

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 February 2006 (23.02.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/020329 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06K 9/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/025795
- (22) International Filing Date: 20 July 2005 (20.07.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/910,006 2 August 2004 (02.08.2004) US
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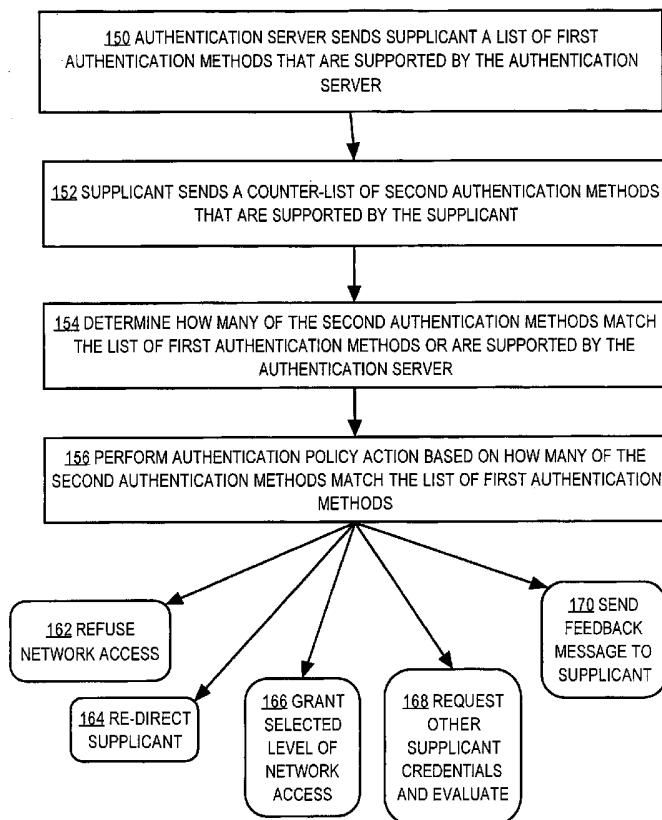
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING AUTHENTICATION CAPABILITIES



(57) Abstract: A method is disclosed for determining the authentication capabilities of a supplicant before initiating an authentication conversation with a client (104), for example, using Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP). In one aspect, the method provides for sending (130), to a supplicant (104) that is requesting access to a computer network (110) subject to authentication of a user (102) of the supplicant (104), a list of first authentication methods (112) that are supported by an authentication server (150); receiving (152), from the supplicant (104), a counter-list of second authentication methods (112) that are supported by the supplicant (104); determining how many second authentication methods in the counter-list match the first authentication methods (154); and performing an authentication policy action based on how many of the second authentication methods match the first authentication methods (156). Policy actions can include blocking access, re-directing to sources of acceptable authentication methods, granting one of several levels of network access, etc (162-170).

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RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
9 November 2006

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/25795

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **G06K 9/00(2006.01)**

USPC: 726/7,1

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)
U.S. : 726/7,1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Hotbot(npl):eap supplicant negotiate "exchange authentication" methods list

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0093522 A1 (BRUESTLE et al) 13 May 2004 (13.05.2004), entire document	1-18
A	US 2004/0010713 A1 (VOLLBRECHT et al) 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004), entire document	1-18
A	US 2003/0084287 A1 (WANG et al) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003), entire document	1-18

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"G"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 June 2006 (22.06.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 AUG 2006

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