



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 1996/12/20
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 1997/07/10
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2004/06/08
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 1998/06/15
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 1996/020366
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 1997/024658
(30) Priorités/Priorities: 1996/01/02 (08/582,062) US;
1996/02/01 (08/593,118) US

(51) Cl.Int.⁶/Int.Cl.⁶ G06F 17/30
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
KOUCHI, DAVID B., US;
YARNALL, DAVID F., US;
BABCOCK, DONALD K., US
(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
TIMELINE, INC., US
(74) Agent: BULL, HOUSSEY & TUPPER

(54) Titre : PROCEDE DE RECUPERATION DE DONNEES ET EQUIPEMENT A CAPACITE DE SOURCES MULTIPLES
(54) Title: DATA RETRIEVAL METHOD AND APPARATUS WITH MULTIPLE SOURCE CAPABILITY

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Generation of output or reports on information contained in a data source which may be any of two or more types of source data, in a standardized or uniform manner is provided. A plurality of drivers (804a-804d) are provided specific to different types of source data sources (806a-806d) e.g. for use in defining a new database (808). Preferably the new database (808) is configured to permit highly flexible and/or rapid output or reporting or is otherwise optimized for reporting purposes. In one embodiment, the present invention includes conversion of one or more data sources (806a-806d) into one or more uniform databases (808), preferably generating one or more key categories for organizing the data, optionally generating category groupings or rollups and additional data or optional references (815). In another embodiment, one or more databases (901-910) are created which have a degree of uniformity of structure, even though they may be based on two or more different data sources which may have very different structures. The different data sources are automatically analyzed and this analysis can be used to identify and/or create categories of data for use in organizing the information.

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Table I. Examples of Accounting Organization

Corporation # 1	Corporation # 2
Employee	Employee
Salesman #1	Sales
Salesman #2	Salesman #1
	Salesman #2
	Research
	Researcher #1
	Researcher #2
Project	Project
Research	Research
Sales	Chemical
	Biomedical
	Sales
	Old Products
	New Lines
Product	Product
Product #1	Old Product Lines
Product #2	Line #1
	Product 1
	Product 2
	Line #2
	Product 3
	Product 4
	New Product Lines
	Line #3
	Product 5
	Product 6
	Line #4
	Product 7
	Product 8
	Subsidiary
	Subsidiary #1
	Subsidiary #2

