

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method for managing user key pairs, the method comprising:

receiving a request to store identity information and a user key pair to a memory on an identity cryptographic chip (ICC), the request digitally signed with a digital signature, the identity information uniquely identifying a user, and the user key pair assigned to the user;

determining that the digital signature is authentic based on a public authorization key pre-stored in the memory;

encrypting the identity information and the user key pair; and

storing the identity information and the user key pair to the memory.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprises:

initializing the ICC by pre-storing the public authorization key and a private authorization key, wherein the public authorization key and the private authorization key are an asymmetric-key pair assigned to a master user of the ICC.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein initializing the ICC further comprises storing identity authentication code executable to authenticate the user based on the identity information.

4. The computer-implemented method of either claim 2 or claim 3, wherein initializing the ICC further comprises:

storing first cryptographic operation code executable to add the digital signature based on the private authorization key; and

storing second cryptographic operation code executable to perform file encryption or file decryption based on the user key pair.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the request for storing identity information and the user key pair is a first request, the identity information is first identity information, the digital signature is a first digital signature, and the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving second identity information and a second request for adding a second digital signature to a file;

authenticating the second request based on matching the second identity information to the first identity information; and

adding the second digital signature to the file based on the first cryptographic operation code and a private key of the user key pair.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the request for storing identity information and the user key pair is a first request, the identity information is first identity information, and the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving second identity information and a second request for encrypting or decrypting a file;

authenticating the user based on matching the second identity information to the first identity information; and

performing the encryption or decryption based on the second request, the second cryptographic operation code, and a public key or a private key of the user key pair.

7. The computer-implemented method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the identity information is biometric information.

8. The computer-implemented method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the memory is a programmable read-only memory (PROM), an electrically erasable PROM or a flash memory, and wherein the identity information and the user key pair are stored in separate storage units of the memory.

9. A system for managing user key pairs, comprising:

one or more processors; and

one or more computer-readable memories coupled to the one or more processors and having instructions stored thereon that are executable by the one or more processors to perform the method of any one of claims 1-8.

10. An apparatus for managing user key pairs, the apparatus comprising a plurality of modules for performing the method of any one of claims 1-8.