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(54) Title: BIOMETRIC CERTIFICATES

(57) Abstract

Biometric identification is combined with digital certificates for electronic authentication as biometric certificates. The biometric certificates are managed through the use of a biometric certificate management system. Biometric certificates may be used in any electronic transaction requiring authentication of the participants. Biometric data is pre-stored in a biometric database of the biometric certificate management system by receiving data corresponding to physical characteristics of registered users through a biometric input device. Subsequent transactions to be conducted over a network have digital signatures generated from the physical characteristics of a current user and from the electronic transaction. The electronic transactions is authenticated by comparison of hash values in the digital signature with re-created hash values. The user is authenticated by comparison against the pre-stored biometric certificates of the physical characteristics of users in the biometric database.