

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24437 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04L 9/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/27068

(22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2000 (02.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/157,168 30 September 1999 (30.09.1999) US

(71) Applicant: UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
[US/US]; 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, DC
20260-1135 (US).

(74) Agents: GARRETT, Arthur, S. et al.; Finnegan, Hender-
son, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, 1300 I Street, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20005-3315 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(72) Inventors: CAMPBELL, Leo, J.; 4263 South 35th Street,
Arlington, VA 22206 (US). COOK, Jon, L.; 203 Yoakum
Parkway, Apt. #1014, Alexandria, VA 22304 (US).
CHAMBERLAIN, Charles, R.; 2000 S. Arlington Ridge
Road, Arlington, VA 22202-2119 (US). MCGRATH,
Michael, J.; 3016 Regents Tower Street, Apt. #348,
Fairfax, VA 22031 (US). SCHOEN, Isadore; -.

Published:

— Without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 01/24437 A2

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR AUTHENTICATING AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE

(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are disclosed for authenticating electronic messages. A data structure is generated by a com-
puter server which allows for the authentication of the contents and computer server identity of a received electronic message and
provides a trusted stamp to authenticate when the message was sent. Data which can authenticate the message, the computer server
identity, and the time the message was sent is included into a data structure which is called an Electronic PostMark (EPM).