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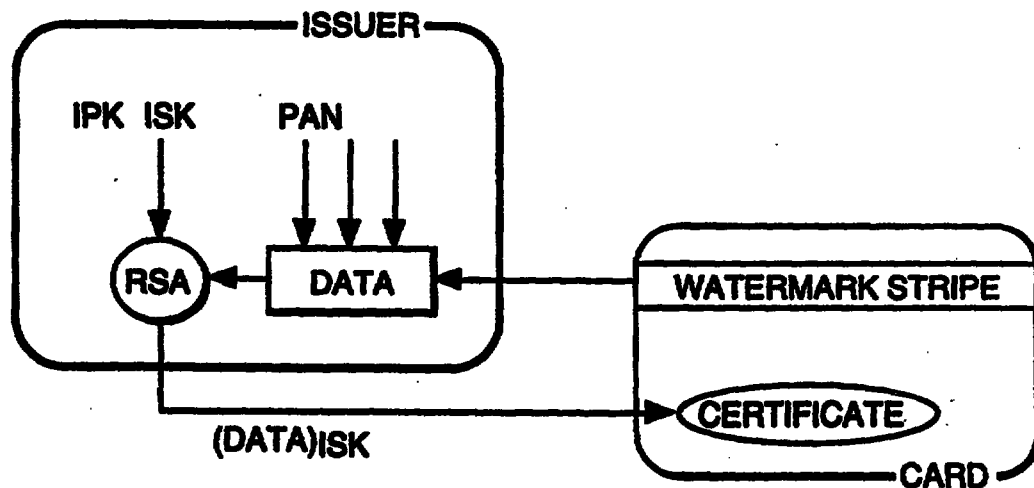
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(54) Title: AUTHENTICATION TECHNIQUE

(57) Abstract

A dual-secure authentication technique takes advantage of the inherently secure nature of certain data storage media, such as that based upon the structural variation, from place to place over a strip, of magnetic characteristic, to attach to a valued article a secure identity code. The security is further enhanced by incorporating that code, together with further data, "signing" the code and further data using the secret key of a cryptosystem pair and attaching the signed information to the article. Authentication requires the signed information to be de-crypted using the public key of the cryptosystem pair and ensuring that the code so recovered tallies with that recorded in the secure medium.



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