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domain including a host computer, to authenticate the remote host computer to the intelligent token.

18. The method of claim **17** wherein communicating user authentication information between the intelligent token and the remote host computer includes: sending a request for access from the intelligent token to the remote host computer responsive to completion of the boot operation and sending a challenge from the remote host computer to the intelligent token in response to the request for access.

19. The method of claim **18** wherein communicating user authentication information between the intelligent token and the remote host computer further includes: storing the chal-

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lenge in a memory of the remote host computer, generating a response to the challenge in the intelligent token and sending the response to the remote host computer.

20. The method of claim **19** further comprising validating the response in the remote host computer to allow the remote host computer access to the critical information stored on the intelligent token.

21. The method of claim **20** wherein the remote domain includes a computer network.

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