SECURE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND METHOD

Abstract

A communication apparatus (e.g., a fax apparatus) (Figure 1) provides secure message transmission by sending messages having an unrestricted portion (e.g., a header) and a restricted portion (e.g., the body of the message). The unrestricted portion is always outputted at the receiving apparatus; however, access to the restricted portion is provided only in response to receiving predetermined information from a user (e.g., a message recipient). This information may include either the use of a password or the use of a PIN code following the insertion of a user's smart card 175 into the receiving apparatus. If the restricted portion is encrypted, the user must either provide the decryption key to enable the receiving apparatus to decrypt the restricted message or his/her smart card must perform the actual decryption of the restricted message.

Figure 1