4650a**, then that account is selected by default without requiring specific selection by the purchasing agent **4602a**. Alternatively, the list of available accounts may be maintained in memory on the computer **4660a** itself and displayed for selection by the purchasing agent **4602a**.

Once the appropriate account number is selected, it is transmitted (**Step 4808**), as the message, via cable **4665a** from the computer **4660a** to the card **4650a** for digital signing by the purchasing agent **4602a**. In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the card **4650a** originates (**Step 4810**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the card **4650a**. The card **4650a** then outputs (**Step 4812**) the digital signature, which is received by the computer **4660a**. The computer **4660a** then transmits (**Step 4814**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the supply company **4812**.

With reference to **Fig. 49**, the EC is received (**Step 4902**) by the supply company **4612** from the computer **4660a**. The supply company **4612** then retrieves (**Step 4904**) from the account database **4614** all of the public keys that are identified by the account number **4716**. Using each of these public keys, the supply company **4612** sequentially attempts to authenticate (**Step 4906**) the message. Alternatively, the message may actually set forth the public key **4718** of the relevant purchasing agent **4602a** (or an appropriate purchasing agent ID which acts as a sub-account identifier) so that the supply company **4612** does not have to "guess" which public key **4718** from its database **4614** to use; however, the supply company **4612** would still need to confirm that such public key **4718** corresponds with the specified account number **4716**. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 4908**) with any of the public keys associated with the identified account **4716**, then the supply company **4612** responds (**Step 4910**) with a rejection of the message (i.e., refusal to grant access to the web site for purchasing). Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. Once the message authenticates (**Step 4908**), then the supply company **4612** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct card **4650a** associated with the identified account number **4716** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The supply company **4612** then determines (**Step 4912**) whether or not the Factor B entity authentication information or status (e.g., PIN) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the supply company **4612** responds (**Step 4910**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 4912**), then the supply company **4612** further processes (**Step 4914**) the message.

In this case, further processing includes providing the purchasing agent **4602a** with access to the web site for purchasing supplies on behalf of the employer of the purchasing agent **4602a**. Further processing also includes limiting display (or selection for purchase) of items that are not within the purchasing authority of the purchasing agent **4602a** based on the purchasing restrictions imposed on the particular purchasing agent **4602a** as set forth in the purchasing restrictions from the purchasing agent-specific information **4744** in account database **4614**.

Once in the web site, the purchasing agent **4602a** is allowed to navigate freely around the web site (except as set forth above) and make purchases on behalf of his employer. If desired, the

supply company **4612** may require additional entity authentication by the purchasing agent **4602a** using the card **4650a** for "high-ticket" or specified items on the web site. In such a case, preferably, the web site transmits a confirmation message back to the computer **4660a** for transmission to the card **4650a** for origination of a confirmation digital signature by the card **4660a**. The process of originating such a digital signature will mirror the procedure as set forth above and may include re-entry of Factor B entity authentication information or providing status of the same prior to the generation of the digital signature.

i. Specific Implementations of 3-Party ABDS Systems

As with the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2**, the three-party ABDS system **300** of **Fig. 3** can be implemented in a vast number of business applications. The specific examples set forth herein, therefore, represent only a sampling of such wide-ranging possibilities.

i. eBusiness Transaction Using Financial Institution Account

A first business application **5000** implementing the three-party ABDS system **300** of **Fig. 3** is illustrated in **Fig. 50**. In this example, an account holder comprising a purchaser **5002** possesses a device in the form of a card **5050**, such as an IC card, which is capable of being used in a card reader **5052**. The card **5050** securely protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. In this example, the card reader **5052** is connected via cable **5065** into a suitable port (USB, serial, parallel, etc.) of a personal computer **5060**. The personal computer **5060** is conventional in that it includes a monitor **5062**, a keyboard **5064**, and a mouse **5066**. The card **5050** is associated, among other accounts, with a debit or credit account maintained with an account authority comprising a financial institution **5012**. The account may be a checking account, savings account, money market account, credit card account, or the like, and the financial institution **5012** may be a bank, savings and loan, credit card company, or the like. The computer **5060** has installed thereon suitable web browser software to enable it to communicate over the Internet **5008**, in conventional manner, such as via a modem, LAN line, etc., with an intermediate party comprising an on-line merchant **5010**.

Accounts maintained with the financial institution **5012** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 50** by account database **5014**. With reference to **Fig. 51**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **5116**. Each account number **5116** identifies, within the account database **5014**, account information **5140**, including customer-specific information **5142** and account-specific information **5144**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **5116** also identifies public key information **5118**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of each respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **5116** identifies device profile information **5170** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 50**, the customer-specific information **5142** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The account-specific information **5144** includes, for example, the current account balance, available credit, closing date and balance of current statement, and associated account identifiers. The public key information **5118** of the account of the purchaser **5002** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the card **5050**. The device profile information **5170** includes information specific to the card **5050**.

With particular regard to **Fig. 52**, the purchaser **5002** initiates (**Step 5202**) a transaction with on-line merchant **5010** by accessing the web site of the on-line merchant **5010** using the web browsing software installed on the computer **5060** in conventional manner. While viewing the web site on the computer **5060**, the purchaser **5002** orders (**Step 5206**) a product, such as a book, from the on-line merchant **5010** by selecting the book for purchase in conventional manner on the web site. Preferably, the purchaser **5002** previously input (in **Step 5204**) Factor B or C entity authentication information into the computer **5060** when the card **5050** was inserted into the card reader **5052**. If the card **5050** had not been previously inserted into the card reader **5052**, the computer **5060** now prompts (**Step 5204**) the purchaser **5002** to do so and to input his relevant entity authentication information.

The step of generating a message (**Step 5208**), which will be digitally signed, occurs as follows. As part of the ordering process, the web site displays to the purchaser **5002** on monitor **5062** a payment selection screen, which, preferably, identifies the product being order and includes the price of the product plus shipping and handling. The purchaser **5002** completes the required data entry field and/or makes selections from pull-down menus on the screen of monitor **5062** in conventional manner (e.g., such fields/menus could be automatically filled in by the computer **5060** using information stored in "cookies" in known manner) in order to specify payment method (i.e. account number **5116** and type of account). Generally, it is not necessary to identify the name of the financial institution **5012** since the financial industry uses conventions by which the identity can be derived solely from the account number **5116** (such as, for example, the use of issuer identification numbers (IIN) as defined in ISO Standard 7812, which is incorporated herein by reference). No other payment information need be entered in the payment selection screen. Rather than having to submit the information to the on-line merchant **5010** in encrypted fashion, such as with Secure Socket Layering (SSL), which is conventional, the purchaser **5002** merely requests the option (on the payment method screen) of "digitally signing" the order in an "ABDS manner." In response to this selection, the computer **5060** generates a message, using the information displayed and/or input by the purchaser **5002** into the payment selection screen(s).

This message is then transmitted (**Step 5210**) via cable **5065** from the computer **5060** to the card **5050** for digital signing by the purchaser **5002**. In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the card **5050** originates (**Step 5212**) a digital signature for the message

by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the card **5050**. The card **5050** then outputs (**Step 5214**) the digital signature, which is received by the computer **5060**. The computer **5060** then transmits (**Step 5216**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the on-line merchant **5010**.

In this particular example, the instructions (i2) from the purchaser **5002** to the on-line merchant **5010** include the purchase order for the product using the payment method and account **5116** specified in the message, with delivery going to the address, if any, provided by the purchaser **5002**; thus, portions of the instruction (i2) may have been included in an electronic communication prior to the EC containing the message and digital signature and additional portions of the instruction (i2) are included within the EC containing the message and digital signature. On the other hand, the message from the purchaser **5002**, which is intended ultimately for the financial institution **5012**, includes the account number **5116** for the specified account and an instruction (i1) to the financial institution **5012** to make a payment from the account **5116** to the on-line merchant **5010** in the amount specified.

Unlike the two-party ABDS system **200**, the EC containing the message and digital signature (in this case used for transaction authentication purposes) is not sent directly to the financial institution **5012** but rather to the on-line merchant **5010**. As illustrated in **Fig. 53**, the on-line merchant **5010** receives (**Step 5302**) the EC from the purchaser **5002**, extracts (**Step 5304**) any additional instructions (i2) from the purchaser **5002** to the on-line merchant **5010** included within the EC containing the message and digital signature. The on-line merchant **5010** then forwards (**Step 5306**) the EC containing the message and digital signature to the financial institution **5012** for authentication and authorization of payment. The on-line merchant **5010** then places (**Step 5308**) these instructions (i2) (i.e., the purchase request) "on hold" pending approval of payment from the financial institution **5012**, while it waits (**Step 5310**) for a response from the financial institution **5012**.

With reference to **Fig. 54**, the EC is received (**Step 5402**) by the financial institution **5012** from the on-line merchant **5010**. The financial institution **5012** then retrieves (**Step 5404**) from the account database **5014** the public key that is identified by the account number **5116**. Using this public key, the financial institution **5012** attempts to authenticate (**Step 5406**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 5408**), then the financial institution **5012** responds (**Step 5410**) to the on-line merchant **5010** with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 5408**), then the financial institution **5012** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct card **5050** associated with the identified account number **5116** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The financial institution **5012** then determines (**Step 5412**) whether or not the Factor B or C entity authentication information or status provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the financial institution **5012** responds (**Step 5410**)

with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 5412**), then the financial institution **5012** proceeds with further processing (discussed below) of the message.

In the present example, further processing of the message includes a determination (**Step 5414**) as to whether the instruction (i1) is capable of being performed. For example, even though the message authenticated, the purchaser may not have enough money or credit associated with the account for the financial institution **5012** to approve the transaction. Thus, making such a determination typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record and confirming that the funds are available. If the determination (in **Step 5414**) is negative, then the financial institution **5012** responds (**Step 5410**) to the on-line merchant **5010** with a rejection of the message. Again, such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the determination in **Step 5414** is positive, then the financial institution **5012** performs (**Step 5416**) the instruction (i1). In this example, the instruction (i1) from the purchaser **5002** is to pay the on-line merchant **5010** the specified amount of funds from the account for the purchase of the product. Thus, performing (**Step 5416**) the instruction typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record, initiating transfer of the specified amount of funds from the account of the purchaser **5002** to the on-line merchant **5010**, and debiting/updating the account record accordingly. (It should be noted that the steps of transferring the funds and debiting the account may not occur contemporaneously with the other steps). The financial institution **5012** also notifies (**Step 5418**) the on-line merchant **5010** of the approval of the message and the initiation of the payment.

Referring back to **Fig. 53**, once the on-line merchant **5010** receives the response from the financial institution **5012**, the determination in **Step 5310** is positive. The on-line merchant **5010** next determines (**Step 5312**) whether the response is an approval or rejection of the transaction. If the transaction is not approved by the financial institution **5012**, then the on-line merchant **5010** notifies (**Step 5314**) the purchaser **5002** that the message was rejected (i.e., payment was not approved) and that the instructions (i2) are not being executed (i.e., that the product is not being shipped because of the payment rejection). On the other hand, if the determination in **Step 5312** is positive, then the on-line merchant **5010** executes (**Step 5316**) the instructions (i2) that had previously been put on hold. In this case, the on-line merchant **5010** initiates shipment of the product purchased by the purchaser **5002**. Next, the on-line merchant **5010** notifies (**Step 5318**) the purchaser **5002** that the transaction (i.e. payment) was approved and that the instructions (i2) are being or have been executed (i.e., that the product is being shipped to the address as requested).

ii. Digital Gift Check Using Financial Institution Account

A second business application **5500** implementing the three-party ABDS system **300** of **Fig. 3** is illustrated in **Fig. 55**. In this example, the account holder comprises a gift giver **5502**, who possesses a device in the form of a personal digital assistant (PDA) **5550**. The PDA **5550** securely

protects therein a private key of a public-private key pair. The PDA **5550** includes an interactive display screen **5552** and user input keys **5556**. Further, the PDA **5550** has been suitably equipped with a wireless modem for digital communications over a wireless communications network **5508**. The PDA **5550** is associated with a debit or credit account maintained with an account authority comprising a gift clearing house or gift processor **5512**. The account may be a checking account, savings account, money market account, credit card account, or the like, and the gift processor **5512** may be a financial institution, such as bank, savings and loan, credit card company, or the like, or a company or business unit specifically established for the purpose of enabling digital checks or monetary gifts to be transmitted electronically within an ABDS system. The PDA **5550** has installed thereon suitable software to enable it to generate and transmit an email over the network **5508**, in conventional manner, to a gift recipient **5510**, who has a computer **5590**, which is capable of receiving and forwarding emails received over, for example, the network **5508** and/or the Internet **5511**. Alternatively, the PDA **5550** has installed thereon software provided by the gift processor **5512** specifically for the purpose of composing, generating, and sending such an email (or other electronic communication readable by email or standard web browser software).

Accounts maintained with the gift processor **5512** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 55** by account database **5514**. With reference to **Fig. 56**, each account includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **5616**. Each account number **5616** identifies, within the account database **5514**, account information **5640**, including customer-specific information **5642** and account-specific information **5644**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **5616** also identifies public key information **5618**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of each respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **5616** identifies device profile information **5670** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 55**, the customer-specific information **5642** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of the account holder. The account-specific information **5644** includes, for example, the current account balance, available credit, current statement of the account holder, and payment account alternatives. The public key information **5618** of the account of the gift giver **5502** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the PDA **5550**. The device profile information **5670** includes information specific to the PDA **5550**.

With particular regard to **Fig. 57**, the purchaser **5002** initiates the giving of a digital check or monetary gift to the gift recipient **5510** by launching (**Step 5702**) the appropriate email or gift giving software (provided by the gift processor **5512**) on the PDA **5550**. If Factor B or C entity authentication information, such as a PIN or biometric information, had not already been input into

the PDA **5550** by the gift giver **5502**, the PDA **5550** prompts (**Step 5704**) the gift giver **5502** to do so now.

Once such Factor B or C entity authentication information has been input, the gift giver **5502** generates (**Step 5706**) a message. This is done either by composing an email or composing a suitable "digital check" using the pre-installed software. Regardless, the message must contain the following information: name and email address of the gift recipient **5510**, amount of the gift, and the account number **5616** of the account upon which the gift will be drawn. If the gift giver **5502** uses a standard email program, the appropriate email address or web address for the gift processor **5512** must be included in the message composed, so that the gift recipient **5510** knows where to go to claim the electronic gift or digital check. If the gift giver **5502** uses the preinstalled software from the gift processor **5512**, such software will automatically append such appropriate contact information for the gift processor **5512** into the message after the gift giver **5502** has composed it. Once such message is completed, the gift giver **5502** digitally signs the message using the PDA **5550**.

The PDA **5550** originates (**Step 5708**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the PDA **5550**. The PDA **5550** then outputs (**Step 5710**) the digital signature and message to the "outbox" within its email program. The PDA **5550** establishes a wireless connection with its email service provider over the network **5508** and transmits (**Step 5712**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC in the form of an email to the gift recipient **5510** - using the email address for the gift recipient **5510** provided by the gift giver **5502** when generating the message.

As illustrated in **Fig. 58**, the gift recipient **5510** receives (**Step 5802**) the EC containing the message and digital signature (again, used in this case for transaction authentication purposes) using the standard email software the gift recipient **5510** has on computer **5590**. Upon receipt of the EC, the gift recipient **5510** merely needs to forward (**Step 5804**) the EC containing the message and digital signature to the gift processor **5512** for authentication and payment using the identified email or web address contained within the EC. Presumably, such email from the gift recipient **5510** to the gift processor **5512** is transmitted via the Internet **5511** or other conventional communications network. The gift recipient **5510** then merely waits for instructions from the gift processor **5512** for how to obtain the gift or for notification that the gift has been deposited in an account of the gift recipient **5510** - if arrangements between the gift recipient **5510** and gift processor **5512** are already in place for such a deposit.

With reference to **Fig. 59**, the EC is received (**Step 5902**) by the gift processor **5512** from the gift recipient **5510**. The gift processor **5512** then retrieves (**Step 5904**) from the account database **5514** the public key that is identified by the account number **5616**. Using this public key, the gift processor **5512** attempts to authenticate (**Step 5906**) the message. If the message does not

authenticate (in **Step 5908**), then the gift processor **5512** responds (**Step 5910**) to the gift recipient **5510** with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 5908**), then the gift processor **5512** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct PDA **5550** associated with the identified account number **5616** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The gift processor **5512** then determines (**Step 5912**) whether or not the Factor B or C entity authentication information or status provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the gift processor **5512** responds (**Step 5910**) with a rejection of the message and, again, such response may indicate the reason for the rejection, if desired. If the Factor B or C entity authentication information or status is sufficient (in **Step 5912**), then the gift processor **5512** proceeds with further processing (discussed below) of the message.

In the present example, further processing of the message includes a determination (**Step 5914**) as to whether the instruction (i1) is capable of being performed. For example, even though the message authenticated, the gift giver **5502** may not have enough money or credit associated with the account for the gift processor **5512** to approve the transaction. Thus, making such a determination typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record and confirming that the funds are available. If the determination (in **Step 5914**) is negative, then the gift processor **5512** responds (**Step 5910**) to the gift recipient **5510** with a rejection of the message. Again, such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the determination in **Step 5914** is positive, then the gift processor **5512** performs (**Step 5916**) the instruction (i1). In this example, the instruction (i1) from the gift giver **5502** is to pay the gift recipient **5510** the specified amount of funds from the account as a gift or donation, as the case may be. Thus, performing (**Step 5916**) the instruction typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record, conditionally debiting the specified amount of funds from the account of the gift giver **5502** and updating the account record accordingly. The gift processor **5512** then notifies (**Step 5918**) the gift recipient **5510** of the approval of the message and, if necessary, provides the gift recipient **5510** with instructions for obtaining the monetary amount of the gift.

Referring back to **Fig. 58**, the gift recipient **5510** then receives (**Step 5806**) the response from the gift processor **5512** (which includes instructions for obtaining the gift if the gift recipient **5510** does not already have an account setup with the gift processor **5512** for receiving such gift amount).

iii. Point of Sale Transaction Using Financial Institution Account

A third business application **6000** implementing the three-party ABDS system **300** of **Fig. 3** is illustrated in **Fig. 60**. In this example, an account holder comprising a purchaser **6002** possesses a device in the form of a card **6050**, such as an IC card, which is capable of being used at a point of sale location. A point of sale card reader **6052** includes an alphanumeric keypad **6056**, a display **6054**, and, in this case, a thumbprint reader **6058**. The point of sale card reader **6052** is in

communication via data connector **6064** with a merchant cash register/terminal **6060**, which has its own display **6062**. The point of sale card reader **6052** is also in communication with a standard financial network **6008**, which is in communication with and has the capability of correctly routing communications between merchants and various financial institutions represented, in this example, by financial institutions **6012,6022,6032**. Each financial institution **6012,6022,6032** is, for example, a bank, savings and loan, credit card company, and the like. Accounts maintained with the financial institutions **6012,6022,6032** are associated with account records maintained in one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 60** by account databases **6014,6024,6034**, respectively. In this example, financial institution **6012** maintains a banking or credit card account on behalf of the authorized user of the card **6050**. It is also assumed, in this example, that the card **6050** is associated with the account of the authorized user of the card **6050** in account database **6014**.

With reference to **Fig. 61**, each account in database **6014** includes a unique account identifier comprising an account number **6116**. Each account number **6116** identifies, within the account database **6014**, account information **6140**, including customer-specific information **6142** and account-specific information **6144**. In accordance with the present invention, the account number **6116** also identifies public key information **6118**, which includes at least a public key of an account holder of each respective account. Also in accordance with a feature of the present invention, the account number **6116** identifies device profile information **6170** for the device that retains the private key corresponding with the public key associated with the account.

In the example of **Fig. 60**, the customer-specific information **6142** includes, for example, the name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number of each account holder. The account-specific information **6144** includes, for example, the current account balance, available credit, closing date and balance of current statement, and associated account identifiers. The public key information **6118** of the account of the purchaser **6002** includes the public key corresponding to the private key retained within the card **6050**. The device profile information **6170** includes information specific to the card **6050**.

With particular regard to **Fig. 62**, the purchaser **6002** initiates (**Step 6202**) a transaction with a merchant when the purchaser **6002** requests to pay for an item at the merchant cash register/terminal **6060**. The merchant "rings up" (**Step 6204**) the item on the merchant cash register/terminal **6060** and the total balance due is displayed to the purchaser **6002** on the display **6062**. To pay, the purchaser **6002** inserts (**Step 6206**) the card **6050** into the point of sale card reader **6052** (or brings the card **6050** into proximity to the card reader **6052** if both the card reader **6052** and the card **6050** are equipped for contactless proximity communications in accordance with ISO/IEC Standard 14443, which is incorporated herein by reference). Upon insertion (or approach), the point of sale card reader **6052** is initialized (**Step 6208**), which, at a minimum, provides power from the point of sale card reader **6052** to the card **6050**.

Next, the merchant cash register/terminal **6060** transmits (**Step 6210**) the balance due to the point of sale card reader **6052** via data connector **6064**. The point of sale card reader **6052** displays (**Step 6212**) the balance due on display **6054**. Preferably, the point of sale card reader **6052** retrieves (**Step 6214**) a list of all available (or at least the two to five primary) payment accounts maintained in memory on the card **6050** and displays (**Step 6216**) them for selection by the purchaser **6002**. If there is more than one account from which to choose, the purchaser **6002** then selects (**Step 6218**) one of the listed accounts (or a plurality of accounts if the amount of the purchase is going to be split between or among more than one account). The display **6054** prompts (**Step 6220**) the purchaser **6002** to provide Factor B and C entity authentication information, such as a PIN and right thumbprint, using the alphanumeric keypad **6056** and thumbprint scanner **6058** – but only if he approves of the proposed transaction (including amount of the purchase and the use of the selected account(s) for payment). Once the PIN and thumbprint have been input, the point of sale card reader **6052** transmits (**Step 6222**) the PIN and digitized version of the thumbprint to the card **6050**. The card reader **6052** next transmits (**Step 6224**) data representing the message to the card **6050** for digital signature.

In this regard, upon receipt of data representing the message, the card **6050** originates (**Step 6226**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the card **6050**. The card **6050** then outputs (**Step 6228**) the digital signature, which is received by the point of sale card reader **6052**. The point of sale card reader **6052** then transmits (**Step 6230**) the message and the digital signature therefor in an EC to the financial institution **6012** (via financial network **6008**) and waits (**Step 6232**) for a response from the financial institution **6012**. In this case, the EC is used for transaction authentication purposes.

With reference to **Fig. 63**, after the financial network **6008** has correctly routed the EC, it is received (**Step 6302**) by the financial institution **6012** from the point of sale card reader **6052**. The financial institution **6012** then retrieves (**Step 6304**) from the account database **6014** the public key that is identified by the account number **6116**. Using this public key, the financial institution **6012** attempts to authenticate (**Step 6306**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 6308**), then the financial institution **6012** responds (**Step 6310**) to the merchant (via financial network **6008** and point of sale card reader **6052**) with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 6308**), then the financial institution **6012** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct card **6050** associated with the identified account number **6116** – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The financial institution **6012** then determines (**Step 6312**) whether or not the Factor B and C entity authentication information (e.g., PIN and thumbprint) provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the financial institution **6012** responds (**Step 6310**) to the merchant (via financial network **6008** and

point of sale card reader **6052**) with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection, if desired. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 6312**), then the financial institution **6012** proceeds with further processing (discussed below) of the message.

In the present example, further processing of the message includes a determination (**Step 6314**) as to whether the instruction (i1) is capable of being performed. If it is not possible to execute the instruction (i1), then the financial institution **6012** responds (**Step 6310**) with a rejection of the message. For example, even though the message authenticated, the purchaser **6050** may not have enough money or credit associated with the account for the financial institution **6012** to approve the transaction. Thus, making such a determination typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record and confirming that the funds are available. If the determination (in **Step 6314**) is negative, then the financial institution **6012** responds (**Step 6310**) to the merchant (via financial network **6008** and point of sale card reader **6052**) with a rejection of the message. Again, such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the determination in **Step 6314** is positive, then the financial institution **6012** performs (**Step 6316**) the instruction (i1). In this example, the instruction (i1) from the purchaser **6002** is to pay the merchant the specified amount of funds from the specified account for the purchase of the product. Thus, performing (**Step 6316**) the instruction typically involves accessing the relevant portion(s) of the account record, initiating transfer of the specified amount of funds from the account of the purchaser **6002** to the merchant (in known manner), and debiting/updating the account record accordingly. (As stated in a previous business application, the above processing of the instruction does not necessarily take place contemporaneously with the other steps described herein). The financial institution **6012** also notifies (**Step 6318**) the merchant (via financial network **6008** and point of sale card reader **6052**) of the approval of the transaction.

Referring back to **Fig. 62**, once the merchant receives the response from the financial institution **6012**, the determination in **Step 6232** is positive. The merchant next determines (**Step 6234**) whether the response is an approval or rejection of the transaction. If the financial institution 6012 does not approve the transaction, then the merchant notifies (**Step 6236**) the purchaser **6002** that the transaction was not approved. On the other hand, if the determination in **Step 6234** is positive, then the merchant completes the sale (**Step 6238**) by giving the purchaser **6002** the merchandise and a receipt.

As can be seen from the above example, the EC from the purchaser **6002** acts as a transaction authentication for the requested purchase and payment method even though it may, in fact, pass through many "hands" (via the financial network **6008**) before it finally reaches the financial institution **6012** for processing and authentication.

2. The "Person-Centric Device"

The second aspect of the present invention incorporates the ABDS system of the first aspect of the present invention, and includes, in addition thereto, the association of the public key

(PuK) of a device of an account holder with multiple accounts rather than a single account. Furthermore, of the multiple accounts, some accounts may be maintained by the same account authority (as shown by the third potential setup described in association with Fig. 2a) and some accounts may be maintained by separate account authorities. Since the same device is associated with multiple accounts and is not representative of any single account, but rather, is representative of the account holder, such a device is referred to herein as a "person-centric device."

It will be immediately apparent that the person-centric device enables the account holder to register the single device for use with multiple accounts, thereby eliminating the need to have a multitude of credit cards, IC cards, ID cards, and the like. For example, a person-centric device can be associated with one or more bank accounts, credit card accounts, frequent flyer accounts, frequent diner accounts, gas card accounts, calling card accounts, building ID accounts, parking deck accounts, and the like.

When used, the person-centric device originates a digital signature for a message just like the devices as described with regard to the first aspect of the present invention. Specifically, the person-centric device generates a digital signature by encrypting a hash value of message using the private key retained in the person-centric device. Also, in some embodiments of the device, the person-centric device calculates the hash value of the message by applying the appropriate hashing algorithm. Further, in some embodiments, the person-centric device also composes the message.

The message itself is the same as described with regard to the first aspect of the invention; namely, it includes an instruction and a unique identifier corresponding to an account. However, in the ABDS system utilizing the person-centric device, the unique identifier in a particular message must correspond to an account maintained by the account authority that receives the message. In order to insure delivery of the electronic communication over the communications medium to the proper account authority, the electronic communication is sent over a closed communications medium that is dedicated to the particular account authority or, if the communications medium is an open network such as the Internet, the electronic communication needs to include enough information to identify the account authority that needs to receive the electronic communication for authentication and approval of the message. Identification of the appropriate account authority may be accomplished in many different ways. For example, the account number itself may provide any intermediate or routing entities with sufficient information to know which account authority should receive the electronic communication. In another example, such information may be directly input into the message by the account holder during the composition of a message or by the device or I/O support element during the message composition or as part of the transmission of the electronic communication.

a. Two-Party ABDS System Using Person-Centric Device

Referring now to **Fig. 64**, a first preferred implementation of an ABDS system **6400** utilizing a "generic" person-centric device **6450** is illustrated. The person-centric device **6450** can

be similar or identical to any of the devices previously described with regard to the first aspect of the invention. Thus, the person-centric device **6450** securely protects a private key of a public/private key pair therein. Further, the person-centric device **6450** is able to communicate over the communications medium **6408**, which includes the Internet, in the same manner in which any of the previously described devices communicate.

The ABDS system **6400** also includes a device user who becomes an account holder **6402** once at least one account has been established with one of the account authorities **6412,6422,6432**. Each of the account authorities **6412, 6422, 6432** maintains one or more account databases, collectively referred to and illustrated in **Fig. 64** by account database **6414,6424,6434**, respectively. As in the first aspect of the present invention, each of these account databases **6414,6424,6434** maintains records of account holders, and the database records are indexed by unique identifiers, preferably represented by unique account numbers.

In the present illustration, the account holder **6402** has established one account with account authority **6412**, the account having a unique identifier designated by "acctID(a)." The account holder **6402** has also established one account with account authority **6422**, this account having a unique identifier designated by "acctID(b)." Additionally, the account holder **6402** has established two accounts with account authority **6432**, one account having a unique identifier designated by "acctID(c1)" and the other account designated by "acctID(c2)." It should be noted that even though the account holder **6402** has four different accounts with three different account authorities, each account database record includes therein the same public key (PuK) as shown in **Figs. 64a,64b,64c**. The process by which account holder **6402** registers the person-centric device **6450** and, correspondingly, the public key of the person-centric device **6450** with each respective account authority **6412,6422,6432** is comparable to the registration process described for the first aspect of the present invention.

The process by which the account holder **6402** communicates directly with any one of the account authorities **6412,6422,6432** is also the same as or similar to any one of the processes described with regard to the two-party ABDS system **200** of **Fig. 2** and any of the specific two-party ABDS business applications described in **Figs. 6-49**. For example, as shown in **Fig. 65**, the account holder **6402** initiates a communication with any specific one of the account authorities **6412,6422,6432** first by establishing (**Step 6502**) an electronic connection with the desired account authority. Next, the account holder **6402** inputs (**Step 6504**) entity authentication information, such as a PIN, password, passphrase, or biometric information, associated with the device **6450** into the device **6450**. Next the account holder **6402** generates (**Step 6506**) a message. If not already in the device **6450**, the message is then imported/transmitted (**Step 6508**) into the person-centric device **6450**, which originates (**Step 6510**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the device **6450**. In an alternative and less preferred embodiment, the hash value of the message is

calculated outside of the device and then provided to the device merely for the purpose of encryption of such hash value for the digital signature. The device **6450** then outputs (**Step 6512**) the digital signature from the digital signature component of the device. The message and digital signature therefore are then transmitted (**Step 6514**) to the appropriate account authority.

It should be noted that the exact process of generating a message and the process of generating a digital signature for the message will vary depending upon the specific form of the person-centric device **6450** and the particular environment in which it is used (e.g. use with an I/O support element). For example, if the person-centric device **6450** is a cell phone or PDA, the message and the hash value of the message is preferably generated and calculated, respectively, directly on the person-centric device **6450** and then digitally-signed. If the person-centric device **6450** is a dongle, an electronic key used in combination with an electronic lock, or a card used in combination with a card reader, all of which are preferably used in conjunction with the account holder's computer, then the message is generated on or received by the computer, the hash value is either generated by the computer and transmitted to the person-centric device **6450** or the person-centric device **6450** receives the message and generates the hash value itself, and then the person-centric device **6450** originates the digital signature for the message. If the person-centric device is a subcutaneous implant, a personal item, or a card capable of being used at a public interface location, such as an ATM machine, a card reader, an RF receiver/transmitter, or point of sale reader, then the message and hash value of the message are preferably generated external from the person-centric device **6450**, the hash value is transmitted to the person-centric device **6450**, and then the person-centric device **6450** originates the digital signature for the message.

Preferably, regardless of the particular type of person-centric device **6450** used, each account number (or associated unique account identifier) is stored in memory within the person-centric device **6450**.

Finally, the person-centric device **6450**, with or without assistance from an I/O support element or other external apparatus, transmits the message and digital signature in an electronic communication over the communications medium **6408** to the particular account authority with which the person-centric device **6450** has already established an electronic connection. Regardless of how the message is generated above, it preferably includes the unique account identifier and the instruction (i1) to be executed by the account authority. In addition, as long as the person-centric device **6450** is communicating with an account authority with which he has only one registered account associated with the public key, the unique account identifier can actually be the public key itself. Thus, the public key is usable as the unique account identifier for direct two party communications between the account holder **6402** and account authorities **6412** and **6422**, but not for communications with account authority **6432**, which maintains two separate accounts for the account holder **6402**, both of which are associated with the same public key.

The steps performed by the account authority **6412,6422,6432** in response to an electronic communication received from the account holder **6402** are essentially the same as the steps performed by the particular account authority in any of the specific two-party ABDS business applications of **Figs. 6-49** with the only variation arising from the contents of the instruction (i1) and the type of business in which the account authority is engaged or the type of account which is maintained by the account authority. The generic steps performed are set forth in **Fig. 66** and include the steps of: receiving the electronic communication (**Step 6602**), retrieving the public key from the associated record in the account database (**Step 6604**), and attempting to authenticate (**Step 6606**) the message using the public key so obtained. If the message authenticates (in **Step 6608**), the account authority then determines (**Step 6612**) whether sufficient entity authentication has been provided. If there has been sufficient entity authentication, then the account authority further processes (**Step 6614**) the message, which includes performing (or at least attempting to perform) the instruction (i1). If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 6608**), if there is not sufficient entity authentication (in **Step 6612**), or if it is not possible to execute the instruction (i1) (in **Step 6614**), then the account authority responds (**Step 6610**) to the sender of the electronic communication with a rejection of the message and, potentially, with a basis or reason for the rejection.

b. Three-Party ABDS System Using Person-Centric Device

Referring now to **Fig. 67**, a second preferred implementation of an ABDS system **6700** utilizing a person-centric device **6750** is illustrated. The only significant differences between this second preferred implementation of **Fig. 67** and the first preferred implementation of **Fig. 64** are the addition of intermediate party **6710** and the fact that an electronic communication from the account holder **6702** to one of the account authorities **6712,6722,6732** is communicated to the intermediate party **6710**, which then forwards an electronic communication to the appropriate account authority **6712,6722,** or **6732** designated by the account holder **6702**. The methodology of a three-party ABDS transaction with a person-centric device **6750** is quite similar to the methodology of a three-party ABDS transaction previously described with reference to **Figs. 50-63**.

With particular regard to **Fig. 68**, the account holder **6702** initiates a transaction (**Step 6802**) with intermediate party **6710** first by establishing an electronic connection over communications medium **6708** with the intermediate party **6710** using the person-centric device **6750**. Again, the exact form of the person-centric device **6750** may vary but is similar or identical to any of the devices described with regard to the first aspect of the invention. Preferably, the account holder **6702** next inputs (**Step 6804**) entity authentication information, such as a PIN, password, passphrase, or biometric information, associated with the device **6750** into the device **6750**. By means of the electronic connection, the account holder **6702** formulates (**Step 6806**) an instruction (i2) that the account holder **6702** wants the intermediate party **6710** to perform. In order

for the intermediate party **6710** to perform the instruction (i2), the intermediate party **6710** needs authorization and approval from one of the account holder's account authorities **6712,6722,6732**. For this reason, the account holder **6702** generates (**Step 6808**) a message for the purpose of obtaining such authorization and approval from the appropriate account authority.

In order for the intermediate party **6710** to know which of the account holder's account authorities should receive the message, either the account number itself should identify the appropriate account authority or the electronic communication should indicate which account authority (AA#) needs to receive the electronic communication for authentication and approval of the transaction.

Once the message has been composed, it should be transmitted/provided (**Step 6810**) to the device **6750** (unless the message was actually composed by or within the device **6750**). The device **6750** then originates (**Step 6812**) a digital signature for the message by first calculating a hash value for the data and then encrypting the hash value using the private key retained within the device **6750**. In an alternative and less preferred embodiment, the hash value of the message is calculated outside of the device **6750** and then provided to the device **6750** merely for the purpose of encryption of such hash value for the digital signature. The device **6750** then outputs (**Step 6814**) the digital signature from the digital signature component of the device **6750**. The message, digital signature therefore, and instruction (i2) are then transmitted (**Step 6816**) to the intermediate party **6710** via the communications medium **6708**. As described in other places throughout this specification, the person-centric device **6750** may require the assistance of an I/O support element or other external device (not shown) in order to complete the step of transmitting the electronic communication to the intermediate party **6710**.

As illustrated in **Fig. 69**, the intermediate party receives (**Step 6902**) the electronic communication from the account holder **6702**. The intermediate party **6710** extracts (**Step 6904**) any instructions (i2) from the account holder **6702** to the intermediate party **6710**, including information (AA#) as to the identity of the account authority that needs to receive the forwarded electronic communication. As shown in **Fig. 67**, the instructions (i2) inform the intermediate party **6710** that account authority **6712** is the appropriate account authority for receiving the forwarded electronic communication. The intermediate party **6710** forwards (**Step 6906**) the electronic communication containing the message and digital signature to the account authority **6712** for authentication and approval of the instruction (i1). The intermediate party **6710** then places (**Step 6908**) these instructions (i2) (e.g., the purchase request) "on hold" pending approval of the message payment from the account authority **6712**, while it waits (**Step 6910**) for a response from the account authority **6712**.

Referring now to **Fig. 70**, the steps performed by the account authority **6712** in response to an electronic communication received from the account holder **6702** via the intermediate party **6710** will now be discussed in greater detail. First, the account authority **6712** receives (**Step 7002**)

the electronic communication from the intermediate party **6710**. Using the account number (acctID(#)) provided in the electronic communication, the account authority **6712** retrieves (**Step 7004**) the public key from the associated record in the account database **6714**. Using this public key, the account authority **6712** attempts to authenticate (**Step 7006**) the message. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 7008**), then the account authority **6712** responds (**Step 7010**) with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the message authenticates (in **Step 7008**), then the account authority **6712** concludes that the message, in fact, came from the person possessing the correct device **6750** associated with the identified account number – (i.e., Factor A Entity Authentication is obtained). The account authority **6712** then determines (**Step 7012**) whether or not the entity authentication provided is sufficient for further processing of the specific message. If not, then the account authority **6712** responds (**Step 7010**) with a rejection of the message. Such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the entity authentication is sufficient (in **Step 7012**), then the account authority **6712** proceeds with further processing (discussed below) of the message.

The further processing of the message includes a determination (**Step 7014**) as to whether the instruction (i1) is capable of being performed. For example, even though the message authenticates, the account of the account holder **6702** may not be authorized or capable of handling the instruction (i1) in such a manner for the account authority **6712** to approve the instruction (i1) or message. If the determination (in **Step 7014**) is negative, then the account authority **6712** responds (**Step 7010**) to the intermediate party **6710** with a rejection of the message. Again, such a response may indicate the reason for the rejection. If the determination in **Step 7014** is positive, then the account authority **6712** performs (**Step 7016**) the instruction (i1). The account authority **6712** also notifies (**Step 7018**) the intermediate party **6710** of the approval of the message and the execution of instruction (i1).

Referring back to **Fig. 69**, once the intermediate party **6710** receives the response from the account authority **6712**, the determination in **Step 6910** is positive. The intermediate party **6710** next determines (**Step 6912**) whether the response is an approval or rejection of the transaction. If the account authority **6712** does not approve the transaction, then the intermediate party **6710** notifies (**Step 6914**) the account holder **6702** that the message was rejected and that the instructions (i2) are not being executed. On the other hand, if the determination in **Step 6912** is positive, then the intermediate party **6710** executes (**Step 6916**) the instructions (i2) that had previously been put on hold. Next, the intermediate party **6710** notifies (**Step 6918**) the account holder **6702** that the transaction was approved and that the instructions (i2) are being or have been executed.

3. The Central Key Authority

The third aspect of the present invention incorporates the ABDS system of the first and second aspects of the present invention and includes, in addition thereto, the maintenance of a

database of certain PuK-linked account information (herein "Registration Information") of a user of a device. In other words, the database identifies a plurality of accounts with which a public key is associated. The entity that maintains this database is referred to herein as a "Central Key Authority."

The Registration Information includes the public key (PuK) and one or more of the following types of information relating to a particular device that generates digital signatures: the identity of third-parties with which the user of the device has PuK-linked accounts for the device and respective account identifiers that identify each PuK-linked account of the user to the respective third-party; information linked with the public key of the device in accordance with the other aspects of the present invention; user-specific information, such as the user's mailing address, credit card information, age; and, if applicable, the authentication techniques that were employed in verifying the user-specific information maintained by the Central Key Authority. Furthermore, the Central Key Authority preferably indexes the Registration Information of the user to the public key of the user such that the Registration Information may be retrieved based on the public key. In other words, the user of the device is an "account holder" of the Central Key Authority.

In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, the Central Key Authority disseminates some or all of the Registration Information, as appropriate or as requested, to a third-party. Registration Information is disseminated when the user has an ABDS account with a third-party or desires to establish a new ABDS account with a third-party—and desires to send ECs with messages containing an instruction that represents a transaction on the account, such message being digitally signed using the device. The dissemination of the Registration Information occurs, for example, when Registration Information maintained by a third-party has become outdated for a particular account.

The Registration Information maintained by the Central Key Authority is obtained in various ways. For example, the public key and information linked therewith preferably is obtained from the manufacturer of the device or other reliable entity possessing the public key and Security Profile of the device. The identity of the third-parties with which the user has PuK-linked accounts for the device, and the account identifier that identifies the PuK-linked account of the user to each such third-party, preferably is obtained from the user, and is obtained when the user registers with the Central Key Authority; when, at the instruction of the user, the Central Key Authority establishes an account on behalf of the user with a third-party; or when the third-party, at the instruction of the user, requests the Registration Information from the Central Key Authority.

An example of the convenience that may be provided by the Central Key Authority in accordance with this third aspect of the present invention comprises the updating of PuK-linked accounts of a user with a new device of the user in place of the user's old (and possibly outdated) device. Such an update preferably is accomplished by merely sending an EC to the Central Key

Authority including the public key of the old device and a message including an instruction to associate an expressly identified public key of the new device with expressly identified third-party accounts that is digitally signed using the old device.

Upon receipt of such an EC, the Central Key Authority authenticates the message of the EC using the identified public key of the old device. Upon successful authentication, the Central Key Authority retrieves the Registration Information for the public key corresponding with the old device. The Central Key Authority then updates the Registration Information with the public key of the new device, and then transmits an EC to each of the third-parties expressly identified by the user, the EC requesting each third-party to associate their respective account records of the user with the public key of the new device in place of the previous public key of the user. The instruction preferably is digitally signed using a private key of the Central Key Authority and may include the original EC received by the Central Key Authority from the user.

The above generally-described systems are illustrated more specifically in the following **Figs. 71a-72**. A system **7100a** in accordance with the third aspect of the invention including a Central Key Authority **7190** and database **7194** of account records is illustrated in **Fig. 71a**. Once again, an account holder **7102** possesses a device **7150**, which securely protects a unique private key of a public-private key pair. Preferably, the device also retains the public key (PuK1) **7118** therein, which is capable of being exported from the device **7150**. As can be seen in **Fig. 71a**, the public key (PuK1) of the device **7150** has been previously registered with account authority **7112** and associated with an account having the unique account identifier "acctID(a)" and stored in an account record in account database **7114** (based on the public key (PuK1) that is retrievable from database **7114** in response to input of account number (acctID(a)).

The account holder **7102** also possesses another device **7151**, which in this illustration is a person-centric device, as described with regard to the second aspect of the present invention. The person-centric device **7151** securely protects a different private key of a public-private key pair therein. Preferably, the device **7151** also retains the public key (PuK2) **7128** therein, which is capable of being exported from the device **7151**. As can be seen from the illustration in **Fig. 71a**, the public key (PuK2) of the person-centric device **7151** has been registered with two different account authorities: with account authority **7122**, the PuK2 is associated with an account having the unique account identifier "acctID(b)" and stored in an account record in account database **7124**; and with account authority **7132**, the PuK2 is associated with at least two separate accounts having the unique account identifiers "acctID(c1)" and "acctID(c2)." Both accounts acctID(c1) and acctID(c2) are stored in a respective account record in account database **7134**.

In establishing a database account with the Central Key Authority **7190**, with reference to **Figs. 71a** and **72**, the account holder **7102** preferably provides the Central Key Authority **7190** with the following information for *each* account to be tracked: the public key **7118,7128** of each respective device **7150,7151** that is associated with an account (recorded in column **7218** of **Fig.**

72); the unique identifier (e.g., acctID(a); acctID(b); acctID(c1); acctID(c2)) and other account-specific information, such as the identity of the account authority and the type of account, for each specific account (recorded in column **7244** of **Fig. 72**). The account holder **7102** also preferably provides customer-specific (i.e., personal) information to the Central Key Authority **7190** (recorded in column **7242** of **Fig. 72**) as well as device profile information regarding each device **7150,7151** associated with such accounts (recorded in column **7240** of **Fig. 72**). Other account attributes may also be recorded in the account database **7194** and obtained either from the account holder **7102** or directly from the respective account authority **7112,7122,7132**. Preferably, the Central Key Authority **7190** assigns the account holder **7102** with a unique account identifier, such as a registration account number "RacctID(a)," (recorded in column **7230** of **Fig. 72**).

Still with reference to **Fig. 71a**, account holder **7102** is capable of communicating electronically with the Central Key Authority **7190** in a two-party ABDS manner (as described with respect the first aspect of the invention) over communications medium **7108**. In other words, the account holder **7102** may register a device **7150** or new account associated with the person-centric device **7151** by sending the Central Key Authority **7190** an electronic communication that contains a message (M) that includes the accounts holder's Central Key Authority account number (RacctID(a)) and an instruction (i3), and digital signature (DS) of the message.

The actual steps performed by the account holder **7102** and the Central Key Authority **7190** to create, sign, send, and authenticate such a message will not be described in detail, since such steps closely follow the methodology of a two-party ABDS communication that has been discusses already at great lengths. Interestingly, since the account **7230** of the account holder **7102** maintained by the Central Key Authority **7190** may, in fact, be associated with multiple public keys **7218**, the process of authenticating the message potentially requires the Central Key Authority **7190** to attempt authentication of a message using more than one public key. Typical instructions (i3) that the account holder **7102** sends to the Central Key Authority **7190** include, for example, requests initially to setup a Central Key Authority account; to add a new device **7150** or **7151** (and corresponding public key) to the Registration Information; to add, update, or delete personal information in the Registration Information; to add, update, or modify an account identifier associated with a particular account; to add a new account authority (and account) to an existing public key; to add or modify information regarding an existing account authority, and the like.

Referring again to **Fig. 72**, an example of the account database **7194** maintained by the Central Key Authority **7190** is illustrated, wherein the database **7194** is organized by registration account ID numbers **7230** and has associated therewith: the corresponding customer-specific information **7242**, for example, name, address, social security number and/or tax-ID number, credit card information; public key information **7218**, including each public key of the particular customer; device profile information **7270** for each device that retains the private key

corresponding with each respective public key, such device profile information including security characteristics, authentication capabilities of the device, manufacturing history, and transactional history; and a list of all the account(s) associated with the public key, including the account-specific information **7244**, for example, name of the account authority, the unique account identifier (acctID) associated with the account, the address of the account authority, the type of account maintained by the account authority, and the like.

It will be immediately apparent that the Central Key Authority **7190** provides a convenient manner to keep track of a plurality of public keys associated with a particular account holder **7102**, as well as a convenient manner of keeping track of each account associated with each public key. Easy and ready access to such information is important. For example, especially when a person-centric device **7151** of the account holder **7102** is lost or stolen, or the private key (Puk2) thereof compromised, the appropriate account authorities **7122,7132** need to be notified.

In such a situation, as illustrated in **Fig. 71b**, the account holder **7102** notifies the Central Key Authority **7190** of such (obviously in a more conventional manner since, presumably, the device or private key (PrK2) is no longer available to originate a digital signature of the message). The Central Key Authority **7190**, in turn, contacts each account authority **7122,7132**. Each account authority **7122,7132** then deactivates the associated account [acctID(b); acctID(c1); acctID(c2)] (or at least deactivates the use of the account by means of the particular device **7151** and public key **7128**) until the account holder **7102** associates a new public key (PuK2-new) therewith.

Furthermore, as shown in **Fig. 71c**, once the account holder **7102** has obtained a new device **7151a** and corresponding new public key (PuK2-new) **7138**, the account holder **7102** needs only to update the Central Key Authority **7190** with the new public key (PuK2-new) **7138**. The Central Key Authority **7190** then preferably communicates the new public key (PuK2-new) **7138** to each of the appropriate account authorities **7122,7132** for association therewith and reactivation of the respective accounts [acctID(b); acctID(c1); acctID(c2)].

As illustrated in **Fig. 71d**, the Central Key Authority **7190** also is instrumental in establishing a new account with a new account authority **7142**. In this regard, if a Central Key Authority **7190** maintains a record for an account holder **7102** desiring to establish an account with a new account authority **7142**, the new account (acctID(d)) preferably is established by the Central Key Authority **7190** at the request of the account holder **7102**. Specifically, the account holder **7102** instructs the Central Key Authority **7190** to transmit the relevant information from the account database **7194** for the account holder **7102** to the new account authority **7142**. Among the relevant information is included the public key (PuK2-new) **7138** of the account holder **7102** to be associated with the new account (acctID(d)). Subsequently, the desired account authority **7142** establishes an initial record in its account database **7144** using the information received from the Central Key Authority **7190**. Any additional information that may be required by the account

authority **7142** then may be obtained from the new account holder **7102** and the new record in the account database **7144** updated.

Assuming that the Central Key Authority **7190** and account authorities **7112,7122,7132,7142** have registered their own public keys with each other, then the above communications between them can occur in an electronic communication, two-party ABDS manner as well.

4. Applying Dynamic Risk Analysis to a Transaction

As will be appreciated, trust in the ABDS systems described above depends upon the legitimate possession and use of private keys. A fraudulent use of a private key to digitally sign a message contained in an EC cannot be detected merely through authentication of the message. Thus, the above ABDS systems are potentially susceptible to fraudulent uses if a private key of a device is stolen, either by physical theft of the device, or by discovery of the private key and subsequent copying and use in another device capable of originating digital signatures.

To guard against fraudulent use of a device through theft of the device itself, Factor B Entity Authentication and/or Factor C Entity Authentication techniques and requirements, described previously, are used. To guard against discovery of a private key and subsequent copying and use in another device, devices are manufactured with electronic shielding, zeroization, auditing, tamper evidence and tamper response, and other security features that safeguard the private key (and other protected data) contained therein. Such security features include hardware, software, and firmware and are well known in the art of manufacturing secure computer chips and other cryptographic modules.

The requirements for such security features are specified in *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 140-1, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, US DOC/NBS, January 11, 1994 (herein "FIPS PUB 140-1"), which is incorporated herein by reference; *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 140-2, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, US DOC/NBS, May 25, 2001 (herein "FIPS PUB 140-2"), which is incorporated herein by reference. FIPS PUB 140-1 and 140-2 also define security levels that may be met by a device based on the device's security features, with each of these defined security levels representing a various level of difficulty—in terms of time and money—that would be encountered in attempting to discern a private key of a device. Currently, four security levels are defined with security level 4 being the highest level of security available.

Specifications for such security features also are set forth in *Trusted Platform Module (TPM) Security Policy Version 0.45*, TRUSTED COMPUTING PLATFORM ALLIANCE, October 2000, and *TCPA PC Implementations Specification Version 0.95*, TRUSTED COMPUTING PLATFORM ALLIANCE, July 4, 2001, both which are incorporated herein by reference (collectively "TCPA Documents"); and *Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation, Smart Card*

Protection Profile, Draft Version 2.1d, SMART CARD SECURITY USER GROUP, March 21, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter "Smart Car Protection Profile").

The characteristics of a device that safeguard against discovery of a private key and other protected data are referred to herein as "security characteristics" of the device. The characteristics of a device that safeguard against unauthorized use of the device by authenticating the user are referred to herein as "authentication capabilities" of the device. The "security features" of a device (including a cryptographic module or TPM) comprise features such as the security characteristics and authentication capabilities, the requirements for which are specified in the above-cited references.

Unfortunately, while the aforementioned safeguards generally reduce the risk of fraud within the digital signature system overall, a recipient of any one particular EC including a message and corresponding digital signature may be unfamiliar with the device used to generate the digital signature and, therefore, be unable to gauge the risk of whether the digital signature was generated fraudulently, either through theft of the device or discovery of the private key. Furthermore, a recipient generally is unable to gauge the risk of whether a digital signature was generated fraudulently when no Secret or biometric value is shared between the sender and the recipient. In such a situation, a recipient currently must rely upon blind trust in accepting that the device used to generate the digital signature has not been stolen and in accepting that the device used to generate the digital signature has sufficient safeguards to protect its private key from discovery and use.

Accordingly, a fourth aspect of the present invention will now be described. The fourth aspect of the invention incorporates the ABDS system of the first aspect of the present invention and includes, in addition thereto, the identification and evaluation of numerous factors by an account authority for the purpose of gauging the risk or likelihood that a message that authenticates was fraudulently, inadvertently, or unknowingly signed and for the purpose of determining whether the instruction (i1) contained within the message should be performed. The factors evaluated and considered include the authentication capabilities of the device used to originate a digital signature for the message, the type and sufficiency of entity authentication, if any, obtained by the device or provided with the EC, security characteristics of the device, environmental factors associated with the creation and transmission of the message, transactional history associated with the device or relevant account associated with the message, and other account or business-specific factors, including whether the instruction (i1) is capable of being performed on the identified account (e.g., are there sufficient funds in the account to cover the requested withdrawal or transfer? Is the account holder authorized to view the requested information? Is the account holder authorized to enter the requested space? Is the account holder authorized to make the requested transaction? Is the account holder authorized to enter into the specified contract?).

Authentication capabilities of a device include those components that perform either or both of Factors B and C Entity Authentication with regard to authentication of the user of the device. Knowing the authentication capabilities of the device (or lack thereof) allows a recipient to gauge a likelihood of whether someone other than the authorized user utilized the device to generate a digital signature. It is also important to know the security characteristics of a device—rather than simply a stated security level of the device—as technologies are developed over time that reduce the effectiveness of such security characteristics and, consequently, result in the decrease of the actual security level of the device. Unless upgrades are made, the security characteristics of a device are permanent while the security level of the device eventually will decrease over time. By knowing the security characteristics, the appropriate security level of a device may be determined at any given time.

Further, it is also important to know the "manufacturing history" of the device used to generate the digital signature contained within an EC. "Manufacturing history" of the device preferably includes a recording of manufacturing attributes of the device, such as the manufacturer of the device; all specifications applicable to the device; manufacture date of the device; location of manufacture; batch identifier of the device; serial number or part number of the device; security of the manufacturing facility; physical instantiation of the device regarding layout and process geometry; software identification and release date; operating parameters of the device, including voltage and frequency ranges; and identification of all enabled hardware and software security features of the device. The manufacturing history of the device also preferably includes the cryptographic characteristics, key generation characteristics, and random number generator characteristics of the device. By knowing the manufacturing history of a device, the security characteristics and authentication capabilities of the device may be revised as errors, omissions, flaws, security breaches, or possible improprieties and the like are discovered as having occurred during the manufacturing of the device. Accordingly, knowing the manufacturing history enables one to determine an assurance level of the device.

"Environmental factors" associated with the creation and transmission of an EC include knowing where in the world the EC originated, how the EC was communicated, whether and what type of I/O support element(s), if any, were involved in the creation and transmission of the EC, whether each such I/O support element originated its own digital signature for the EC, the security characteristics associated with the I/O support element, the overall digital signature environment in which the device operates, such as, for example, whether the entity authentication information can be eavesdropped on by the I/O support element or other external apparatuses, copied, and then replayed at a later time without the device user's knowledge, and the like. "Transactional history" of the device or the account associated with the EC involves identifying and tracking irregular or abnormal activity or instructions associated with the account (e.g., knowing the typical geographical usage of the device, typical transactional amounts or types, frequency of use, typical

entity authentication provided, historical data regarding incorrect attempts to provide entity authentication, and the like), knowing whether a device has been reported lost or stolen, and the like. Other account factors and business considerations include all additional criteria evaluated by a recipient of an EC to determine whether an instruction (i1) within a message should be performed.

As described previously with regard to each of the various ABDS systems, it is preferable that the Device Profile Information of a device be recorded by an account authority in the account database record with which the public key of the device is associated. The Device Profile Information includes the Security Profile and transactional history of the device. The Security Profile includes the security features and manufacturing history of the device. The security features include the security characteristics and authentication capabilities of the device. The Security Profile is preferably, but not necessarily, obtained directly from the manufacturer of the device, which preferably is a trustworthy and reliable entity. If the Security Profile is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, then the Security Profile is obtained either indirectly from a trusted third party which obtained the Security Profile from the manufacturer or from a physical inspection of the device by the account authority (or by an entity trusted by the account authority). The Security Profile may also be provided by the account holder within the scope of the present invention. In view of the third aspect of the invention, the Security Profile also may be obtained from a Central Key Authority - such as when information is received from the Central Key Authority in establishing a new account for an account holder.

Equipped with this information in the Device Profile Information, an account authority, after authenticating a message contained within an EC, further processes the message, which includes making a calculated determination whether or not to execute the instruction (i1) contained in the authenticated message. Alternatively, further processing of the message includes a decision to execute a limited portion of the instruction based on an analysis of the current risk associated with the instruction (i1) or to require additional information from the sender of the EC in order to decrease the risk associated with the current instruction (i1).

As illustrated in **Fig. 73**, for example, when an account authority first receives (**Step 7302**) an EC from an alleged account holder, it retrieves (**Step 7304**) from the account database the PuK associated with the account number provided in the EC and attempts to authenticate (**Step 7306**) the message using the PuK. If the message does not authenticate (in **Step 7308**), then the account authority replies (**Step 7310**) with a rejection of the message and/or instruction (i1) contained in the message – all of which conforms with the first aspect of the present invention. If the message does authenticate (in **Step 7308**), then the account authority further processes (**Step 7312**) the message and instruction (i1) contained within the message.

Examples of further processing of the message by an account authority after successful authentication of the message in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention were

previously described in association with **Figs. 6-63** for each of the specific implementations of the two-party and three-party ABDS systems. As shown in **Fig. 73**, however, further processing (**Step 7312**) in accordance with this fourth aspect of the present includes evaluation and consideration (**Step 7314**) of numerous factors that are used by the account authority, ultimately, to determine whether or not to perform the instruction (i1) contained within the message. The evaluation and consideration (**Step 7314**) includes an evaluation (**Step 7316**) of the authentication capabilities of the device and an analysis of entity authentication, if any, provided by the sender of the EC or user of the device, an evaluation (**Step 7318**) of the security characteristics associated with the device, an evaluation (**Step 7320**) of the environmental factors surrounding the EC, consideration (**Step 7322**) of the transactional history of the device and/or the account associated with the EC, and consideration (**Step 7324**) of other account or business-specific factors. Whether the account authority considers some or all of the above factors, how much weight or importance the account authority applies to any particular factor, and the order, if any, in which the account authority evaluates or considers the above factors varies from one account authority to the next according to each account authority's own particular business concerns, needs, objectives, purposes, and risks. Thus, each account authority uses its own business rules and judgment to determine (**Step 7326**), based on any or all of the factors considered (in **Step 7314**), whether the instruction (i1) from the message should be performed. If the determination (in **Step 7326**) is negative, then the account authority replies (**Step 7310**) with a rejection of the message and/or instruction (i1) contained in the message. If the determination (in **Step 7326**) is positive, then the account authority performs (**Step 7328**) the instruction (i1) from the message and updates (**Step 7330**) the account record accordingly.

Although not shown in **Fig. 73**, if the determination in **Step 7326** is negative, the account authority may alternatively choose to execute only a limited portion of the instruction (i1), if possible, based on an analysis of the above factors. In another alternative embodiment (also not shown in **Fig. 73**), the account authority may require additional information from the sender of the EC prior to performing the instruction (i1) - in order to decrease the risk associated with the current instruction (i1).

From all of the above, it should be apparent that the devices described above with regard to the present invention encompass, for example, devices of merchants and other commercial entities that generate digital signatures, and are not limited to devices of individual consumers that generate digital signatures. For instance, a device in accordance with the present invention includes an I/O support element comprising, for example, an IC card reader used to read IC cards of individual consumers in establishing secure financial transactions if such IC card reader itself generates digital signatures. In this regard, such device may include a trusted platform module.

Accordingly, it readily will be understood by those persons skilled in the art that, in view of the above detailed description of preferred embodiments, devices, and methods of the present

invention, the present invention is susceptible of broad utility and application. Many methods, embodiments, and adaptations of the present invention other than those herein described, as well as many variations, modifications, and equivalent arrangements, will be apparent from or reasonably suggested by the present invention and the following detailed description thereof, without departing from the substance or scope of the present invention. Furthermore, those of ordinary skill in the art will understand and appreciate that although steps of various processes may be shown and described in some instances as being carried out in a preferred sequence or temporal order, the steps of such processes are not necessarily to be limited to being carried out in such particular sequence or order. Rather, in many instances the steps of processes described herein may be carried out in various different sequences and orders, while still falling within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, while the present invention is described herein in detail in relation to preferred methods and devices, it is to be understood that this detailed description only is illustrative and exemplary of the present invention and is made merely for purposes of providing a full and enabling disclosure of the invention. The detailed description set forth herein is not intended nor is to be construed to limit the present invention or otherwise to exclude any such other embodiments, adaptations, variations, modifications and equivalent arrangements of the present invention, the present invention being limited solely by the claims appended hereto and the equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating electronically over a communications medium regarding accounts, comprising the steps of:

(a) for a first account,

(i) maintaining information pertaining to the first account in an account database such that the information is retrievable based on a first unique identifier,

(ii) associating a public key of a public-private key pair with the first unique identifier,

(iii) generating a digital signature for an electronic message using a private key of the public-private key pair, the electronic message including an instruction and the first unique identifier,

(iv) authenticating the electronic message using the public key associated with the information identified by the first unique identifier, and

(v) upon the successful authentication of the electronic message, executing the instruction with respect to the first account represented by the information that is identified by the first unique identifier; and

(b) for a second account,

(i) maintaining information pertaining to the second account in an account database such that the information is retrievable based on a second unique identifier,

(ii) associating the same public key that is associated with the first account with the second unique identifier,

(iii) generating a digital signature for an electronic message using the private key of the public-private key pair, the electronic message including an instruction and the second unique identifier,

(iv) authenticating the electronic message using the public key associated with the information identified by the second unique identifier, and

(v) upon the successful authentication of the electronic message, executing the instruction with respect to the second account represented by the information that is identified by the second unique identifier.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each account database is maintained by an account authority.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein each account database is maintained by a different account authority.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein both account databases are maintained by the same account authority.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein each said step of generating a digital signature for an electronic message is performed by a device of an account holder, the device including the private key of the public-private key pair.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the account holder communicates with an account authority by sending the respective electronic message and digital signature in an electronic communication ("EC") to the account authority.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the account holder sends a respective EC directly to an account authority.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the device includes each unique identifier with which the public key of the device is associated.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the device communicates with the communications medium through a device interface.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the device interface includes each unique identifier and the identity of each account authority with which the public key of the device is associated.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the device further includes the identity of each account authority with which an account is maintained.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein the account holder sends a respective EC directly to an intermediate party, and the intermediate party communicates the electronic message and digital signature to an account authority.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein each said step of executing the instruction with respect to an account is performed by an account authority.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein an additional instruction is communicated to the intermediate party by the account holder.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the intermediate party executes the additional instruction upon successful execution by the account authority of the instruction with respect to the account.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the additional instruction is sent in a separate EC from the account holder to the intermediate party.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the additional instruction is included in the respective EC sent from the account holder to the intermediate party.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the additional instruction is removed by the intermediate party from the respective EC before being forwarded to the account authority.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein a said step of executing an instruction is performed based solely on the successful authentication of the electronic message.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises communicating a balance of the account.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises debiting the account by a specified amount.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises crediting the account by a specified amount.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises transferring funds to another account.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises granting access to a database.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises granting access to a physical location such as a room, building, parking deck, and web site.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises granting access to a data transmission such as pay per view, music download, and web broadcast.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises providing a product.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises providing a service.

29. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises making a monetary payment from the account.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises transferring something of monetary value from the account.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises transferring a security from the account.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises authorizing a charge to the account.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of an instruction with respect to an account comprises transferring information from the account.

34. A method of requesting an account authority to execute an instruction with regard to an account maintained by the account authority, comprising the steps of:

(a) for a first account,

(i) composing an electronic message including,

(A) an instruction regarding the first account, and

(B) a first unique identifier by which a first account authority identifies the first account from accounts maintained by the first account authority,

(ii) digitally signing the electronic message using a private key of a public-private key pair for which the public key is associated by the first account authority with the first account, and

(iii) sending the electronic message and digital signature to the first account authority over a communications medium; and

(b) for a second account,

(i) composing an electronic message including,

(A) an instruction regarding the second account, and

(B) a second unique identifier by which a second account authority identifies the second account from accounts maintained by the second account authority,

(ii) digitally signing the electronic message using the same private key of the public-private key pair for which the same public key is associated by the second account authority with the second account, and

(iii) sending the electronic message and digital signature to the second account authority over a communications medium.

35. A method of managing accounts in a database, comprising the steps of:

(a) recording information pertaining to each of the accounts in the database;

(b) assigning a respective unique identifier to each account such that information pertaining to each respective account is retrievable from the database based on its unique identifier, and

(c) associating the same public key of a public-private key pair with a plurality of unique identifiers.

36. A device used in communicating electronically over a communications medium regarding an account, the device including,

(a) a private key of a public-private key pair;

(b) a plurality of unique account identifiers, each identifying an account maintained by an account authority with which the public key of the public-private key pair is associated.

37. The device of claim 36 further including the identity of the account authority maintaining each of the identified accounts, whereby an electronic message which is digitally signed by the device may be directed to an appropriate account authority maintaining the account which the communication regards.

38. The device of claim 36 wherein the identity of the account authority maintaining each of the identified accounts is determinable from the respective unique account identifiers, whereby an electronic message which is digitally signed by the device may be directed to

an appropriate account authority maintaining the account which the communication regards.

39. The method of claims 1 or 34, further comprising retrieving from an account database the public key associated with the unique identifier of the electronic message.

40. The method of claims 1 or 34, further comprising communicating notice of a rejection of the electronic message.

41. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein the public key associated with the unique identifier in a message is included in the message.

42. The method of claims 1, 34, 35, or 36, wherein a unique identifier comprises an associated public key.

43. The method of claims 1, 34, 35, or 36, wherein a unique identifier comprises an account number of an account.

44. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes an account number.

45. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes a current balance for an account.

46. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes an available credit for an account.

47. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes a list of associated accounts.

48. The method of claims 1 or 34, further comprising the step of composing the electronic message external to a device possessing the private key used to generate the digital signature.

49. The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of calculating a hash value for the electronic message external to the device.

50. The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of inputting the electronic message into the device for generation of the digital signature.

51. The method of claims 1 or 34, further comprising the step of composing an electronic message within a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature.

52. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of calculating a hash value for the electronic message within the device.

53. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes the name of an account holder.

54. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes the address of an account holder.

55. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes the social security number of an account holder.

56. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes the tax identification number of an account holder.

57. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information regards a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message.

58. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein the information includes security characteristics of a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message.

59. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a personal computer.

60. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a cell phone.

61. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a PDA.

62. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises an electronic key.

63. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a dongle.

64. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a subcutaneous implant.

65. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a secure chip.

66. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises jewelry.

67. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises an IC card.

68. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a credit card.

69. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a debit card.

70. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises a security card.

71. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message comprises an ID badge.

72. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message transmits the digital signature through physical contact with a device interface.

73. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message plugs into the device interface.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the device is swiped through the device interface.

75. The method of claims 1 or 34, wherein a device possessing the private key used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message transmits the digital signature to a device interface without physical contact therewith.

76. The method of claim 75, wherein the device transmits the digital signature through wireless communication.

77. The method of claim 75, wherein the device transmits the digital signature through an RF transmission.

78. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the communications medium is open and insecure.

79. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the communications medium comprises the Internet.

80. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the electronic message is not encrypted.

81. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the electronic message is encrypted.

82. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the electronic message includes no personally-identifying information regarding an owner of the account.

83. The method of claims 1, 34, or 36, wherein the electronic message includes no account-identifying information other than a unique identifier of an account.

84. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein a said step of associating a public key with a unique identifier comprises recording the public key with the information retrievable based on the unique identifier.

85. The method of claims 1 or 35, wherein a said step of associating a public key with a unique identifier comprises indexing the information retrievable based on the unique identifier with the public key.

86. A method of managing a database of a central key authority for a plurality of account holders, each account holder having at least one account associated with a public key of a public-private key pair of that account holder, comprising maintaining for each account holder a record of information pertaining to the accounts of that account holder associated with the public keys of the account holder.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes the public keys associated with the accounts.

88. The method of claim 86, wherein each account of an account holder is associated with the same public key of that account holder.

89. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of the account holder includes the single public key associated with the accounts of that account holder.

90. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes the identity of the account authority of each account.

91. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes a unique identifier of each account by which a record maintained by the account authority of each account is retrievable from an account database of the account authority.

92. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes attributes of each account.

93. The method of claim 86, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes personal information of that account holder.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein the information pertaining to the accounts of an account holder includes information regarding a device of that account holder in which a private key of a public-private key pair of that account holder is kept.

95. The method of claim 94, wherein the information regarding the device includes security features of the device.

96. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of recording information in the record of an account holder received from an account authority of an account of that account holder.

97. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of recording information in the record of an account holder received from a manufacturer of a device of that account holder in which a private key of a public-private key pair of that account holder is kept.

98. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of recording information in the record of an account holder received from a distributor of a token of that account holder in which a private key of a public-private key pair of that account holder is kept.

99. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of indexing the records of the account holders in the registration authority database by the public keys of each account holder.

100. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of indexing the records of the account holders in the registration authority database by unique identifiers.

101. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of notifying for a particular account holder each account authority of an account of that account holder with which a single public key is associated which has been lost, stolen, or compromised.

102. The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of communicating a public key of another public-private key pair of that account holder to a notified account authority to be newly associated with the account of that account holder maintained by that account authority.

103. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating information maintained in the registration authority database for a particular account holder to a new account authority

with which the account holder desires to establish an account, the information including a public key of that account holder to be associated by the new account authority with the new account.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein no personal information regarding the account owner is communicated to the new account authority.

105. The method of claim 86, further comprising receiving information from an existing account authority of an account holder and maintaining the information in a record for that account holder in the registration authority database, the information including a public key of that account holder associated with the account of that account authority.

106. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes an account number.

107. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes a list of associated accounts.

108. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes the name of an account holder.

109. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes the address of an account holder.

110. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes the social security number of an account holder.

111. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes the tax identification number of an account holder.

112. The method of claims 86, wherein the information regards a device possessing a private key of the account holder used to generate a digital signature of an electronic message.

113. The method of claim 86, wherein the information includes security features of the device.

114. A method of maintaining a Central Key Authority (CKA) database, the CKA database comprising account information of users including:

(a) a public key of a user device that generates digital signatures,

(b) third-party account identifiers each of which identifies to a third-party an account of the user that is maintained with the third-party and that has been associated with the user's public key by the third-party.

115. The method of claim 114, wherein the information linked with the public key comprises security features of the device.

116. The method of claim 114, wherein the information linked with the public key comprises a manufacturing history of the device.

117. The method of claim 114, wherein the public key and information linked therewith is obtained from a Secure Entity.

118. The method of claim 114, wherein the account information maintained in the CKA database for each user further includes the identity of each third-party with which an account is maintained that is identified by one of the third-party account identifiers.

119. The method of claim 114, wherein the account information of the users is indexed in the CKA database by unique CKA account identifiers such that the account information for a user is retrievable from the CKA database based on the account identifier.

120. The method of claim 119, wherein the public key is the CKA account identifier.

121. The method of claim 114, wherein the account information maintained in the CKA database for each user further includes user-specific information.

122. The method of claim 121, wherein the user-specific information is verified.

123. The method of claim 122, wherein each user account further includes a record of the techniques that were employed in verifying the user-specific information.

124. The method of claim 121, wherein the user-specific information includes the name and address of the user.

125. The method of claim 121, wherein the user-specific information includes the age and gender of the user.

126. The method of claim 121, further comprising establishing an account on behalf of a user with a third-party by communicating the public key of the user and information with the public key from the CKA database to the third-party.

127. The method of claim 126, wherein the public key of the user and information with the public key is communicated upon the request of the third-party to which it is communicated.

128. The method of claim 121, further comprising updating PuK-linked accounts of a user maintained with at least two independent third-parties with a new public key of the user, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an EC, the EC including one of the CKA account identifiers and a message including the new public key and a digital signature therefor,

(b) authenticating the message of the EC using the public key associated with the account in the CKA database identified by the CKA account identifier, and upon successful authentication thereof,

(c) sending an EC to each of the third-parties, each EC including the new public key and the third-party account identifier for the respective third-party maintained in the CKA database and associated with the account identified by the CKA account identifier.

129. The method of claim 121, further comprising digitally signing the new public key of the user and third-party account identifier.

130. A system of communicating electronically over a communications medium regarding an account, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining information pertaining to the account in a database such that the information is retrievable by a unique identifier, the information including security

features of a device that generates digital signatures using a private key of a public-private key pair;

(b) associating the public key of the device with the unique identifier in the database;

(c) receiving an electronic communication including the unique identifier and a digital signature for a message generated by a suspect device;

(d) authenticating the message using the public key associated with the unique;

(e) upon successful authentication of the message, identifying the security features retrievable by the unique identifier as being the security features of the genuine device; and

(f) gauging the risk that said generated digital signature was fraudulently sent based on said identified security features of the genuine device.

131. The method of claim 130, wherein said step of maintaining the record is performed by an account authority.

132. The method of claim 130, wherein said step of maintaining the record is performed by a central key authority.

133. The method of claim 130, wherein said step of identifying the security features of the device is performed by an account authority.

134. The method of claim 130, wherein said step of identifying the security features of the device is performed by an central key authority.

135. The method of claim 130, wherein the unique identifier comprises the associated public key.

136. The method of claim 130, wherein the unique identifier comprises an account number.

137. The method of claim 130, wherein the communications medium is open and insecure.

138. The method of claim 130, wherein the communications medium comprises the Internet.

139. The method of claim 130, further comprising gauging the risk that the digital signature was fraudulently originated based on said identified security features.

140. A method of managing a database for identification of security features of a device that generates digital signatures, comprising the steps of:

(a) recording in the database for each of a plurality of devices,

(i) a public key of a pair of public-private keys of the device, and

(ii) information including security features of the device, the security features being associated with the public key in the database; and

(b) identifying security features from the database to a recipient of an electronic message for which a digital signature was originated utilizing a private key of the public-private key pair of a particular one of the devices, the security features being for the particular device.

141. The method of claim 140, further comprising gauging the risk that said originated digital signature was fraudulently originated based on said identified security characteristics.

142. The method of claim 140, wherein the public key used to authenticate the electronic message is received with the digital signature.

143. The method of claim 140, wherein the public key associated with the record identified by the unique identifier of the message is included in the message.

144. The method of claim 140, further comprising retrieving from the account database the public key associated with the record identified by the unique identifier.

145. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes the name of an account holder.

146. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes the address of an account holder.

147. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes the social security number of an account holder.

148. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes the tax identification number of an account holder.

149. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes an account number for the account.

150. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes a current balance for the account.

151. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes an available credit for the account.

152. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the information includes a list of associated accounts.

153. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the security characteristics for each respective device are indexed in the database to that device's public key.

154. The method of claims 130 or 140, wherein the security characteristics for each respective device are indexed in the database to a unique identifier.

155. The method of claim 154, further comprising sending the EC received from the user to each of the third-parties.

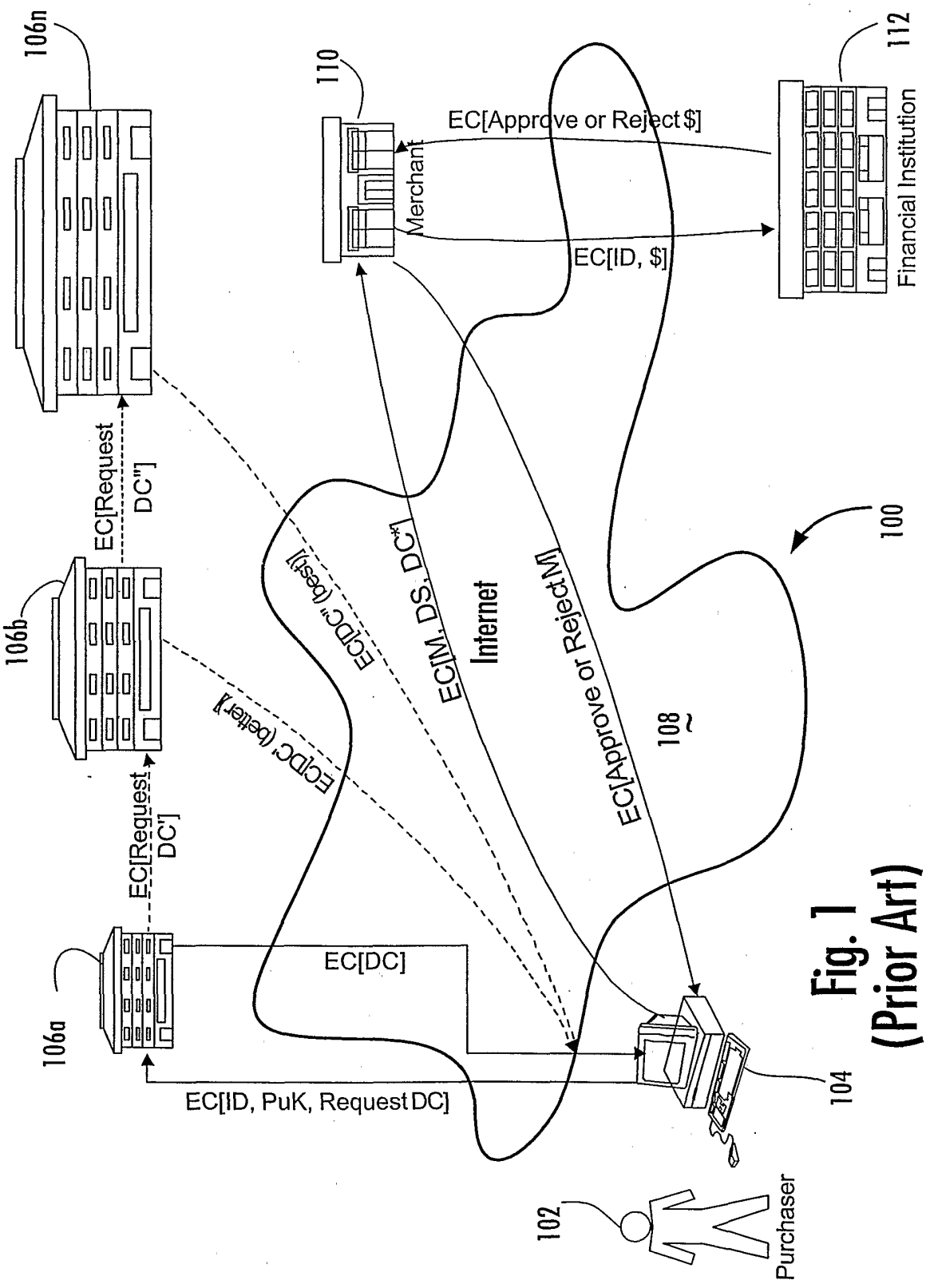


Fig. 1
(Prior Art)

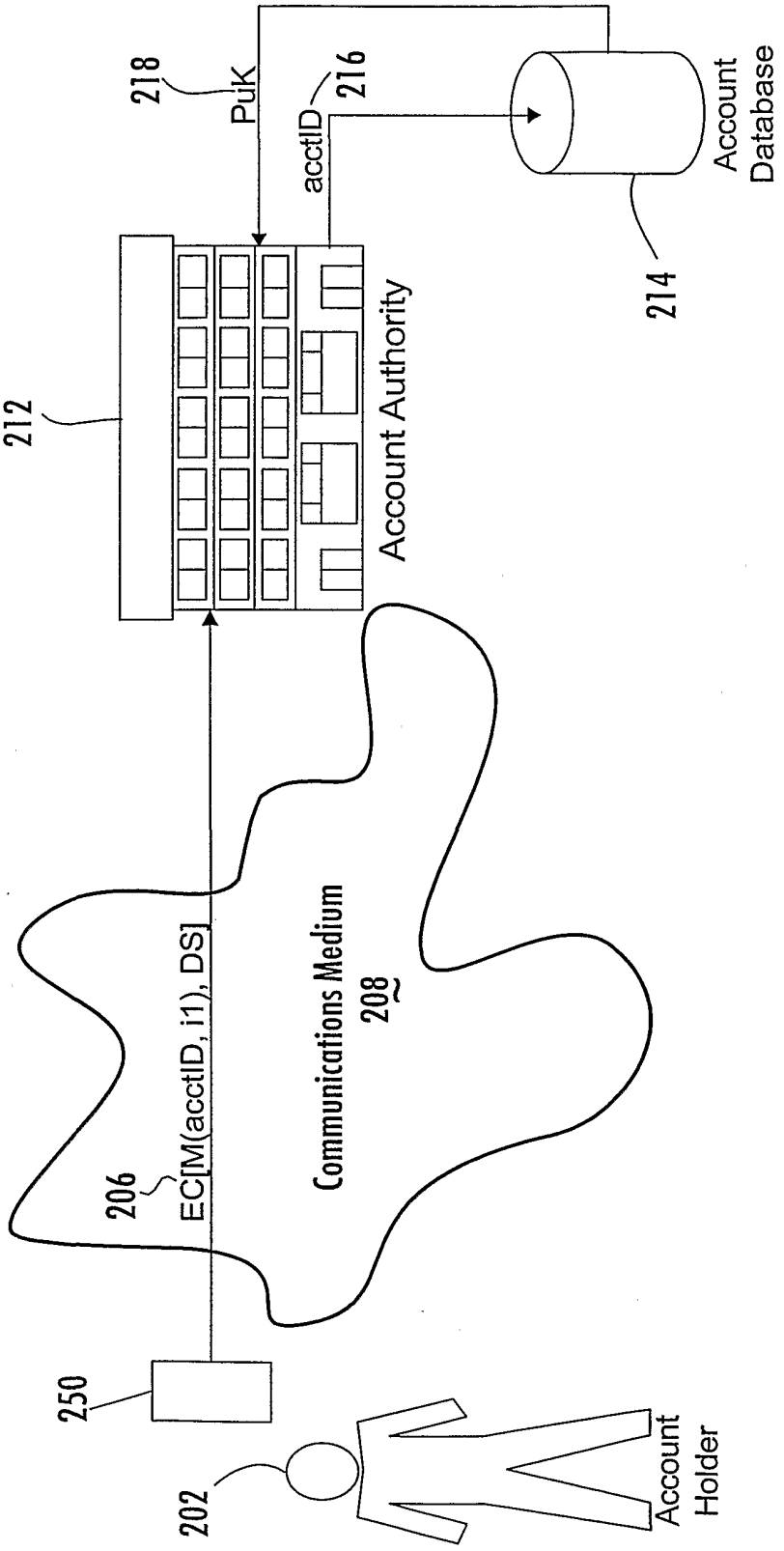

218
PuK
216
acctID
Account Database
214
212
Account Authority
Communications Medium
208
206
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
250
202
Account Holder
200

Fig. 2

Fig. 2a

Account Identifier (acctID) (216)	Account Information (240)		Public Key Information (218)
#-#####-####-### (281)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK
#-#####-####-### (282)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK
			PuK
#-#####-####-### (283)	Account-specific information	Customer-specific information	PuK
#-#####-####-### (284)	Account-specific information		PuK
#-#####-####-### (285)	Account-specific information	Customer-specific information	PuK
		Customer specific information	PuK
		Customer-specific information	PuK
...	...		...
#-#####-####-### $_n$ (288)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK $_m$

214

Account Identifier (acctID) (216)	Account Information (240)		Public Key Information (218)	Device Profile Information (270)
#-####-####-### (281)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-### (282)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
			PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-### (283)	Account-specific information	Customer-specific information	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-### (284)	Account-specific information		PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-### (285)	Account-specific information	Customer-specific information	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
		Customer-specific information	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
...	...		...	...
#-####-####-### n (288)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information		PuK m	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

214

Fig. 2b

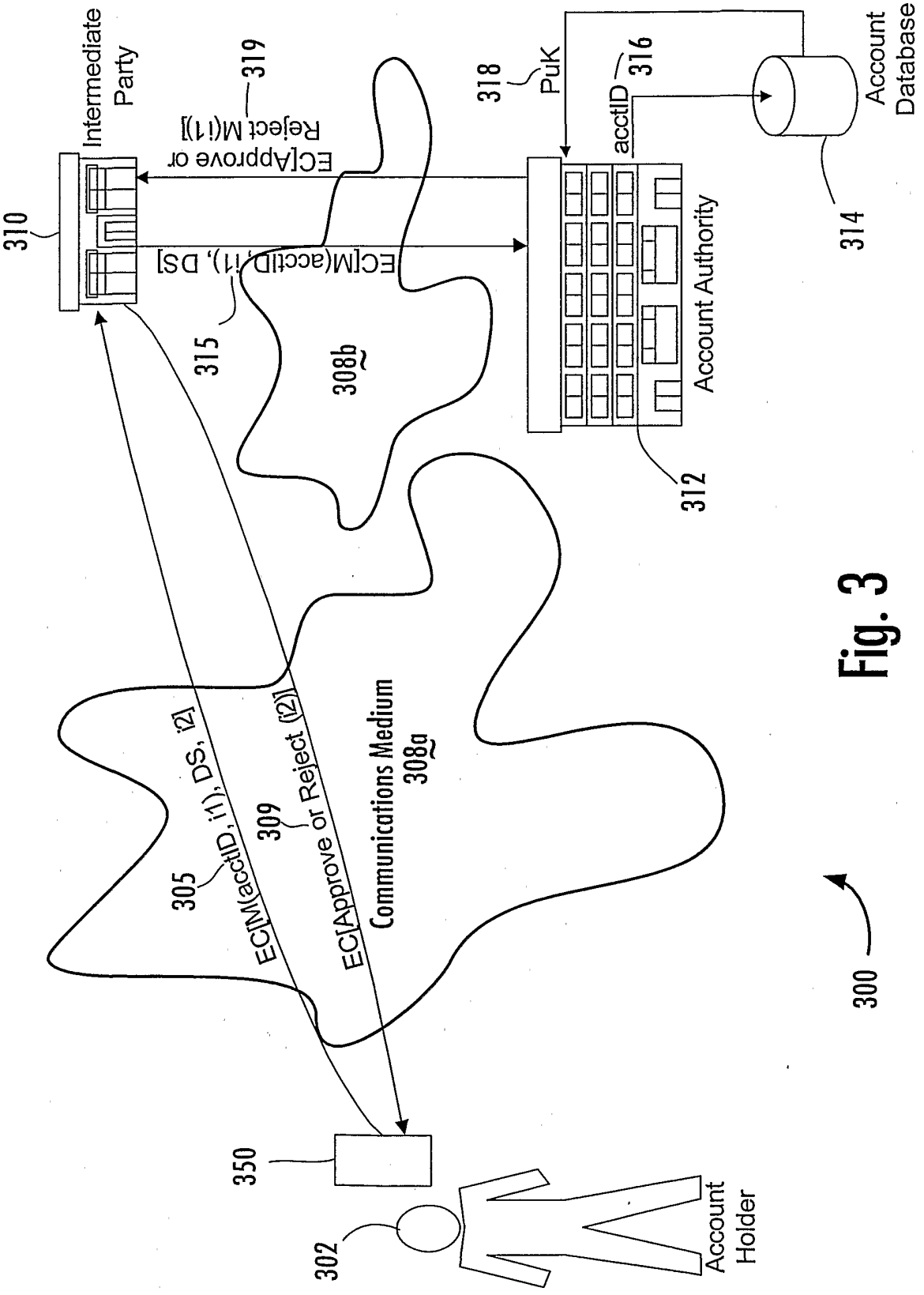

Intermediate Party
319
EC[Approve or Reject M(i1)]
318
PuK
316
acctID
Account Database
310
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
315
308b
Account Authority
314
312
305
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS, i2]
309
EC[Approve or Reject (i2)]
Communications Medium
308a
350
302
Account Holder
300

Fig. 3

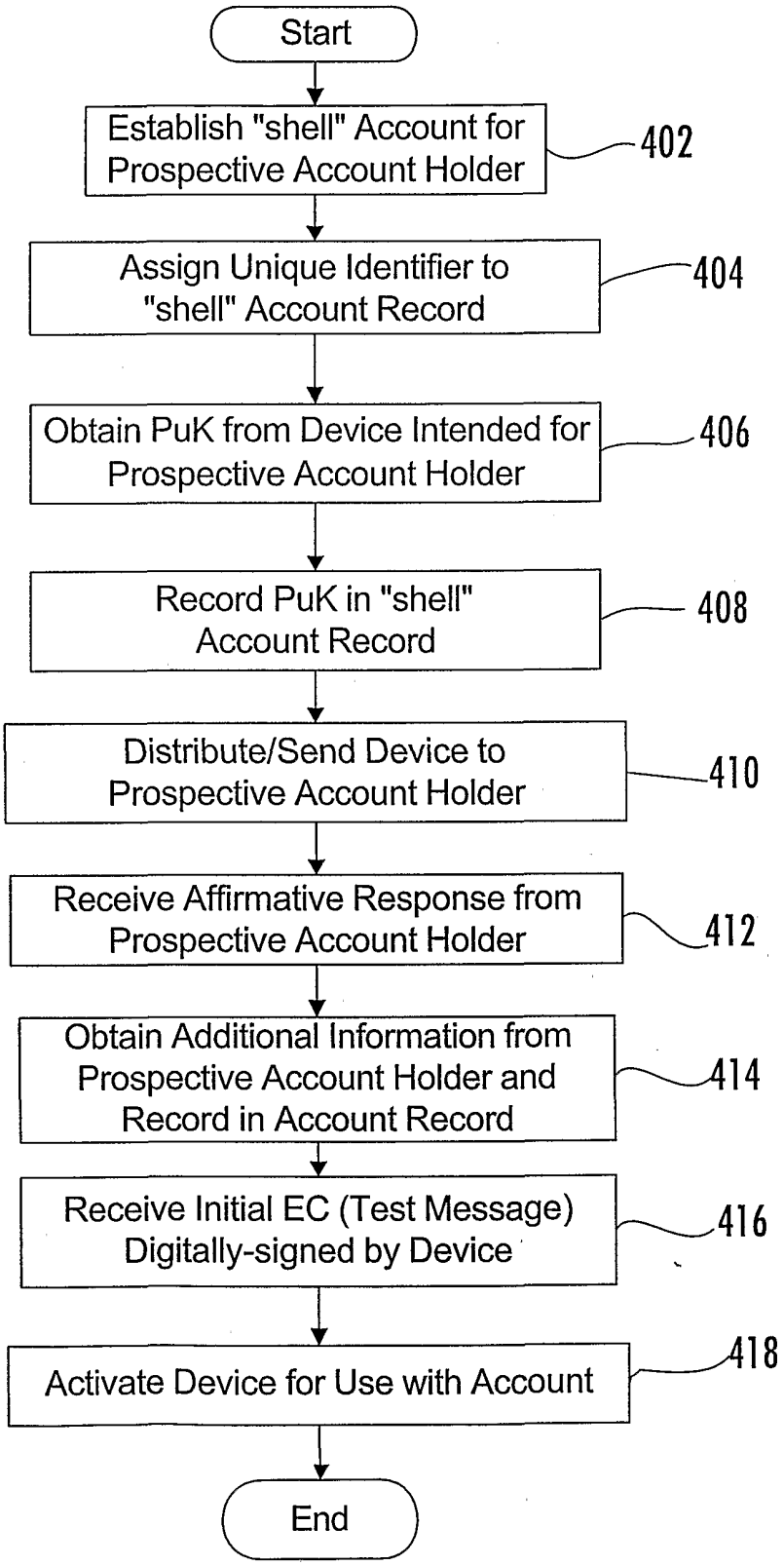

Start
Establish "shell" Account for Prospective Account Holder
402
Assign Unique Identifier to "shell" Account Record
404
Obtain PuK from Device Intended for Prospective Account Holder
406
Record PuK in "shell" Account Record
408
Distribute/Send Device to Prospective Account Holder
410
Receive Affirmative Response from Prospective Account Holder
412
Obtain Additional Information from Prospective Account Holder and Record in Account Record
414
Receive Initial EC (Test Message) Digitally-signed by Device
416
Activate Device for Use with Account
418
End

Fig. 4a

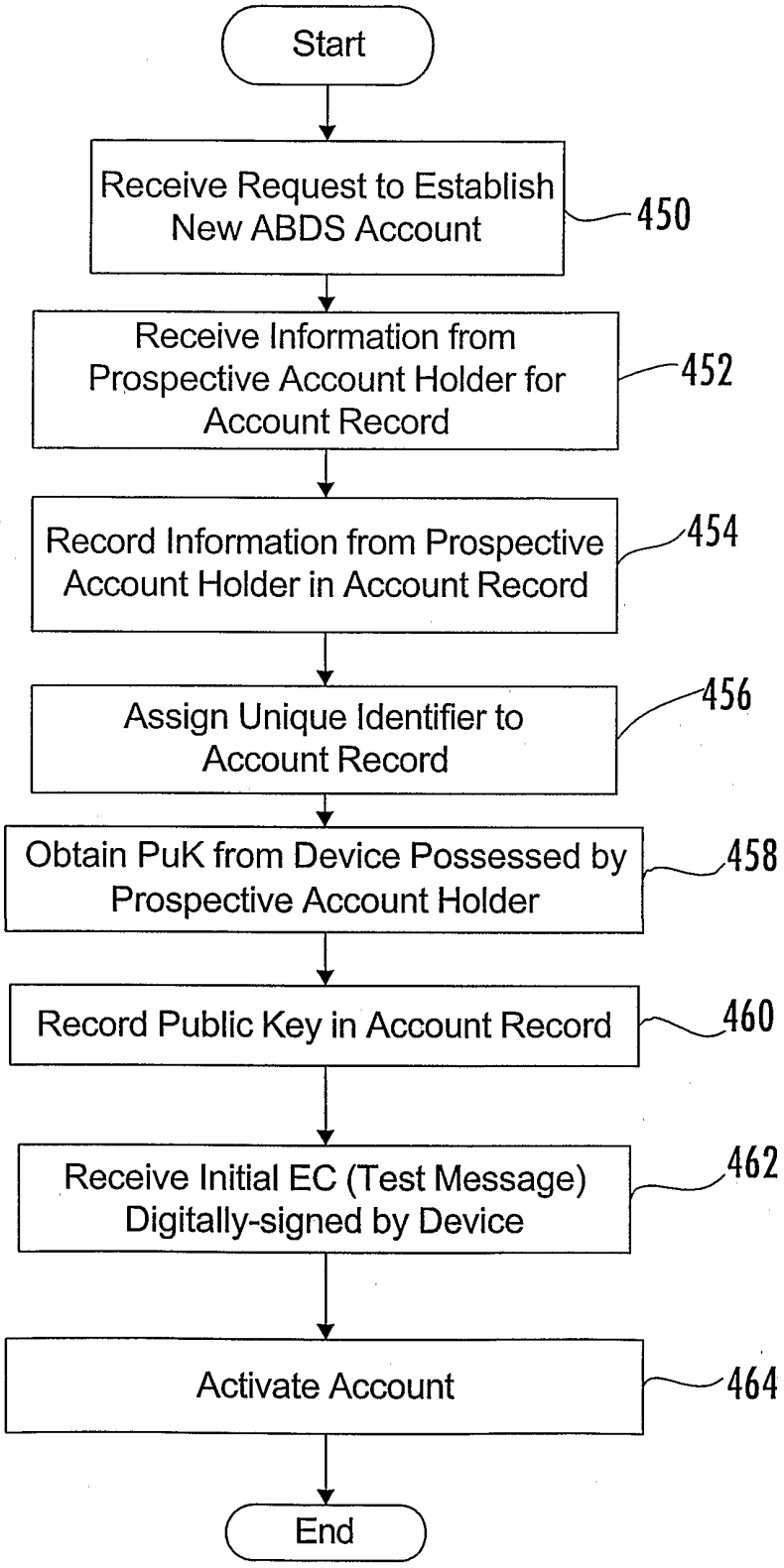

Start
Receive Request to Establish New ABDS Account
450
Receive Information from Prospective Account Holder for Account Record
452
Record Information from Prospective Account Holder in Account Record
454
Assign Unique Identifier to Account Record
456
Obtain PuK from Device Possessed by Prospective Account Holder
458
Record Public Key in Account Record
460
Receive Initial EC (Test Message) Digitally-signed by Device
462
Activate Account
464
End

Fig. 4b

Fig. 5a

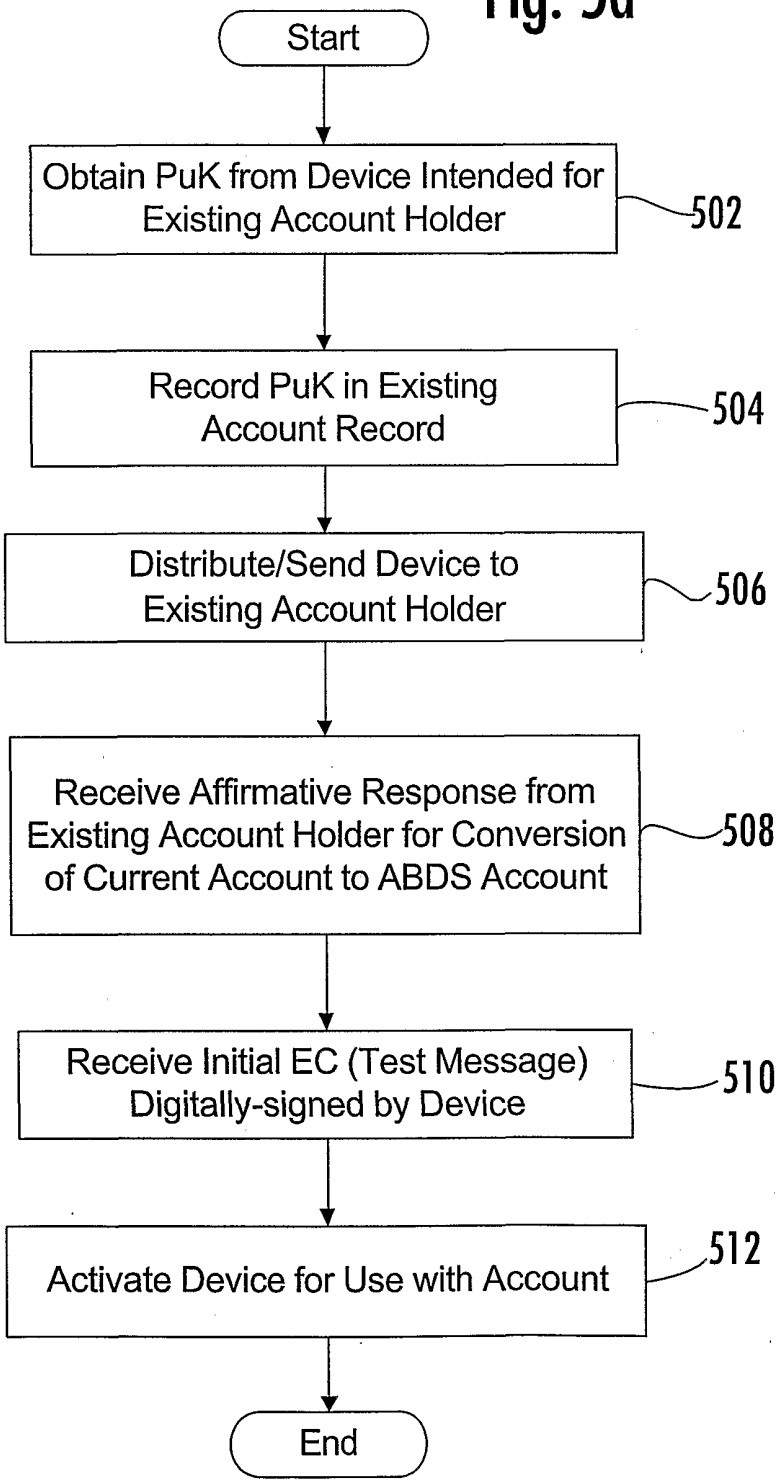
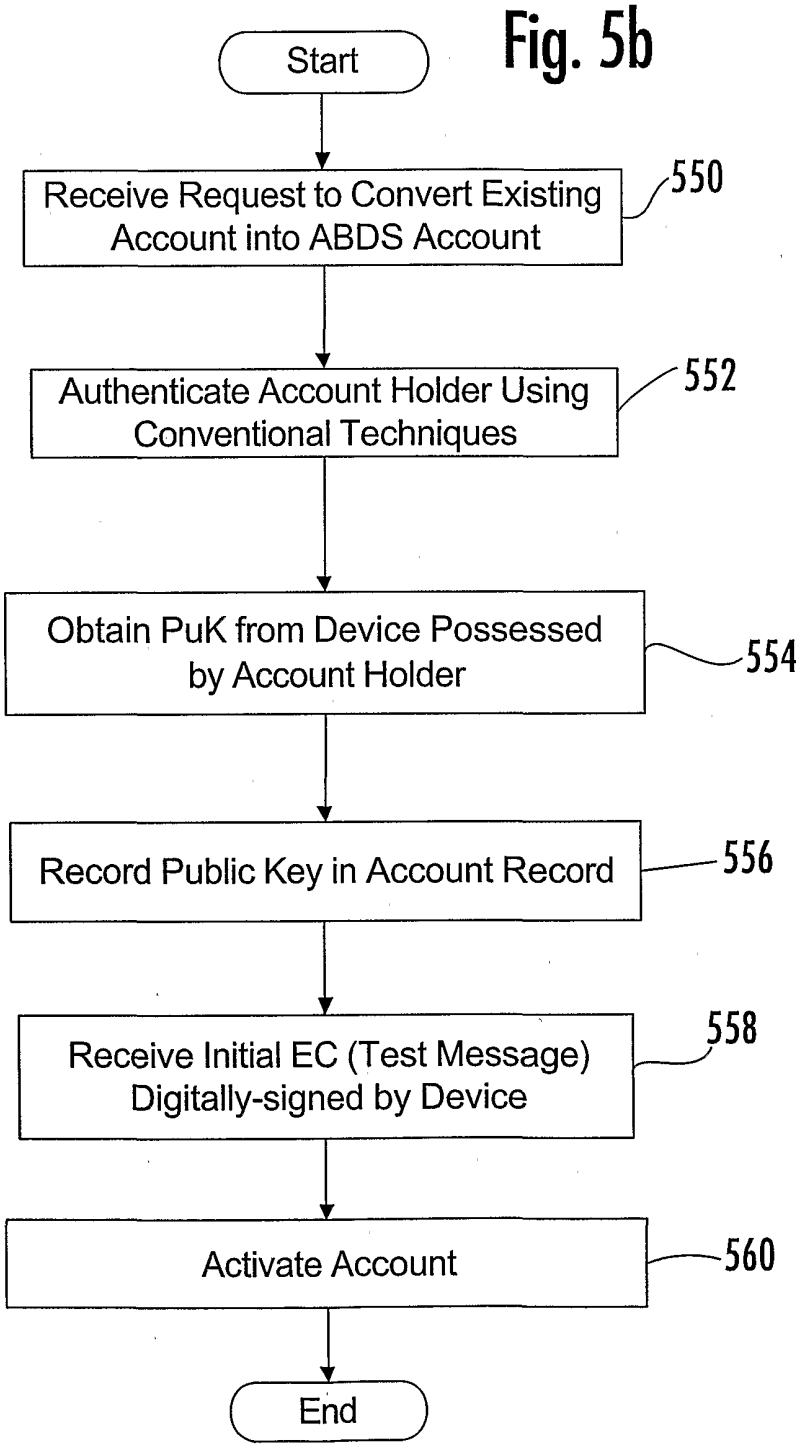

Start
Obtain PuK from Device Intended for Existing Account Holder
502
Record PuK in Existing Account Record
504
Distribute/Send Device to Existing Account Holder
506
Receive Affirmative Response from Existing Account Holder for Conversion of Current Account to ABDS Account
508
Receive Initial EC (Test Message) Digitally-signed by Device
510
Activate Device for Use with Account
512
End

Fig. 5b


Start
Receive Request to Convert Existing Account into ABDS Account
550
Authenticate Account Holder Using Conventional Techniques
552
Obtain PuK from Device Possessed by Account Holder
554
Record Public Key in Account Record
556
Receive Initial EC (Test Message) Digitally-signed by Device
558
Activate Account
560
End

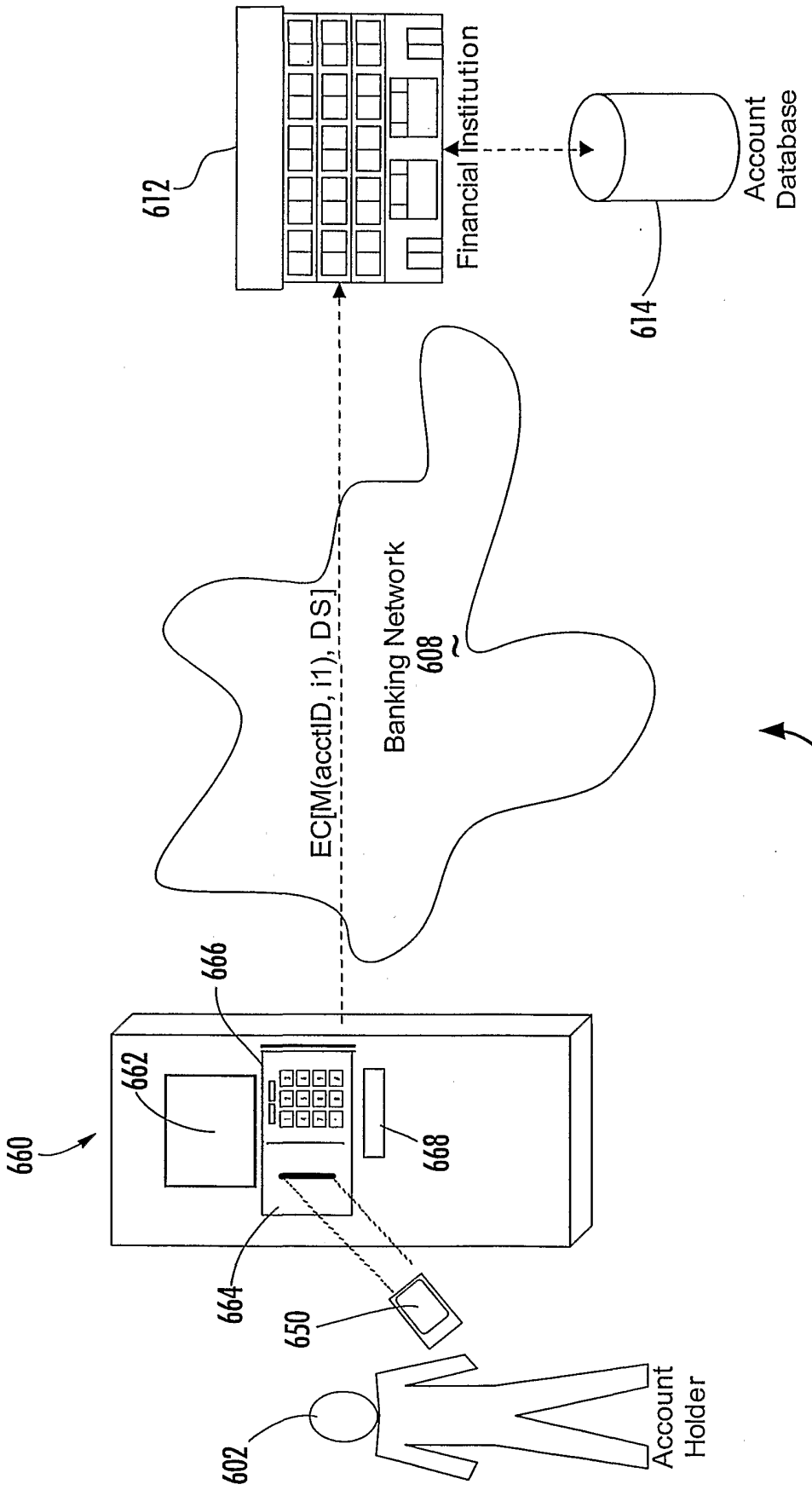

612
Financial Institution
Account Database
614
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
Banking Network
608
600
666
662
660
668
664
650
602
Account Holder

Fig. 6

Account Identifier (acctID) (716)	Account Information (740)		Public Key Information (718)	Device Profile Information (770)
	Customer -Specific (742)	Account -Specific (744)		
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

614

Fig. 7

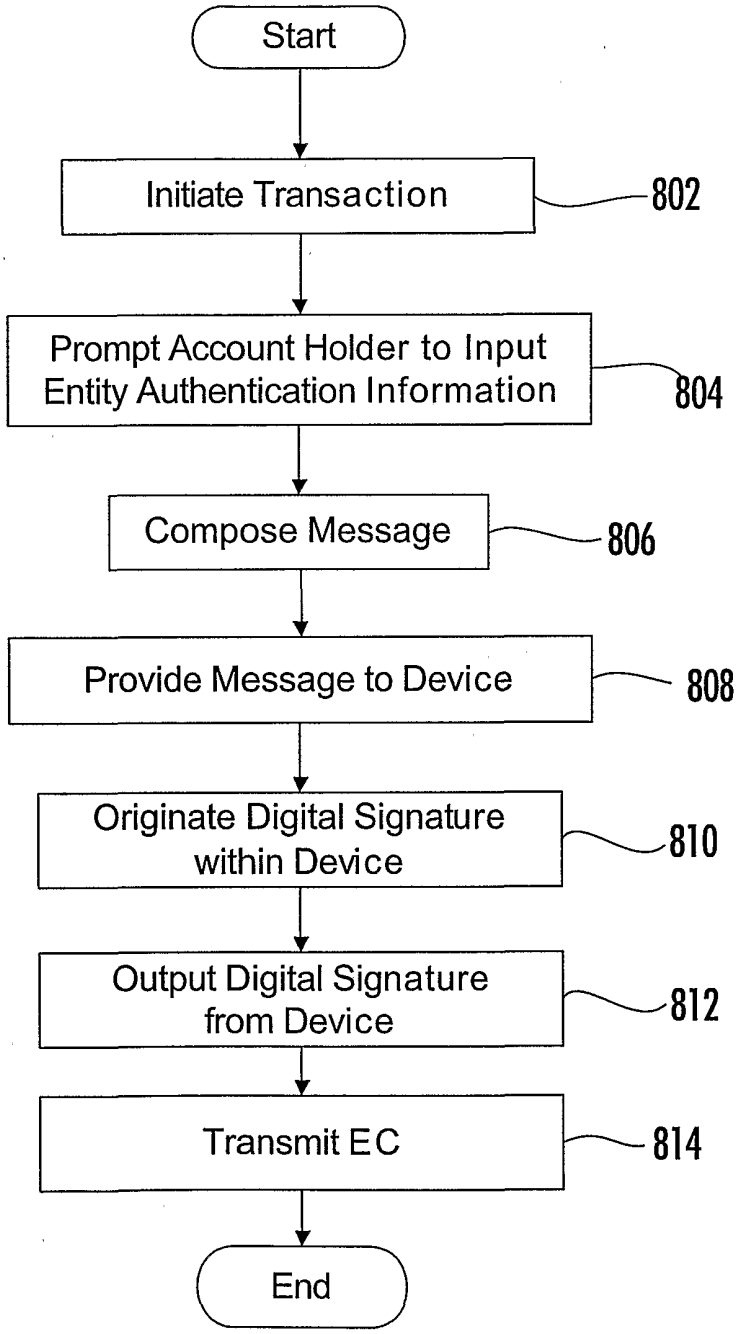

Start
Initiate Transaction
802
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
804
Compose Message
806
Provide Message to Device
808
Originate Digital Signature within Device
810
Output Digital Signature from Device
812
Transmit EC
814
End

Fig. 8

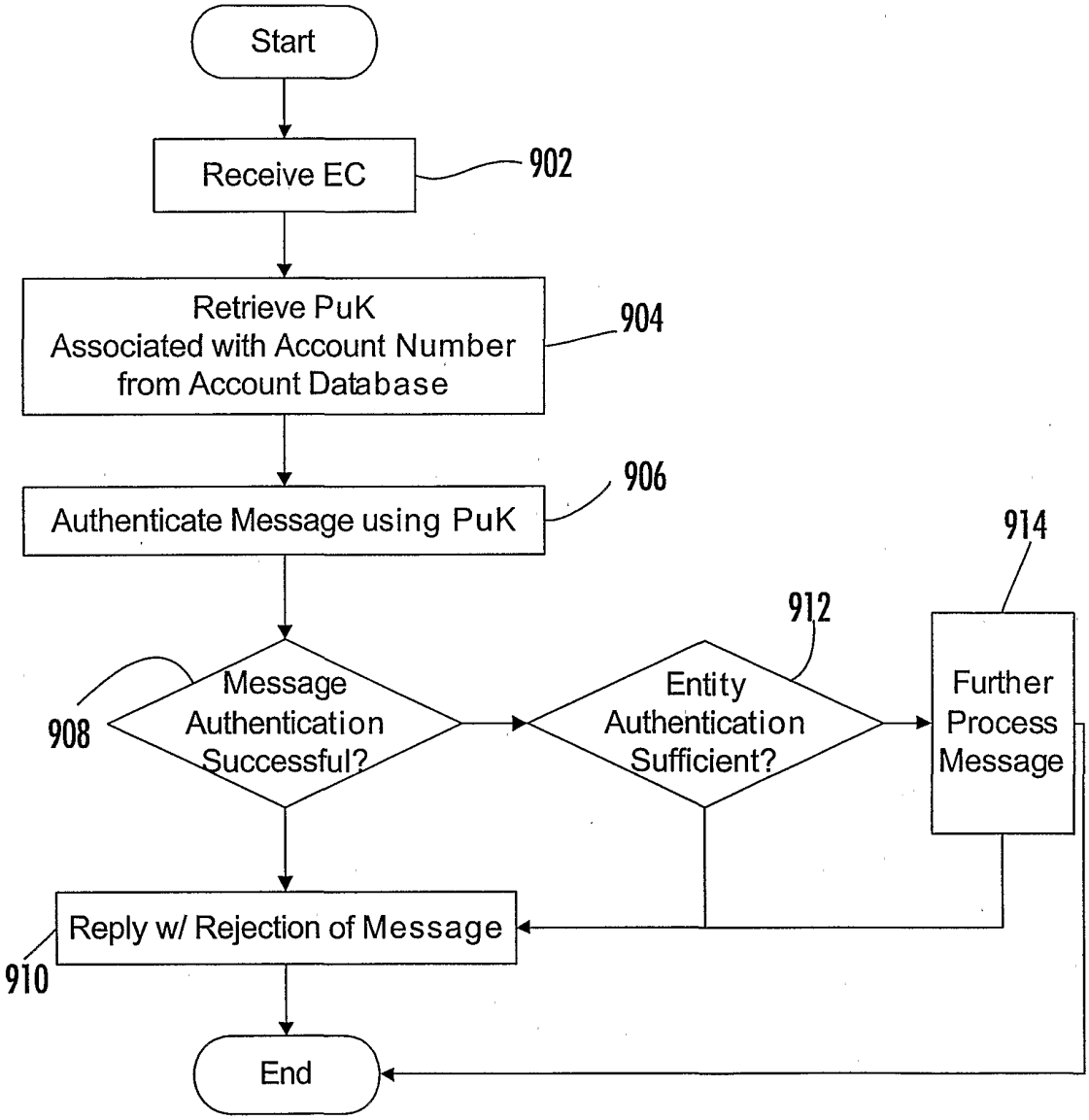

Start
Receive EC
902
Retrieve PuK
Associated with Account Number
from Account Database
904
Authenticate Message using PuK
906
914
912
908
Message
Authentication
Successful?
Entity
Authentication
Sufficient?
Further
Process
Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
910
End

Fig. 9

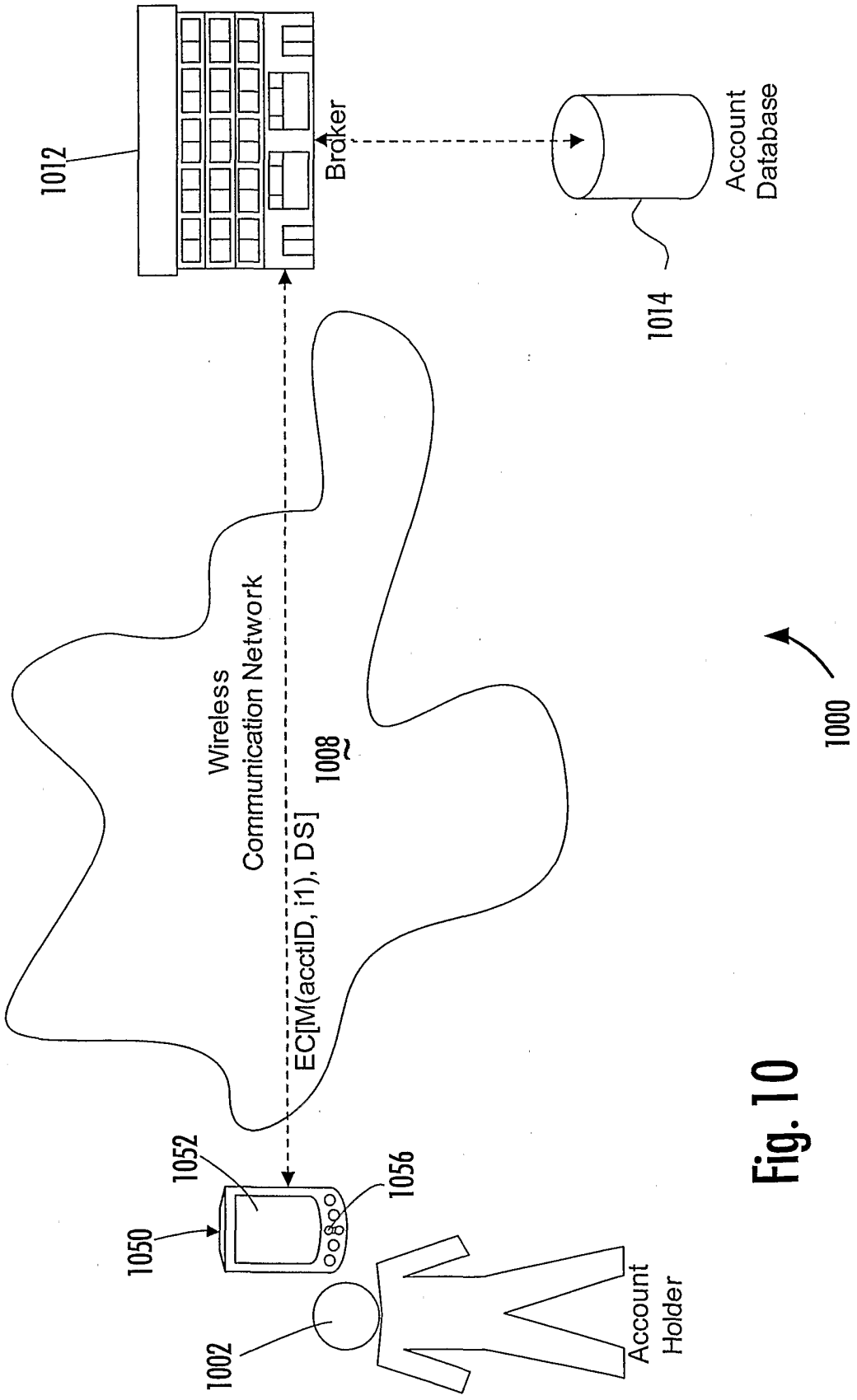

1012
Broker
Account Database
1014
Wireless Communication Network
1008
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
1000
1052
1056
1050
1002
Account Holder

Fig. 10

Account Identifier (acctID) (1116)	Account Information (1140)		Public Key Information (1118)	Device Profile Information (1170)
	Customer -Specific (1142)	Account -Specific (1144)		
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Status Account Balance Available Credit Asset Holdings Pending Transactions Capital Gains Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Ma nufacturing History Transactional History
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Status Account Balance Available Credit Asset Holdings Pending Transactions Capital Gains Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authent ication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Status Account Balance Available Credit Asset Holdings Pending Transactions Capital Gai ns Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

1014

Fig. 11

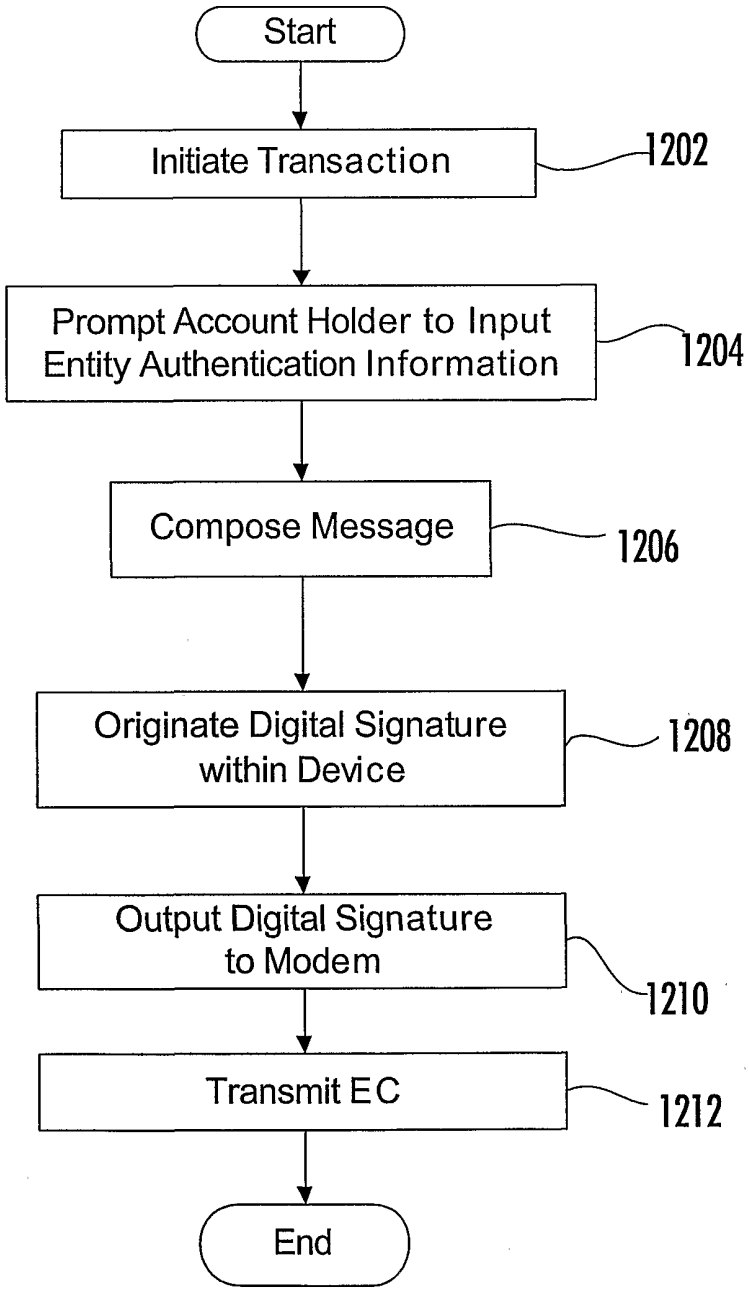

Start
Initiate Transaction
1202
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
1204
Compose Message
1206
Originate Digital Signature within Device
1208
Output Digital Signature to Modem
1210
Transmit EC
1212
End

Fig. 12

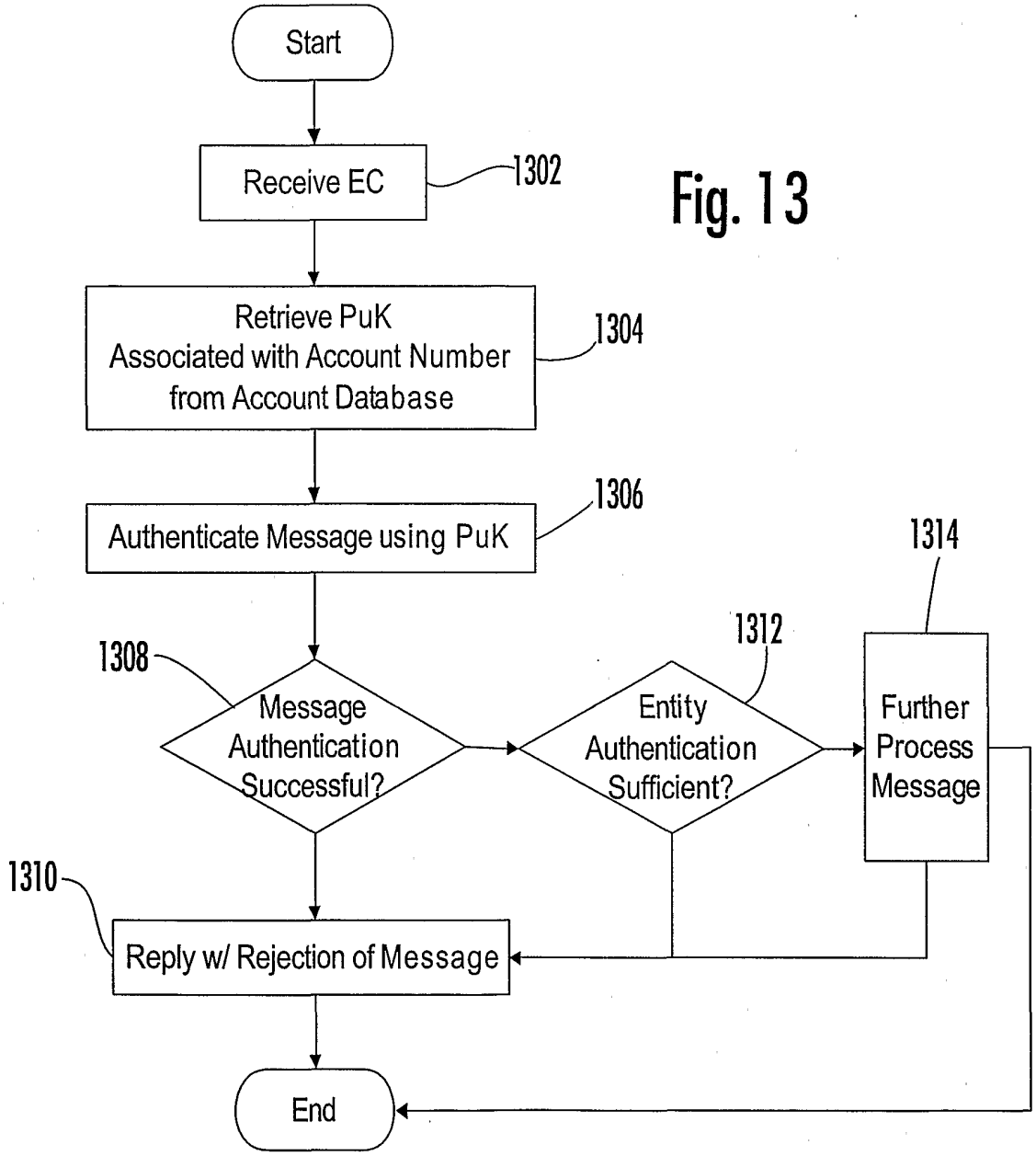

Start
Receive EC
1302
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
1304
Authenticate Message using PuK
1306
1308
Message Authentication Successful?
1312
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
1314
Further Process Message
1310
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
End

Fig. 13

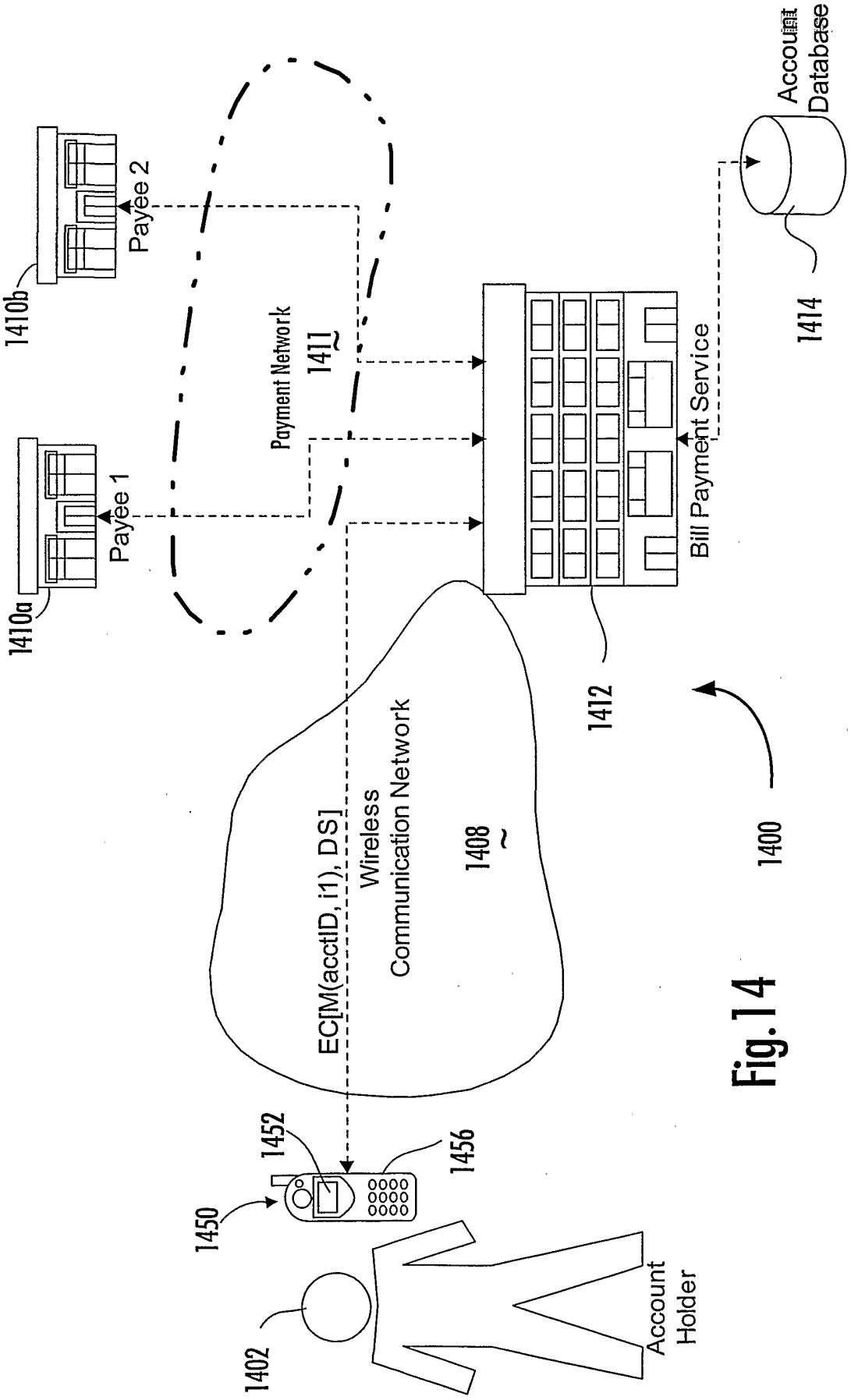

Account Database
1414
Payee 2
1410b
Payment Network
1411
Payee 1
1410a
Bill Payment Service
1412
1400
Wireless Communication Network
1408
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
1452
1456
1450
1402
Account Holder

Fig. 14

Account Identifier (acctID) (1516)	Account Information (1540)		Public Key Information (1518)	Device Profile In formation (1570)
	Customer -Specific (1542)	Account -Specific (1544)		
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax - ID number etc.	List of Payment Accounts & Account Balances Credit Card Number(s) Available Credit Current Statement Status Report Regi stered Payees - (Cust. Acct. #, - Billing Address, - Current Billing Information) etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-####-####-###	Name Address S SN/Tax-ID number etc.	List of Payment Accounts & Account Balances Credit Card Number(s) Available Credit Current Statement Status Report Registered Payees - (Cust. Acct. #, - Billing Address, - Current Billing Information) etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

1414

Fig. 15

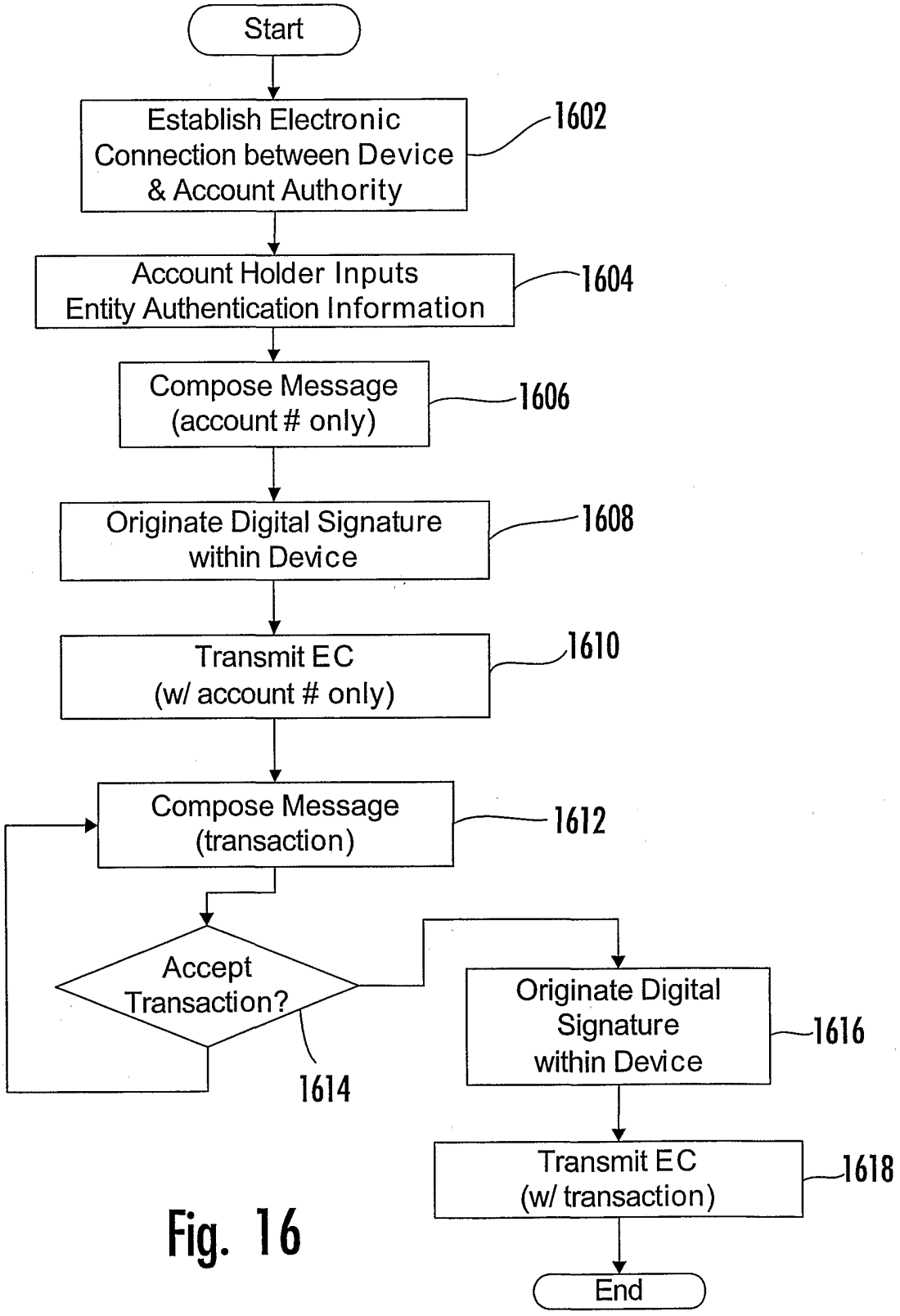

Start
Establish Electronic Connection between Device & Account Authority
1602
Account Holder Inputs Entity Authentication Information
1604
Compose Message (account # only)
1606
Originate Digital Signature within Device
1608
Transmit EC (w/ account # only)
1610
Compose Message (transaction)
1612
Accept Transaction?
1614
Originate Digital Signature within Device
1616
Transmit EC (w/ transaction)
1618
End

Fig. 16

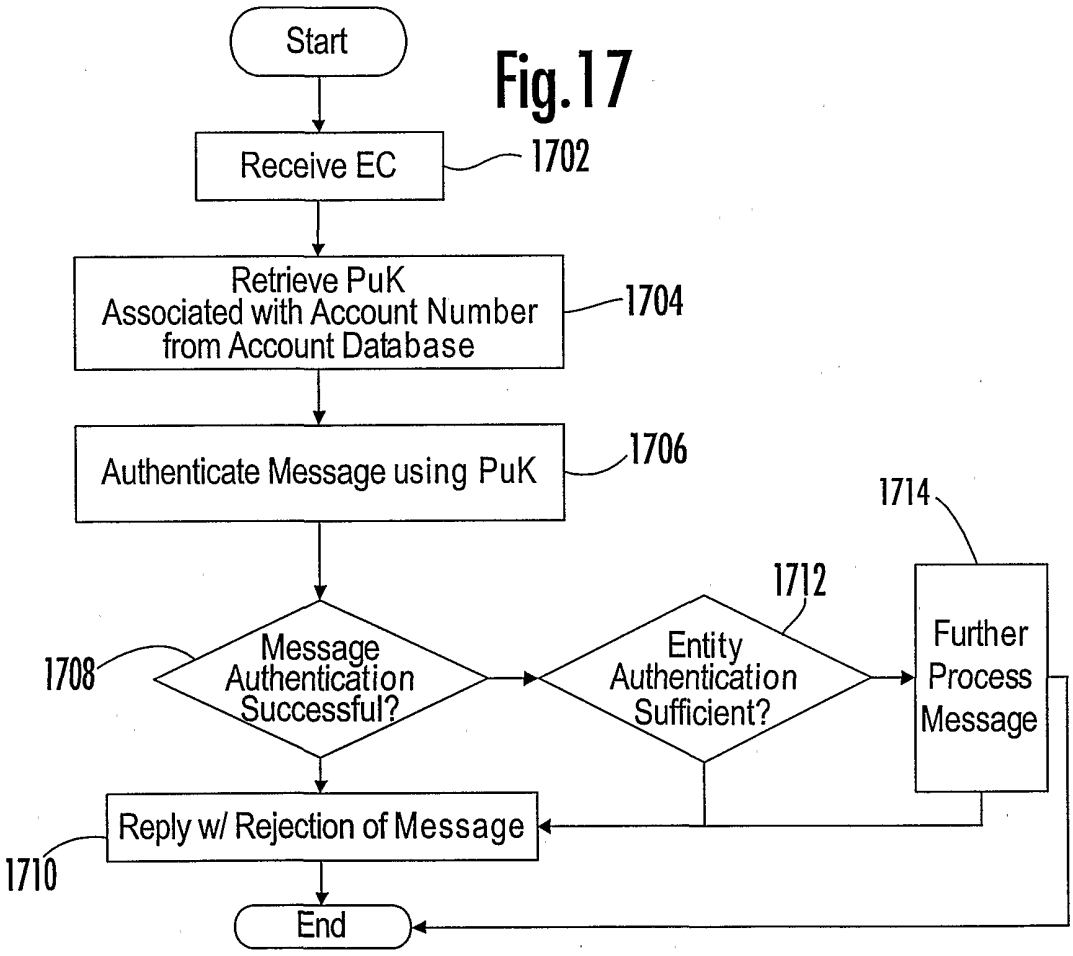

Start
Receive EC
1702
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
1704
Authenticate Message using PuK
1706
1714
1712
1708
Message Authentication Successful?
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
Further Process Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
1710
End

Fig.17

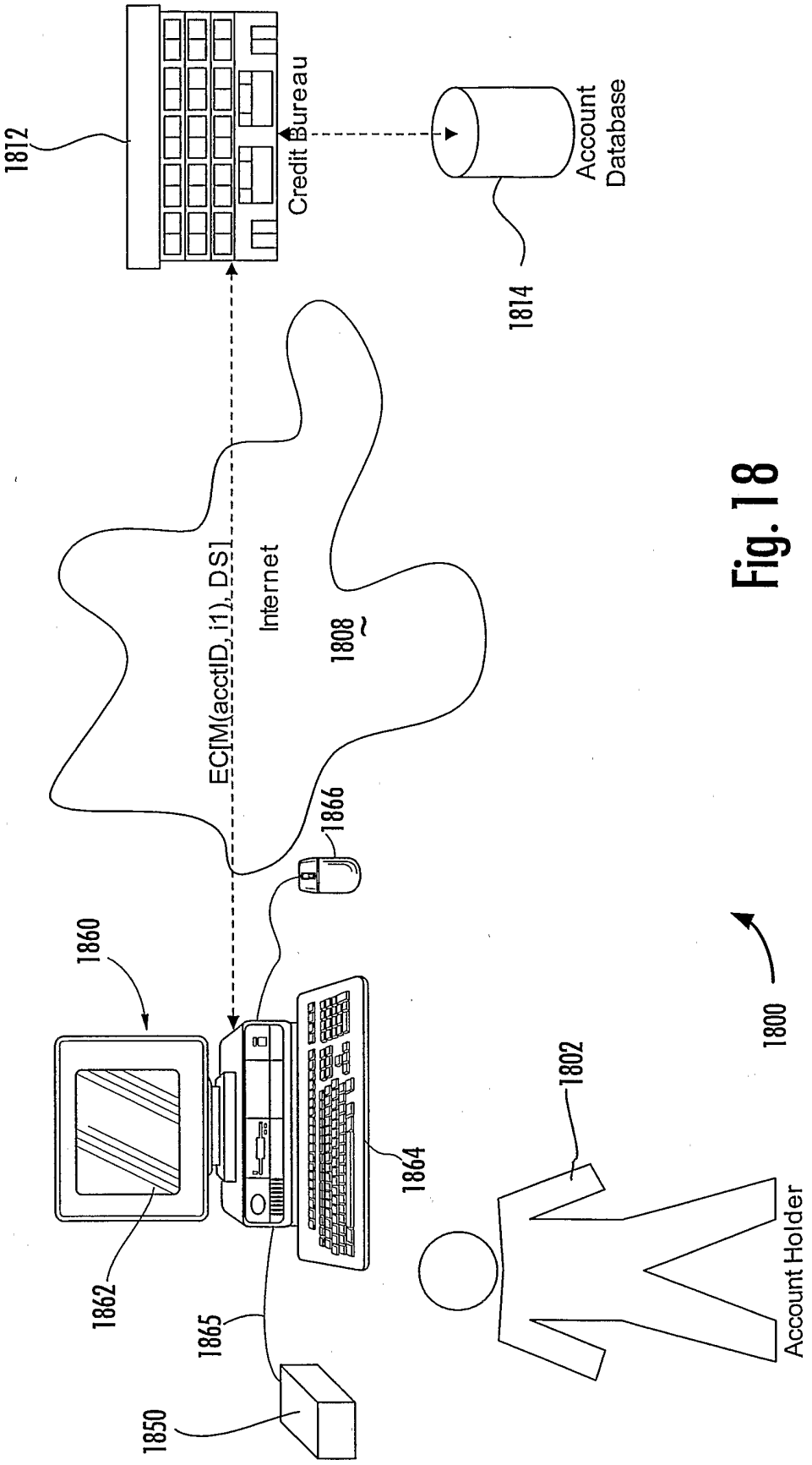

1812
Credit Bureau
Account Database
1814
ECIM(acctID, i1), DS1
Internet
1808
1866
1860
1864
1862
1865
1850
1802
1800
Account Holder

Fig. 18

Account Identifier (acctID) (1916)	Account Information (1940)		Public Key Information (1918)	Device Profile Information (1970)
	Customer -Specific (1942)	Accoun t-Specific (1944)		
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	List of Accounts Payment History Past Due Amount Total Debt Credit Score etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	List of Accounts Payment History Past Due Amount Total Debt Credit Score etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	List of Accounts Payment History Past Due Amount Total Debt Credit Score etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

1814

Fig. 19

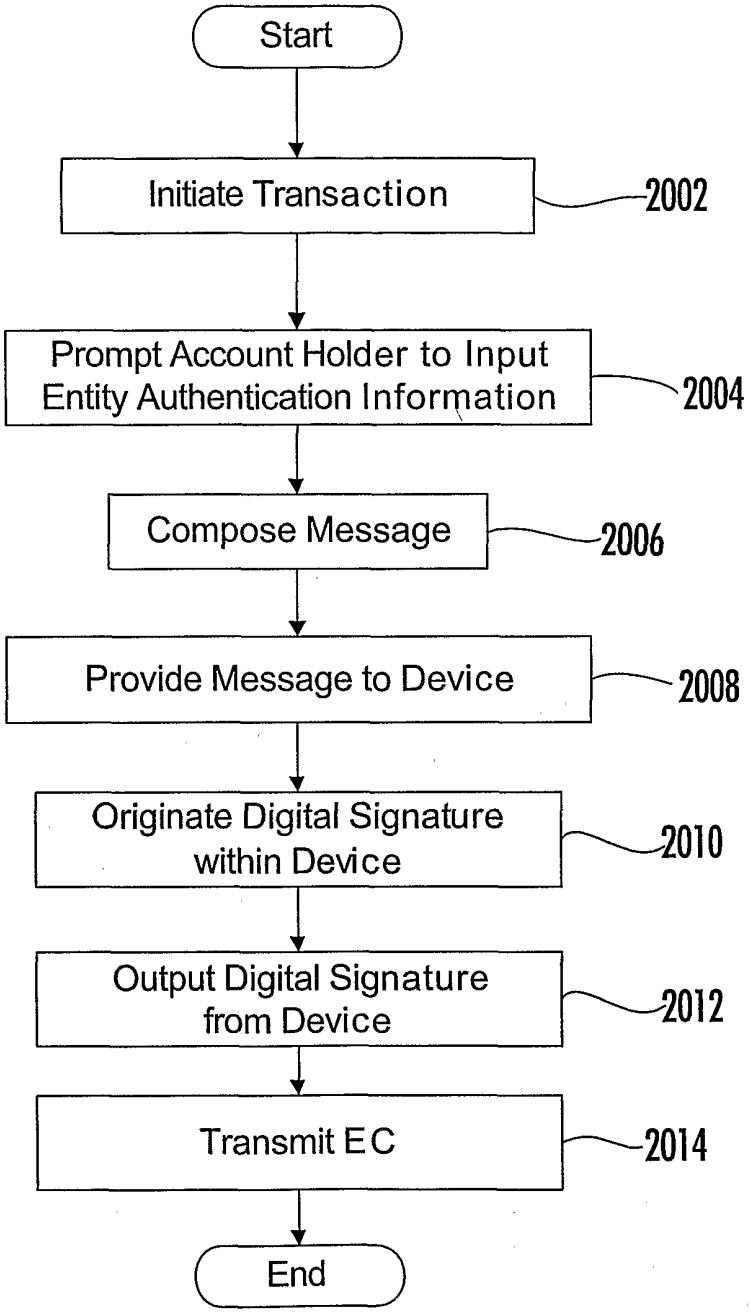

Start
Initiate Transaction
2002
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
2004
Compose Message
2006
Provide Message to Device
2008
Originate Digital Signature within Device
2010
Output Digital Signature from Device
2012
Transmit EC
2014
End

Fig. 20

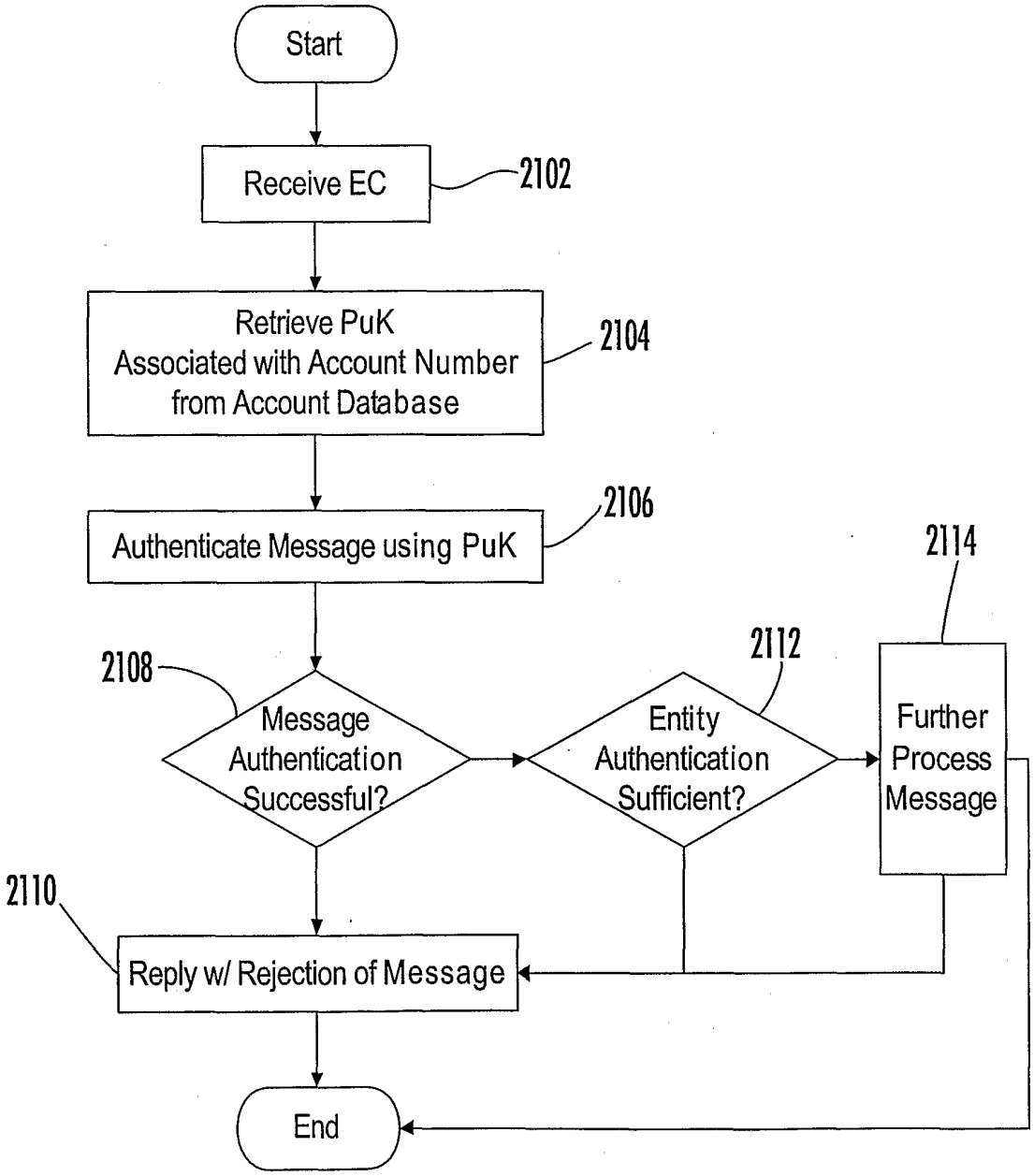

Start
Receive EC
2102
Retrieve PuK
Associated with Account Number
from Account Database
2104
Authenticate Message using PuK
2106
2114
2112
2108
Message
Authentication
Successful?
Entity
Authentication
Sufficient?
Further
Process
Message
2110
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
End

Fig. 21

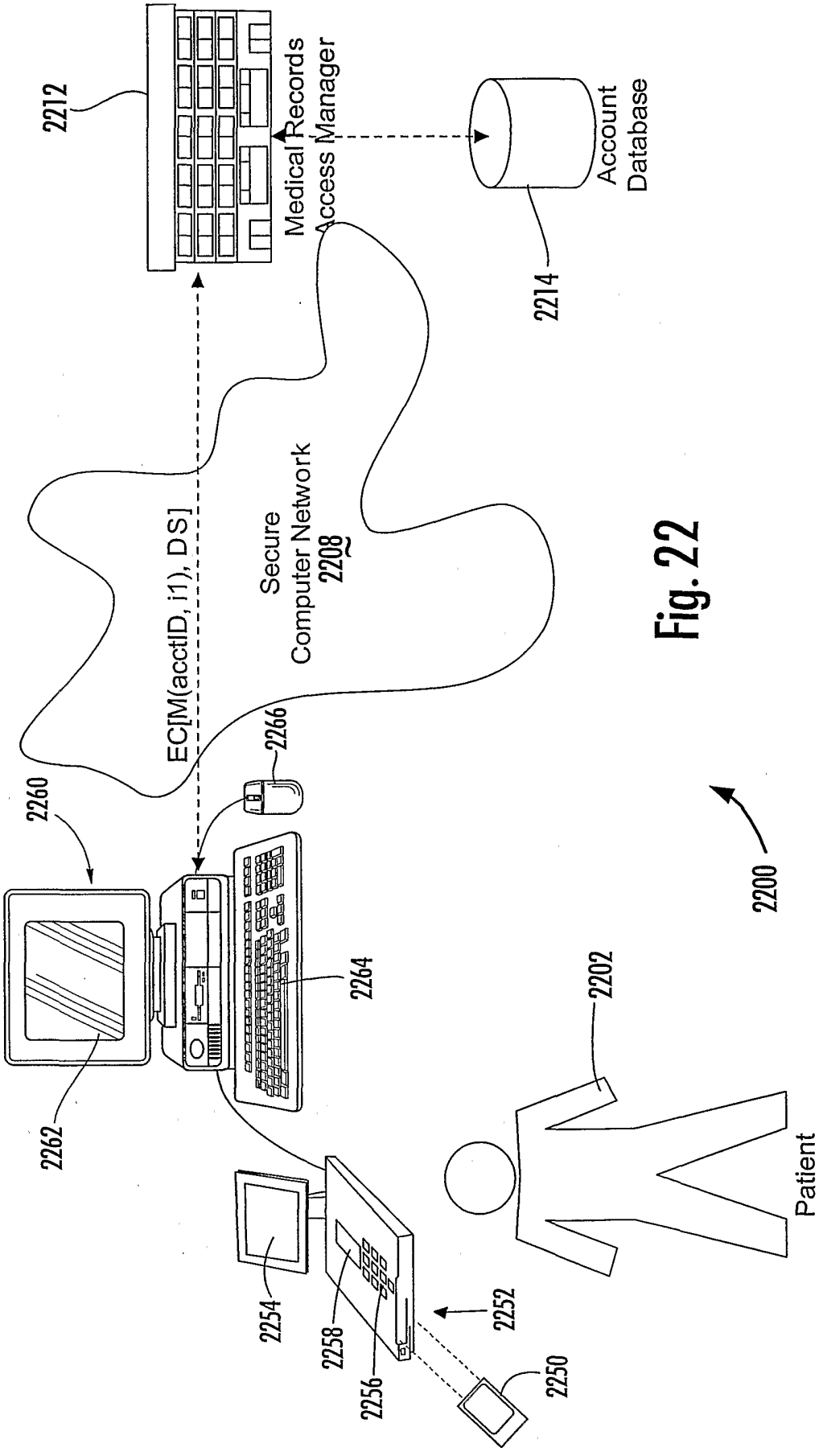

2212
Medical Records Access Manager
Account Database
2214
Secure Computer Network 2208
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
2266
2260
2264
2262
2200
2202
Patient
2254
2258
2256
2252
2250

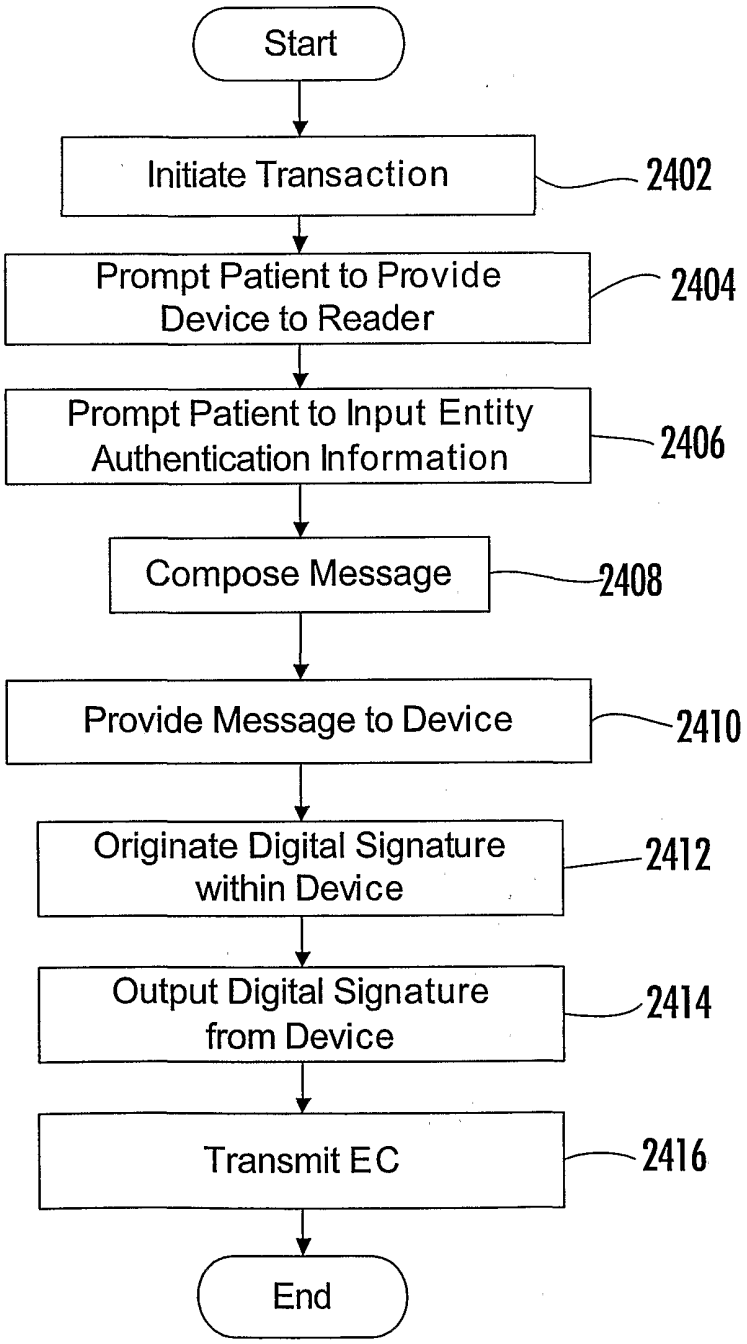
Fig. 22

Account Identifier (acctID) (2316)	Account Information (2340)		Public Key Information (2318)	Device Profile Information (2370)
	Customer -Specific (2342)	Account -Specific (2344)		
#-#####-#####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax -ID number etc.	Current l ist of doctors Insurance information Medical profile and history Known allergies Major medical conditions Organ donor information etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#####-#####-###	N ame Address SSN/Tax -ID number etc.	Current list of doctors Insurance information Medical profile and history Known allergies Major medical conditions Organ donor information etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#####-#####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax -ID number etc.	Current list of doctors Insurance information Medical profile and history Known allergies Major medical conditions Organ donor information etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

2214

Fig. 23

Fig. 24


Start
Initiate Transaction
2402
Prompt Patient to Provide Device to Reader
2404
Prompt Patient to Input Entity Authentication Information
2406
Compose Message
2408
Provide Message to Device
2410
Originate Digital Signature within Device
2412
Output Digital Signature from Device
2414
Transmit EC
2416
End

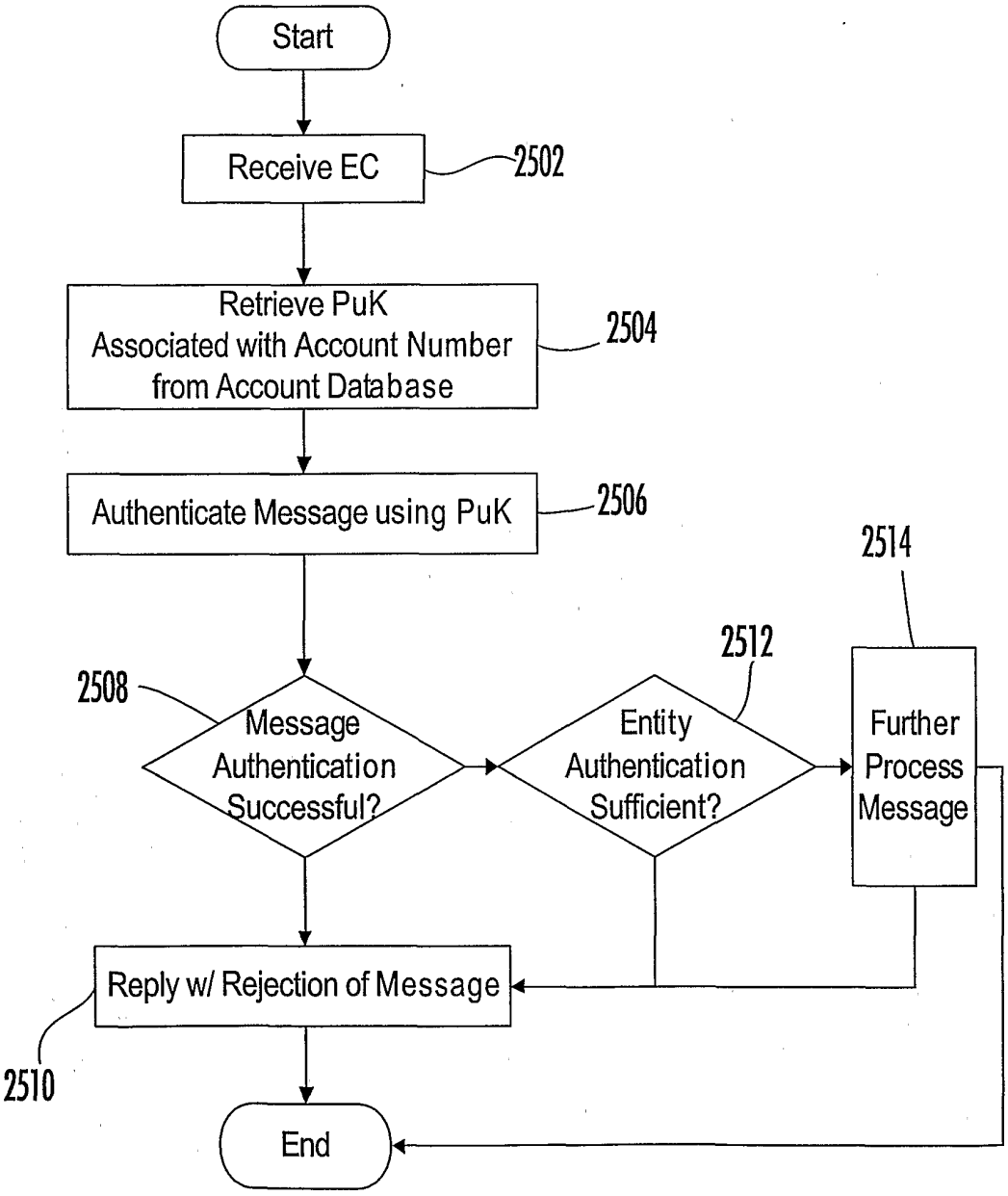

Start
Receive EC
2502
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
2504
Authenticate Message using PuK
2506
2514
2512
2508
Message Authentication Successful?
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
Further Process Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
2510
End

Fig. 25

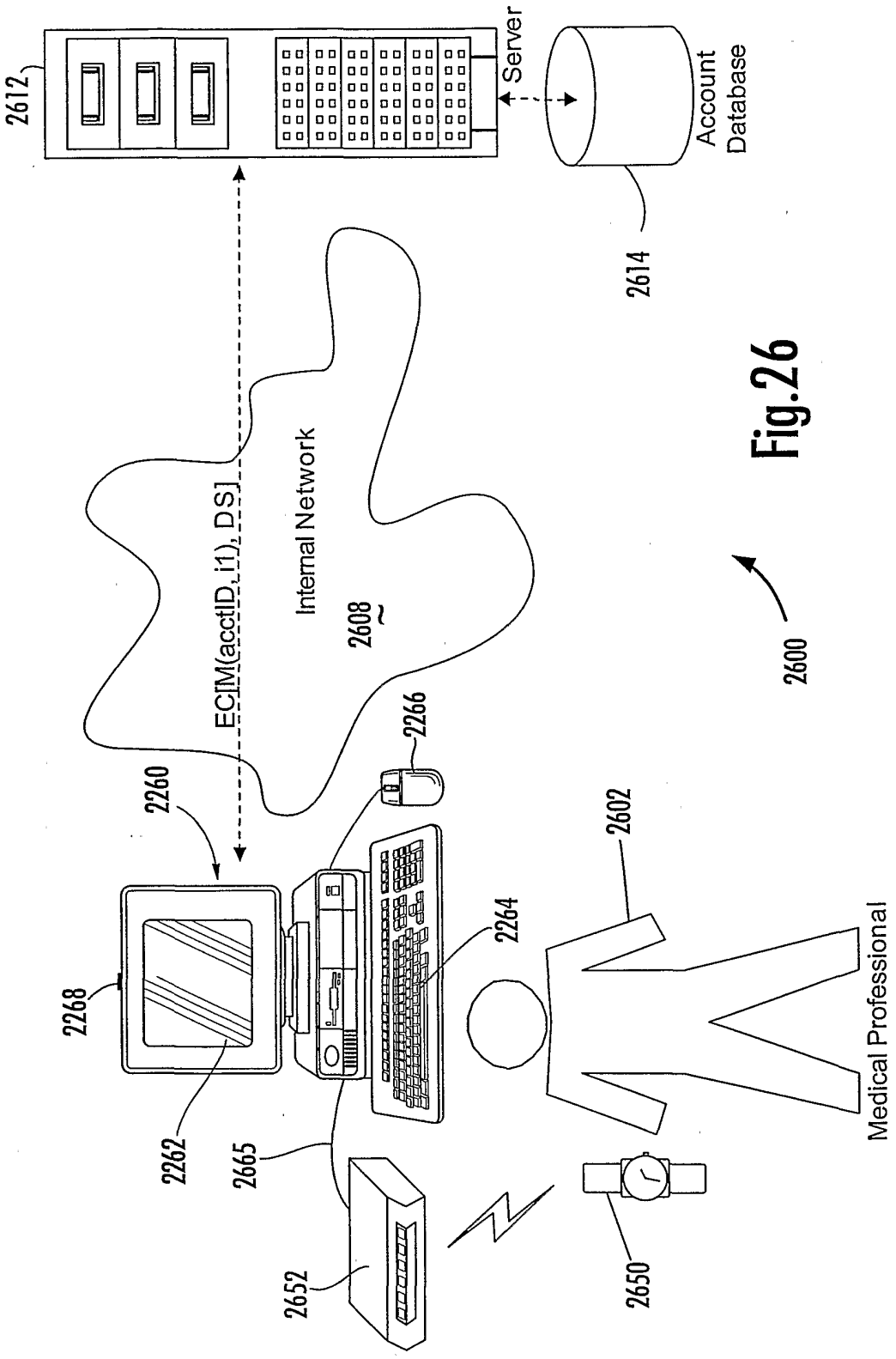

2612
Server
Account Database
2614
ECIM(acctID, i1), DS]
Internal Network
2608
2600
2266
2260
2602
2268
2264
Medical Professional
2262
2665
2652
2650

Fig.26

Account (Entity) Identifier (acctID) (2716)	Account Information (2740)		Public Key Information (2718)	Device Profile Informati on (2770)
	Entity -Specific Information (2742)	Accessible Databases (2744)		
#-####-####-###	Name Position Field of Practice Member of Groups	Group Calendar Personal Calendar Group Contact List Personal Contact List Group Patient List Personal Patient List Insurance List	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-###	Name Position Field of Practice Member of Groups	Group Calendar Personal Calendar Group Contact List Personal Contact List Group Patient List Personal Patient List Insurance List	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-####-####-###	Name Position Field of Practice Member of Groups	Group Calendar Personal Calendar Group Contact List Personal Contact List Group Patient List P ersonal Patient List Insurance List	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

2614

Fig. 27

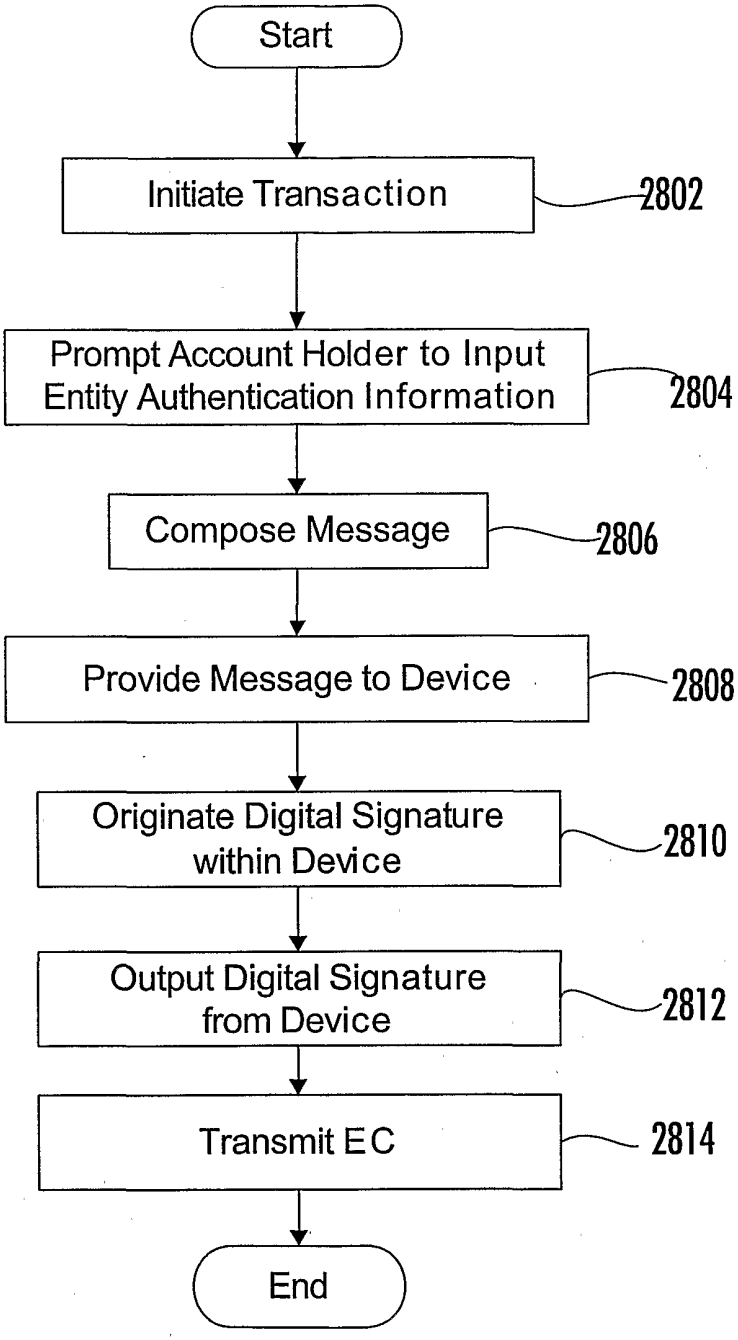

Start
Initiate Transaction
2802
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
2804
Compose Message
2806
Provide Message to Device
2808
Originate Digital Signature within Device
2810
Output Digital Signature from Device
2812
Transmit EC
2814
End

Fig. 28

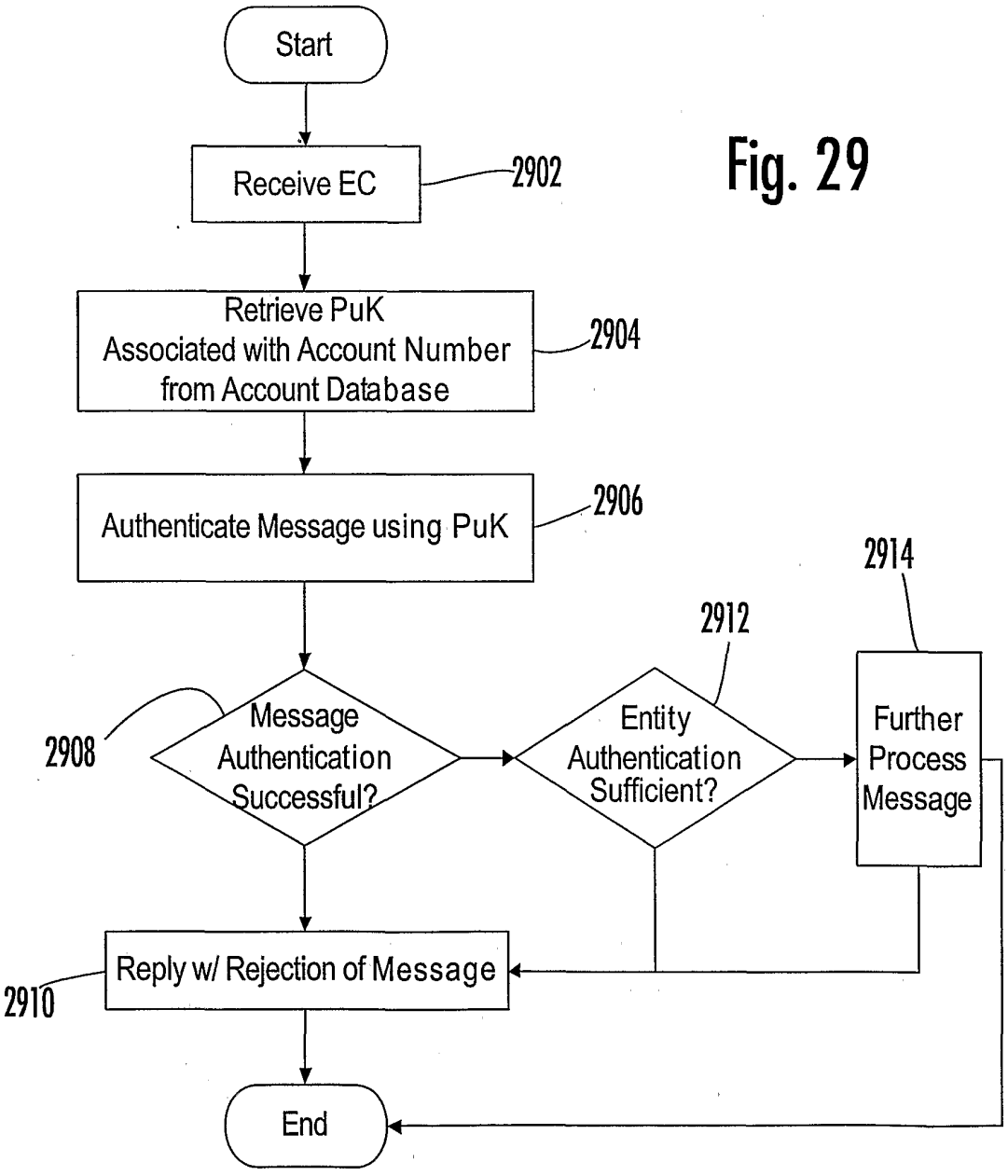

Start
Receive EC
2902
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
2904
Authenticate Message using PuK
2906
2914
2912
2908
Message Authentication Successful?
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
Further Process Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
2910
End

Fig. 29

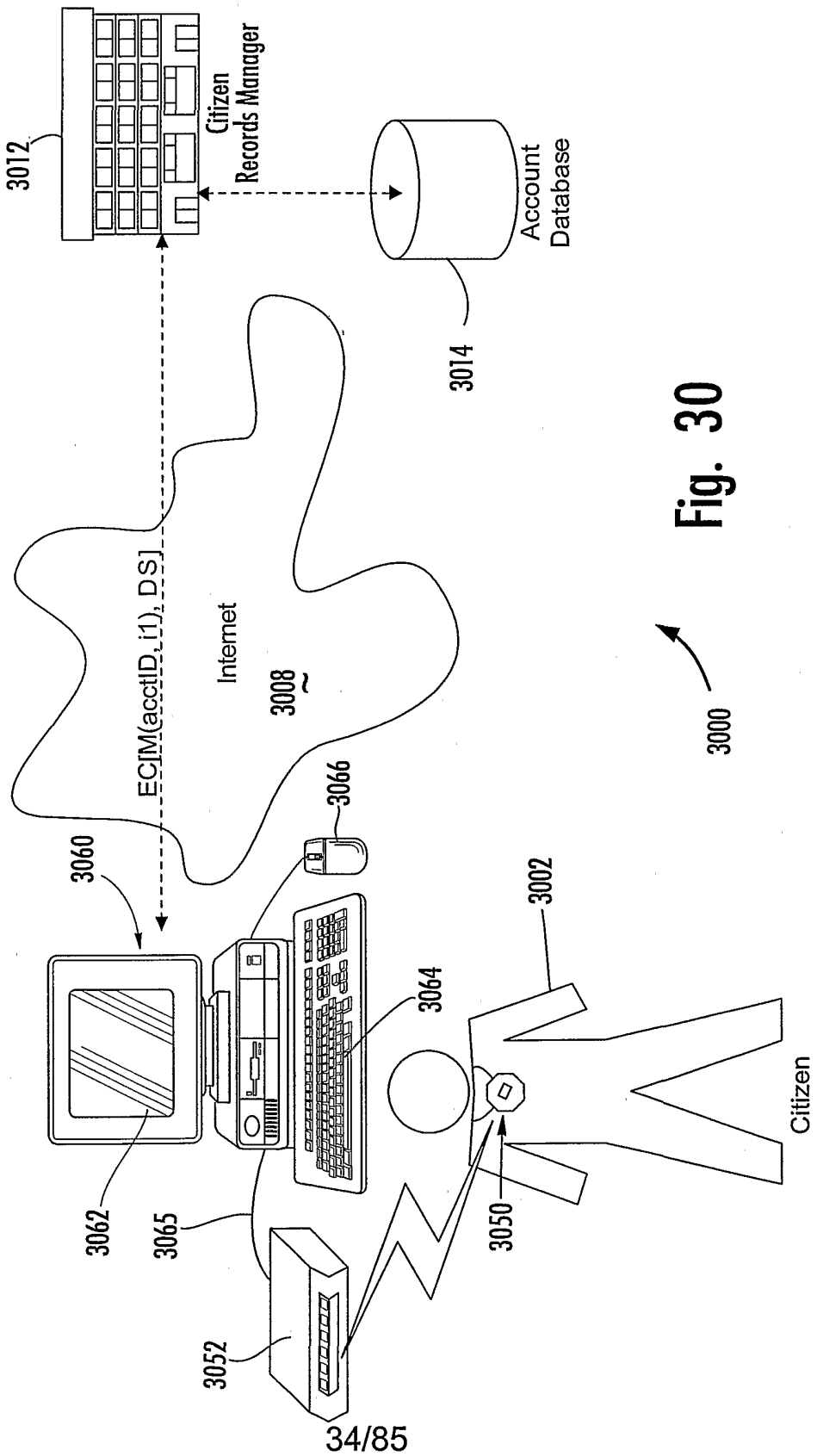

3012
Citizen Records Manager
Account Database
3014
Internet
3008
ECIM(acctID, i1), DS]
3066
3060
3002
3064
Citizen
3062
3065
3050
3052
3000

Fig. 30

Account Identifier (acctID) (3116)	Account Information (3140)		Public Key Information (3118)	Device Profile Information (3170)
	Citizen -Specific (3142)	Account -Specific (3144)		
#-### -#### -##	Name Address SSN Tax-ID number Occupation Place of Birth Age etc.	Social Security Benefits Welfare Benefits Medicare/Medicaid Benefits Prescription Benefits Universal Health Care Benefits Tax Returns (last 5 years) Bank Account Information etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-### -#### -##	Name Address SSN Tax-ID number Occupation Place of Birth Age etc.	Social Security Benefits. Welfare Benefits Medicare/Medicaid Benefits Prescription Benefits Universal Health Care Benefits Tax Returns (last 5 years) Bank Account Information etc.	P uK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-### -#### -##	Name Address SSN Tax-ID number Occupation Place of Birth Age etc.	Social Security Benefits Welfa re Benefits Medicare/Medicaid Benefits Prescription Benefits Universal Health Care Benefits Tax Returns (last 5 years) Bank Account Information etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

3014

Fig. 31

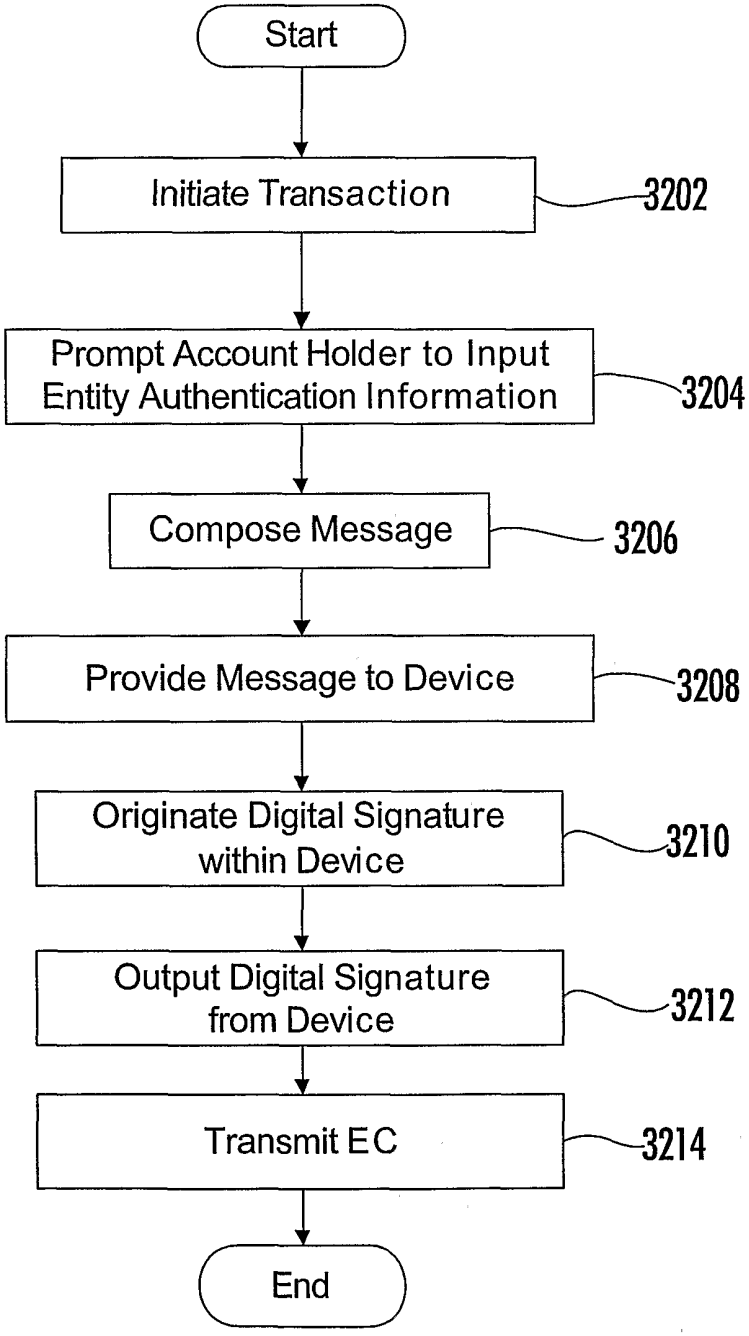

Start
Initiate Transaction
3202
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
3204
Compose Message
3206
Provide Message to Device
3208
Originate Digital Signature within Device
3210
Output Digital Signature from Device
3212
Transmit EC
3214
End

Fig. 32

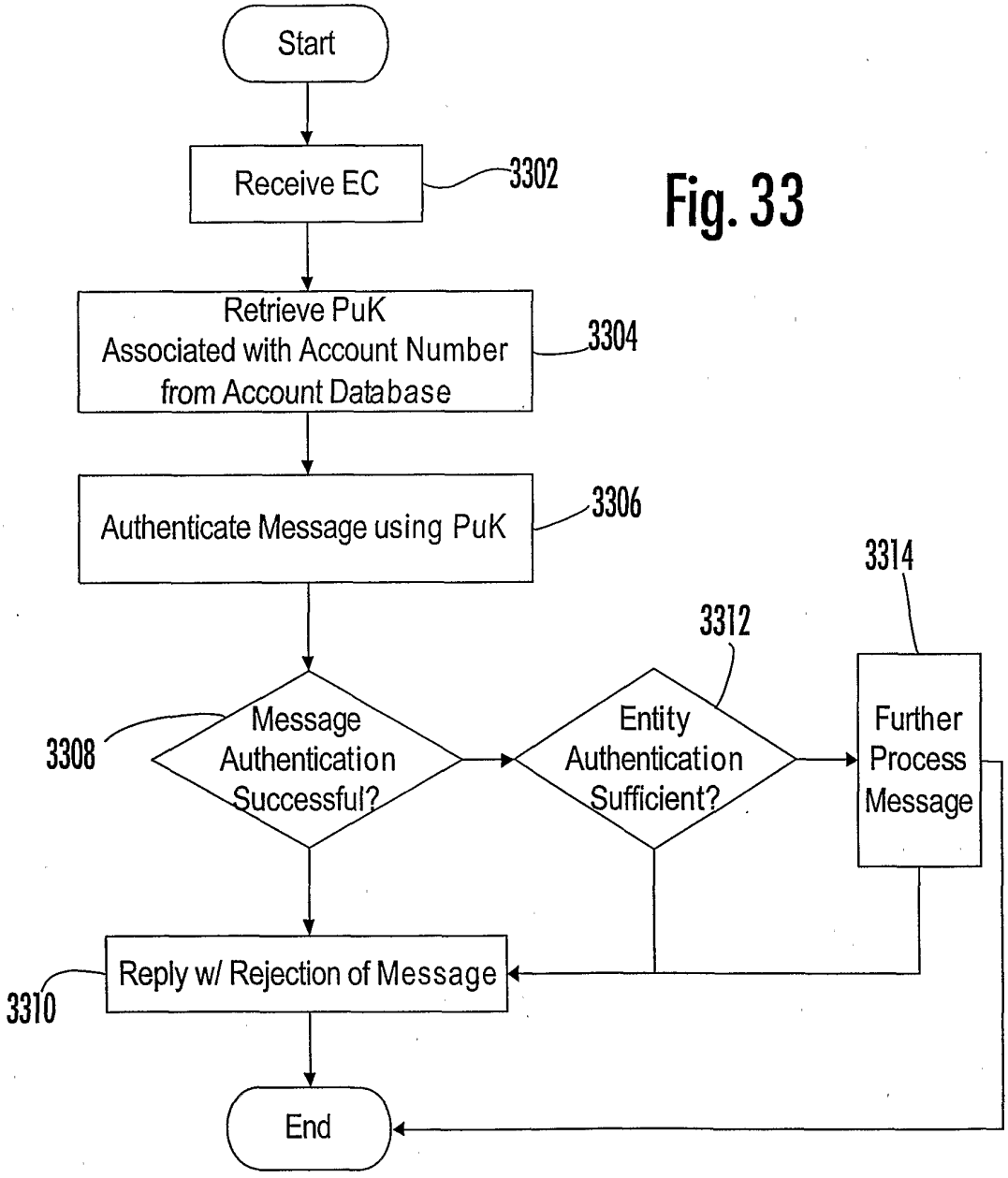

Start
Receive EC
3302
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
3304
Authenticate Message using PuK
3306
3314
3312
3308
Message Authentication Successful?
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
Further Process Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
3310
End

Fig. 33

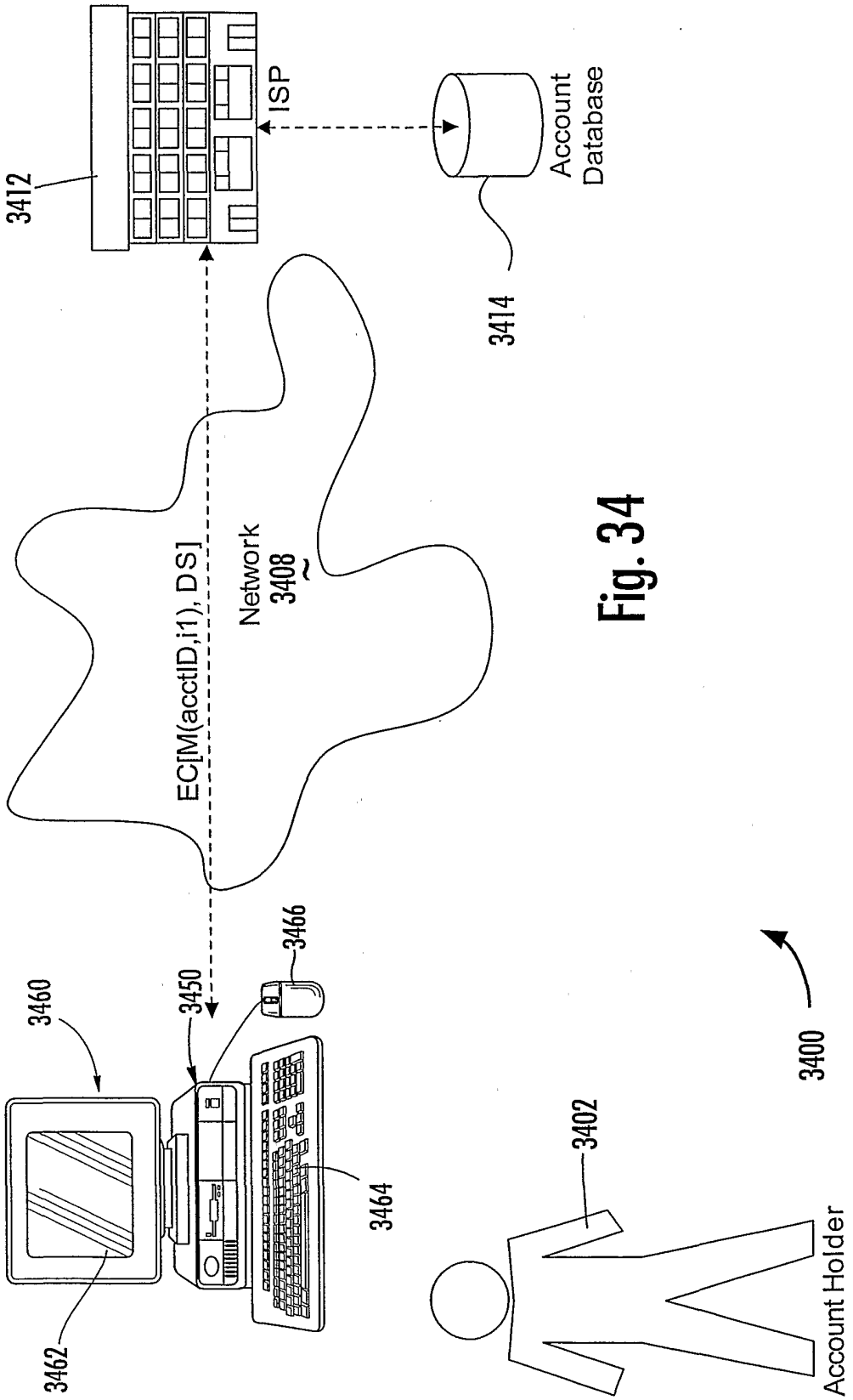

3412
ISP
Account Database
3414
EC[M(acctID,i1), DS]
Network
3408
3466
3460
3450
3464
3462
3402
3400
Account Holder

Fig. 34

Account Identifier (acctID) (3516)	Account Information (3540)		Public Key Information (3518)	Device Profile Information (3570)
	Customer -Specific (3542)	Account -Specific (3544)		
#-#### -#### -###	Name Billing Address EMail Address Credit Card Information	ISP Connection Means & Speed Internet Hours Used Internet Hours Available EMail accounts (aliases) Web page address etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#### -#### -###	Name Billing Address EMail Address Credit Card Information	ISP Connection Means & Speed Internet Hours Used Internet Hours Available EMail accounts (aliases) Web page address etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#### -#### -###	Name Billing Address EMail Address Credit Card Information	ISP Connection Means & Speed Internet Hours Used Internet Hours Available EMail accounts (aliases) Web page address etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

3414

Fig. 35

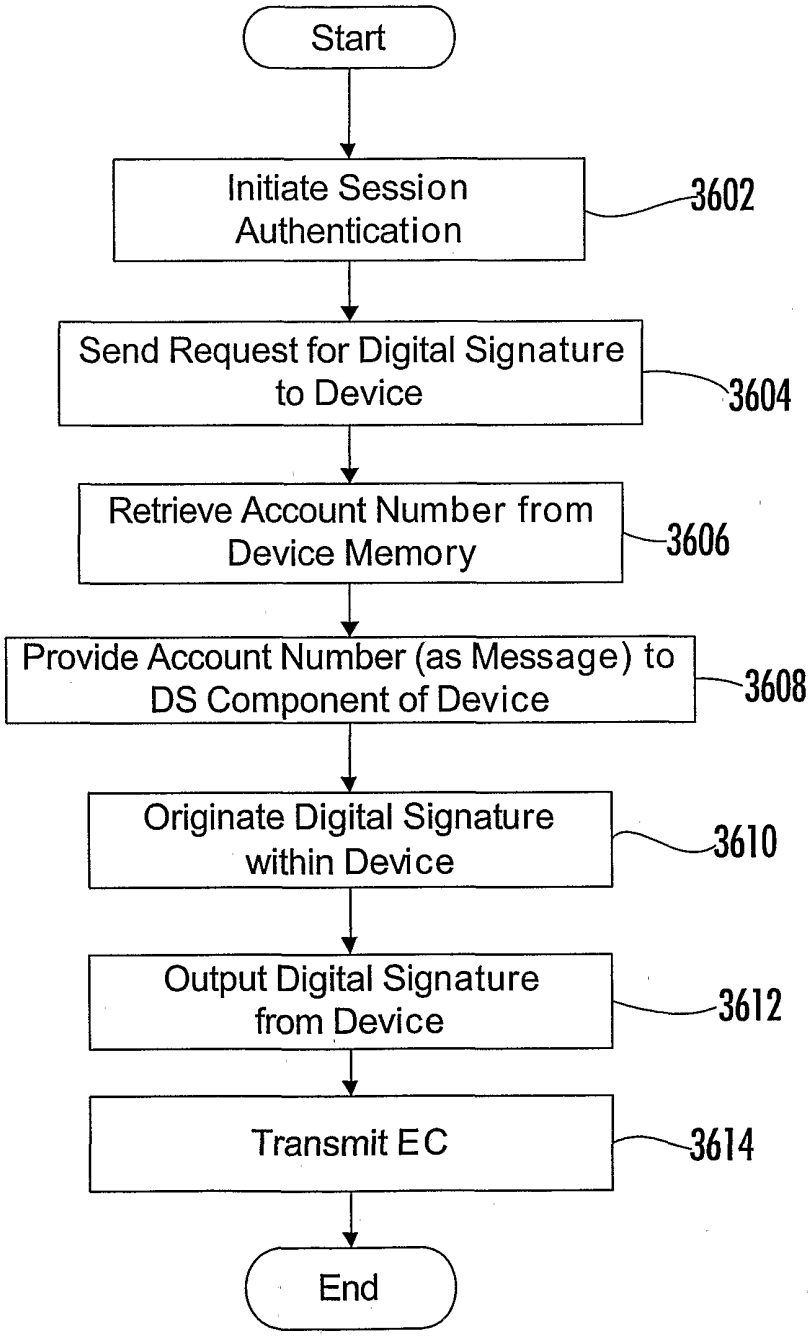

Start
Initiate Session Authentication
3602
Send Request for Digital Signature to Device
3604
Retrieve Account Number from Device Memory
3606
Provide Account Number (as Message) to DS Component of Device
3608
Originate Digital Signature within Device
3610
Output Digital Signature from Device
3612
Transmit EC
3614
End

Fig. 36

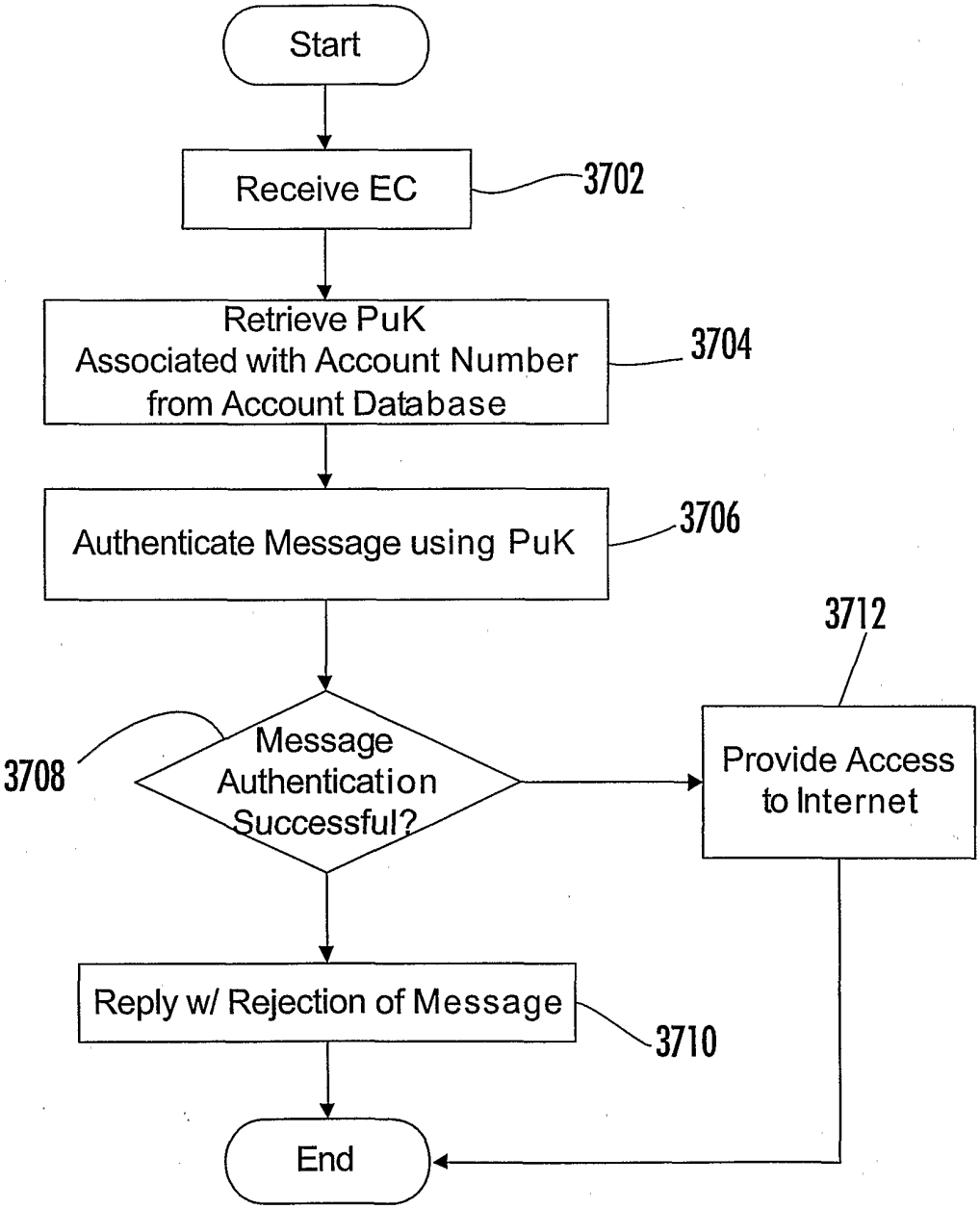

Start
Receive EC
3702
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
3704
Authenticate Message using PuK
3706
3712
3708
Message Authentication Successful?
Provide Access to Internet
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
3710
End

Fig. 37

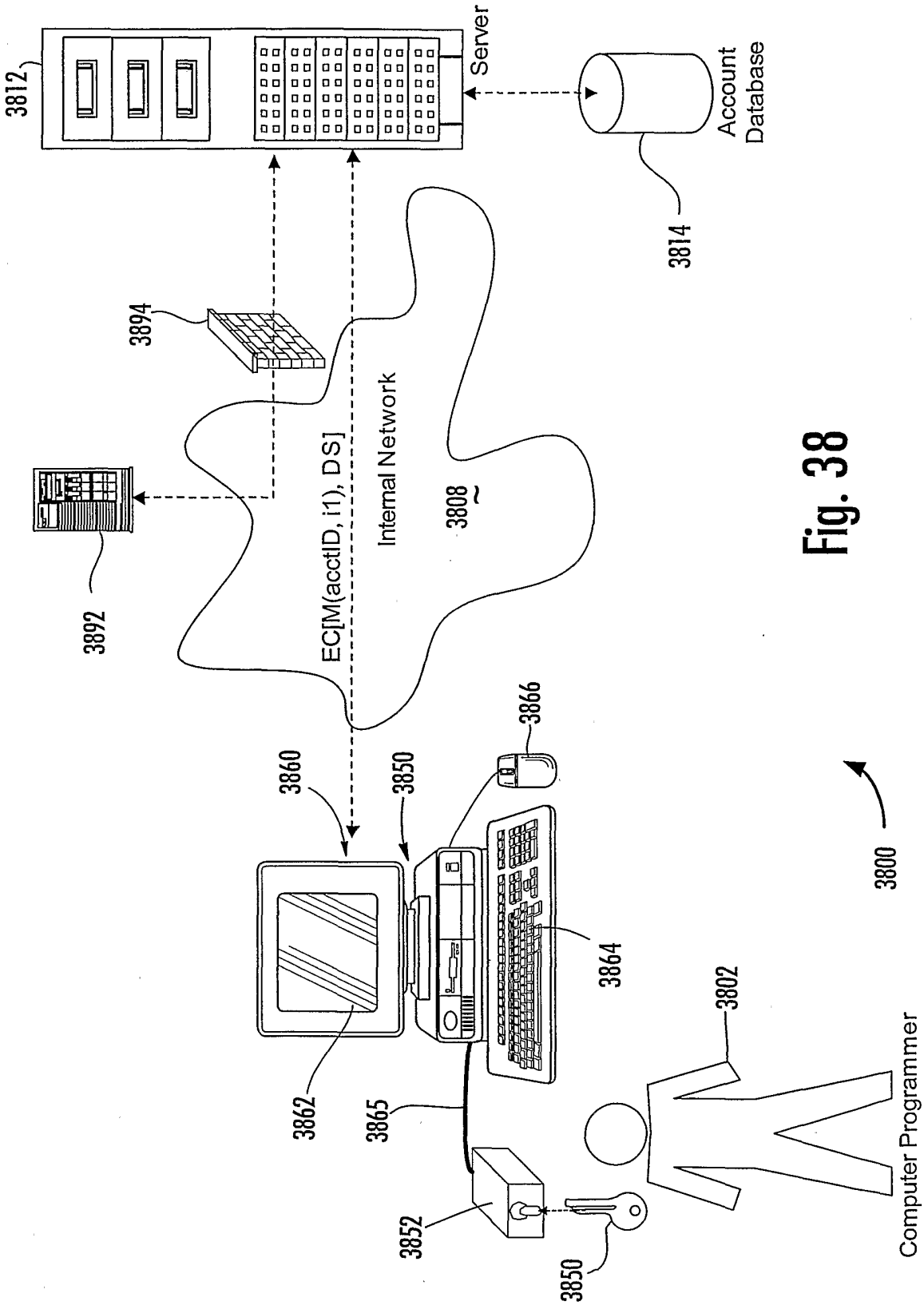

3812
Server
Account Database
3814
3894
3892
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
Internal Network
3808
3866
3860
3850
3864
3862
3865
3852
3850
3802
Computer Programmer
3800

Fig. 38

Account (Employee) Identifier (acctID) (3916)	Account Information (3940)		Public Key Information (3918)	Device Profile Information (3970)
	Employee-Specific Information (3942)	Accessible Databases (3944)		
#-####-####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Building Location Room Location Computer Number	Project 1 Project 2 Project 3 . . . Project n	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Building Location Room Location Computer Number	Project 1 Project 2 Project 3 . . . Project n	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-####-####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Building Location Room Location Computer Number	Project 1 Project 2 Project 3 . . . Project n	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

3814

Fig. 39

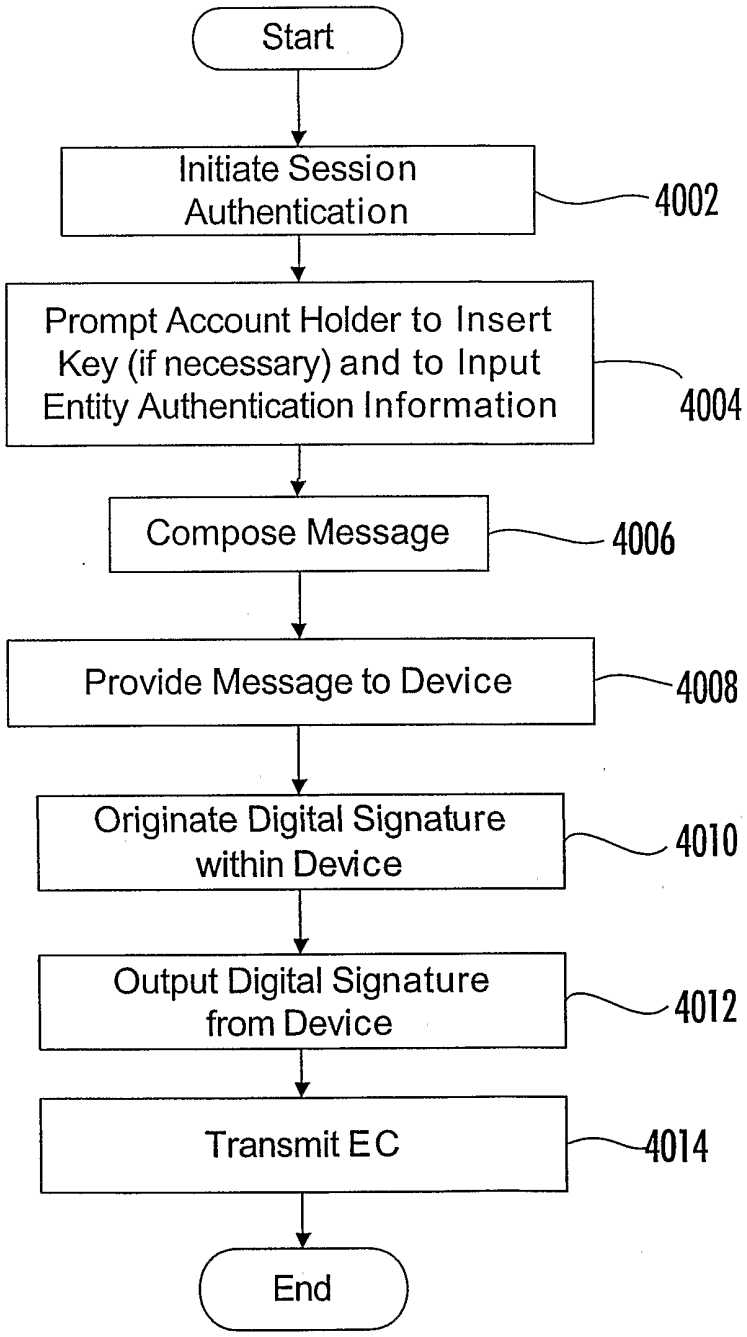

Start
Initiate Session Authentication
4002
Prompt Account Holder to Insert Key (if necessary) and to Input Entity Authentication Information
4004
Compose Message
4006
Provide Message to Device
4008
Originate Digital Signature within Device
4010
Output Digital Signature from Device
4012
Transmit EC
4014
End

Fig. 40

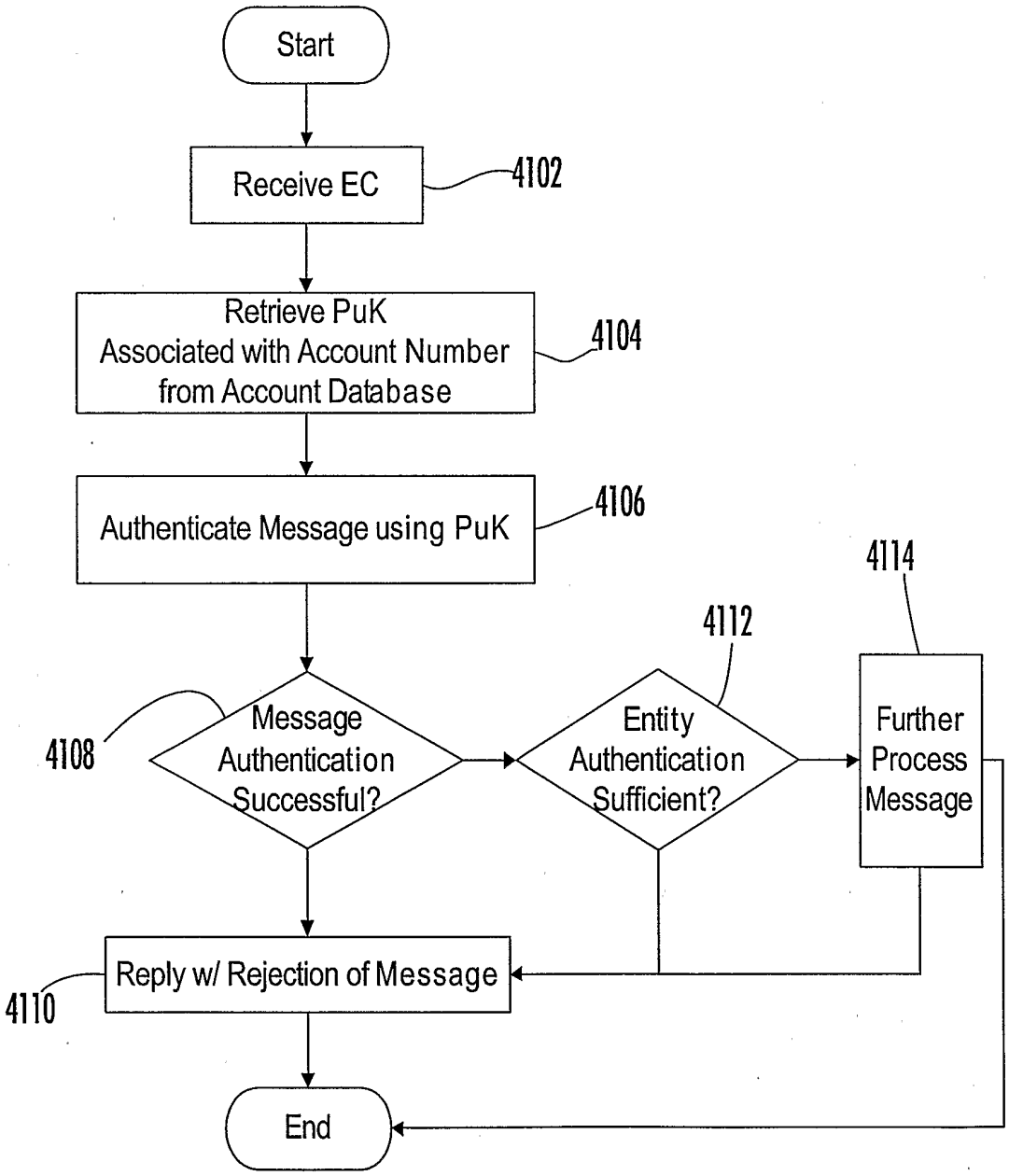

Start
Receive EC
4102
Retrieve PuK
Associated with Account Number
from Account Database
4104
Authenticate Message using PuK
4106
4114
4112
4108
Message
Authentication
Successful?
Entity
Authentication
Sufficient?
Further
Process
Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
4110
End

Fig. 41

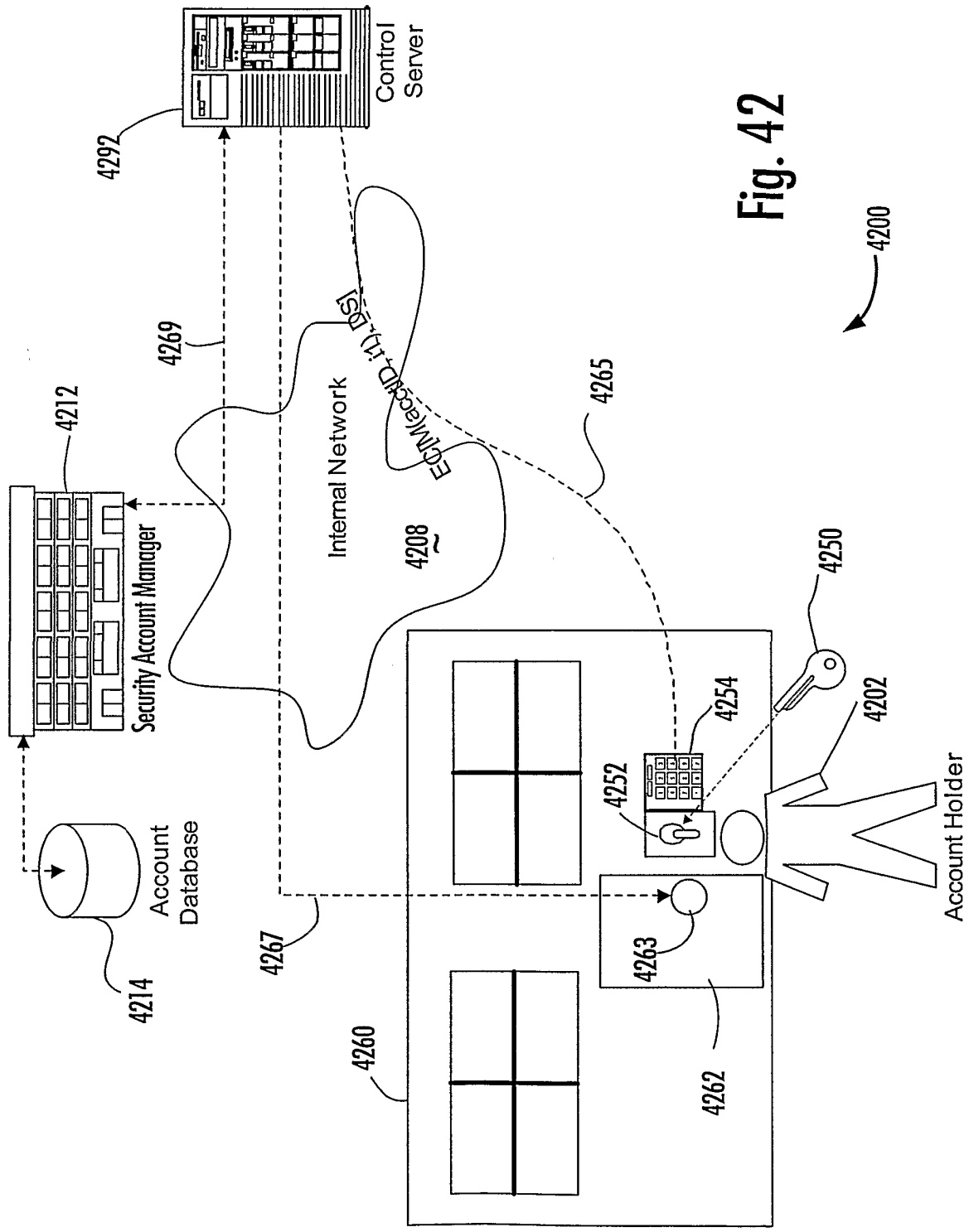

Control Server
4292
4269
4212
Security Account Manager
Internal Network
4208
4265
4250
4254
4202
4252
Account Holder
Account Database
4214
4267
4263
4260
4262
4200

Fig. 42

Account (Employee) Identifier (acctID) (4316)	Account Information (4340)			Public Key Information (4318)	Device Profile Information (4370)
	Employee-Specific Information (4342)	Secured Spaces (4344)	Access Requirements (4346)		
#-#####-#####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Building Location Room Location Computer Number	Parking Lot Main Bldg. Floors 1-6 Floors 7-10 Room 610 Other secure rooms Space n	Device Device+PIN Device+PIN Dev.+PIN+BIO Device+BIO None None	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#####-#####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Bu ilding Location Room Location Computer Number	Parking Lot Main Bldg. Floors 1-6 Floors 7-10 Room 610 Other secure rooms Space n	Device Device+PIN Device+PIN Dev.+PIN+BIO Device+BIO None None	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufact uring History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#####-#####-###	Name Email Address Department Supervisor Project(s) Building Location Room Location Computer Number	Parking Lot Main Bldg. Floors 1-6 Floors 7-10 Room 610 Other secure rooms Space n	Device Device+PIN Device+PIN Dev.+PIN+BIO Device+BIO None None	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

4214

Fig. 43

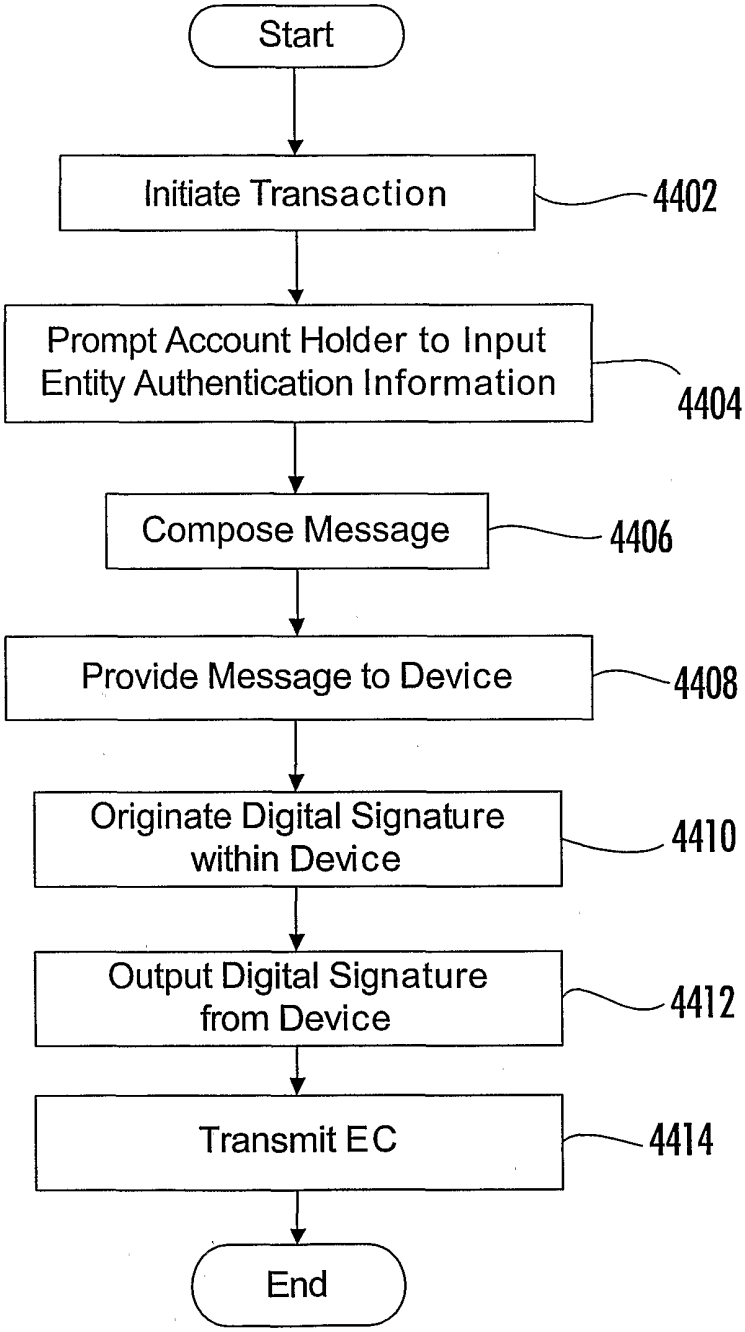

Start
Initiate Transaction
4402
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
4404
Compose Message
4406
Provide Message to Device
4408
Originate Digital Signature within Device
4410
Output Digital Signature from Device
4412
Transmit EC
4414
End

Fig. 44

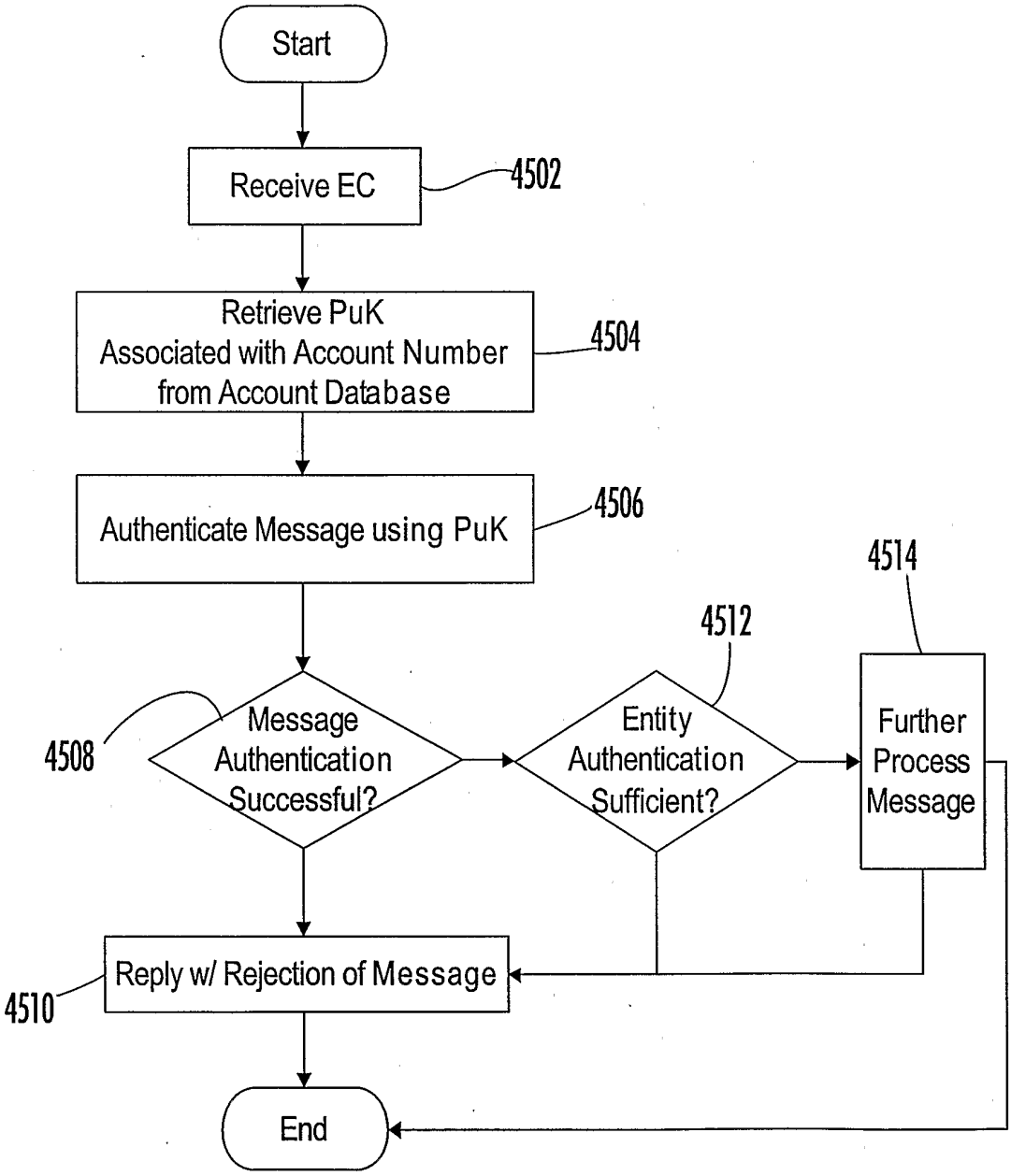

Start
Receive EC
4502
Retrieve PuK
Associated with Account Number
from Account Database
4504
Authenticate Message using PuK
4506
4514
4512
4508
Message
Authentication
Successful?
Entity
Authentication
Sufficient?
Further
Process
Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
4510
End

Fig. 45

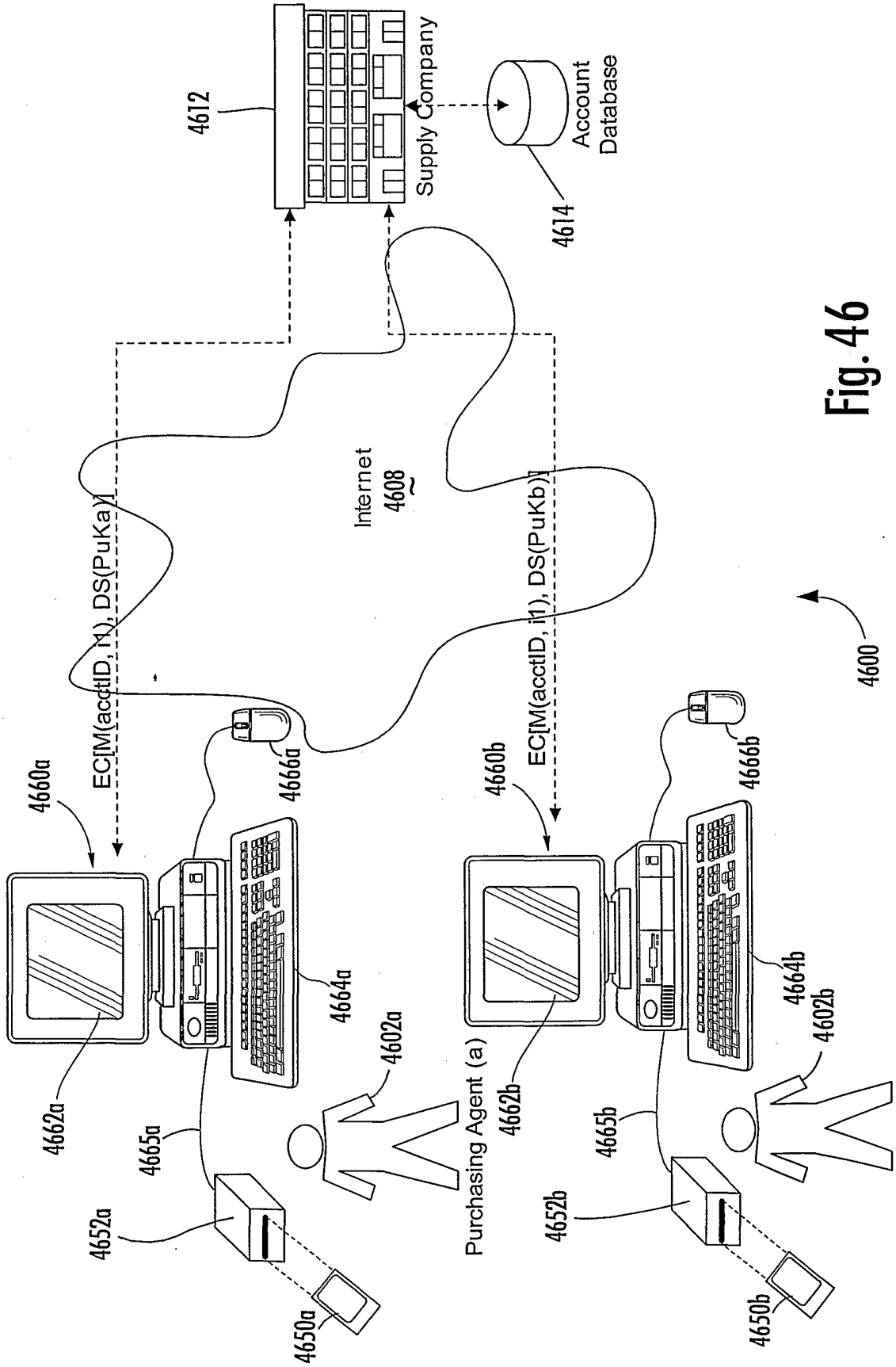

4612
Supply Company
Account Database
4614
Internet
4608
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS(PuKa)]
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS(PuKb)]
4600
4660a
4666a
4664a
4662a
4665a
4652a
4650a
4602a
Purchasing Agent (a)
4660b
4666b
4664b
4662b
4665b
4652b
4650b
4602b
Purchasing Agent (b)

Fig. 46

Account Identifier (acctID) (4716)	Account Information (4740)		Public Key Information (4718)	Device Profile Information (4770)
	Account-Specific (4742)	Purchasing Agent-Specific (4744)		
#-####-####-###	Company Name Primary Contact eMail Address Billing Address Billing Information List of Purchasing Agents	Agent Name Purchasing Agent (a) Contact Info Purchasing Restrictions	PuKa	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
		Agent Name Purchasing Agent (b) Contact Info Purchasing Restrictions	PuKb	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
		. . .	. . .	. . .
		Agent Name Purchasing Agent (n) Contact Info Purchasing Restrictions	PuKn	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

4614

Fig. 47

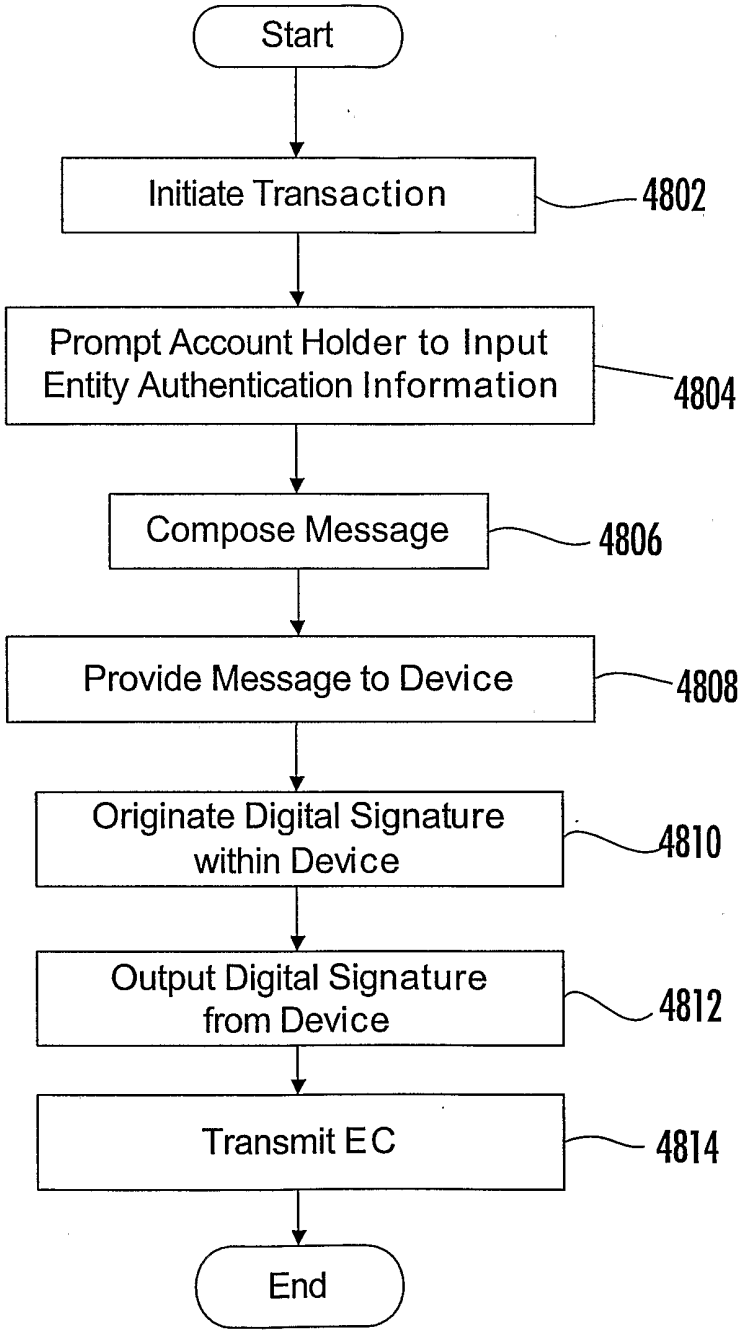

Start
Initiate Transaction
4802
Prompt Account Holder to Input Entity Authentication Information
4804
Compose Message
4806
Provide Message to Device
4808
Originate Digital Signature within Device
4810
Output Digital Signature from Device
4812
Transmit EC
4814
End

Fig.48

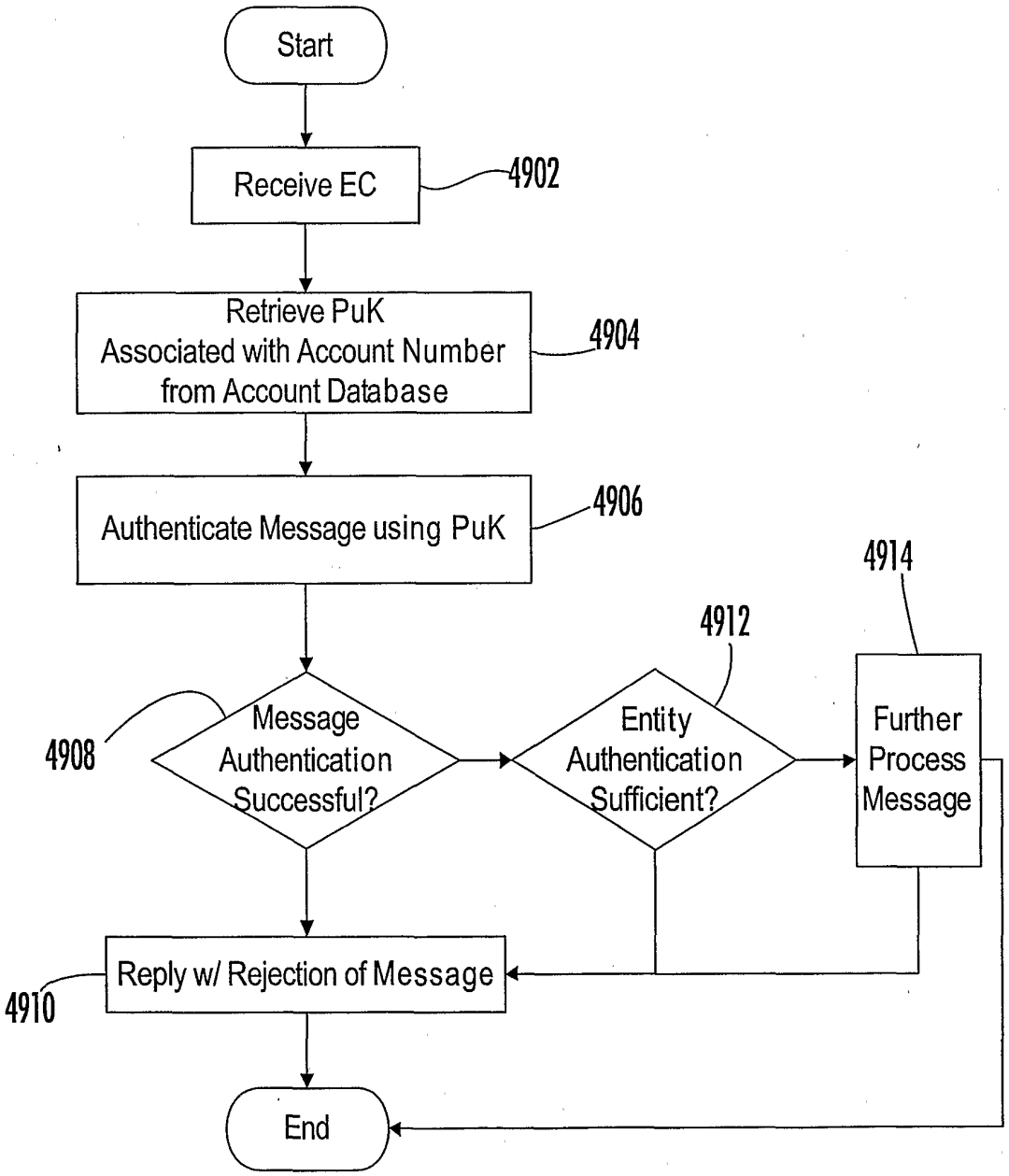

Start
Receive EC
4902
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
4904
Authenticate Message using PuK
4906
4914
4912
4908
Message Authentication Successful?
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
Further Process Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
4910
End

Fig. 49

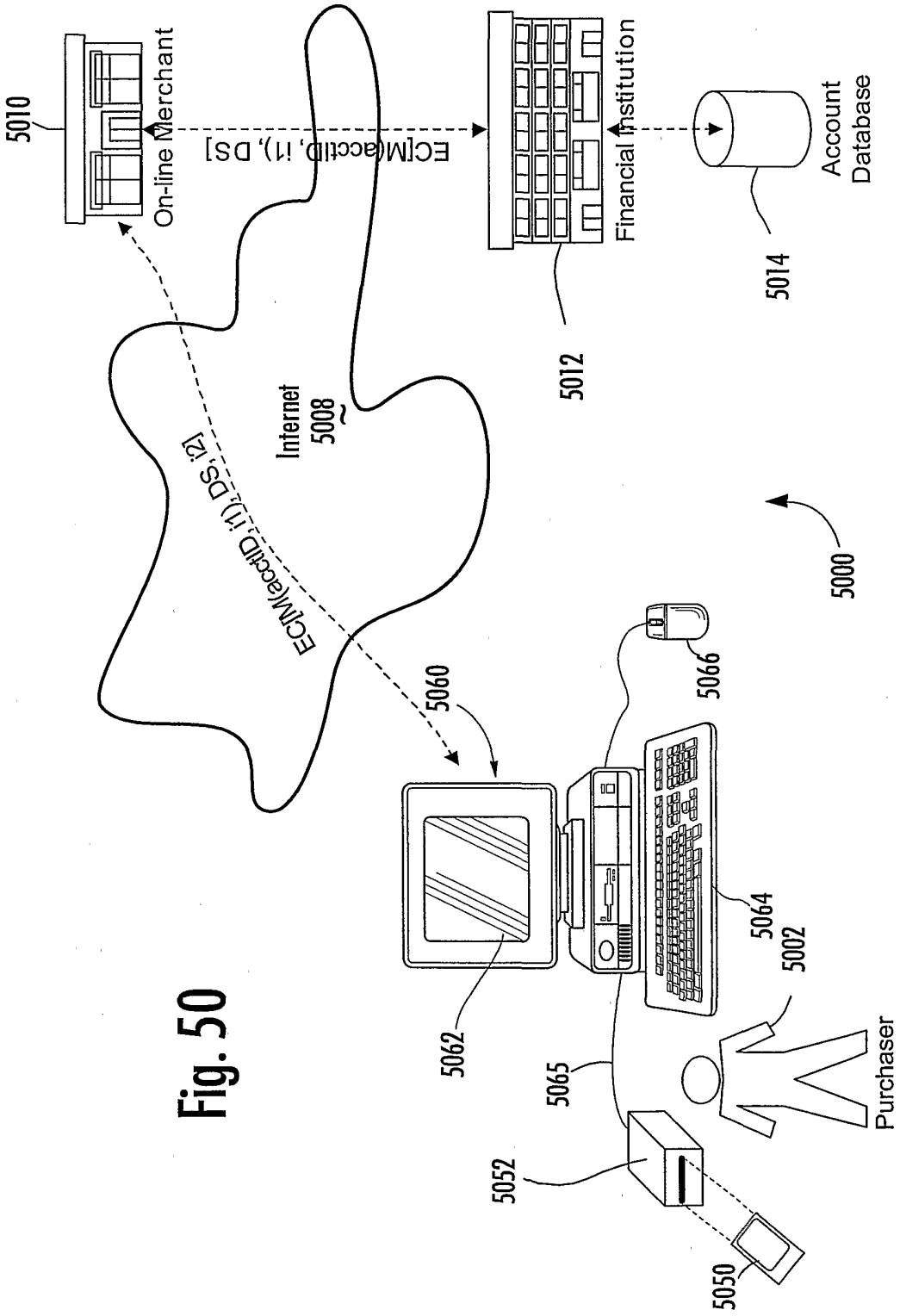

5010
On-line Merchant
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS]
Internet
5008
5012
Financial Institution
5014
Account
Database
EC[M(acctID, i1), DS, i2]
5000
5060
5066
5064
5002
5062
5065
5052
5050
Purchaser

Fig. 50

Account Identifier (acctID) (5116)	Account Information (5140)		Public Key Information (5118)	Device Profile Information (5170)
	Customer-Specific (5142)	Account-Specific (5144)		
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-### #-#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

5014

Fig. 51

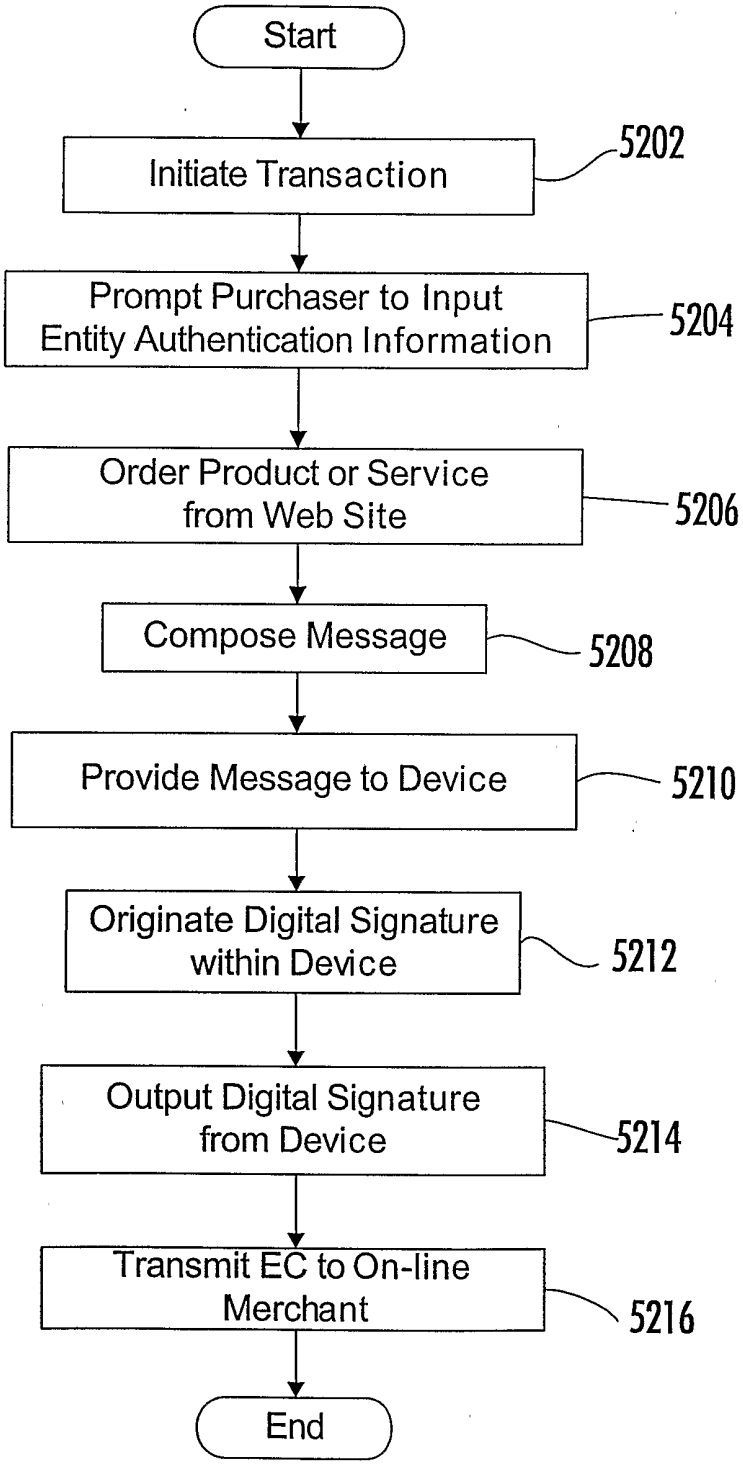

Start
Initiate Transaction
5202
Prompt Purchaser to Input Entity Authentication Information
5204
Order Product or Service from Web Site
5206
Compose Message
5208
Provide Message to Device
5210
Originate Digital Signature within Device
5212
Output Digital Signature from Device
5214
Transmit EC to On-line Merchant
5216
End

Fig. 52

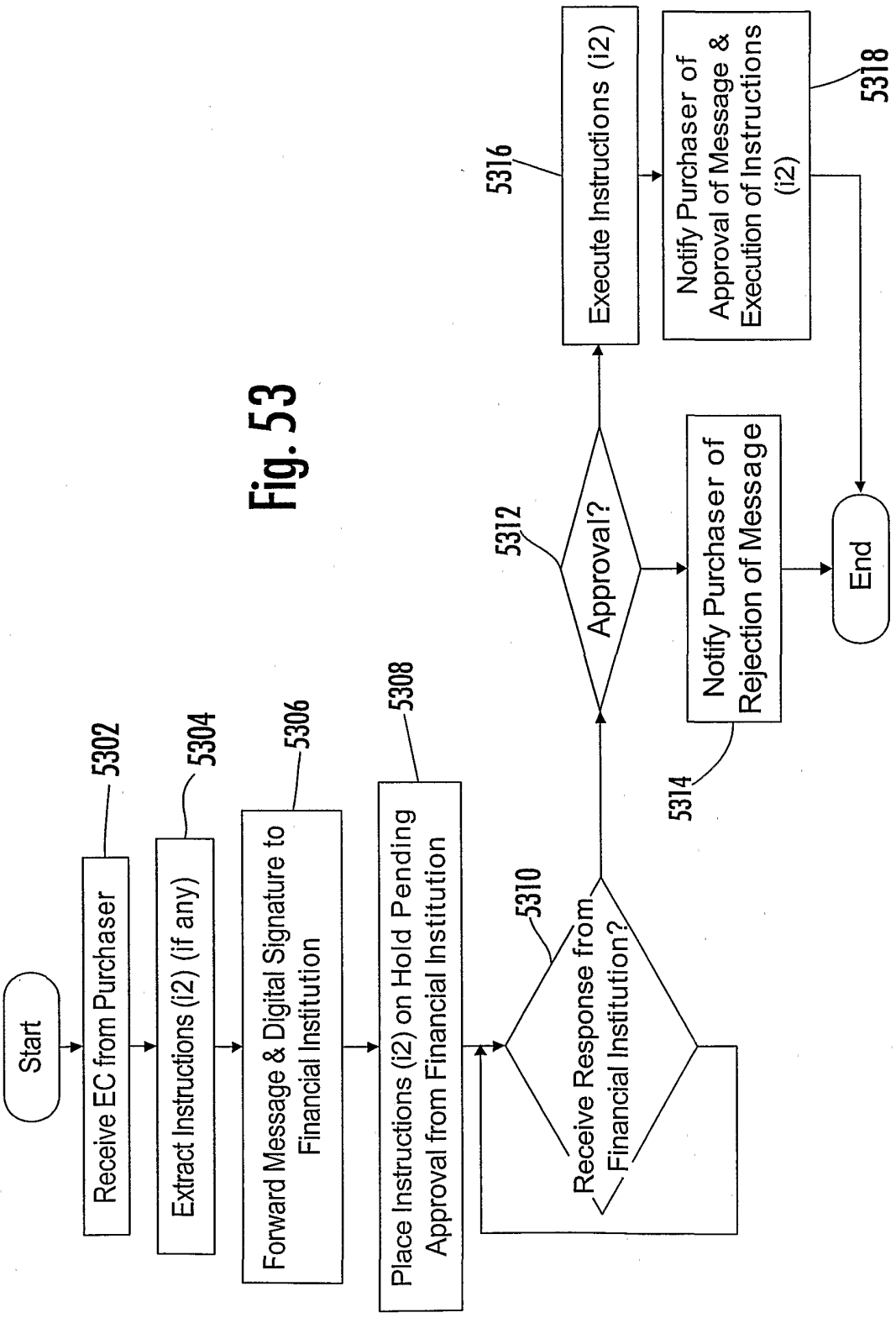

Start
Receive EC from Purchaser
5302
Extract Instructions (i2) (if any)
5304
Forward Message & Digital Signature to Financial Institution
5306
Place Instructions (i2) on Hold Pending Approval from Financial Institution
5308
Receive Response from Financial Institution?
5310
Approval?
5312
Notify Purchaser of Rejection of Message
5314
Execute Instructions (i2)
5316
Notify Purchaser of Approval of Message & Execution of Instructions (i2)
5318
End

Fig. 53

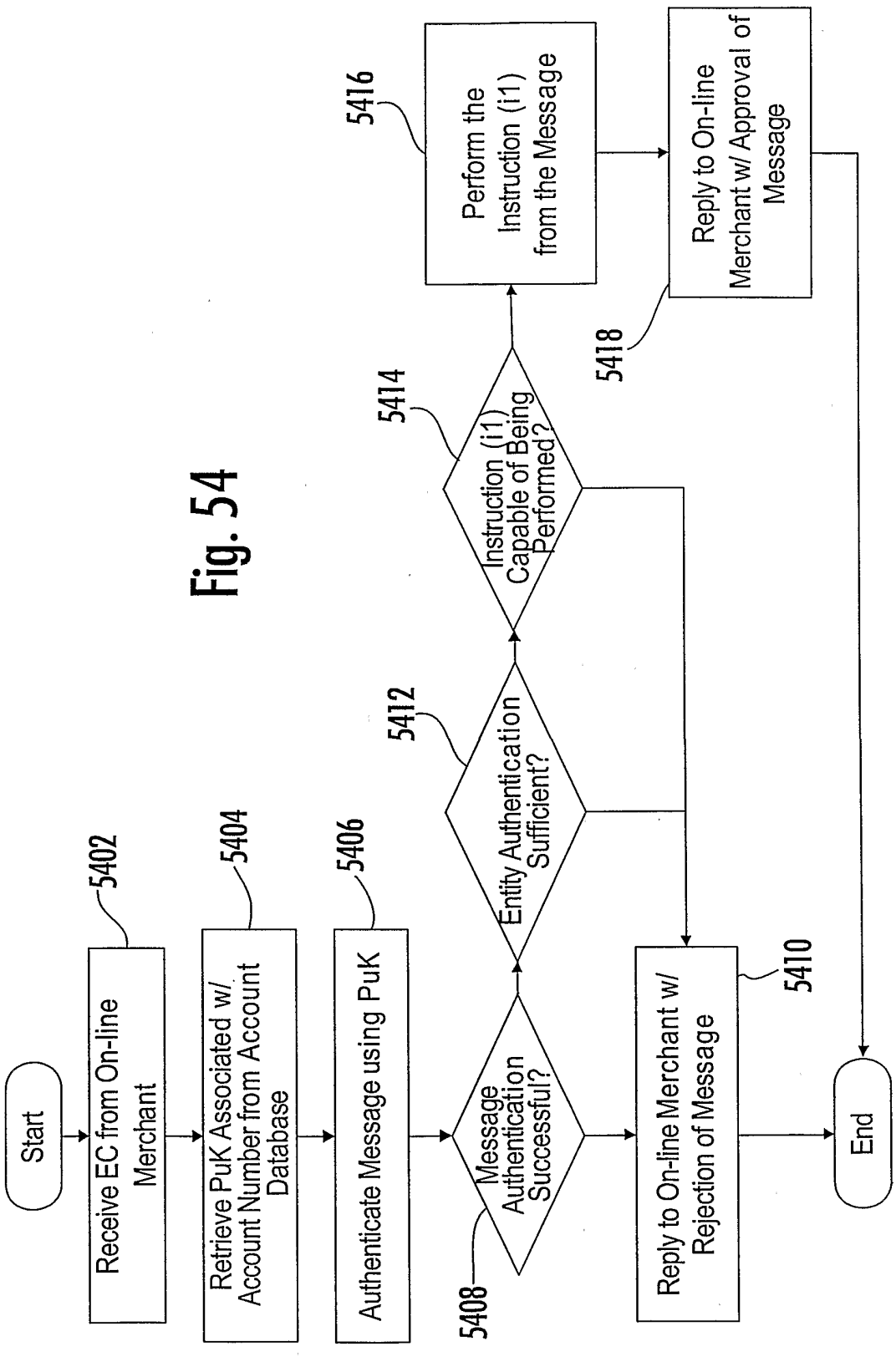

Start
Receive EC from On-line Merchant
5402
Retrieve PuK Associated w/ Account Number from Account Database
5404
Authenticate Message using PuK
5406
Message Authentication Successful?
5408
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
5412
Instruction (i1) Capable of Being Performed?
5414
Perform the Instruction (i1) from the Message
5416
Reply to On-line Merchant w/ Approval of Message
5418
Reply to On-line Merchant w/ Rejection of Message
5410
End

Fig. 54

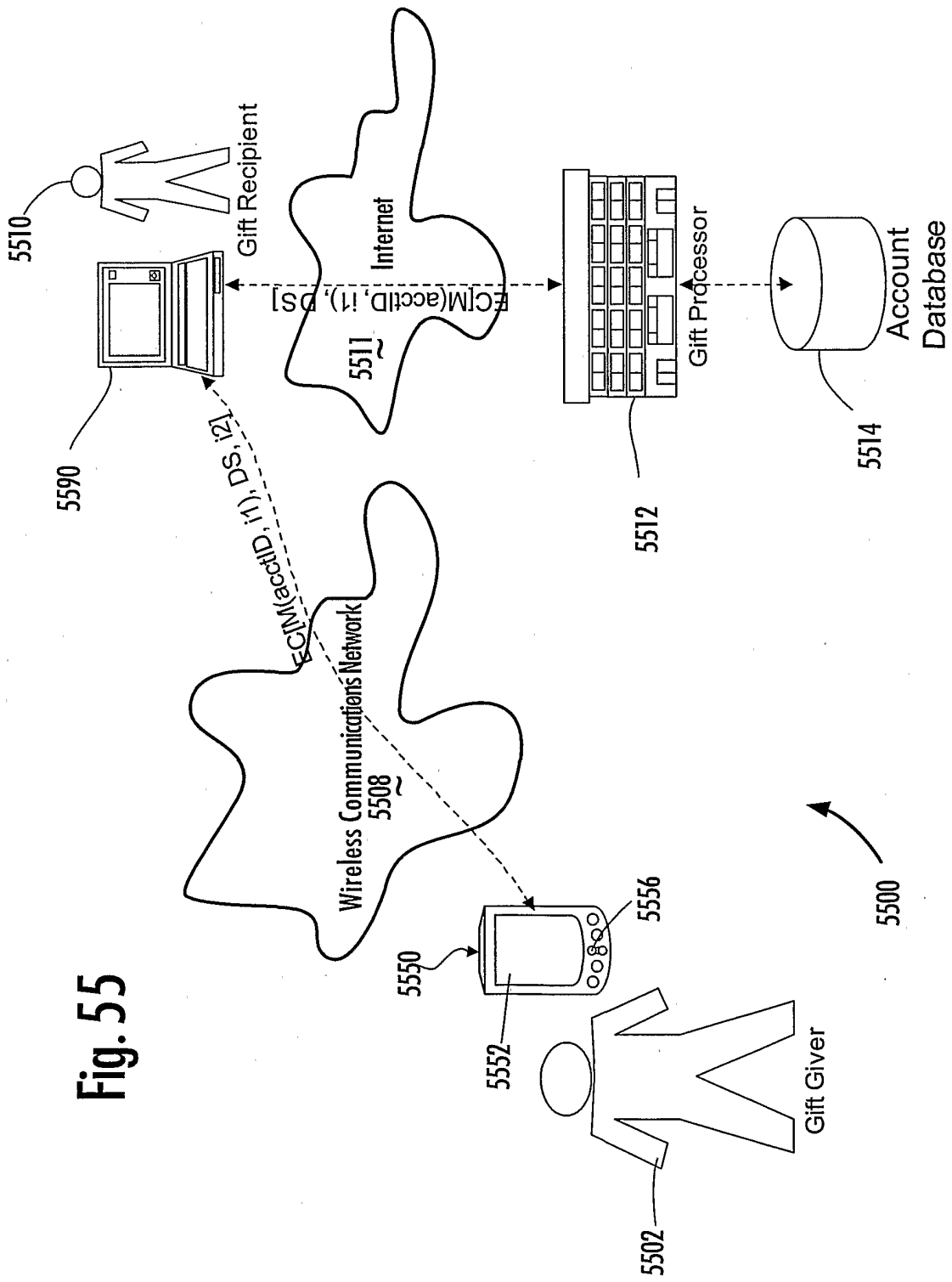
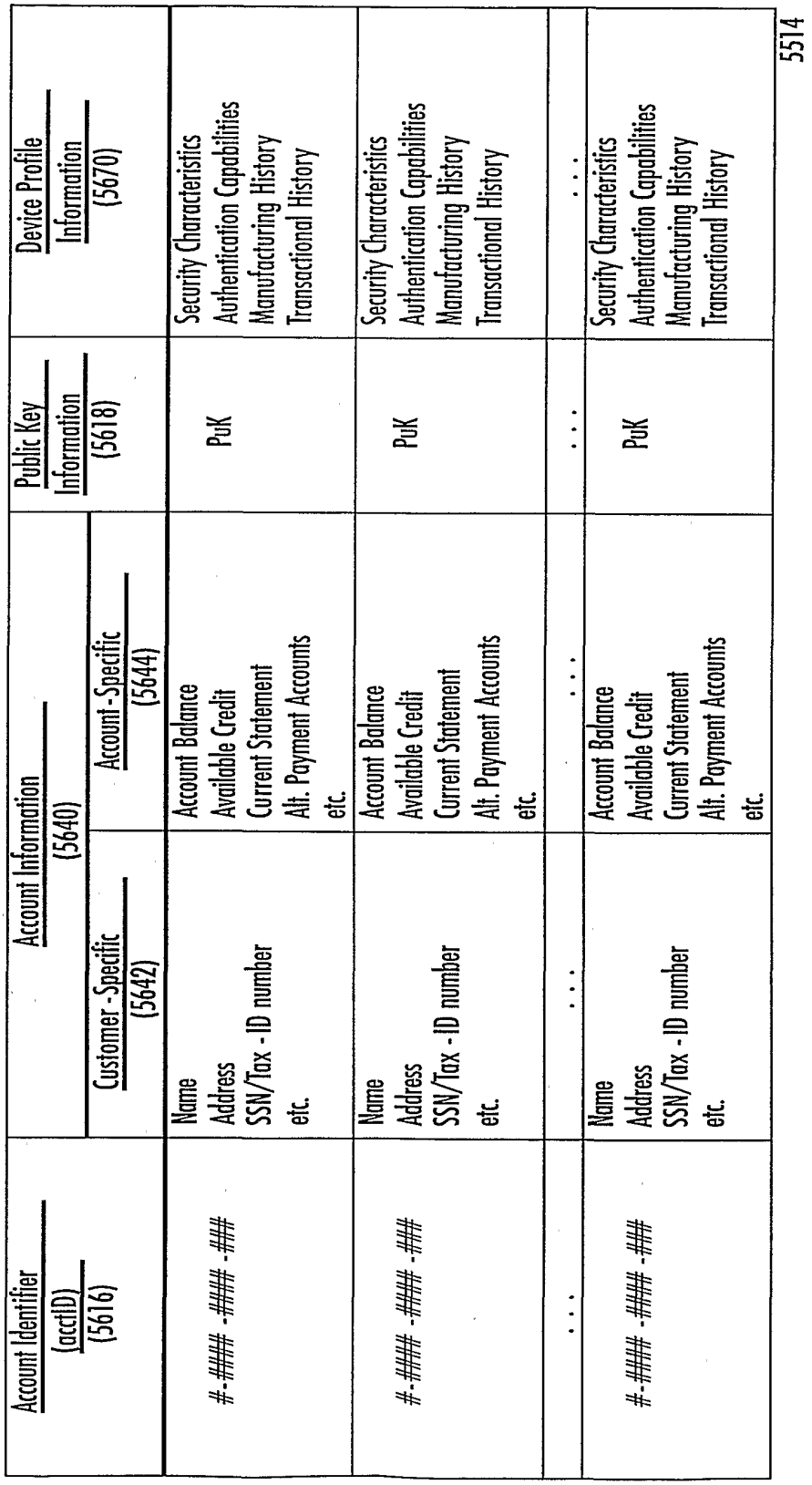

5510
Gift Recipient
5590
E[M(acctID, i1), DS]
Internet
5511
E[M(acctID, i1), DS, i2]
Wireless Communications Network
5508
Gift Processor
5512
Account Database
5514
5500
5550
5552
5556
Gift Giver
5502

Fig. 55



Account Identifier (acctID) (5616)	Account Information (5640)		Public Key Information (5618)	Device Profile Information (5670)
	Customer - Specific (5642)	Account - Specific (5644)		
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax - ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Alt. Payment Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax - ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Alt. Payment Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-#### -#### -###	Name Address SSN/Tax - ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Alt. Payment Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

5514

Fig. 56

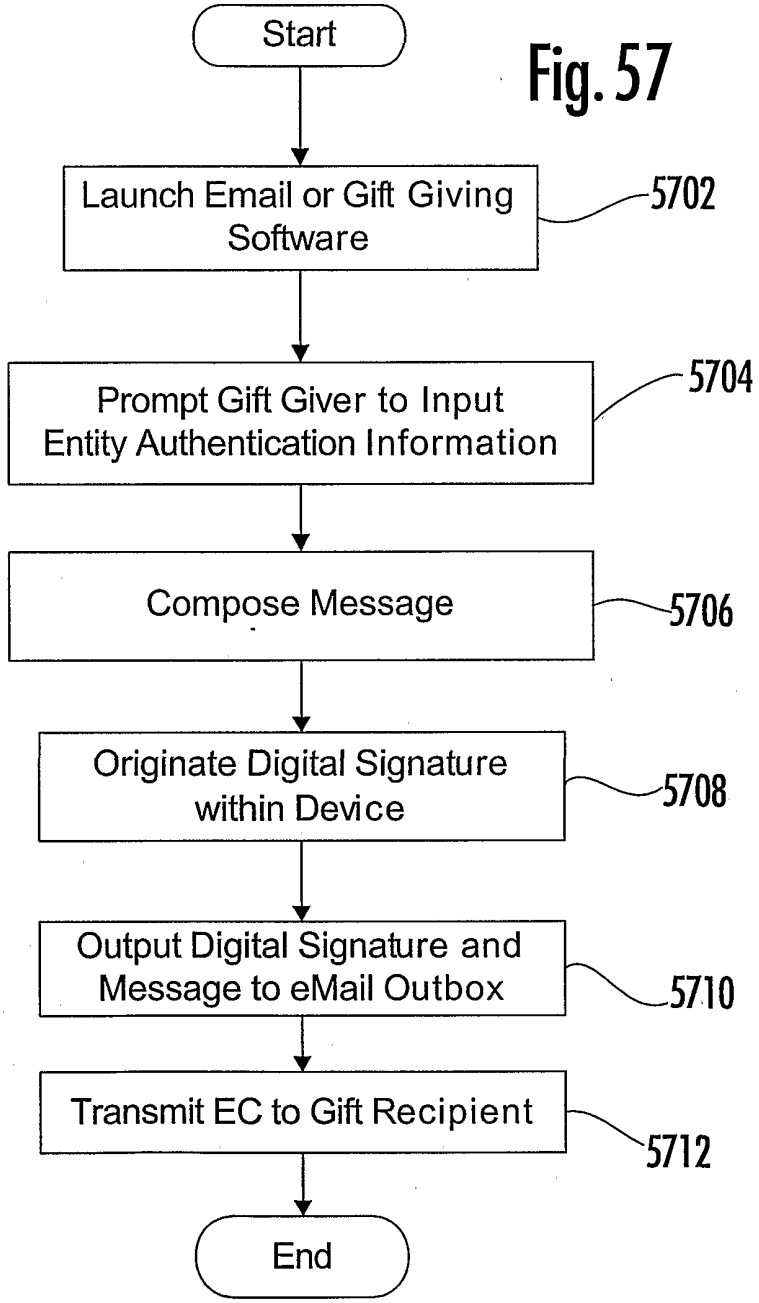
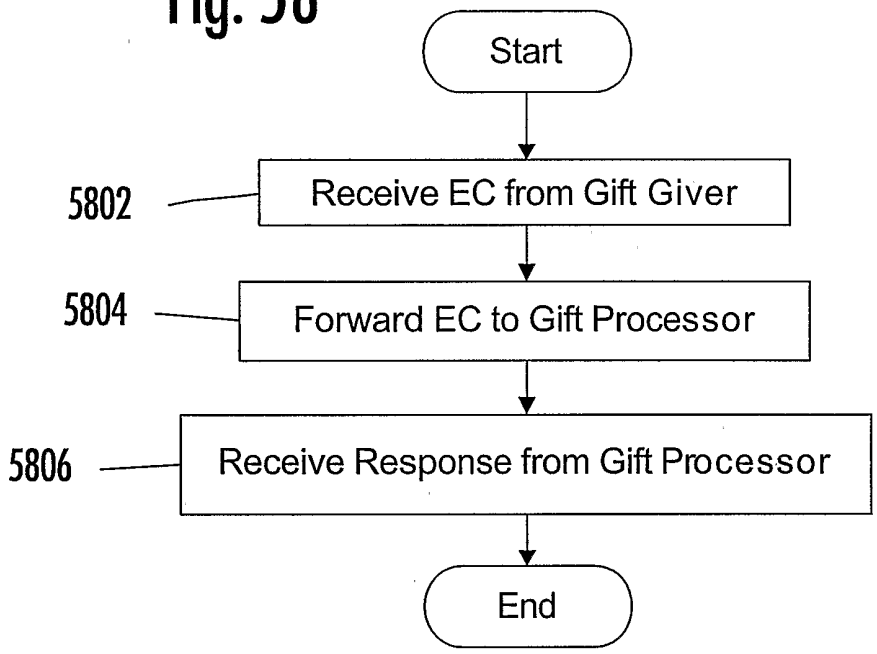

Start
Launch Email or Gift Giving Software
5702
Prompt Gift Giver to Input Entity Authentication Information
5704
Compose Message
5706
Originate Digital Signature within Device
5708
Output Digital Signature and Message to eMail Outbox
5710
Transmit EC to Gift Recipient
5712
End

Fig. 57

Fig. 58


Start
5802
Receive EC from Gift Giver
5804
Forward EC to Gift Processor
5806
Receive Response from Gift Processor
End

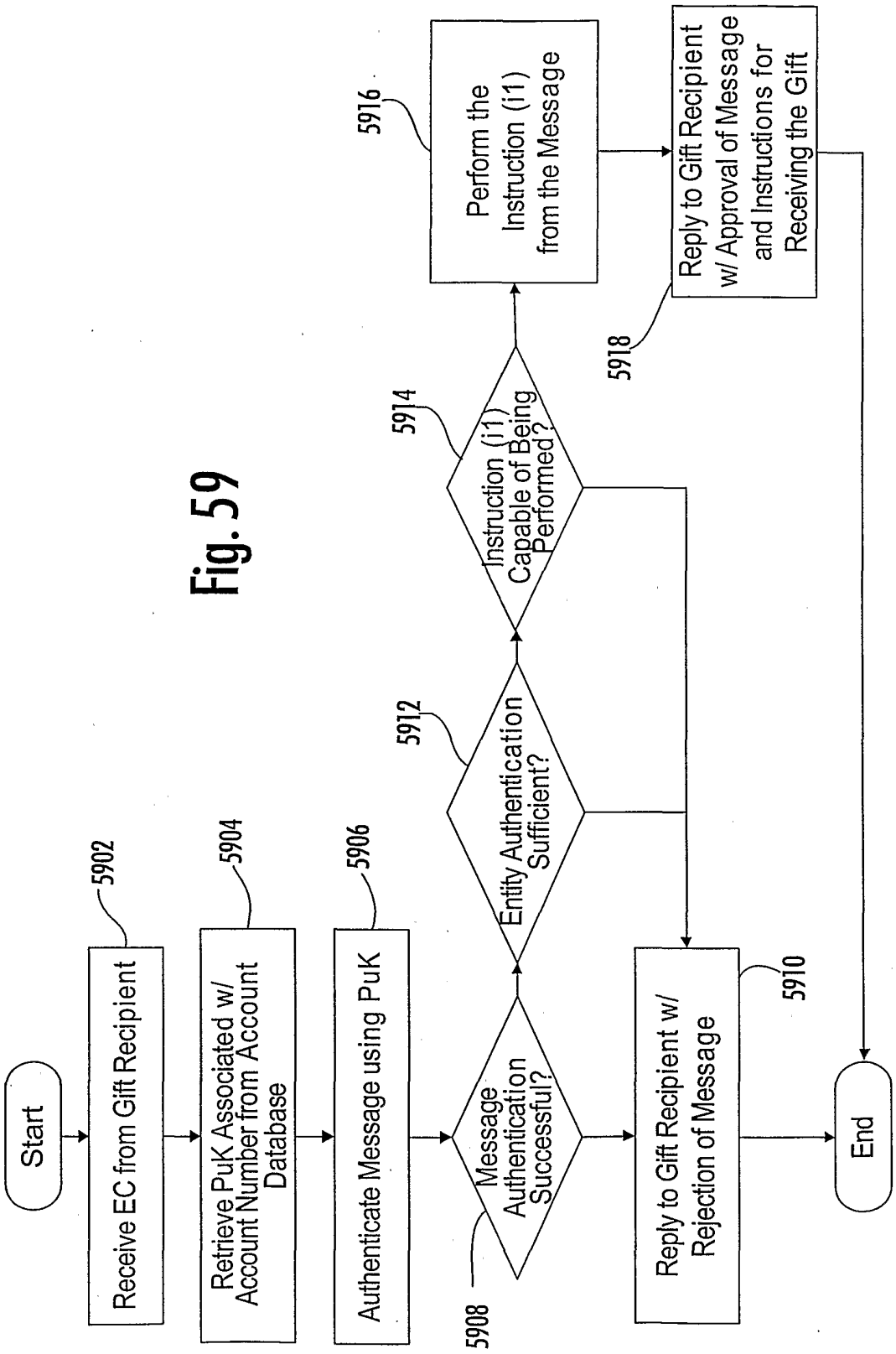

Start
Receive EC from Gift Recipient
5902
Retrieve PuK Associated w/ Account Number from Account Database
5904
Authenticate Message using PuK
5906
Message Authentication Successful?
5908
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
5912
Instruction (i1) Capable of Being Performed?
5914
Perform the Instruction (i1) from the Message
5916
Reply to Gift Recipient w/ Approval of Message and Instructions for Receiving the Gift
5918
Reply to Gift Recipient w/ Rejection of Message
5910
End

Fig. 59

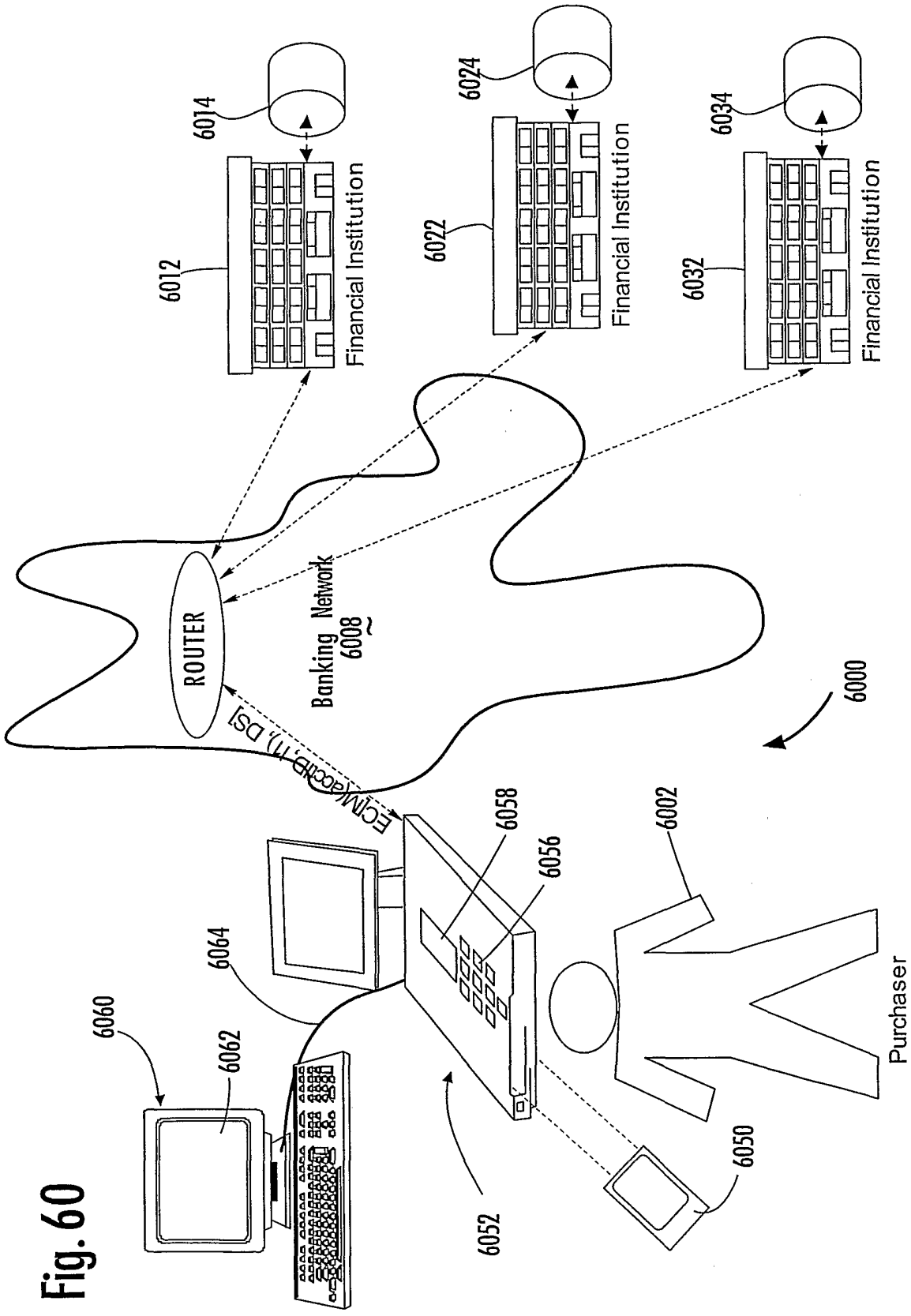
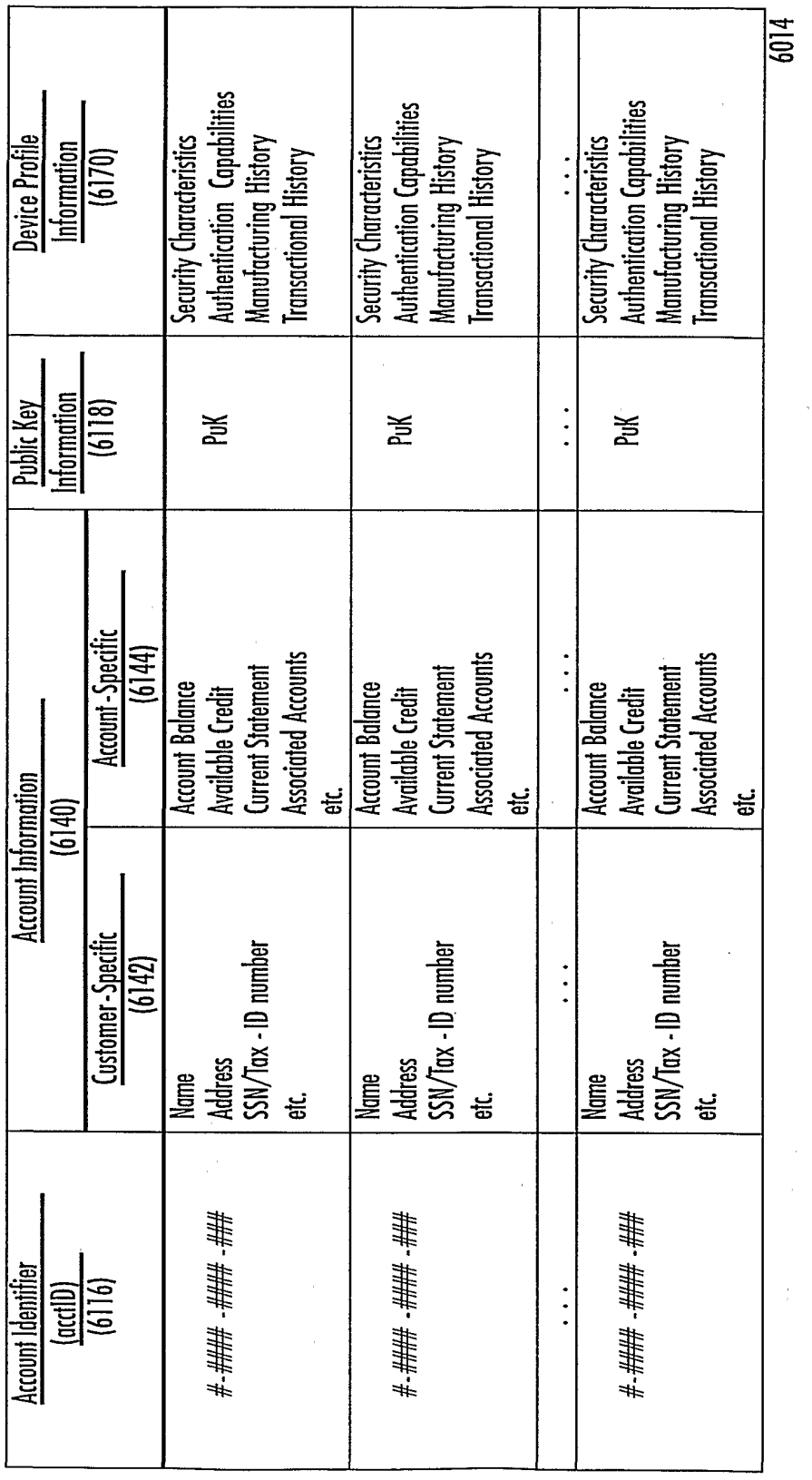

6014
6012
Financial Institution
6024
6022
Financial Institution
6034
6032
Financial Institution
ROUTER
Banking Network
6008
6000
ECI/Macchip/TI, DSI
6058
6056
6002
6064
6060
6062
6052
6050
Purchaser

Fig. 60



Account Identifier (acctID) (6116)	Account Information (6140)		Public Key Information (6118)	Device Profile Information (6170)
	Customer-Specific (6142)	Account-Specific (6144)		
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History
. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
#-####-####-###	Name Address SSN/Tax-ID number etc.	Account Balance Available Credit Current Statement Associated Accounts etc.	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

6014

Fig. 61

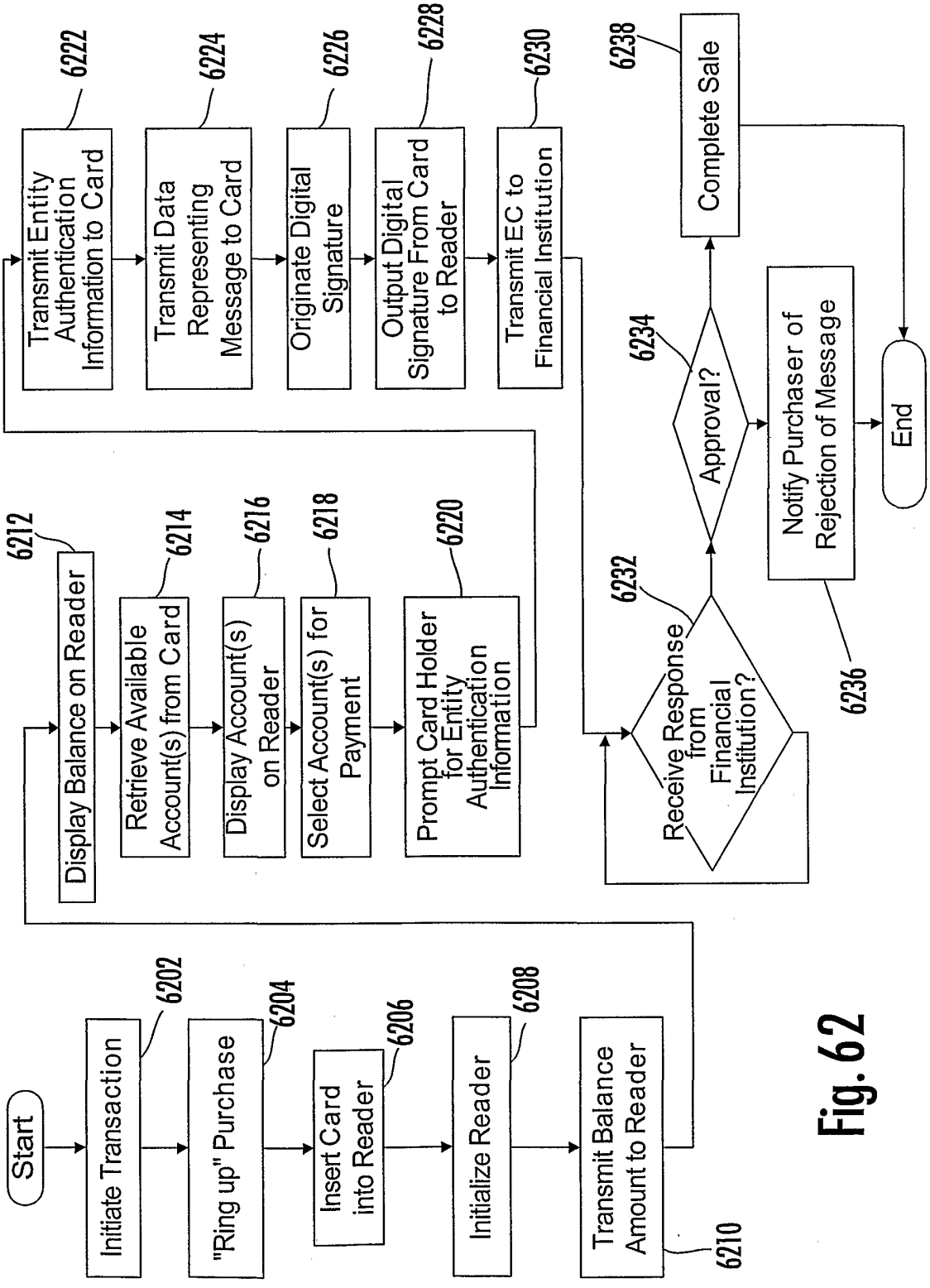

Start
Initiate Transaction
6202
"Ring up" Purchase
6204
Insert Card into Reader
6206
Initialize Reader
6208
Transmit Balance Amount to Reader
6210
Display Balance on Reader
6212
Retrieve Available Account(s) from Card
6214
Display Account(s) on Reader
6216
Select Account(s) for Payment
6218
Prompt Card Holder for Entity Authentication Information
6220
Transmit Entity Authentication Information to Card
6222
Transmit Data Representing Message to Card
6224
Originate Digital Signature
6226
Output Digital Signature From Card to Reader
6228
Transmit EC to Financial Institution
6230
Receive Response from Financial Institution?
6232
Approval?
6234
Notify Purchaser of Rejection of Message
6236
Complete Sale
6238
End

Fig. 62

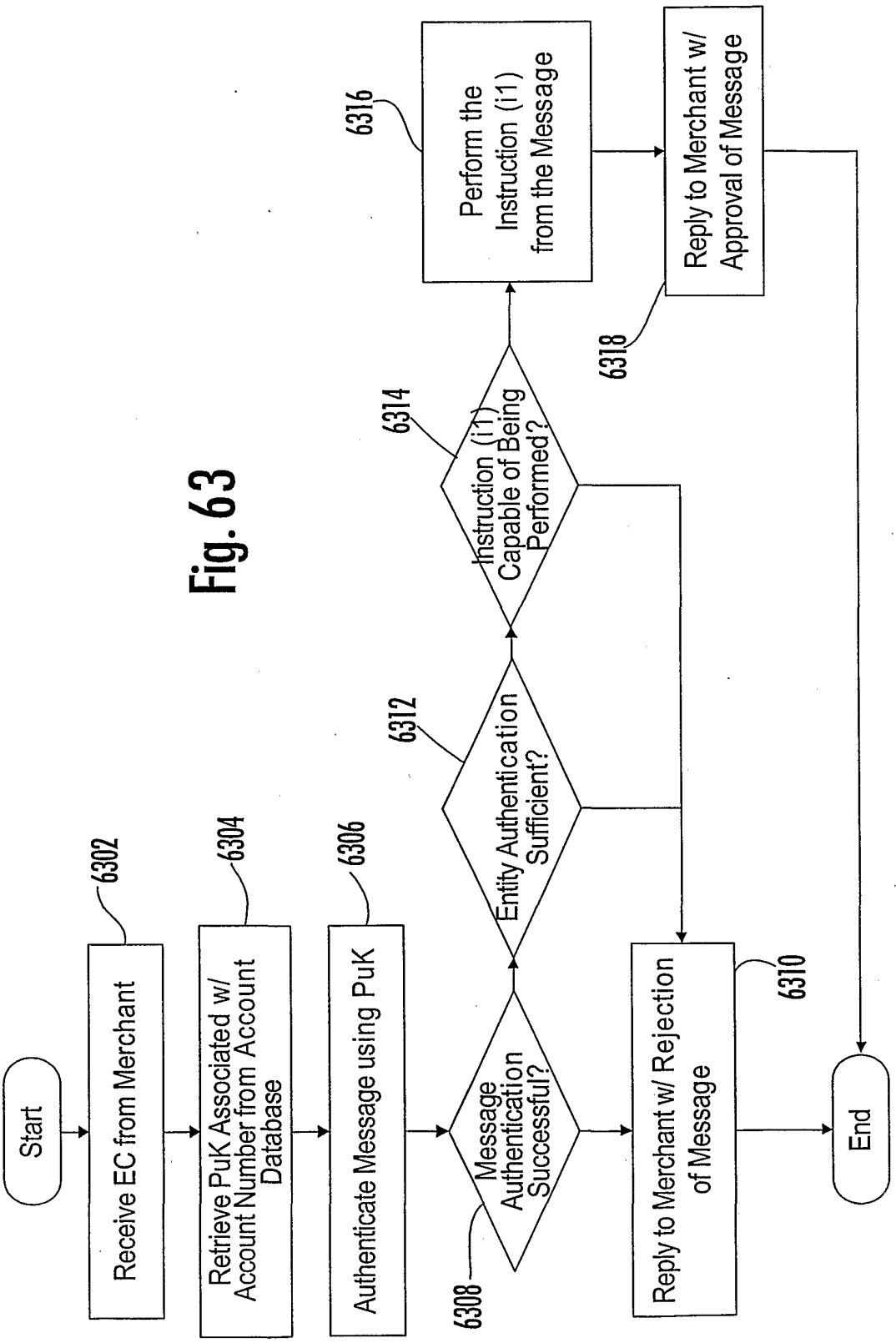

Start
Receive EC from Merchant
6302
Retrieve PuK Associated w/ Account Number from Account Database
6304
Authenticate Message using PuK
6306
Message Authentication Successful?
6308
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
6312
Instruction (i1) Capable of Being Performed?
6314
Perform the Instruction (i1) from the Message
6316
Reply to Merchant w/ Approval of Message
6318
Reply to Merchant w/ Rejection of Message
6310
End

Fig. 63

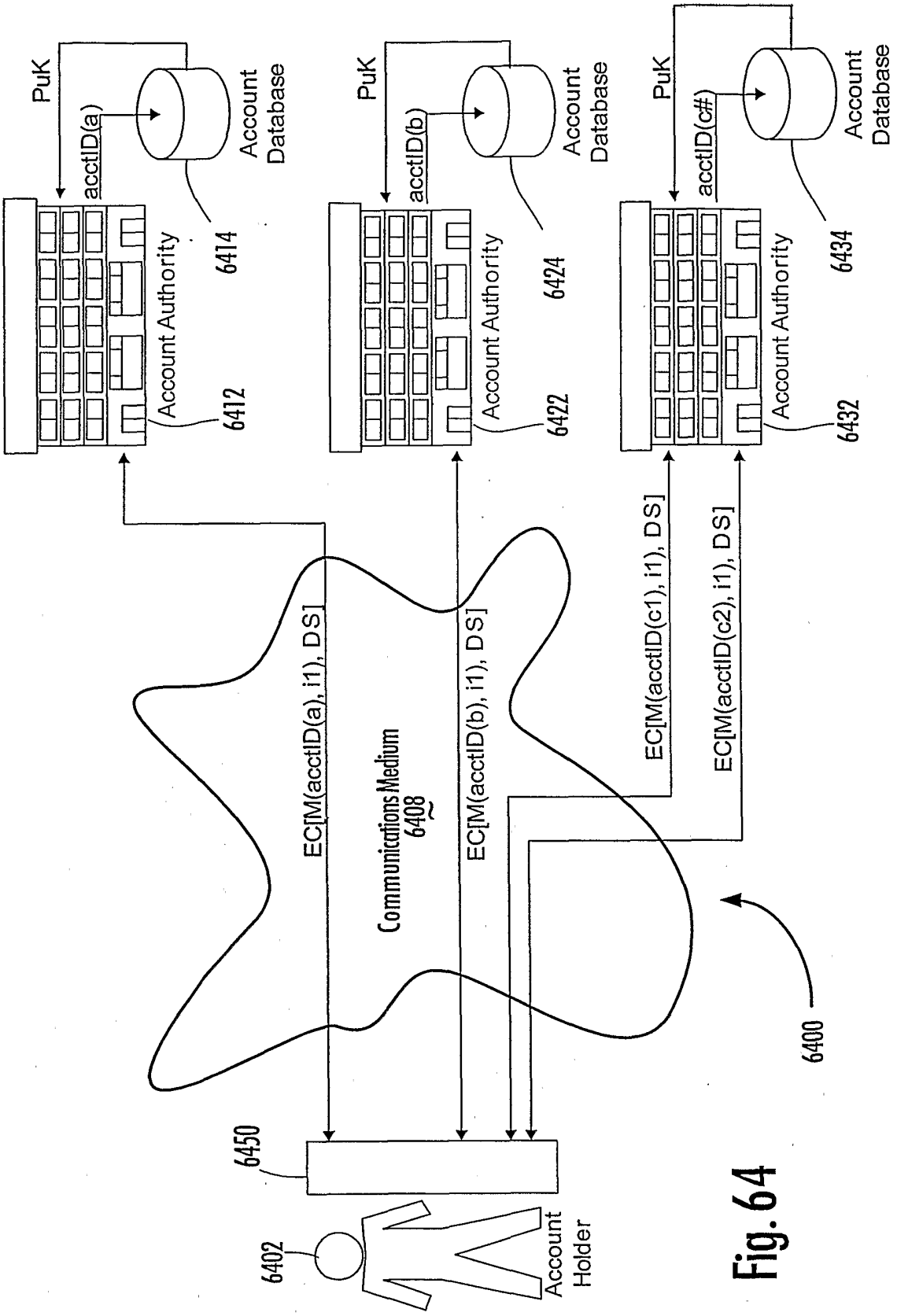
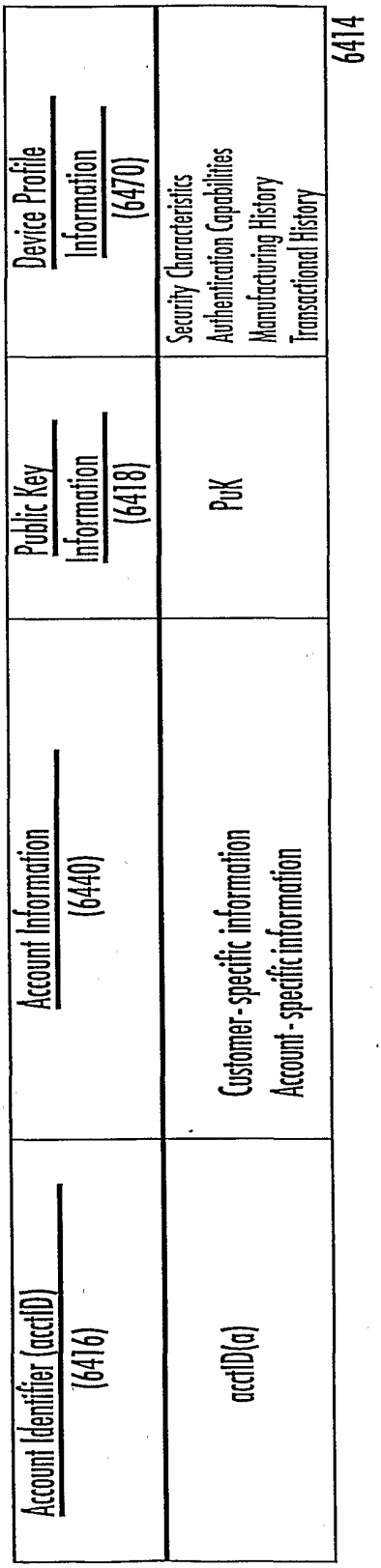

PuK
acctID(a)
Account Database
6414
Account Authority
6412
PuK
acctID(b)
Account Database
6424
Account Authority
6422
PuK
acctID(c#)
Account Database
6434
Account Authority
6432
EC[M(acctID(a), i1), DS]
Communications Medium
6408
EC[M(acctID(b), i1), DS]
EC[M(acctID(c1), i1), DS]
EC[M(acctID(c2), i1), DS]
6400
6450
6402
Account Holder

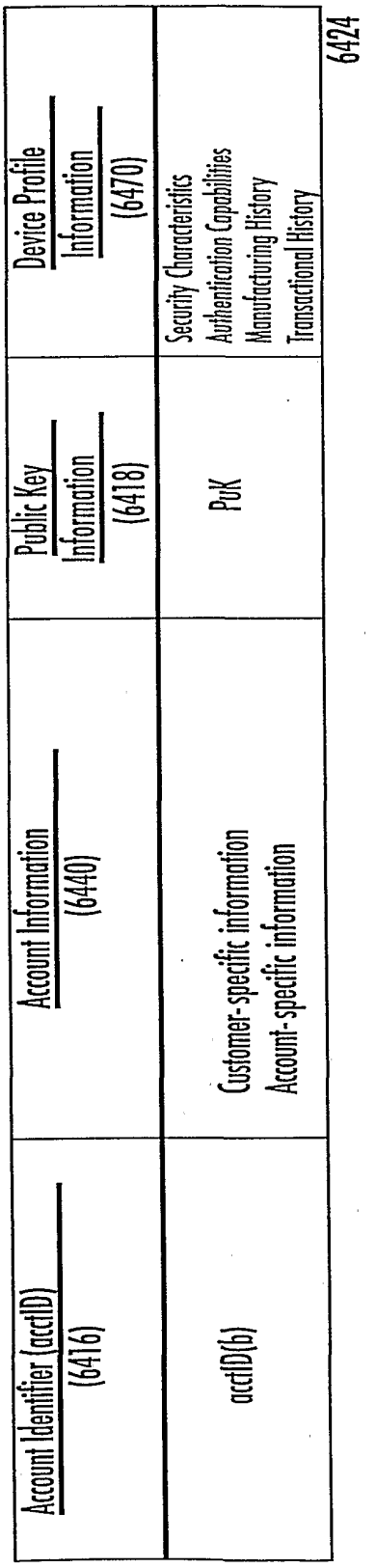
Fig. 64



Account Identifier (acctID) (6416)	Account Information (6440)	Public Key Information (6418)	Device Profile Information (6470)
acctID(a)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

6414

Fig. 64a



Account Identifier (acctID) (6416)	Account Information (6440)	Public Key Information (6418)	Device Profile Information (6470)
acctID(b)	Customer-specific information Account-specific information	PuK	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History

6424

Fig. 64b

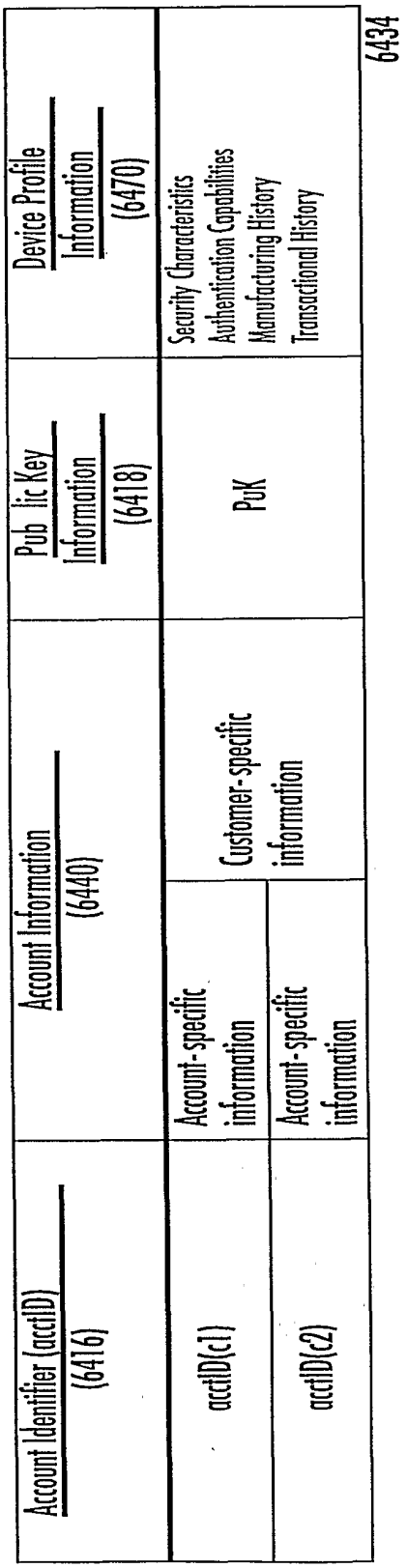

Account Identifier (acctID) (6416)
Account Information (6440)
Account-specific information
Customer-specific information
Public Key Information (6418)
Device Profile Information (6470)
acctID(c1)
Account-specific information
PuK
Security Characteristics
Authentication Capabilities
Manufacturing History
Transactional History
acctID(c2)
Account-specific information
6434

Fig. 64c

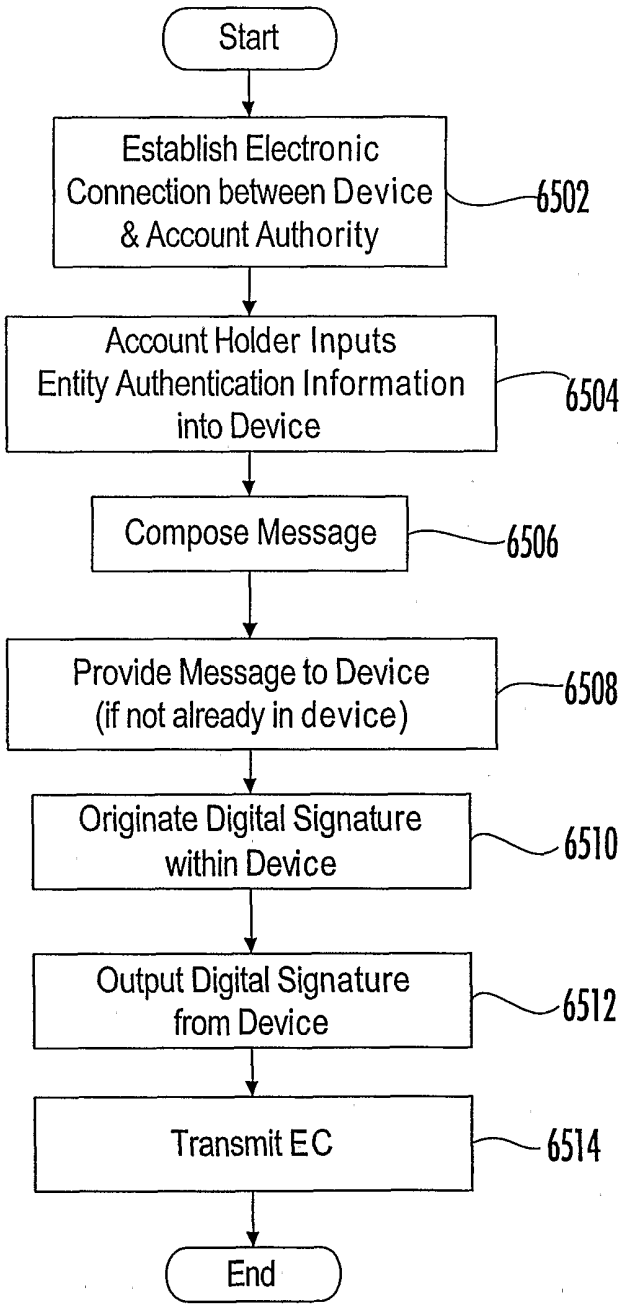

Start
Establish Electronic Connection between Device & Account Authority
6502
Account Holder Inputs Entity Authentication Information into Device
6504
Compose Message
6506
Provide Message to Device (if not already in device)
6508
Originate Digital Signature within Device
6510
Output Digital Signature from Device
6512
Transmit EC
6514
End

Fig. 65

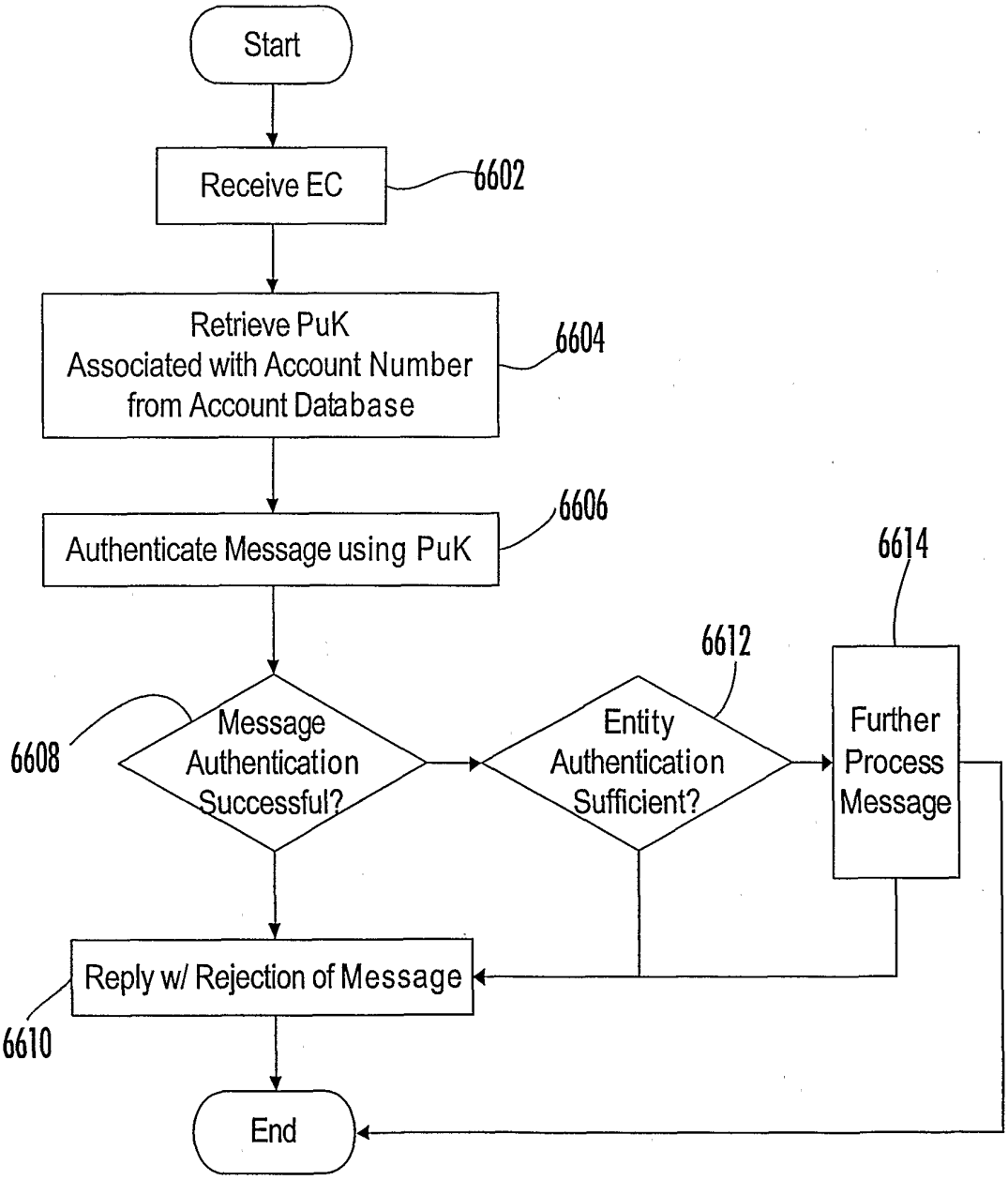

Start
Receive EC
6602
Retrieve PuK
Associated with Account Number
from Account Database
6604
Authenticate Message using PuK
6606
6614
6612
6608
Message
Authentication
Successful?
Entity
Authentication
Sufficient?
Further
Process
Message
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
6610
End

Fig. 66

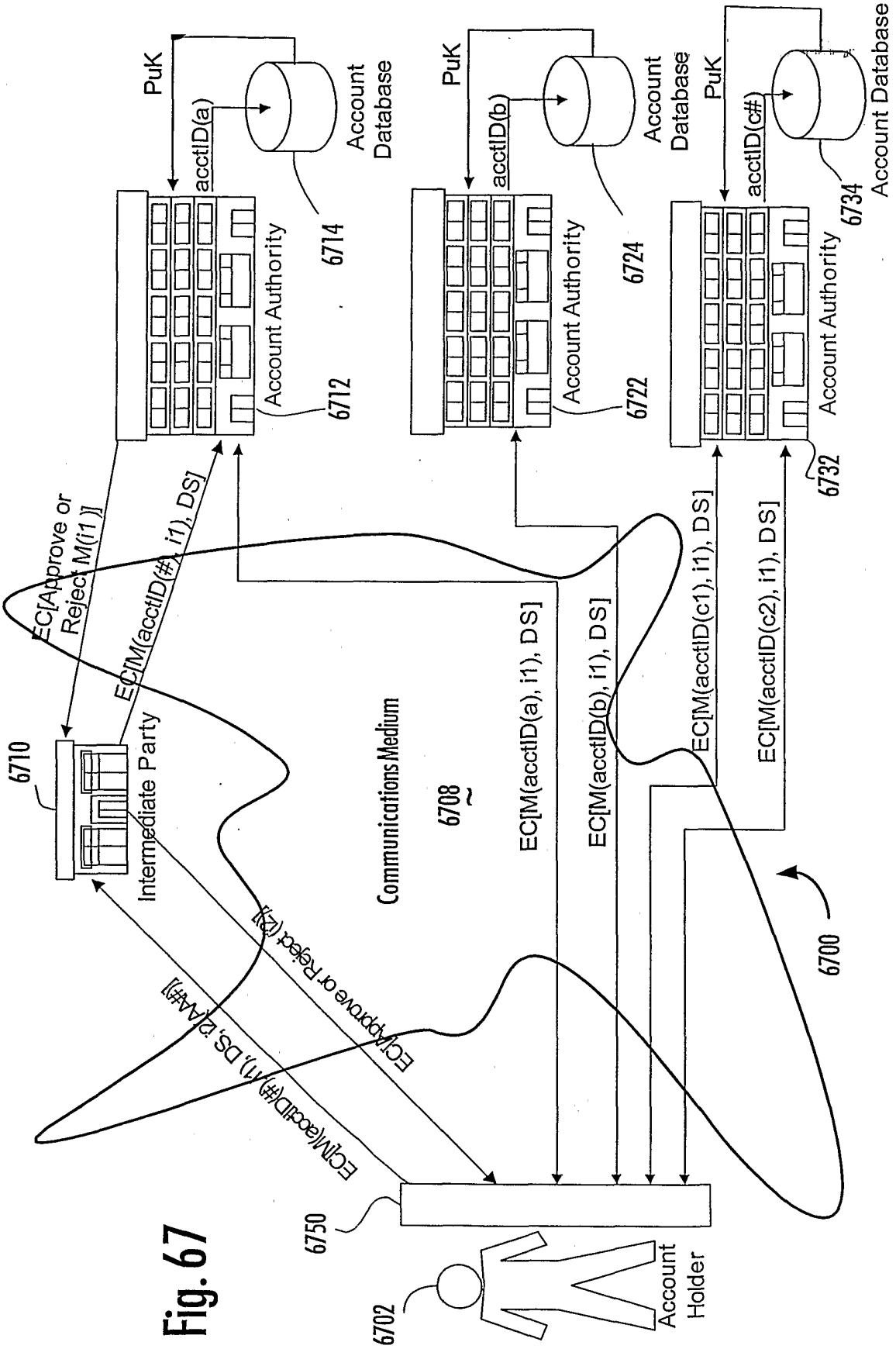

PuK
acctID(a)
Account Database
6714
Account Authority
6712
PuK
acctID(b)
Account Database
6724
Account Authority
6722
PuK
acctID(c#)
Account Database
6734
Account Authority
6732
EC[Approve or Reject M(i1)]
EC[M(acctID(#A, i1), DS]
6710
Intermediate Party
Communications Medium
6708
EC[M(acctID(a), i1), DS]
EC[M(acctID(b), i1), DS]
EC[M(acctID(c1), i1), DS]
EC[M(acctID(c2), i1), DS]
6700
EC[Approve or Reject (Z)]
EC[M(acctID(#A), i1), DS, pAuth]
6750
6702
Account Holder

Fig. 67

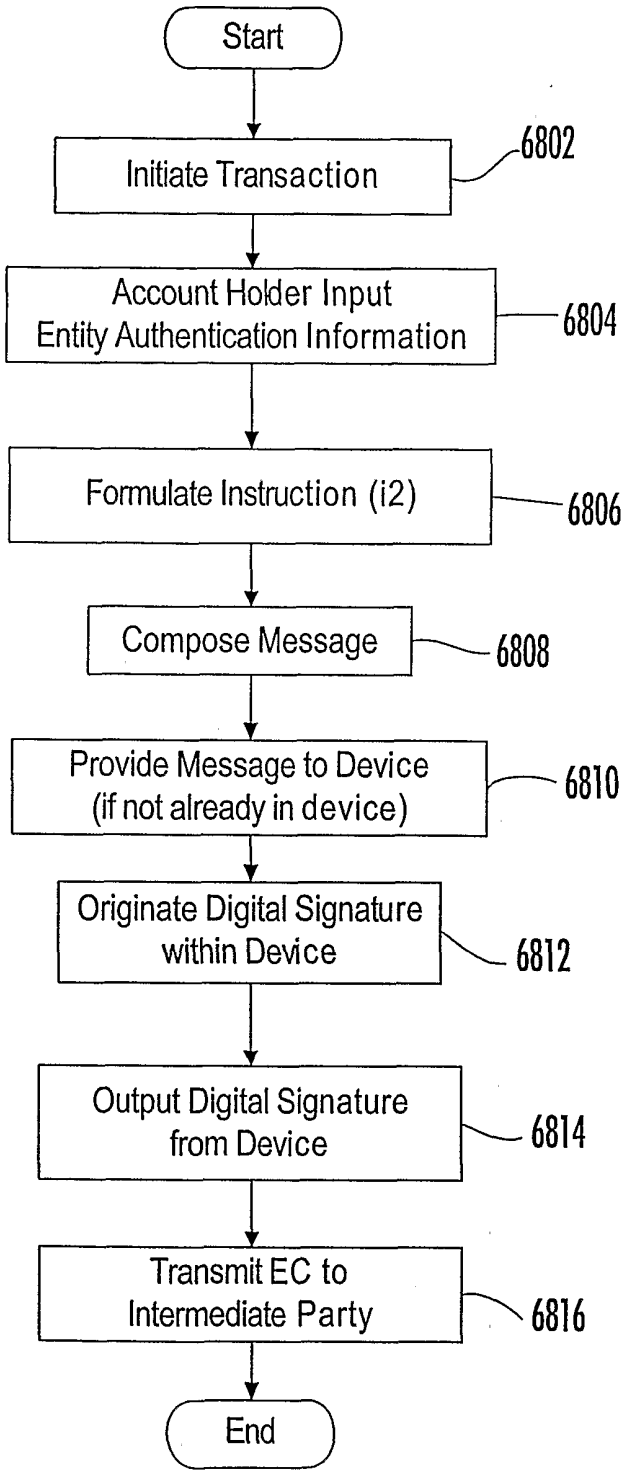

Start
Initiate Transaction
6802
Account Holder Input Entity Authentication Information
6804
Formulate Instruction (i2)
6806
Compose Message
6808
Provide Message to Device (if not already in device)
6810
Originate Digital Signature within Device
6812
Output Digital Signature from Device
6814
Transmit EC to Intermediate Party
6816
End

Fig. 68

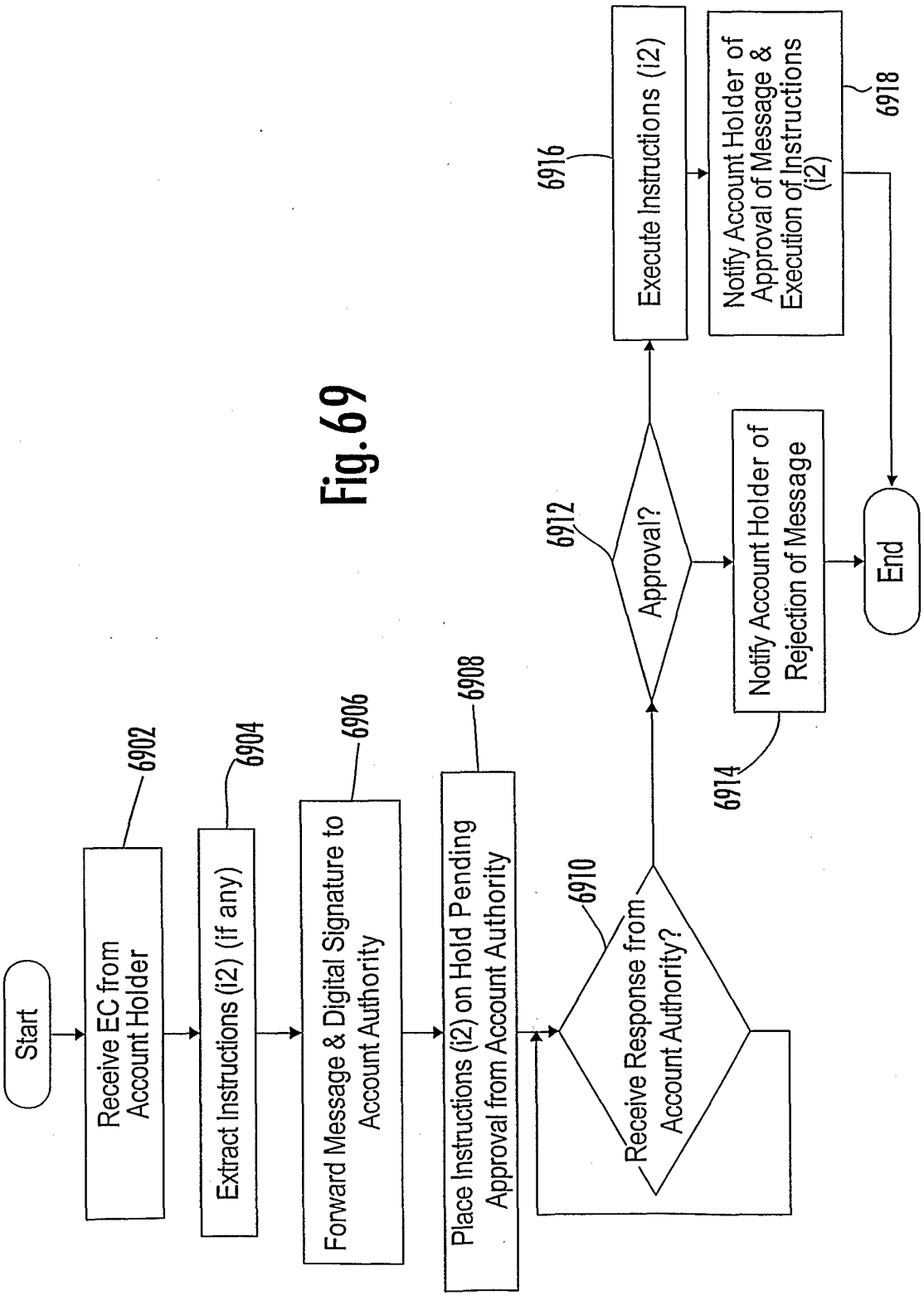

Start
Receive EC from Account Holder
6902
Extract Instructions (i2) (if any)
6904
Forward Message & Digital Signature to Account Authority
6906
Place Instructions (i2) on Hold Pending Approval from Account Authority
6908
Receive Response from Account Authority?
6910
Approval?
6912
Notify Account Holder of Rejection of Message
6914
Execute Instructions (i2)
6916
Notify Account Holder of Approval of Message & Execution of Instructions (i2)
6918
End

Fig. 69

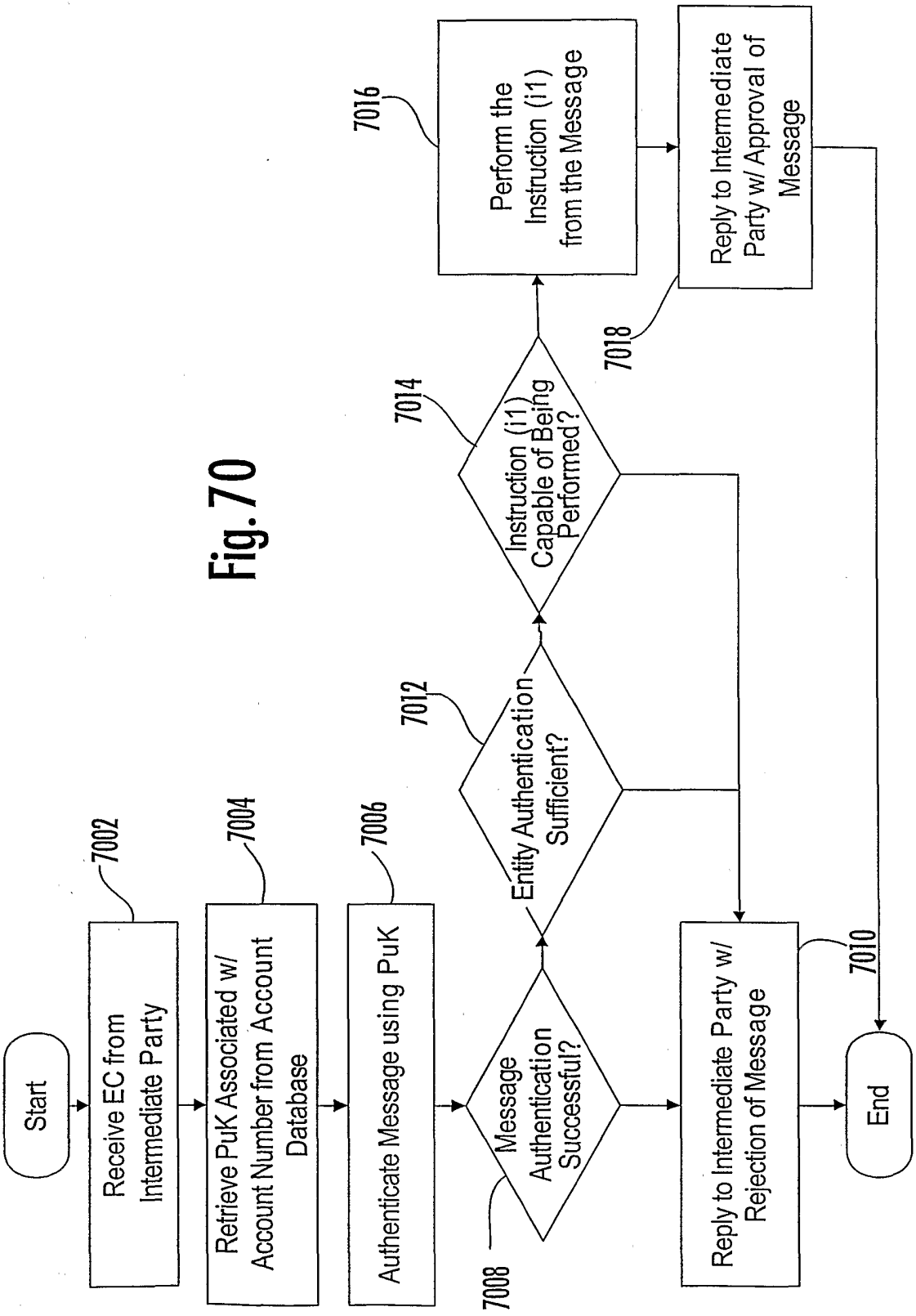

Start
Receive EC from Intermediate Party
7002
Retrieve PuK Associated w/ Account Number from Account Database
7004
Authenticate Message using PuK
7006
Message Authentication Successful?
7008
Entity Authentication Sufficient?
7012
Instruction (i1) Capable of Being Performed?
7014
Perform the Instruction (i1) from the Message
7016
Reply to Intermediate Party w/ Approval of Message
7018
Reply to Intermediate Party w/ Rejection of Message
7010
End

Fig. 70

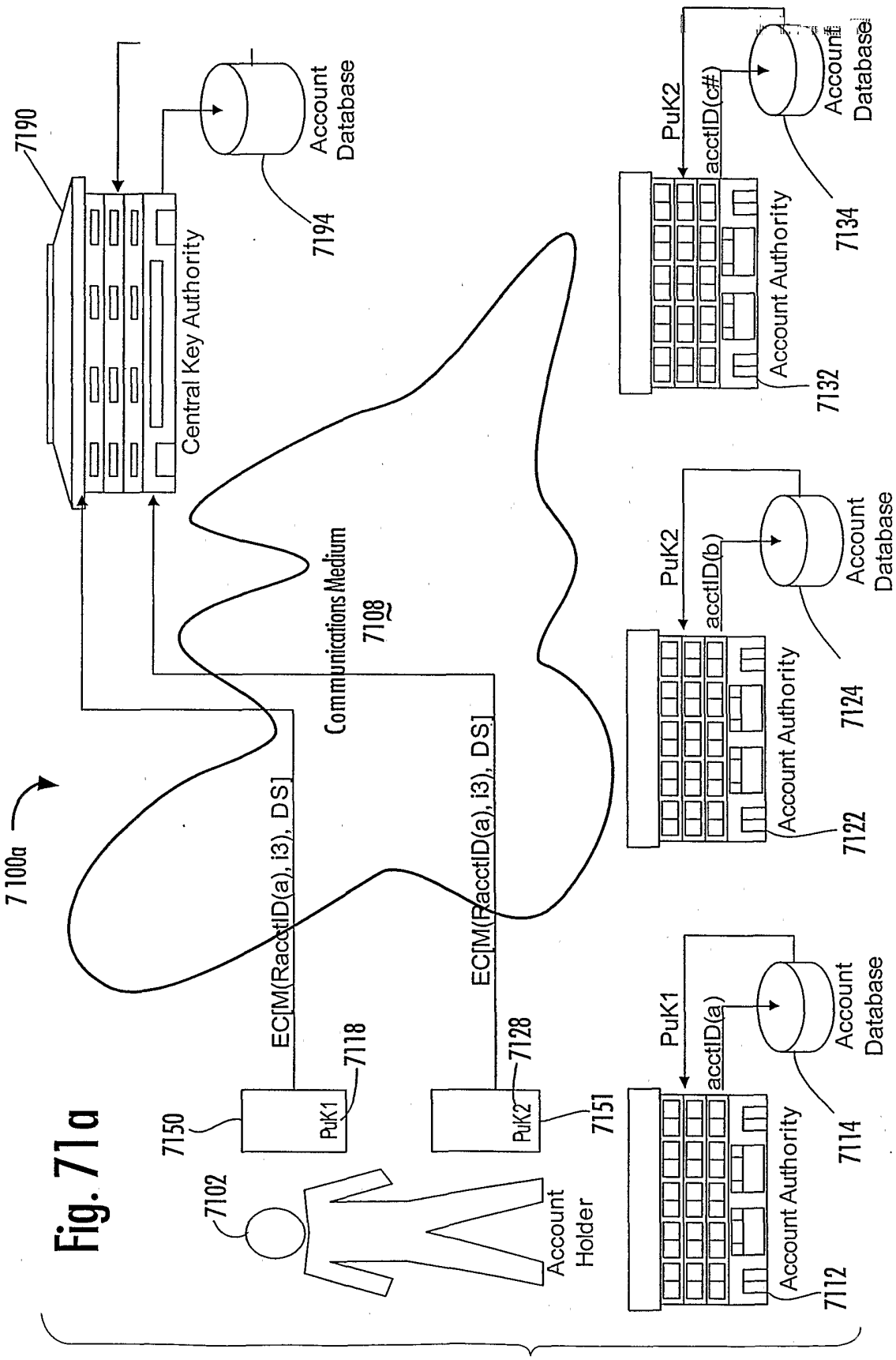

7100a
7190
Central Key Authority
Account Database
7194
Communications Medium
7108
EC[M(RacctID(a), i3), DS]
EC[M(RacctID(a), i3), DS]
7118
7128
PuK1
PuK2
7150
7151
7102
Account Holder
PuK1
acctID(a)
Account Authority
7112
Account Database
7114
PuK2
acctID(b)
Account Authority
7122
Account Database
7124
PuK2
acctID(c#)
Account Authority
7132
Account Database
7134

Fig. 71a

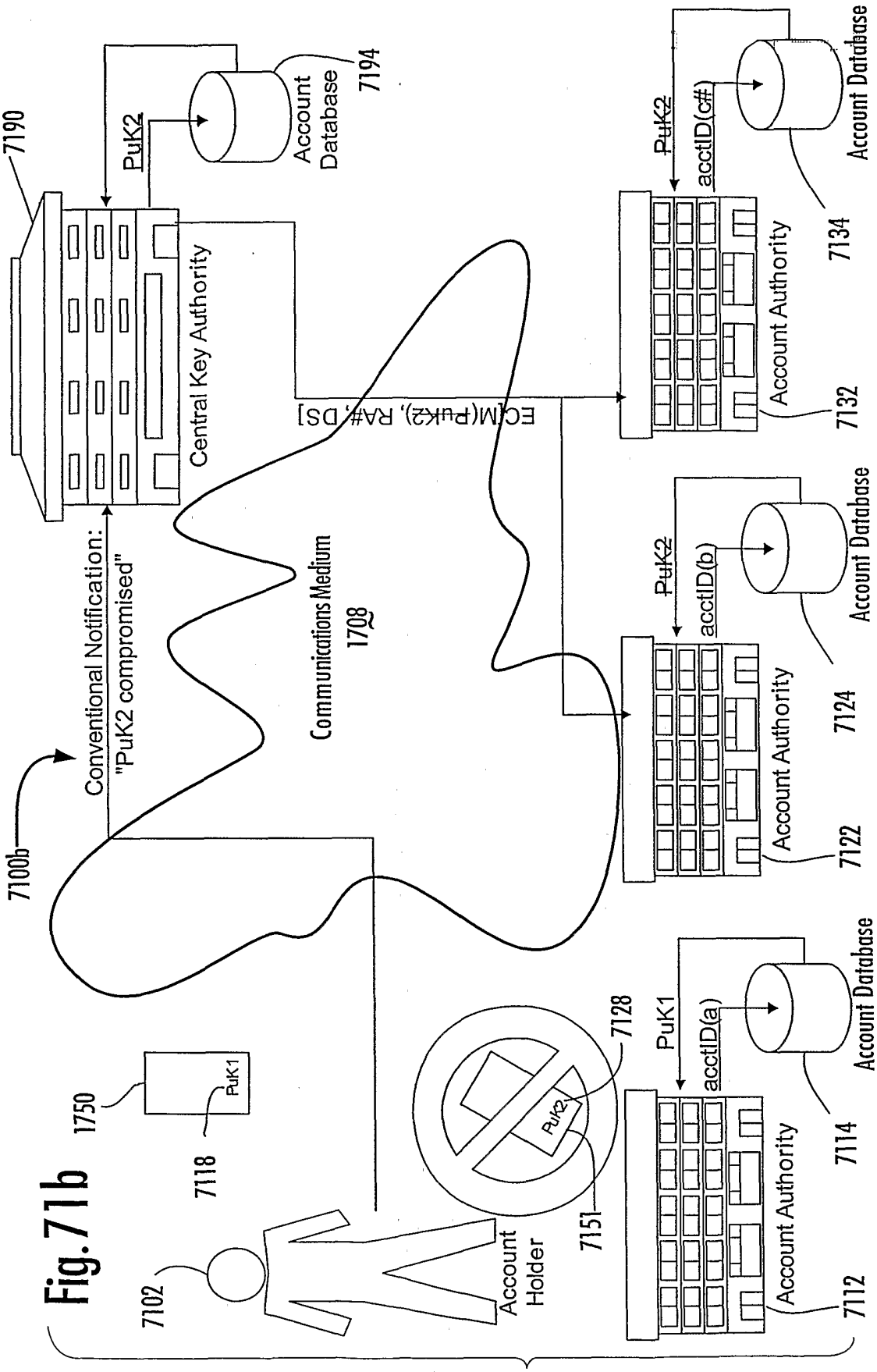

7190
PuK2
Account Database
7194
Central Key Authority
Conventional Notification:
"PuK2 compromised"
7100b
Communications Medium
1708
E[M(PuK2), RA#, DS]
PuK2
acctID(c#)
Account Database
7134
Account Authority
7132
PuK2
acctID(b)
Account Database
7124
Account Authority
7122
PuK1
acctID(a)
Account Database
7114
Account Authority
7112
7128
PuK2
7151
Account Holder
7102
7118
PuK1
1750

Fig. 71b

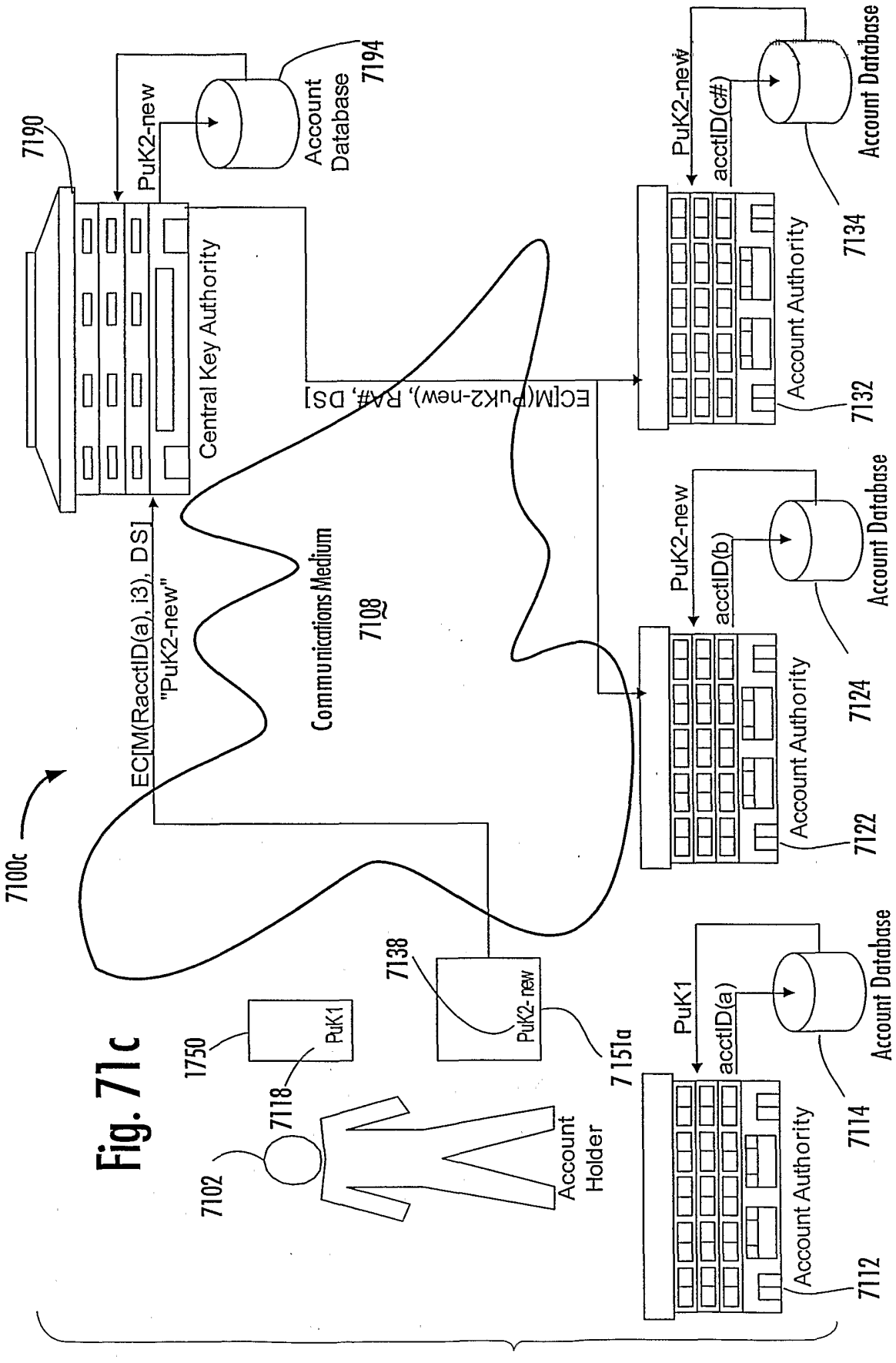

7100c
7190
PuK2-new
Account Database
7194
Central Key Authority
EC[M(PuK2-new), RA#, DS]
EC[M(RacctID(a), i3), DS]
"PuK2-new"
Communications Medium
7108
PuK2-new
acctID(c#)
Account Database
7134
Account Authority
7132
PuK2-new
acctID(b)
Account Database
7124
Account Authority
7122
PuK1
acctID(a)
Account Database
7114
Account Authority
7112
7138
PuK2- new
7151a
1750
PuK1
7118
7102
Account Holder

Fig. 71c

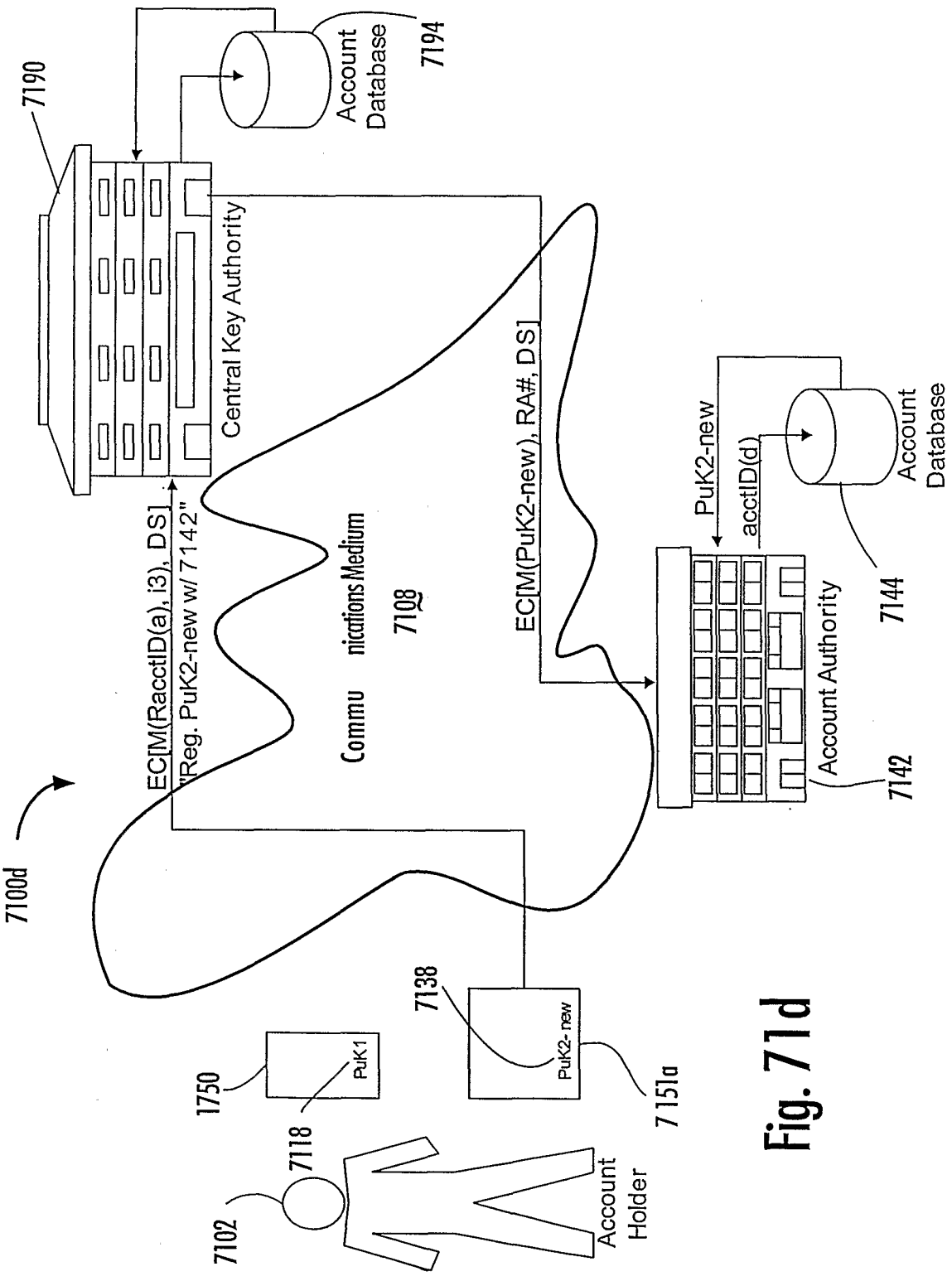

7100d
7190
Central Key Authority
Account Database
7194
EC[M(RacctID(a), i3), DS]
"Reg. PuK2-new w/ 7142"
Commu nications Medium
7108
EC[M(PuK2-new), RA#, DS]
PuK2-new
acctID(d)
Account Database
7144
Account Authority
7142
7138
PuK2- new
7151a
1750
PuK1
7118
7102
Account Holder

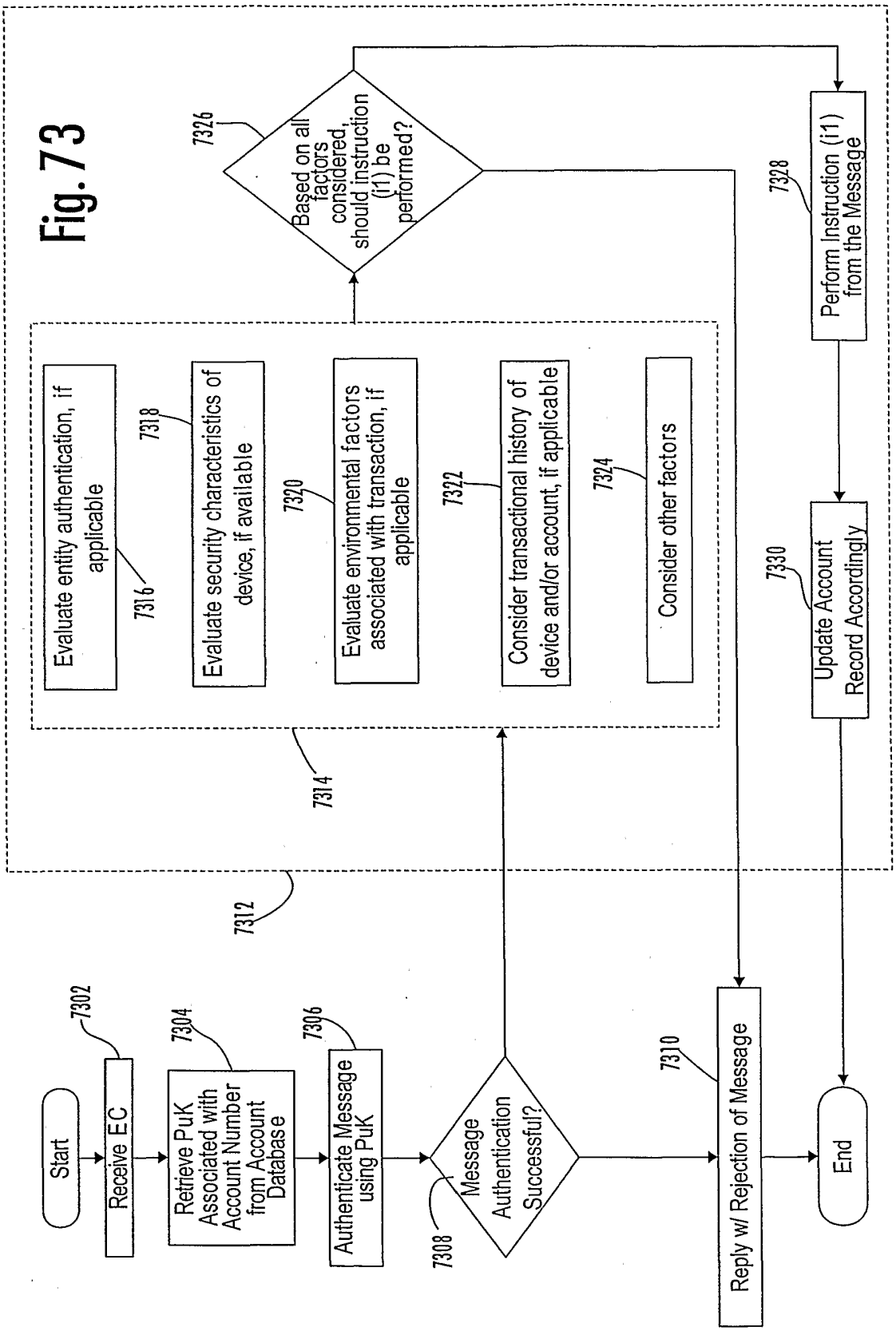
Fig. 71d

Reg. Acct ID (7230)	Customer -Specific Information (7242)	Public Key Information (7218)	Device Profile Information (7270)	Account-Specific Information (7244)
RacctID(a)	Name SSN/Tax - ID number Address Credit Card Info etc.	PuK1	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History	Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
				(empty)
		PuK2	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History	Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
				Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
RacctID(b)	Name SSN/Tax - ID number Address Credit Card Info etc.	PuK3	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History	Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
				. . .
				Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
. . .	. . .	. . .		. . .
RacctID(n)	Name SSN/Tax - ID number Address Credit Card Info etc.	PuKn1	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History	Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
				Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type
		PuKn2	Security Characteristics Authentication Capabilities Manufacturing History Transactional History	. . .
				Account Authority/Unique AcctID/Address/Type

7194

Fig. 72

Fig. 73


Start
7302
Receive EC
7304
Retrieve PuK Associated with Account Number from Account Database
7306
Authenticate Message using PuK
7308
Message Authentication Successful?
7310
Reply w/ Rejection of Message
End
7312
7314
Evaluate entity authentication, if applicable
7316
Evaluate security characteristics of device, if available
7318
Evaluate environmental factors associated with transaction, if applicable
7320
Consider transactional history of device and/or account, if applicable
7322
Consider other factors
7324
7326
Based on all factors considered, should instruction (i1) be performed?
7328
Perform Instruction (i1) from the Message
7330
Update Account Record Accordingly

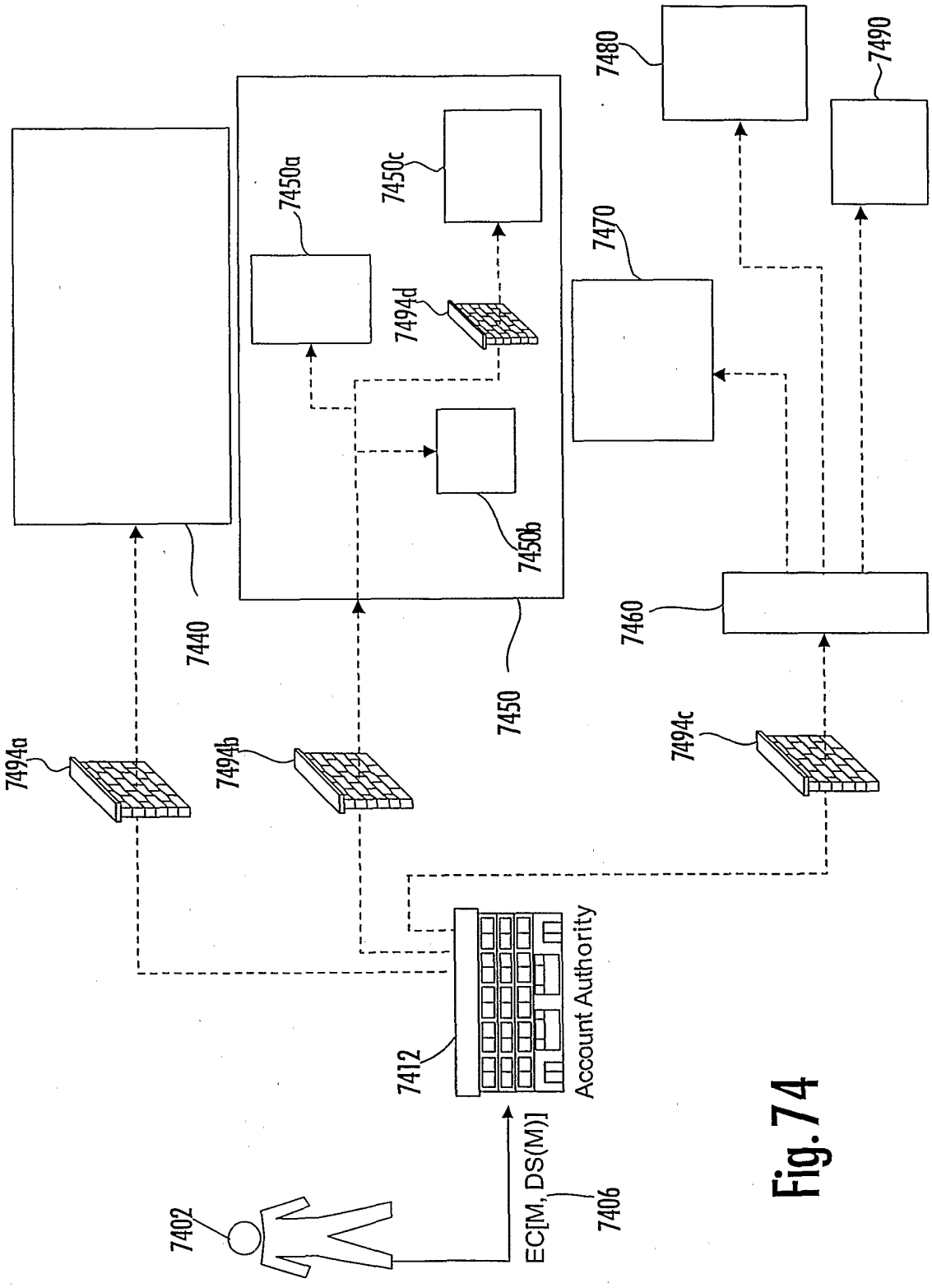

7480
7490
7450a
7450c
7470
7494d
7450b
7440
7450
7460
7494a
7494b
7494c
7412
Account Authority
7402
EC[M, DS(M)]
7406

Fig. 74

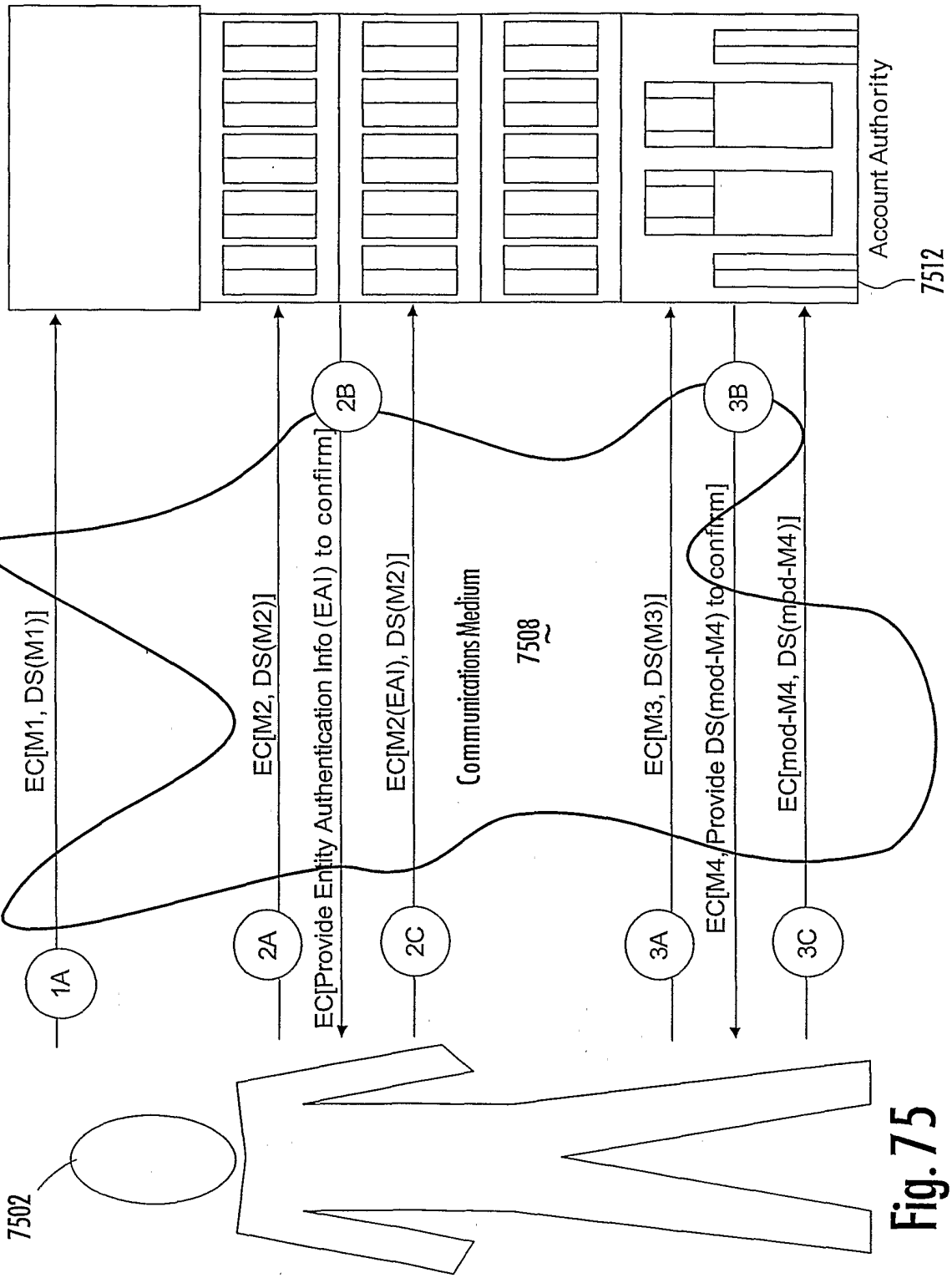

Account Authority
7512
EC[M1, DS(M1)]
EC[M2, DS(M2)]
EC[Provide Entity Authentication Info (EAI) to confirm]
EC[M2(EAI), DS(M2)]
Communications Medium
7508
EC[M3, DS(M3)]
EC[M4, Provide DS(mod-M4) to confirm]
EC[mod-M4, DS(mod-M4)]
1A
2A
2B
2C
3A
3B
3C
7502

Fig. 75

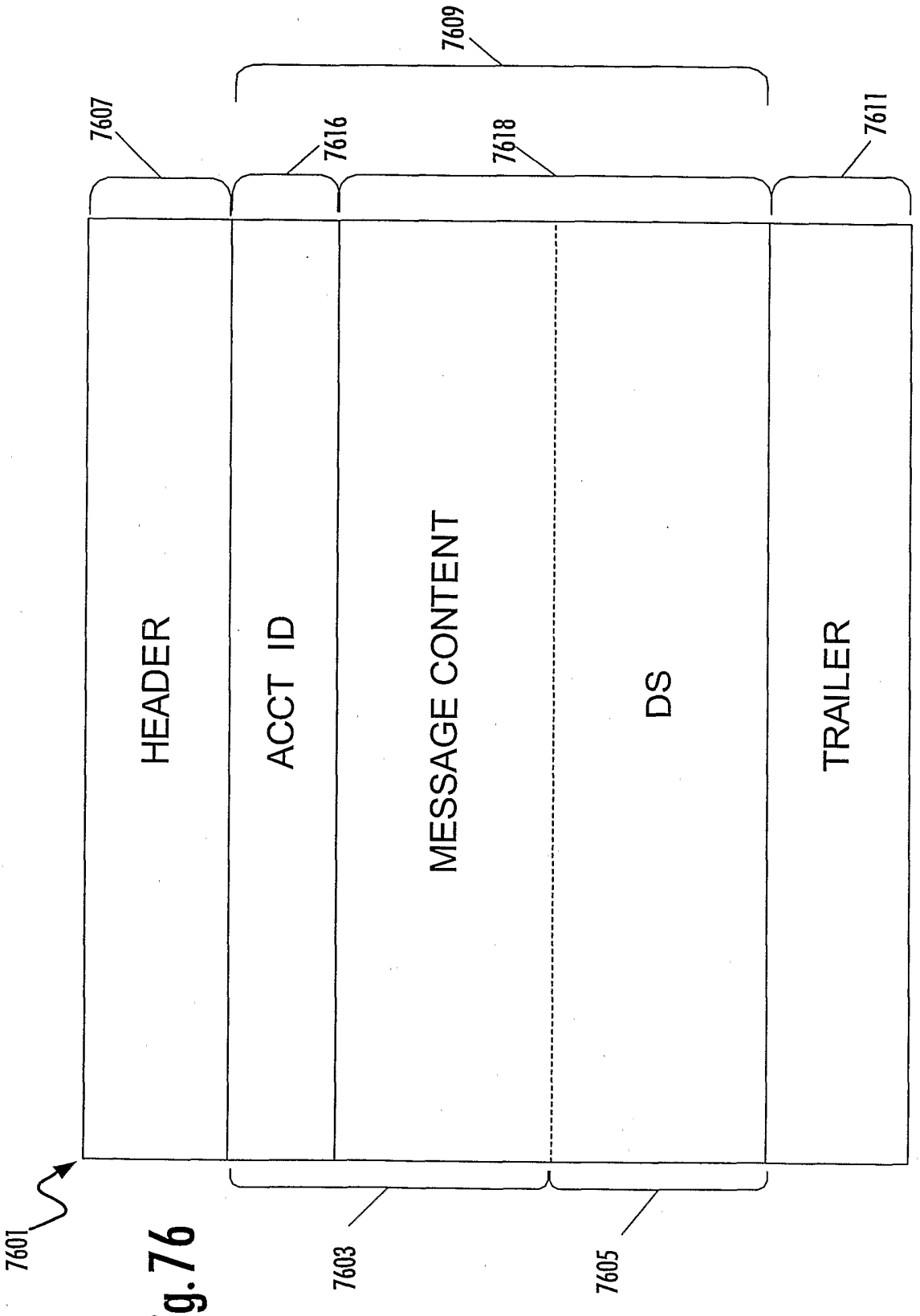

7609
7607
7616
7618
7611
HEADER
ACCT ID
MESSAGE CONTENT
DS
TRAILER
7601
7603
7605

Fig. 76

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/41587

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04L 9/30; G06F 17/30, 17/60
US CL : 380/30, 277; 705/44; 707/9; 713/155, 172, 200

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. : 380/30, 277; 705/44; 707/9; 713/155, 172, 200; 235/379, 380

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)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,453,601 A (ROSEN et al.) 26 September 1995 (26.09.1995), col. 14, lines 18-28, col. 25, line 28 thru col. 26, line 13.	1-11, 19-33, 36-38 ---------- 12-18, 39-85, 103-104, 130-139
Y	US 5,903,882 A (ASAY et al) 11 May 1999 (11.05.1999), see Abstract, col. Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 26-65.	12-18 and 101-104
X --- Y	US 5,943,423 A (MUFTIC) 24 August 1999 (24.08.1999), col. 9, line 58-col. 10, line 14; col. 13, line 8 - col. 14, line 5.	34 ---------- 39-43, 48-52, 59-83, 119-129 and 140-155.
X --- Y	US 4,885,788 A (TAKARAGI et al) 05 December 1989 (05.12.1989), col. 4, line 34 - col. 5, line 13.	35 ---------- 42-47, 53-58, 84-85.
X --- Y	US 5,534,855 A (SHOCKLEY et al) 09 July 1996 (09.07.1996), col. 5, lines 24-58.	86-94, 106-112. ---------- 95-102, 105, 113.

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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 invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled 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
28 December 2001 (28.12.2001)	14 JAN 2002
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 Gilberto Barrón Jr. Telephone No. 305-3900

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/41587

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,590,197 A (CHEN et al) 31 December 1996 (31.12.1996), col. 4, lines 13-32.	114, 117-118 --- 115-116, 119-129.
X --- Y	US 4,734, 564 A (BOSTON et al) 29 March 1988, (29.03.1988), col. 3, lines 33-47.	130 --- 131-139.
X --- Y	US 5,671,285 A (NEWMAN) 23 September 1997 (23.09.1997), col. 10, line 39 thru col. 10, line 30.	140 --- 141-155.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/41587

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/41587

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-33 and 36-38 drawn to a method and device for communicating electronically over a communication medium regarding accounts.

Group II, claim(s) 34, drawn to a method of requesting an account authority to execute an instruction with regard to an account maintained by an account authority.

Group III, claim(s) 35, drawn to a method of managing accounts in a database.

Group IV, claim(s) 86-113, drawn to a method of managing a database of a key authority for a plurality of account holders.

Group V, claim(s) 114-129, drawn to a method of maintaining a Central Key Authority database.

Group VI, claim(s) 130-139, drawn to a system of communicating electronically over a communications medium regarding an account.

Group VII, claim(s) 140-144, drawn to a method of managing a database for identification of security features of a device that generates digital signatures.

NOTE: Claims 39-85 and 145-155 are multiple dependent claims that will be examined according to the Group to be examined.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Group I includes the special technical feature of maintaining information pertaining to the first account retrievable based on a first identifier; associating a public key with the first identifier; generating a digital signature for an electronic message; and authenticating the message.

Group II includes the special technical feature of requesting an account authority to execute an instruction;

Group III includes the special technical feature of recording information pertaining to each account in a database;

Group IV includes the special technical feature of managing a database of a central key authority;

Group V includes the special technical feature of maintaining a Central Key Authority database;

Group VI includes the special technical feature of a system of communicating electronically over a communications medium that provides for gauging the risk that a digital signature was fraudulently sent;

Group VII includes the special technical feature of a method of managing a database for identification of security features of a device that generates digital signatures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/41587

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
USPAT
search terms: database, public key, account(s), central, managment