(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
28 September 2006 (28.09.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/101549 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 7/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/044535

(22) International Filing Date:
5 December 2005 (05.12.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/633,272 3 December 2004 (03.12.2004) US

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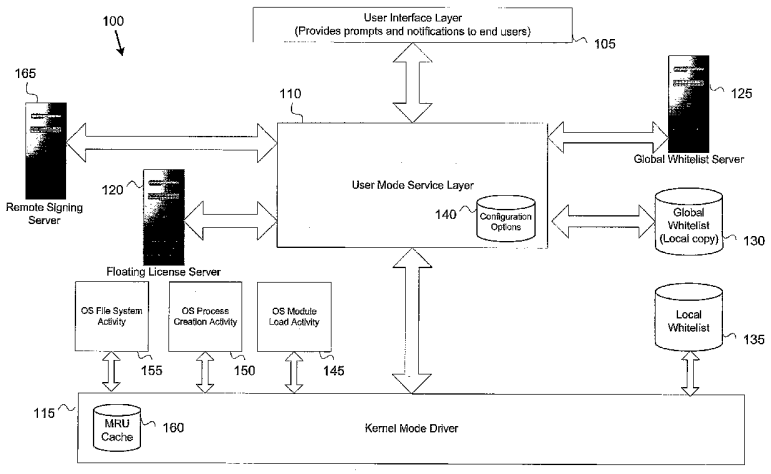
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC,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

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, 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, 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*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** SECURE SYSTEM FOR ALLOWING THE EXECUTION OF AUTHORIZED COMPUTER PROGRAM CODE



(57) **Abstract:** Systems and methods are described for allowing the execution of authorized computer program code and for protecting computer systems and networks from unauthorized code execution. In one embodiment, a multi-level proactive whitelist approach is employed to secure a computer system by allowing only the execution of authorized computer program code thereby protecting the computer system against the execution of malicious code such as viruses, Trojan horses, spy-ware, and/or the like. Various embodiments use a kernel-level driver, which intercepts or "hooks" certain system Application Programming Interface (API) calls in order to monitor the creation of processes prior to code execution. The kernel-level driver may also intercept and monitor the loading of code modules by running processes, and the passing of non-executable code modules, such as script files, to approved or running code modules via command line options, for example. Once intercepted, a multi-level whitelist approach may be used to authorize the code execution.

WO 2006/101549 A3

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 December 2006

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/44535

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: **G06F 7/04**(2006.01)

USPC: 726/27
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. : 726/27

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)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2002/0099952 A1 (LAMBERT et al) 25 Jul. 2002 (25.07.2002) paragraphs [0010], [0034], [0038],[0044], [0052], [0053], [0055]-[0057], [0062], [0066], [0067], [0071], [0072], [0078], [0080], [0082], [0083], FIGURE 8	1-3, 7-8, 10, 19, 23-27, 29, 38-39, 41, 43-47 --- 4, 9, 11-18, 20-22, 28, 30-37
Y	US 2003/0172167 A1 (JUDGE et al) 11 Sept. 2003 (11.09.2003), paragraph [0208]	4, 9, 11-18, 20-22, 28, 30-37
Y	US 2004/0205167 A1 (GRUMANN) 14 Oct. 2004 (14.10.2004) paragraph [0016]	9, 28
X	US 2003/0135756 A1 (VERMA) 17 June 2003 (17.06.2003) paragraphs [0093]-[0096], FIG. 8	40
P	US 2005/0262558 A1 (USOV) 24 Nov. 2005 (24.11.2005), paragraphs [0040]-[0054]	1-47

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
08 September 2006 (08.09.2006)	02 OCT 2006
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 Emmanuel Moise Telephone No. (571)272-2100

Form PCT ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)