

Attorney's Docket No.: 123205-184578
IPN P001C

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for:

Burke et al.

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: February 8, 2012

For: SYSTEM FOR REGULATING
ACCESS TO AND
DISTRIBUTING CONTENT IN A
NETWORK

Examiner: TBD

Art Unit: TBD

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter this amendment before considering the captioned application.

Amendments to Specification begin on page **2** of this paper.

Amendments to Claims begin on page **3** of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page **11** of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add this paragraph starting on page 2, before the paragraph entitled "Technical Field".

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 10/989,023, filed November 16, 2004 and entitled "SYSTEM FOR REGULATING ACCESS TO AND DISTRIBUTING CONTENT IN A NETWORK," which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/523,057 filed November 18, 2003, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/538,370 filed January 22, 2004, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/563,064 filed April 16, 2004, the entire content and disclosures of which are hereby incorporated in their entirety.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A system for regulating access to a network, the system comprising:
 - a controller node coupled to the network, the controller node comprising:
 - a first processor for generating controller instructions, and
 - a first network interface for transmitting the controller instructions over the network; and
 - a plurality of gateway units, the gateway units comprising:
 - a user interface receiving user-entered network access requests;
 - a second network interface coupled to the network and receiving the controller instructions from the network; and
 - a second processor, the second processor selectively transmitting at least some of the network access requests over the service provider network in accordance with the controller instructions, and transferring received content data responsive to the transmitted network access requests over the service provider network via the second network interface.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

the gateway units further comprise a storage device for storing instructions;
the gateway units further comprise an identifier uniquely associating the gateway units with a user; and the storage device is operable to store user-specific information.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the gateway units comprise a user interface receiving requests to transmit data;
and

the gateway units comprise a second processor inspecting the data to selectively transfer the data in accordance with the controller instructions.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the gateway units comprise a user interface receiving requests
to receive data; and

the gateway units comprise a second processor inspecting the data to selectively transfer the data in accordance with the controller instructions.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first processor generates the controller instructions automatically.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first processor generates the controller instructions in response to an operator-entered request.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller nodes comprise a first processor generating the controller instructions by operator-controlled network crawling.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller nodes comprise a first processor generating the controller instructions to deny user access to a first group of network servers.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the gateway units comprise a second processor to generate a notification to a controller node if a network access request designates a network server of the first group of network servers.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the gateway units comprise a second processor configured to:

detect a network access request designating a network server a first group of network servers; and

re-direct the access request to a second group of network servers in accordance with the controller instructions.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the controller nodes comprise a first processor generating the controller instructions, the controller instructions including a file identifier; and

the system comprises a plurality of gateway units associated with a user file system, the gateway units comprising a second processor to detect a file in a user file system corresponding to the file identifier.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the gateway units are operable between an active state and an inactive state.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the second processors notify a controller node if the associated gateway unit enters an inactive state.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the second processors delete the detected files from a user file system in accordance with the controller instructions.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the second processors delete the detected files from a user file system during the inactive state.

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