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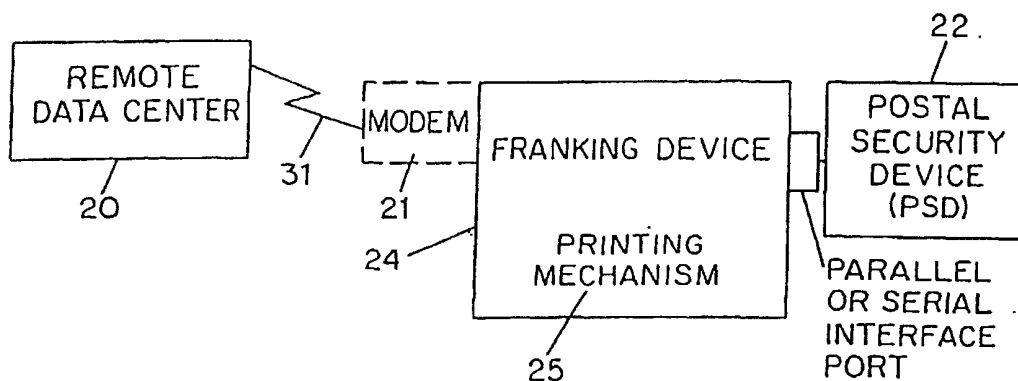
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROOF OF POSTAGE DIGITAL FRANKING



(57) Abstract: A system for printing postal indicia. The system includes at least one postal security device (22) which is linked to a customer host (24); where both the security device (22) and customer host (24) are connected to a data center (20).

WO 01/54071 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/42141

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60
US CL : 705/61

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. : 705/60, 705/61, 705/62, 705/400, 705/401, 705/403, 705/405, 705/408

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.
Y	US 5,822,739 A (KARA) 13 October 1998 (13.10.98) abstract; figures 1-3; column 2, lines 50-67; column 3, lines 1-30 and 55-67; column 4, lines 20-67; column 5, lines 1-10; column	1-14
Y	US 5,988,897 A (PIERCE et al.) 23 November 1999 (23.11.99) abstract; figures 1-4; column 1, lines 25-67; column 2, lines 1-20 and 55-67; column 3, lines 45-67; column 4, lines 1-67;	1-14

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	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"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	"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US00/42141

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

WEST; search terms: postage, metering, indicia, indicium, remote metering, internet, postal security device, open and closed metering system