

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Encryption and Decryption Methods and Apparatus

5 Encryption and Decryption mechanisms for image files, e.g. JPEG files, are disclosed that encrypt the image data in the payload, but that retain marker codes and associated data as plaintext. This allows for secure transfer and storage of images, whilst also allowing the image files to be analyzed by image decoders and the like to provide
10 information on the files without allowing access to the image itself. The encryption process preferably maintains the length of the payload data, and marker codes in the resulting ciphertext may be replaced by non-marker code data.

(FIG. 5)