

CLAIMS

1. An IC card issuance apparatus comprising:
 - an issuance processing unit configured to perform processing for issuing an IC card based on issuance data; and
 - 5 a data supply unit configured to monitor whether or not an issuance data file containing the issuance data has been stored in a storage apparatus designated in advance, and supply the issuance data contained in the issuance data file stored in the storage apparatus to the issuance processing unit if the issuance data file is stored in the storage apparatus,
 - 10 wherein the data supply unit is configured to supply the issuance data contained in the issuance data file to which identification information corresponding to the IC card issuance apparatus to which the data supply unit belongs is added, to the issuance processing unit, if the issuance data file to which the identification information is added is stored in the storage apparatus.
- 15 2. The IC card issuance apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - the data supply unit is configured to read the issuance data file stored in the storage apparatus, and to supply, to the issuance processing unit, the issuance data contained in the issuance data file that has been read.
- 20 3. The IC card issuance apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
 - the data supply unit deletes the issuance data file containing the issuance data supplied to the issuance processing unit from the storage apparatus after the data supply unit supplies the issuance data contained in the issuance data file stored in the storage
 - 25 apparatus to the issuance processing unit.
4. The IC card issuance apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein
 - the issuance processing unit is configured to start processing for issuing an IC card using the data supply unit supplying the issuance data to the issuance processing
 - 30 unit as a trigger.

5. The IC card issuance apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, further comprising:

an IC reader/writer configured to write data to the IC card,

5 wherein the IC card is provided with an IC module including an IC chip, and a card substrate in which the IC module is embedded, and

wherein the issuance processing unit is configured to control the IC reader/writer so as to store data that is based on the issuance data in the IC chip of the IC card.

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6. The IC card issuance apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

an IC module is provided with the IC chip and a contact portion, and the IC reader/writer is configured to store data that is based on the issuance data in the IC chip via the contact portion.

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7. The IC card issuance apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a card conveyor configured to convey an IC card;

a magnetic processing unit configured to store data in a magnetic stripe of the IC card; and

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an embossing unit configured to perform embossing on the IC card,

wherein the IC card is provided with a magnetic stripe,

wherein the issuance processing unit is configured to control the magnetic processing unit so as to store, in the magnetic stripe of the IC card, magnetic card data that is based on the issuance data,

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wherein the issuance processing unit is configured to control the embossing unit so as to execute embossing on the IC card substrate of the IC card based on the issuance data, and

wherein the issuance processing unit is configured to control the card conveyor so as to take out the IC card from a rack for an unissued card, convey the IC

card that has been taken out, to the magnetic processing unit, the embossing unit and the IC reader/writer, and store the IC card that has been issued in a rack for an issued card.

8. An IC card issuance system comprising:

5 a plurality of IC card issuance apparatuses each of which being the IC card issuance apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7; and

an issuance data generation apparatus configured to generate issuance data for issuing an IC card based on supplied data, and store, in a storage apparatus designated in advance, an issuance data file containing the generated issuance data,

10 wherein the data supply unit of each of the IC card issuance apparatuses is configured to supply, to the issuance processing unit, the issuance data contained in the issuance data file to which identification information corresponding to the IC card issuance apparatus to which the data supply unit belongs is added, if the issuance data file to which the identification information is added is stored in the storage apparatus.

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9. An IC card issuance method performed by an IC card issuance apparatus including a data supply unit and an issuance processing unit, the IC card issuance method comprising:

20 determining, executed by the data supply unit, whether or not an issuance data file containing issuance data has been stored in a storage apparatus designated in advance, by monitoring the storage apparatus;

reading, executed by the data supply unit, from the storage apparatus, the issuance data contained in the issuance data file stored in the storage apparatus, if it is determined in the determining that the issuance data file has been stored in the storage
25 apparatus;

supplying, executed by the data supply unit, the issuance data read from the storage apparatus to an issuance processing unit for performing processing for issuing an IC card; and

performing, executed by the issuance processing unit, the processing for issuing the IC card based on the issuance data, the processing being performed by the issuance processing unit to which the issuance data has been supplied,

- 5 wherein the data supply unit supplies the issuance data contained in the issuance data file to which identification information corresponding to the IC card issuance apparatus to which the data supply unit belongs is added, to the issuance processing unit, if the issuance data file to which the identification information is added is stored in the storage apparatus.

- 10 10. The IC card issuance method according to claim 9, further comprising:
deleting the issuance data file from the storage apparatus after executing the supplying.