METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTIVE BLOCKING OF RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION DEVICES

Abstract: Techniques are disclosed for providing enhanced privacy in an RFID system comprising a plurality of RFID devices, each having an associated identifier, and at least one reader which communicates with one or more of the devices. A block device is operable to receive a communication directed from the reader to one or more of the RFID devices, and to generate, possibly based on information in the received communication, an output transmittable to the reader. The output simulates one or more responses from at least one of the RFID devices in a manner which prevents the reader from determining at least a portion of the identifier of at least one of the RFID devices. The block device may itself comprise one of the RFID devices. In an illustrative embodiment, the output generated by the block device interferes with the normal operation of a singulation algorithm implemented by the reader.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPCT : HD4I 3/00
US CL : 370/345,445

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. : 370/345,445; 340/10.1, 572.1, 572.3, 568.1; 455/1

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y,E</td>
<td>US 6,661,344 A (WOOD, JR.) 09 May 2000, col. 4, lines 26-35; fig. 4; col. 6, lines 4-67; col. 8; and col. 9, lines 1-49.</td>
<td>8,9,11,12,25,26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2004/0160324 A1 (STILP) 19 August 2004, see section 0010, 0106, 0145.</td>
<td>8,9,11,12,25,26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 23 February 2005 (23.02.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 14 March 2005

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; IPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB
RFID tag transponder label