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- (72) Inventor; and
- (71) Applicant : **MOSSBARGER, Timothy** [US/US]; 5519 Lake Murray Boulevard, #107, La Mesa, CA 91942 (US).
- (74) Agent: **CODDINGTON, Trevor**; San Diego IP Law Group LLP, 12526 High Bluff Drive, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92130 (US).
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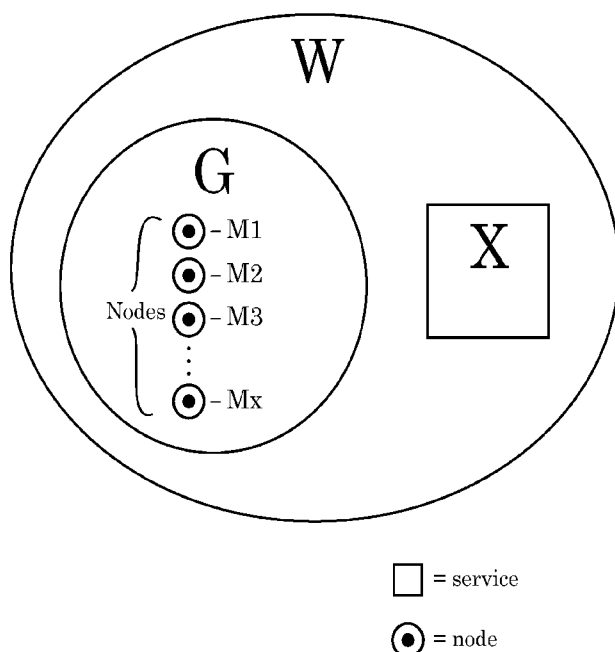
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- (54) Title: ENTITY NETWORK TRANSLATION (ENT)

Fig. 1



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides an Entity Network Translation (ENT) scheme for identifying and authenticating abstract identities using public-private key technology and PKI concepts such as a certificate authority and certificate chaining. ENT may grant any number of authentic, indefinite, abstract identifiers to any number of requestors. These abstract identifiers are each referred to as a verinym, which loosely means "verified name". They allow any person or entity, for any purpose, to establish and control the authentic identities of things electronically, and establish relationships between these identities. According to some embodiments, ENT sidesteps traditional PKI relationship establishment issues by issuing abstract identifiers to users that request them. It is the use of these abstract identifiers, and the relationships formed between entities that define their real-world significance.