

# EXHIBIT 53



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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A USER-INTERACTIVE PORTAL SYSTEM ACCESSIBLE VIA INTERNET OR OTHER SWITCHED-PACKET-NETWORK**

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(\*) **Notice:** This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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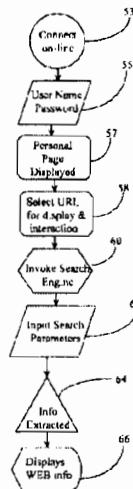
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An Internet Portal is enabled by software executing on an Internet-connected server. The Portal, in response to a log-on by a user, presents a secure and personalized page for and to the user, the personalized page having listed plural Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks, wherein upon invocation of a hyperlink by the subscriber, such as by a point-and-click technique, the portal invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information for user access at the destination. In an enhanced embodiment a search function is provided wherein a user may configure searches in any or all of the listed destinations on a personalized page. Provision is provided for log-on by limited appliances, such as by a Smartcard or embedded password, and in some embodiments functionality is provided in a browser plug-in wherein a user may navigate to a site, and, in response to a request for log-in data, the subscriber may use a hot key or pointer input, which will cause the browser to access and provide the needed data from the Password-All source.

**39 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**



It will be apparent to one with skill in the art that an interactive application such as application 33 may be provided in a form other than a WEB page without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. For example, an application such as application 33 may be provided as a downloadable module or program that may be set-up and configured off-line and made operational when on-line.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating user interaction with the Internet Password-All Portal of FIG. 1. The following process steps illustrated, according to an embodiment of the present invention, are intended to illustrate exemplary user-steps and automated software processes that may be initiated and invoked during interaction with an Internet portal of the present invention such as portal 31 of FIG. 1. In step 53 a user connects to the Internet or another previously described switched-packet network via a compatible appliance such as Internet appliance 17 of FIG. 1.

At step 55, a user enters a user-name and password which, in one embodiment, may simply be his ISP user name and password. In another embodiment, a second password or code would be required to access an Internet portal such as portal server 31 of FIG. 1 after logging onto the Internet through the ISP. In some cases, having a special arrangement with the ISP, there may be one password for both Internet access through the ISP and for Password-All. At step 57 a personal WEB page such as page 32 of FIG. 2 is displayed via Internet portal server 31. At minimum, the personalized WEB page will contain all user configured URL's, and may also be enhanced by a search function, among other possibilities.

In step 58 a user will, minimally, select a URL from his or her bookmarked destinations, and as is known by hyperlink technology, the transparent URL will be invoked, and the user will navigate to that destination for the purpose of normal user interaction. In this action, the Password-All Portal software transparently logs the user on to the destination page, if such log-on is needed.

At step 60 the user invokes a search engine by clicking on an option such as described option 37 of FIG. 2. At step 62, the user inputs search parameters into a provided text field such as text field 51 of FIG. 2. After inputting such parameters, the user starts the search by a button such as button 52. The search engine extracts information in step 64. Such information may be, in one option, of the form of URL's fitting the description provided by search parameters. A searched list of URL's may be presented in a separate generated page in step 66 after which a user may select which URL to navigate to. In an optional search function, the user may provide search criteria, and search any or all of the possible destinations for the criteria.

In another embodiment wherein WEB pages are cached in their presentable form, information extracted in step 64 may include any information contained in any of the stored pages such as text, pictures, interactive content, or the like. In this case, one displayed result page may provide generated links to search results that include the URL associated with the results. Perhaps by clicking on a text or graphic result, the associated WEB page will be displayed for the user with the result highlighted and in view with regards to the display window.

The method and apparatus of the present invention may be practiced via private individuals on the Internet, businesses operating on a WAN connected to the Internet, businesses operating via private WAN, and so on. There are many customizable situations.

The present invention as taught herein and above should be afforded the broadest of scope. The spirit and scope of the present invention is limited only by the claims that follow.

What is claimed is:

1. An Internet Portal, comprising:

an Internet-connected server; and  
a portal software executing on the server;

wherein the Portal, in response to log-on by a user from a user's Internet-connected appliance, presents a secure and personalized page for the user, the personalized page having a list of Internet destinations, pre-selected by the user and enabled by hyperlinks, wherein, upon invocation of a hyperlink by the user, the portal invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information required for user access at the destination.

2. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

3. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the user connects to the Portal through an Internet Service Provider (ISP), and after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to and displayed for the user.

4. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal is enabled by software executing at a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the user subscribes.

5. The Internet Portal of claim 1 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

6. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

7. The Internet Portal of claim 6 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

8. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal software, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

9. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

10. The Internet Portal of claim 9 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

11. An Internet Portal, comprising:

an Internet-connected server; and  
a portal software executing on the server;

wherein the portal interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a user's Internet-connected appliances such that, when the user invokes a destination from the browser, wherein the destination requires a secure log-on, the portal software cooperates with the browser plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

12. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

13. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software cooperates with the user's browser plug-in to access and display one or more informative displays to the user.

14. The Internet Portal of claim 12 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

15. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein the Portal software, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

16. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

17. The Internet Portal of claim 16 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

18. An Internet Portal software application executing on an Internet-connected server, comprising:

- a log-on portion providing an interactive display for users to enter log-on information from an Internet-connected appliance for access to the Portal application; and
- a plurality of displayable stored personal pages associated each with one or more specific users;

wherein individual personalized pages, rendered in an interactive display, list plural Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks, the destinations pre-selected by the associated users, and upon invocation of a hyperlink by the associated user, the portal software invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information for user access at the destination.

19. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet server in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

20. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein, after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to and displayed for the user.

21. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users subscribe.

22. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations in user's pages for defined search criteria.

23. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

24. The Internet Portal application of claim 23 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

25. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein the Portal application enables users to pre-select destinations by interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a predetermined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

26. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

27. The Internet Portal application of claim 26 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

28. An Internet Portal software application executing on an Internet-connected server, comprising:

- a log-on portion providing an interactive display for users to enter log-on information for access to the Portal application; and
- a plurality of displayable stored personal pages associated each with one or more specific users;

wherein the portal application interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a subscriber's Internet-connected

appliance, such that, when the user invokes a destination, pre-selected by the associated user, from the browser, accessing the associated user's personal page, the portal software cooperates with the browser plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

29. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

30. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users subscribe.

31. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software, in cooperation with the browser plug-in, accesses and displays displays one or more informative displays to the user.

32. The Internet Portal application of claim 31 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

33. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein the Portal application enables users to pre-select destinations by interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

34. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

35. The Internet Portal of claim 34 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

36. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

- (a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server, which returns a personalized page for the user logging on, the personalized page having listed plural Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks, the destinations pre-selected by the user;
- (b) selecting a hyperlink in the personalized page, thereby invoking a URL for a destination, and, upon connection to the destination, automatically providing user log-on information for the user; and
- (c) interacting with the page automatically provided.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the Portal server is a part of an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

38. The method of claim 36 further comprising a step for invoking a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

39. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

- (a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server as a subscriber, the portal server storing data associated with Internet destinations pre-selected by the subscriber;
- (a) using a browser with a plug-in for interacting with a Portal server executing on the Internet-capable appliance, invoking a URL to a destination WEB page;
- (b) upon being presented with a log-in interface by the destination WEB page, calling the Portal server by the plug-in; and
- (c) furnishing necessary log-in data by the Portal server, and accomplishing secure log-in for the subscriber substantially transparently to the subscriber.