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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

SECURE ELECTRONIC DELIVERY SEAL FOR INFORMATION HANDLING SYSTEM

A method and apparatus for ensuring the security of a particular configuration of hardware and software for an information handling system that is assembled using a "build-to-order" system. The present invention ensures the security and integrity of data on an information handling system from the point of manufacture to the final destination at the customer's facility. The information handling system is then manufactured with the operating system and a predetermined set of software being installed thereon. A manifest file is constructed comprising a predetermined set of data files and configuration information. The manifest file is electronically signed with at least one electronic key. When the information handling system performs its initial boot, a second electronic key is used to extract information from the manifest file and the existing data files and configuration information is compared to the information contained in the manifest file. If any of the information compared to the manifest has been altered, the initial boot is designated as "invalid" and the user is notified of the potential for a breach of security.

FIGURE 5