**CLAIMS**

1. A method in a communications network for connecting a subscriber apparatus from amongst a plurality of subscriber apparatuses to a respective network portal apparatus from amongst a plurality of network portal apparatuses, the method including:

providing a portal aggregation server storing a plurality of network portal addresses associated with the plurality of said network portal apparatuses and a plurality of subscriber identifiers which each identify a respective one of said plurality of subscriber apparatuses;

at the portal aggregation server, receiving from a said subscriber apparatus a connection request to connect to the network wherein the request comprises a said subscriber identifier associated with the subscriber apparatus and mapping the received subscriber identifier to a said network portal address, and redirecting the connection request to the network portal address so mapped.

2. A method according to any preceding claim including, at the portal aggregation server: applying an authentication protocol to a subscriber apparatus using the received subscriber identifier, wherein said redirecting is done on condition that subscriber apparatus is so authenticated.

3. A method according to any preceding claim including, at the portal aggregation server: storing a portal redirection map comprising said plurality of network portal addresses and said plurality of subscriber identifiers; wherein said mapping includes matching the received subscriber identifier to a subscriber identifier stored within the redirection map and identifying a network portal addresses stored within the portal redirection map in association with the subscriber identifier which matches the received subscriber identifier.

4. A method according to any preceding claim including, at the portal aggregation server: mapping the received subscriber identifier to a plurality of said network portal addresses; and redirecting the connection request to the plurality of network portal address so mapped.

5. A method according to any preceding claim including, at the portal aggregation server: receiving from plurality of said subscriber apparatuses a connection request to connect to the network wherein each request comprises a said subscriber identifier associated with a respective subscriber apparatus; and mapping each received subscriber identifier to a common

network portal address; and redirecting the plurality of connection requests to the common network portal address so mapped.

6. A network communications apparatus for connecting a subscriber apparatus from amongst a plurality of subscriber apparatuses to a respective network portal apparatus from amongst a plurality of network portal apparatuses, the apparatus including:

a portal aggregation server arranged to store a plurality of network portal addresses associated with the plurality of said network portal apparatuses and a plurality of subscriber identifiers which each identify a respective one of said plurality of subscriber apparatuses;

wherein the portal aggregation server is arranged to receive from a said subscriber apparatus a connection request to connect to the network wherein the request comprises a said subscriber identifier associated with the subscriber apparatus, and the portal aggregation server is responsive to a received connection request by mapping the received subscriber identifier to a said network portal address, and redirecting the connection request to the network portal address so mapped.

7. A network communications apparatus according to claim 6 in which the portal aggregation server is arranged to apply an authentication protocol to a subscriber apparatus using the received subscriber identifier, and to redirect the connection request to the mapped network portal address on condition that subscriber apparatus is so authenticated.

8. A network communications apparatus according to any of claims 6 or 7 in which the portal aggregation server is arranged to store a portal redirection map comprising said plurality of network portal addresses and said plurality of subscriber identifiers; wherein said mapping includes matching the received subscriber identifier to a subscriber identifier stored within the redirection map and identifying a network portal addresses stored within the portal redirection map in association with the subscriber identifier which matches the received subscriber identifier.

9. A network communications apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 8 in which the portal aggregation server is arranged to map the received subscriber identifier to a plurality of said network portal addresses; and to redirect the connection request to the plurality of network portal address so mapped.

10. A network communications apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 9 in which the portal aggregation server is arranged to receiving from said plurality of said subscriber apparatuses a connection request to connect to the network wherein each request comprises a said subscriber identifier associated with a respective subscriber apparatus; and to map each received subscriber identifier to a common network portal address; and to redirect the plurality of connection requests to the common network portal address so mapped.

11. A computer program product, or data carrier/store containing a computer program including instructions executable on a computer(s) to implement the method according to any of claims 1 to 5.

12. One or more computers programmed with computer program including instructions arranged, when executed, to implement the method according to any of claims 1 to 5.

13. A network of computers programmed with a computer program including instructions arranged, when executed, to implement the method according to any of claims 1 to 5.