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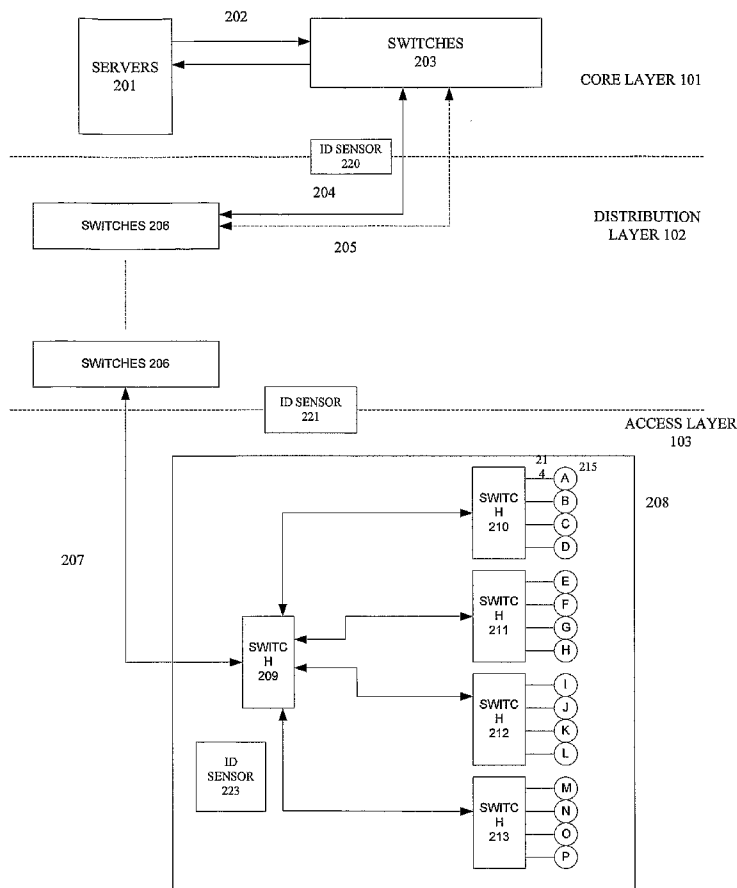
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: GAMING NETWORK AND PERIPHERALS AND DEVICE IDENTIFICATION



(57) Abstract: The gaming network described herein includes network security features, host security features, audit protocols, and design architecture approaches to reduce the possibility of network attacks. The gaming network provides for traffic confidentiality, encryption, message authentication, secure authentication mechanisms, anti-replay protection of traffic, key management mechanisms, robust network availability, misrouting and redirection protection and prevention, rejection of external traffic, and a high entry-barrier to device addition to the network. The system provides the capability of identifying the presence and location of network devices. During start-up, a device sends its MAC address out on the network. A local switch collects MAC and IP addresses for the devices connected to it. Periodically, the switch transmits raw Ethernet frames, USB packets, or TCP packets containing tables of devices and associated MAC/IP addresses.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/32073

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - (2006.01) -H04L 900

USPC - 713/162

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)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MicroPatent

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,832,322 B1 (BODEN et al) 14 December 2004 (14.12.2004) see whole document	1-23
A	US 6,055,236 A (NESSETT et al) 25 April 2000 (25.04.2000) see whole document	1-23
A	US 6,631,416 B2 (BENDINELLI et al) 07 October 2003 (07.10.2003) see whole document	1-23
A	US 6,772,348 B1 (YE) 03 August 2004 (3.08.2004) see whole document	1-23
A	WO 02/095543 A2 (NEUMAN et al) 28 November 2002 (28.11.2002) see whole document	1-23

 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

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 April 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 JUL 2007

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/32073

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

- 1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

- 2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

- 3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See Extra Sheet (page 10)

- 1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
- 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
- 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
- 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims: it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-23

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/32073

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-23, drawn to a method of identifying a device(s) on a network.

Group II, claims 24-33, drawn to a method for initializing communication between a network device and a host located on a gaming network.

Group III, claims 34-43, drawn a gaming network.

Group IV, claims 44-50, drawn to a method of initializing a gaming network.

Group V, claim 51, drawn to a gaming network.

Group VI, claims 52-53, drawn to a method for authenticating communication from a device on a gaming network.

Group VII, claims 54-68, drawn to a method for communication between a peripheral device and a processing device (server) in a gaming machine (network).

The inventions listed as Groups I through VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of the Group I invention is creating at a switch in the network a table of identifying information transmitted by the device(s) as claimed therein; the special technical feature of the Group II invention is using a negotiated first security association to generate a second security association to protect message traffic as claimed therein; the special technical feature of the Group III invention is an instruction detector coupled to the network to detect attempts to attack the gaming network as claimed therein; the special technical feature of the Group IV invention is disabling a network device when its monitored IP/MAC/DID association is changed as claimed therein; the special technical feature of the Group V invention is an independent software for auditing all events on the gaming network as claimed therein; the special technical feature of the Group VI invention is authenticating at a host server the communication when a QOS request from a device matches a permitted QOS request as claimed therein; and the special technical feature of the Group VII invention is generating a message at the processing device (server) and transmitting it to the peripheral device using an IP address assigned to the peripheral device as claimed therein.

Since none of the special technical features of the Group I through VII inventions is found in more than one of the inventions, unity of invention is lacking.