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(54) **TECHNIQUES FOR AUTHENTICATING EMAIL**

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G06F 13/00 (2006.01)
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A protocol for protected email transmission using micropayments and a segregated inbox in which protected emails are displayed. The protocol also involves authentication of the sender to defeat phishers and an opt out protocol which can be used to block protected emails from sources from which the user no longer wishes to receive emails even if the source has made a micropayment. Branded email is also taught wherein a sender of protected emails can pay extra to have a miniature version of its brand logo or trademark displayed with its email in the segregated inbox. A white list is maintained on the protected email server (along with the opt out black list) so that recipients can designate specific senders who may send email to that recipient without paying a micropayment and still have the protected email displayed in the segregated inbox.

3 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets

EXSIS

EXSIS RECEIVER SW 12
EXSIS SERVER
MESSAGE
EXSIS PATH
EXSIS SENDER SW 4

INTERNET

CONFIDENTIAL PATENT PENDING

1. REQUEST CODE
2. SEND HEADER CODE
3. SEND KEY & LOGO
4. SEND MESSAGE WITH EXSIS HEADER DATA
5. DECODE HEADER & DISPLAY

CENTRALIZED ARCHITECTURE
• LOGO IDENTIFIES SOURCE
• SENDER AUTHENTICATION
• ECONOMIC FILTER
• NO INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES