

A TOKEN-BASED DEADLINE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

ABSTRACT

In a token-based deadline enforcement system for electronic document submission, a submission requirements centre (4) collects information on submission requirements. A gateway (6) to a network of potential submitters polls the information collected and generates tokens (8) corresponding to current submission time limits. On receiving a request for electronic submission from a submitting program (10) the gateway (6) searches for the token (8) corresponding to the submission type. If the token (8) is located, it is returned to the submitting program (10) for packaging with the submission. If the token (8) is not located, an electronic message is returned to the submitting program(10), and the submitter knows immediately that the submission did not meet the deadline. When a submission packaged with a valid token (8) is received at the gateway (6), it can be routed directly to the processing environment that generated the submission requirement. The valid token (8) provides an on-time validity check; the receiving processing environment can delay processing to a convenient time.

Fig. 1A