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Software locks to protect computers, office machines and other appliances.

These appliances pose vexing problems of physical security against theft.

On the other hand, microprocessor chips are approaching universal use, notably in personal computers but in a widening of office machines and appliances.

The concept is to design the <u>processor</u> so that it can be "locked" by the entry of a user-designated key and correspondingly "unlocked". With volatile memory devices, the µp. will provide the lock with some form of auxiliary memory, e.g., a burning-in of the key on the chip, or the mechanical setting of a gang of switches related to the key in an analog fashion for instance (The burned-in key is a form of registration allowing stolen property to be traced even if the thief knows the key.) Keys would be reentered in blocks as in the normal purpose of the device.

As more valuable machines become ever more portable their security will be correspondingly harder to manage. The counterat— knowledge that the device is useless if stolen (without the key) should help deter the theft.

Software lock systems with key or magnetic card entry are already in wide use.

That concept is here extended to the microprocessor.

Whether that extension is already patented or is now patentable should be investigated.

Many devices may be left unlocked, remaining in that condition until power is disconnected. Only when the device is moved would the key have to be re-entered. This approach can then be used to protect a wide range of domestic appliances (telephone hand sets, TV, stereo, CB radio) alto ignition as well as office machines. Central control mechanisms of autos could also be protected; but new mechanical security designs would be needed against override by replacement of the control box.

Chip protection may also help in national security — technology - leak control

My suggestion to Ch. Herzfeld. He thought it might be patentable. Did he ever put car, totes?