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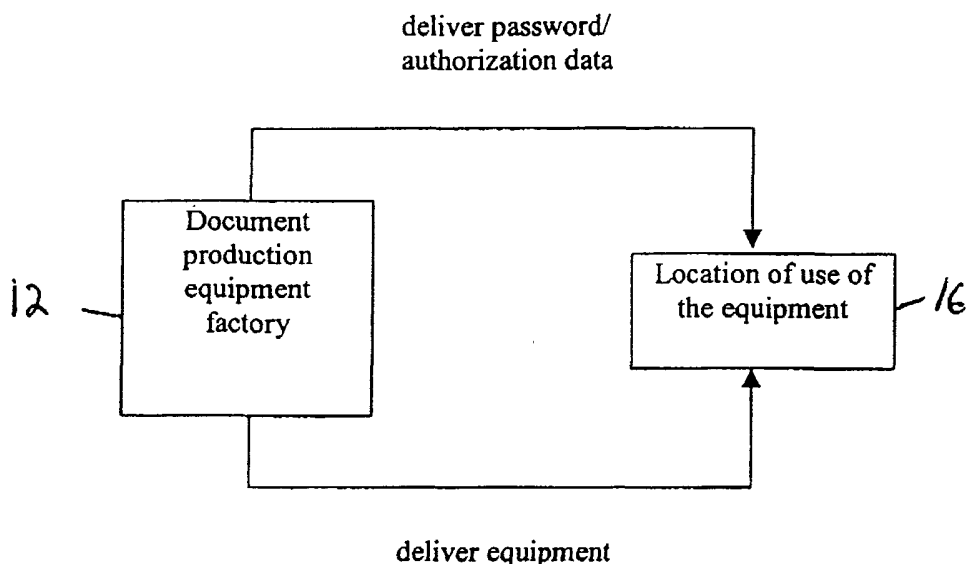
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED OPERATION OF IDENTIFICATION AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENT PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: Improvements in security relating to the use of personalized document production equipment. The invention has particular use with respect to printers that are used to produce plastic cards, such as financial cards and identification cards. The invention prevents the unauthorized production of personalized documents through the use of stolen or fraudulently obtained production equipment or software. The equipment is locked until a user enters authorization data that matches authorization data stored in memory of the equipment. The equipment is able to power-up in the locked state, at which point the user is prompted to enter the authorization data. As a result, if the equipment is stolen, the thief is unable to operate the equipment without the necessary authorization data.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 091 275 A (CANON KK) 11 April 2001 (2001-04-11) abstract; figures 5-8 paragraphs '0010!, '0015!, '0037! - '0053!	1-15
X	US 5 633 932 A (DAVIS DEREK L ET AL) 27 May 1997 (1997-05-27) the whole document	1-15
X	EP 1 083 516 A (CANON KK) 14 March 2001 (2001-03-14) abstract paragraphs '0033!, '0037! - '0056!, '0074! - '0098! figures 4-10	1-15
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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.
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