

CLAIMS

1. A system for accessing, processing and transmitting data files comprising:
a data network (200);
5 a data base system (100) forming means for storing a plurality of data files (102) and
being connected to the network (200);
at least one local processing system (300), a notary server (400), and at least one
recipient system (500), each local processing system, the notary server and each
recipient system forming independent systems connected to the network (200);
10 the notary server (400), forming means for receiving a submitted data file (102) via the
network, and for transferring a submitted data file to a recipient system (500) with
which the submitted data file is associated, by means of software modules for reception
(410), decryption (412), and file export (416), and,
wherein the notary server (400) further comprises software modules for user/sender
15 verification (414), backup memory (418) and a time stamp module (420).
2. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that the notary server (400) further
comprises software modules to enable communication with an arbitrary network-
accessible data base.
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3. A system according to claim 2 characterised in that the notary server) further
comprises software modules that request access to data base information but then to
submit the received records to a different recipient who is connected to the network
(200).
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4. A system according to claim 1, 2 or 3 characterised in that the notary server (400)
further comprises a software module for transmitting a submission receipt back via the
network (200) back to the local processing system (300).
- 30 5. A system according to any of claims 1- 4, characterised in that the notary server (400)
further comprises software modules for assigning some identifier to a submitted data
file (102).

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6. A system according to any of claims 1-5, characterised in that the notary server (400) further comprises software modules comprises billing (422)

5 7. A system according to any of claims 1-6, characterised in that that the data base (100) system forms an independent system connected to the network (200).

8. A system according to claim 7 , characterised in that at least some data files (102) comprise a form (102).

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9. A system according to claim 7 or 8, characterised in that each form is in a substantially arbitrary but predetermined format that may differ from the format of other forms in the data base system (100).

15 10. A system according to claim 8 or 9, characterised in each form (102) includes an identifier that associates it with its proper recipient system (500).