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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FEDERATED CHALLENGE CREDIT SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: Systems and methods for reducing the number of challenge messages that are sent in response to an incoming message in situations where the incoming message is likely not unsolicited. The systems and methods include evaluating the behavior of a sender with regard to one or more federated messaging services and determining if the sender is approved or unapproved. If the sender is approved, the incoming message is deliver to a recipient's inbox without issuing a challenge message. Unapproved senders are required to respond to a challenge message.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— 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))

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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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US06/12189

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: G06F 15/16 (2006.01)
G06F 15/175 (2006.01)

USPC: 709/206,225
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)
U.S. : 709/206,225

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)
US-PGPUB, USPAT, EPO, IPO, DERWENT, IBM_TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,868,498 B1 (KATSIKAS) 15 March, 2005 (15.03.2005), column 1, line 4 - column 11, line 53.</td>
<td>1-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,999,932 (PAUL) 7 December, 1999 (07.12.1999), column 1, line 6 - column 10, line 18.</td>
<td>1-31</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
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