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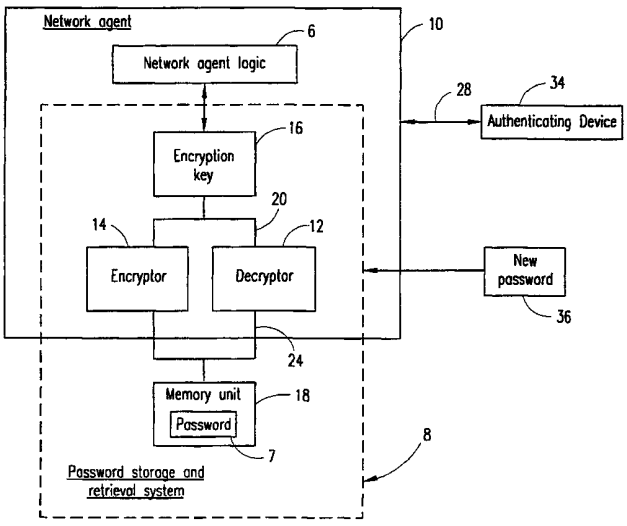
(54) Title: NETWORK AGENT PASSWORD STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SCHEME



(57) Abstract: A password storage and retrieval system (8) for secure authentication and management of network agents (10). The password storage and retrieval system (8) includes a memory unit (18) and, in a network agent (10), a decryptor (12), an encryptor (14), and an encryption key (16). The decryptor (12) uses a symmetrical algorithm and an encryption key (16) to decrypt an encrypted password related to the network agent (10) to thereby obtain a decrypted password. The same symmetrical algorithm was previously used to encrypt the password with the key and store the encrypted password. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the encryption key (16) is hard-coded in the network agent (10), and the memory unit (18) for the encrypted password is a designated directory easily accessible to the network agent (10). An obvious advantage of this invention is that in order to break through the system, a person would need to obtain at least two pieces of information; that is, the encryption key (16) and the encrypted password.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F1/00 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)
IPC 7 G06F 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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	W FORD ET AL: "Server-assisted generation of a strong secret from a password. In: Enabling technologies: Infrastructure for collaborative enterprises, 2000 (WET ICE 2000)" PROCEEDINGS. IEEE 9TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS , 14 - 16 June 2000, pages 176-180, XP002902252 the whole document ---	1-27
A	WO 98 45768 A (NORTHERN TELECOM LTD) 15 October 1998 (1998-10-15) the whole document ---	1-27
A	WO 99 13393 A (SECURITY DYNAMICS TECHN) 18 March 1999 (1999-03-18) the whole document ---	1-27
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[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
17 January 2002	28. 02. 2002

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	WO 01 18635 A (SECURE COMPUTING CORP) 15 March 2001 (2001-03-15) the whole document -----	1-27

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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