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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
24 March 2005 (24.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/027402 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: H04L 9/00, G06F 11/30, 15/173, 9/44

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/000028

(22) International Filing Date: 2 January 2004 (02.01.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/656,570 5 September 2003 (05.09.2003) US

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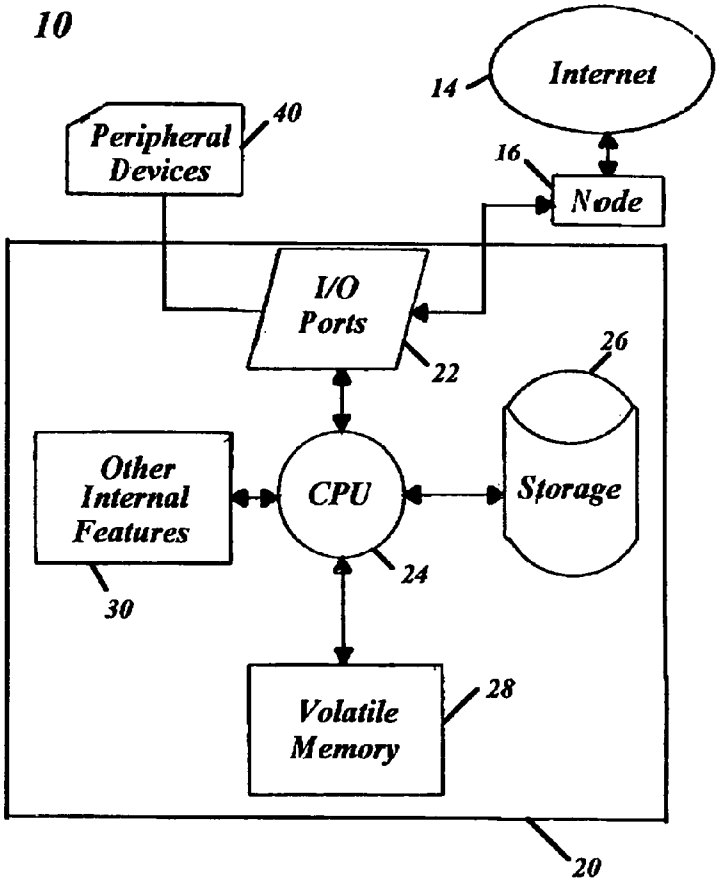
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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, 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, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PERSONAL COMPUTER INTERNET SECURITY SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A software application(100) installable on a personal computer(20) protects the computer's primary data files from being accessed by malicious code (e.g., viruses, worms and trojans) imported from an external data source, such as the Internet (14). A master file serves as the image from which all other software code and functions are derived. Activation of the master image file establishes a secondary operating environment (isolation bubble)(120) in which a secondary operating system (126) including a browser and any other desired applications are installed and run. Access permissions for communications between the computer at large (primary operating system) (20) and the secondary operating system (126) to prevent any access to the files on the primary operating system (20) from any operations originating from the secondary operation system (126). Activation of the secondary operating system (126) is required before any connection to the Internet (14) (or other external data source) is enabled.

WO 2005/027402 A1

TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

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