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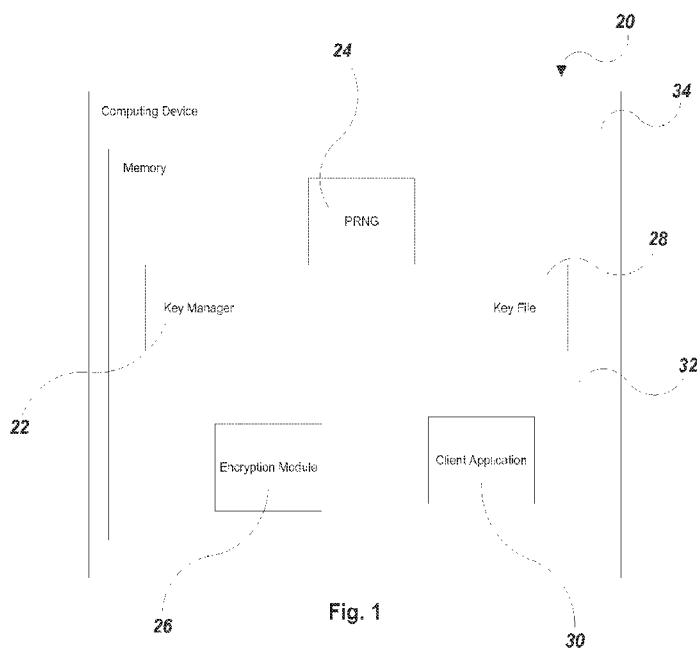
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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[Continued on next page]

- (54) **Title:** SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR ENCRYPTING DATA



(57) **Abstract:** A system and associated methods for encrypting data are disclosed. In at least one embodiment, a key manager is located in memory on an at least one computing device and configured for creating and managing an at least one encryption key to be used for encrypting the data. An at least one key file is also located in memory on the at least one computing device and is associated with an at least one authorized user. The key file contains a key field comprising a pseudo random string of bytes and a unique hash value used to associate the key file to the user. A set of base characters are randomly selected from the key field, such that the base characters are a subset of the key field. An encryption key is generated by inputting the base characters into an encryption algorithm. The data is encrypted using the encryption key.



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- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*