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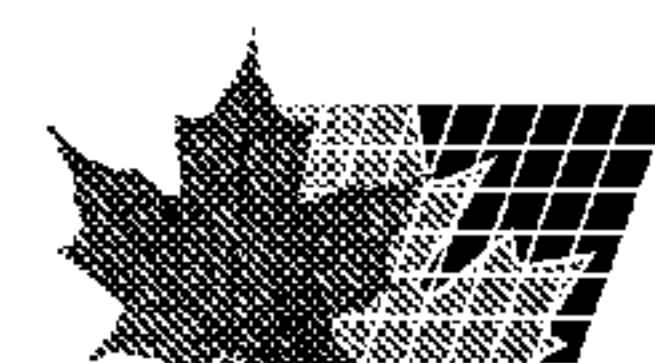
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(54) Titre : PROCEDE ET SYSTEME D'AUTHENTIFICATION D'IDENTITE D'UTILISATEUR D'INTERNET
(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATING INTERNET USER IDENTITY

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A method and system for authenticating an internet user identity by cross-referencing and comparing at least two independent sources of information. A first IP address of an internet user is identified and the geographical location of the first IP address is traced to determine a first location. The geographical location of a communication voice device of said internet user is identified to determine a second location. The first and second locations are compared for geographical proximity to confirm the identity of the internet user. Based upon geographical proximity of said locations, a score is assigned to the internet user, and access to a website is allowed or limited based upon the score. Alternatively, additional authentication information can be required or access can be terminated.



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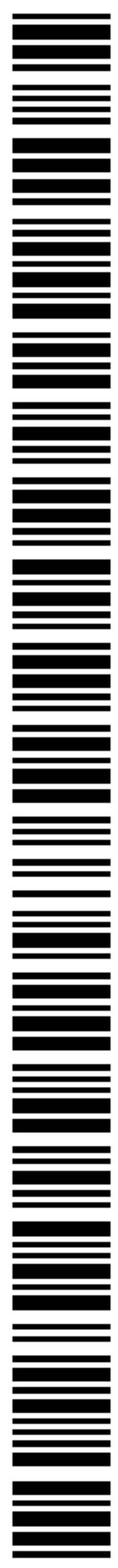
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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATING INTERNET USER IDENTITY

(57) **Abstract:** A method and system for authenticating an internet user identity by cross-referencing and comparing at least two independent sources of information. A first IP address of an internet user is identified and the geographical location of the first IP address is traced to determine a first location. The geographical location of a communication voice device of said internet user is identified to determine a second location. The first and second locations are compared for geographical proximity to confirm the identity of the internet user. Based upon geographical proximity of said locations, a score is assigned to the internet user, and access to a website is allowed or limited based upon the score. Alternatively, additional authentication information can be required or access can be terminated.



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TITLE: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATING INTERNET
USER IDENTITY

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5

PATENT APPLICATION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of provisional
10 application no. 60/711,346 filed on August 25, 2005.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method and system for
authenticating internet user identity, and more
particularly, to a method and system for authenticating
15 internet user identity by cross-referencing the
geographical location of a internet user's Communication
voice device, such as a mobile voice device, a Voice over
Internet Protocol (hereinafter VoIP) telephone or non-
mobile telephone, and the location of a client Internet
20 Protocol (hereinafter IP address).

The use of the internet has become a common a popular
arena for the sale of goods and services. Such sales
require the transmission of personal and confidential data
belonging to the buyer of such goods and services. Such
25 information is often the target of identity theft. In
response to the increase in the opportunity for the

commission of fraud through identity theft, sellers and providers of goods and services through the internet require a method whereby such fraud can be reduced.

With respect to internet usage, upon accessing the
5 internet, an internet user's computer is identified with an IP address, it should be understood that IP Address means any internet communication protocol such as but not limited to IPV4 and IPV6. And whenever the internet user enters a website, the internet user's IP address is identified to
10 the website owner. Such identified IP addresses can be traceable geographically to its source so as to determine the location (state and city) of the internet user, in some cases the IP address can be traced to a radius of a few miles from its source. The comparison of the geographical
15 location of the internet user IP address, with the geographical location of said internet user Communication voice device can provide the seller or provider a means to authenticate the identify of the internet user.

United States Pat. App. Pub. No. 2001/0034718 A1 to
20 Shaked et al. discloses a method of controlling access to a service over a network, including the steps of automatically identifying a service user and acquiring user information, thereby to control access. Additionally, a method of providing service over a network, in which the
25 service requires identification of a user, including the steps of automatically identifying the user and associating

the user with user information, thus enabling the service,
is disclosed.

United States Pat. No. 6,466,779 to Moles et al.
discloses a security apparatus for use in a wireless
5 network including base stations communicating with mobile
stations for preventing unprovisioned mobile stations from
accessing an internet protocol (IP) data network via the
wireless network.

United States Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0188712 A1 to
10 Caslin et al. discloses a fraud monitoring system for a
communications system. The fraud monitoring system
analyzes records of usage activity in the system and
applies fraud pattern detection algorithms to detect
patterns indicative of fraud. The fraud monitoring system
15 accommodates both transaction records resulting from
control of a packet-switched network and those from a
circuit-switched network gateway.

United States Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0056096 A1 to
Albert et al. discloses a method to securely authenticate
20 user credentials. The method includes encrypting a user
credential with a public key at an access device. The
public key is part of a public/private key pair suitable
for use with encryption algorithm. The decrypted user
credential is then transmitted from the decryption server
25 to an authentication server for verification. The
decryption server typically forms part of a multi-party
service access environment including a plurality of access

providers. This method can be used in legacy protocols, such as Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), Password Authentication Protocol (PAP), Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP), Remote Authentication Dial 5 in User Server (RADIUS) protocol, Terminal Access Controller Access Control System (TACAS) protocol, Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), NT Domain authentication protocol, Unix password authentication protocol, Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Hypertext 10 Transfer Protocol over Secure sockets layer (HTTPS), Extended Authentication Protocol (EAP), Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol, Token Ring protocol, and/or Secure Remote Password protocol (SRP).

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 15 2003/0101134 A1 published to Liu *et al.* on May 29, 2003 teaches a method for transaction approval, including submitting a transaction approval request from a transaction site to a clearing agency; submitting a user authorization request from the clearing agency to a user 20 device; receiving a response to the user authorization request; and sending a response to the transaction approval request from the clearing agency to the transaction site. Another method for transaction approval includes: submitting a transaction approval request from a 25 transaction site to a clearing agency; determining whether a trusted transaction is elected; submitting a user authorization request from the clearing agency to a user

device if a trusted transaction is determined to be
elected; receiving a response to the user authorization
request from the user device if the user authentication
request was submitted; and sending a response to the
5 transaction approval request from the clearing agency to
the transaction site. A system for transaction approval
includes a clearing agency for the transaction approval
wherein the clearing agency having a function to request
for user authorization, a network operatively coupled to
10 the clearing agency, and a user device adapted to be
operatively coupled to the network for trusted transaction
approval.

United States Patent Application Publication Number US
2003/0187800 A1 published to Moore *et al.* on October 2,
15 2003 teaches systems, methods, and program products for
determining billable usage of a communications system
wherein services are provided via instant communications.
In some embodiments, there is provided for authorizing the
fulfillment of service requests based upon information
20 pertaining to a billable account.

United States Patent Application Publication Number US
2004/0111640 A1 published to Baum on June 10, 2004 teaches
methods and apparatus for determining, in a reliable
manner, a port, physical location, and/or device
25 identifier, such as a MAC address, associated with a device
using an IP address and for using such information, *e.g.*,
to support one or more security applications. Supported

security applications include restricting access to services based on the location of a device seeking access to a service, determining the location of stolen devices, and authenticating the location of the source of a message
5 or other IP signal, e.g., to determine if a prisoner is contacting a monitoring service from a predetermined location.

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2005/0159173 A1 published to Dowling on July 21, 2005
10 teaches methods, apparatus, and business techniques for use in mobile network communication systems. A mobile unit, such as a smart phone, is preferably equipped with a wireless local area network connection and a wireless wide area network connection. The local area network connection
15 is used to establish a position-dependent, e-commerce network connection with a wireless peripheral supplied by a vendor. The mobile unit is then temporarily augmented with the added peripheral services supplied by the negotiated wireless peripheral. Systems and methods allow the mobile
20 unit to communicate securely with a remote server, even when the negotiated wireless peripheral is not fully trusted. Also included are mobile units, wireless user peripherals, and negotiated wireless peripherals projecting a non-area constrained user interface image on a display
25 surface.

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2005/0160280 A1 published to Caslin *et al.* on July 21, 2005

teaches providing fraud detection in support of data communication services. A usage pattern associated with a particular account for remote access to a data network is monitored. The usage pattern is compared with a reference
5 pattern specified for the account. A fraud alert is selectively generated based on the comparison.

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2005/0180395 A1 published to Moore *et al.* on August 18, 2005 teaches an approach for supporting a plurality of
10 communication modes through universal identification. A core identifier is generated for uniquely identifying a user among a plurality of users within the communication system. One or more specific identifiers are derived based upon the core identifier. The specific identifiers serve
15 as addressing information to the respective communication modes. The specific identifiers and the core identifier are designated as a suite of identifiers allocated to the user.

While these systems may be suitable for the particular
20 purpose employed, or for general use, they would not be as suitable for the purposes of the present invention as disclosed hereafter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to produce a means to decrease the potential for fraud through authentication of the identity of an internet user. Accordingly, this method provides for authenticating the identity of the internet user or purchaser (hereinafter "internet user") through cross-referencing and comparison of at least two independent sources of information, such as, but not limited to, the IP address of the internet user's computer, geographical location of the internet user, router geographical location or the geographical location of number of a Communication voice device associated with said internet user.

It is another object of the invention to provide a means for providing an accurate geographical location of the internet user and the internet user's IP address. Accordingly, this method includes identifying the IP address and tracing it geographically using any one of the existing software programs that can trace IP addresses.

It is another object of the invention to provide a convenient means for determining the location of internet users at both mobile and non-mobile Communication voice devices and terminals. Accordingly, this method includes the utilization systems and software that are used to locate the geographical location of people or Communication voice devices, such as, but not limited to Global

Positioning Systems (GPS), Galileo, WiMax, WiFi, RFID and external positioning apparatus, such as, but not limited to, cellular base stations and antennas.

It is another object of the invention to provide a
5 convenient means for determining a more accurate geographical location of routers using the internet user Communication voice device's geographical location and the said user IP address.

This invention is a method and system for
10 authenticating an internet user identity by cross-referencing and comparing at least two independent sources of information. A first IP address of an internet user is identified. The geographical location of the IP address is traced geographically to determine a first location. The
15 geographical address of a communications device of said internet user is traced to determine a second location. The first and second locations are compared for geographical proximity to confirm the identity of the internet user. Additionally, depending on the geographical
20 proximity of the first and second location, a positive or negative score may be assigned to the internet user, and access to the website and the ability to conduct transactions may be allowed or limited based on the assigned score. Alternatively, additional authentication
25 information may be required of the internet user in order to proceed with the online transaction, or access by the internet user may be terminated.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects the invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Attention is called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only.

5 Variations are contemplated as being part of the invention, limited only by the scope of the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, like elements are depicted by like reference numerals. The drawings are briefly described as follows.

FIG 1 is a flow chart of the method and system of the present invention.

10 FIG 2 is a continuation of the flow chart of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This invention relates to a method and system for authenticating internet user identity by cross-referencing
5 or comparing at least two independent sources of information, identifying at least two geographical locations. Based upon geographical proximity of said locations, a score is assigned to the internet user, and predetermined access to a website and an ability to conduct
10 transactions is allowed or limited based upon said score. Alternatively, additional authentication information can be required or access can be terminated. The invention is also a convenient means for determining a more accurate geographical location of routers.

15 FIG 1 illustrates a method for authenticating internet user identity by cross-referencing and comparing at least two independent sources of information. FIG 2 illustrates a method for allocating a score to an internet user based on the comparison of information in the steps of FIG. 1.

20 Referring to Fig 1, the method 90 starts by when an internet user 101 accesses 100 a website 102 and provides information. The website 102 vendor 112 then decides to authenticate 110 internet user 101 identity, based on the information provided by the internet user 101. What
25 information will trigger the decision to authenticate 110 the identity 113 of the internet user 101 will vary among vendors employing the method described herein. For

purposes of clarity, the term vendor will be used hereafter and it should be understood that vendor means any business, organization or commercial entity which conducts on-line commercial transactions through a website on the internet,
5 such as, but not limited to, banking institutions, on-line stores or other commercial entities.

Upon accessing a website 102, an IP address 121 of a computer of the internet user 101 will be identified 120. The invention is not limited to a convention computer, but
10 may include terminals, smart phones (PDA's) or other devices capable of communicating with the internet.

Whenever the internet user 101 enters a website 102, the internet user's IP address 121 is identified for a website owner. It should be understood that IP Address means any
15 internet communication protocol such as but not limited to IPV4 and IPV6.

The vendor 112 will then request 130 from the internet user 101 a contact number for a communications voice device 131, which is immediately accessible to the internet user
20 101 at the internet user's current location. Communication voice device, as used in the context of the present invention, applies to any voice device capable of communicating with another voice device such as, but not limited to, phone, mobile voice device, VoIP telephone or
25 personal digital assistant (hereinafter PDA). Other non-

limiting examples include any device that has been modified or designed for voice or text communication.

A geographical location 141 for the communication voice device 131 is then traced 140.

5 It should be understood that the term "mobile voice device", as used in the context of the present invention, applies to any mobile device modified or designed for voice or text communication and capable of communicating with another device via wireless network such as but not limited
10 to cellular system, radio system, WiFi, WiMax, RFID, Bluetooth, MIMO, UWB (Ultra Wide Band), satellite system or any other such wireless networks known now or in the future.

Other non-limiting examples include any device that
15 has been modified or designed to communicate with a web-ready PDA, a Blackberry, a laptop computer with cellular connect capability, or a notification server, such as email server.

The geographical location 141 of a telephone can be
20 traced using any one of existing databases. As a non-mobile telephone is attached to a single physical location, the location is available using various existing databases. A Voice over Internet Protocol (hereinafter VoIP) telephone is connected to high speed internet access such as T1, DSL,

cable modems, or other available connection systems. A VoIP location is available using various databases. A VoIP connection provider company can provide the IP address to which such VoIP telephone is connected such that the
5 geographical location of the internet user is traceable to the IP address.

The geographical location 141 of a mobile voice device can be traced using technology such as, but not limited to, Galileo, GPS, cellular antenna network, phone antenna,
10 WiFi, Bluetooth, MIMO, UWB, WiMax, etc.

A cellular telephone location system for automatically recording the location of one or more mobile cellular telephones is described, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 5,327,144. The system comprises a central site system
15 operatively coupled to at least three cell sites. Each of the cell sites receives cellular telephone signals and integrates a timing signal common to all the cell sites. The central site calculates differences in times of arrival of the cellular telephone signals arriving among the cell
20 sites and thereby calculates the position of the cellular telephone producing the cellular telephone signals. Additional examples of known methods for locating phones are cell sector and cell site.

The position of an internet user's mobile voice device can be determined by, for example: (1) an internal positioning apparatus such as a Global Positioning System (hereinafter GPS) receiver built into the mobile voice
5 device that receives GPS radio signals transmitted from GPS satellites; and (2) an external positioning apparatus such as a cellular positioning system that computes the position of the mobile voice device by observing time differences among the arrivals of a radio signal transmitted by the
10 mobile voice device at a plurality of observation points, i.e., base stations. The operation of the GPS is well-known and will not be described further herein.

Next, the geographical location 151 of the IP address 121 of the internet user 101 is traced 150. Such an IP
15 address 121 can be traced 150 geographically to its source so as to determine the location 151 (state and city) of the internet user 101. In some cases the system used to trace the IP address 121 can be so accurate that it can identify a street and house number of the internet user 101.

20 Several non-limiting examples for geographically tracing 140 an IP address 121 are "tracert 212.96.20.101" when using Windows, "traceroute 212.96.20.101" when using Linux. "Neotrace" www.neotrace.com, or www.ip2location.com,

which shows the internet user 101 IP address 121 and a location 151 (city and state) of the internet user 101.

Another means for obtaining the geographical location 151 of the internet user's 101 IP address 121, the internet user's 101 ISP can be contacted to request a full address from where the internet user 101 is connected. For example, a modem dial-up internet user 101 is assigned a unique IP address 121 by their ISP. After the internet user 101 enters a username and password the ISP knows from which phone number that internet user 101 called and can trace a contacting number to a geographical location 151.

The geographical location 141 of the communications voice device 131 is then compared 160 with the geographical location 151 of the IP address 121 of the internet user 101, and a proximity value 161 is determined.

Referring to FIG 2, following the comparison 160 of the geographical location 151 of the IP address 121 and the geographical location 141 of communications voice device 131 of the internet user 101, and the obtaining of the proximity value 161, establish 170 if the proximity value 161 is within a predetermined distance value range 171. The predetermined distance value range 171 and a corresponding positive or negative score values are established by the website 102 vendor 112. If the value

161 is within the predetermined range 171, allocate 180 a positive security score 181 and allow predetermined access 190 to the website and allow the internet user 101 to conduct high risk actions such as, but not limited to, 5 transferring money, sending check, purchasing a product or a service or transmitting personal information.

Following the comparison 150, if the value 161 is outside the predetermined distance value range 171, determine 200 if additional authentication information 201 10 is required. What additional authentication information 201 that will be required is to be determined by the website 102 vendor 112. If additional authentication information 201 is required, the internet user 101 provides 220 the required authentication information 201. After 15 determining 230 that the required additional authentication information 201 has been correctly provided, allocate 180 a positive security score 181, and allow predetermined access 190 to the website. If it is determined 230 that the required additional authentication information 201 has not 20 been provided, a negative security score 211 is allocated 210 or access is terminated 212.

The present invention includes a method of locating a router's geographical location based on internet user communication voice device's geographical location and

internet user IP address. In addition, the invention includes a method of geographically comparing the user communication voice device and the closet public router to the user IP address. Furthermore, the invention includes a
5 method of comparing the geographical location of a router with the geographical location of the communication voice device of an internet user. Lastly, the invention includes a method of geographically comparing the internet user communication voice device and the internet user IP
10 address. All of the methods may utilize a communication voice device that is either non-mobile telephone, a mobile telephone or a mobile voice device.

For locating more accurate geographical location of the routers the Vendor can perform trace-route or similar
15 network analysis commands to the known internet user IP address. The trace-route commands (such as "tracert" in Unix, Linux and OS-x, and `tracert` or `pathping` in Windows operating systems) is used in a wide variety of computer operating systems and network appliances. A trace-
20 route command causes packets to be sent out with short lifetimes in order to map the IP addressable route to another machine. Each packet is given a slightly different lifetime. When a router expires the packet, it sends back a notification that includes its IP address. This allows a

machine to identify the addresses of all the routers between the vendor and the internet user computer on the Internet.

Since the following is known:

- 5 1. The geographical location of the user's communication voice device.
2. The routing table between the vendor internet web site and the internet user.

Then, the vendor can locate the geographical location of
10 the closest public router to the internet user IP address. Since the first public router that the internet user is using is close geographically to the internet user voice communication device.

The invention also includes a method of geographically
15 comparing an internet user physical address and an internet user IP address. As well as a method of comparing a geographical location of a router with a geographical location of an internet user physical address, and a method of locating a router's geographical location based on
20 an internet user physical address geographical location and internet user IP address geographical location. The term physical address is construed to mean mailing address or mailing zip code.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments under the doctrine of equivalents.

5 In conclusion, herein is presented a method and system for authenticating internet user identity. The invention is illustrated by example in the drawing figures, and throughout the written description. It should be understood that numerous variations are possible, while
10 adhering to the inventive concept. Such variations are contemplated as being a part of the present invention.

AMENDED CLAIMS**[Received by the International Bureau on 25 APR 2008 (25.04.2008)]**

Claims:

1. A method of authenticating internet user identity, comprising the steps of:
 - a) identifying an Internet Protocol address of such internet user;
 - b) requesting a number for a communication device of such internet user;
 - c) determining a current geographical location of said communication device of such internet user;
 - d) tracing a geographical location of said Internet Protocol address of such internet user; and
 - e) comparing said geographical location of said Internet Protocol address with said geographical location of said communication device of such internet user.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if a result obtained by comparing said geographical location of said IP address of such internet user with said geographical location of said communication device of such internet user is within a predetermined distance value.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said communication device comprises a Personal Digital Assistant ("PDA").
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile telephone.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said communication device comprises a

mobile voice device.

6. A method of authenticating internet user identity, comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying an Internet Protocol address of such internet user;
- b) locating a current geographical location of said communication device of such internet user;
- c) tracing a geographical location of said Internet Protocol address of such internet user; and

d) comparing said geographical location of said Internet Protocol address with said geographical location of said communication device of such internet user.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile voice device.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said communication device comprises a PDA.

9. A method of locating a router's geographical location based on an internet user communication device's geographical location and internet user IP address.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said communication device comprises a PDA.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile telephone.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile voice device.

13. A method of geographically comparing an internet user communication device and router in a path to such internet user IP address.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said communication device comprises a PDA.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile telephone.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile voice device.

17. A method of comparing a geographical location of a router with a geographical location of a communication device of an internet user.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said communication device comprises a PDA.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said communication device comprises a

mobile telephone.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile voice device.

21. A method of geographically comparing an internet user communication device and an internet user IP Address.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said communication device comprises a PDA.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile telephone.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein said communication device comprises a mobile voice device.

25. An internet user authentication method comprising comparing a geographic location of an internet user IP Address and a geographical location of a communication device of such user wherein said communication device utilizes wireless technology.

26. A method of locating a geographical location of an IP Address comprising the steps of:

- a) locating the IP Address of such internet user;
- b) geographically locating the communication device of such internet user wherein said communication device utilizes wireless technology; and
- c) assigning said mobile voice device geographic location to such internet user's IP Address.

27. A method of locating a geographical location of a router comprising the steps of:

- a) locating an IP Address of a router in a path to such internet user
- b) geographically locating the communication device of such internet user wherein said communication device utilize wireless technology, and
- c) assigning said mobile voice device geographic location to said router IP Address.

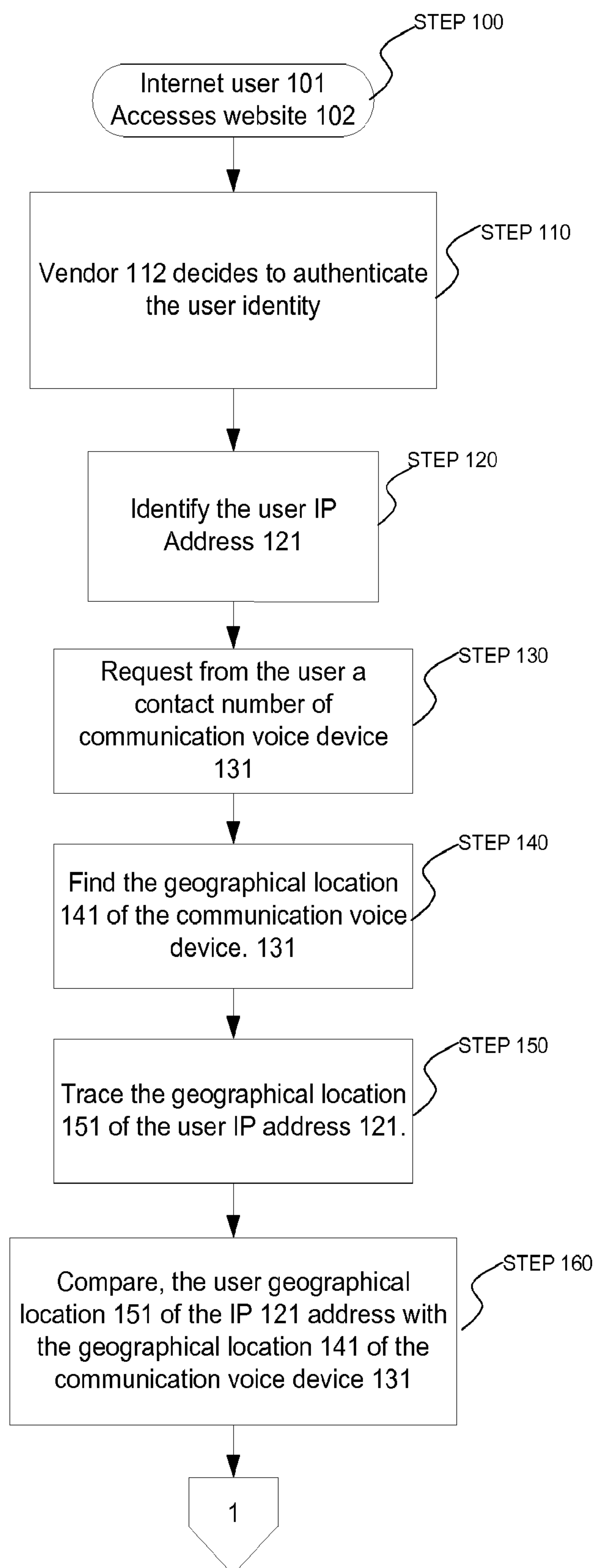


FIG. 1

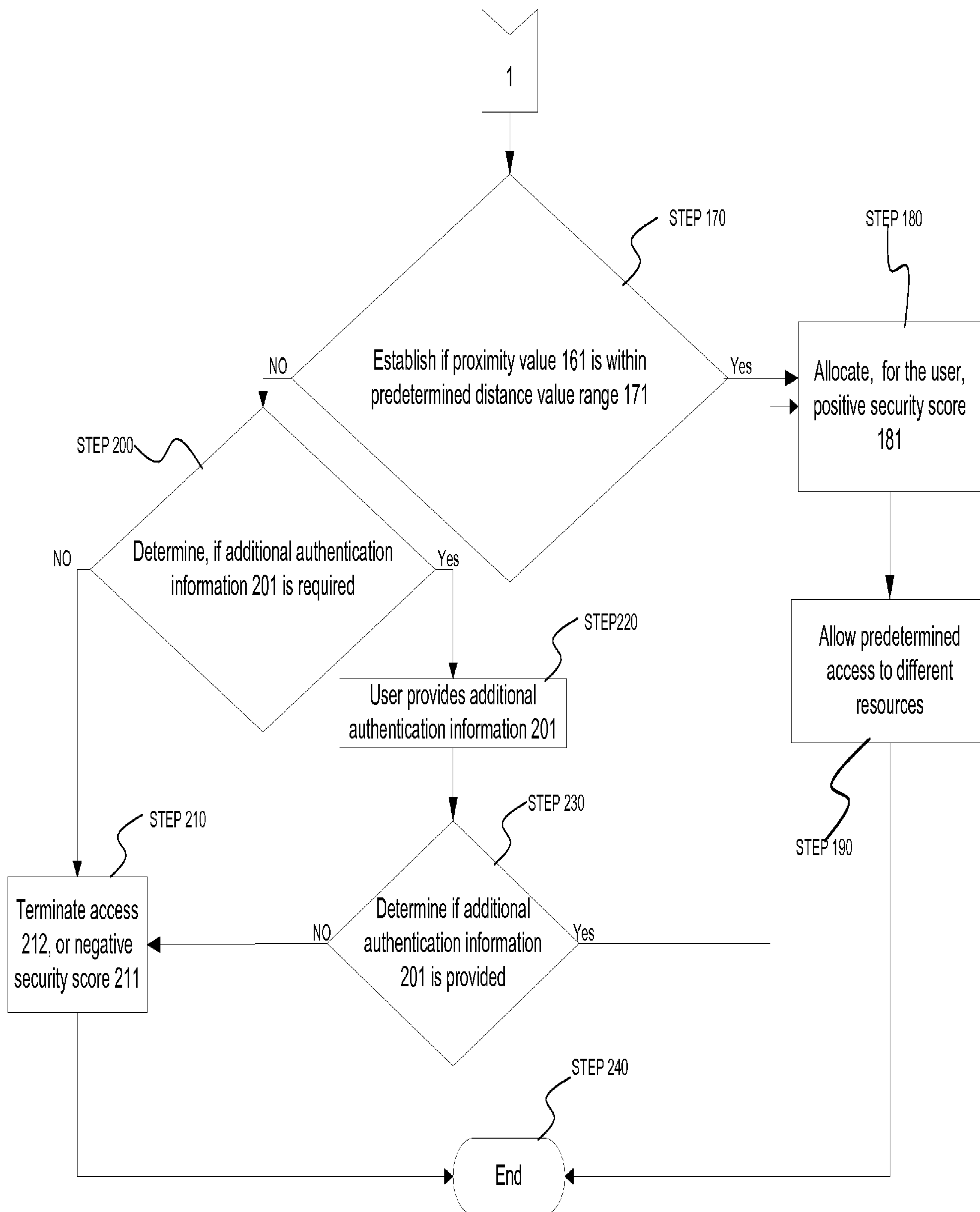


FIG. 2