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Title: **Employment of Virus Detection Procedures at Domain Boundaries.**

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Text: The invention here disclosed consists of programs which examine executable objects for computer viruses or other malicious software when the objects cross any of a set of domain boundaries. This reduces the amount of resource spent in examining objects (compared, for instance, to periodically examining all objects in the system), while providing protection against malicious software spreading to new domains.

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Boundary-crossings include, but are not limited to:

- . The transfer of an executable object from one computer to another over a telecommunication link.
- . The copying of an executable object onto removeable storage media such as tape units, diskettes, writeable optical disks, and so forth.
- . The transmission of an executable object via a local- or wide-area network.
- . The transfer, by whatever means, of an executable object from a system owned by one administrative group to a system owned by another.
- . The "downloading" of an executable object to a workstation or other system from a file-server, "host" computer, or other information service.
- . The "uploading" of an executable object from a workstation or other system to any information service.
- . The copying or moving of an object from the set of objects accessible to one user in a multi-user system to the set of objects accessible by another.
- . The copying or moving of an object from one compartment to another in a compartmented system.
- . Very generally, any creation of a "new" executable object (whether or not it is exactly copied from an existing one), or any renaming or moving of an executable object from one name or space to another.

Depending on the costs involved, and the nature of the anticipated attacks, examination at boundary-crossing time may be used in addition to periodic examination of all objects, or may replace all or part of such examination.

Some examples of implementations of this invention include:

- . A copy program that scans for byte-strings belonging to known viruses every time a program is copied to or from removeable media, and refuses to copy any program that contains such strings.

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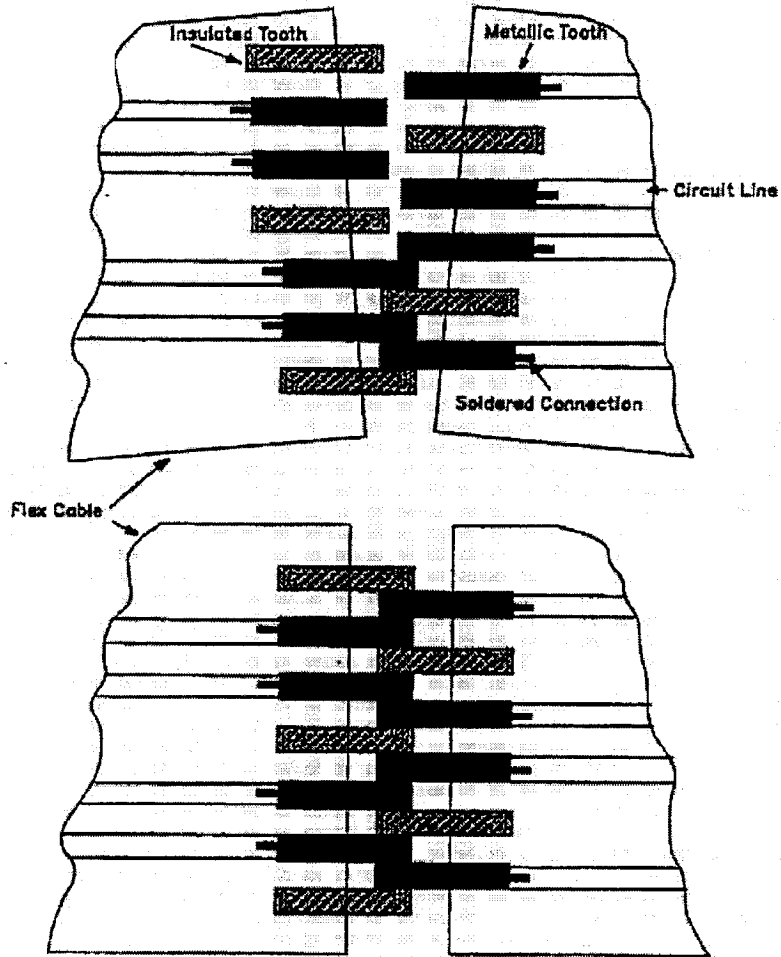
<https://www.delphion.com/tdbs/tdb?order=91A+63118>

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- . A "download" program for a personal computer that performs such a scan every time a program is received over a dial-up communication line, and warns the user if the scan is positive.
- . A "filter" in a store-and-forward network that inspects all files that pass through a given node and holds for human inspection any file that satisfies certain criteria.

Diagrams:



Zipper Connector (Top: Open Bottom: Closed)

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