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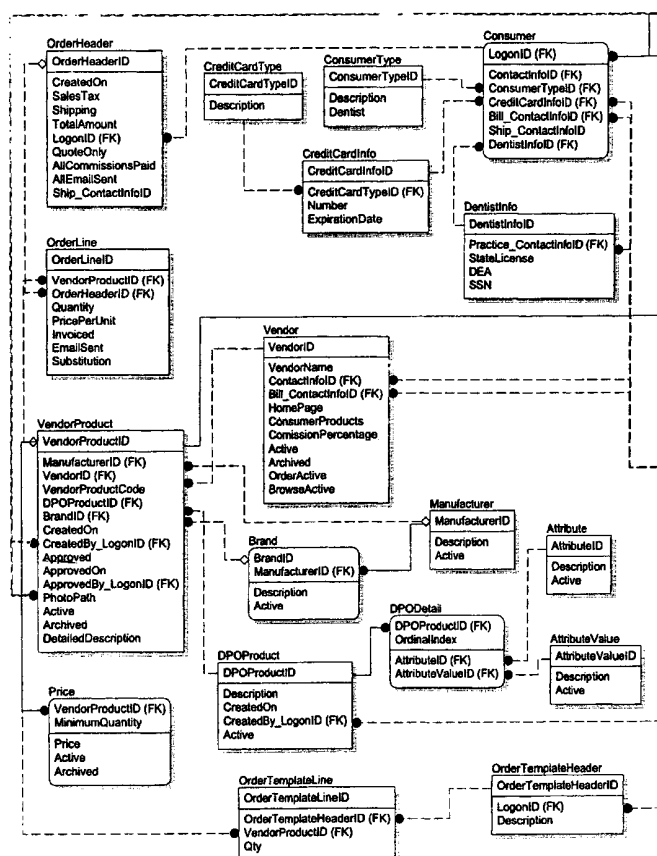
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(54) Title: INTERNET-BASED ON-LINE COMPARISON SHOPPING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF INTERACTIVE PURCHASE AND SALE OF PRODUCTS



(57) Abstract: A searchable database (fig. 56) comprising a multiplicity of tables including an attributes table and a values table for a multiplicity of target search items constructed and arranged so that selection of values for one or more target search item attributes yields an attribute-value (fig. 56) construct specifying a particular one of said target search items and precluding an indeterminate search result. Such database may be employed in an online comparison shopping system comprising a database containing product information of multiple vendors, manufacturers and/or products and a user interface generating a virtual shopping cart, and constructed and arranged to enable a user to selectively aggregate an order in said virtual shopping cart, comprising products represented in said database, and means for electronically disaggregating said order to generate vendor-specific orders to respective vendors.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/26, 27

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. : 705/26, 27

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)

WEST, DIALOG, INTERNET

SHOPPING CART, INTERACTIVE, BUY, PURCHASE, SEARCH, COMPARISON, DATABASE, DYNAMIC, ATTRIBUTE, TEMPLATE,

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,710,887 A (CHELLIAH ET AL.) 20 JANUARY 1998, COL. 10 LINE 56 TO COL. 27 LINE 21.	1-58
X	US 4,992,940 A (DWORKIN) 12 FEBRUARY 1991, COL. 3 LINE 60 TO COL. 10 LINE 64.	22, 25-33, 38, 45, 48, 55, 56
A	US 5,778,368 A (HOGAN ET AL.) 07 JULY 1998, WHOLE DOCUMENT	1-6



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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 document 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)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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