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(54) Title: ATTRIBUTE TAGGING AND MATCHING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Category	Whole Houses		
Attribute Type	Attributes	Attribute Values	Relevance Weightings
General & Unweighted	Architect Builder Photographer	Jim Rightler	NA
		Gwen Simpkins	NA
		Randy Foulds	NA
Category-Specific & Unweighted	Type of Siding Number of Bedrooms Number of Bathrooms Square Footage	Cedar Shingles	NA
		Clapboard	NA
		6	NA
		5	NA
General & Weighted	Quality of Design Quality of Materials Quality of Workmanship Overall Style Colors	outstanding design	3
		outstanding materials	4
		outstanding workmanship	2
		Traditional	4
		Hip	2
		Contemporary	0
		Romantic	3
		Formal	2
		Casual	3
		tan	4
		green	4
		white	4
		Category-Specific & Weighted	House Style
Colonial	2		
Cape	1		
Modernist	0		

(57) Abstract: An attribute language and attribute tagging and matching system is used to permit fine-grained data searches based on overall similarity using attribute values and weightings. The searches use similarity to specific attributes, or similarity to combinations of attributes. The system includes an attribute language and a structure for inputting attribute values. It includes "relevance" weightings that are used to refine calculations of the similarity between specific products. These weightings substantially increase the precision of search results and the usefulness of the order in which search results are presented. The invention further includes a system for tuning search results. This system includes the application of "must match" checkboxes to particular attributes, coupled with "importance" weightings applied to any or all attributes, including those that are not checked as "must match."

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 01/05471

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 983 220 A (SCHMITT MARTIN) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09) the whole document ----	1-10
A	US 5 924 090 A (KRELLENSTEIN MARC F) 13 July 1999 (1999-07-13) the whole document ----	1-10
A	EP 0 887 749 A (GMD GMBH) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) the whole document -----	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "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
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- "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 1 December 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 09/12/2003
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Mannekens, J
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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