

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An encryption key that is used at a point in time when an IC card is issued and a plurality of encryption keys to be used in the future are stored in the IC card. The encryption key that is currently used and a plurality of old encryption keys used in the past are stored in a read/write apparatus. When the encryption key used by the IC card is determined to correspond to an encryption key used in the past, on the basis of a response from the IC card, an update command is sent to the IC card so that the encryption key is updated to the encryption key that is currently used. In response to the command, the IC card updates its currently used encryption key to the encryption key that is currently used by the read/write apparatus.

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