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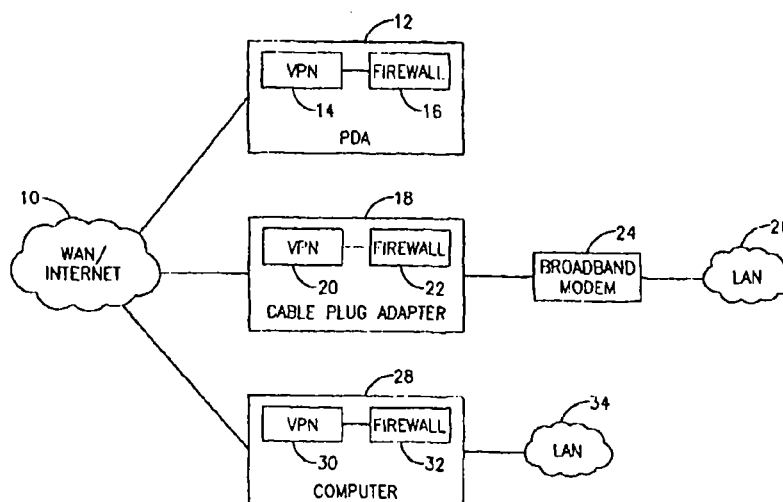
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(54) Title: VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK MECHANISM INCORPORATING SECURITY ASSOCIATION PROCESSOR



(57) Abstract: A novel and useful virtual private network (VPN) mechanism and related security association processor for main-
taining the necessary security related parameters to perform security functions such as encryption, decryption and authentication.
A security association database (SAD) and related circuitry is adapted to provide the necessary parameters to implement the IPSec
group of security specifications for encryption/decryption and authentication. Each security association (SA) entry in the database
comprises all the parameters that are necessary to receive and transmit VPN packets according to the IPSec specification.

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