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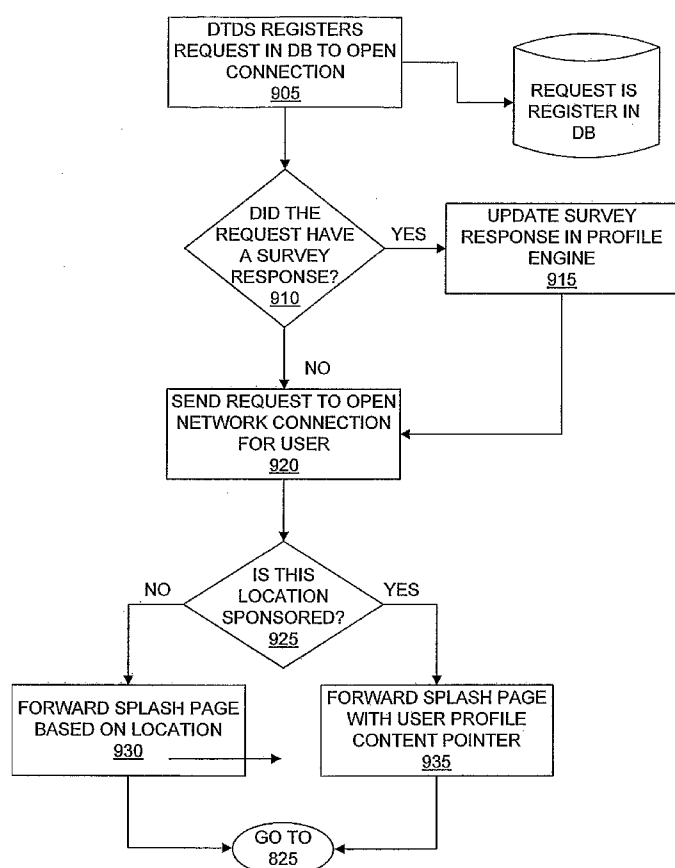
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF NETWORK OPERATION AND INFORMATION PROCESSING, INCLUDING ENGAGING USERS OF A PUBLIC-ACCESS NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are disclosed for network operation and information processing involving engaging users of a network. In one exemplary embodiment, there is provided a method of engaging users of a public-access network. Moreover, the method includes associating a processing component with the public-access network; transmitting a request for authorization to use the public-access network, including transmission of a specific identifier associated with the user; transmitting first data including data determined by processing software as a function of the specific identifier; and opening up a connection to the network for the user. In one or more further embodiments, the specific identifier may include or be a function of a processing component ID or the MAC address of a device associated with the user. Other exemplary embodiments may include building profiles of users who access the network based on information collected.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/10927

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **H04K 1/00**(2006.01);**G06F 17/60,15/173**(2006.01)

USPC: 380/258;705/64,14;709/238,217

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. : 380/258; 705/64, 14; 709/238, 217

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 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.
Y	US 2003/0233332 A1 (Keeler et al) 18 December 2003 (18.12.2003), page 3, paragraphs 43, 45; page 4, paragraphs 48, 53, 54; page 6, paragraphs 70, 71, 73-74; page 7, paragraph 78, 85; page 11, paragraphs 116--118, 120-122; page 12, paragraphs 123-125, 132-133; page 13, paragraphs 134, 136-137, 139; page 15, paragraph 168; page 16, paragraphs 174-175.	1-5, 7-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26-28, 30-34, 36-38, 40-44, 46-48, 50-55, 57-58, 60-64, 66-68, 70-74, 76-78, 80-84, 86-88, 90-94, 96-98 and 100

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/10927

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 101-110
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest**
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US06/10927

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/0165241 A1 (Fransdonk) 04 September 2003 (04.09.2003), page 2, paragraph 22.	1-5, 7-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26-28, 30-34, 36-38, 40-44, 46-48, 50-55, 57-58, 60-64, 66-68, 70-74, 76-78, 80-84, 86-88, 90-94, 96-98 and 100
Y	US 6,308,202 B1 (Cohn et al) 23 October 2001 (23.10.2001), column 6, lines 48-56.	6, 15, 25, 35, 45, 56, 65, 75, 85 and 95
Y	US 2003/0036949 A1 (Kaddeche et al) 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003), page 3, paragraph 31.	9, 19, 29, 39, 49, 59, 69, 79, 89 and 99
A	US 7,200,673 B1(Augart) 03 April 2007 (03.04.2007), column 6, lines 25-38, 54-58; column 6, line 66-column 7, line 15	1-100