

5 Specifically, computer 100 shown in Figure 1 includes a random access memory (RAM) 106 for temporary storage of information, a read only memory (ROM) 104 for permanent storage of the computer's configuration and basic operating commands and an input/output (I/O) adapter 110 for connecting peripheral or network devices such as a disk unit 113 and printer 114 to the bus 108, via cables 115 or
10 peripheral bus 112, respectively. A user interface adapter 116 is also provided for connecting input devices, such as a keyboard 120, and other known interface devices including mice, speakers and microphones to the bus 108. Visual output is provided by a display adapter 118 which connects the bus 108 to a display device 122, such as a video monitor. A communications adapter 126 is connected between the bus 108
15 and a modem 124, to provide the computer 100 with communications capability. The computer has resident thereon and is controlled and coordinated by operating system software such as the Macintosh OS operating system. By way of example, the computer hardware 100 can be : a Power PC Macintosh, a 680xx Macintosh, a PC running Windows 95 or a PC running Windows NT. As used herein, the term
20 "computer" or "data processing system" is intended to encompass any device with data processing functionality, for example, provided with one or more microprocessors.

When configured in accordance with the invention, the computer 100 has a security engine 127 loaded into its RAM 106. The security engine 127 includes at
25 least an access module 128 and a return module 130, which respectively operate in a vendor's computer 100 to provide an access code which a user enters into their computer 100 to cause the access module 128 on the user's computer to provide access to all the features of a demo program that has been installed on the user's computer 100 and to generate return and confirmation codes in operation of the
30 invention. The security engine 127 on the vendor's computer 100 operates in a somewhat different manner than the security engine 127 on the user's computer 100, but the diagrammatic representation of the two computers is the same, so only a single computer 100 has been shown in the drawings. The two computers 100 communicate through their respective communications capabilities, which may be implemented
35 with modems 124 as shown, with dedicated Internet connections, cable or microwave communications, or other suitable communication medium between computers. The