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APPLICATION NUMBER: *60/235,354*
FILING DATE: *September 26, 2000*

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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)
Michael	Brown	7 Danube Drive Heidelberg, Ontario NOB 1YO CANADA

[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:

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OR

[X] Firm *or* Individual Name	David B. Cochran, Esq.				
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Country	US	Telephone	216/586-3939	Fax	216/579-0212

ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS *(check all that apply)*

[X] Specification *Number of Pages* 8 [ ] Small Entity Statement

[X] Drawing(s) *Number of Sheets* 5 [ ] Other (specify)

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT *(check one)*

[ ] A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: 501432

account 555255012178

FILING FEE AMOUNT ($): $150.00

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

TYPED or PRINTED NAME David B. Cochran

TELEPHONE (216/586-3939)

Date 9/25/00

REGISTRATION NO. *(if appropriate)* 39,142

Docket Number: 555255012178

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	555255012178	Type a plus sign (+) inside this box →	+

INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)

Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Herb	Little	523A Rosemeadow Crescent Waterloo, Ontario N2T 1Z9 CANADA
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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**

Assignee: **Research In Motion Limited**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to security protocols with Java programs. Specifically this invention relates to assigning a digital signature to a Java program in order to use it on a mobile communications device (herein collectively called devices).

Description of the Prior Art

When a Java application arrives on a device such as the RIM Wireless Handheld 957™, there is a need to control the access that the application has. For example, if a product is to be exported, access to strong cryptographic routines must be restricted. Interfaces to a radio transmitter may be protected so that destructive applications are unable to flood the wireless network with data; 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.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

It is an object of the invention to oversee the management and execution of

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Java applications arriving to the device;

It is an object of the invention to verify that any application has been digitally signed as having permission to carry out its intended function;

It is an object of the invention to prevent unacceptable applications from gaining access strong cryptographic routines and any other application programming interface (API) designated by its author as "sensitive";

In the present invention, digital signatures are used to control access to sensitive APIs, thereby allowing access to only those applications that have been digitally signed by the author of a sensitive API.

In the invention, a Java application, which will access an API, is developed to run on a device. In order to run on the device and access the sensitive API, the author of the API must approve the application by attaching a digital signature using the author's private key. Whenever the application on the device is executed the signed application will be verified. The author of any API may decide that the API should not be exposed to every application on the device, but only to those that have been verified to be non-destructive, or for which some business arrangement pre-exists, for example.

Further features of the invention will be described or will become apparent in the course of the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, at least one embodiment thereof will now be described in detail by way of example, with reference to

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