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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

M. J. ALDRICH

PRESS CUTTINGS

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

88

Extract from
Electronics Times, London

22 SEP 1988

Free shares scheme

A Crawley computer company is offering free shares in the company to its 450 employees. Rocc Computers is allocating a free share with a face value of 10p and a current net worth value of 82p to all staff with a further offer of 30% discount to those with five years' service. The value of a single share has improved from 16p in 1986 and 49p in 1987. Mike Aldrich, company chairman expects to distribute around 100 000 of them with this scheme.

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Extract from
Infomatics Daily Bulletin, London

20 SEP 1988

ROCC Computers is creating 250,000 new shares for a scheme to make all employees shareholders. Each member of staff will receive free shares, currently worth 82p.

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CUTTING BUREAU
Extract from:
MULTI-USER COMPUTING
- London -

Expansion for fledgling company

A management buy out of Redifusion Computers from parent company British Electric Traction has led to the formation of Rocc Computers.

A strengthened financial position has enabled Rocc to follow an expansion strategy which aims to reach a turnover of £50 million.

Rocc Chairman, Mike Aldrich, thinks minicomputers, which the company has been manufacturing for sometime, offer better price performance than mainframes and better utilisation than micros. The expansion plans centre round Rocc's three mini-computer ranges and the Tripos Workstation Management Systems (WMS).

The Unix-based version WMS/X provides a system interface manager for Unix, relational databases and the Rocc C Check II 4GL.

Extract from Crawley Observer
August 3 1988

ROCC high tech

ROCC Computers has installed a 2835 multiuser system with 16 workstations in the Information Technology Unit at Humberside County Council's Beverley headquarters.

Replacing two less powerful systems supplied by the Crawley-based firm, it will use ROCC's WMS software to process 22 different data entry applications for a number of council departments.

Data will also be received from the council's Honeywell mainframe computer for transmission by the 2835 to the bankers Automated Clearing Service computer.

Extract from
Crawley News
August 3 1988

New at Seeboard

THE South Eastern Electricity board (SEEBord) has ordered a ROCC 2835 multiuser computer system with 20 workstations from ROCC Computers for installation at its Worthing Central Accounting Office. The system will be used for a variety of applications including customer records, meter readings, personnel, payroll, appliance sales, invoicing and stock movements.

JUL 1988

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ROCC show continued success in the Scottish computer industry

456

ROCC Computers can trace its line back more than a quarter of a century to the Redifon group, which was part of Rediffusion PLC

The ability to continually provide highly volatile markets with precisely what they want has taken a special kind of business outlook. And a specialised set of skills. From the early 1980's the company began to evolve into new areas of business information processing which incorporated the world's first private Videotex system. The period of rapid growth that followed saw ROCC emerge among Britain's top independent manufacturers of advanced information technology systems.

SKILLS

ROCC concentrates skills and resources into carefully chosen areas where individual and corporate experience allow them to develop products with the power to dominate. ROCC's chosen areas of participation include data capture, videotex, and applications systems for local authorities; and ROCC are now recognised as leaders in each of these market sectors.

As a British-owned and managed operation ROCC believe in designing and manufacturing their entire range of products within the UK. This is for sound business reasons; prices are less subject to fluctuations, there is complete control over quality, and supplies are not interrupted through "overseas" home markets being given priority.

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Extract from
Crawley & District Observer, Sussex

JUL 1988

TOP American football referee Geoff Penn will be taking charge of one of the European championship quarter-finals. Penn, who works for ROCC Computers in Crawley, is the national director for training officials. He will be in action for the match between Milan and Zurich at Brighton's Withdean Stadium on Saturday.

4572

ROCC has progressed into the services sectors, and today this represents about half the sales of the company. In particular its third party maintenance operation has successfully expanded ROCC's list of client companies through offering rapid response by its own nationwide teams of highly qualified engineers.

ROCC have also built one of the most effective back-up services for their products. It is fully computerised, staffed by 200 highly qualified engineers and operates from customer convenient centres.

The steady progress of ROCC is based firmly on the consistent pursuit of unchanging objectives combined with a policy of applying the highest priorities to hardware and software innovation and customer service.

ROCC's Scottish base is in Edinburgh where they have been established for 13 years. The engineering, sales and support organisation covers over 40 installations.

ROCC Computers are based at: Orchard Brae House, 30 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 3HA. Tel: 031-332 1316. Fax: 031-315 2532.

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Extract from
Surveyor, London.

- 1 SEP 1988

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Extract from
Communicate, High Wycombe, Bucks.

- - SEP 1988

Peter Wilde, an Associate Director of Preview Data Systems, has been appointed **Chairman** of the **Videotex Industry Association**, taking over from Michael Aldrich of ROCC Computers.



Signs for walkers

ROCC HI-TECH PACKAGES

A leading British supplier of hi-tech information systems, ROCC Computers Ltd. of Crawley, West Sussex will be demonstrating four of its application packages on a ROCC computer system, namely: transport management; highways maintenance; stores and purchasing; and property maintenance. ROCC's Transport Management System (TMS) assists local authorities in the management and administration of their vehicle fleets in accordance with guidelines laid down in the Audit Commission's report of October 1984 on Improving Vehicle Fleet Management in local government.

The Videotex Industry Association enters a new dynamic phase.

BM

When my predecessor, Michael Aldrich, became Chairman two years ago the VLA was suffering from a lost sense of purpose. Under his stewardship reform was quick and effective. New strategies and policies, many of which he was the author, are already producing substantial rewards, with a clear promise of more to come.

The Association and the Industry owe him a great debt for charting the path and setting the pace towards renewal so admirably. I see my role as one of primarily continuing and extending this process. Council will continue to have Michael's valuable and active involvement, despite his expanding business commitments overseas.

The Council

We are fortunate also to have an elected Council which combines a remarkable blend of experience and vigour. Most of the members are leaders of thriving public corporations and private enterprises in which Videotex plays a prominent, but not exclusive part. Their interests range from host system supply and network services to end-user equipment manufacture and support. Despite demanding corporate responsibilities they give freely of precious time and energy to serve, with commendable impartiality, our Videotex fraternity.

National Show

During the past few years, sponsoring a national Videotex show has been central to the VIA's activities. Building on this experience, Council is supporting a new exhibition and conference, broadened to encompass those elements of the wider telecommunications market with which Videotex is now inexorably becoming merged.

The objectives are to attract an important selection of Videotex service providers as exhibitors, and to target a related visitor population.

With a bigger London venue, a date change from mid-winter to early autumn, and with Videotex still an essential ingredient, Datacom '89 is the highlight of the VIA's medium-term promotions.

Special Interest Groups

During 1987 Council identified weaknesses in established arrangements for promoting and regulating two emerging Videotex technologies. We took corrective initiatives by forming Special Interest Groups, composed mainly of VIA members but with other interested parties participating.

The Data Broadcast SIG started its work in June 1987. It has dramatically increased awareness of the potential impact of commercial teletex and it continues to do so.

The Pocket Guide which the SIG members produced in January last was an instant success and the first 1,000-copy edition was quickly out of stock. It will be reprinted shortly to meet unfulfilled demand.

Meanwhile the SIG provides a regular forum for on-going debate.

The first task of the Standards SIG was to review the Streama and BTIS Videotex on-line printing protocols. The aim was to establish whether either or both could be made suitable for universal application. It became apparent that the SIG should also address urgently a lack of standards for the switching of multiple videotex screens.

This SIG also attracted widespread interest with some 20 regular participants. It has made substantial progress.

A first issue of a Screen Switching specification will be published shortly. New Videotex printing protocols have been defined under SIG auspices. Both are suitable for use with British public and private networks and allow efficient terminal designation. The VIA should soon be able to recommend one of them as a British Standard.

British Telecom is an active and valued participant in the Standards SIG. In addition to contributing to the main work of the Group, it briefs the members on current CEPT Videotex deliberations and carries authoritative views from British Videotex suppliers and users to CEPT meetings.

The SIGS offer a large proportion of the VIA membership opportunities to influence directly,



Peter Wilde, newly-elected VLA Chairman

and in a very practical way, the development of the Industry. Council intends to promote further Special Interest Groups accordingly. Service providers, photovideotex and the elusive home Videotex mass market are possible subjects.

Integrated Systems Digital Network (ISDN)

If pressed, most of us might admit to some uncertainty about the nature of ISDN.

Yet the ISDN concept is a most significant advance and one which is likely to have a fundamental impact on future Videotex operations. And it is close at hand. In the United Kingdom, those of us outside telecommunications development are largely unaware of it. Elsewhere in Europe, the Videotex communities are drawing up invasion plans and defence battle lines.

The VIA is well placed to generate some counter-preparedness by organising seminars in consultation with British Telecom and reflecting to them members aspirations and concerns.

The International Videotex Industry Association (IVIA)

The IVIA has recently been revived and now has members from 21 countries, all but seven European.

It is intent on establishing 'easily-accessible internationally-interconnectable network facilities'

COMPUTER NEWS

ASCIl proprietary terminal shipments in the UK in 1987 by units

Supplier	Units	% Market Share
ICL	40,400	37.2%
Wang	17,400	16.0%
Olivetti	7,020	6.5%
Hewlett-Packard	7,000	6.4%
Honeywell-Bull	6,300	5.8%
Unisys	5,000	4.6%
Zenitel	4,000	3.7%
Data General	4,800	4.4%
IBM	2,150	2.0%
Philips	1,900	1.7%
Dacoll	1,500	1.4%
ROCC Computer	800	0.7%
Texas Instruments	1,760	1.6%
NCR	1,100	1.0%
Ericsson	600	0.6%
Nixdorf	940	0.9%
Ferranti	1,000	0.9%
Mannesmann-Kienzle	600	0.6%
Tandem	1,000	0.9%
Datapoint	1,000	0.9%
MAI	1,170	1.1%
Delta Data	550	0.5%
Siemens	340	0.3%
Perfec	300	0.3%
Others	40	0.0%
Total	930	0.9%
	108,600	100.0%

Source: IDC

Terminals fend off the PC

by TONY COLLINS

Dumb terminals have a bright future, according to market research firm IDC. It says the UK will buy 278,600 units in 1993 — more than any other country in Western Europe.

The IDC report says that 201,000 ASCII "open standard" terminals were sold in the UK in 1987 — 14,000 more than the previous year. And more than 93,000 ANSI terminals which connect to Dec hardware were sold in 1987 compared to 81,300 in 1986.

Both markets will see a fall in sales by 1993 — but only a small one — with 190,000 ASCII terminals, and 88,600 ANSI.

The report's conclusion that the ANSI and ASCII terminals market has a long life expectancy, will come as a surprise to many people who thought that PCs — with their ability to run a wide range of programs — would eventually replace terminals which serve only as a "window" to data held on a mainframe or mini.

But terminals tend to be less costly than PCs which need expensive emulation software to link into mainframes. The average cost of a terminal is £265 compared to about £500 three years ago. The cheapest IBM PS/2 costs £1,300 — and that does not include emulation.

Many firms also favour terminals because end users prefer the uncluttered simplicity of their keyboards. Companies have noticed a drop in productivity when they have tried to train former terminal operators on PCs, said an IDC spokesman. IDC's report says that only West Germany rivals the UK for dumb terminal sales. In 1993 Germany is expected to sell 209,000 ANSI and ASCII products — about 70,000 less than the UK is predicted to sell in the same year. France, at third place, is expected to sell 174,000.

ICL had the largest share of the ASCII dedicated terminal market while peripherals manufacturer Wyse came top of the "general purpose" suppliers. IDC's figures do not include sales of IBM's 3270 and System 3X terminals which are the subject of a separate report.

Signature scanner to be launched in US

By Della Bradshaw

AMERICAN corporations, banks and retail outlets will be the first to use a British development for verifying signatures on cheques and credit card transaction slips.

The technology has been developed by ROCC Pattern Recognition Technology, of Crawley, West Sussex, and will be made and sold worldwide by the US company Cheque Alert. The unit, called DigiScan, will be marketed first in the US, where fraud, counterfeit and security breaches cost consumers nearly \$50bn (£30bn) a year, according to a House of Representatives sub-committee.

Mr Mike Aldrich, Chief Executive of ROCC Pattern Recognition, says the equipment will cost \$400 to \$500 to make.

To "train" the DigiScan system, a signature is written between six and 10 times to allow for variation. The system then stores the signature as a number code. When a cheque or credit card slip is presented, it is passed through the scanner, which compares the signature with the coded number and verifies or rejects it within seconds.

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Extract from
Computergram International, London

28 SEP 1988

ROCC CORP SEEKS SIGNATURE VERIFICATION BREAKTHROUGH IN US
The ROCC Pattern Recognition Ltd subsidiary of ROCC Corp Ltd, Crawley, West Sussex has signed a worldwide marketing agreement for its DigiScan signature verification system with New York-based Cheque Alert Inc. The DigiScan technology works by creating a numerical code from a minimum of six sample signatures which is then either printed alongside the signature box on a cheque or encoded in the magnetic strip on a credit card. A comparison between the written signature and the numerical code by DigiScan indicates whether the signature is acceptable. Tests at Brighton Polytechnic showed the Z80-based system to be 95% accurate for general use, and 99% accurate with forgeries where the forger has not seen the real signature. DigiScan will initially be marketed in the US where, according to a House of Representatives Sub-Committee, fraud, counterfeit and security breach costs \$50,000m per annum. Success depends on co-operation from the US banks and credit card companies and the company is awaiting results from a number of test sites. The technology will be licensed to other equipment manufacturers for use in their own products, such as point-of-sale terminals and cheque processing systems encoders, or it can be acquired as an end product. The system is expected to cost around \$400 to \$500 per unit in mass production, but could be as low as \$200 if it were integrated into existing credit and banking operations.

PRESS CUTTINGS
DIGISCAN EX UK
(MORE IN OCTOBER '88)

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Extract from
Informatics Daily Bulletin, London

28 SEP 1988

ROCC SIGNS WITH NEW YORKER FOR SIGNATURE VERIFICATION SYSTEM

ROCC Pattern Recognition has won a US licensing agreement for its signature verification technology from Cheque Alert, a New York authorisation specialist. ROCC's DigiScan verification system will be marketed worldwide by Cheque Alert. DigiScan was developed by ROCC as a demonstrator system for training and familiarisation, but the new deal will take it into the commercial market. The first units have already been shipped to the US. ROCC plans to license the technology to other manufacturers for use in Epos terminals and cheque processing systems, and said further patents would soon be granted in the US and Japan. ROCC claims DigiScan is 95% accurate in detecting signature forgery. It uses pattern recognition methods, which derive a numerical code from six or more sample signatures. This code is then printed on the user's cheques and credit cards. The verification unit should cost \$400-500 in mass production.

20 SEP 1988

Signatures are key in computer fight against credit card theft

A SUSSEX company has developed a computer system designed to detect signatures forged by cheque and credit card thieves.

The technology, which ROCC Corporation says is 95 per cent foolproof, grew out of work at the National Physical Laboratory. It is about to be taken to the US by an American firm, Cheque Alert, which will sell it to banks, supermarkets and credit card companies.

When someone writes a cheque or signs a credit slip, the item is passed through a machine in which a special camera is used to analyse the signal. It compares the resulting code with the existing digits on the card or cheque. Within three seconds, a message on a small screen indicates that the cheque or credit transaction is accepted or rejected.

To cover normal changes in writing,

By Mary Fagan

According to the US Government, American consumers pay \$50bn every year to cover the costs of fraud, counterfeit and security breaches.

In London, a stolen American Express card can fetch £500 on the street, with each card reckoned to offer up to seven days of fraudulent buying in the

the original code for a customer's signature should be taken from up to 10 samples.

Mike Aldrich, ROCC's chairman and chief executive, says that most existing signature verification techniques rely on special pens or pressure-sensitive pads attached to computer databases containing millions of signatures, where the check must be made as the user is signing. In reality, many shops

UK and Western Europe before it becomes too "hot" to use.

After eight years of work, ROCC has come up with a computer based on a sophisticated piece of mathematics, called an algorithm, which works out a code of about 10 digits which describes a given pattern, in this case a signature. The numbers can be printed alongside the signature space on a cheque or in a strip on a credit or bank card.

and financial organisations rely on the human eye. Independent consultants at Brighton Polytechnic have assessed the ROCC system, which will cost about \$400 to \$500 in the United States. They say the technique "gives a consistent and reliable performance in accepting a high proportion of genuine signatures while rejecting forgeries that would almost certainly go undetected on human inspection".

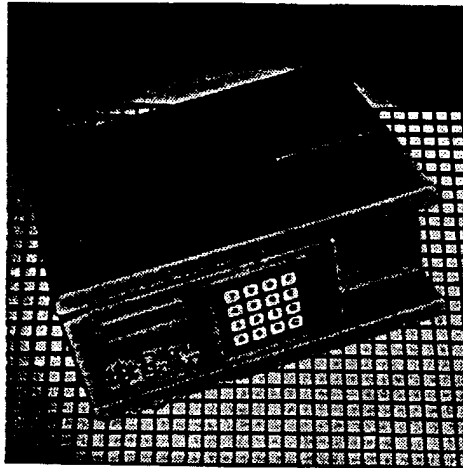
System Verifies Signatures

NEW YORK—Cheque Alert, Inc. has announced it will market a low-cost signature verification system based on what it called a major technological breakthrough in pattern recognition developed by ROCC Pattern Recognition Ltd. of the UK. Pattern recognition is the term for the process which identifies individuals, documents, signatures, etc.

ROCC's signature verification technology, implemented in a system that Cheque Alert will market under the product name DigiScan, is about 95 percent accurate in general use and more than 99 percent accurate when dealing with forgeries attempted by forgers who have not seen the true signature.

Independent tests of DigiScan carried out by internationally recognized institutions indicate that the product's stable and consistent performance establishes new world standards in authentication and identification techniques. Using the unique DigiScan equipment, Cheque Alert officials believe that it will now be possible to completely eliminate the need for signatures on the back of all credit cards, thereby rendering the lost or stolen card useless.

DigiScan technology works by deriving a numerical code from a minimum of six sample signatures. The numerical code is then printed alongside the signature box on a check or encoded in the magnetic stripe on a plastic credit or identification card. A comparison between the written signature and the numerical code indicates whether the



The DigiScan Signature Verification System.

signature is acceptable or not. Making the comparison requires just two seconds.

The basic DigiScan unit is both tamper-proof and self-contained. It does not have to be connected to any other electronic device or network, and its numerical values can't be used to create signatures. Patents are pending.

Cheque Alert will market and/or sublicense the DigiScan technology to equipment manufacturers for use in their own products, such as point-of-sale terminals, check/item processing systems, encoders, etc. The basic, stand-alone verifier will sell for about \$550 per unit once it is in mass production.

For more information, contact Wm. Terry Krueger, President, Cheque Alert, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 4250, New York, N.Y. 10112, (212)397-0717.

American Banker

The Daily Financial Services Newspaper

Wednesday, May 25, 1988

The implications of signature verification systems are vast for bankers, retailers, and other corporations that fear their systems or premises are vulnerable to fraud or unauthorized entry. Although it is still viewed as a long-term proposition, vendors are increasingly going public with products and plans. _____ 5

Cheque Alert Inc., New York, is promoting DigiScan. Unlike a dynamic system, which validates "live" signatures as they are written, DigiScan takes its measurements from signatures already on paper. _____ 6

TECHNOLOGY TODAY

AN AMERICAN BANKER WEEKLY FEATURE

This Week's Quote

The system uses mathematics, not artifacts.

— Michael J. Aldrich, chairman of ROCC Computers Ltd., about the DigiScan static signature verification system.

Enhanced Static System Uses Less Computer Power

By JEFFREY KUTLER

NEW YORK

There is an advanced way to verify signatures other than the highly touted dynamic approach. It is called static signature verification, and it has a champion in Cheque Alert Inc.

The New York-based company began in April to actively promote DigiScan, a system that matches virtually every claim of the dynamic signature verification vendors, at a lower quoted price.

Given slow pace of development in dynamic signature verification, DigiScan is certain to get a fair hearing from bankers and others looking for a reliable identification method that does not inconvenience customers and employees.

Technically speaking, the difference between dynamic and static is a matter of computer power and hardware. Static needs less, hence the price difference.

Unlike a dynamic system, which validates "live" signatures as they are written, DigiScan takes its measurements

from signatures already on paper. There is no need for electronic pens or magnetic writing surfaces.

One of DigiScan's selling points is that a consumer does not have to do anything special to have his or her signature registered in the system. The benchmark readings can be taken off any checks or documents that may already be in a bank's files.

"We set out to offer a low-cost product that has open architecture, meaning it can be integrated with other types of terminals and systems, that is flexible as to location, and in which data storage is easily accomplished," said W. Terry Krueger, president of Cheque Alert.

"The system uses mathematics, not artifacts," said Michael J. Aldrich, chairman of ROCC Computers Ltd., a British firm that designed DigiScan and is serving as Cheque Alert's backer and marketing partner.

DigiScan terminals will cost as little as \$550 each in mass production, its makers claim, which is at least \$50 to



SMALL PACKAGE: With the DigiScan system one shoe-box-size terminal is all that is needed to validate signatures.

\$100 less than the best prices quoted by dynamic-system producers.

Lacking a mass market — generating orders of thousands if not tens of thou

sands of units — all such prices remain theoretical. Cheque Alert and ROCC say their static system has the greater chance of making the signature verification market come to life.

The static system is based on pattern recognition technology that originated at the British government's National Physical Laboratory in London. Ironically, that same laboratory spawned many of the competing dynamic signature innovations.

Dynamic systems require considerable data processing resources to measure how a signature is written — the strokes, angles, liftings of the pen, and the time it takes to write one's name. These characteristics are translated into numerical quantities that can be stored as digits in computer memory, be it in a mainframe computer, mini- or microcomputer, or a chip within a plastic card.

Later, when a bank or store customer conducts a transaction and signs on the dotted line, the signature is measured again — dynamically, or as it is written — and compared against the previously encoded benchmark. If the reading is within a normal range of tolerance, then the system validates the signature and permits the transaction to take place.

In the static DigiScan system, a benchmark signature is calculated from a sample of six signatures. This reference value requires only 21 digit-soft storage space.

Those numbers can fit easily in a

In the static DigiScan system, a benchmark signature is calculated from a sample of six signatures.

credit or debit card's magnetic stripe, which does not have the capacity to hold the data of a dynamic signature. Thus, with DigiScan a cardholder's identity could be verified at any bank or store equipped with a DigiScan terminal, and the terminal does not have to be on-line to a central data base. It only has to read the signature and compare it with what is encoded in the magnetic stripe.

Magnetic stripe cards are more easily counterfeited and compromised than a smart card, which could handle a dynamic signature. But Cheque Alert says the 21-digit code could even be left in the open, printed on a bank card for all to see, because it does a criminal no good to know that number. The forger would have to write a signature that, when run through the shoe-box-sized DigiScan scanner, produces a value close to the 21-digit benchmark. Easier said than done, according to Mr. Krueger and Mr. Aldrich.

"The 21-digit number is not secret and is meaningless to those who know it," Mr. Krueger said.

They anticipated that questions would arise about DigiScan's reliability, precisely because it is not a dynamic system and therefore seems more easily compromised. In scientific evaluations of DigiScan — which Mr. Krueger and Mr. Aldrich are more than happy to hand out — the system has properly rejected 97% of invalid signatures and accepted more than 90% of authentic signatures.

The performance is in line with that of dynamic signature verification systems.

"Now banks have a practical, sensible, affordable, and reliable way out of the fraud problem," said Mr. Aldrich, a 26-year computer industry veteran who is a former member of a technology advisory board to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

ROCC's pattern recognition system, which has patents pending in the United States and Europe, will also be applied to preventing the counterfeiting of documents, Mr. Aldrich added. The system can create its code based on the structure of a piece of paper, which could then be verified for authenticity in a DigiScan reader.

Mr. Aldrich contended that this approach would be simpler and less expensive than the Light Signature, a technology being introduced in the U.S. securities industry by Telecredit Inc., Los Angeles. The Light Signature is built around a document's array of fibers, while the ROCC approach would rely on the more visible watermark. ■

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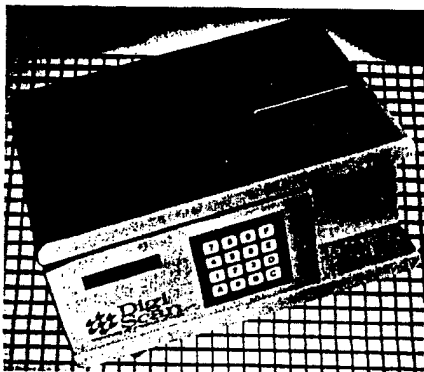
M. 45,972

JUL 1988

Signature verification system

Cheque Alert Inc. is marketing Digiscan, a signature verification system capable of differentiating between true and false signatures. Digiscan was developed by ROCC Pattern Recognition Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

Digiscan technology works by deriving a numerical code from a minimum of six sample signatures. The numerical code is then printed alongside the signature space on a check or encoded in the magnetic stripe on a plastic credit or



identification card. A comparison between the written signature and the numerical code indicates whether the signature is acceptable or not. The comparison takes two seconds.

The basic Digiscan unit is both tamperproof and self-contained. It does not have to be connected to any other electronic device or network, and its numerical values can't be used to create signatures.

Cheque Alert claims that Digiscan is about 95% accurate in general use and more than 99% accurate when dealing with forgeries attempted by frauds who have not seen the true signature.

Digiscan is priced at \$550 per unit. For more information, write: Cheque Alert, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 4250, New York, NY 10112, or Circle 165 on Reader Service Card



BANK ADMINISTRATION
ROLLING MEADOWS, IL

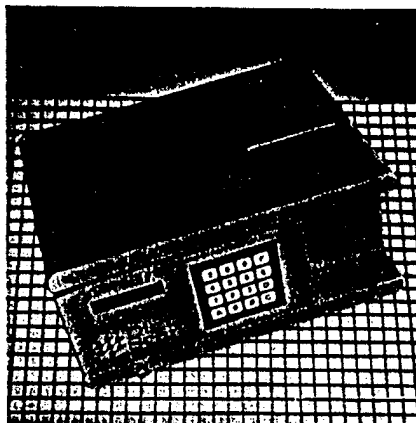
M. 42,950

JUL 1988

Signature Verification

Cheque Alert, Inc. now markets a signature verification system based on pattern recognition technology developed by ROCC Pattern Recognition Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

ROCC engineers have produced a self-contained system that consistently and accurately differentiates between true and false signatures, officials for New York-based Cheque Alert say. The UK company's signature verification technology is being used in a system that Cheque Alert markets under the name DigiScan.



DigiScan technology works by deriving a numerical code from a minimum of six sample signatures. The numerical code is then printed next to the signature box on a check or encoded in the magnetic stripe on a plastic card or identification card. A comparison between the written signature and the numerical code indicates whether the signature is acceptable or not.

Making the comparison takes only two seconds, Cheque Alert says.

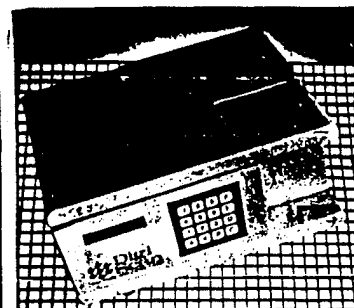
The DigiScan unit is said to be tamperproof. It does not have to be connected to any other electronic device or network, and its numerical values cannot be used to reproduce signatures.

Write 140 on Reader Service Card

DISCOUNT STORE NEWS
NEW YORK, N.Y.

B.W. 27,880

JUL 18 1988



Write Solution

Cheque Alert has begun marketing DigiScan, a low-cost signature verification system for checks, credit cards and documents. Based on a technological breakthrough in pattern recognition, the DigiScan system devises a numerical code for a signature based on six samples, and then prints the code on a check or encodes it in a magnetic stripe on credit or identification cards. The self-contained, tamper-proof, stand alone DigiScan unit determines whether a written signature is valid in two seconds by comparing it to the numerical coded signature. Information: Cheque Alert, (212) 397-0717.