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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR THE CAPTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND AUTHENTICATION OF HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURES

(57) Abstract

A computer-based method and system for capturing and verifying a handwritten signature. The handwritten signature may relate to a document, such as an electronically stored document. An image of the document is displayed and the handwritten signature is captured (4). A set of measurements relating to the handwritten signature is determined and stored in a signature envelope (10). Optionally, a checksum value of the document can be determined and stored in the signature envelope. The claimed identity of the signatory can also be stored in the signature envelope. The signature envelope is encrypted (104). The signature envelope can be communicated to another application or computer platform (2b), or stored for later verification. The signature envelope is decrypted, and the set of measurements stored in the signature envelope is compared against a known set of handwritten signature measurements to verify the identity of the signatory (6). The system includes a

database of signature templates storing verified signature information (12). The verified set of signature measurements is compared with the set of measurements stored in the signature envelope to obtain a similarity score. The present invention includes a gravity prompt feature (22) to alert the signatory as to the nature, seriousness and/or contents of the document. The gravity prompt (22) can also be stored in the signature envelope as part of the signature record.

