

ABSTRACT

A secure application memory card (3) can be operatively connected with a host microprocessor (5-6) via a standard interface, and contains an access control microprocessor (ACP 10) on a single semiconductor chip which interconnects to a number of non-volatile addressable memory chips (103a, 103n) each organized into a plurality of blocks. The microprocessor includes an addressable non-volatile memory (10-2) for storing information including a number of key values and program instruction information and security control unit for protecting the data contents of the non-volatile memory chips from unauthorized access.

The memory card further includes an application processor (A1) and an access discrimination logic unit (A3).

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The access discrimination logic unit includes an access by type memory writable by the application processor (A1) under the control of the ACP (10) for maintaining security. The memory has a plurality of locations, each location having a plurality of access control bits and being associated with a different block of the non-volatile memory chip for defining the different types of access permitted to such block.

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