Title: REGULATING ACCESS TO SHARED CONTENT USING VISIBILITY TOKENS

Abstract: Access control systems and methods regulate access to shared content items in a corpus using visibility tokens. A user provides other users with access to a content item by associating a content token with the content item and associating a matching user token with each user who is to be granted access. A user who attempts to access the content item succeeds only if that user has a user token matching the content token associated with the content item. User tokens can be propagated automatically from one user to another, e.g., based on trust relationships among the users. Content tokens can be indexed with content tokens so that when a user searches the corpus, a search engine can detect matches between user tokens and content tokens and filter the search results based on whether they are visible to the querying user.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(8): G06F 15/173 (2007.01)
   USPC: 709/225
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
   USPC: 709/225

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
   USPC: 709/213, 217, 229

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Electronic database: USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, JPAB)
Search Terms Used: (match or correspond or associate) near5 (policy or rule or protocol) near5 (token or identification)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2002/0069261 A1 (Beliare et al.) 06 June 2002 (06.06.2002), (abstract, para [0007]-[0010],[0017]-[0019])</td>
<td>1-14, 18-24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:
  "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 07 July 2007 (07.07.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 24 MAR 2008

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)