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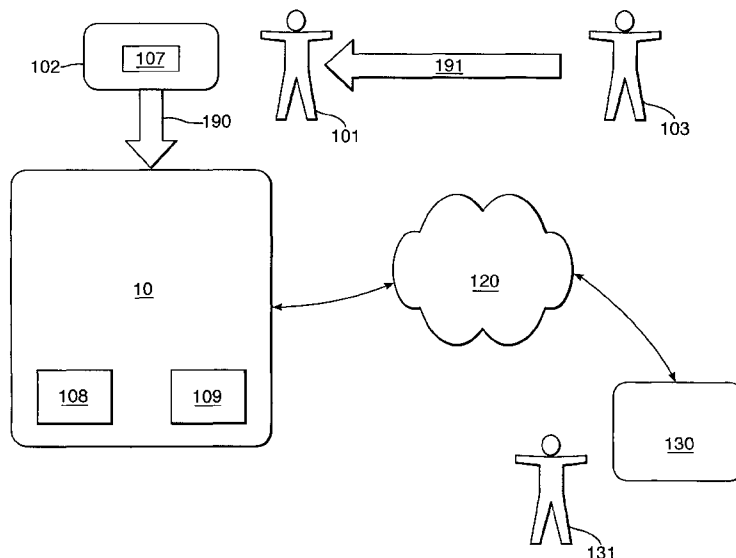
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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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(54) Title: TOBACCO DISPENSER



(57) Abstract: A tobacco dispenser for cigarettes and other similar products includes a mechanism for dispensing stock contained in the machine. The tobacco dispenser is further provided with an input device, such as a radio frequency identifier (RFID) reader, non-volatile memory, and control logic. In operation, the dispenser is typically installed in a back-of-bar environment, where a customer may ask an attendant to purchase a packet of cigarettes. In order to make such a sale, the attendant swipes an RFID card against the RFID reader of the tobacco dispenser. This allows the RFID reader to access a unique serial number contained in the RFID card, which can then be verified against a set of authorisations maintained in the dispenser. The tobacco dispenser will only dispense a product if the attendant is suitably authorised.

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