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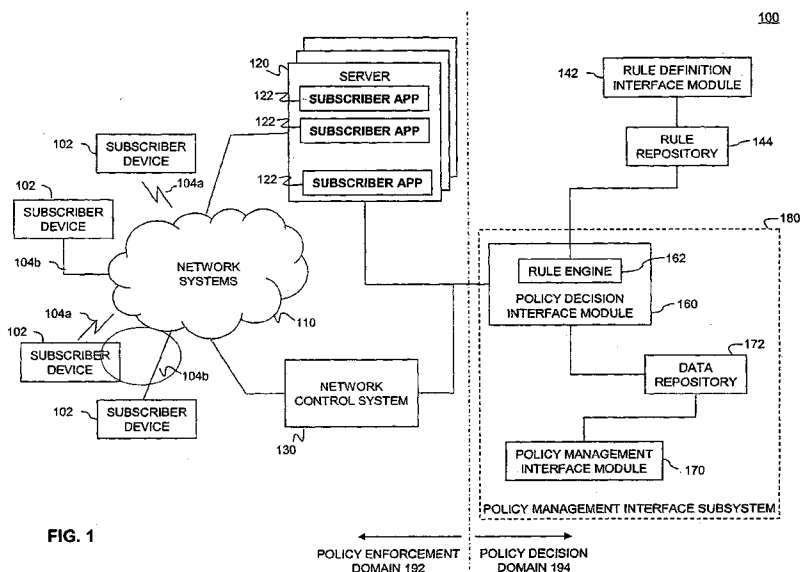


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Systems and method for policy-based service management are provided. An exemplary system includes a rule definition interface module configured to receive a plurality of rule definitions and a separate policy management interface module configured to allow a user to define a rule instance from an existing rule definition instance and to define a policy instance based on the defined rule instance. A policy may be simply expressed via the policy management interface as "perform the following set of action if all of the following rule instances are true unless any of the following rule instances are true." Additionally, policies may be associated with a context at a specific a level in a context hierarchy having multiple levels. The policy may therefore inherit rules from contexts at a higher level in the hierarchy.

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> INV. H04L12/24				
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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>				
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used). EPO-Internal				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 6 578 076 B1 (PUTZOLU DAVID MATTHEW [US]) 10 June 2003 (2003-06-10) column 1, lines 33-43,56-59 column 2, line 53 - column 3, line 28 column 4, lines 18-31 column 7, line 21 - column 8, line 29 -----	1-31		
X	EP 1 311 083 A (CIT ALCATEL [FR]) 14 May 2003 (2003-05-14) paragraphs [0004], [0014], [0016], [0022] - [0027] -----	1-31		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents :				
<table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width:50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*Z* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*Z* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer  <p align="center"><b>Veen, Gerardus</b></p>		

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6578076	B1	10-06-2003	NONE
EP 1311083	A	14-05-2003	NONE