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2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein there are at least two of the predetermined distances, the second-level detector comprising:

a third-level detector adapted to further test the potentially counterfeit documents identified by the second-level detector to search for a third token, spaced at a different predetermined distance from the initial token, than the distance between the initial token and the second token, such that detection of the third token can verify which of the potentially counterfeit documents are counterfeit copies.

3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the predetermined distances increase by integral multiples of a predetermined amount.

4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, the second-level detector comprising:

a third-level detector adapted to use orientation information, derived from the initial and second token locations, to compare a portion of the secure document to a corresponding portion of the potentially counterfeit document to further test the potentially counterfeit documents identified by the second-level detector, such that detection of a match between the portion of the secure document and the potentially counterfeit document can verify which of the potentially counterfeit documents are counterfeit copies.

5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first-level detector comprises:

a color detector adapted to detect look-up in a color look-up table of pixels having a color corresponding to the characteristic color, the pixels being part of a captured image to be printed.

6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the look-up table converts from a first color space value of the captured image to a second color space value of the page to be printed.

7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the alarm signals detection of the counterfeit documents by denying printing.

8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the alarm signals detection of the counterfeit documents by degrading printing.

9. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, comprising a printer to print a page to be printed.

10. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, comprising a capture device to capture an image of the document to be printed.

11. A method for deterring counterfeiting of documents, the method comprising the steps of:

first-level detection to detect an initial token having a characteristic color and to thereby quickly eliminate from suspicion a majority of types of the documents without the initial token as legitimate while identifying a minority of types of the documents with the initial token as potentially counterfeit documents;

second-level detection to further test the potentially counterfeit documents identified by the first-level detection

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to search for a second token spaced at one of a set of one or more predetermine distances from the initial token, such that detection of the second token can verify which of the potentially counterfeit documents are counterfeit copies; and

signaling detection of the counterfeit documents by the second-level detector.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein there are at least two of the predetermined distances, the second-level detection comprising the step of:

third-level detection to further test the potentially counterfeit documents identified by the second-level detection to search for a third token spaced at a different predetermined distance from the initial token than the distance between the initial token and the second token, such that detection of the third token can verify which of the potentially counterfeit documents are counterfeit copies.

13. The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the predetermined distances increase by integral multiples of a predetermined amount.

14. The method as set forth in claim 11, the second-level detection comprising the step of:

third-level detection using orientation information, derived from the initial and second token locations, to compare a portion of the secure document to a corresponding portion of the potentially counterfeit document to further test the potentially counterfeit documents identified by the second-level detection, such that detection of a match between the portion of the secure document and the potentially counterfeit document can verify which of the potentially counterfeit documents are counterfeit copies.

15. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the first-level detection comprises the step of:

color detection to detect look-up in a color look-up table of pixels having a color corresponding to the characteristic color, the pixels being part of a captured image to be printed.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the look-up table converts from a first color space value of the captured image to a second color space value of the page to be printed.

17. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the detection of the counterfeit documents is signaled by denying printing.

18. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the detection of the counterfeit documents is signaled by degrading printing.

19. The method as set forth in claim 11, comprising the step of printing a page to be printed.

20. The method as set forth in claim 11, comprising the step of capturing an image of the document to be printed.

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