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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TRANSITIONING FROM A SERVING NETWORK NODE THAT SUPPORTS AN ENHANCED SECURITY CONTEXT TO A LEGACY SERVING NETWORK NODE

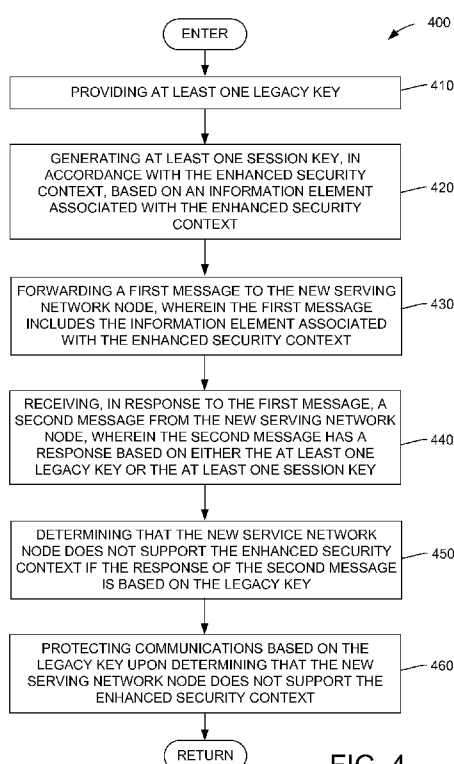


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a method for transitioning a remote station from a current serving network node having an enhanced security context to a new serving network node. In the method, the remote station provides at least one legacy key, and generates at least one session key based on an information element associated with the enhanced security context. The remote station forwards a first message having the information element to the new serving network node. The remote station receives a second message, from the new serving network node, having a response based on either the legacy key or the session key. The remote station determines that the new serving network node does not support the enhanced security context if the response of the second message is based on the legacy key. Accordingly, the remote station protects communications based on the legacy key upon determining that the enhanced security context is not supported.



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