

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 July 2003 (24.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/060757 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F 17/30
 - (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2002/005296
 - (22) International Filing Date: 9 December 2002 (09.12.2002)
 - (25) Filing Language: English
 - (26) Publication Language: English
 - (30) Priority Data: 10/029,921 27 December 2001 (27.12.2001) US
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 - (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
 - (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
29 July 2004
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING ACCESS TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT OVER A NETWORK BASED ON AUDIO OR VISUAL CONTENT

USER PROFILE 200

	USER NAME 240	USER AGE 245	FULL ACCESS? 250	SEXUALLY EXPLICIT? 255	HATE 260	VIOLENCE/ CRIME 265	DRUG-RELATED 270
205	JOHN SMITH	40	YES	✓	✓	✓	✓
210	JANE SMITH	38	YES	✓	✓	✓	✓
215	JOHN SMITH, JR.	10	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
...							
220	DEFAULT USER	N/A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus are disclosed for restricting access to electronic media objects having objectionable content. The disclosed access control system prevents a user from accessing objectionable content based on an analysis of the audio or visual information associated with the content. For example, image processing techniques are employed to dynamically detect nudity, violence, or other identified inappropriate content in an image associated with an electronic media object. In addition, speech recognition techniques can be employed to dynamically detect one or more predefined stop words in audio information associated with an electronic media object. When a user first attempts to access an electronic media object, the audio or visual content (or both) of the electronic media object is analyzed to determine if the electronic media object contains any predefined inappropriate content. The inappropriate content may be defined, for example, in accordance with user-specific access privileges. The user is prevented from accessing the electronic media object if the content analysis determines that the electronic media object contains one or more predefined inappropriate content items, such as nudity, sexually explicit material, violent content or bad language.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter .pplication No
PCT/IB 02/05296

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/30

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)
IPC 7 G06F

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

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 295 559 B1 (KRAFT REINER ET AL) 25 September 2001 (2001-09-25) column 3, line 5-28 column 4, line 32-35 column 5, line 27-66; figure 4 column 6, line 27-30; figure 5 column 6, line 54 -column 7, line 4; figure 6 <div style="text-align: center;"> --- -/-- </div>	1-15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in 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 document 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 another citation or other special reason (as specified)
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- *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
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- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/01/2004

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Siodmok, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter .pplication No
PCT/IB 02/05296

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>GREENFIELD P ET AL: "Access Prevention techniques for Internet Content Filtering" INTERNET PUBLICATION - NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION ECONOMY, 'Online! December 1999 (1999-12), XP002265027 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.cmis.csiro.au/Reports/filting.pdf> 'retrieved on 2003-12-15! page 9, line 17-30 page 17, line 4-7 page 37 page 73-74</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-4,6-15
X	<p>US 2001/044818 A1 (LIANG YUFENG) 22 November 2001 (2001-11-22) abstract paragraph '0005! paragraphs '0052!, '0053!; figure 7 paragraph '0068! paragraph '0071!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-4,6-15
X	<p>ROTTA A: "D2.3 - Report on Filtering Techniques and Approaches" INTERNET PUBLICATION, 'Online! 23 October 2001 (2001-10-23), XP002265028 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.saferinternet.org/downloads/netprotect_review_techniques.pdf> 'retrieved on 2003-12-12! page 5-6 page 14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-4,6-15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 02/05296

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6295559	B1	NONE	
US 2001044818	A1	AU	03-09-2001
		WO	30-08-2001