



US 20080016232A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

**Yared et al.**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2008/0016232 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 17, 2008**

(54) **DISTRIBUTED NETWORK IDENTITY**

(76) Inventors: **Peter Yared**, San Francisco, CA (US); **Gary Ellison**, San Mateo, CA (US); **Mark Hapner**, San Jose, CA (US); **Larry Abrahams**, Los Altos, CA (US); **Sheldon J. Finkelstein**, Los Altos Hills, CA (US); **Hal Stern**, Livingston, NJ (US); **John D. Beatty**, San Francisco, CA (US); **Aravindan Ranganathan**, San Jose, CA (US); **Sai Allavarpu**, Pleasanton, CA (US)

(60) Provisional application No. 60/337,234, filed on Dec. 4, 2001. Provisional application No. 60/339,536, filed on Dec. 10, 2001. Provisional application No. 60/365,943, filed on Mar. 19, 2002.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*G06F 15/16* (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **709/229**

Correspondence Address:

**Robert C. Kowert**  
**Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.**  
**P.O. Box 398**  
**Austin, TX 78767-0398 (US)**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distributed network identity is provided. An identity provider stores a portion of a user's personal information. A service provider accesses user information from one or more identity providers. System entities such as identity providers and service providers can be linked to enable information sharing and aggregation. User policies and privacy preferences are provided to control how information is shared. A single sign-on architecture is provided where an identity provider is used to facilitate cross-domain authentication and to enhance user convenience. Service delegation features are also provided.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/864,537**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 28, 2007**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(62) Division of application No. 10/309,773, filed on Dec. 3, 2002.

