Title: UPDATING DATA WITHIN A BUSINESS PLANNING TOOL

Abstract: A apparatus is provided for updating data within a business planning tool. The apparatus comprises a computer memory (22) arranged to store operational data in a plurality of line items (50), each line item (50) being arranged to represent operational data in data cells (52) occupying space in a plurality of dimensions (X, Y), and each line item (50) having data cells in a first dimension (Y) configured to represent the operational data in a at least one hierarchy level, and having data cells in a second dimension (X) arranged to represent the respective operational data over at least one time period. A processor (24) is arranged to partition each line item (50) into data blocks (60) comprising one or more data cells (52) by identifying and grouping data cells (52) which belong to a single hierarchy level within the first dimension (Y) and a single time period within the second dimension (X), to create a dependency graph having a node for each data block (60) which represents the interdependency of the data blocks (60) and in which there are no internal dependencies within a data block; and to update the data blocks (60) based on the dependency graph when at least one data cell is changed. In this way, an efficient updating apparatus is achieved.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06F17/24 G06Q10/00
ADD.

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)
G06F° G06Q

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

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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Other than references to generic computer hardware (processor, memory), the claimed subject-matter relates exclusively to a computer program which does not demonstrate any technical effects that could contribute to novelty or an inventive step. The purpose of the program is to efficiently update data within a business planning tool such as a spreadsheet, however this efficiency is achieved solely by means of programming techniques rather than addressing and solving a technical problem using technical means.</td>
<td>1-13</td>
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</table>

D Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

D See patent family annex

Date of the actual completion of the international search
30 June 2010

Date of mailing of the international search report
14/07/2010

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