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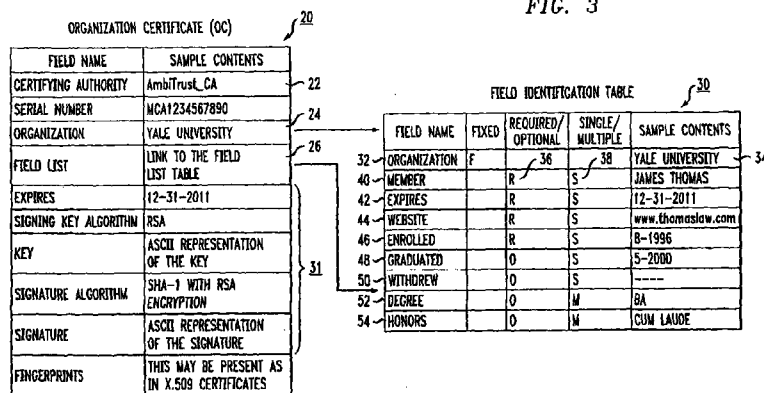
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(54) Title: ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION UTILIZING AN ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATE

FIG. 3



(57) Abstract: A system and method is presented for providing verification of specified credentials to an independent person (a third party, that is, a user of a purported member's website) through the utilization of an "organization certificate" (OC) in combination with a "membership certificate" (MC), with the field structure of the OC limiting the type of information that can be certified by the issuing organization. The set of fields in the OC is defined as associated with a particular type of organization, where any extraneous information will not be permitted to form part of a legitimate membership certificate (hereinafter "MC"). The use of specific field descriptions thus assumes that any field appearing in an MC that does not have a corresponding <field> tag in the OC will cause the MC to be flagged as invalid by the user's browser extension during the verification process.