

ABSTRACT

An access control method for a plurality of data communications networks is disclosed that enables a plurality of local nodes (101) to communicate with each other even if the connection between an intermediate node (103) and a global server (105) is momentarily lost. In this method, when the connection to the global server (105) breaks down, the intermediate node (103) temporarily grants access to the local nodes (101) instead of the global server (105) in accordance with a predetermined policy, thus allowing operation of local networks to function normally until connection to the global network (104) is resumed.