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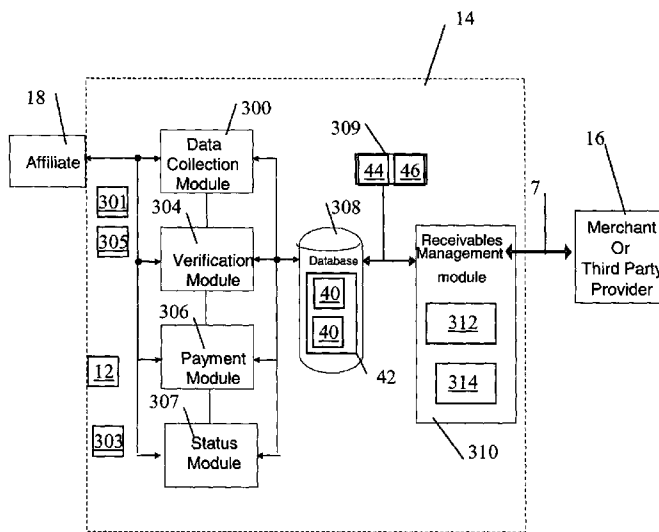
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(54) Title: ADVANCING PAYMENT TO AN AFFILIATE BASED ON COMPANY ELECTRONIC LINK ACTIVITY



(57) Abstract: A method for advancing payment of a portion of one or more amounts due under an affiliate program to an affiliate, the amount being owed by a merchant of a website subject to the affiliate program. The method includes the steps of, first, providing a means for transmitting information to an administrator. The information is for use by the administrator to verify the affiliate's identity. Second, the method provides a means for enabling the administrator to verify the identify of the affiliate based on the information. Third, the method provides a means whereby the affiliate assigns the amount due under the affiliate program absolutely to the administrator, and whereby the affiliate requests that the portion of the amount due be advanced. Next, the method provides confirmation from the merchant that the amount due under the affiliate program is assigned absolutely to the administrator. Finally, the method provides a means for enabling the administrator to effect payment to the affiliate of the portion of the amount due under the affiliate program.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: <b>G06Q 20/00</b> (2006.01) 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: <b>G06Q 20/00</b> (2006.01)  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used) Canadian Patent Database, IEEE Explore, Delphion, Google Book Search, Google Patent Search, Google: affiliate, marketing, program, Internet, web, pre-pay, advance, forward, funds, fulfilment, bill, payment, presentment, request, third-party, processor, & similar terms		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,289,322 B1 (KITCHEN ET AL.) 11 September 2001 (11-09-2001) whole document	1 to 4, 8 to 14 and 18 to 21
Y		5 to 7 and 15 to 17
Y	CA 2,446,862 A1 (SIMONS) 14 November 2002 (14-11-2002) figure 1; and page 9, lines 3-13	5 to 7 and 15 to 17
A	Rosalind Gardner, <i>The Super Affiliate Handbook: How I made \$436,797 Last Year Selling Other People's Stuff Online</i> (WebVista Inc., 2003) whole document (in accordance with copyright laws, a copy of this book will not be supplied)	1 to 21
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents :	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"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		
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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

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