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(71) Applicant: **CUSTODIEX LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Windmill
Green 24 Mount Street, Manchester M2 3NX (GB).

(72) Inventor: **SUMNER, Michael John**; 19 Jessop Drive,
Marple, Stockport, Greater Manchester SK6 6QB (GB).

(74) Agent: **WITHERS & ROGERS LLP** et al.; 2 London
Bridge, London, Greater London SE1 9RA (GB).

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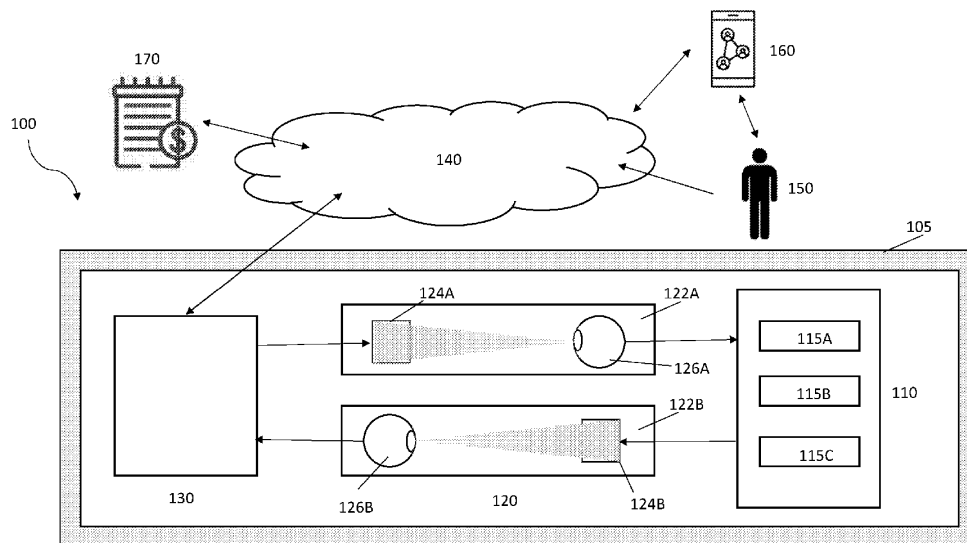


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure relates to a system and method for providing secure access to an asset, for example, in the form of a cryptographic key needed to perform cryptographic operations, such as signing transactions of digital assets, or any other secret or confidential information to which access is limited. The system makes use of three interrelated data objects; a policy object that defines access control rules, one or more online vault objects that are linked to the policy object, and one or more assets that are linked to one of the vault objects. The policy object and the assets are all created in a cold storage environment, with their integrity being protected using a key-based cryptographic technique. The vault object is created in an online environment, wherein a cryptographic hash is used to generate a vault ID, with specific data fields within the vault object being used as inputs to the hash function. When assets are then created, they contain a reference to the vault ID. Consequently, if data within the vault object is tampered with, the vault ID calculated

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during an attempted transaction will be different to the original vault ID referenced in the asset(s), thereby orphaning the asset(s) from the tampered vault object, and preventing use of the asset.