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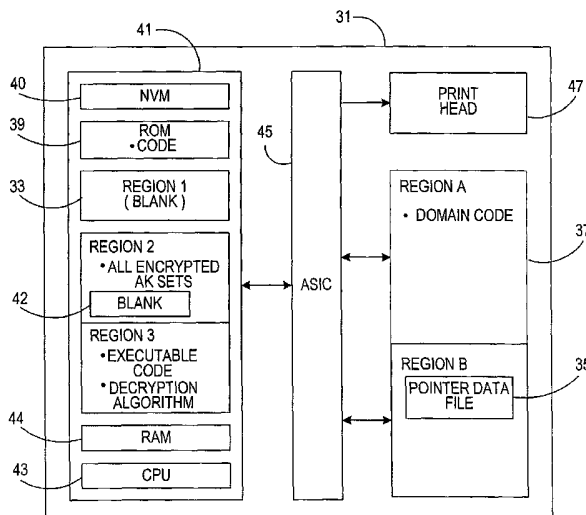
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR DYNAMICALLY USING CRYPTOGRAPHIC KEYS IN A POSTAGE METER



(57) Abstract: During power-up of a postage meter (31) the encrypted pointer data file (35) is read from the flash memory into the RAM (44) by the CPU (43). The CPU (43) uses the executable code (42) to decrypt the encrypted pointer data file (35) to obtain from the software code component parts of a decryption key (42) and to assemble in the RAM (44) the decryption key (42) from the component parts. The CPU (43) uses the assembled decryption key (42) and the executable code (42) to decrypt the encrypted cryptographic key. The CPU (43) stores the decrypted cryptographic key in a secure area of the EEPROM, erases the decryption key and the encrypted pointer data file (35) from the RAM (44), erases the encrypted cryptographic key (42) and executable code (42) from the EEPROM, and erases the pointer data file (35) from the flash memory.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/44647

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F, 17/60; H04K, 1/00; H04L, 9/00
 US CL : 705/60

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. : 705/60; 380/278, 30

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

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,651,103 A (ARSENAULT et al) 22 July 1997 (22.07.1997), see column 8, lines 53-65.	1-18
X	US 5,805,711 A (WINDEL et al) 8 September 1998 (08.09.1998), see column 30, lines 15-30 and column 32, lines 14-30.	1-18
X	US 6,064,989 A (CORDERY et al) 16 May 2000 (16.05.2000), see column 9, lines 25-29; column 10, line 47; column 11, line 20-35.	1-18
X	US 6,111,951 A (GUENTHER) 29 August 2000 (29.08.2000), see column 19, lines 23-50.	2-13
X,P	US 6,173,273 B1 (HERBERT) 9 January 2001 (09.01.2001), see column 6, lines 40-50.	2-10
X,P	US 6,199,752 B1 (BORNEMANN et al) 13 March 2001 (13.03.2001), see column 15, lines 10-56.	1-18

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	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

03 May 2002 (03.05.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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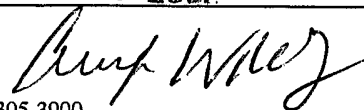
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

search terms: postage meter, encryption, decryption, cryptographic, key, authentication, smart card, EEPROM, pointer data