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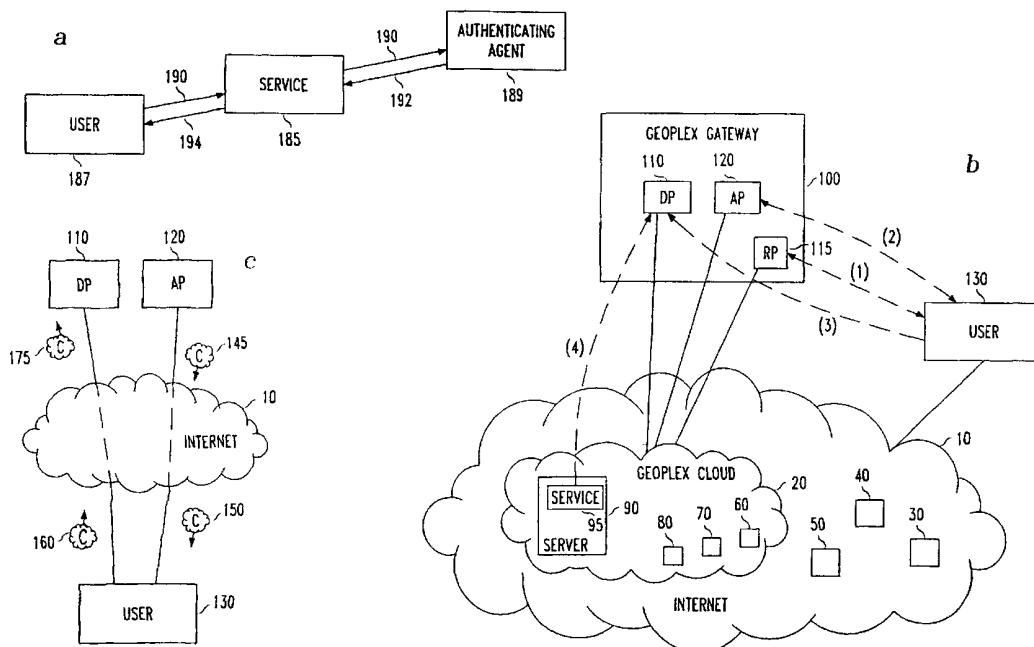
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: WEB-BASED SINGLE-SIGN-ON AUTHENTICATION MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus are disclosed for a single sign-on method and system for accessing a plurality of services distributed over a network in which authentication-related functionality is separated from the services, and in which authentication need not be renegotiated for access to a new service from the plurality of services during a session. Additional benefits accruing from embodiments of the invention include notification of the plurality of services when a user has terminated a session, and the use of secure, short-lived authentication tokens to verify a user's identity for subsequent access to the plurality of services. The steps in a method embodiment comprise receiving a request from a user for authorization to access a service; transmitting a token corresponding to the service to the user; receiving the token corresponding to the service from the user; determining whether the user is authorized to receive the service based on the token; and connecting the user to the service, if the user is authorized to use the service.



WO 01/72009 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L G06F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 684 950 A (EK ERIC B ET AL) 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) claims 1,2	1-48
A	US 6 000 033 A (KELLEY EDWARD E ET AL) 7 December 1999 (1999-12-07) claim 1	1-48



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5684950	A	04-11-1997	NONE	

US 6000033	A	07-12-1999	NONE	
