ABSTRACT

A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO A DATABASE

The invention provides a method and apparatus controlling access to data (Row 1 to Row 5) in a database (32) and comprises configuring at least part of the database (32) such that at least some of the data (Row 1 to Row 5) of the configured database (33) is associated with a security tag (ROW_TAG), configuring a storage structure (35) of user identifiers (USER_NAME) and associated user tags (USER_TAG), configuring a storage structure (34) of user tags (USER_TAG) and associated security tags (ROW_TAG) and mapping a user identifier (USER_NAME) to at least a subset of the data (Row 1 to Row 5) by determining from the storage structure (34) of user tag (USER_TAG) and associated security tags (ROW_TAG) a security tag (ROW_TAG) or tags appropriate for the user tag (USER_TAG) of the user identifier (USER_NAME) and allowing access to the data (Row 1 to Row 5) from the configured database (33) associated with the security tag or tags (ROW_TAG). By providing a storage structure (34) of user tags (USER_TAG) and associated security tags (ROW_TAG) it is possible to change the security policy by modification of the data in the storage structure (34) alone without any need to modify the data (Row 1 to Row 5) in the configured database (33).

Figure 8

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

