

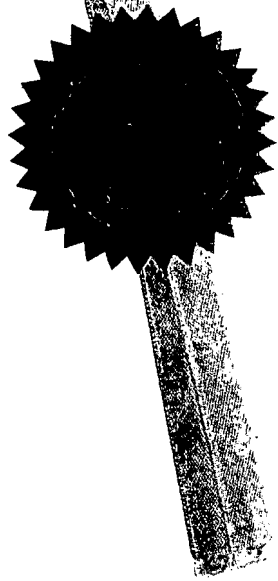


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בקשה לפטנט
 Application For Patent

אני, (שם המבקש, מענו ולגבי גוף מאוגדת מקום התאגדותו)
 I, (Name and address of applicant, and in case of body corporate-place of incorporation)

מיקי מולאור אזרח ישראלי, מרח' צאלון 3, רמת השרון 47234, ישראל
 Miki Mullor, Israeli citizen, of 3 Zelon St., Ramat Hasharon 47234, Israel
 יוליאן וליקו, אזרח ישראלי, מרח' צאלון 3, רמת השרון 47234, ישראל
 Julian Valiko, Israeli citizen, of 3, Zelon St., Ramat Hasharon 47234, Israel

בעל אמצאה מכח היותנו ממציאים Being inventors ששמה הוא
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שיטה להגבלת פעולת תוכנה תוך הגבלת רשיון

(בעברית)
 (Hebrew)

Method of restricting software operation within a licensed limitation

(באנגלית)
 (English)

Hereby apply for a patent to be granted to me in respect thereof.

מבקש בזאת כי ינתן לי עליה פטנט

* בקשת חלוקה * Application of Division		* בקשת פטנט מוסף * Appl. for Patent of Addition		* דרישת דין קדימה * Priority Claim		
מבקשת פטנט from application		* לבקשה/לפטנט * to Patent/Appl.		מספר/סימן Number/Mark	תאריך Date	מדינת האיגוד Convention Country
No. _____ מס' _____	No. _____ מס' _____					
Dated _____ מיום _____	dated _____ מיום _____					
P.O.A. : _____		* יפוי כח : _____				
To be filed		עוד יוגש				
המען למסירת מסמכים בישראל Address for Service in Israel						
REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS Patent Attorneys P.O.B. 4060, Tel-Aviv C. 110713.5						
חתימת המבקש Signature of Applicant				היום _____ שנת _____ This _____ of the year _____		
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שיטה להגבלת פעולת תוכנה תוך הגבלת רשיון

Method of restricting software operation within a licensed limitation

Miki Mullor

Julian Valiko

מיקי מולאור

יוליאן וליקו

C.110713.5

Method of Restricting Software Operation within A License Limitation

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method and system of identifying and restricting an unauthorized software program's operation.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Numerous methods have been devised for the identifying and restricting of unauthorized software program's operation. These methods have been primarily motivated by the grand proliferation of illegally copied software, which is engulfing the marketplace. This illegal copying represents
10 billions of dollars in lost profits to commercial software developers.

Software based products have been developed to validate authorized software usage by writing a license signature onto the computer's volatile memory (e.g. hard disk). These products may be appropriate for restricting honest software users, but they are very vulnerable to attack at the hands of
15 skilled system's programmers (e.g. "hackers"). These license signatures are also subject to the physical instabilities of their volatile memory media.

Hardware base products have also been developed to validate authorized software usage by accessing a dongle that is coupled e.g. to the parallel port of the P.C. These units are expensive, inconvenient, and not

particularly suitable for software that may be sold by downloading (e.g. over the internet).

There is accordingly a need in the art to provide for a system and method that substantially reduce or overcome the drawbacks of hitherto
5 known solutions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of restricting software operation within a license limitation. This method strongly relies on the use of
10 a key and of a record, which have been written into the non-volatile memory of a computer.

For a better understanding of the underlying concept of the invention, there follows a specific non-limiting example. Thus, consider a conventional computer having a conventional BIOS module in which a key was embedded
15 at the ROM section thereof, during manufacture. The key constitutes, effectively, a unique identification code for the host computer. It is important to note that the key is stored in a non-volatile portion of the BIOS, i.e. it cannot be removed or modified.

Further, according to the invention, each application program that is to
20 be licensed to run on the specified computer, is associated with a license record; that consists of author name, program name and number of licensed users (for network). The license record may be held in either encrypted or explicit form.

Now, there commences an initial license establishment procedure,
25 where a verification structure is set in the BIOS so as to indicate that the specified program is licensed to run on the specified computer. This is implemented by encrypting the license record (or portion thereof) using said key (or portion thereof) exclusively or in conjunction with other identification

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