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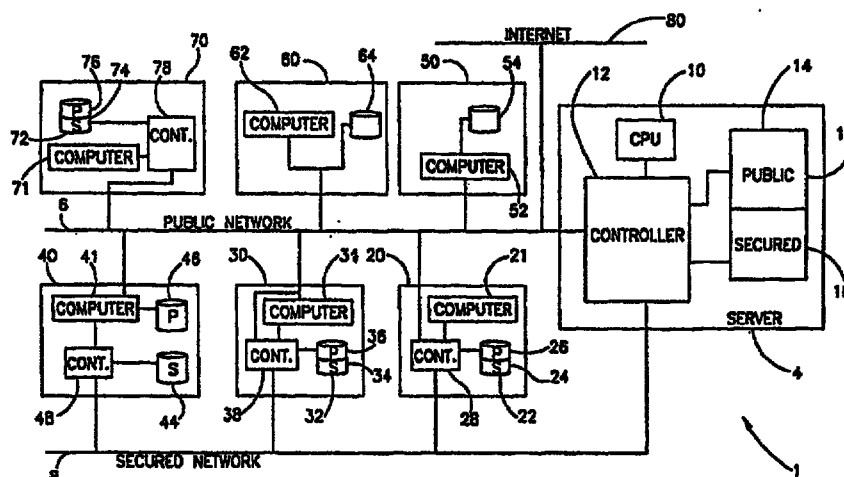
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(54) Title: INFORMATION SECURITY METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

Communication apparatus including a public network, a secured network, a plurality of public nodes connected to the public network and a plurality of secured nodes connected to the secured network and to the public network. The nodes including means for communicating therebetween over the networks, wherein each secured node includes a communication controller, a computer system and a secured storage area. A secured node divides a confidential message into at least two segments and transmits the segments via the networks wherein at least a selected one of the segments is transmitted via at least one of the secured networks. The communication controller is also operative to disconnect the secured storage area from the computer station and the public network is in progress.