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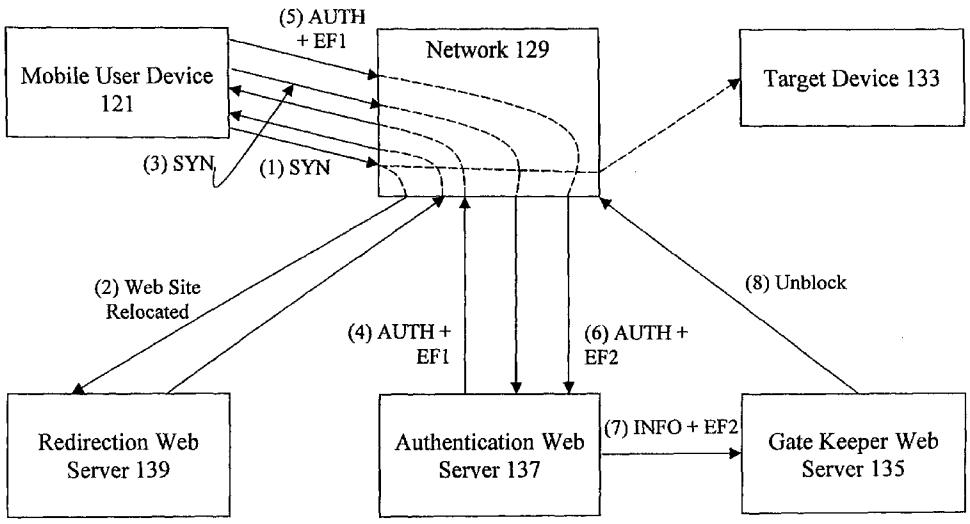
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(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTED NETWORK AUTHENTICATION AND ACCESS CONTROL



(57) Abstract: A user gains access to a private network by connecting to a network, either through a hardwired or wireless connection, and then initiates an Internet access request targeting any website. If the user is not already authorized for Internet access, then the user is sent to a first predetermined website that points the user to an authentication server accessible via the Internet. The authentication server sends the user an HTTP form pages requesting authentication information. When the user responds, a network monitoring device within the private network alters the form page to include the user's hardware address and an encoded ID based on the network's location. The authentication server forwards this data to a gate keeper server, which authenticates the new user and transmits an unblock message along with another encoded ID based on the network's location and the user's hardware address.

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