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November 27, 2001

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/270,663

FILING DATE: February 20, 2001

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APPROV

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PTO/SB/16 (8-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

02/20/01

INVENTOR(S)					
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Michael		Brown		P.O. Box 216, 7 Danube Drive Heidelberg, Ontario NOB 1Y0 CANADA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the <u>1</u> separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
CODE SIGNING SYSTEM AND METHOD					
Direct all correspondence to:			CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number			→ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here</div>		
OR			Type Customer Number here		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		David B. Cochran, Esq.			
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				216/579-0212	
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification		Number of Pages		17	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)		Number of Sheets		8	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		Assignment	
				Power of Attorney for Provisional Appln.	
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number:				501432	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.				Ref: 555255012198	
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

Respectfully submitted,
 SIGNATURE David B. Cochran
 TYPED or PRINTED NAME David B. Cochran
 TELEPHONE 216/586-3939

Date 2/19/01
 REGISTRATION NO. 39,142
 (if appropriate)
 Docket Number: 555255012198

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Additional Page

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Docket Number	55255012198	Type a plus sign (+) inside this box →	+
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INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)		
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Number 1 of 1

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Title: **Code Signing System and Method**
Inventor(s): **Michael Brown, Herb Little, David Yach**
5 Assignee: **Research In Motion Limited**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 **Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to security protocols with dynamic library linking programs such as Java™ programs. Specifically, this invention relates to assigning a digital signature to a program in order to use it on a mobile communications device.

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5 **Description of the Prior Art**

When an application program arrives at a mobile communications device such as the RIM Wireless Handheld 957™ or a multiple mode device incorporating both data and voice communications features, there is a need to control the access that the application has. For example, if such a device is to be exported, access to any strong cryptographic routines residing on the device must be restricted. Interfaces to a radio transmitter may be protected so that destructive applications are unable to flood a wireless network with transmission signals; similarly, interfaces to a database or file system may be protected so that destructive applications are unable to fill a device's storage space with unwanted data or alter existing data.

25 One scheme for protecting interfaces involves application software signing, commonly called code signing. In conventional code signing schemes, an application

program developer or author generates a signature indicating the identity of the author and appends the signature to the application. Upon the arrival of a signed application at a device such as described above, the signature is used to authenticate the author of the application. If the author is a trusted source, the application may be loaded and executed on the device.

Most known code signing schemes grant access to device or system resources for an application program based on authentication of the author of the application. However, there remains a need for a code signing scheme which provides for more selective resource access restriction, based on the particular application instead of solely upon author authentication.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide an improved coding signing system and method.

It is a related object of the invention to oversee the management and execution of Java and other dynamic library link-based applications arriving at a mobile communications device.

It is a further object of the invention to verify that any application has been digitally signed as having permission to carry out its intended functions.

A still further object of the invention is to prevent unacceptable applications from gaining access strong cryptographic routines and any other application programming interface (API) designated by the API author as "sensitive".

In the present invention, digital signatures are used to control access to

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