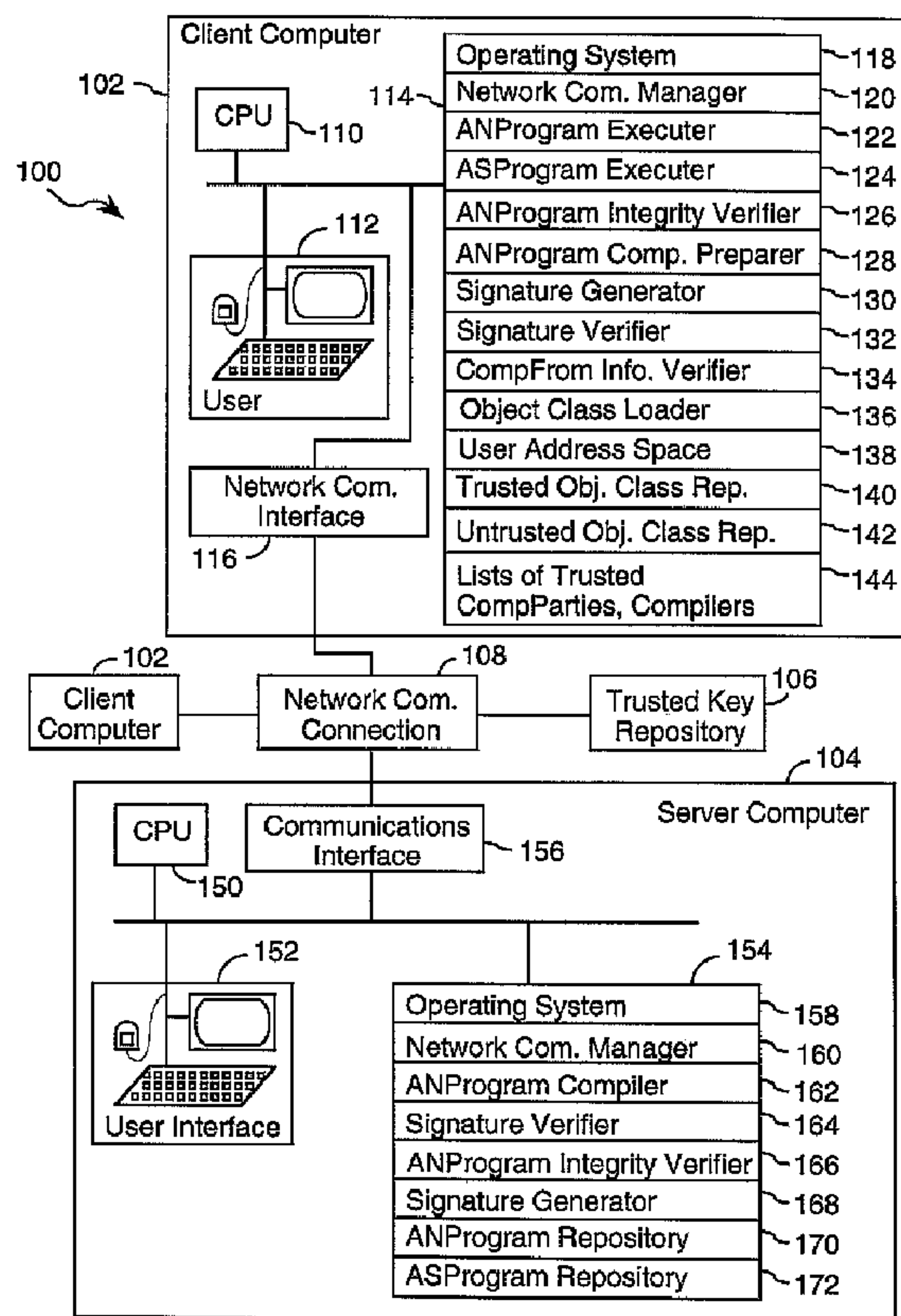




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(54) Titre : SYSTEME ET METHODE DE GENERATION DE VERSIONS COMPILEES FIABLES, PROPRES A CHAQUE ARCHITECTURE, DE PROGRAMMES INDEPENDANTS DE TOUTE ARCHITECTURE  
 (54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING TRUSTED, ARCHITECTURE SPECIFIC, COMPILED VERSIONS OF ARCHITECTURE NEUTRAL PROGRAMS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A distributed computer system has a program compiling computer and a program executing computer. The program compiling computer is operated by a compiling party and includes a compiler that, when the digital signature of the originating party of an architecture neutral program has been verified, (A) compiles the architecture neutral program code of the architecture neutral

**(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

program into architecture specific program code in the architecture specific language identified by the compile to information in the architecture neutral program, and (B) appends to the architecture specific program code a digital signature of the compiling party to generate an architecture specific program. The program executing computer is operated by an executing party and includes an architecture specific program executer that executes the architecture specific program code of the architecture specific program when the digital signature of the originating party of the architecture neutral program has been verified, the digital signature of the compiling party of the architecture specific program has been verified, and the compiling party has been determined to be a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed computer system has a program compiling computer and a program executing computer. The program compiling computer is operated by a  
5 compiling party and includes a compiler that, when the digital signature of the originating party of an architecture neutral program has been verified, (A) compiles the architecture neutral program code of the architecture neutral program into architecture specific program code in the architecture specific language identified by the compile to information in the architecture neutral program, and (B) appends to the  
10 architecture specific program code a digital signature of the compiling party to generate an architecture specific program. The program executing computer is operated by an executing party and includes an architecture specific program executer that executes the architecture specific program code of the architecture specific program when the digital signature of the originating party of the architecture  
15 neutral program has been verified, the digital signature of the compiling party of the architecture specific program has been verified, and the compiling party has been determined to be a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties.

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING TRUSTED,  
ARCHITECTURE SPECIFIC, COMPILED VERSIONS  
OF ARCHITECTURE NEUTRAL PROGRAMS

The present invention relates generally to distributed computer systems, and particularly to a program compilation system and method in which architecture neutral executable programs are compiled by a trusted third party in such a way that recipients of the compiled program can verify the identity of the corresponding  
5 architecture neutral program and can verify that it was compiled by the trusted third party.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10

The term "architecture" is defined for the purposes of this document to mean the operating characteristics of a family of computer models. Examples of distinct architectures are: Macintosh computers, IBM PC compatible computers using the DOS or Windows operating systems, SUN Microsystems computers running the  
15 Solaris operating system, and computer systems using the Unix operating system.

20

The term "architecture neutral" is defined for the purposes of this document to refer to ability of certain programs, such as programs written in the Java (a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc.) language, to be executed on a variety of computer  
platforms using a number of different computer architectures.

The term "architecture specific" is defined for the purposes of this document to

refer to the requirement that certain programs be executed only on computer platforms using a single computer architecture. For instance, object code programs written in the 80486 assembler language can only be executed on computers using the IBM PC compatible computer architecture (as well as in other computers that  
5 contain IBM PC compatible computer emulators).

Important features of architecture neutral programs (ANPrograms) include the architecture independence of programs written in the architecture neutral language (ANLanguage). For example, Java bytecode programs can be executed on any  
10 computer platform having a Java bytecode interpreter. An additional important feature of Java bytecode programs is that their integrity can be directly verified prior to execution by a Java bytecode verifier. A Java bytecode verifier determines whether the program conforms to predefined integrity criteria. Such criteria include operand stack and data type usage restrictions that ensure that Java bytecode programs  
15 cannot overflow or underflow the executing computer's operand stack and that all program instructions utilize only data of known data types. As a result, a Java bytecode program cannot create object pointers and generally cannot access system resources other than those which the user has explicitly granted it permission to use.

20 Unfortunately, distributing executable programs in an ANLanguage causes the ANProgram to run less efficiently than it would if it could take advantage of architecture specific features. For example, Java bytecode programs executed by a Java bytecode interpreter typically run 2.5 to 5 times as slow as the equivalent architecture specific programs (ASPrograms) compiled in corresponding architecture  
25 specific languages (ASLanguages). While a factor of five speed reduction is actually considered to be unusually good for an ANProgram executer (i.e., interpreter), it is a sufficient loss of efficiency that some users will require or insist upon the ability to use equivalent programs compiled in an ASLanguage.

30 Compilers that can compile an ANProgram into an equivalent ASProgram can be written. However, they may be prohibitively expensive for the end user. In addition, the integrity of the equivalent compiled ASProgram cannot be verified directly from the compiled ASProgram code by an ANProgram integrity verifier. Thus, in the case of Java bytecode programs, the use of ANPrograms compiled into

equivalent ASPrograms potentially results in the loss of one of the most valuable features of an ANLanguage.

5 However, there are some legitimate (or legal) tasks that can be performed by integrity non-verifiable ASPrograms but which cannot be performed by integrity verifiable ANPrograms. These include tasks that would otherwise violate the operand stack and data type usage restrictions imposed on the integrity verifiable ANPrograms. In addition, such ASPrograms can be executed much faster than ANPrograms. As a result, there are number of reasons why it is desirable to have a  
10 computer system that is designed to primarily execute integrity verifiable ANPrograms but also has the capability of executing integrity non-verifiable ASPrograms.

Although compilation of ANPrograms by a third party is possible, such compilations require that the third party be authenticated. That is, it must be possible  
15 to verify from the information in the compiled ASProgram that it was compiled by a specific trusted third party. Even better, it should also be possible to authenticate that the compiled ASProgram was generated by a specific trusted compiler. And, since the integrity of the compiled ASProgram with respect to predefined integrity criteria cannot be directly verified, the compiled ASProgram should include information that in  
20 a verifiable manner identifies the corresponding ANProgram from which it was compiled and the ASLanguage in which it was compiled.

Thus, it is an object of the present invention to provide an ANProgram compiler and compilation method that enables the user of an ASProgram compiled from a  
25 corresponding ANProgram to authenticate the identify of who compiled the ANProgram, the identity of the corresponding ANProgram, and the ASLanguage in which the ASProgram was compiled.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an ANProgram executer  
30 and execution method that enables integrity verifiable ANPrograms being executed to call integrity non-verifiable ASPrograms that are trusted or that have verifiable sources and compilation information so that essentially all legitimate tasks can be performed, while preventing from being called ASPrograms whose sources, compilation information, and integrity cannot be verified.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In summary, the present invention is a computer network that comprises a program compiling computer and a program executing computer.

10 The program compiling computer is operated by a compiling party and includes storage that stores an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party. The architecture neutral program contains architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party. The program compiling computer also includes a signature verifier that verifies the digital signature of the originating party to verify that signature of the originating party matches (i.e., was generate using) the architecture neutral program to which it is attached.

15 The program compiling computer further includes a compiler that, when the digital signature of the originating party has been verified compiles the architecture neutral program code into architecture specific program code in the architecture specific language identified by the compile to information. The compiler utilizes a signature generator to append to the architecture specific program code a digital signature of the compiler program, where the compiler signature signs a set of information that includes the compiled architecture specific program code plus the signature on the architecture neutral program. In the preferred embodiment the compiler utilizes the signature generator to also appends to the architecture specific program code a digital signature of the compiling party, where compiling party signature signs a set of information that includes the compiled architecture specific program code, the signature on the architecture neutral program and the compiler signature.

30 The program executing computer is operated by an executing party and includes storage that stores the architecture neutral and specific programs. It further includes a signature verifier that (A) verifies the digital signature of the originating party in the architecture neutral program, and (B) verifies the digital signature of the compiler in the architecture specific program and/or verifies the digital signature of the compiling party in the architecture specific program. The term "verifies a signature"

means that a procedure is performed to determine that the signature matches (i.e., was in fact generated from) the set of information allegedly signed by the signature.

5 The program executing computer also includes an architecture specific program executer that, when the digital signatures in the architecture specific program have been verified, executes the architecture specific program code of the architecture specific program.

10 In the preferred embodiment, the architecture neutral program is embodied in an object that contains a digital signature that includes a message digest uniquely associated with the architecture neutral program. The architecture specific program generated by the compiler includes:

- the compiled, architecture specific code;
- the digital signature of the corresponding architecture neutral program as signed by the party that provided the architecture neutral program;
- a digital signature by the compiler itself, including a message digest of the compiled program and information identifying the compiler used to compile the program, and signed using the compiler's private encryption key; and
- a digital signature by the trusted party performing the compilation, including a message digest of the compiled program and information identifying the trusted party, and signed using the compiling party's private encryption key.

25 A generally available, trusted repository of public encryption keys, sometimes called a naming service, holds the public keys for the compiler and the trusted compiling party. Using these public encryption keys all recipients of the compiled program can decrypt the digital signatures in the compiled program to verify that the compiled program was compiled by the indicated trusted party and by the indicated compiler, and also to verify the identity of the corresponding architecture neutral program. Optionally, the recipient of the compiled program can use a program verifier

30 to verify the proper operation of the corresponding architecture neutral program prior to executing the compiled architecture specific program.

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According to a first broad aspect, the invention provides for a computer network that includes: a program compiling computer operated by a compiling party, the program compiling computer receiving an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party, the architecture neutral program containing architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party that when verified verifies that the architecture neutral program was signed by the originating party, the program compiling computer including: a signature verifier that verifies the originating party's digital signature; a program verifier for verifying that the received architecture neutral program satisfies predefined integrity criteria including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; a compiler that generates an architecture specific program when the originating party's digital signature has been verified and the received architecture neutral program's integrity has been verified by the program verifier, the compiler generating the architecture specific program by (A) compiling the architecture neutral program code into architecture specific program code in an architecture specific language, and (B) appending a digital signature of the compiling party that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated by the compiling party; and a signature generator that generates the compiling party's digital signature; and a program executing computer operated by an executing party, the program executing computer receiving the architecture specific program, the program executing computer including: a signature verifier that verifies the compiling party's digital signature; an executer that executes program code that is in the architecture specific language, the executer executing the architecture specific program code when the

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compiling party's signature has been verified; a program verifier for verifying whether a specified architecture neutral program satisfies the predefined integrity criteria, including predefined operand stack and data type usage  
5 restrictions; and an architecture neutral program executer for executing the specified architecture neutral program when the program verifier has verified that the specified architecture neutral program satisfies the predefined integrity criteria; by which verification of the compiling  
10 party's digital signature by the program executing computer indirectly verifies the originating party's signature as well as the integrity of the architecture neutral program from which the architecture specific program was compiled.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Additional objects and features of the invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description and appended claims when taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a distributed computer system incorporating a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 depicts the structure of an architecture neutral program in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 depicts the structure of a compiled, architecture specific, program generated in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 depicts an object and associated object class in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Fig. 1, there is shown a computer network 100 having many client computers 102, a server computer 104, and a trusted key repository 106. The client computers 102 are connected to each other and the server computer 104 and the trusted key repository 106 via a network communications connection 108. The network communications connection may be a local or wide area network, the Internet, a combination of such networks, or some other type of network communications connection.

While most of the client computers 102 are desktop computers, such as Sun workstations, IBM compatible computers, and Macintosh computers, virtually any type of computer could be a client computer. Each of these client computers includes a CPU 110, a user interface 112, a memory 114, and a network communications interface 116. The network communications interface enables the client computers to

communicate with each other, the server computer 104, and the trusted key repository 108 via the network communications connection 106.

5 The memory 114 of each client computer 102 stores an operating system 118, a network communications manager 120, an ANProgram (architecture neutral program) executor 122, an ASProgram (architecture specific program) executor 124, and ANProgram integrity verifier 126, an ANProgram compiling preparer 128, a signature generator 130, a signature verifier 132, a compiling information (CompInfo) verifier 134, an object class loader 136, a user address space 138, a trusted object  
10 class repository 140, an untrusted object class repository 142, and lists 144 of known, trusted compiling parties and trusted compilers. The operating system is run on the CPU 110 and controls and coordinates running the programs 120-136 on the CPU in response to commands issued by a user with the user interface 112.

15 The ANProgram executor 122 of each client computer 102 executes ANPrograms in the object classes stored in the trusted and untrusted object class repositories 140 and 142. Moreover, the ANPrograms are written in an ANLanguage for which the user may establish predefined integrity criteria, such as stack and data usage restrictions, so that the ANPrograms will not perform illegal tasks. Thus, the  
20 integrity of the ANPrograms can be directly verified by the ANProgram integrity verifier 126 prior to execution by determining if the program satisfies the predefined integrity criteria. These ANPrograms are therefore considered integrity verifiable ANPrograms.

25 In the preferred embodiment, the integrity verifiable ANPrograms are written in the Java bytecode language. Moreover, the ANProgram executor 122 and the ANProgram verifier 124 are respectively a Java bytecode program interpreter and a Java bytecode program verifier that respectively execute and verify the Java bytecode programs. The Java bytecode verifier and interpreter are products of Sun  
30 Microsystems, Inc.

However, each client computer 102 has an associated specific architecture for which programs may be written in a corresponding ASLanguage and executed by the ASProgram executor 122. The ASLanguage does not require that ASPrograms

written in the ASLanguage satisfy the predefined integrity criteria of the ANLanguage. As a result, the ASPrograms can perform tasks that cannot be performed by the ANPrograms because they are not burdened by the restrictions imposed by the predefined integrity criteria of the ANLanguage. Unfortunately, however, this also means that their integrity cannot be directly verified by the ANProgram integrity verifier 126 and are therefore considered integrity non-verifiable.

Nevertheless, as indicated earlier, an ANProgram runs less efficiently than the same program compiled in an ASLanguage. Thus, the user of a client computer 102 may wish to have an ANProgram compiled by the server computer 104 for the ASLanguage associated with the user's client computer so the compiled ASProgram can be executed there by the ASProgram executer 124. Or, the user may wish to have the ANProgram compiled for the ASLanguages associated with other client computers if the compiled ASPrograms are going to be distributed and executed by the ASProgram executers 124 of other client computers.

#### Preparing an Architecture Neutral Program for Compiling

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, when an originating party (OrigParty) wishes to have an ANProgram 200 compiled by the server computer 104, the OrigParty issues a command with the user interface 112 to invoke the ANProgram compiling preparer 128 and instruct it to prepare the ANProgram for compiling. The ANProgram may be in an object class contained in one of the trusted or untrusted object class repositories 140 or 142. Table 1 contains a pseudocode representation of the procedure used by the ANProgram compiling preparer 128 to prepare the ANProgram for compiling by the server computer 104. The pseudocode used in Tables 1-3 uses universal computer language conventions. While the pseudocode employed here has been invented solely for the purposes of this description, it is designed to be easily understandable by any computer programmer skilled in the art.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 and Table 1, the ANProgram compiling preparer 128 first calls the ANProgram integrity verifier 126 and instructs it to verify the integrity of the ANProgram code 202 of the ANProgram 200. This is done to make sure that the

ANProgram code satisfies the predefined integrity criteria of the ANLanguage prior to being sent to the server computer 104 for compiling. If the ANProgram code does not satisfy the predefined integrity criteria, the ANProgram integrity verifier sends back a failed result to the ANProgram compiling preparer. In response, the ANProgram  
5 compiling preparer aborts the compiling preparation procedure and generates an appropriate message indicating this.

However, if the ANProgram code 202 does satisfy the predefined integrity criteria, then the ANProgram integrity verifier 126 sends back a passed result to the  
10 ANProgram compiling preparer 128. The ANProgram compiling preparer then calls the signature generator 130 and instructs it to generate the OrigParty's digital signature ( $DigitalSignature_{OP}$ ) 210 that can be verified to ensure that the ANProgram 200 was generated by the trusted OrigParty. The signature generator generates the  $DigitalSignature_{OP}$  by first generating a message digest ( $MD_{OP}$ ) 212 of the ANProgram  
15 code 202. It does this by computing a hash function,  $HashFunction_{OP}$ , on the data bits of the ANProgram code. The hash function used may be either a predetermined hash function or one selected by the OrigParty. For purposes of this document, the  $HashFunction_{OP}$  corresponds to the OrigParty since it was used for the  $DigitalSignature_{OP}$  of the OrigParty.

20

The signature generator 130 then encrypts the generated message digest ( $MD_{OP}$ ) 212 and the ID of the  $HashFunction_{OP}$  ( $HashFunction_{OP}$  ID) 214 with the private encryption key of the OrigParty (OrigParty's PrivateKey). The signature generator then adds the OrigParty's ID 216 in clear text at the end of the encrypted  
25 items 212 and 214 to form the  $DigitalSignature_{OP}$ . The OrigParty's PrivateKey and ID are provided by the OrigParty with the user interface 112.

After the  $DigitalSignature_{OP}$  210 is generated, the ANProgram compiling preparer 128 appends it to the ANProgram code 202. Then, the ANProgram  
30 compiling preparer generates a message that the ANProgram 200 has been prepared for compiling by the server computer 104.

The OrigParty then issues with the user interface 112 a command to the network communications manager 120 to transmit the ANProgram 200 to the server



Then, either automatically, or upon the issuance of a command by the CompParty with the user interface 252, the ANProgram compiler 162 is invoked to compile the ANProgram 200. Table 2 contains a pseudocode representation of the compilation procedure used by the ANProgram compiler to compile the ANProgram.

5

Referring to Figs. 1-2 and Table 2, the ANProgram compiler 162 first calls the signature verifier 164 to verify the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> 210 in the received ANProgram 200 so as to establish that the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> 210 is actually the originating party's signature for the ANProgram (e.g., as opposed to being a forged signature or the  
10 OrigParty signature on some other version of the ANProgram). In particular, the signature verifier uses the ClearText OrigParty's ID 216 in the received ANProgram to obtain the OrigParty's PublicKey from the trusted key repository 106. Then the signature verifier decrypts the encrypted MD<sub>OP</sub> 212 and HashFunction<sub>OP</sub> ID 214 in the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> using the public encryption key of the OrigParty (OrigParty's  
15 PublicKey).

Next, the signature verifier 164 generates a test message digest (TestMD<sub>OP</sub>), which should match the decrypted MD<sub>OP</sub> 212, by computing the corresponding HashFunction<sub>OP</sub> on the ANProgram code 202 of the received ANProgram 200. The  
20 HashFunction<sub>OP</sub> ID 214 in the decrypted DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> is used to identify the proper HashFunction<sub>OP</sub> to be used. The decrypted MD<sub>OP</sub> and the generated TestMD<sub>OP</sub> are then compared to verify the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> 210.

If the MD<sub>OP</sub> 212 and the TestMD<sub>OP</sub> do not match, then the signature verifier 162  
25 sends back a failed result to the ANProgram compiler 162. In response, the ANProgram compiler aborts the compiling procedure and generates an appropriate message.

On the other hand, if the MD<sub>OP</sub> and the TestMD<sub>OP</sub> do match, then the signature  
30 verifier 162 sends back a passed result to the ANProgram compiler 162 and the ANProgram compiler calls the ANProgram integrity verifier 166. It instructs the ANProgram integrity verifier to verify the integrity of the ANProgram code 202 of the received ANProgram 200. This is done in the same manner and for the same purpose as was described earlier in the section discussing preparing the ANProgram

for compiling. Thus, if the ANProgram code does not satisfy the predefined integrity criteria, the ANProgram integrity verifier sends back a failed result to the ANProgram compiler. In response, the ANProgram compiler aborts the compiling procedure and generates an appropriate message indicating this.

5

However, if the ANProgram code 202 of the received ANProgram 200 does satisfy the predefined integrity criteria, then the ANProgram integrity verifier 166 sends back a passed result to the ANProgram compiler 162. The ANProgram compiler then compiles the ANProgram code into the ASLanguage identified by the ASLanguage ID specified by the OrigParty. Referring now to Figs. 1-3 and Table 2, the compiler places the ANProgram code 202, the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> 210 and the compiled ASProgram code 302 in an ASProgram 300 that is stored in the ASProgram repository 172.

15 The ANProgram compiler 162 then calls the signature generator 168 and instructs it to generate the ANProgram compiler's digital signature (DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>) 320 which can be verified to ensure that the ASProgram 300 was compiled with the trusted ANProgram compiler. This is done in a manner similar to that described earlier for generating the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>. However, in this case, the set of information signed is the ASProgram code and the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>. Another predetermined hash function with a corresponding HashFunction<sub>C</sub> ID 324 may be used to generate the message digest MD<sub>C</sub> 322 of the set of information to be signed by the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>, the private encryption key of the ANProgram compiler (Compiler's PrivateKey) is used to encrypt the MD<sub>C</sub> and the HashFunction<sub>C</sub> ID, and 20 the identifier of the ANProgram compiler (Compiler's ID) is added in clear text at the end of the encrypted MD<sub>C</sub> and HashFunction<sub>C</sub>. The Compiler's PrivateKey and ID are provided by the ANProgram compiler.

30 The ANProgram compiler 162 calls the signature generator 168 a second time to generate the CompParty's digital signature (DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub>) 312, which can be verified by end users to ensure that the ASProgram 300 was generated by the trusted CompParty. This is done in a similar manner to that described earlier for generating the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> (in the section discussing preparing an ANProgram for compiling). However, here the message digest (MD<sub>CP</sub>) 314 generated for the

DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> is generated by computing a predetermined or selected hash function (HashFunction<sub>CP</sub>) on the data bits of the ASProgram code, the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> and the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>. Similar to the HashFunction<sub>OP</sub>, for purposes of this disclosure, the HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> corresponds to the CompParty since  
5 it was used for the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> of the CompParty.

The signature generator 168 then encrypts the MD<sub>CP</sub> 314 and the ID of the HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> (HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> ID) 316 with the private encryption key of the CompParty (CompParty's PrivateKey). The signature generator then adds the  
10 identifier of the CompParty (CompParty's ID) 318 in clear text at the end of the encrypted items 314 and 316 to form the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> 312. The CompParty's PrivateKey and ID are provided by the CompParty with the user interface 152.

After the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> 320 and the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> 312 are generated,  
15 the ANProgram compiler 162 appends them to the ASProgram code 302, so that the resulting compiled ASProgram file or object has the following components in it:

ANProgram Code,  
DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>,  
ASProgram Code,  
20 DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>, and  
DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub>.

Then, the ANProgram compiler generates a message that the ANProgram 200 has  
25 been compiled to form the ASProgram 300 and is ready to be sent to the OrigParty.

The CompParty then uses the network communications manager 160 to  
transmit the ASProgram 300 to the OrigParty's client computer 102. The network  
communications manager does so by retrieving the ASProgram from the ASProgram  
repository 172 in which it is located and provides it to the network communications  
30 interface 156. The network communications manager then instructs the network  
communications interface to transmit the ASProgram to the OrigParty's client  
computer.

## Object and Object Class Creation and Distribution

The transmitted ASProgram 300 is then received by the communications interface 116 of the OrigParty's client computer and instructs the network communications manager 120 that this has occurred. In response, the OrigParty issues a command with the user interface 252 to instruct the network communications manager to retrieve the received ASProgram from the network communications interface, causing the network communications manager to place the received ASProgram in the untrusted object class repository 142 of the OrigParty's client computer. Once this is done, the OrigParty may treat the received ASProgram as a new object class with just one method (i.e. the compiled program code), or it may create an object class that includes the ASProgram 300 as well as other ANPrograms and ASPrograms.

Fig. 4 shows a typical object class 400 in accordance with the present invention. The object class may include one or more ASPrograms 402 and/or one or more ANPrograms 404, as well as a virtual function table 410. For each ASProgram, the virtual function table contains a corresponding identifier (native\_ASProgram ID) 412 that indicates that it is an ASProgram (i.e., a native program) that is not in the ANLanguage and a corresponding pointer (Ptr) 414 to the native program. Similarly, for each ANProgram, the virtual function table contains a corresponding identifier (ANProgram ID) 416 and a corresponding pointer 418 to the ANProgram. Every object 420 of this object class includes an object header 422 that points to the object class 400.

Thus, the OrigParty may create an object 420 and an object class 400 with the ASProgram 300 that was received from the server computer 104 as one of the ASPrograms 402 in the object class.

When the OrigParty wishes to distribute to various ExecuteParties an object and object class that includes the ASProgram 300 and ANProgram, then the OrigParty issues a command with the user interface 112 to instruct the network communications manager to transmit these items to the client computer 102 of the ExecuteParties. The network communications manager does this by retrieving them

from the untrusted object class repository 142 in which they are located and provides them to the network communications interface 116 with appropriate transmission instructions. Alternately, the network communications manager of the OrigParty may respond to a request initiated by an ExecuteParty for a copy of a specified object class 400.

### Execution of Architecture Neutral Programs and Architecture Specific Programs in an Object Class

10

The network communications interface 156 of the client computer 102 receives the transmitted object and object class and instructs the network communications manager 160 that this has occurred. In response, the ExecuteParty issues a command with the user interface 112 to instruct the network communications manager to retrieve the received object and object class from the network communications interface. The network communications manager then stores the received object and object class in the untrusted object class repository 142.

15

The untrusted object class repository 142 of each client computer 102 contains the objects and their associated object classes that are not trusted. These object classes are not trusted because any ANPrograms they include have not yet had their integrity verified and any ASPrograms they include have not had their source verified nor have been verified as being compiled from the proper ANProgram.

20

The trusted object class repository 140 of each client computer contains the objects and their object classes that are trusted. These object classes are trusted because any ANPrograms they include may have already had their integrity verified by the ANProgram integrity verifier 136 and any ASPrograms they contain have been ascertained to be trustworthy. In fact, some or all the object classes in the trusted object class repository 140 need not have digital signatures, because these object classes are trusted and therefore there is no reason to perform integrity checks on the methods in these object classes.

25

30

It is desirable to have an object class that primarily includes ANPrograms but

may also include ASPrograms so that essentially all legitimate tasks can be performed with the object class, as suggested earlier. Therefore, the ANProgram executer 122 is capable of executing integrity verifiable ANPrograms and calling the ASProgram executer to execute integrity non-verifiable ASPrograms that are either

5 (1) in trusted object classes in the trusted object class repository 140, or (2) that are in untrusted object classes in the untrusted object class repository 142 and have verifiable DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>, DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> and DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> information so that essentially all legitimate tasks can be performed. In this way, ASPrograms of untrusted object classes that don't have DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>, DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> and

10 DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> information or whose digital signatures cannot be verified are prevented from being executed. Table 3 contains a pseudocode representation of the execution procedure used by the ANProgram executer.

Referring to Figs. 1-4 and Table 3, at the client computer 102 of an

15 ExecuteParty (e.g., the OrigParty or another party), the ANProgram executer 124 may be executing an ANProgram that seeks to call a method in a specified object class. The method call is initially handled by the object class loader 136, which determines whether or not the object class has already been loaded. If the object class has already been loaded into the ExecuteParty's user address space 138, then the

20 ANProgram executer 122 executes the called method if the called method is an ANProgram and the ASProgram executer 124 executes the called method if the called method is an ASProgram.

However, if the object class has not yet been loaded into the ExecuteParty's

25 address space 138, then the object class loader 136 loads the object class into the ExecuterParty's address space and determines whether or not execution of the called method is to be allowed. For instance, if the object class was loaded from the trusted object class repository 140, then execution of the called method is permitted and the Execute procedure is called. The Execute procedure (see Table 3) calls the

30 ANProgram executer if the called method is an ANProgram, and otherwise calls the ASProgram executer 124 to execute the called method.

However, if the object class was loaded from the untrusted object class repository 142, the class loader 136 examines the object header of the object to

determine if its object class includes any ASPrograms. It does so by determining if there any native\_ASProgram IDs in the virtual function table of the object.

5 If there are no ASPrograms in the object class, then the class loader 136 calls the ANProgram integrity verifier 136 to verify the integrity of the ANPrograms in the object class. This is done in the same manner and for the same purpose as was described earlier for verifying the integrity of the ANProgram 200 (in the section discussing compiling an ANProgram). Thus, if the integrity of any of the ANPrograms is not verified, then the ANProgram integrity verifier passes back to the class loader a  
10 failed result and the class loader aborts the class loading procedure and generates an appropriate message indicating this. But, if the ANProgram integrity verifier sends back a passed result indicating that all of the ANPrograms of the object class are verified, the class loader enables execution of the called method.

15 If there are any ASPrograms in the object class, then the class loader 136 calls the signature verifier 132 to verify the compiler signature  $DigitalSignature_C$  and the CompParty signature  $DigitalSignature_{CP}$ . If any of the ASPrograms does not include a  $DigitalSignature_{CP}$  and a  $DigitalSignature_C$ , the integrity of the ASProgram's source cannot be verified and therefore the signature verifier sends back to the ANProgram  
20 executer a failed result. In response, the class loader aborts the object class loading procedure and generates an appropriate message that this has occurred.

Further, if all of the ASPrograms in the object class do include a  $DigitalSignature_{CP}$  and a  $DigitalSignature_C$ , the identities of the CompParty and the  
25 Compiler as indicated in these two digital signatures, are compared with the lists 144 (see Fig. 1) of known, trusted Compiler Parties and trusted Compilers. If any of the ASPrograms in the object class were compiled by a CompParty or a Compiler not included in the set of known, trusted Compiler Parties and trusted Compilers, the class loading procedure is aborted, and execution of the called method is thereby  
30 blocked. Similarly, if the ASLanguage identified in any of the ASPrograms does not match the ASLanguage used by the ASProgram Executer 124, the class loading procedure is aborted.

However, if all of the ASPrograms in the object class do include a

DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> and a DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>, and the identified CompParty and Compiler for all the ASPrograms are trusted Compiler Parties and Compilers, and the ASLanguage used by all the ASPrograms is one used by the ASProgram Executer, then the signature verifier verifies these signatures in a similar manner as was

5 described earlier for verifying the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> (in the section discussing compiling the ANProgram 200). However, in this case, the Compiler's and CompParty's public keys are retrieved from the trusted key repository 106 and respectively used to decrypt the MD<sub>C</sub> and HashFunction<sub>C</sub> ID in the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> and the MD<sub>CP</sub> and the HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> ID in the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub>. Furthermore, the

10 test message digests (TestMD<sub>C</sub> and TestMD<sub>CP</sub>) corresponding to the decrypted MD<sub>CP</sub> and MD<sub>C</sub> are generated by computing hash codes on the data bits of the ASProgram code plus the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> for the TestMD<sub>C</sub> and on the same data bits plus the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> for the TestMD<sub>CP</sub>, according respectively to the HashFunction<sub>C</sub> and HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> identified by the decrypted HashFunction<sub>C</sub> ID and HashFunction<sub>CP</sub> ID.

15

If the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> and/or the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> is not verified (i.e., MD<sub>C</sub> ≠ TestMD<sub>C</sub> and/or MD<sub>CP</sub> ≠ TestMD<sub>CP</sub>) for every ASProgram, then the signature verifier

136 sends back to the class loader 136 a failed result. In response, the class loader aborts the class loading procedure and generates an appropriate message that this

20 has occurred.

However, if the DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub> and the DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub> are both verified (i.e., MD<sub>C</sub> = TestMD<sub>C</sub> and MD<sub>CP</sub> = TestMD<sub>CP</sub>) for every ASProgram, then the ANProgram executer 124 again calls signature verifier 132 to verify the OrigParty's

25 signatures (DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>) for the ANPrograms from which the ASPrograms were compiled. To verify the OrigParty digital signatures, the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> of each is verified in the same manner as was discussed earlier in the section concerning compilation of the ANProgram 200.

30

If the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> of each of the ANPrograms from which the ASPrograms were compiled is verified, then the class loader calls the ANProgram integrity verifier to verify the integrity of every ANProgram in the object class and the ANPrograms from which the ASPrograms were compiled. This is done in the same manner as was described earlier. If the integrity of any of these ANPrograms is not



prior to performing the compilation.

5 When the ExecuterParty is the OrigParty, the ExecuterParty knows that it actually sent the ANProgram 200 to the CompParty's server computer 104 to be compiled into the ASProgram 300. In this case, the class loader 136 could be constructed to not call the signature verifier to verify the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> in the ANProgram. Rather, the ExecuterParty can simply compare the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> in the local copy of the ANProgram with the DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub> in the compiled ASProgram. Additionally, the class loader could be constructed to not call the ANProgram integrity verifier 126 to verify the integrity of the ANProgram corresponding to a called ASProgram since the integrity of the ANProgram would have been checked during the preparation for compiling procedure prior to being sent to the compiling server computer. Alternatively, the ANProgram compiling preparer 128 could be constructed to not call the ANProgram integrity verifier during the preparation for compiling procedure since its integrity would be checked both by the compiler and when the class loader calls the ANProgram integrity verifier prior to execution of the corresponding ASProgram.

20 While the present invention has been described with reference to a few specific embodiments, the description is illustrative of the invention and is not to be construed as limiting the invention. Various modifications may occur to those skilled in the art without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

TABLE 1

Pseudocode Representation of Method of Preparing Architecture  
Neutral Program for Compiling

5  
Procedure: Prepare for Compiling (ANProgram code, OrigParty's PrivateKey, and  
OrigParty's ID)  
{  
Verify integrity of ANProgram with ANProgram integrity verifier  
10 If failed result  
    { abort and generate failed result message }  
Generate  $MD_{OP} = HashFunction_{OP}$  (ANProgram code)  
Generate  $DigitalSignature_{OP} = Encrypt (MD_{OP} + HashFunction_{OP} ID, OrigParty's$   
    PrivateKey) + ClearText (OrigParty's ID)  
15 Append  $DigitalSignature_{OP}$  to ANProgram code  
Generate message that ANProgram is prepared for compiling  
Return  
}  
20

TABLE 2

Pseudocode Representation of Method of Compiling ANProgram and  
Generating ASProgram

```

5
Procedure: Compile (ANProgram, CompParty's ID, ASLanguageID, CompParty's
PrivateKey, Compiler's ID, and Compiler's PrivateKey)
{
10 Retrieve OrigParty's PublicKey from trusted key repository using ClearText
OrigParty's ID in DigitalSignatureOP
Decrypt (MDOP + HashFunctionOP ID in DigitalSignatureOP, OrigParty's
PublicKey)
Generate TestMDOP = HashFunctionOP (ANProgram code) using
HashFunctionOP identified by decrypted HashFunctionOP ID
15 Compare decrypted MDOP and TestMDOP
If decrypted MDOP ≠ TestMDOP
{
/* DigitalSignatureOP of OrigParty not verified */
Generate failed result message
20 }
Else
{
/* DigitalSignatureOP of OrigParty has been verified */
Verify integrity of ANProgram with ANProgram integrity verifier
25 If failed result
{
abort and generate failed result message
}
Else
30 {
/* ANProgram has been verified */
Compile ANProgram code into ASLanguage identified by
ASLanguage ID to generate ASProgram code
Generate MDC = HashFunctionCS (ASProgram code +
35 DigitalSignatureOP)
Generate DigitalSignatureC = Encrypt (MDC + HashFunctionC ID,
ANProgram Compiler's PrivateKey) + ClearText
ANProgram Compiler's ID
Generate MDCP = HashFunctionCP (ASProgram code +
40 DigitalSignatureOP + DigitalSignatureC)
Generate DigitalSignatureCP = Encrypt (MDCP + HashFunctionCP
ID, CompParty's PrivateKey) + ClearText CompParty's ID

```

Generate and Return File or Object containing:

ANProgram Code,

DigitalSignature<sub>OP</sub>,

ASProgram Code,

5

DigitalSignature<sub>C</sub>, and

DigitalSignature<sub>CP</sub>

/\* ASProgram has been compiled and generated \*/

}

}

10

}

TABLE 3

Pseudocode Representation of Method of Executing  
Architecture Specific Program

```

5
Procedure: Execute (ObjectClass, Program)
  {
  If the Program is a verifiable program
    { Execute Program using the Bytecode Interpreter }
10 Else
    { Execute Program using the compiled program executer }
  }

Procedure: ClassLoad (ObjectClass, Program)
15 {
  If Object Class has already been loaded into ExecuterParty's address space
    {
    Call Execute (ObjectClass, Program)
    Return
20 }

  /* The Object Class has not been loaded */
  Load Object Class into ExecuterParty's address space
  If Object Class was loaded from Trusted Object Class Repository
25 {
    Call Execute (ObjectClass, Program)
    Return
  }

30 /* Object Class was loaded from Untrusted Object Class Repository */
  If Object Class does not contain any ASPrograms designated as
  native_ASPrograms in Object Header of Object
  {
  Verify integrity of all ANPrograms of Object Class with ANProgram integrity
35 verifier
  If failed result
    {
    Abort with appropriate failed result message
    }
40 Else
    /* Integrity of all ANPrograms of Object Class have been verified */
    { Call Execute (ObjectClass, Program) }

```

```

Return
}

5 /* Object Class does contain ASPrograms designated as native_ASPrograms in
   Object Header of Object */
If any ASProgram does not contain a DigitalSignatureCP and a DigitalSignatureC
{
/* Compiling Party and Compiler of every ASProgram cannot be verified */
Generate appropriate message
10 Return
}

For each ASProgram in Object Class:
{ Determine identity of CompParty and Compiler and determine
15 ASLanguage used by ASProgram }
If identity of CompParty for any ASProgram is not a known, trusted, Compiling
Party, or the identity of Compiler is not a known, trusted Compiler, or the
identified ASLanguage is not one used by the ASProgram Executer
{
20 Generate appropriate message
Return
}

For each ASProgram in Object Class:
25 {
Retrieve CompParty's PublicKey from trusted key repository using ClearText
CompParty's ID in DigitalSignatureCP
Decrypt (MDCP + HashFunctionCP ID in DigitalSignatureCP, CompParty's
PublicKey)
30 Generate TestMDCP = HashFunctionCP (ASProgram code + DigitalSignatureOP
+ DigitalSignatureC in ASProgram) using HashFunctionCP identified by
decrypted HashFunctionCP ID
Compare decrypted MDCP and TestMDCP
}
35 If decrypted MDCP ≠ TestMDCP for any ASProgram
{
/* DigitalSignatureCP for every ASProgram has not been verified */
Generate appropriate failed result message
Return
40 }

/* DigitalSignatureCP for every ASProgram has been verified*/

```

```

For each ASProgram in Object Class:
  {
    Retrieve ANProgram Compiler's PublicKey from trusted key repository using
      ClearText ANProgram Compiler's ID in DigitalSignatureC
5    Decrypt (MDC + HashFunctionC ID in DigitalSignatureC, ANProgram
      Compiler's PublicKey)
    Generate TestMDC = HashFunctionC (ASProgram code + DigitalSignatureOP)
      using HashFunctionC identified by decrypted HashFunctionC ID
    Compare decrypted MDC and TestMDC
10  }
If decrypted MDC ≠ TestMDC for any ASProgram
  {
    /* DigitalSignatureC for every ASProgram in Object Class has not been
      verified */
15    Generate appropriate failed result message
    Return
  }

/* DigitalSignatureC for every ASProgram in Object Class has been verified */
20 For each ANProgram from which an ASProgram in Object Class was compiled:
  {
    Retrieve OrigParty's PublicKey from trusted key repository using ClearText
      OrigParty's ID in DigitalSignatureOP
    Decrypt (MDOP + HashFunctionOP ID in DigitalSignatureOP, OrigParty's
25    PublicKey)
    Generate TestMDOP = HashFunctionOP (ANProgram code) using
      HashFunctionOP identified by decrypted HashFunctionOP ID
    Compare decrypted MDOP and TestMDOP
  }
30 If decrypted MDOP ≠ TestMDOP for any ANProgram
  {
    /* DigitalSignatureOP for every ANProgram from which an ASProgram in
      Object Class was compiled not verified */
    Generate failed result message
35    Return
  }

/* The DigitalSignatureOP in every ASProgram in Object Class is verified */
40 Verify integrity of ANPrograms in Object class and ANPrograms from which
    ASPrograms in Object Class were compiled with ANProgram integrity verifier
If failed result
  {

```

```
Generate failed result message  
Return  
}
```

```
5 /* Integrity of all ANPrograms in Object class and all ANPrograms from which  
ASPrograms in Object Class were compiled have been verified */  
Call Execute (ObjectClass, Program)  
}
```

WE CLAIM:

## 1. A computer network that comprises:

a program compiling computer operated by a compiling party, the program compiling computer receiving an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party, the architecture neutral program containing architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party that when verified verifies that the architecture neutral program was signed by the originating party, the program compiling computer including:

a signature verifier that verifies the originating party's digital signature;

a program verifier for verifying that the received architecture neutral program satisfies predefined integrity criteria including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions;

a compiler that generates an architecture specific program when the originating party's digital signature has been verified and the received architecture neutral program's integrity has been verified by the program verifier, the compiler generating the architecture specific program by (A) compiling the architecture neutral program code into architecture specific program code in an architecture specific language, and (B) appending a digital signature of the compiling party that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated by the compiling party; and

a signature generator that generates the compiling party's digital signature; and

a program executing computer operated by an executing party, the program executing computer receiving the architecture specific program, the program executing computer including:

a signature verifier that verifies the compiling party's digital signature;

an executer that executes program code that is in the architecture specific language, the executer executing the architecture specific program code when the compiling party's signature has been verified;

a program verifier for verifying whether a specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria, including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; and

an architecture neutral program executer for executing the specified architecture neutral program when the program verifier has verified that the specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria;

whereby verification of the compiling party's digital signature by the program executing computer indirectly verifies the originating party's signature as well as the integrity of the architecture neutral program from which the architecture specific program was compiled.

2. A computer network as in claim 1 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

the executer executes said architecture specific program code only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties.

3. A computer network as in claim 1 wherein:

the signature generator generates a digital signature of the compiler that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated with the compiler;

the compiler generating the architecture specific program further by appending to the architecture specific program code the compiler's digital signature;

the executing computer's signature verifier verifies the compiler's digital signature;

the executer executing the architecture specific program code only after the compiler's digital signature has been verified.

4. A computer network as in claim 3 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

the executer executes said architecture specific program code only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties and the compiler is a member of a defined set of trusted compilers.

5. A computer network as in claim 1 wherein:

for the originating and compiling parties, said network includes corresponding private and public encryption keys and corresponding hash functions;

the originating party's digital signature includes a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the originating party's corresponding hash function on the architecture neutral program, the message digest of the architecture neutral program being encrypted with the originating party's corresponding private key;

the program compiling computers' signature verifier includes instructions for verifying the originating party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture neutral program with the originating party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture neutral program by performing the originating party's hash function on the architecture neutral program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture neutral program;

the signature generator includes instructions for generating the compiling party's digital signature by (A) generating a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the compiling party's corresponding hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (B) encrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's corresponding private key; and

the program executing computer's signature verifier includes instructions for verifying the compiling party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture specific program by performing the compiling party's hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture specific program.

6. A computer network as in claim 1 wherein:
  - the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program;
  - the program executing computer receives or originates the architecture neutral program and further includes a Java bytecode program integrity verifier that verifies the integrity of the architecture neutral program code by verifying that the architecture neutral program code satisfies predefined program integrity criteria;
  - the executer executes the architecture specific program code only after the integrity of the architecture neutral program code has been verified.
  
7. A computer network as in claim 1 further comprising:
  - a program originating computer that provides the architecture neutral program, the program originating computer including:
    - a signature generator that generates an originating party's digital signature that is appended to the architecture neutral program code;
    - the program compiling computer communicating with the program originating computer to receive the architecture neutral program from the program originating computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program originating computer;
    - the program executing computer communicating with the program originating computer to receive the architecture neutral and specific programs from the program originating computer;
    - the program executing computer's signature verifier also verifying the originating party's digital signature;
    - the executer executing the architecture specific program only after the originating party's digital signature has been verified.
  
8. A computer network as in claim 1 wherein:
  - the program executing computer also originates the architecture neutral program, the program executing computer includes a signature generator for generating the originating party's digital signature that signs said architecture neutral program and that is appended to the architecture neutral program code;

the program compiling computer communicates with the program executing computer to receive the architecture neutral program from the program executing computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program executing computer.

9. A method of operating a computer network comprising the steps of:

at a program compiling computer operated by a compiling party:

receiving an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party, the architecture neutral program containing architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party that when verified verifies that the architecture neutral program was signed by the originating party;

verifying the originating party's digital signature;

verifying that the received architecture neutral program satisfies predefined integrity criteria including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; and

compiling the architecture neutral program with a compiler so as to generate an architecture specific program when the originating party's digital signature has been verified and the integrity of the architecture neutral program has been verified, and appending a digital signature of the compiling party that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated by the compiling party; and

at a program executing computer operated by an executing party:

receiving the architecture specific program and receiving or originating the architecture neutral program;

verifying the compiling party's digital signature;

executing the architecture specific program when the compiling party's signature has been verified;

verifying whether a specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria, including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; and

executing the specified architecture neutral program when the program verifier has verified that the specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria;

whereby verification of the compiling party's digital signature by the program executing computer indirectly verifies the originating party's signature as well as the integrity of the architecture neutral program from which the architecture specific program was compiled.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

the program executing computer executes said architecture specific program only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties.

11. The method of claim 9, including:

at the program compiling computer:

generating a digital signature of the compiler that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated with the compiler; and

appending to the architecture specific program code the compiler's digital signature; and

at the program executing computer:

verifying the compiler's digital signature; and

executing the architecture specific program only after the compiler's digital signature has been verified.

12. The method of claim 11, including:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

at the program executing computer: executing the architecture specific program only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties and the compiler is a member of a defined set of trusted compilers.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein

for the originating and compiling parties, said network includes corresponding private and public encryption keys and corresponding hash functions;

the originating party's digital signature includes a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the originating party's corresponding hash function on the architecture neutral program, the message digest of the architecture neutral program being encrypted with the originating party's corresponding private key;

said method including the steps of:

at the program compiling computer:

verifying the originating party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture neutral program with the originating party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture neutral program by performing the originating party's hash function on the architecture neutral program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture neutral program; and

generating the compiling party's digital signature by (A) generating a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the compiling party's corresponding hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (B) encrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's corresponding private key; and

at the program executing computer:

verifying the compiling party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture specific program by performing the compiling party's hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture specific program.

14. The method of claim 9, including:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program;

at the program executing computer:

receiving or originating the architecture neutral program;



verifying the integrity of the architecture neutral program code by verifying that the architecture neutral program code satisfies predefined program integrity criteria; and executing the architecture specific program code only after the integrity of the architecture neutral program code has been verified.

15. The method of claim 9, further including:

at a program originating computer that provides the architecture neutral program:  
generating the originating party's digital signature and appending it to the architecture neutral program code;

at the program compiling computer:

communicating with the program originating computer to receive the architecture neutral program from the program originating computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program originating computer;

at the program executing computer:

communicating with the program originating computer to receive the architecture neutral and specific programs from the program originating computer;

verifying the originating party's digital signature; and

executing the architecture specific program only after the originating party's digital signature has been verified.

16. The method of claim 9, including:

at the program executing computer:

providing the architecture neutral program;

generating an originating party's digital signature that signs said architecture neutral program and appending it to the architecture neutral program code; and

at the program compiling computer:

communicating with the program executing computer to receive the architecture neutral program from the program executing computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program executing computer.

17. A system for distributing code stored on computer-readable media and executable by computers, the code including a plurality of modules each configured to carry out at least one function to be executed by one of the computers, the system comprising:

a first module configured for use in conjunction with a program compiling computer, operated by a compiling party, that receives an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party, the architecture neutral program containing architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party that when verified verifies that the architecture neutral program was signed by the originating party, the first module including:

a signature verifier that verifies the originating party's digital signature;

a program verifier for verifying that the received architecture neutral program satisfies predefined integrity criteria including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions;

a compiler that generates an architecture specific program when the originating party's digital signature has been verified and the received architecture neutral program's integrity has been verified by the program verifier, the compiler generating the architecture specific program by (A) compiling the architecture neutral program code into architecture specific program code in an architecture specific language, and (B) appending a digital signature of the compiling party that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated by the compiling party; and

a signature generator that generates the compiling party's digital signature; and

a second module for use in conjunction with a program executing computer, operated by an executing party, that receives the architecture specific program, the second module including:

a signature verifier that verifies the compiling party's digital signature;

an executer that executes program code that is in the architecture specific language, the executer executing the architecture specific program code when the compiling party's signature has been verified;

a program verifier for verifying whether a specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria, including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; and

an architecture neutral program executer for executing the specified architecture neutral program when the program verifier has verified that the specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria;

whereby verification of the compiling party's digital signature by the signature verifier in the second module indirectly verifies the originating party's signature as well as the integrity of the architecture neutral program from which the architecture specific program was compiled.

18. A system as in claim 17 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

the executer executes said architecture specific program code only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties.

19. A system as in claim 17 wherein:

the signature generator generates a digital signature of the compiler that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated with the compiler;

the first module appends to the architecture specific program code the compiler's digital signature;

the second module's signature verifier verifies the compiler's digital signature;

the second module's executer executes the architecture specific program code only after the compiler's digital signature has been verified.

20. A system as in claim 19 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program and program verifier is a Java bytecode program verifier; and

the second module's executer executes said architecture specific program code only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties and the compiler is a member of a defined set of trusted compilers.

21. A system as in claim 17 wherein:

for the originating and compiling parties, said system includes corresponding private and public encryption keys and corresponding hash functions;

the originating party's digital signature includes a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the originating party's corresponding hash function on the architecture neutral program, the message digest of the architecture neutral program being encrypted with the originating party's corresponding private key;

the first module's signature verifier includes instructions for verifying the originating party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture neutral program with the originating party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture neutral program by performing the originating party's hash function on the architecture neutral program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture neutral program;

the first module's signature generator includes instructions for generating the compiling party's digital signature by (A) generating a message digest of the architecture neutral program generated by performing the compiling party's corresponding hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (B) encrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's corresponding private key; and

the second module's signature verifier includes instructions for verifying the compiling party's digital signature by (A) decrypting the message digest of the architecture specific program with the compiling party's public encryption key, (B) generating a corresponding test message digest of the architecture specific program by performing the compiling party's hash function on the architecture specific program code, and (C) comparing the decrypted message digest and the test message digest of the architecture specific program.

22. A system as in claim 17 wherein:

the architecture neutral program is a Java bytecode program;

the program executing computer receives or originates the architecture neutral program;

the second module further includes a Java bytecode program integrity verifier that verifies the integrity of the architecture neutral program code by verifying that the architecture neutral program code satisfies predefined program integrity criteria;



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the second module's executer executes the architecture specific program code only after the integrity of the architecture neutral program code has been verified.

23. A system as in claim 17,

5 said system including a third module for use in conjunction with a program originating computer that provides the architecture neutral program, the third module including:

10 a signature generator that generates an originating party's digital signature that is appended to the architecture neutral program code;

15 the first module communicating with the third module to receive the architecture neutral program from the program originating computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program originating computer;

the second module communicating with the third module to receive the architecture neutral and specific programs from the program originating computer;

20 the second module's signature verifier also verifying the originating party's digital signature;

the second module's executer executing the architecture specific program only after the originating party's digital signature has been verified.

24. A system as in claim 17 wherein:

25 the program executing computer also originates the architecture neutral program, the second module including a signature generator that generates the originating party's digital signature and instructions for appending the

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originating party's digital signature to the architecture neutral program code; and

the first module communicates with the second module to receive the architecture neutral program from the program executing computer and to provide the architecture specific program to the program executing computer.

25. A computer program product for use in conjunction with one or more computer systems, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program embedded therein, the computer program comprising:

computer executable program code for use in conjunction with a program compiling computer, operated by a compiling party, that receives an architecture neutral program generated by an originating party, the architecture neutral program containing architecture neutral program code and a digital signature of the originating party that when verified verifies that the architecture neutral program was signed by the originating party, the computer executable program code including:

computer executable program code that verifies the originating party's digital signature;

computer executable program code for verifying that the received architecture neutral program satisfies predefined integrity criteria including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions;

computer executable program code that generates an architecture specific program when the originating party's digital signature has been verified and the received architecture neutral program's integrity has been verified

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by the program verifier, the computer executable program code generating the architecture specific program by (A) compiling the architecture neutral program code into architecture specific program code in an architecture specific language, and (B) appending a digital signature of the compiling party that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated by the compiling party; and

computer executable program code that generates the compiling party's digital signature; and

computer executable program code for use in conjunction with a program executing computer, operated by an executing party, that receives the architecture specific program, the computer executable program code including:

computer executable program code that verifies the compiling party's digital signature;

computer executable program code that executes program code that is in the architecture specific language, the computer executable program code executing the architecture specific program code when the compiling party's signature has been verified;

computer executable program code for verifying whether a specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria, including predefined operand stack and data type usage restrictions; and

computer executable program code for executing the specified architecture neutral program when the program verifier has verified that the specified architecture neutral program satisfies said predefined integrity criteria;

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whereby verification of the compiling party's digital signature by the program executing computer indirectly verifies the originating party's signature as well as the integrity of the architectural neutral program  
5 from which the architecture specific program was compiled.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein

the computer executable program code that generates the compiling party's digital signature generates a digital signature of the computer executable program code  
10 that generates the architecture specific program that when verified verifies that the architecture specific program was generated with the computer executable program code that generates the architecture specific program;

the computer executable program code for use in  
15 conjunction with a program compiling computer appends to the architecture specific program code the digital signature of the computer executable program code that generates the architecture specific program;

the computer executable program code that verifies  
20 the compiling party's digital signature verifies the digital signature of the computer executable program code that generates the architecture specific program; and

the computer executable program code that executes  
program code that is in the architecture specific language  
25 executes the architecture specific program code only after the digital signature of the computer executable program code that generates the architecture specific program has been verified and only when the compiling party is a member of a defined set of trusted compiling parties and the  
30 computer executable program code that generates the

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architecture specific program is a member of a defined set of trusted computer executable program code that generates the architecture specific program.

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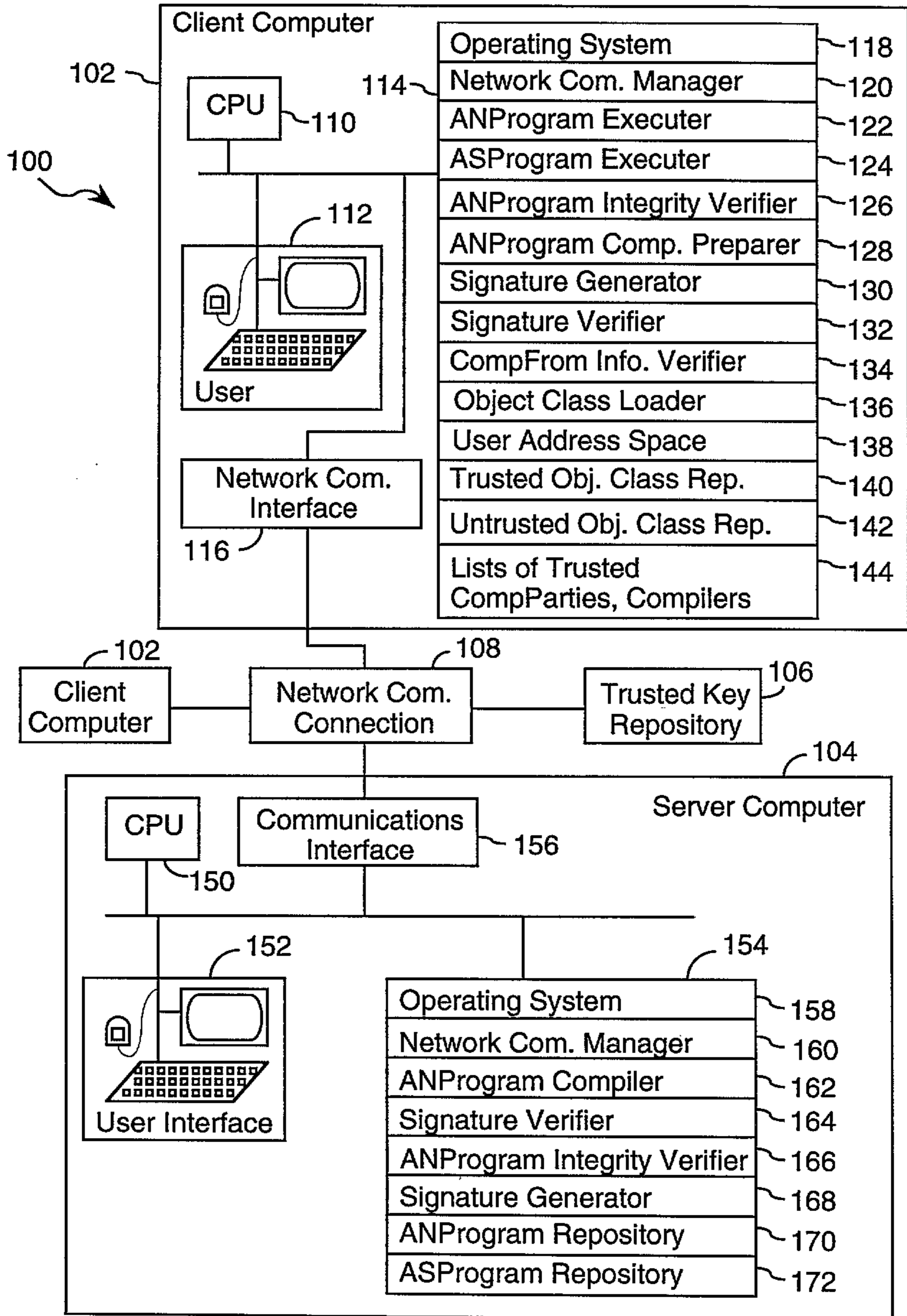


FIG. 1

ANProgram  
200

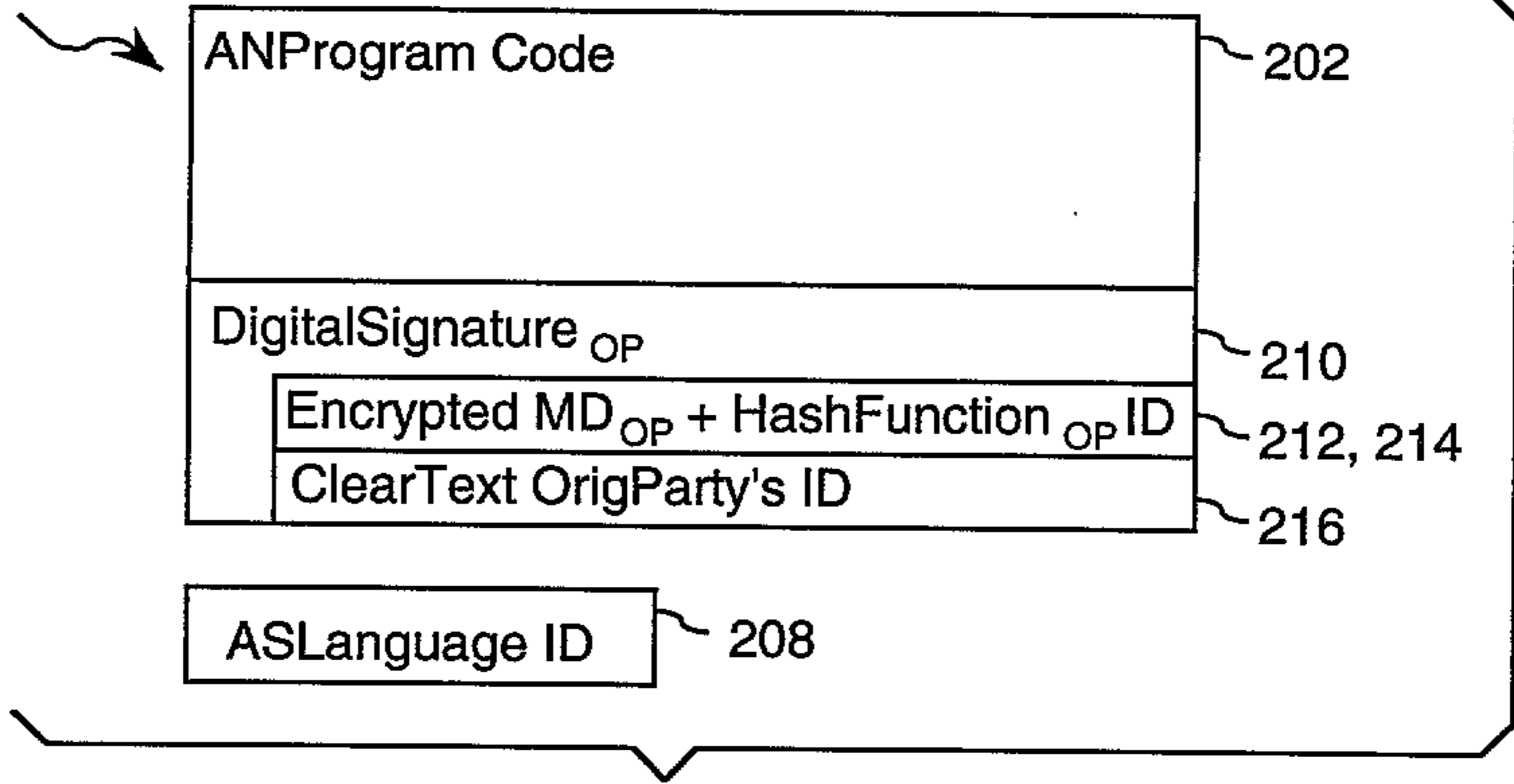


FIG. 2

Compiled ASProgram  
300

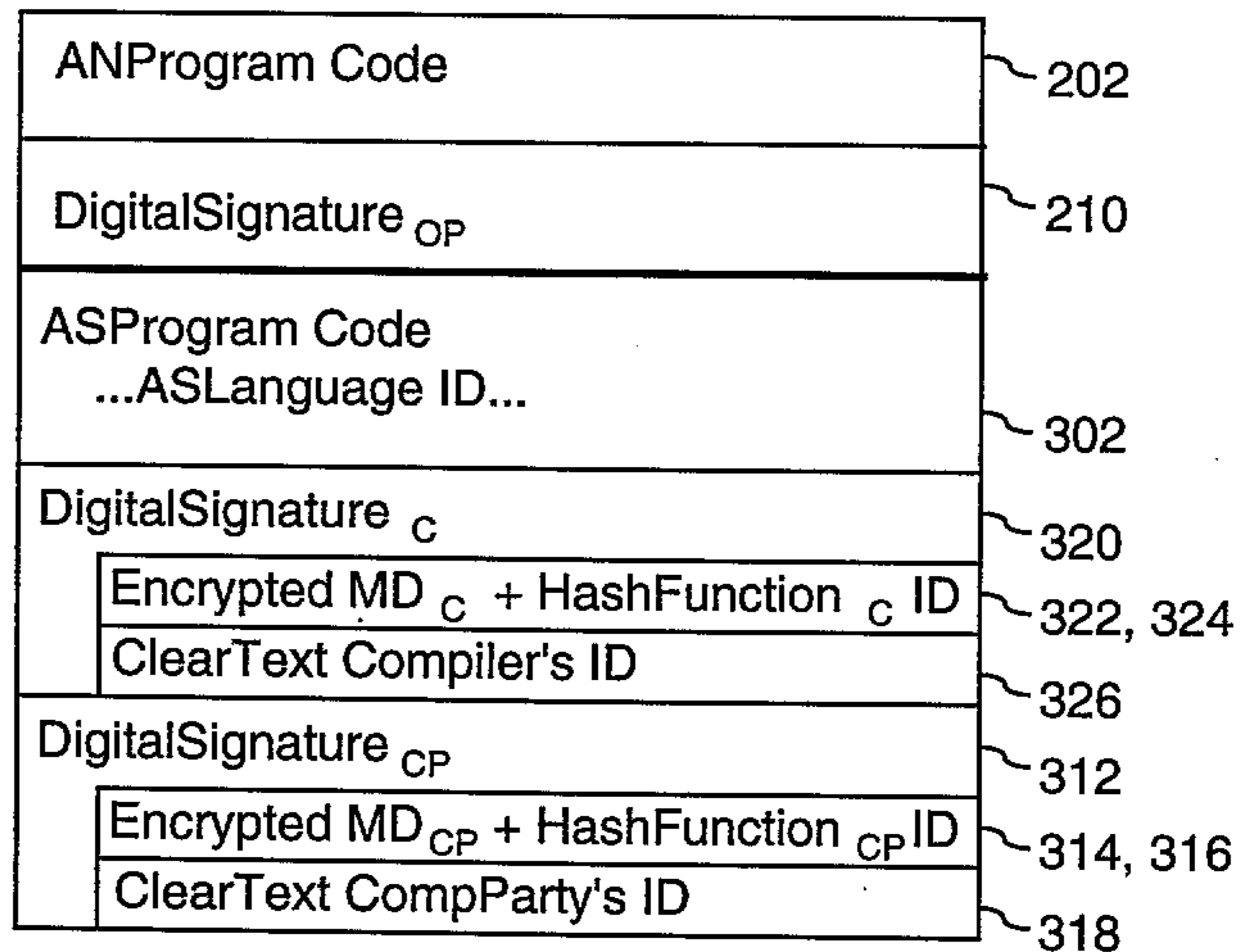


FIG. 3

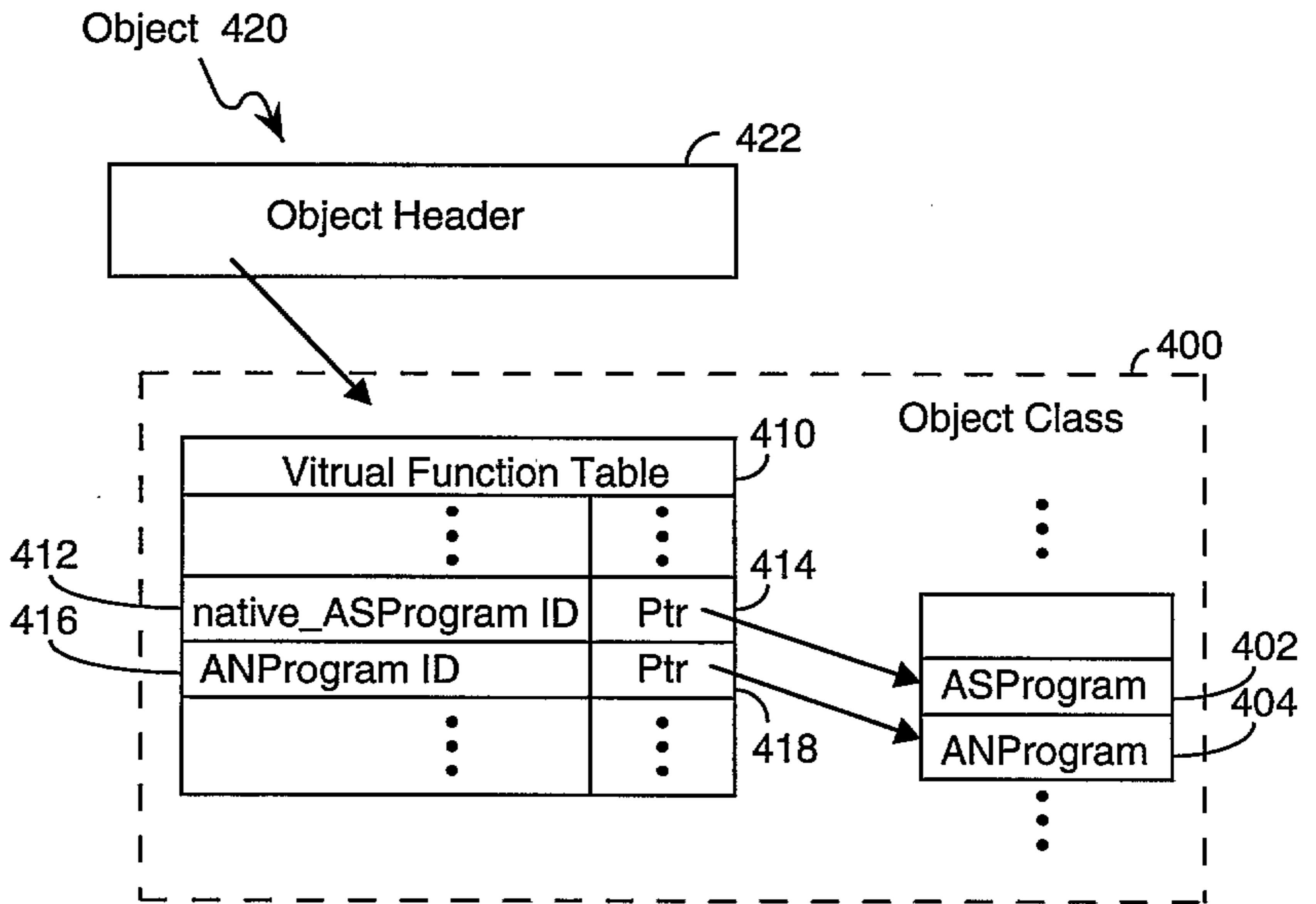


FIG. 4

