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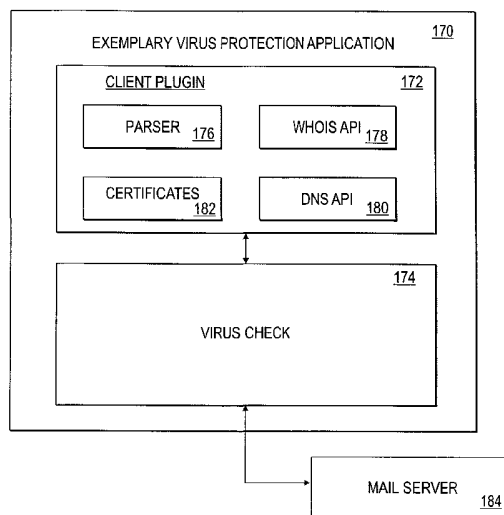
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTHENTICATING ELECTRONIC MAIL



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for authenticating an electronic message are provided. The method includes investigating data in a header of the electronic message, and generating an authenticity indicator in response to the investigation. The authenticity indicator may provide an indication of the likelihood that the electronic message was sent from a purported sender visible to a recipient of the electronic message. In certain embodiments, the method includes presenting the authenticity indicator to the recipient of the electronic message. Investigating data in the header may include parsing the header to obtain purported sender data in a from field populated at a mail client and to obtain actual originator data, comparing the purported sender data and actual originator data, and generating the authenticity indicator in response to the comparison. The from field may be the "FROM: ." field of an email message provided to identify a sender of the email message.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/31648

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04L 9/00; G06F 15/16
 US CL : 709/206,229; 713/160

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. : 709/206,229; 713/160; 707/9; 709/201,202,203,204,205; 713/200,201,202,156

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 EAST,USPAT;EPO;JPO;DERWENT;IBM-TDB

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 email e-mail,authen&7,sender originat\$3,domain name,dns,whois with database,authentication,virus

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,E --- Y,E	US 6,640,301 B1 (NG) 28 October 2003 - col. 4 lines 31-35, col. 5 lines 14-16, col. 4 lines 39-43, col. 1 lines 25-31, col. 4 lines 48-50, col. 9 lines 50-51, col. 4 lines 16-18, 35-39, figure 8.	1 - 7, 9 - 23, 25 - 39, 41 - 44 ----- 8, 24, & 40
Y	US 6,182,227 B1 (BLAIR et al) 30 January 2001 - abstract col. 4 lines 8 - 26, col. 3 lines 11-15.	8, 24, 40
A	US 5,651,069 (ROGAWAY) 22 July 1997 (08 December 1994).	1 - 44
A	US 5,898,836 (FREIVALD et al) 27 April 1999 (14 January 1997).	1 - 44



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

"&"

document member of the same patent family

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

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,682,460 A (HYZIAK et al) 28 October 1997 (29 August 1994).	1 - 44