

FIG. 3 illustrates the process undertaken in one embodiment of the present invention. The process is repetitive and hence does not include an origination or termination step. The process first waits for an input/interface from a user (step 301). When an input is received, a determination is made of which physical location on the framework was pushed (step 302). The location is given a label 'X.' The process then goes to the lookup table to convert the location 'X' to a numerical/digit 'Y' (step 303). This step corresponds to the digit recognition/decoding step of the keypad decode mechanism described above in FIG. 2. The process then determines if the correct number of digits have been entered/punched in by the user (step 304). If the code has 4 digits, for example, the keypad unit will wait until it has received all four digits before proceeding to evaluate the code. If less digits have been received, then the process returns for additional input/interface from the user. Once the correct number of digits have been received, the process sends the translated digits to the receiving program (step 305) called the security code check mechanism in this illustrative embodiment. If the correct code has been entered (step 306), then the system provides access to the user (step 307). The process then creates a new random table, mapping physical 'X' to logical 'Y' (step 308). The numeric keypad is redrawn so that physical representation reflects the physical 'X' mapping (step 309).

The description of the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, but is not intended to be exhaustive or limit the invention in the form disclosed. For example, although the repositioning may occur after each utilization, it is understood that the repositioning may occur after, for example, every ten utilizations of the keypad. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and the practical application to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of ensuring security of a system accessed utilizing a keypad wherein access is provided to said system via a security code entered on said keypad, said method comprising the steps of:

entering a security code on the keypad utilizing a first character configuration of the keypad; and repositioning a location of one or more access characters on said keypad after said entering step to present a second character configuration of the keypad.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said repositioning is completed in a generally random manner.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said repositioning step is completed utilizing software algorithm which encodes new location of characters and which decodes said new location to analyze user selected access code.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising further the step of displaying said character configurations utilizing liquid crystal display characters.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising further the step of displaying said character configurations utilizing cathode ray tube (CRT).

6. The method of claim 1, comprising further the step of displaying said character configuration utilizing light emitting diode characters.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said repositioning step is repeated a very large number of times and the repositioning algorithm is adapted to place different characters evenly among different locations.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

said entering step is a later entering step that occurs after an earlier step of entering, one or more times, a security code utilizing the first character configuration of the keypad; and

said repositioning step occurs immediately after said later entering step.

9. A system for ensuring security of a system accessed utilizing a keypad wherein access is provided to said system via a security code entered on said keypad, said system comprising:

means for entering a security code on the keypad utilizing a first character configuration of the keypad; and

means for repositioning a location of one or more access characters on said keypad after said entering means to present a second character configuration of the keypad.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said repositioning is completed in a generally random manner.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein said repositioning means is completed utilizing software algorithm which encodes new location of characters and which decodes said new location to analyze user selected access code.

12. The system of claim 9, comprising further means for displaying said character configurations utilizing liquid crystal display characters.

13. The system of claim 9, comprising further means for displaying said character configurations utilizing cathode ray tube (CRT).

14. The system of claim 9, comprising further means for displaying said character configuration utilizing light emitting diode characters.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein said repositioning means is repeated a very large number of times and the repositioning algorithm is adapted to place different characters evenly among different locations.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein:

said entering means is a later entering means that occurs after an earlier means of entering, one or more times, a security code utilizing the first character configuration of the keypad; and

said repositioning means occurs immediately after said later entering step.

17. A computer program product for ensuring security of a system accessed utilizing a keypad wherein access is provided to said system via a security code entered on said keypad, said product comprising program instructions in a computer readable medium for:

entering a security code on the keypad utilizing a first character configuration of the keypad; and

repositioning a location of one or more access characters on said keypad after said entering step to present a second character configuration of the keypad.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said program instructions includes program instruction wherein said repositioning is completed in a generally random manner.