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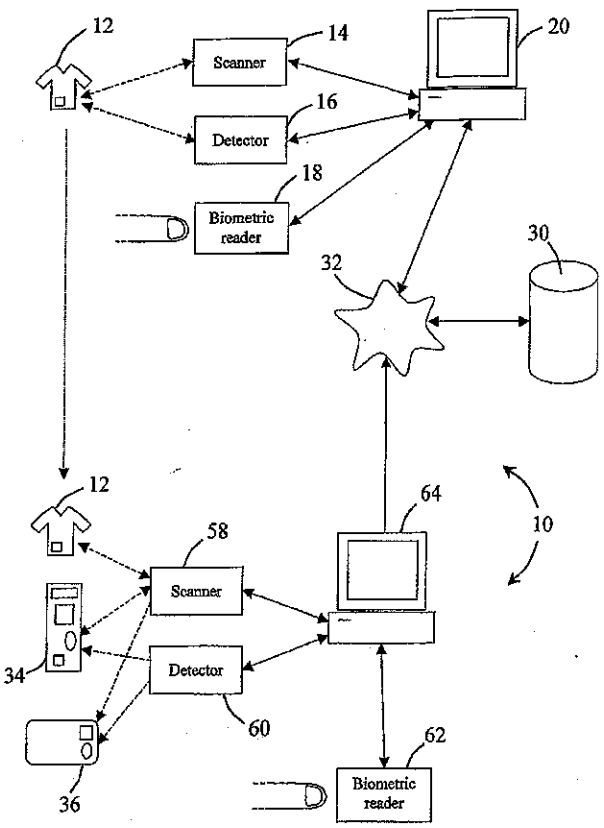
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(54) Title: A SYSTEM FOR AND METHOD OF MONITORING AN ITEM



(57) Abstract: A system (10) for monitoring an item (12) is disclosed. The system (10) comprises a plurality of item identification devices (38), each item identification device including unique information indicative of the item (12) and being disposed during use on the item (12), a plurality of supplier identification devices (22), each supplier identification device (22) including stored supplier biometric data indicative of the identity of a representative of a supplier of the item (12). The system also comprises means (16, 18) for verifying the identity of the representative of the supplier using the stored supplier biometric data and biometric data gathered directly from the representative of the supplier, a plurality of recipient identification devices (36), each recipient identification device (36) being associated with a recipient of an item (12) and including stored recipient biometric data indicative of the identity of the recipient, means (60, 62) for verifying the identity of a recipient using the stored recipient biometric data and biometric data gathered directly from the recipient, and a database (30) for storing a plurality of item records. Each item record includes unique information indicative of an item (12), information indicative of the identity of the representative of a supplier of the item when the identity of the representative of the supplier has been verified, and information indicative of the identity of a recipient of the item when the identity of the recipient has been verified. A corresponding method is also disclosed.

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