



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/24741  <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 18 November 1998 (18.11.98)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/065,664                      18 November 1997 (18.11.97)      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> STELLAR COMPUTING [US/US]; Suite 301, 1270 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US).  <b>(72) Inventor:</b> ZHU, Min; 24920 La Loma Court, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 (US).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> HAMRICK, Claude, A., S. et al.; Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP, Suite 600, 10 Almaden Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95113 (US).	<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims</i> <i>and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>  <b>(88) Date of publication of the international search report:</b> 26 August 1999 (26.08.99)	
<b>(54) Title:</b> METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMUNICATION CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE USERS VIA A NETWORK OF INTERCONNECTED COMPUTERS  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  A method for establishing a communication link between two or more users via the Internet, and, more specifically, a web-server based real-time data conferencing system is disclosed. Under the presently preferred embodiment, a user uses an application (such as a web browser) (10) to retrieve and view a web page (16). On the web page (or the like), a clickable icon or hyperlink (18) is provided to call another user or service. At this time, there is no custom software on the user/caller side. However, the hyperlink may activate a subprogram to gather certain types of information of interest to pass to the server to tailor a response; it may also perform any other tasks as necessary. The server (22) (call-center software), upon receiving the requesting to establish a connection, determines an agent (38) to receive the call and activate any related software thereof.		

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US98/24741

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
IPC(6) :G06F 13/14 US CL :709/219, 221, 223, 229 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 709/219, 221, 223, 229		
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.		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,	US 5,548,726 A (PETTUS) 20 August 1996, Fig. 4, Fig. 8, Col. 2, lines 30-48, Col. 10, lines 38-65, Col. 11, lines 1-15, Col. 13, 18-65 and Col. 14, lines 50-64	1
Y	US 5,553,239 A (HEATH et al.) 03 September 1996, Fig. 3, Col. 3, lines 39-67, Col. 4, lines 1-52, Col. 5, lines 50-67	1
Y	US 5,650,994 A (DALEY) 22 July 1997, Col. 11, lines 9-67, Col. 12, lines 1-67, Col. 16, lines 1-60	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* *A* *E* *L* *O* *P*	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document published on or after the international filing date 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 referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* *X* *Y* *A*
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 MAY 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 09 JUL 1999
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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SHLOSS, R.J. Novel business uses of independently created hyperlinks in the World Wide Web: basic mechanism and examples, IEEE/IEE Electronic Library, Systems Sciences, 1996, Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth Hawaii International Conference, pages 137-146, VOL. 2	1
A	LAW, K.L.E., A scalable and distributed WWW proxy system IEEE/IEE Electronic Library, Multimedia Computing and Systems '97., IEEE International Conference, June 1997, pages 565-571	1
A	JEFFREY, C.L., Proxy-sharing proxy servers, IEEE/IEEElectronic Library, Emerging Technologies and Applications in Communications, May 1996, pages 116-119	1
A	US 5,644,714 A (KIKINIS) 01 July 1997, Fig. 1A, Abstract	1

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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

APS, Internet, IEEE

search terms: internet, database, browsers, repository or icon, center, gateway, routers, servers, clients, web pages, web browsers