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(54) Title: IMPROVED BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION AND IDENTIFICATION

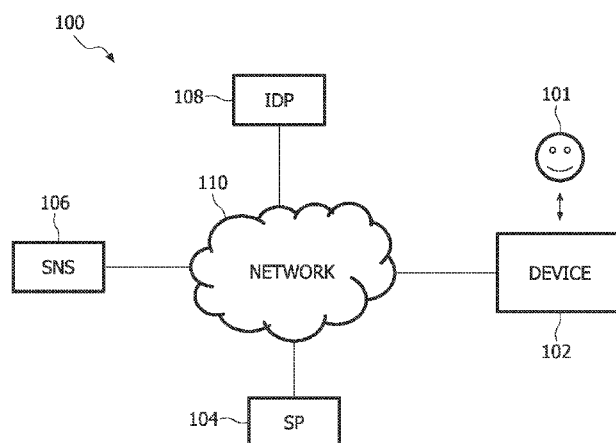


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** Authentication of a user to an electronic device in a communication network is described. The method comprises obtaining a biometric characteristic of the user, transmitting, to a social networking service, information that specifies at least one primary user of the device, receiving, from the social networking service, information that specifies a group of persons who have a social relationship with the at least one primary user, obtaining information that specifies a result from a biometric matching operation with the biometric characteristic of the user and biometric characteristics of persons in the specified group of persons, the result indicating whether or not the user is authenticated to the electronic device. By narrowing down the size of the searching space needed during a matching operation by utilizing information regarding a group of persons in a social network, the false acceptance rate is reduced and biometric authentication of a user to an electronic device is thereby facilitated, e.g. to access desired functionality of the device or access a desired service.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04L29/06

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)
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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2005/180618 A1 (BLACK GERALD R [US]) 18 August 2005 (2005-08-18) paragraphs [0001] - [0030], [0057] - [0060], [0142] - [0151] -----	1-17
A	US 2008/148375 A1 (YAMAMOTO YASUHIRO [JP] ET AL) 19 June 2008 (2008-06-19) paragraph [0003] -----	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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