Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING TRANSACTIONS

Abstract: A system for facilitating a transaction between a first party and a second party is controlled by a trusted third party system and is programmed to carry out the method by receiving the first party’s instructions for fulfilling at least a part of the first party’s obligations in said transaction. The system communicates with the second party and provides the second party with perceptible assurance that the second party is in communication with a trusted third party system through the system. The system transmits information to the second party to provide assurance that the first party’s instructions have been or will be fulfilled. Thus trust in the third party is transferred to the first party and the second party can trust that the first party’s obligations have been or will be fulfilled.
Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
17 November 2005

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

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(7) : G06F 17/60
   US Cl. : 705/78
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. : 705/50-80; 713/150,155,155,182-186, 200-202

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)
Dialog

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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2001/0039535 A (TSIOUNIS et al.), 08 November 2001 (08.11.2001), see entire document</td>
<td>1, 2, 9-13, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 42-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3-6, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>WO 01/35355 A1 (TSUEI et al.) 17 May 2001 (17.05.2001), see entire document</td>
<td>43 and 44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family 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 application or patent 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)
- "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

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 25 May 2005 (25.05.2005)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized official: James Trammell
Telephone No. 703-308-1113

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)
### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

#### Box No. II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
   - because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
   - because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
   - because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

#### Box No. III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(2)) (January 2004)
BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-42, drawn to a method for facilitating a transaction between a first party and a second party using a trusted third party system.

Group II, claim(s) 43 and 44, drawn to an anonymous user system.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group II has a separate utility such as selecting an artificial personality and conducting a communications session between said selected artificial personality and said user to begin to develop a record of shared information based on a unique relationship between said user and said artificial personality.