

DEVICE FOR PERMITTING PROGRAM, PROGRAM TRANSACTION DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PERMITTING PROGRAM THEREOF TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments in the present disclosure are related to a method of licensing a program, and more particularly to a method of licensing a program in a cloud.

BACKGROUND

Cloud storage refers to a mode of storing on-line data on the internet, i.e., storing the on-line data in a plurality of virtual servers managed by a third party agent, but not to an exclusive server. A data center provider prepares virtualized resources to store the on-line data at the back end according to customers' demands, provides the customer with a storage pool, and then the customer can use the storage pool to store files or objects. Cloud computing is a kind of computing based on the internet. Through this method, shared software resources and messages can be supplied to the computer and other devices on demand. Cloud computing describes an increasing service based on a new information technology (IT) of the internet, usage and delivery and payment modes, involves dynamic transaction expansion functions provided through the internet, and is usually virtualized resources. A user can access service software and data, and the service provider maintains the basic infrastructure and platform to keep the service operating normally. The service or the software provided by the service provider is usually called "software-on-demand", being charged based on usage time. The user only needs to have low complexity software and hardware equipment to use these services, so this can save costs for the enterprise. Because the application is supplied centrally, updates to the

application can be deployed instantly, and the user does not need to perform update manually or install new software. Therefore, cloud computing allows the enterprise to deploy applications quickly, reduce complexity of management, and allow prompt redistribution of IT resources in response to rapid changes of the enterprise's requirements.

The benefit to the user or the enterprise regarding the concept of the cloud is that there is no need to purchase every kind of hardware equipment and software with powerful processing capability, maintenance and updates are performed by the service provider, and the user or the enterprise "virtualizes" the hardware equipment and software as much as possible. However, the user or the enterprise subscriber will get a serial number after purchasing, and the software can be used only if the serial number is verified during installation of the software or activation of the program. Generally speaking, the user waits for Email to acquire the serial number or must obtain the serial number at a physical store, spending several minutes to days. In addition, a key generator can be used to generate the serial number or crack the software. Therefore piracy issues commonly occur.

Please refer to Fig. 1, which shows a flow diagram for licensing a program in the prior art. In Step S101, the subscriber system receives an application program activation command. In Step S102, the subscriber system loads the application program into a memory, the memory can include a hard disk or a random access memory (RAM), the application program can be loaded on the hard disk of the subscriber system from the server of the service terminal through the internet, and then the application program is loaded into the RAM for execution from the hard disk. The application software can be directly loaded into the RAM of the subscriber system for

execution from the enterprise's internal file server. In Step S103, the application program judges whether the application program has a license, and if the application program passes the license verification, then the flow goes to Step S104. If the application program does not pass the license verification, then the flow goes to Step S105. In Step S105, the application program requests the user to enter a verification code, the flow goes to Step S104 when the verification is successful, and the flow will go to Step S106 if the verification fails.

In the steps of licensing the program in the prior art, all of the application program content is loaded into the memory to perform the license verification, so the application program can be easily copied or altered, which can avoid the process of licensing verification, therefore leading to privacy of the software. Another scheme in the prior art performs the license verification by using a specific program for the license verification, but it does not cause the operating system to do the license verification under the control of a device driver in the operating system at the user terminal, so the completion and the security of the license verification decrease, leading to rampant privacy of the software. In addition, this kind of program must be written according to each specific application for the license verification. If the file of the application program can be accessed through a definite flow process, then there is no need to write a specific program for the license verification according to each different application program. Therefore, it is expected a method that the device driver of the subscriber system can inform the OS to perform the license verification before the software is loaded into the hard disk or RAM, and then the device driver allows the software to be loaded

into the RAM after the license verification passes. This can prevent piracy issues.

Regarding the number of software license in each enterprise, it is common that an enterprise will buy several licenses according to how many computers the enterprise has, and only computers with the license installed can be used after the software installation. Because the same serial number can be installed on two different computers or devices which does not comply with the stipulations of the software license, if another computer without the installation needs to be used, the software license needs to be uninstalled from the original computer, then the software can be installed on another computer, i.e., the software usage right depends on different hardware devices. The drawback of this license method is that the enterprise still needs to buy a number of computer licenses when the number of licenses is smaller than the number of computers in the enterprise, so the method of licensing the software is not flexible. Therefore, it is expected that a method of licensing the software to not associated with the computer or the device number, will enable the enterprise successfully manage the number of the software licenses.

SUMMARY OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

In accordance with one embodiment of the present disclosure, a method for licensing a program is disclosed. The program is stored in one of a remote server and a storage device, and including a plurality of executable files including a first executable file having a first header and a second executable file having a second header, the method comprising steps of: causing an OS to receive a program-start command to activate the program; causing the OS to store the first header in the storage device for reading, and causing the license verification component to prevent the OS from loading the

first executable file into the RAM to be executed; causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification; allowing the first executable file to be loaded into the RAM for execution when the first executable file passes the license verification; and when the second executable file is to be used, the OS reads the second header and performs another license verification through the license verification component and one of the OS and the remote server.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present disclosure, a method for licensing a program is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of: causing an OS to receive a program-starting command to activate the program; causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification before the OS loads the program; and causing one of the OS and the storage device to acquire a token when there is a license verification pass.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present disclosure, a device for licensing a program is disclosed. The program includes a header, and the device comprises a storage device, a file system, an operating system (OS) and a license verification component. The file system is arranged to the storage device. The operating system (OS) receives a program-start command to activate the program, and stores the header into the storage device for reading. The license verification component prevents the OS from loading the program into a random access memory (RAM) for execution, and cooperates with one of the OS and a remote server to perform a license verification, wherein the license verification component allows the program to be continuously loaded into the RAM for execution if the license verification passes.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the present disclosure, the present invention discloses a method for licensing a program. The method of licensing a program comprises the steps of: choosing a specific program; performing a license verification by one of a local operation system (OS) itself and a remote server; and allowing the OS to load the specific program to a specific storage for execution if the license verification passes.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the present disclosure, the present invention discloses a program transaction device. The program transaction device comprises a first storage component, a second storage component and a license verification component. The first storage component stores a remote program database including a plurality of programs. The second storage component is configured for storage for a local operating system (OS), so as to select a specific program from the plurality of programs. The license verification component cooperates with one of the local OS itself and a remote server to perform a license verification, and allows the specific program to be executed after the license verification passes.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the present disclosure, the present invention discloses a device of licensing a program. The device of licensing a program comprises a host, a mobile device and a firmware. The host includes a local OS, a random access memory (RAM) and a device driver. The mobile device is coupled with the host and includes a firmware including the license verification component, wherein when the mobile device is coupled to the host, the firmware prevents the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver prevents the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution, the license verification component is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the

firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver, when the license verification passes, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution through the local OS.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the present disclosure, the present invention discloses a method of licensing a program in the program transaction device. The program transaction device includes a host and a mobile device, and the method comprises the steps of: coupling the mobile device and the host; the firmware of the mobile device prevents the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver prevents the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution; the license verification component of the mobile device is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver; and when the license verification passes, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution through the local OS.

The above embodiments and advantages of the present invention will become more readily apparent to those ordinarily skilled in the art after reviewing the following detailed descriptions and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a flow diagram of licensing a program in the prior art;

Fig. 2 shows a flow diagram of licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 3 shows a program transaction system according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 4 shows a cloud system for licensing according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 5 shows a method for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 6 shows a method for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 7(a) shows a system for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 7(b) shows a system for licensing a program according to another preferred embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 8 shows a method for licensing a program according to another preferred embodiment of the present disclosure; and

Fig. 9 shows a method for licensing a program in a program transaction device according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please refer to all Figs. of the present invention when reading the following detailed description, wherein all Figs. of the present invention demonstrate different embodiments of the present invention by showing examples, and help the skilled person in the art to understand how to implement the present invention. The present examples provide sufficient embodiments to demonstrate the spirit of the present invention, each embodiment does not conflict with the others, and new embodiments can be implemented through an arbitrary combination thereof, i.e., the present

invention is not restricted to the embodiments disclosed in the present specification.

Please refer to Fig. 2, which shows a flow diagram for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The subscriber system needs to install a main application program before a program transaction platform can be used. The main application program is freely provided to the subscriber to download and install, and the main application program includes a device driver communicating with an OS and a hardware device and memory space information that the OS of the subscriber system needs to read. In Step S201, the subscriber system receives an application program activation command. In Step S202, a license is judged. In Step S202, the OS of the subscriber system transmits the license data to a remote server for license verification before accessing files (or a file) of a purchased application program. When the OS of the subscriber system goes to read the files of the purchased application program, a device driver will stop reading the files of the purchased application program, and the license verification is performed by the OS of the subscriber system at this time. When the license verification is successful, the device driver allows the OS to read the files of the purchased application program, and the flow goes to Step S203. When the license verification fails, the flow goes to Step S204. In Step S203, the device driver hands over the purchased application program to the OS of the subscriber system for control. In Step S204, the remote server requests the subscriber to provide an account and password to login the license system on the remote server. In Step S205, the remote server checks payment status of the account. When the payment status of the account is paid, the flow goes to Step S203, and then enters Step S206 and Step S207 in order.

When the payment status of the account is non-payment, the flow enters Step S207. In Step S206, the OS loads the files of the purchased application program into a RAM of the subscriber system for execution. In Step S207, the main application program is terminated.

Please refer to Fig. 3, which shows a program transaction system 30 according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The program transaction system 30 includes a program transaction device 32 and a remote server 305. The program transaction device 32 includes a first storage component, a second storage component and a license verification component 307. For example, the first storage component is a storage device 306, and the second storage component is a RAM 304. The first storage component stores a program database from the remote server 305, and the program database includes a plurality of programs, i.e., the desired purchased application programs. The second storage component provides a local OS 302 for storage, so that the subscriber can select a specific program from the plurality of programs. The license verification 307 cooperates with the local OS 302 or the remote server 305 to perform license verification. After the license verification passes, the specific program is allowed to be executed.

In Fig. 3, the program transaction device 32 further includes a main application program 301, a local OS 302, a device driver 309 and a file system 303. When the desired purchased application program is selected to be executed, the local OS 302 will read a header of the purchase application program in order to confirm the required memory size information of the purchased application program, the OS 302 allocates a new process to the purchased application program, and starts the new process. During this time, the license verification component 307 is activated to transmit verification

information 2, and performs the license verification with the remote server 305. After the license verification component 307 is informed that the license verification has passed, the license verification component 307 transmits the control messages 1, 2 and 3 to control the storage device 306, file system 303 and device driver 309 respectively, so that the files of the purchased application program is allowed to be stored into the storage device 306 from the remote server 309, the purchased application program is stored into the file system 303 from the storage device 306 through the device driver 309, and the local OS 302 loads the purchased application program into the RAM 304 from the file system 303 for execution. In some embodiments, the license verification can also transmit verification information 1 towards the local OS 302 to perform the license verification. After the license verification passes, similarly, the license verification component 307 transmits the control messages 1 and 2 to allow the purchase application program to be loaded into the RAM 304 for execution from the program database of the remote server 305. In Fig. 3, the dashed line between the storage device 306 and the RAM 304 represents that the files of the purchased application program are stored indirectly therebetween, i.e., data files of the purchased application program need to be loaded to the RAM 304 for execution through the storage device 306, the device driver 309, the file system 303 and the local OS 302.

In Fig. 3, storage device 306 can be a hard disk of the remote server 305, a local hard disk, a special purpose RAM block, e.g. a RAM disk and an arbitrary combination thereof. The place for storing the purchased application program can be different according to design requirements, and the file system 303 designates where to store the files of the purchased application program. In order to cause the local OS 302 to store data from a specific file

in a specific location, the file system 303 is simulated on the storage device 306 to be used to receive the commands from the local OS 302, so as to store data from the specific file in the specific location. The license verification can include a part of the device driver 309 and the main application program 301, or the main application program 301 can include the device driver 309 and the license verification component 307. The job of the license verification component 307 is to cooperate with the local OS 302 and the remote server 305 in order to perform the license verification. In addition, after the license verification passes, the license verification component allows the files of the purchased application program to be stored on the storage device 306, to be stored on the file system 303 from the storage device 306, or allows the OS 302 to load files of the purchased application program into the RAM 304 from the file system 303; and this depends on whether the license verification component 307 can control the hard disk of the storage device 306, file system 303 and the remote server 305. This invention discloses that the license verification component 307 prevents the files of the purchased application program from being transmitted to the file system 303 from the storage device 306, or causes the local OS 302 to prevent the files of the purchased application program from being loaded into the RAM 304 from the file system 303.

When the files of the purchased application program are loaded into the RAM 304, the local OS 302 will call a loading entrance of the application program according to the loading entrance of the application program recorded in the header of the files of the purchased application program, and then the OS 302 hands over the execution authority to the new process.

Please refer to Fig. 4, which shows a cloud system 40 for licensing according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The cloud system 40 includes a public cloud 42 in the external environment of the enterprise and a private cloud 44 in the internal environment of the enterprise. The public cloud 42 includes a cloud host 421. The application program software in the cloud host 421 can be distributed to the software host 441 of the enterprise after the enterprise purchases a specific number of application program software licenses. Then the software host 441 distributes the specific number of application software programs to the plurality of computer hosts 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447. Fig. 4 shows that the cloud host 421 is connected to the software host 441 of the enterprise through an internet 422. In some embodiments, the cloud host 421 can be connected to the plurality of software hosts, and each of the plurality of software host is owned by a different enterprise.

In Fig 4, the license verification between the cloud host 421 and the software host 441 in the internal enterprise and the usage of the files of the purchased application program can be managed by the cloud host 421. The cloud host 421 holds a first secret key which is used as a signature for a license number. The software host 441 in the internal enterprise holds a second secret key which is used to verify the license number. The enterprise needs to buy a specific number of licenses, the cloud host 421 encrypts the data for the license number using the first secret key, and then the cloud host 421 uses the encrypted data for the license number as a signature authentication. Therefore, if data for the license number is altered, then the encrypted data of the license number will be inconsistent with the data for the signature authentication, the data authenticated by the signature is transmitted to the

software host 441 of the internal enterprise through the internet 422, and the software host 441 uses the second secret key to decrypt the data authenticated by the signature in order to verify the license number. Therefore, if the license number is altered, the data authenticated by the signature will not match each other during the verification, and the cloud host 421 will directly reject all licensing actions. If the signature is confirmed, then the files of the purchase application program can be downloaded to the software host 441 in the internal enterprise through the internet 422. Alternatively, the information technology (IT) manager in the enterprise can store the data authenticated by the signature into another computer, and then use the other computer to download the purchased application program through the internet 422. The off-line download of the software host 441 can avoid the risk of being hacked or infected.

In Fig. 4, the software host 441 in the internal enterprise can manage the license numbers authenticated by the cloud host 421. In some preferred embodiments, a local area network (LAN) 442 in the internal enterprise has totally five computer hosts 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447, but only three suites of the purchased application program are used at the same time, so only a license having a license number with a value of 3 is required to buy. For example, the computers 443 and 444 are installed with the main application program, and they use the same purchased application program at the same time. The software host 441 will record how many computer hosts use the purchase application program, and subtract two from the license number in the software host 441. After the computer host 445 is installed by the main application program and uses the same purchase application program, the license number is further subtracted by one. When the computer host 446

is installed with the main application program and uses the same purchased application program, the software host 441 will not allow the computer host 446 to execute the purchased application program because the license number has become zero or a negative value indicating that the license number verified by the software host 441 was exceeded. When the computer host 443 is not using the purchased application program, the purchased application program stored in the storage device as shown in Fig. 3 will not be loaded into the RAM 304 for execution by the local OS 302, and the license number in the software host is increased by one. Therefore, one of the computer hosts 446, 447 and two computer hosts 444, 445 can use the same purchased application program simultaneously.

In one preferred embodiment, in Fig. 3, the program transaction device 32 is the software host 441. In another preferred embodiment, the program transaction device 32 is any one of the plurality of the computer hosts 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447, and the remote server 305 is the software host 441. The internal license verification component 307 in the software host 441 does not allow the purchased application program to be loaded into the RAM 304 for execution on the condition that the license verification does not pass. Similarly, regarding any one of the plurality of the computer hosts 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447, its internal license verification component 307 does not allow the purchased application program to be stored on the storage device 306 or to be loaded into the RAM 304 before the verification of the license number passes.

When the plurality of the computer hosts 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447 are in different LANs, due to a slow network speed or the high latency, the files of the purchased application program can be stored in the storage device

306. Then, the files of the purchased application program are loaded into the RAM 304 for execution from the storage device 306 through the file system 303 and the local OS 302.

The user who uses the computer host in the internal enterprise needs to login an account of the internal enterprise, and the account has different authorities according to different identities. After one of the computer hosts 443~447 passes the license verification, the software host 441 will issue a token having the authority associated with the account. The local OS 302 in the licensed computer host or the license verification component 307 determines how the purchased application program is dealt with according to the token. For example, the purchased application program can be loaded into the RAM 304, or the purchased application program to be loaded will be interrupted. Similarly, the cloud host 421 can also be a license verification server. When the enterprise subscriber logs into the software host 441 using the account having a specific authority, the cloud host 421 in the public cloud 42 will license the software host 441 according to the specific authority, and this causes the files of the application program purchased by the enterprise subscriber to be downloaded to the software host 441. The local OS 302 in the software host 441 or the license verification component 307 determines how the purchased application program is dealt with according to the token. For example, the files of the purchases application program are loaded into the RAM 304, or the files of the purchases application program are prevented from loading.

The files of the purchases application program will be stored to the storage device 306 after licensing. In order to prevent the files of the purchased application program from being copied, all of these files have

specific secret keys encrypted for protection, the specific secret keys are in the token, and only the files of the purchased application program having the token are allowed to be downloaded. When the files of the purchased application program are executed in the computer host 443, the activated token will be recorded by the software host 441 and will be kept in a record, i.e., the license number count will be recorded by the software host 441. If the record is deleted, then the files of the purchased application program cannot be read. If the license number is altered on the condition that the cloud host 421 is offline, then the license verification component 307 will prevent the files of the purchased application program from being loaded into the RAM 304 of the computer host 443 from the remote server 305 of the software host 441.

The license verification can be divided into complete licensing or a partial licensing according to how many files of the purchased application program are used. When the purchased application program includes a plurality of application programs having different functions, the plurality of application programs can be divided into different files according to the function. Thus, partial licensing is performed on the different files.

Please refer to Fig. 5, which shows a method for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The program is stored in at least one of a remote server and a storage device in a local terminal having an operating system (OS), a license verification component and a random access memory (RAM), and includes a plurality of executable files, wherein the plurality of executable files include a first executable file having a first header and a second executable file having a second header. The method includes the following steps. The OS receives a program-start command to activate the program (Step S501). The OS stores

the first header in the storage device, and causes the license verification component to prevent the OS from loading the first executable file in the RAM from being executed (Step S502). The license verification component works with at least one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification (Step S503). The first executable file is allowed to be loaded into the RAM for execution when the first executable file passes the license verification (Step S504). When the second executable file is to be used, the OS reads the second header and performs another license verification through the license verification component and one of the OS and the remote server (Step S505).

In Fig 5, when there is a license verification failure, the license verification component causes the OS to read an abort file to terminate a licensing procedure for the program, or causes the OS to be unable to read the purchased application program, so as to cause the purchased application program to make errors, therefore terminating the purchased application program. The license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification based on a valid period. When the license verification is the permanent license verification, the program is allowed to be used without an expiration date. When the license verification is the lease license verification, the program is allowed to be used during a specific period of time. When the license verification is the trial license verification, the program is available until the expiration date.

The license verification further includes one of a network license verification and a telephone license verification. The network license verification uses a first grant code to perform the license verification, and the

first license code includes a message associated with personal privacy data including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof. The telephone license verification uses a telephone number to perform the license verification, the telephone number is used to acquire a second license code when the telephone license verification is performed, and the second license code is used to pass the telephone license verification. By using the personal privacy for verification, it can prevent someone from sharing the license code, and this can prevent the program from being pirated if the purchased application program was not paid for.

After the license verification passes, the OS acquires a token. The token includes an anonymous token and a non-anonymous token. The anonymous token is used with a public computer, and the non-anonymous token is used with a private computer. The purpose of the token is to allow the purchased application program to be anonymously accessed, but when the computer is shut down, the files of the purchased application program will be deleted, therefore it is applied to a public computer. The purpose of the non-anonymous token is to allow the purchased application program to be accessed, but the files of the purchased application program will not be deleted if the computer is shut down, and therefore it is applied to a private computer.

Please refer to Fig. 6, which shows a method of licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment for the present disclosure. The method of licensing a program includes the following steps. An OS receives a program activation command to activate the program (Step S601). Before the OS loads the program, a licensing verification component cooperates with the OS itself or a remote server to perform a license

verification. In Step S603, the OS acquires a token if the license verification passes (Step S602).

The token includes a secret key, and the files of the purchased application program can be decrypted for reading only if it has the secret key. The license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification. When the license verification is one of the lease license verification and the trial license verification, the license verification component cooperates with the remote server to perform the license verification. When the license verification is the permanent license verification and the remote server is not available, the license verification coordinates with the OS to perform the license verification. In such a situation, although a temporary license verification can be performed, the subscriber will be forced to connect to the remote server for the license verification after a predetermined period of time, e.g., after a week. This can ensure that the purchased application program will not be pirated.

In Fig. 6, the method of licensing a program further includes the following steps. If the license verification passes, the anonymous token is verified after the program is shut down, and the program data reverts to a default value. If the license verification passes by the non-anonymous verification token, after the program is shut down, the program data remains in its original state.

Please refer to Fig. 7(a), which shows a system 50 for licensing a program according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The system 50 includes a licensing program device 52, and a remote server 506. The licensing program device 52 includes a file system 501, a storage

device 507, an OS 502 and a license verification component 503. A software database in the remote server 506 includes the program 506, and the program 506 includes a header 5050. The OS 502 receives a program activation command 504 to activate the program 505, and stores the header in the storage device 508 in order that the OS 502 can read the header 5050. The license verification component 503 prevents the OS 502 from loading the program 505 into a RAM 508 for execution, and cooperates with the OS 502 or the remote server 506 to perform a license verification. If the license verification passes, the license verification component 503 allows the program 505 to be continuously loaded into the RAM 508 for execution.

In another embodiment, the program 505 has not been saved to the storage device 501, but the license verification component 503 stops the program from being stored on the storage device 507. The license verification component 503 cooperates with the OS 502 and the remote server 506 to perform the license verification. If the license verification passes, the license verification component 503 allows the program 505 to be stored on the storage device 507, and the OS 502 loads the program 505 into the RAM 508 from the file system 501 for execution.

Please refer to Fig. 7(b), which shows a system 60 for licensing a program according to another preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The system 60 includes a licensing program device 62 and a remote server 606. The licensing program device 62 includes a mobile device 601 and a host 611. The mobile device 601 includes firmware 607 and the program 609. The program 609 includes a header 5090. In one preferred embodiment, the OS 602 receives a program activation command 604 to activate the program 609, and reads the header 6090.

In Fig. 7(b), the OS 602 and the mobile device 601 are controlled by a device driver 608 between the OS 602 and the mobile device 601. The firmware 607 includes the license verification component 603, and cooperates with the device driver 608 to transmit and control the program 609. When the mobile device 601 is coupled with the host 611, the header 6090 of the program 609 is previously read into a RAM 612 through the device driver 608 and the OS 602 before the license verification, and then the OS 604 allocates a new process to the program 609 for activation. During this time, the license verification component 603 is activated to cause the OS 604 to cooperate with the firmware 607 through the device driver 608 in order to perform the license verification. Before the license verification passes, the firmware 607 interrupts the program 609 transmitted to the host 611 from the mobile device. The device driver 608 interrupts the OS 604 to load the program 609 into the RAM 612 for execution.

After the license verification passes, the firmware 607 allows the program 609 to be transmitted to the host 611 without interruption, and the device driver 608 allows the program 609 to be loaded into the RAM 612 for execution through the OS 602 without being interrupted by the device driver 608. In another embodiment, the license verification can be performed by cooperation between the license verification component 603 and the remote server 606, or between the license verification component 603 and the OS 602.

In Fig. 7(b), the mobile device 601 can be a portable hard disk, and the OS 602 includes one selected from a group consisting of an embedded OS, Windows® OS, Linux OS and Solaris OS.

Please refer to Fig. 8, which shows a method for licensing a program according to another preferred embodiment of the present disclosure.

The method includes the following steps. A specific program is selected (Step S801). A license verification is performed by a local OS or a remote server (Step S802). The OS is allowed to load the specific program into a specific memory when the license verification passes (Step S803).

In Fig. 8, the specific memory is selected by a user for a memory path, and the method further includes a step of: causing the specific program to be stored in a software host from a cloud host, and transmitting the specific program to a LAN host from the software host. The method further includes a step of: interrupting the program's execution, and the license verification component allows the program to be continuously executed until the license verification passes.

Please refer to Fig. 9, which shows a method for licensing a program 609 in a program transaction device 62 according to the preferred embodiment of the present disclosure. The program transaction device 62 includes a host 611 and a mobile device 601. The method includes the following steps. The mobile device 601 is coupled with the host 611 (Step S901). A firmware 607 of the mobile device 601 interrupts the program 609 being transmitted to the host 611 from the mobile device 601, and a device driver 608 of the host 611 interrupts the program 609 being loaded into a RAM 612 of the host 611 for execution through an OS 602 of the host 611 (Step S902). A license verification component 603 in the mobile device 601 is activated to cause the OS 602 to cooperate with the firmware 607 through the device driver 608 in order to perform a license verification (Step S903). When the license verification passes, the firmware 607 allows the program 609 to be transmitted to the host 611 from the mobile device 601, and the device

driver 608 allows the OS 602 to load the program 609 into the RAM 612 for execution (Step S904).

Embodiments

1. A method for licensing a program, stored in one of a remote server and a storage device, and including a plurality of executable files including a first executable file having a first header and a second executable file having a second header. The method comprising steps of: causing an OS to receive a program-start command to activate the program; causing the OS to store the first header in the storage device for reading, and causing the license verification component to prevent the OS from loading the first executable file into the RAM to be executed; causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification; allowing the first executable file to be loaded into the RAM for execution when the first executable file passes the license verification; and when the second executable file is to be used, the OS reads the second header and performs another license verification through the license verification component and one of the OS and the remote server.

2. The method in Embodiment 1, further comprising one of the steps of: causing the OS to read an aborting file to terminate a licensing procedure of the program, when there is a license verification failure, or stopping the OS from reading the program and causing the program to generate errors to terminate the licensing procedure when there is the license verification failure; and when the second executable file passes the another license verification, the license verification component allows the second executable file to be loaded in the RAM for execution.

3. A method for licensing a program comprises the steps of: causing an OS to receive a program-starting command to activate the program; causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification before the OS loads the program; and causing one of the OS and the storage device to acquire a token when there is a license verification pass.

4. The method of any one of Embodiments 1-3, wherein the license verification component interrupts the OS from loading the program, and the license verification component allows the OS to continuously load the program after the license verification is passed. The token includes an anonymous token and a non-anonymous token. The anonymous token is used with a public computer, and the non-anonymous token is used with a private computer. The license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification. When the license verification is one of the lease license verification and the trial license verification, the license verification component cooperates with the remote server to perform the license verification. When the license verification is the permanent license verification and the remote server is not available, the license verification coordinates with the OS to perform the license verification. The method further includes the steps of: if the license verification pass is verified, the anonymous token is verified after the program is shut down, the program has a datum recovered to a default value. If the license verification pass is verified by the non-anonymous verification token after the program is shut down, the program has a datum kept in its original state.

5. A device of licensing a program including a header comprises a storage device, a file system and an operating system (OS). The file system is arranged to the storage device. The OS receives a program-starting command to activate the program, and storing the header into the storage device for reading. The license verification component prevents the OS from loading the program to a random access memory (RAM) for execution, and cooperating with one of the OS and a remote server to perform a license verification, wherein the license verification component allows the program to be continuously loaded into the RAM for execution if there is a license verification pass.

6. The device in Embodiment 5, wherein the device further includes a device driver, and in response to the license verification pass, the license verification component transmits at least one of a first, a second and a third control messages to control the storage device, the file system and the device driver respectively, so as to allow the program to be stored into the storage device from the remote server, to allow the program to be stored into the file system from the storage device through the device driver, and to allow the program to be loaded in the RAM from the file system for execution through the OS. The OS reads an aborting file to terminate a licensing procedure of the program when there is a license verification failure, or stopping the OS from reading the program and causing the program to generate errors to terminate the licensing procedure when there is the license verification failure. The license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification. When the license verification is the permanent license verification, the program is allowed to be used without

an expiration date. When the license verification is the lease license verification, the program is allowed to be used during a predetermined period of time. When the license verification is the trial license verification, the program is available until the expiration date. The license verification further includes one of a network license verification and a telephone license verification, the network license verification uses a first grant code to perform the license verification, the first license code includes a message associated with a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof., the telephone license verification uses a telephone number to perform the license verification, the telephone number is used to acquire a second license code when the telephone license verification is performed, and the second license code is used to pass the telephone license verification.

7. A method of licensing a program, comprising the steps of: choosing a specific program; performing a license verification by one of an local operation system (OS) itself and a remote server; and allowing the OS to load the specific program to a specific storage for execution if the license verification is passed.

8. The method in Embodiment 7, wherein the method further includes the steps of: causing the program to be stored in a software host from a cloud host; and transmitting the program to a local area network host from the software host. The method further includes the steps of: halting the program from executing, and allowing the program to be continuously executed after the license verification is passed; the license verification verifies a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an

identification number, birthday and a combination thereof; and the specific storage has a storage path which is selected by the subscriber.

9. A program transaction device comprises a first storage component, a second storage component and a license verification component. The first storage component stores a remote program database including a plurality of programs. The second storage component is configured for storage for a local operating system (OS), so as to select a specific program from the plurality of programs. The license verification component cooperates with one of the local OS itself and a remote server to perform a license verification, and allows the specific program to be executed after the license verification is passed.

10. The device in Embodiment 9, wherein the first storage component is one of a proxy server hard disk and a cloud hard disk, and the second storage component is a random access memory (RAM). The license verification component initially prevents the local OS from loading the program in the RAM, and allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution after having a license verification pass. When the program transaction device is a software host, the remote server is a cloud host, the license verification is performed at the cloud host, and the program is stored in the software host. When the program transaction device is the software host and the remote server is not available, the license verification is performed at the software host, and the program is stored in a local area network (LAN) computer. When the program transaction device is the LAN computer, the remote server is the software host, the license verification is performed at the software host, and the program is stored in the LAN computer. When the license verification is one of a lease license verification and a trial license

verification, the license verification component cooperates with the remote server to perform the license verification. When the license verification is a permanent license verification and the remote server is not available, the license verification component cooperates with the local OS to perform the license verification. When the license verification is not passed, the OS reads an aborting file. The license verification component allows the OS to load the specific program into one of the first storage component and the second storage component after the license verification is passed. The license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification. When the license verification is the permanent license verification, the program is allowed to be used without an expiration date. When the license verification is the lease license verification, the program is allowed to be used during a predetermined period of time. When the license verification is the trial license verification, the program is available until the expiration date; and the license verification further includes one of a network license verification and a telephone license verification, the network license verification uses a first grant code to perform the license verification, the first license code includes a message associated with a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof., the telephone license verification uses a telephone number to perform the license verification, the telephone number is used to acquire a second license code when the telephone license verification is performed, and the second license code is used to pass the telephone license verification.

11. A device of licensing a program, comprises a host and a mobile device. The host includes a local OS, a random access memory (RAM) and a device driver. The mobile device is coupled with the host and includes a firmware including the license verification component, wherein when the mobile device is coupled to the host, the firmware prevent the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver prevents the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution, the license verification component is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver, when there is the license verification pass, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded in the RAM for execution through the local OS.

12. A method of licensing a program in the program transaction device, the program transaction device includes a host and a mobile device, and the method comprises the steps of: coupling the mobile device and the host; the firmware of the mobile device preventing the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver preventing the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution; the license verification component of the mobile device is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver; and when there is the license verification pass, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded in the RAM for execution through the local OS.

While the invention has been described in terms of what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention needs not be limited to the disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims which are to be accorded with the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar structures.

【Symbol Description】

301:main application program	302: local OS
303: file system	304:RAM
305: remote server	306: storage device
307: license verification component	30: program transaction system
40: cloud system	32: program transaction device
42: public cloud	44: private cloud
421: cloud host	422: internet
441: software host	442: local area network (LAN)
443, 444, 445, 446, 447: computer hosts	50, 60: system for licensing a program
501: file system	52, 62: licensing program device
502:OS	503, 603: license verification component
504, 604: program activation command	505, 609: program
506: remote server	5050, 6090: header
507: storage device	508:RAM
602:OS	
601:mobile device	607: firmware
611: host	309, 608: device driver

What is claimed is:

1. A method of licensing a program, stored in one of a storage device and a remote server, and including a plurality of executable files including a first executable file having a first header and a second executable file having a second header, the method comprising steps of:

- causing an OS to receive a program-start command to activate the program;

- causing the OS to store the first header in the storage device for reading, and causing the license verification component to prevent the OS from loading the first executable file into the RAM to be executed;

- causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification;

- allowing the first executable file to be loaded into the RAM for execution when the first executable file passes the license verification; and

- when the second executable file is to be used, the OS reads the second header and performs another license verification through the license verification component and one of the OS and the remote server.

2. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising one of the steps of:

- causing the OS to read an abort file to terminate a licensing procedure of the program, when there is a license verification failure, or stopping the OS from reading the program and causing the program to generate errors to terminate the licensing procedure when there is a license verification failure; and

when the second executable file passes the other license verification, the license verification component allows the second executable file to be loaded into the RAM for execution.

3. A method of licensing a program, comprising the steps of:

causing an OS to receive a program-start command to activate the program;

causing the license verification component to work with one of the OS and the remote server to perform a license verification before the OS loads the program; and

causing one of the OS and the storage device to acquire a token when the license verification passes.

4. The method as in Claim 3, wherein:

the license verification component interrupts the OS from loading the program, and the license verification component allows the OS to continuously load the program after the license verification is passed;

the token includes an anonymous token and a non-anonymous token;

the anonymous token is used with a public computer, and the non-anonymous token is used with a private computer;

the license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification;

when the license verification is one of a lease license verification and the trial license verification, the license verification component cooperates with the remote server to perform the license verification;

when the license verification is the permanent license verification and the remote server is not available, the license verification coordinates with the OS

to perform the license verification; and

the method further includes the steps of:

if the license verification pass is verified, the anonymous token is verified after the program is shut down, the program has a datum restored to a default value; and

if the license verification pass is verified by the non-anonymous verification token after the program is shut down, the program has a datum kept in its original state.

5. A device for licensing a program including a header, comprising:

a storage device;

a file system arranged to the storage device;

an operating system (OS) receiving a program-start command to activate the program, and storing the header into the storage device for reading; and

a license verification component preventing the OS from loading the program into a random access memory (RAM) for execution, and cooperating with one of the OS and a remote server to perform a license verification, wherein the license verification component allows the program to be continuously loaded into the RAM for execution if the license verification passes.

6. The device as in Claim 5, wherein:

the device further includes a device driver, and in response to the license verification pass, the license verification component transmits at least one of a first, a second and a third control messages to control the storage device, the file system and the device driver respectively, so as to allow the program to be stored into the storage device from the remote server, to allow the program to be stored in the file system from the storage device through the device driver,

and to allow the program to be loaded into the RAM from the file system for execution through the OS;

the OS reads an abort file to terminate a licensing procedure of the program when there is a license verification failure, or stops the OS from reading the program and causes the program to generate errors to terminate the licensing procedure when there is a license verification failure;

the license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification;

when the license verification is the permanent license verification, the program is allowed to be used without an expiration date;

when the license verification is the lease license verification, the program is allowed to be used during a predetermined period of time;

when the license verification is the trial license verification, the program is available until the expiration date; and

the license verification further includes one of a network license verification and a telephone license verification, the network license verification uses a first grant code to perform the license verification, the first license code includes a message associated with a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof., the telephone license verification uses a telephone number to perform the license verification, the telephone number is used to acquire a second license code when the telephone license verification is performed, and the second license code is used to pass the telephone license verification.

7. A method of licensing a program, comprising the steps of:

choosing a specific program;
performing a license verification by one of a local operation system (OS) itself and a remote server; and
allowing the OS to load the specific program to a specific storage for execution if the license verification passes.

8. The method as in Claim 7, wherein:

the method further includes the steps of:

causing the program to be stored in a software host from a cloud host;
and

transmitting the program to a local area network host from the software host;

the method further includes the steps of:

stopping the program from executing, and allowing the program to be continuously executed after the license verification passes;

the license verification verifies a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof; and

the specific storage has a storage path which is selected by the subscriber.

9. A program transaction device, comprising:

a first storage component storing a remote program database including a plurality of programs;

a second storage component configured for storage for a local operating system (OS), so as to select a specific program from the plurality of programs;
and

a license verification component cooperating with one of the local OS itself and a remote server to perform a license verification, and allowing the

specific program to be executed after the license verification passes.

10. The device as in Claim 9, wherein:

the first storage component is one of a proxy server hard disk and a cloud hard disk, and the second storage component is a random access memory (RAM);

the license verification component initially prevents the local OS from loading the program into the RAM, and allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution after the license verification passes;

when the program transaction device is a software host, the remote server is a cloud host, the license verification is performed at the cloud host, and the program is stored in the software host;

when the program transaction device is the software host and the remote server is not available, the license verification is performed at the software host, and the program is stored in a local area network (LAN) computer; and

when the program transaction device is the LAN computer, the remote server is the software host, the license verification is performed at the software host, and the program is stored in the LAN computer;

when the license verification is one of a lease license verification and a trial license verification, the license verification component cooperates with the remote server to perform the license verification; and

when the license verification is a permanent license verification and the remote server is not available, the license verification component cooperates with the local OS to perform the license verification;

when the license verification does not pass, the OS reads an abort file; and

the license verification component allows the OS to load the specific

program into one of the first storage component and the second storage component after the license verification passes;

the license verification includes one selected from a group consisting of a permanent license verification, a lease license verification and a trial license verification;

when the license verification is a permanent license verification, the program is allowed to be used without an expiration date;

when the license verification is a lease license verification, the program is allowed to be used during a predetermined period of time;

when the license verification is a trial license verification, the program is available until the expiration date; and

the license verification further includes one of a network license verification and a telephone license verification, the network license verification uses a first grant code to perform the license verification, the first license code includes a message associated with a personal privacy including one selected from the group consisting of an identification number, birthday and a combination thereof., the telephone license verification uses a telephone number to perform the license verification, the telephone number is used to acquire a second license code when the telephone license verification is performed, and the second license code is used to pass the telephone license verification.

11. A device of licensing a program, comprising:

a host including a local OS, a random access memory (RAM) and a device driver;

a mobile device coupled with the host and including:

a firmware including the license verification component, wherein when

the mobile device is coupled to the host, the firmware prevents the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver prevents the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution, the license verification component is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver, when the license verification passes, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution through the local OS.

12. A method of licensing a program in the program transaction device, the program transaction device includes a host and a mobile device, and the method comprises the steps of:

- coupling the mobile device and the host;

- the firmware of the mobile device prevents the program from being transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver prevents the OS from loading the program into the RAM for execution;

- the license verification component of the mobile device is activated to cause the local OS to cooperate with the firmware to perform a license verification by using the device driver; and

- when the license verification passes, the firmware allows the program to be transmitted to the host from the mobile device, and the device driver allows the program to be loaded into the RAM for execution through the local OS.