

A B S T R A C T

An encrypted part of the encrypted program loaded in an memory device is received by a one-chip microcomputer and decrypted according to a decrypting program which is stored in advance in an ROM and which cannot be read out to an external bus. The decrypted program is stored in an cache memory, and a cache function inhibition flag is set in a control register in accordance with a storage area of the decrypted program in the cache memory. Therefore, the decrypted program is inhibited from being read out to the external bus. The decrypted program is combined with the non-encrypted part of the program stored in the memory device, and the combined program is executed by a CPU. The encrypted program is prevented from being illegally copied.