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(54) **An apparatus for controlling access to and monitoring of a storage area**

(57) An apparatus to provide selective access to a number of areas and monitor objects stored therein The apparatus includes a remote data capture means (DM) to capture personal data about a person who wishes to access an area. Also included are means to store (Check 2), compare and process data on whether the person can be permitted to access the area and if so enable said access. Data capture means include finger print, iris recognition or swipe cards. The length of time during which a person has access is monitored (K) and time limits for the access are preset, such that if the limit is exceeded the access is withdrawn or an alarm sounded (AL1). A back up power supply (BB1) ensures the apparatus functions in the event of a failure of the normal supply means (PS1) to monitor the presence or otherwise of stored objects are also included such as optical devices or mass measurement devices (40).

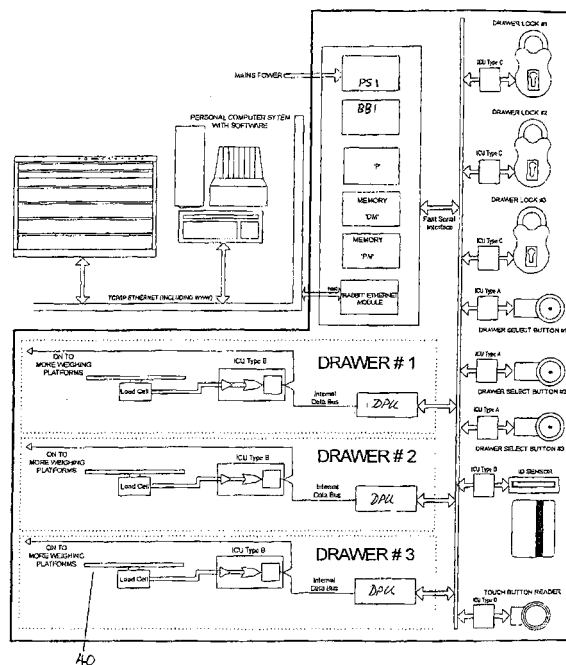


FIGURE 4



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 9 June 2004	Examiner Pañeda Fernández, J	
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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