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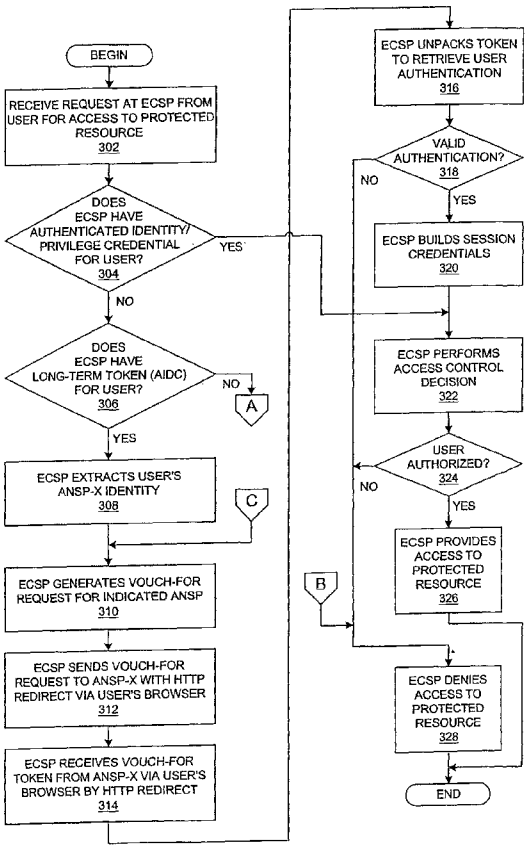
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USER-DETERMINED AUTHENTICATION AND SINGLE-SIGN-ON IN A FEDERATED ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: A method, system, or computer program product is presented for cross-domain, single-sign-on, authentication functionality. A user may contract with one or more authentication service providers ANSPs. E-commerce service providers ECSPs, such as online banks or online merchants, also maintain a relationship with an ANSP such that the ECSP can trust the authenticated identity of a user that is vouched-for by the ANSP on behalf of the user. The user can visit any e-commerce service provider in a federated environment without having to establish an a priori relationship with that particular ECSP. As long as the ECSP's domain has a relationship with at least one of the user's authentication service providers, then the user will be able to have a single-sign-on experience at that ECSP.

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