**Abstract**

Embodiments of the invention provide a mobile device architecture having non-protected environment and one or more protected containers for isolating application programs and application data according to their sensitivity or privacy levels. Access policy and exception policy are defined for each protected container to limit access to application program and data associated with or stored in the protected container(s). A communication monitor module is provided to implement the access and exception policy, and manage communication in the mobile device, including intra-container communication, inter-container communication and communication to and from the non-protected environment.

(Figure 1B)