



US006766456B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**McKeeth**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,766,456 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 20, 2004**

(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATING A USER OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM**

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(73) Assignee: **Micron Technology, Inc.**, Boise, ID (US)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/511,092**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 23, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.** <sup>7</sup> ..... **H04K 1/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **713/200; 713/201; 713/202; 713/183; 713/186; 713/168**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 713/200, 202, 713/201, 183, 184, 186; 345/168, 156, 158

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

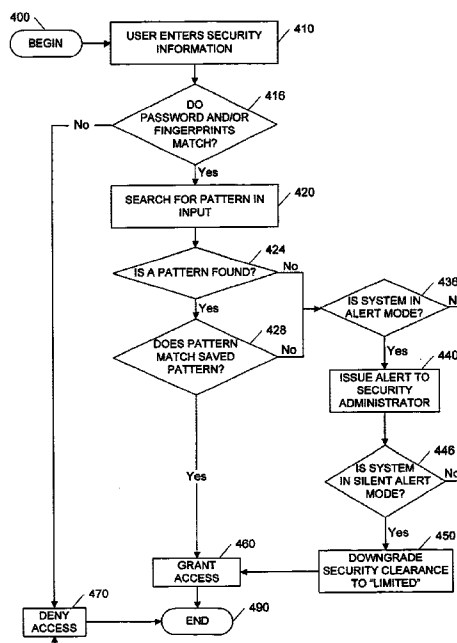
A method and system for authenticating a user to access a computer system. The method comprises communicating security information to the computer system, and providing the computer system with an implicit input. The method further comprises determining whether the security information and implicit input match corresponding information associated with the user. The method further comprises granting the user access to the computer system in the event of a satisfactory match. When authenticating the user, the method and system consider the possibility of the user being legitimate but subject to duress or force by a computer hacker.

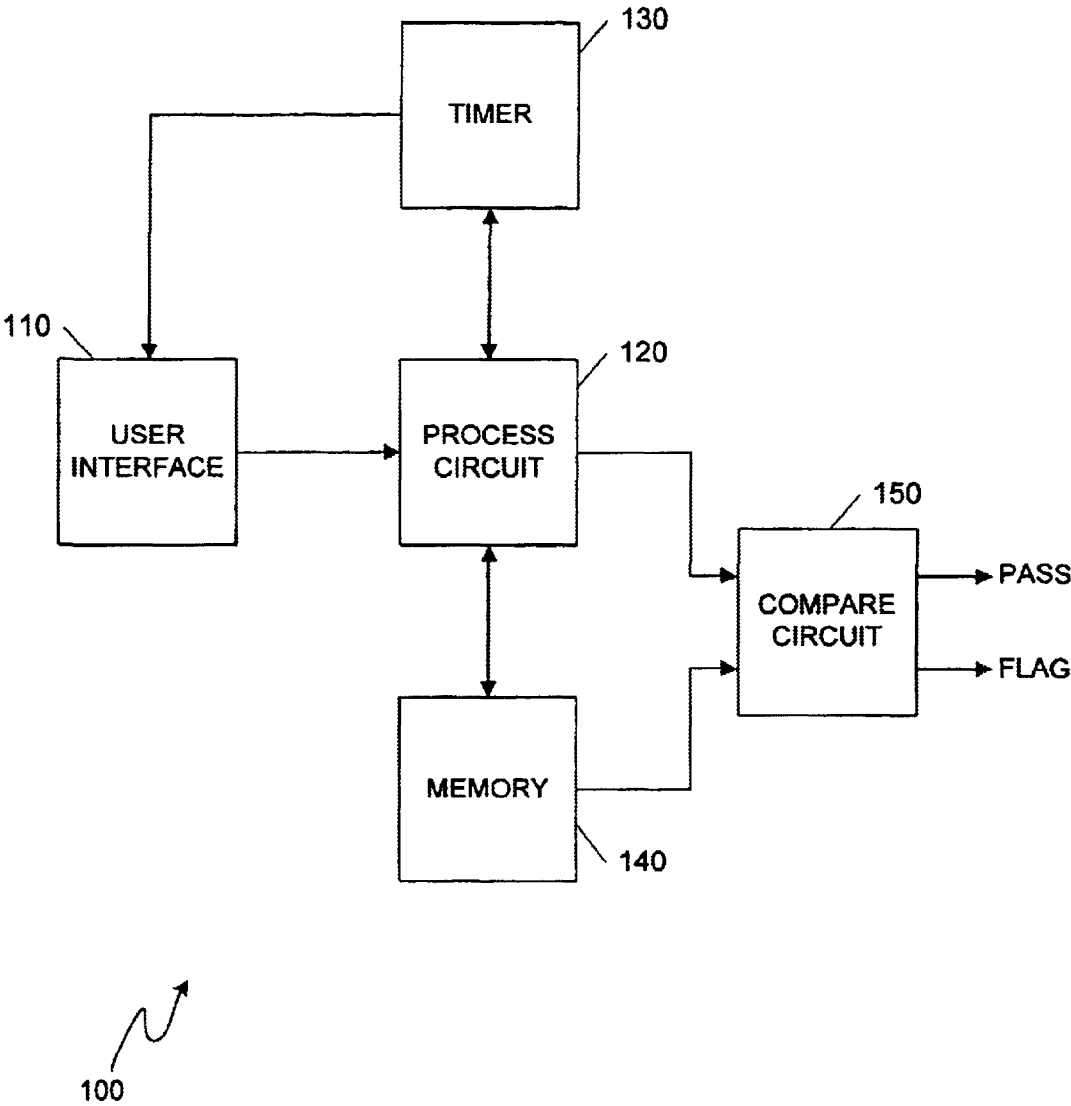
**15 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

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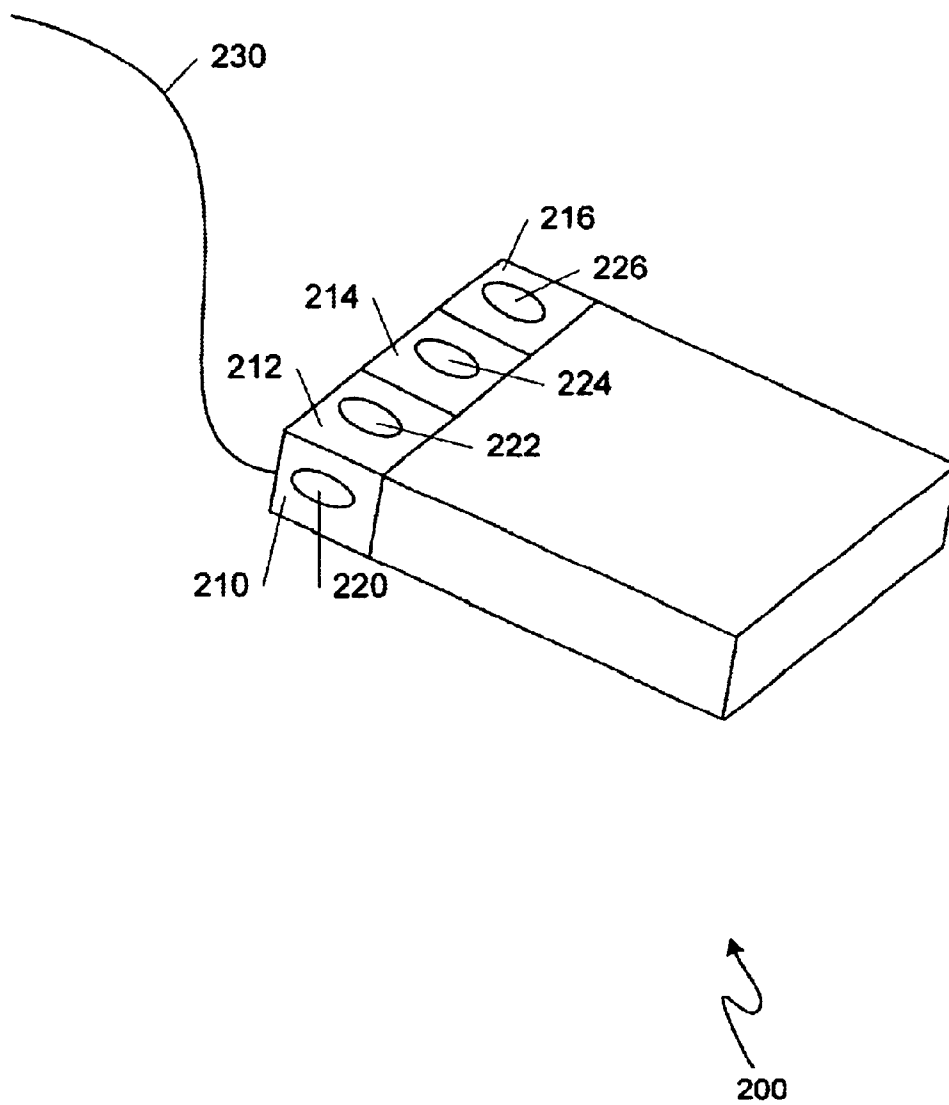
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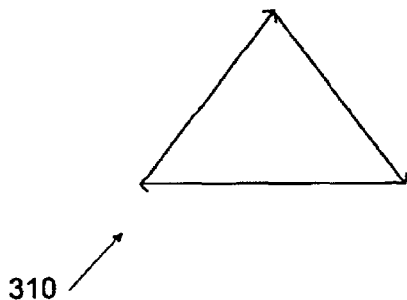




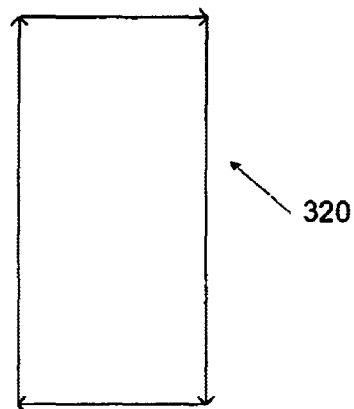
**FIG. 1**



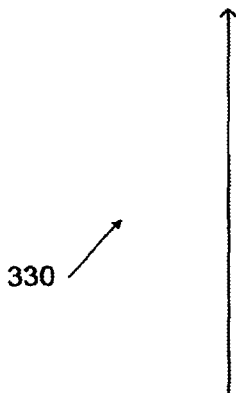
**FIG. 2**



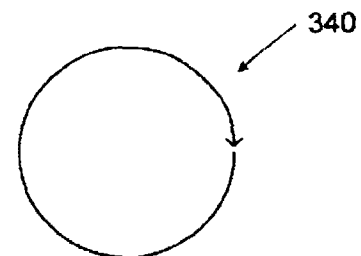
**FIG. 3A**



**FIG. 3B**



**FIG. 3C**



**FIG. 3D**

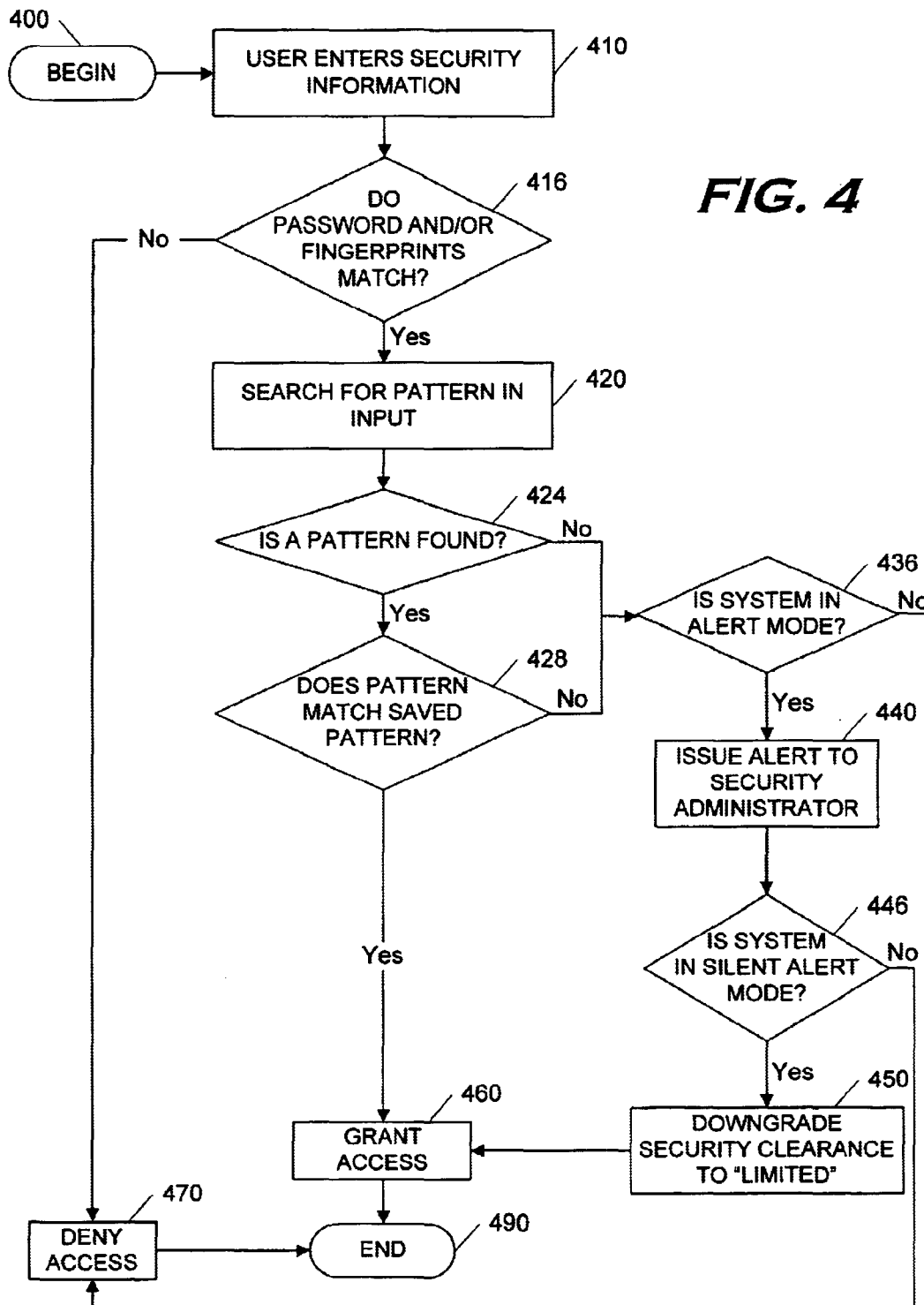


FIG. 4

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