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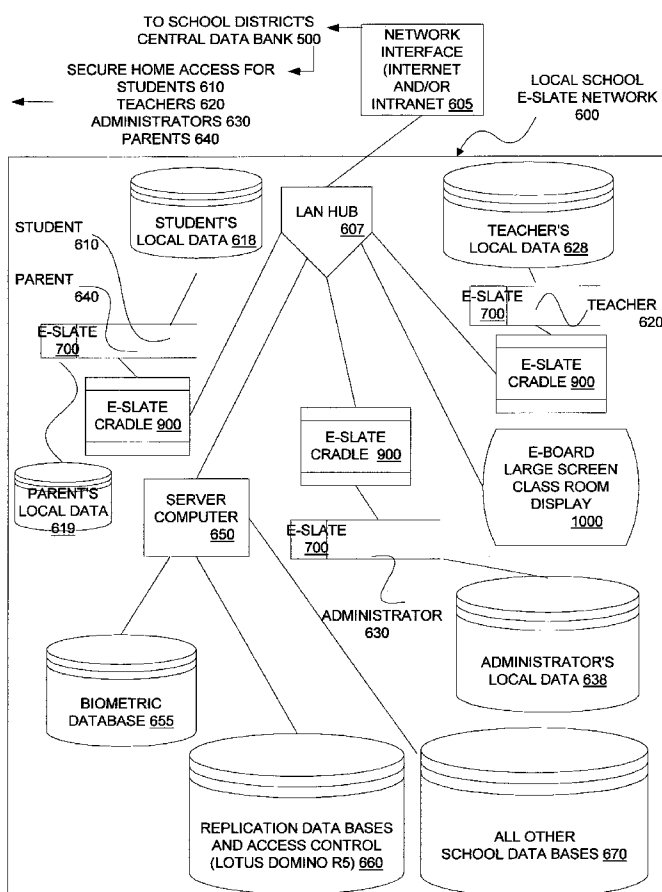
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN ELECTRONIC COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION PROCESS MODEL

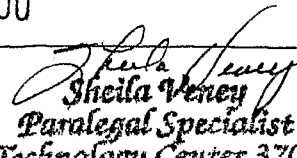


(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is provided for facilitating education operations. A portable processor-based apparatus is adapted to releasably couple with a cradle (900) which is maintained at least in the school environment. The portable device (700) may be coupled through the cradle to a school network (600), which may be utilized by the student (610), parents (640), and teacher (620) to perform a number of specific school related activities, such as a presentation of course materials, the assignment, completion and return of homework assignments, the maintenance of school records, and digital communication between or among the student, teacher and parents. The portable device preferably includes biometric security system (655) which limit the access to both the portable device and data maintained in the portable device or in the school network.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/23622

<p><b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>                  IPC(7) :G09B 5/00                  US CL :434/350                  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																							
<p><b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>                  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  U.S. : Please See Extra Sheet.                  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 practicable, search terms used)                  Please See Extra Sheet.</p>																							
<p><b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,294,229 A (Hartzell et al) 15 March 1994, see Figs. 1-14.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,727,950 A (Cook et al) 17 March 1998, see Figs. 1-11.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,769,643 A (Stevens, III) 23 June 1998, see Figs. 1-4.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,273,437 A (Caldwell et al) 28 December 1993, see Figs. 1-4.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 5,261,823 A (Kurokawa) 16 November 1993, see Figs. 1A-14.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 5,295,836 A (Ryu et al) 22 March 1994, see Figs. 1-13.</td> <td>1-46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	Y	US 5,294,229 A (Hartzell et al) 15 March 1994, see Figs. 1-14.	1-46	Y	US 5,727,950 A (Cook et al) 17 March 1998, see Figs. 1-11.	1-46	Y	US 5,769,643 A (Stevens, III) 23 June 1998, see Figs. 1-4.	1-46	Y	US 5,273,437 A (Caldwell et al) 28 December 1993, see Figs. 1-4.	1-46	A	US 5,261,823 A (Kurokawa) 16 November 1993, see Figs. 1A-14.	1-46	A	US 5,295,836 A (Ryu et al) 22 March 1994, see Figs. 1-13.	1-46
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<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.      <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>																							
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 OCTOBER 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 14 NOV 2000																					
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer JOE H. CHENG Telephone No. (703) 308-2667  Paralegal Specialist Technology Center 3700																					

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/23622

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,307,055 A (Baskin et al) 26 April 1994, see Figs. 1-8(b).	1-46
A	US 5,601,436 A (Sudman et al) 11 February 1997, see Figs. 1a-19.	1-46
A	US 5,823,788 A (Lemelson et al) 20 October 1998, see Figs. 1-10.	1-46
A	US 5,829,983 A (Koyama et al) 03 November 1998, see Figs. 1A-33.	1-46

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International application No.  
PCT/US00/23622

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched  
Classification System: U.S.

434/118,169,185,307R,308,321-323,336,350,351,362,365; 273/429-432; 455/2,4.1; 463/1,40;  
345/1,146,326,329,335,336,346,3439.57,978; 340/825.17; 707/100-104; 706/927; 709/303.

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

East

search terms: education, portable unit, touch sensitive screen, biometric security, cradle, student, parents, teacher, course, homework, school record, communication.