

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
1 November 2007 (01.11.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2007/123646 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification:

G06F 7/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2007/007865

(22) International Filing Date: 28 March 2007 (28.03.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

11/393,457 29 March 2006 (29.03.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

24 July 2008

(54) Title: SECURE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN ELECTRONIC DESIGN AUTOMATION WITH LICENSE-RELATED KEY GENERATION

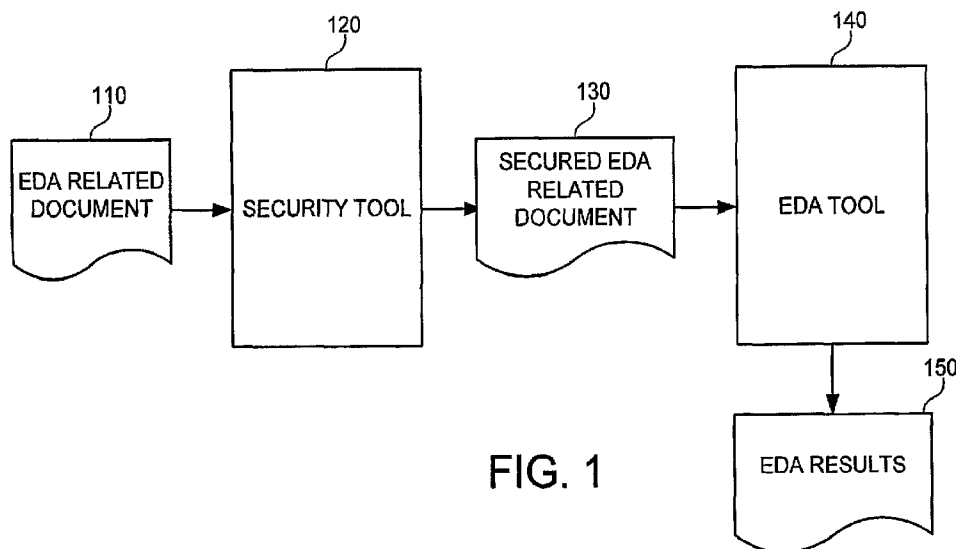


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Electronic data can be exchanged in a secure manner. Information deemed sensitive and otherwise worthy of protection may be secured by methods such as encryption, obfuscation and other security measures. The secured information can be processed without revealing at least some of the secured information. For instance, rule files related to integrated circuit manufacturability may be selectively annotated to indicate portions thereof deserving of protection. An encryption tool can be used to secure the information. A system can then unlock and use the secured information without revealing the same. In one desirable aspect, information can be encrypted or decrypted using a key, the key being generated based on licensing information associated with a software application.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/07865

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC: <b>G06F 7/00( 2006.01)</b>  USPC: <b>726/27</b> According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. :  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)		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,509,070 (SCHULL)16 April 1996 (04.16.1996), column 10, lines 39-46, column 12 lines 31-42, col. 15 lines 13-34 and 44-46, column 16 lines 43-50)	9,16-17,23 and 28 ----- 1-8,10-15,18-22, 24-27 and 29-30
Y	US Publication 2002/0034302 A1 (Moriai et al) 21 March 2002 (21.03.2002), paragraph 47.	1-8,10-15,18-22, 24-27 and 29-30
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 31 March 2008 (31.03.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">22 APR 2008</div>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Lisa V. Zand</i></div> KAMBIZ ZAND Telephone No. (703) 305-3900	