

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
2 August 2001 (02.08.2001)

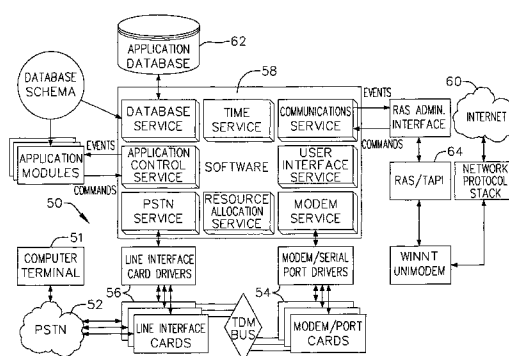
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/055861 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 13/00**, 9/00, 17/60, 17/00
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AU, BR, CA, CN, ID, JP, KR, MX, NZ, SG, ZA.
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/02836
- (22) International Filing Date: 27 January 2001 (27.01.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/178,581 28 January 2000 (28.01.2000) US
09/765,893 18 January 2001 (18.01.2001) US
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).
- Published:
— with international search report
- (48) Date of publication of this corrected version: 17 October 2002
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- (15) Information about Correction:
see PCT Gazette No. 42/2002 of 17 October 2002, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO A TELECOMMUNICATION OR INTERNET SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and system for controlling telecommunications or computer network, e.g. Internet, access. The system includes a gateway server (50) connected to the network (60) communicating with a computer terminal (51). Removable media at the computer terminal (51) stores a gateway server address, a profile identifier, and programming directing the terminal operating system to access the gateway server and transmit the profile identifier. The gateway server (50) includes a database of profiles correlated to profile identifiers, each profile having an access criterion, and programming directing the access of a profile upon receipt of a profile identifier. The programming determines whether the access criterion is satisfied and allows or denies network access. Optionally, the access criterion is an access period. Additionally, the account billing information is optionally examined to determine whether the user has a time or credit balance remaining. Programming may monitor the access to disconnect the computer terminal (51) from the network (60) if the access criterion is not satisfied. The method begins with identifying the user or computer terminal (51) requesting access to the network (60). A profile for the requestor, including an access criterion, is accessed from a database at a gateway server (50). The gateway server (50) determines whether the access criterion is met and access is allowed or denied.

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