ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a hypertext made up of a plurality of linked documents, each document is composed of a document ID, an issuer ID, a property definition, and a signature attached to the document in its entirety. The property definition includes a property name 402, a value 403, a destination document ID 404, and a constraint definition part 405. By setting in the constraint definition part 405 a hash constraint 406 on the destination document 410, a schema ID constraint 407 defining the document type of the document 410, and a constraint 408 restricting the value of a particular property of the document 410, it is possible to make alterations in the contents of a signed document or attach a document and to prevent invalid alterations in the document contents or invalid attachment of a document.

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