

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  
10           devices such as a disk unit 113 and printer 114 to the bus 108, via cables 115 or  
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