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(54) **DYNAMIC AUTHORIZATION RULE STACKING AND ROUTING ACROSS MULTIPLE SYSTEMS**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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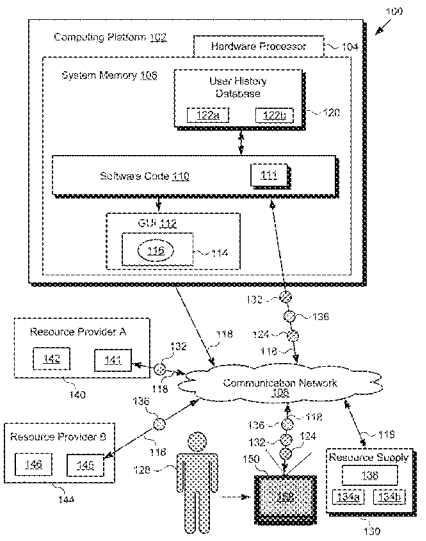
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system includes a hardware processor that executes a software code to receive an authorization request on behalf of a user for a stacked resource including resources offered separately by multiple resource providers, determine resource provider computers associated with the stacked resource, and send a look-up request including an electronic identity of the user to those computers, where the electronic identity is used as a look-up key for determining user attribute(s) of the user. The software code further receives the user attribute(s) from the resource provider computers, generates an accumulated access profile of the user based on the user attribute(s), applies the profile to a rules engine to determine a stacked access result, and routes the authorization request and the stacked access result to one of the resource provider computers, where that computer completes an authorization process for access to the stacked resource based on the stacked access result.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06F 16/901	(2019.01)
G06Q 20/12	(2012.01)
H04L 67/306	(2022.01)
H04L 65/60	(2022.01)
G06Q 30/0601	(2023.01)
G06Q 30/0207	(2023.01)
G06Q 30/0283	(2023.01)
H04L 101/37	(2022.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***G06Q 30/0207*** (2013.01); ***G06Q 30/0283*** (2013.01); ***G06Q 30/0611*** (2013.01); ***H04L 63/20*** (2013.01); ***H04L 65/60*** (2013.01); ***H04L 67/306*** (2013.01); *H04L 2101/37* (2022.05)

Fig. 1

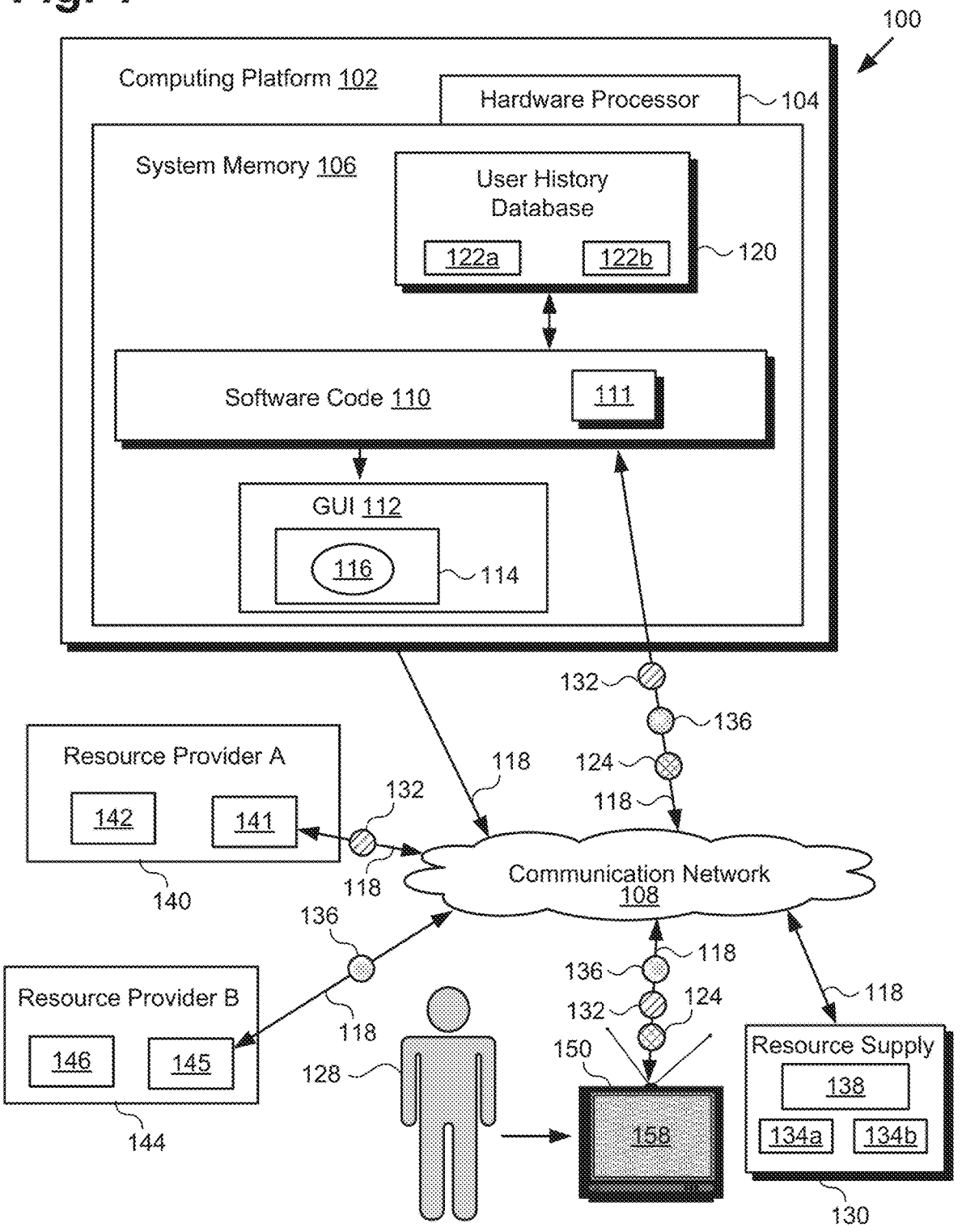

100
Computing Platform 102
Hardware Processor
104
System Memory 106
User History Database
122a
122b
120
Software Code 110
111
GUI 112
116
114
132
136
124
118
Resource Provider A
142
141
140
Communication Network 108
Resource Provider B
146
145
144
128
150
158
Resource Supply
138
134a
134b
130

Fig. 2

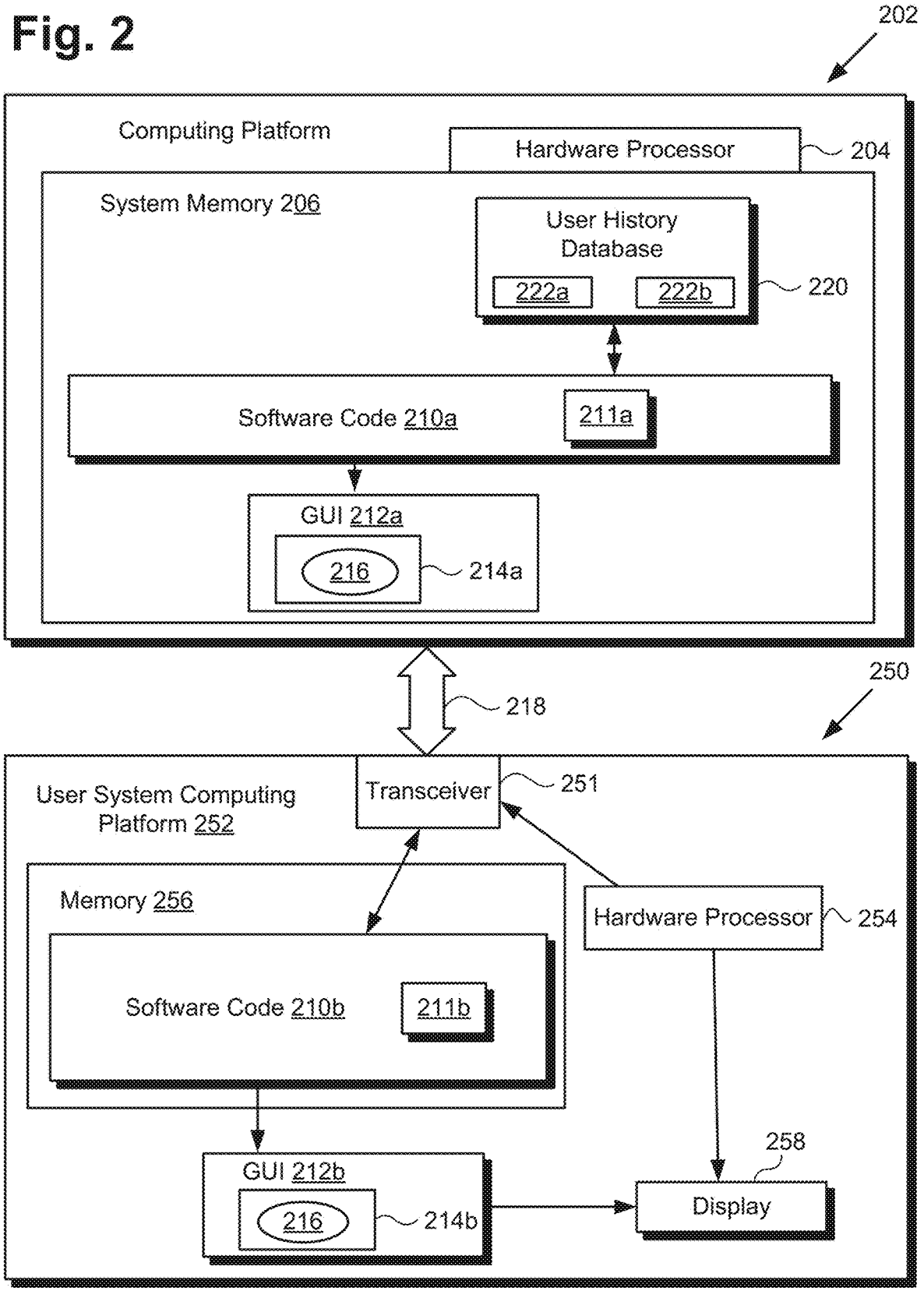
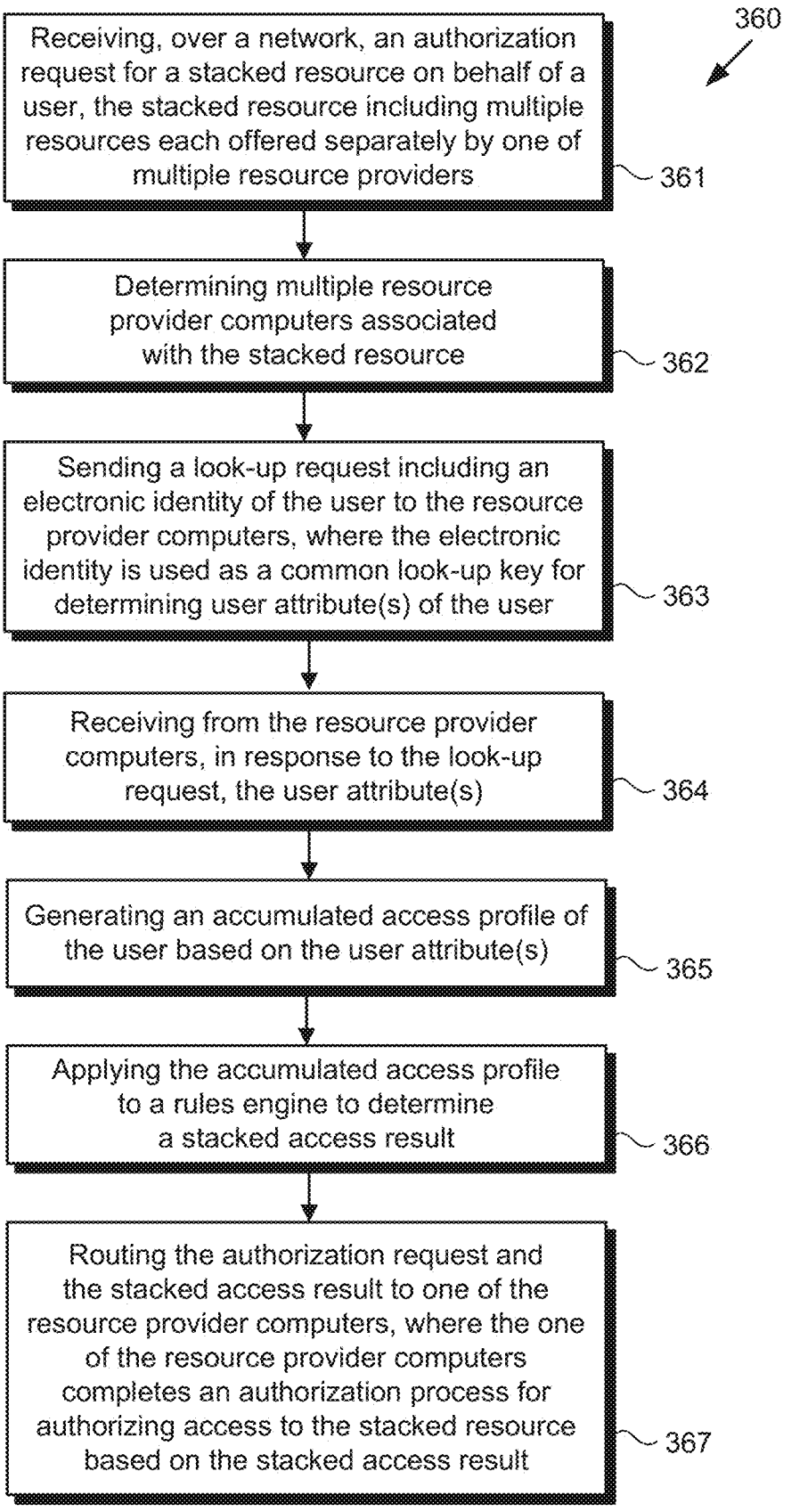

202
Computing Platform
Hardware Processor
204
System Memory 206
User History Database
222a
222b
220
Software Code 210a
211a
GUI 212a
216
214a
218
250
User System Computing Platform 252
Transceiver
251
Memory 256
Hardware Processor
254
Software Code 210b
211b
GUI 212b
216
214b
258
Display

Fig. 3


360
Receiving, over a network, an authorization request for a stacked resource on behalf of a user, the stacked resource including multiple resources each offered separately by one of multiple resource providers
361
Determining multiple resource provider computers associated with the stacked resource
362
Sending a look-up request including an electronic identity of the user to the resource provider computers, where the electronic identity is used as a common look-up key for determining user attribute(s) of the user
363
Receiving from the resource provider computers, in response to the look-up request, the user attribute(s)
364
Generating an accumulated access profile of the user based on the user attribute(s)
365
Applying the accumulated access profile to a rules engine to determine a stacked access result
366
Routing the authorization request and the stacked access result to one of the resource provider computers, where the one of the resource provider computers completes an authorization process for authorizing access to the stacked resource based on the stacked access result
367

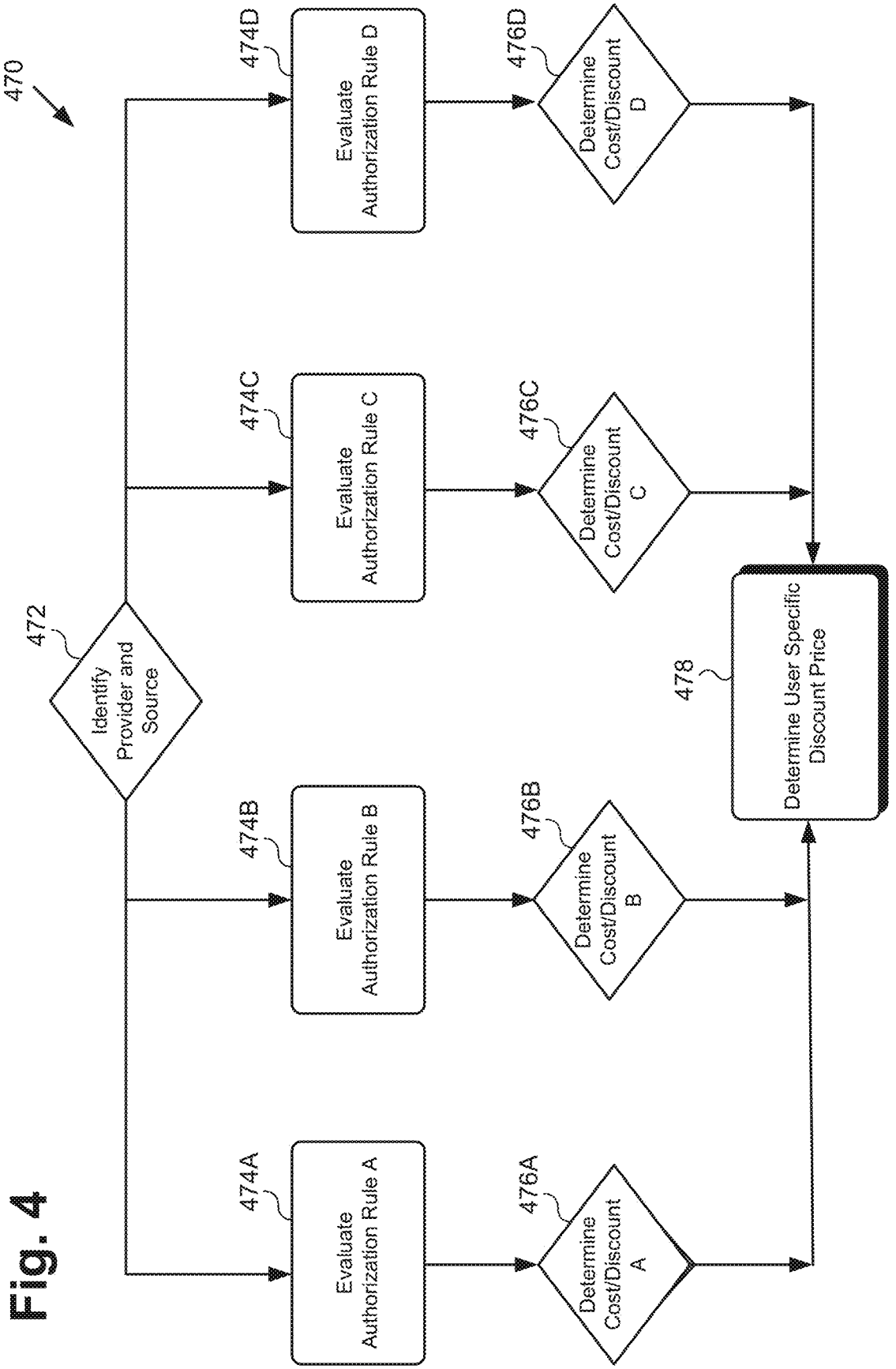
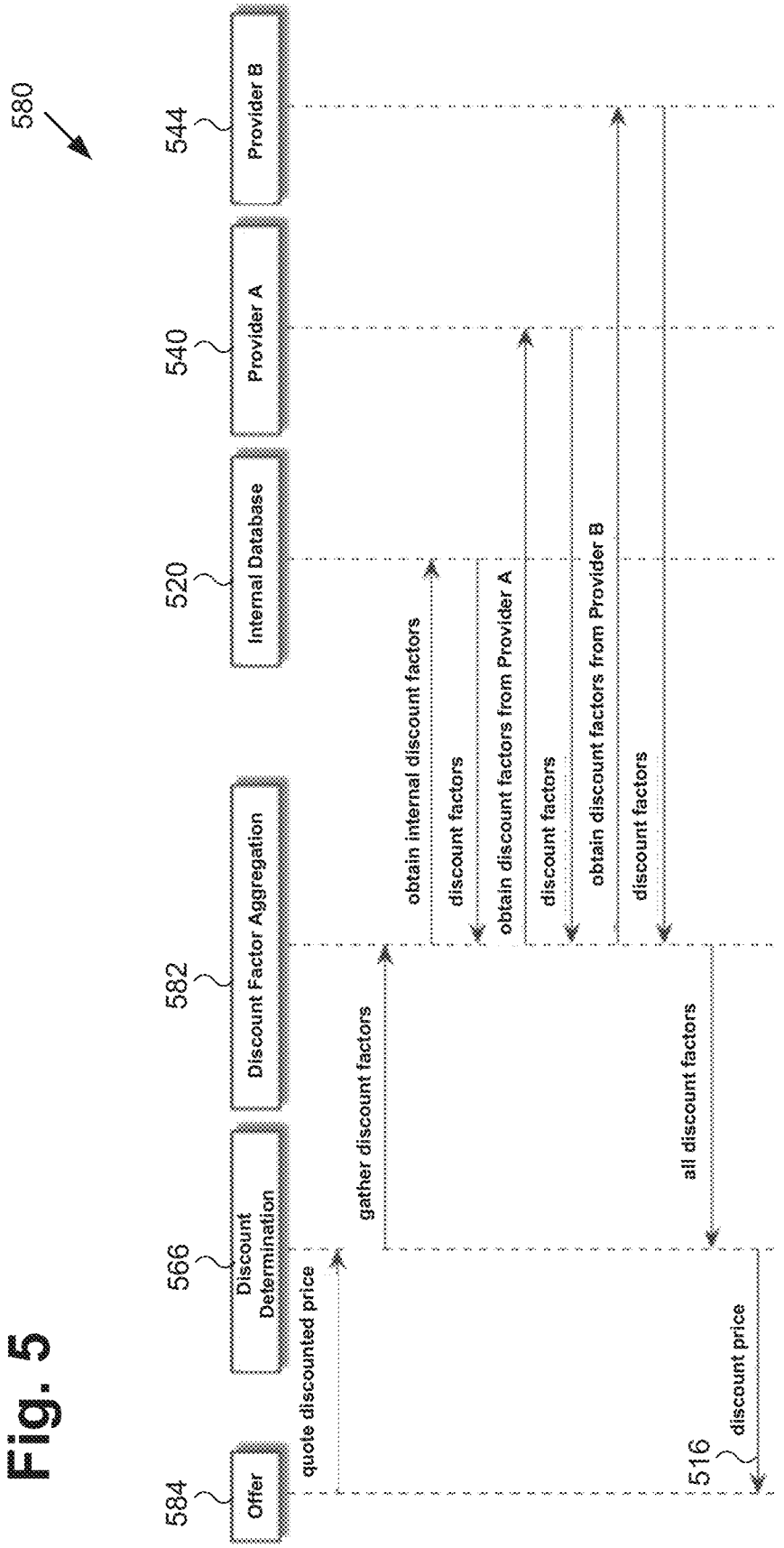

470
472
Identify Provider and Source
474A
Evaluate Authorization Rule A
474B
Evaluate Authorization Rule B
474C
Evaluate Authorization Rule C
474D
Evaluate Authorization Rule D
476A
Determine Cost/Discount A
476B
Determine Cost/Discount B
476C
Determine Cost/Discount C
476D
Determine Cost/Discount D
478
Determine User Specific Discount Price

Fig. 4

Fig. 5


580
584
Offer
566
Discount Determination
582
Discount Factor Aggregation
520
Internal Database
540
Provider A
544
Provider B
quote discounted price
gather discount factors
obtain internal discount factors
discount factors
obtain discount factors from Provider A
discount factors
obtain discount factors from Provider B
discount factors
all discount factors
516
discount price

DYNAMIC AUTHORIZATION RULE STACKING AND ROUTING ACROSS MULTIPLE SYSTEMS

The present application is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/084,533, filed Oct. 29, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Large sized enterprises may have multiple avenues, internal and external, to authorize access to a variety of resources to users over a network. One example is in the case of online purchasing of separate online services that can be purchased both individually or together as a "bundle." In doing so, users might end up with products and services that are essentially related and that "stack" upon one another. An example of a "stack" may include subscription services in which a bundle subscription overlaps an existing individual subscription that has already been authorized to the user. In that scenario, it's important to have an engine that appropriately accommodates stacked authorization rules (e.g., discounting rules) in a dynamic manner and that may route the user to the point-of-sale system that results in the most efficient authorization process.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows an exemplary system for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems, according to one implementation;

FIG. **2** shows a more detailed exemplary representation of a user system suitable for use in performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems, in combination with a computer server;

FIG. **3** shows a flowchart presenting an exemplary method for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems, according to one implementation;

FIG. **4** shows a diagram depicting the dynamic generation of a user specific discounted price for a stacked resource, according to one implementation; and

FIG. **5** shows a diagram depicting the aggregation of discounting factors from internal and external sources for use in generating a user specific discounted price for a stacked resource, according to one implementation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description contains specific information pertaining to implementations in the present disclosure. One skilled in the art will recognize that the present disclosure may be implemented in a manner different from that specifically discussed herein. The drawings in the present application and their accompanying detailed description are directed to merely exemplary implementations. Unless noted otherwise, like or corresponding elements among the figures may be indicated by like or corresponding reference numerals. Moreover, the drawings and illustrations in the present application are generally not to scale, and are not intended to correspond to actual relative dimensions.

The present application discloses systems and methods for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems that address and overcome the deficiencies in the conventional art. It is noted that the novel and inventive authorization rule stacking and routing solution disclosed by the present application can be applied to any set of authorization rules that overlap, such that having already met one condition also means that one or more other conditions have been at least partially met and only need to satisfy the other parts of the outstanding condition to gain authorized access. For example, a main condition for authorization to access a resource might be "user needs to meet condition X, Y, and Z within time less than n+1" and information obtained about the user reveals that the user has already satisfied a condition of "user needs to meet condition X and Y within time less than n." Consequently, the user now only need to satisfy the condition "meet condition Z within time less than n+1" because satisfying the other conditions partially satisfies the main condition. That is to say, the present concepts may be broadly applied to use of a computer to authorize access to substantially any resource.

According to some implementations, in response to receiving, over a network, an authorization request for a stacked resource on behalf of a user, the stacked resource including multiple resources each offered separately by one of multiple resource providers, the present dynamic authorization and routing solution includes determining resource provider computers associated with the stacked resource. It should be noted that one entity or company may include or act as more than one resource provider. The present solution further includes sending a look-up request including an electronic identity of the user to the resource provider computers, where the electronic identity is used as a common look-up key by each of the resource provider computers for determining one or more user attributes of the user, and receiving, from the plurality of resource provider computers in response to the look-up request, the one or more user attributes. The present solution continues with generating an accumulated access profile of the user based on the one or more user attributes, applying the accumulated access profile to a rules engine to determine a stacked access result, and routing the authorization request and the stacked access result to one of the resource provider computers, wherein the resource provider computer completes an authorization process for authorizing access to the stacked resource based on the stacked access result.

As a specific but non-limiting example of the foregoing system and method description, the authorization request may be a purchase request on behalf of the user for the stacked resource. In that exemplary use case, the user attributes may take the form of entitlements to resources included in the stacked resource already held by the user. Moreover, when an entitlement to one or more of the stacked resources is held by the user, the present solution determines the cost to the user of that or those entitlements, and determines a discount to be applied to a predetermined price for the stacked resource using the entitlement cost or costs. The discount may then be applied to the predetermined price to dynamically generate the stacked access result in the form of a discount price for the stacked resource that is specific to the user's entitlement holdings. The present solution further includes routing the purchase request and the discount price to one of the resource provider computers, wherein the resource provider computer completes an authorization process for authorizing access to the stacked resource based on the discount price.

It is noted that, as used in the present application, the expression "stacked resource" may refer to a combination of resources that can be accessed according to multiple authorization rules applied by multiple systems. One example of a stacked resource is a "stacked subscription" that involves a combination of subscriptions that can each be purchased in a variety of ways. A "bundle" of resources may refer to two

or more resources being offered together at a price less than the cumulative price of the resources when purchased separately. Therefore, a request to purchase a "bundle" is a request to purchase a "stacked resource" because the bundle itself has its own set of authorization rules (e.g. price or discount applied based on a set of conditions) while the individual subscriptions have their own set of authorization rules set by the individual resource providers, which the requesting user may have already met (e.g. an individual subscription cost X per year, user already paid Y dollars on Z date). However, the authorization rules can include other rules or conditions besides those relating to price, and the present novel and inventive concepts disclose combining/stacking those conditions together when authorizing access to the combination of resources in the stack concurrently.

Moreover, as used in the present application, the term "resource" may refer to a service, digital content, a financial instrument, any article of commerce, such as a commodity or article of manufacture, or a secure building, terminal, network, or file requiring a combination of validation actions for access. A service may take the form of a subscription service, such as any of a variety of commercially available software as a service (SaaS) subscriptions, or a subscription to a content streaming service. Examples of digital content may include software, movies, series or episodes of television (TV) programming, music, video games, or digital books, to name a few. Financial instruments may include stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, futures, precious metals, or cryptocurrency, for example. Thus, a stacked resource may include two or more of any of the resources described above, or to any combination of those resources.

In some implementations, the systems and methods disclosed by the present application may be substantially or fully automated. It is noted that, as used in the present application, the terms "automation," "automated", and "automating" refer to systems and processes that do not require the participation of a human system operator. Although, in some implementations, a human system administrator may review a stacked access result determined by the automated systems and according to the automated methods described herein, that human involvement is optional. Thus, the methods described in the present application may be performed under the control of hardware processing components of the disclosed automated systems.

FIG. **1** shows an exemplary system for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems, according to one implementation. As shown in FIG. **1**, system **100** includes computing platform **102** having hardware processor **104** and system memory **106** implemented as a non-transitory storage device. According to the present exemplary implementation, system memory **106** stores software code **110** including rules engine **111** and providing graphical user interface (GUI) **112**, and user history database **120**. Also shown in FIG. **1** is window **114** of GUI **112** presenting user stacked access result **116** for stacked resource **138** to user **128**.

As further shown in FIG. **1**, system **100** is implemented within a use environment including communication network **108**, user system **150** including display **158**, and user **128** utilizing user system **150** to interact with system **100**. In addition, FIG. **1** shows resource provider A **140** having computer **141** and providing resource **142**, resource provider B **144** having computer **145** and providing resource **146**, resource supply **130** accessible to system **100** and including resources **134***a* and **134***b* as well as stacked resource **138**, authorization request **124**, and user attributes **132** and **136**. Also shown in FIG. **1** are user histories **122***a* and **122***b* stored in user history database **120**, and network communication links **118** of communication network **108** interactively connecting system **100** with computer **141** of resource provider A **140**, computer **145** of resource provider B **144**, resource supply **130**, and user system **150**. It is noted that although in some implementations resource supply **130** may merely be accessible to system **100** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**, in other implementations, resource supply **130** may be included as part of system **100**.

It is further noted that although only two resource providers external to system **100** are shown in FIG. **1** in the interests of conceptual clarity, in other implementations, resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144** may correspond to many more than two external resource providers, such as hundreds, or thousands of external resource providers, for example. In addition, although FIG. **1** depicts one resource available from each of resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144**, once again that representation is provided merely in the interests of conceptual clarity. More generally, each of resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144** may have hundreds, thousands, or tens of thousands of resources available for acquisition through purchase, rental, or subscription for example.

It is also noted that user history **122***a* in user history database **120** is a user history of user **128** and may identify one or more user attributes of user **128**, such as resource entitlements held by user **128**, while user history **122***b* may be an analogous user history for a different user, i.e., an individual user other than user **128**. As defined for the purposes of the present application, the feature "resource entitlement" or simply "entitlement" refers to a permanent or temporary right to use or possess a resource. For example, an entitlement may take the form of an ownership, rental, subscription, or lease right to access and use of a particular resource.

Although the present application refers to software code **110** as being stored in system memory **106** for conceptual clarity, more generally, system memory **106** may take the form of any computer-readable non-transitory storage medium. The expression "computer-readable non-transitory storage medium," as used in the present application, refers to any medium, excluding a carrier wave or other transitory signal that provides instructions to hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102** or to a hardware processor of user system **150**. Thus, a computer-readable non-transitory storage medium may correspond to various types of media, such as volatile media and non-volatile media, for example. Volatile media may include dynamic memory, such as dynamic random access memory (dynamic RAM), while non-volatile memory may include optical, magnetic, or electrostatic storage devices. Common forms of computer-readable non-transitory media include, for example, optical discs, RAM, programmable read-only memory (PROM), erasable PROM (EPROM), and FLASH memory.

Moreover, although FIG. **1** depicts software code **110** and user history database **120** as being co-located in system memory **106**, that representation is also provided merely as an aid to conceptual clarity. More generally, system **100** may include one or more computing platforms **102**, such as computer servers for example, which may be co-located, or may form an interactively linked but distributed system, such as a cloud-based system, for instance. As a result, hardware processor **104** and system memory **106** may correspond to distributed processor and memory resources within system **100**. In one such implementation, computing

platform **102** may correspond to one or more web servers accessible over a packet-switched network such as the Internet, for example. Alternatively, computing platform **102** may correspond to one or more computer servers supporting a wide area network (WAN), a local area network (LAN), or included in another type of private or limited distribution network.

Although user system **150** is shown as a smart TV in FIG. **1**, that representation is also provided merely as an example. More generally, user system **150** may be any suitable mobile or stationary computing device or system that implements data processing capabilities sufficient to enable use of GUI **112**, support connections to communication network **108**, and implement the functionality ascribed to user system **150** herein. For example, in other implementations, user system **150** may take the form of a desktop or laptop computer, a tablet computer, a smartphone, an e-reader or a game console, for example. Alternatively, in some implementations, user system **150** may take the form of a wearable personal communication device, such as an augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR) headset or glasses, a smartwatch, or another smart personal item worn or carried by user **128**.

User **128**, who may be a user of a subscription service that streams or otherwise delivers media content such as movies, TV programming content or other episodic media content, music, video games, or digital books, for example, may utilize user system **150** to interact with system **100** via GUI **112** to purchase or otherwise access stacked resource **138**. Stacked resource **138** may include two or more resources **134***a* and **134***b* available from resource supply **130**, resource **142** provided by resource provider A **140**, and resource **146** provided by resource provider **144**. User **128** may utilize window **114** of GUI **112** to view stacked asset result **116**, which may be a user specific discount price for stacked resource **138**, for example, determined dynamically for user **128** by software code **110** using rules engine **111**, and rendered on display **158** of user system **150**.

Display **158** of user system **150** may take the form of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a light-emitting diode (LED) display, an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display, a quantum dot (QD) display, or any other suitable display screen that performs a physical transformation of signals to light. It is noted that, in some implementations, display **158** may be integrated with user system **150**, such as when user system **150** takes the form of a laptop or tablet computer for example. However, in other implementations, for example where user system **150** takes the form of a computer tower in combination with a desktop monitor, display **158** may be communicatively coupled to, but not physically integrated with user system **150**.

In some implementations, as noted above, stacked asset result **116** may be a user specific discount price for stacked resource **138**. In those implementations, hardware processor **104** of system **100** may execute software code **110** to determine the user specific discount price for purchase of stacked resource **138** by user **128** dynamically, based on a predetermined price for stacked resource **138** and any entitlements to resources included in stacked resource **138** that are already held by user **128**. The user specific discount price may be determined by determining the cost to user **128** for any entitlements to resources included in stacked resource **138** that are held by user **128**, and reducing the predetermined price for stacked resource **138** using that cost. In some implementations, the user specific discount price for purchase of stacked resource **138** may be presented to user **128** via GUI **112** accessible to user system **150** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**. For example, user system **150** may have stored thereon a software application providing a GUI corresponding to GUI **112** and enabling user **128** to interact with system **100**.

In some implementations software code **110** may employ a directed acyclic graph (DAG), as known in the art. For example, applying an accumulated access profile to rules engine **111** may include traversing the DAG, where each node in the DAG includes a preconfigured authorization rule. Software code **110** may execute the DAG using recursion from a start node until reaching a termination node. At each node of the DAG traversal, the condition defined at the node is evaluated. Based on the condition evaluation result, a transition rule defined in the node determines the next node, a discount, and the reason for the discount. If the transition rule does not provide the next node, the present node is the terminal node and the total discount is determined from the graph traversal. In one implementation, each node evaluation result can be accumulated using a Routing Slip technique, as also known in the art.

In one implementation system **100** may include computing platform **102** having hardware processor **104**, system memory **106**, software code **110** stored in system memory **106**. In such an implementation, hardware processor **104** may be configured to execute software code **110** to receive, over network **108**, authorization request **124** for a stacked resource on behalf of user **128**, the stacked resource including a plurality of resources each offered separately by one of a plurality of resource providers, authorization request **124** comprising an electronic identity of user **128**. Hardware processor **104** may be configured to execute software code **110** to obtain, using the electronic identity of user **128**, one or more user attributes of user **128** utilized by the plurality of resource providers to identity user **128**, generate an accumulated access profile of the user based on the one or more user attributes, and apply the accumulated access profile to a rules engine to determine a stacked access result. Hardware processor **104** may further be configured to execute software code **110** to route authorization request **124** and the stacked access result to a computer of one of the plurality of resource providers, wherein the computer of the one of the resource providers completes an authorization process for authorizing access to the stacked resource based on the stacked access result.

FIG. **2** shows a more detailed representation of exemplary user system **250** in combination with computing platform **202** implemented as a computer server. As shown in FIG. **2**, user system **250** is communicatively coupled to computing platform **202** over network communication link **218**. Computing platform **202** includes hardware processor **204**, and system memory **206** storing user history database **220** including user histories **222***a* and **222***b*, as well as software code **210***a* including rules engine **211***a* and providing GUI **212***a*. In addition, FIG. **2** shows window **214***a* of GUI **212***a* including stacked asset result **216**.

As further shown in FIG. **2**, user system **250** includes user system computing platform **252** having hardware processor **254**, memory **256** implemented as a non-transitory storage device storing software code **210***b* including rules engine **211***b*, and GUI **212***b* provided by software code **210***b*. As also shown in FIG. **2**, user system **250** includes transceiver **251**, and display **258** for rendering GUI **212***b* including window **214***b* showing stacked asset result **216** for stacked resource **138**, in FIG. **1**.

Network communication link **218** and computing platform **202** having hardware processor **204** and system memory **206** correspond respectively in general to network

communication links **118** and computing platform **102** having hardware processor **104** and system memory **106**, in FIG. **1**. In addition, software code **210***a*, rules engine **211***a*, and GUI **212***a*, in FIG. **2**, correspond respectively in general to software code **110**, rules engine **111**, and GUI **112**, in FIG. **1**. In other words, software code **210***a*, rules engine **211***a*, and GUI **212***a*, may share any of the characteristics attributed to respective software code **110**, rules engine **111**, and GUI **112** by the present disclosure, and vice versa. It is also noted that stacked asset result **216** and user history database **220** including user histories **222***a* and **222***b*, in FIG. **2**, correspond respectively in general to stacked asset result **116** and user history database **120** including user histories **122***a* and **122***b*, in FIG. **1**.

User system **250** and display **258** correspond in general to user system **150** and display **158**, in FIG. **1**, and those corresponding features may share any of the characteristics attributed to either corresponding feature by the present disclosure. Thus, like user system **150**, user system **250** may take the form of a smart TV, desktop computer, laptop computer, tablet computer, smartphone, e-reader, game console, or a wearable personal communication device, for example. In addition, and although not shown in FIG. **1**, user system **150** may include features corresponding to hardware processor **254**, transceiver **251**, memory **256** storing software code **210***b* including rules engine **211***b*, and GUI **212***b* provided by software code **210***b*. Moreover, like display **158**, display **258** may be implemented as an LCD, an LED display, an OLED display, a QD display, or any other suitable display screen that performs a physical transformation of signals to light.

Transceiver **251** may be implemented as a wireless communication unit enabling user system **250** to exchange data with computing platform **202** via network communication link **218**. For example, transceiver **251** may be implemented as a fourth generation (4G) wireless transceiver, or as a 5G wireless transceiver configured to satisfy the IMT-2020 requirements established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Alternatively. or in addition, transceiver **251** may be configured to communicate via one or more of WiFi, Bluetooth, ZigBee, and 60 GHz wireless communications methods.

With respect to software code **210***b*, it is noted that in some implementations, software code **210***b* may be a thin direct-to-consumer application merely providing GUI **212***b* for presenting stacked asset result **216** to user **128**, in FIG. **1**. However, in other implementations, software code **210***b* may be a direct-to-user application including all of the features of software code **210***a*, and may be capable of executing all of the same functionality. That is to say, in some implementations, software code **210***b* including rules engine **211***b* corresponds to software code **110** including rules engine **111** in FIG. **1**, and may share any of the characteristics attributed to that corresponding feature by the present disclosure. Furthermore, it is noted that window **214***b* corresponds in general to window **214***a* and may share any of the characteristics attributed to that corresponding feature by the present disclosure.

According to the exemplary implementation shown in FIG. **2**, software code **210***b* is located in memory **256**, having been received via network communication link **218**, either from computing platform **202** or an authorized third party source of software code **210***b*. In one implementation, network communication link **218** corresponds to transfer of software code **210***b* over a packet-switched network, such as the Internet, for example.

Once transferred, for instance by being downloaded over network communication link **218**, software code **210***b* may be persistently stored in memory **256**, and software code **210***b* may be executed on user system **250** by hardware processor **254**. Hardware processor **254** may be the central processing unit (CPU) for user system **250**, for example, in which role hardware processor **254** runs the operating system for user system **250** and executes software code **210***b*. Thus, in some implementations, the computing platform for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems may be user system computing platform **252**.

The functionality of software code **110**/**210***a*/**210***b* in FIGS. **1** and **2** will be further described by reference to FIG. **3**. FIG. **3** shows flowchart **360** presenting an exemplary method for use by a system, such as system **100**, or user system **150**/**250**, for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems. With respect to the method outlined in FIG. **3**, it is noted that certain details and features have been left out of flowchart **360** in order not to obscure the discussion of the inventive aspects disclosed in the present application.

Referring to FIG. **3** in combination with FIG. **1**, flowchart **360** begins with receiving authorization request **124** for stacked resource **138** on behalf of user **128**, where stacked resource **138** includes two or more resources each offered separately by one of multiple resource providers (action **361**). It is noted that authorization request **124** includes an electronic identity of user **128**, which may be an email address user **128**, for example. It is further noted that in the interests of conceptual clarity, the method outlined by flowchart **360** will be described by reference to a merely exemplary use case in which stacked resource **138** includes resource **142** offered separately by resource provider A **140**, resource **146** offered separately by resource provider B **144**, and resource **134***a* separately available to user **128** from resource supply **130** through system **100**.

As noted above, each of resources **134***a*. **142**, and **146** included in stacked resource **138** may take the form of a service, digital content, a financial instrument, or to any article of commerce, such as a commodity or article of manufacture. For example, one or more of resources **134***a*, **142**, and **146** may be a subscription service, such as SaaS or a content streaming service, for example. Alternatively, or in addition, one or more of resources **134***a*, **142**, and **146** may include movies, series or episodes of TV programming, music, video games, digital books, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, futures, precious metals, or cryptocurrency, for example.

As shown by FIG. **1**, in one implementation, authorization request **124** may be received from user system **150** by system **100** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**. In those implementations, authorization request **124** may be received by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102**. However, referring to FIG. **2** in combination with FIG. **1**, in another implementation, authorization request **124** may be received by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system **150**/**250**, as a result of one or more inputs to user system **150**/**250** by user **128**, such as manual inputs or voice inputs, for example.

Continuing to refer to FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **3**, flowchart **360** continues with determining resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145** associated with stacked resource **138** (action **362**). Resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145** may be determined based on the resources included in stacked resource **138**. For example, computing platform **102**

of system **100** may be determined to be a resource provider computer in action **362** due to the inclusion of resource **134***a* in stacked resource **138**. Resource provider computer **141** may be a web server of resource provider **140**, and may be determined in action **362** based on inclusion of resource **142** provided by resource provider **140** in stacked resource **138**. Analogously, resource provider computer **145** may be a web server of resource provider **144**, and may be determined in action **362** based on inclusion of resource **146** provided by resource provider **144** in stacked resource **138**.

As shown by FIG. **1**, in one implementation, determination of resource provider computers **141** and **145** may be performed by system **100** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**. In those implementations, determination of resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145** may be performed by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102**. However, referring to FIG. **2** in combination with FIG. **1**, in another implementation, determination of resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145** may be performed by user system **150**/**250** using transceiver **251**. In those implementations, determination of resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145** may be performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system computing platform **252**.

Flowchart **360** continues with sending a look-up request including the electronic identity of user **128** to resource provider computers **141** and **145**, or to resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145**, where the electronic identity is used as a common look-up key by each of the resource provider computers for determining one or more user attributes of user **128** (action **363**). Referring to FIG. **1**, in implementations in which action **363** is performed by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104**, action **363** may include sending look-up requests to resource provider computers **141** and **145** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**. In addition, in those implementations, action **363** may include sending another look-up request as an internal system request to user history database **120** to access user history **122***a* of user **128**. Alternatively, referring to FIG. **2**, in implementations in which action **363** is performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system **250**, action **363** may include sending look-up requests to each of computing platform **102** and resource provider computers **141** and **145** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**.

Flowchart **360** receiving from resource provider computers **141** and **145**, or resource provider computers **102**, **141**, and **145**, in response to the look-up request, the one or more user attributes of user **128** (action **364**). As noted above, user attributes of user **128** may include entitlements held by user **128**, such as a permanent or temporary right to access one or more of resources **134***a*, **142**, and **146** included in stacked resource **138**.

Referring to FIG. **1**, in implementations in which action **364** is performed by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104**, action **364** may include receiving the one or more user attributes of user **128** from resource provider computers **141** and **145** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**. In addition, in those implementations, action **364** may include receiving the one or more user attributes of user **128** as an internal data transfer from user history database **120**. Alternatively, referring to FIG. **2**, in implementations in which action **364** is performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system **250**, action **363** may include action **364** may include receiving the one or more user attributes of user **128** from each of computing platform **102** and resource provider computers **141** and **145** via communication network **108** and network communication links **118**.

Flowchart **360** continues with generating an accumulated access profile of user **128** based on the user attributes received in action **364** (action **365**). Merely in the interests of conceptual clarity, action **365** is described below by reference to an exemplary implementation in which stacked resource **138** includes resources **134***a*. **142**, and **146** in the form of entitlements to access content. In that implementation, action **365** may include determining the cost to user **128** of any of those entitlements that user **128** already holds. The cost to user **128** of each entitlement held by user **128** may be determined in any of several different ways. By way of example, in use cases in which stacked resource **138** is a bundle of subscriptions to different services that is billed at a monthly subscription stacked price, and user **128** is presently subscribed to one of the stacked services at a monthly subscription rate, the cost to user **128** for the entitlement to that resource may simply be the face value of the monthly subscription presently subscribed to by user **128**.

As a specific example of the foregoing, let stacked resource **138** include a subscription to resource **134***a* provided from resource supply **130**, a subscription to resource **142** provided by resource provider A **140**, and a subscription to resource **146** provided by resource provider B **142**. In addition, let the monthly subscription price for stacked resource **138** be $12.99, the monthly subscription price for resource **134***a* alone be $5.99, and the monthly subscription price for each of resources **142** and **146** alone be $4.99. In a use case in which user **128** wishes to purchase stacked resource **138** by subscribing to the stacked services for $12.99 per month, but presently has a subscription to resource **142** at a monthly subscription rate of $4.99, the cost to user **128** of the entitlement to resource **142** is the face value of that monthly subscription rate, or $4.99.

By contrast, resource provider A **140** may offer resource **142** at an effectively reduced monthly rate if user **128** pays for multiple months in advance. For example, if user **128** pays $47.88 to resource provider A **140** for a one year subscription to resource **142**, the cost to user **128** for the entitlement to resource **142** that is relevant to the monthly subscription to stacked resource **138** is the effectively discounted monthly subscription cost of $3.99 for the entitlement to resource **142**, i.e., the annual price of $47.88 divided by twelve months. Thus, in some implementations, action **365** may include identifying a duration of the entitlement held by user **128**, and identifying the price paid by user **128** for the entitlement, where the cost to user **128** is determined using the duration of the entitlement and the price paid by user **128** for the entitlement.

Alternatively, or in addition, user **128** may hold an entitlement to resource **146** and may be paying its full monthly subscription rate of $4.99, but may have received an incentive having value from resource provider B **144** in exchange for acquiring the entitlement at face value. For example, if user **128** pays $4.99 per month to resource provider B **144** for a one year subscription to resource **146** but receives a $12.00 credit toward other resources offered by resource provider B **144** as an incentive for the subscription, the cost to user **128** for the entitlement to resource **142** that is relevant to the monthly subscription to stacked resource **138** is the effectively discounted monthly subscription cost of $3.99 for the entitlement to resource **146**. i.e., the annual price of the subscription $59.88, less the credit of $12.00,

divided by twelve. Thus, in some implementations, action **363** may include identifying the value of an incentive provided to user **128** in exchange for acquisition of the entitlement by user **128**, where the cost to user **128** is determined further using the value of the incentive provided to user **128**.

Thus, the accumulated access profile of user **128** generated in action **365** may identify which of resources **134***a*. **142**, and **146** user **128** holds an entitlement to, as well as the cost to user **128** for each entitlement held by user **128**. In one implementation, as shown in FIG. **1**, the accumulated access profile of user **128** may be generated in action **365** by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102**. However, in other implementations, as shown in FIG. **2**, action **365** may be performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system computing platform **252**.

Flowchart **360** continues with applying the accumulated access profile of user **128** to rules engine **111**/**211***a*/**211***b* to determine stacked access result **116**/**216** (action **366**). According to the exemplary implementation described above by reference to action **365**, for instance, in which stacked resource **138** includes resources **134***a*, **142**, and **146** in the form of entitlements to access content, and in which the accumulated access profile generated in action **365** identifies which of resources **134***a*, **142**, and **146** user **128** holds an entitlement to, as well as the cost to user **128** for each entitlement held by user **128**, stacked access result **116**/**216** determined in action **366** may be a discount price for stacked resource **138**.

In some implementations, stacked access result **116**/**216** in the form of a discount price determined in action **366** may be based on the sum of the costs to user **128** determined in action **365**. For example, as discussed above, stacked resource **138** may be a stack of services paid monthly at a predetermined stack price of $12.99. Where user **128** has a subscription to each of resources **142** and **146** at its face value monthly subscription rate of $4.99, the discount price determined in action **366** may be based on the sum of those monthly subscription rates, or $9.98. However, where user **128** pays face value of $4.99 per month for each of resources **142** and **146**, but receives the $12.00 credit from resource provider B **144** for an annual commitment, the discount price determined in action **366** may be based on a reduced amount of $8.98.

In some implementations, the discount price determined in action **366** may be further based on one or more authorization rules corresponding to the provider of the resource obtained by user **128**. Thus, in some implementations, action **366** may include identifying one or more authorization rules corresponding to the resource provider, where the discount price for stacked resource **138** is determined further using the authorization rule or rules corresponding to the resource provider.

In some implementations, user **128** may acquire one or more of resources **142** and **146** from a source other than resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144**. For example, one or more of resources **142** and **146** may be acquired by user **128** from a third party retail source authorized by resource provider A **140** or resource provider B **144** to distribute resources **142** or **146**. In those implementations, the discount price determined in action **366** may be based on one or more authorization rules corresponding to the source of the resource. Thus, in some implementations, action **364** may include identifying a source of the resource obtained by user **128**, and identifying one or more authorization rules corresponding to the source of the resource, where the discount price for stacked resource **138** is determined further using the authorization rule or rules corresponding to that source.

It is noted that a authorization rule or authorization rules corresponding to a specific source of resources other than resource provider A **140** or resource provider B **144** may differ for the same source depending upon whether the entitlement applies to a resource offered by resource provider A **140** or resource provider B **144**. That is to say, a different authorization rule or authorization rules may correspond to hypothetical source "X" of resources depending upon whether the resource obtained by user **128** is provided by resource provider A **140** (i.e., the obtained resource is resource **142**) or whether the resource is provided by resource provider B **144** (i.e., the obtained resource is resource **146**).

It is further noted that, in some use cases, user **128** may have obtained both of resources **142** and **146**, and may be paying their full monthly subscription rate of $4.99 each, but may have received an incentive having value form the source or sources other than resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144** from which the resource or resources were acquired. In those implementations, determining the discount price for stacked resource **138** in action **366** may include identifying the value of the incentive provided to user **128** in exchange for acquisition of the resource by user **128**, where the discount price for stacked resource **138** is determined further using the value of the incentive provided to user **128**.

For example, in some implementations in which user **128** has an entitlement to resource **142** alone at its face value monthly subscription rate of $4.99, the discount determined in action **364** may be $4.99, and the discounted price specific to user **128**. i.e., user specific discounted price **116**/**216** may be the predetermined price for stacked resource **138**, $12.99, less the discount of $4.99, or $8.00. Alternatively, where user **128** has monthly subscriptions to each of resources **142** and **146** and pays face value of $4.99 per month for each of resources **142** and **146**, but receives the $12.00 credit from resource provider B **144** for an annual commitment, user specific discounted price **116**/**216** may be the predetermined price for stacked resource **138**, $12.99, less the discount of $8.98, or $4.01.

In some implementations, applying the accumulated access profile generated in action **365** to rules engine **111**/**211***a*/**211***b* in action **366** includes traversing a DAG, where each node in the DAG includes a preconfigured authorization rule. In one implementation, for example, the preconfigured authorization rule may define a stacked access result, a reason, a condition, and a transition rule. Traversing the DAG in action **366** may include evaluating a first condition defined at a first node to determine a condition evaluation result. Based on the condition evaluation result, traversing the DAG may further include using the transition rule to determine the next node, the stacked access result, and the reason, and evaluating a second condition defined at the next node. Moreover in some implementations, traversing the DAG may also include determining that the transition rule does not determine the next node, terminating the traversal, and outputting the stacked access result, such as displaying the stacked output result **116**/**216** as a discount price for stacked resource **138** in window **114**/**214***a*/**214***b* of GUI **112**/**212***a*/**212***b*.

In one implementation, as shown in FIG. **1**, stacked access result **116**/**216** for stacked resource **138** may be determined in action **366** by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102**, and using rules

engine **111**. However, in other implementations, as shown in FIG. **2**, action **366** may be performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system computing platform **252**, and using rules engine **211***b*.

Referring to FIG. **4** in combination with FIGS. **1** and **2**, FIG. **4** shows diagram **470** depicting the determination stacked asset result **116/216** in the form of user specific discount price **116/216** for exemplary stacked resource **138** including resources provided by four different resource providers: "A." "B." "C." and "D," according to one implementation. As shown in FIG. **4**, diagram **470** begins at node **472** with identifying the provider of each resource included in stacked resource **138**, as well as the source from which an entitlement to the resource has been acquired. Diagram **470** continues with evaluating, for each resource provider A, B, C, and D, and the source of the entitlement to the resource provided by each resource provider, authorization rules corresponding to those entities at respective nodes **474**A, **474**B, **474**C, and **474**D. It is noted that in use cases in which the one or more entitlements to resources included in asset bundle **138** is/are acquired directly from one or more of resource providers A, B, C, and D, one or more of resource providers A, B, C. and D may be both a resource provider and an entitlement source.

Diagram **470** continues with determining the cost to user **128** of each acquired entitlement, as well as the discount applicable to a predetermined price for stacked resource **138** due to each acquired entitlement at nodes **476**A, **476**B, **476**C, and **476**D. At terminal node **478**, user specific discount price **116/216** for stacked resource **138** can be determined using the predetermined price for stacked resource **138** and the discount determined at each of nodes **476**A, **476**B, **476**C, and **476**D, in a manner analogous to that described above by reference to action **366** of flowchart **360**.

FIG. **5** shows diagram **580** depicting the aggregation of discounting factors from internal and external sources for use in dynamically determining user specific discount price **516** for stacked resource **138**, according to one implementation. Diagram **580** corresponds to the exemplary implementation shown in FIG. **1** in which resources included in stacked resource **138** are provided by resource supply **130** of system **100**, as well as by external resource provider A **140** and external resource provider B **144**. The process depicted by diagram **580** is driven by discount determination **566**, which corresponds in general to action **366** of flowchart **360**. As shown in FIG. **5**, discount determination **566** includes discount factor aggregation **582** in which discounting factors such as the cost to user **128** for acquisition of a resource provided by system **100**, the cost to user **128** for acquisition of a resource provided by Provider A **540**, and the cost to user **128** for acquisition of a resource provided by Provider B **544**, as well as incentives provided to user **128** in exchange for acquiring each resource.

It is noted that user specific discount price **516** and internal database **520** correspond respectively in general to stacked asset result **116/216** and user history database **120/220** in FIGS. **1** and **2**. Consequently, user specific discounted price **516** and internal database **520** may share any of the characteristics attributed to respective stacked asset result **116/216** and user history database **120/220** by the present disclosure, and vice versa. In addition, Provider A **540** and Provider B **544**, in FIG. **5**, correspond respectively in general to resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144**, in FIG. **1**. Thus, Provider A **540** and provider B **544** may share any of the characteristics attributed to respective resource provider A **140** and resource provider B **144** by the present disclosure, and vice versa.

According to diagram **580**, once discount factors are aggregated from internal database **520**. Provider A **540**, and Provider B **544**, those factors are used to determine user specific discount price **516** for stacked resource **138**, as described above by reference to action **366**.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3**, and **5** in combination, flowchart **360** may continue and conclude with routing authorization request **124** and stacked access result **116/216/516** to one of the resource provider computers, where that one resource provider computer completes an authorization process for authorizing access to stacked resource **138** based on stacked access result **116/216/516** (action **367**). For example, in one implementation action **367** may include offering stacked resource **138** to user **128** at stacked asset result **116/216** in the form of user specific discount price **516** via GUI **112/212***a*/**212***b*, as shown by offer **584** in FIG. **5**.

In one implementation, routing of authorization request **124** and stacked asset result **116/216/516** may be based on one or more of user attributes **132** and **136** received in action **364**. For example, in use cases in which user **128** has no previous commercial relationship with system **100**, but has obtained a resource provided by resource provider A **140** or to resource provider B **144**, a better user experience for user **128** may be created by routing authorization request **124** and stacked asset result **116/216/516** to the computer of one of resource provider A **140** or resource provider B **144** with which user **128** does have a relationship. One significant advantage to user **128** of routing authorization request **124** and stacked asset result **116/216/516** to the computer of a resource provider with which user **128** does have a relationship is that it enables user **128** to utilize an existing user account or stored payment information without being required to input additional user or payment information into a second system.

In one implementation, as shown in FIG. **1**, action **367** may be performed by software code **110**, executed by hardware processor **104** of computing platform **102**. However, in other implementations, as shown in FIG. **2**, action **367** may be performed by software code **210***b*, executed by hardware processor **254** of user system computing platform **252**. With respect to actions **361-367** of flowchart **360**, it is noted that in some implementations, those action may advantageously be performed in an automated process from which human involvement can be omitted.

Thus, the present application discloses systems and methods for performing dynamic authorization rule stacking and routing across multiple systems that address and overcome the deficiencies in the conventional art. As noted above, the authorization rule stacking and routing solution disclosed by the present application can be applied to any set of authorization rules that overlap, such that having already met one condition also means that one or more other conditions have been at least partially met and only need to satisfy the other parts of the outstanding condition to gain authorized access. For instance, according to the exemplary subscription discounting use case discussed in detail above, the main condition may be "user pays at least $12.99 per month for service X, Y, and Z," but we also know from the other providers that the user already satisfied the condition "user pays $47.88 a year for service X", therefore the user only needs to satisfy the condition "user pays at least $9.00 per month to add services Y and Z."

However, more generally, in other use cases the main condition might be "user needs to meet condition X, Y, and Z within time less than n+1" and user attributes obtained from the other providers reveals that the user already satisfied a condition of "user needs to meet condition X within

time less than n," therefore now the user only needs to satisfy the condition "meet conditions Y and Z within time less than n+l" because satisfying the other condition partially satisfies the main condition. That is to say, the present concepts have applications beyond purchasing products, and may be applied to use of a computer to authorize access to substantially any resource. For example, the resource could be a secure building or terminal, and the conditions might include various forms of security access, like a set of verification or validation steps that the user has already has completed, at least partially as a result of some other previously performed process. Alternatively, or in addition, the resource may be a secure file or secure network, the user is required to receive a certain number of validations within a certain period of time in order to login, and the user may have recently completed some of the required validation steps at another computer.

From the above description it is manifest that various techniques can be used for implementing the concepts described in the present application without departing from the scope of those concepts. Moreover, while the concepts have been described with specific reference to certain implementations, a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that changes can be made in form and detail without departing from the scope of those concepts. As such, the described implementations are to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive. It should also be understood that the present application is not limited to the particular implementations described herein, but many rearrangements, modifications, and substitutions are possible without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a computing platform including a hardware processor and a system memory;

a software code stored in the system memory;

the hardware processor configured to execute the software code to:

receive, over a network, a first request for access by a user to a plurality of resources, wherein each of the plurality of resources is offered by a different one of a plurality of resource providers, the first request comprising information relating to the user;

determine the plurality of resource providers associated with the plurality of resources;

send a second request to the plurality of resource providers, wherein the second request includes the information relating to the user, and wherein the information relating to the user is associated with entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources;

receive the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources from the plurality of resource providers, in response to sending the second request;

use the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources to determine a stacked access result including a price for the plurality of resources; and

route the first request and the stacked access result to one of the plurality of resource providers for authorizing access by the user to the plurality of resources based on the stacked access result including the price.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the price is a discount price.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein routing the first request comprises routing the first request based on the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources.

4. The system of claim **1**, wherein the plurality of resources comprise at least one subscription service.

5. The system of claim **4**, wherein the at least one subscription service comprises a content streaming service.

6. The system of claim **1**, wherein the information relating to the user comprises an email address of the user.

7. A system comprising:

a computing platform including a hardware processor and a system memory;

a software code stored in the system memory;

the hardware processor configured to execute the software code to:

receive, over a network, a first request for access by a user to a plurality of resources, wherein each of the plurality of resources is offered by a different one of a plurality of resource providers, the first request comprising information relating to the user;

determine the plurality of resource providers associated with the plurality of resources;

send a second request to the plurality of resource providers, wherein the second request includes the information relating to the user, and wherein the information relating to the user is associated with attributes of the user;

receive the attributes of the user from the plurality of resource providers, in response to sending the second request;

use the attributes of the user to determine an access result by traversing a directed acyclic graph, wherein each node in the directed acyclic graph comprises a preconfigured authorization rule; and

route the first request and the access result to one of the plurality of resource providers for authorizing access by the user to the plurality of resources based on the access result.

8. The system of claim **7**, wherein the preconfigured authorization rule defines the access result, a reason, a condition, and a transition rule.

9. The system of claim **8**, wherein traversing the directing acyclic graph comprises:

evaluating a first condition defined at a first node to determine a condition evaluation result;

based on the condition evaluation result, using the transition rule to determine the next node, the access result, and the reason; and

evaluating a second condition defined at the next node.

10. The system of claim **9**, wherein traversing the directed acyclic graph further comprises:

determining that the transition rule does not determine the next node;

terminating the traversing; and

outputting the access result.

11. A method comprising:

receiving, over a network, a first request for access by a user to a plurality of resources, wherein each of the plurality of resources is offered by a different one of a plurality of resource providers, the first request comprising information relating to the user;

determining the plurality of resource providers associated with the plurality of resources;

sending a second request to the plurality of resource providers, wherein the second request includes the information relating to the user, and wherein the information relating to the user is associated with entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources;

receiving the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources from the plurality of resource providers, in response to sending the second request;

using the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources to determine a stacked access result including a price for the plurality of resources; and

routing the first request and the stacked access result to one of the plurality of resource providers for authorizing access by the user to the plurality of resources based on the stacked access result including the price.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein the price is a discount price.

13. The method of claim **11**, wherein routing the first request comprises routing the first request based on the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources.

14. The method of claim **11**, wherein using the entitlements of the user to the plurality of resources to determine the stacked access result comprises traversing a directed acyclic graph, and wherein each node in the directed acyclic graph comprises a preconfigured authorization rule.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the preconfigured authorization rule defines the stacked access result, a reason, a condition, and a transition rule.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein traversing the directing acyclic graph comprises:

evaluating a first condition defined at a first node to determine a condition evaluation result;

based on the condition evaluation result, using the transition rule to determine the next node, the stacked access result, and the reason; and

evaluating a second condition defined at the next node.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein traversing the directed acyclic graph further comprises:

determining that the transition rule does not determine the next node;

terminating the traversing; and

outputting the stacked access result.

18. The method of claim **11**, wherein the plurality of resources comprise at least one subscription service.

19. The method of claim **18**, wherein the at least one subscription service comprises a content streaming service.

20. The method of claim **11**, wherein the information relating to the user comprises an email address of the user.

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