Claims:

1. A method for creating data communication between a requestor and a target, wherein: the requestor is associated with a first group and a first control agent; and the target is associated with a second group and a second control agent, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the first control agent, an intention to connect to the target from the requestor;

identifying the second control agent as associated with the target and generating a request;

communicating the request to the second control agent from the first control agent;

receiving, from the second control agent, external configuration instructions;

selecting, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, one or more configurable first networking agents of the first group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, first networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable first networking agents; and

communicating said instructions to the, or each, said configurable first networking agents, thereby creating a first segment for connection to a second segment create by the second control agent.

~~2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data communication is over, at least in part, a data network such as the Internet.~~

~~3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data communication is via a memory shared by the requestor and the target.~~

~~4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the request comprises a predefined data structure suitable for processing by the second control agent.~~

2~~5~~. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein:

the requestor is also a configurable networking agent and is identified as required for creating the data communication;

the requestor is a configurable networking agent and is configured to address outgoing packets to said IP address and/or port;

the external configurations specify an IP address and/or port for outgoing communications, and wherein the requestor is a configurable networking agent and is configured to address outgoing packets to said IP address and/or port;

the external configurations specify an IP address and/or port for outgoing communications, and wherein at least one configurable networking agent is configured to address outgoing packets to said IP address and/or port.

~~6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the external configurations specify an IP address and/or port for outgoing communications.~~

~~7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the requestor is a configurable networking agent and is configured to address outgoing packets to said IP address and/or port.~~

~~8. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one configurable networking agent is configured to address outgoing packets to said IP address and/or port.~~

~~9~~3. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1 or claim 2, wherein:

At least one configurable networking agent comprises a security protocol and the first networking configuration instructions include configuring the security protocol;

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a firewall and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the firewall to enable communications from the target to reach the requestor;

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a NAT and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the NAT to enable communications from the target to reach the requestor; and/or

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a logger for logging data transmitted between the requestor and the target, and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the logger.

~~10~~4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~9~~3, wherein at least one configurable networking agent is configured to communicate with a rendezvous point server and the first networking configuration instructions include instructions to enable communication with the rendezvous point server to facilitate setting up the data communication.

~~11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a firewall and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the firewall to enable communications from the target to reach the requestor.~~

~~12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a NAT and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the NAT to enable communications from the target to reach the requestor.~~

~~13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a logger for logging data transmitted between the requestor and the target, and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the logger.~~

~~14~~5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~13~~4, further comprising a step of: the first control agent exchanging capability information with the second control agent, wherein selecting the one or more configurable first networking agents and/or determining the first networking configuration instructions is based, at least in part, on the exchanged capability information.

~~15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein selecting the one or more configurable first networking agents and/or determining the first networking configuration instructions is based, at least in part, on the exchanged capability information.~~

~~16~~6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~15~~5, further comprising the step of: checking permissions associated with the intention and ceasing creation of the data communication in response to determining that the permissions do not satisfy a permission requirement.

~~17~~7. A method for creating data communication between a requestor and a target, wherein: the requestor is associated with a first group and a first control agent; and the target is associated with a second group and a second control agent, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second control agent, a request from the first control agent, wherein the request is for creating the data communication;

determining one or more configurable second networking agents of the second group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining second networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable second networking agents;

communicating the second networking instructions to the one or more configurable second networking agents, thereby creating a second segment;

determining external configuration instructions configured to enable the first control agent to create a first segment to connect to the second segment; and

communicating the external configuration instructions to the first control agent.

~~18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data communication is over, at least in part, a data network such as the Internet.~~

~~19. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data communication is via a memory shared by the requestor and the target.~~

~~20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the request comprises a predefined data structure suitable for processing by the second control agent.~~

~~21. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein the target is also a configurable networking agent and is identified as required for creating the data communication.~~

~~22. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21, wherein the external configurations specify an IP address and/or port for outgoing communications.~~

~~23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the target is a configurable networking agent and is configured to receive incoming packets on a particular IP address and/or port.~~

~~24~~8. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 17 to 23~~claim 7, wherein:

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a security protocol and the first networking configuration instructions include configuring the security protocol;

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a firewall and the second networking configuration instructions include information to configure the firewall to enable communications from the requestor to reach the target;

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a NAT and the second networking configuration instructions include information to configure the NAT to enable communications from the requestor to reach the target; and/or

at least one configurable networking agent comprises a logger for logging data transmitted between the requestor and the target, and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the logger.

259. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 17 to 24~~claim 7 or claim 8, wherein at least one configurable networking agent is configured to communicate with a rendezvous point server and the second networking configuration instructions include instructions to enable communication with the rendezvous point server to facilitate setting up the data communication.

~~26. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 25, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a firewall and the second networking configuration instructions include information to configure the firewall to enable communications from the requestor to reach the target.~~

~~27. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 26, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a NAT and the second networking configuration instructions include information to configure the NAT to enable communications from the requestor to reach the target.~~

~~28. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 27, wherein at least one configurable networking agent comprises a logger for logging data transmitted between the requestor and the target, and the first networking configuration instructions include information to configure the logger.~~

2910. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 17 to 28~~claim 8 or claim 9, wherein selecting the one or more configurable second networking agents and/or determining the second networking configuration instructions is based, at least in part, on the received request.

3011. A method as claimed in any one of claims ~~17~~ 8 to 2910, further comprising a step of: the second control agent exchanging capability information with the first control agent, wherein selecting the one or more configurable second networking agents and/or determining the second networking configuration instructions is based, at least in part, on the exchanged capability information.

~~31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein selecting the one or more configurable second networking agents and/or determining the second networking configuration instructions is based, at least in part, on the exchanged capability information.~~

3212. A method as claimed in any one of claims ~~17~~ 8 to 3110, further comprising the step of: checking permissions associated with the request and ceasing creation of the data communication in response to determining that the permissions do not satisfy a permission requirement.

13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the data communication is over, at least in part, a data network such as the Internet or wherein the data communication is via a memory shared by the requestor and the target.

14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the request comprises a predefined data structure suitable for processing by the second control agent.

~~33~~15. A method for creating data communication between a requestor and a target, wherein: the requestor is associated with a first group and a first control agent; and the target is associated with a second group and a second control agent, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the first control agent, an intention to connect to the target from the requestor;

identifying, by the first control agent, the second control agent as associated with the target and generating a request;

communicating, from the first control agent, the request to the second control agent from the first control agent, wherein the request is for creating the data communication;

receiving, at the second control agent, the request from the first control agent,

determining, by the second control agent, one or more configurable second networking agents of the second group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining, by the second control agent, second networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable second networking agents;

communicating, by the second control agent, the second networking instructions to the one or more configurable second networking agents, thereby creating a second segment;

determining, by the second control agent, external configuration instructions configured to enable the first control agent to create a first segment to connect to the second segment; and

communicating, from the second control agent, the external configuration instructions to the first control agent;

receiving, from the second control agent, the external configuration instructions at the first control agent;

selecting, by the first control agent, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, one or more configurable first networking agents of the first group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining, by the first control agent, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, first networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable first networking agents; and

communicating, from the first control agent, said instructions to the, or each, said configurable first networking agents, thereby creating a first segment for connection to a second segment create by the second control agent.

~~34~~16. A method as claimed in claim ~~32~~15, further comprising the step of:

undertaking communications between the requestor and the target using a pathway corresponding to the created first segment and second segment.

~~35~~17. A method for creating data communication between a requestor and a target, wherein: the requestor is associated with a first group and a first control agent; and the target is associated with a second group and a second control agent, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the first control agent, an intention to connect to the target from the requestor;

identifying an additional control agent, being different to the second control agent, as associated with the target and generating a request;

communicating the request to the additional control agent from the first control agent;

receiving, from the additional control agent, external configuration instructions;

selecting, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, one or more configurable first networking agents of the first group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, first networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable first networking agents; and

communicating said instructions to the, or each, said configurable first networking agents, thereby creating a first segment for connection to a second segment create by the second control agent.

~~36~~18. A method for creating data communication between a requestor and a target, wherein: the requestor is associated with a first group and a first control agent; and the target is associated with a second group and a second control agent, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second control agent, a request from an additional control agent, wherein the request is for creating the data communication between the target and requestor, wherein the additional control agent is different to the first control agent;

determining one or more configurable second networking agents of the second group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determining second networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable second networking agents;

communicating the second networking instructions to the one or more configurable second networking agents, thereby creating a second segment;

determining external configuration instructions configured to enable the additional control agent to create an additional segment to connect to the second segment; and

communicating the external configuration instructions to the first control agent.

~~37~~19. A control agent configured to implement the method of either or both of claims 1 and ~~17~~ 7 and/or the method of either or both of claims ~~35~~ 17 and ~~36~~18.

~~38~~20. A system comprising:

a first control agent defining a first group comprising at least one first computer; and

a second control agent defining a second group comprising at least one second computer,

wherein the first control agent and second control agent are configured to exchange data between each other,

wherein the first control agent is configured to:

receive an intention to connect to a target from a requestor, wherein the requestor is associated with a first computer of the first group and the target is associated with a second computer of the second group;

identify the second control agent as associated with the target and generate a request; and

communicate the request to the second control agent,

wherein the second control agent is configured to:

receive the request from the first control agent;

determine one or more configurable second networking agents of the second group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determine second networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable second networking agents;

communicate the second networking instructions to the one or more configurable second networking agents, thereby creating a second segment; determine external configuration instructions configured to enable the first control agent to create a first segment to connect to the second segment; and

communicate the external configuration instructions to the first control agent, and wherein the first control agent is further configured to:

receive the external configuration instructions;

select, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, one or more configurable first networking agents of the first group requiring configuration in order to create that data communication;

determine, at least in part in accordance with the received external configuration instructions, first networking configuration instructions for each of one or more configurable first networking agents; and

communicate said instructions to the, or each, said configurable first networking agents, thereby creating a first segment for connection to the second segment, thereby creating a pathway.

~~39. A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the one or more first networking agents and the one or more second networking agents.~~

~~40~~21. A system as claimed in claim ~~37 or claim 38~~20, wherein the requestor and the target are applications running on their respective computers, and wherein the requestor and target are configured to undertake data communications according to the created pathway.

~~41~~22. A computer program comprising code configured to cause a computer to implement the method of any one of claims 1 to ~~36~~ 18 when said code is executed by the computer or a computer readable storage medium comprising said computer program.

~~42. A computer readable storage medium comprising the computer program of claim 41.~~