

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The object of the present invention is to provide a device authentication unit for authenticating a computer, a measuring device or another device having a serial number or another inherent device number.

Because the unit comprises of a software encrypting section 36, which receives a serial number and encrypts the received serial number in the public key method with the serial number being a public key, an encrypted data transmission section 38, which transmits the encrypted serial number, and a received serial number decoding section 16, which receives an encrypted serial number and decodes the encrypted serial number using a secret key corresponding to the serial number, that is, a public key, decoding by the received serial number decoding section 16 succeeds only if a correct serial number is given. Thereby the accurate serial number inherent to the device can be acquired and device authentication can be made.

Figure 2



\*162162\*



\*G00002\*