Claims

1. A security system to assist in identifying material of interest in articles in transit through a transit facility, the system comprising:

a first detection device for obtaining detection data relating to an article in transit through the transit facility;

a data store configured to store an association between each of a plurality of case identifiers and a corresponding plurality of items of case data each describing an article in transit; and

a server comprising:

a plurality of application programming interfaces, APIs, configured to communicate between software applications of the server, the first detection device, and the data store;

a message bus configured to provide a communication path between the plurality of APIs;

a listener coupled to the message bus and configured to obtain, from the message bus, messages sent between the APIs carrying a case identifier, and to modify the stored association based on the case identifier and case data carried by said messages; and

a prediction system configured to determine, based on data stored in the association, a risk indicator for an article in transit.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured so that, in the event that the case data carried by said message confirms the presence or absence of material of interest in a first article, the case data in the stored association is updated based on said message.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the prediction system is configured to determine a risk indicator for a second article based on the updated association.

4. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the prediction system is configured to change the manner in which it determines the risk indicator in response to case data obtained from said messages.

5. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the server is configured to determine whether to trigger a security action for an article based on said risk indicator.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the security action comprises at least one of: operating the first detection device to obtain further case data describing the article; operating a second detection device to obtain further case data describing the article; and controlling transit of the article through the facility based on the risk indicator.

7. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein the server is configured to accumulate, in the case data associated with each case identifier, a plurality of items of data describing each article in transit and to determine a risk indicator for each article based on the accumulated case data.

8. The system of any preceding claim, wherein operation of the listener is transparent to the APIs.

9. The system of any preceding claim, wherein data obtained from the first detection device comprises image data from a scan of the article, and optionally metadata for the image data.

10. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein a first of the software applications is configured to provide a human user interface associated with the transit of articles through

the facility, and the APIs are configured to communicate between the first software application and the data store using the message bus.

11. The system of claim 10, comprising a second software application configured to provide security data from a second detection device to the data store using the APIs.

12. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein the listener comprises at least one API coupled to the message bus and configured to subscribe to all messages comprising a case identifier.

13. A method for identifying material of interest in articles in transit through a transit facility, wherein the transit facility comprises:

a first detection device for obtaining detection data relating to an article in transit through the transit facility;

a data store configured to store an association between each of a plurality of case identifiers and a corresponding plurality of items of case data each describing an article in transit; and

a server comprising:

a plurality of application programming interfaces, APIs, configured to communicate between software applications of the server, the first detection device, and the data store;

a message bus configured to provide a communication path between the plurality of APIs; and

a listener coupled to the message bus;

wherein the method comprises:

operating the listener to obtain, from the message bus, messages sent between the APIs carrying a case identifier;

modifying the stored association based on the case identifier and case data carried by said messages; and

determining, based on data stored in the association, a risk indicator for an article in transit.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the method comprises:

in the event that the case data carried by said message confirms the presence or absence of material of interest in a first article, updating the case data in the stored association based on said message.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the method comprises determining a risk indicator for a second article based on the updated association.

16. The method of any of claims 13 to 15 wherein the method comprises changing the manner in which the risk indicator is determined in response to, and based on, case data obtained from said messages.

17. The method of any of claims 13 to 16 wherein the method comprises determining whether to trigger a security action for an article based on said risk indicator.

18. A computer program product comprising program instructions configured to program a processor to perform the method of any of claims 13 to 17.