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

INVENTOR(S)		
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
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[X] Additional inventors are being named on the _1_ separately numbered sheets attached hereto

TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)

CODE SIGNING SYSTEM AND METHOD

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Direct all correspondence to:

[ ] Customer Number _____ ——▶ Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

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[X] Firm or Individual Name	David B. Cochran, Esq.		
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)

[X] Specification Number of Pages **17**   [X] ~~CD(s)x Number~~ Assignment

[X] Drawing(s) Number of Sheets **8**   [X] Other (specify) Power of Attorney for Provisional Appln.

[ ] Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

[ ] Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

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FILING FEE AMOUNT ($) $190.00

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

[X] No.

[ ] Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE _David B. Cochran_   Date 2/9/01

TYPED or PRINTED NAME _David B. Cochran_

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REGISTRATION NO. (if appropriate) 39,142

Docket Number: 555255012198

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Docket Number	555255012198	Type a plus sign (+) inside this box →	+

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.

15 ### 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
20 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

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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

5 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

10 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.

15 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.

20 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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