

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/062910 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
H04L 9/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/043218

(22) International Filing Date:
22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/531,810 22 December 2003 (22.12.2003) US
11/018,347 21 December 2004 (21.12.2004) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
GRAPHIC SECURITY SYSTEMS CORPORATION [US/US]; 4450 Jog Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ALASIA, Alfred, V.** [US/US]; 9720 Pine Mill Court, Lake Worth, FL 33467

(US). **ALASIA, Alfred, J.** [US/US]; 283 Cypress Trace, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 (US). **ALASIA, Thomas, C.**; 3674 Woods Walk Blvd., Lake Worth, FL 33467 (US). **CVETKOVIC, Slobodan** [YU/US]; 6760 columbia Ave, Lake Worth, FL 33467 (US).

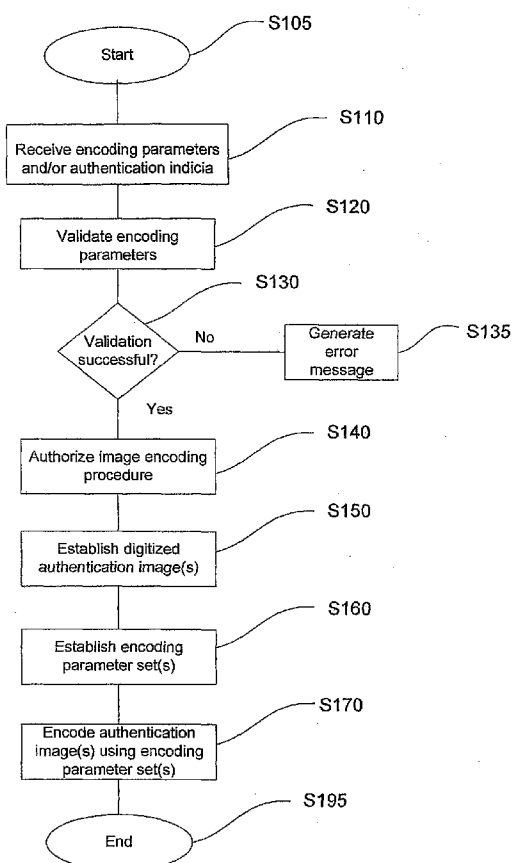
(74) Agents: **MARTINEZ DE ANDINO, J., Michael** et al.; Hunton & Williams, LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 E. Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219-4074 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ENCODED IMAGE PRODUCTION USING IMAGE SIGNATURES



(57) Abstract: An automated method for authorizing and controlling the production of optically encoded images is provided. The method comprises receiving from a user data processor a request for authorization to produce an encoded image (s110). The authorization request includes user-supplied data comprising at least one authentication image file. The method further comprises determining whether the user is authorized to produce an encoded image using the user-supplied data (s140). Responsive to a determination that the user is authorized to produce an encoded image using the user-supplied data, an authentication image signature is generated from the at least one authentication image file using an image signature algorithm and a positive authorization response is returned to the user data processor. The positive authorization response includes the authentication image signature (s170).

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GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
15 June 2006

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.