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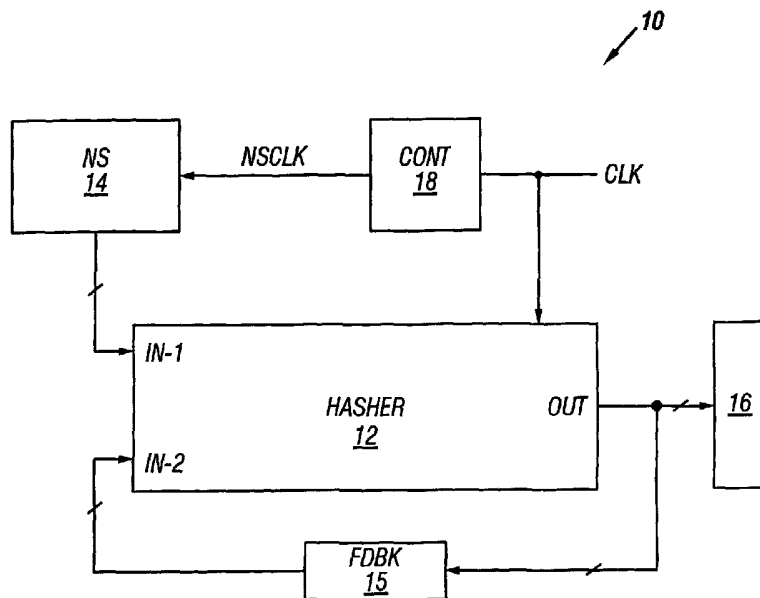
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(54) Title: HASH-BASED PSEUDO-RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR



(57) **Abstract:** A pseudo-random number generator (PRNG) with increased randomness. An iterative hash-based PRNG hashes in the output of a numerical sequencer, such as a counter or linear feedback shift register, in each hash stage. To improve the unpredictability of the numerical sequencer output, it may be paused for relatively unpredictable time periods. When the timing of the output of the numerical sequencer is unpredictable, elapsed time cannot be used to reliably predict what the output of the numerical sequencer will be with relation to the hash operation. The unpredictable time period may be related to when a request for a pseudo-random number is received.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	EP 0 365 930 A (IBM) 2 May 1990 (1990-05-02) abstract ----	1-24
A	EP 0 949 563 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 13 October 1999 (1999-10-13) paragraphs '0004!', '0007! -----	8,17

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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