WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An access control apparatus comprising a control unit that, based on predetermined access control information, restricts access to an electronic file by software that is permitted to access or prohibited from accessing the electronic file,

wherein the access control information includes a predetermined first condition to be met by software permitted to be used for the access, and

when software that should be used for accessing the electronic file meets the first condition, the control unit permits the access by the software that meets the first condition

wherein the access control information includes a predetermined second condition to be met by software prohibited from performing the access, and the control unit restricts the access by software that meets the second condition, and

wherein before the software that meets the first condition starts accessing the electronic file, the control unit judges whether or not the software that meets the second condition is in operation, and when it is judged that the software that meets the second condition is in operation, prohibits the software that meets the first condition from starting accessing the electronic file.

2. The access control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when the software that meets the second condition is in operation, the control unit restricts the access by the software that meets the first condition.

3. The access control apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein when an operation of the software that meets the second condition is detected after the software that meets the first condition starts accessing the electronic file, the control unit restricts the operation of the software that meets the second condition.

4. The access control apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the second condition includes a condition about contents of an operation performed by software that should be prohibited from performing the access.

5. The access control apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, further comprising:

a pass phrase-acquiring unit that acquires, from an external management apparatus, a pass phrase to be used for decryption of an encrypted electronic file; and

a decrypting unit that decrypts the encrypted electronic file by using the pass phrase acquired by the pass phrase-acquiring unit, wherein

before the decrypting unit decrypts the encrypted electronic file, the control unit judges, based on the predetermined access control information, whether or not to permit access to the electronic file decrypted by the decrypting unit, and when it is judged to permit access to the electronic file decrypted by the decrypting unit, causes the pass phrase-acquiring unit to acquire the pass phrase from the management apparatus, and causes the decrypting unit to decrypt the encrypted electronic file by using the pass phrase.

6. A program that causes a computer to function as the access control apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

7. An access control system comprising:

the access control apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 4; and

a management apparatus that is provided outside the access control apparatus, and provides, to the access control apparatus, at least one of the predetermined access control information and a judgment result based on the predetermined access control information.

8. An access control system comprising:

the access control apparatus according to Claim 5; and

the management apparatus that is provided outside the access control apparatus, and provides, to the access control apparatus, at least one of the predetermined access control information and a judgment result based on the predetermined access control information.