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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DIGITAL POSTAL MAIL GATEWAY

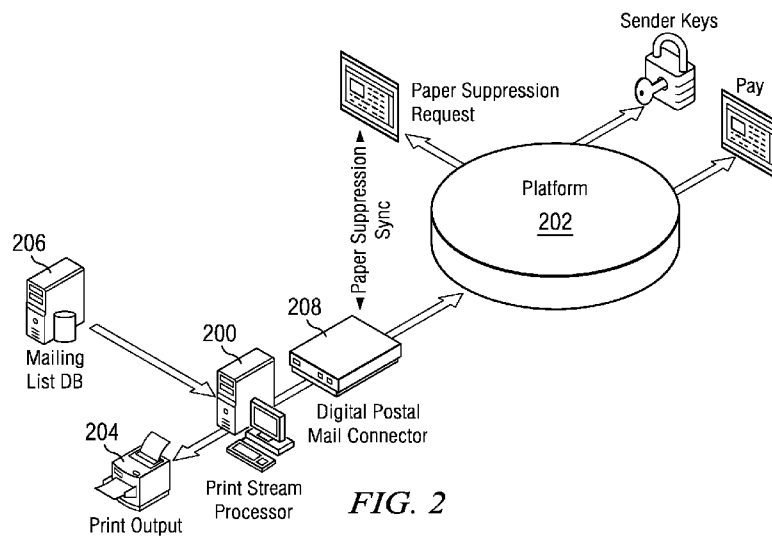
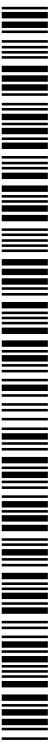


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: A digital postal mail connector (or "gateway") is supported within an enterprise's (a mailer's) digital delivery infrastructure, preferably as a rack-mounted hardware appliance or software install. The digital postal mail gateway interfaces with the mailer's existing print process (e.g., a print stream processor) to automatically create an alternative output stream that is sent as one or more digital files and received online by the mailer's customers in web-based electronic mailboxes.



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10 May 2013

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**G06Q 50/32(2012.01)i**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06Q 50/32; G06F 15/16; H04L 9/32; G06F 3/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: mail, post, gateway

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2008-0215684 A1 (THORKELSSON HARALDUR et al.) 04 September 2008 See abstract, claims 1-24 and figures 1A-8.	1-8
Y	US 7612903 B2 (PHILLIPS KEVIN et al.) 03 November 2009 See abstract, column 5, lines 54-56, claims 1-10 and figures 1-5.	1-8
A	US 2003-0187939 A1 (PETER, T. O'BRIEN) 02 October 2003 See abstract, claims 1-19 and figures 1-8A.	1-8
A	US 2009-0254748 A1 (MOCHIZUKI YUSUKE) 08 October 2009 See abstract, claims 1-8 and figures 1-8.	1-8

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 JANUARY 2013 (23.01.2013)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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