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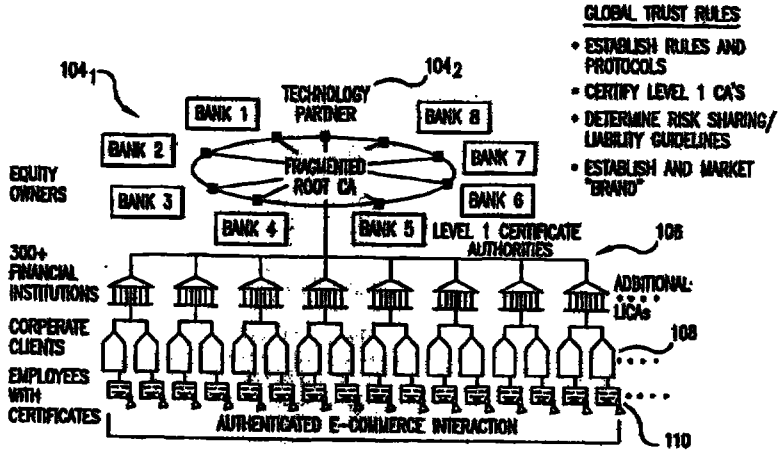
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING CERTIFICATION-RELATED AND OTHER SERVICES



(57) Abstract

Disclosed is a system for warranting the identity of a party over an electronic network. The system comprises a root entity (104) and a plurality of additional entities (106, 108, 110). Each additional entity is admitted to the system after agreeing to abide by a plurality of operating rules promulgated by the root entity. The additional entities may comprise level–one participants (106) and level–two participants (110). Certificate authorites maintained by the level–one participants issue digital certificates to their customers. The certificates bind the customers to their public keys. System customers are also provided with a warranty request formatter which is adapted to formulate a request for a warranty as to the veracity of information contained in a digital certificate. Warranty offers are issued by the participant that issued the digital certificate identified in the warranty request.