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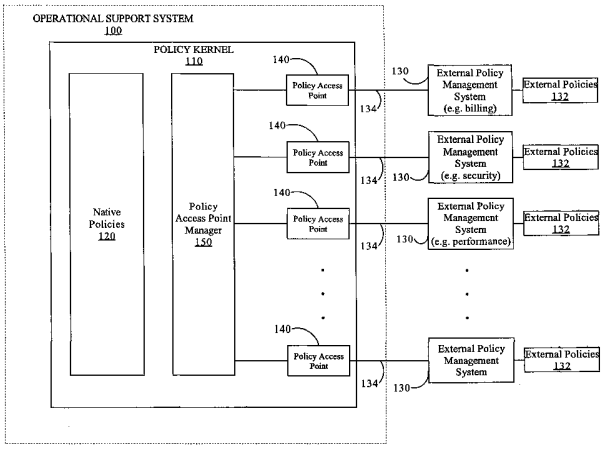
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(54) Title: POLICY-ENABLED CONTRACT-BASED MANAGEMENT OF NETWORK OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is disclosed for policy-enabled, contract-based management of network operational support systems. A policy kernel (110) utilizes multiple policy access points (140) for interfacing to dedicated policy management systems (130). The policy kernel (110) uses policy views (210), containing a set of required policies (260), to request the policy view from the policy management system (130). The policy view (210) initiates a contract (250) for regulating the selection and import of executable policies (235) to the policy kernel (110). The contract (250) applies running components to the executable policies (235) to enable them to run on the policy kernel (110) and resolves any potential conflicts by applying a set of policy dependency rules (258) to any executable policies (235) that are in variance with one another. The executable policies (235) are imported into the policy kernel (110) through the policy access point (140). The policy kernel (110) may then implement the requested policy view (210) by executing the executable policies (235) thus imported.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04L12/24

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)
IPC 7 H04L

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 026 867 A (NORTEL NETWORKS CORP) 9 August 2000 (2000-08-09) abstract page 5, line 3, paragraph 47 - line 57, paragraph 56 page 8, line 6, paragraph 78 -page 11, line 40, paragraph 108 ---	1-26
A	US 5 838 918 A (PRAGER NEAL R ET AL) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) abstract column 2, line 15 -column 3, line 9 column 4, line 59 -column 5, line 35 column 6, line 30 -column 8, line 41 --- -/--	1-26

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inl nal Application No
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