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(54) **Title:** PAYLOAD ASSURANCE AT MULTIPLE NETWORK BOUNDARIES

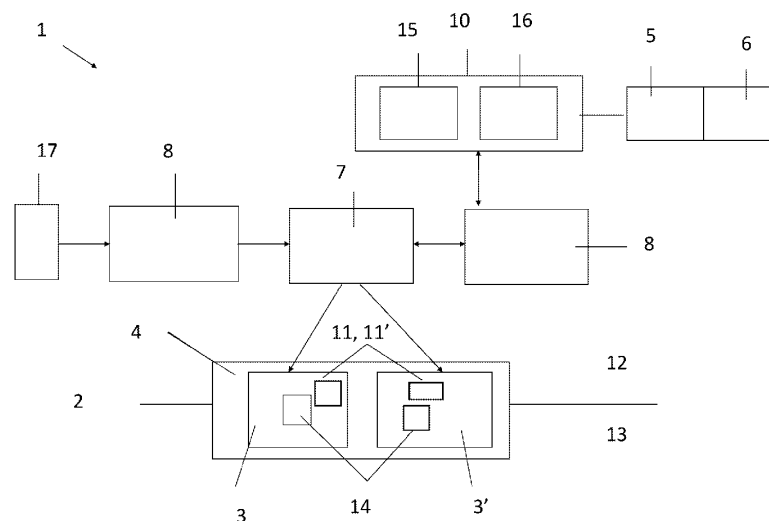


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method and apparatus of payload assurance for a payload which is to be transferred across a network boundary via any of multiple predetermined boundary control devices, which may be grouped together, each having dedicated permanent identity information. A first electronic entity provides an electronic authorisation token for defining properties of the payload, and an ephemeral ID array is determined in dependence upon the permanent identity information of each of the boundary control devices in the boundary control group and the authorisation token. An electronic release token is generated in dependence upon the ephemeral ID array and the authorisation token, to be forwarded to a second electronic entity, the release token being valid for use with the boundary control devices provided in the defined boundary control group.

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