

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
26 May 2005 (26.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/048071 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification:  
*G06F 17/30* (2006.01)

95128 (US). **KING, Ryan, A.** [US/US]; 1030 Boranda Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040 (US). **CAREY, Richard, J.** [US/US]; 1230 Payne Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024 (US).

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/037539

(74) Agents: **RIBERA, Hector, J.** et al.; Fenwick & West LLP, Silicon Valley Center, 801 California Street, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US).

(22) International Filing Date:  
8 November 2004 (08.11.2004)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
10/703,949 7 November 2003 (07.11.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PLAXO, INC.** [US/US]; 1976 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043 (US).

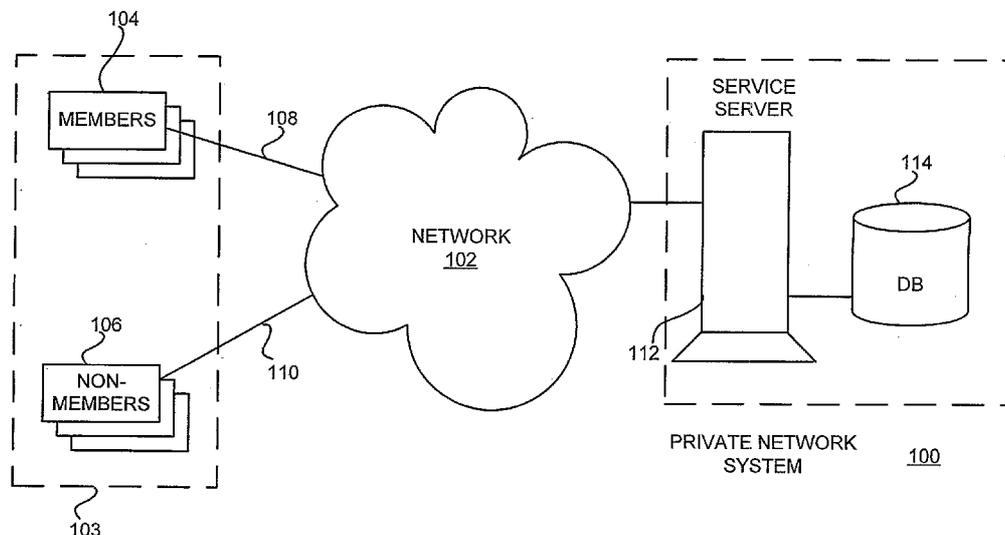
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **RING, Cameron, T.** [US/US]; 675 Sharon Park Drive, #306, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). **SHEAR, Joseph, B.** [US/US]; 242 Flynn Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94024 (US). **MASONIS, John, T.** [US/US]; 334 Santana Row, #335, San Jose, CA

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYNCHRONIZATION AND MERGE ENGINES



(57) Abstract: A system and a method are disclosed for synchronizing folders between one or more layers of folders. It includes selecting layers to link together, comparing folders in the selected layers using an immutable identifier, parsing the folders of each of the selected layers, and determining whether to synchronize the folders of the selected layers based on conflict rules triggered in response to the comparison of the fields of the parsed folders. Also disclosed is a system and method of merging two or more folders in a network (102) into a single folder. Entries are compared and each folder has a generated matrix from duplicating groups and assigning each matrix entry a value, and matching the matrix entries based on the assigned values to determine an extent to merge an identified duplicate entry.

WO 2005/048071 A3



**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

*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.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

13 September 2007

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/37539

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC: **G06F 17/30**( 2006.01)

USPC: 707/10;379/201.01

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. : 707/10; 379/201.01

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
NPL

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
WEST, DERWENT, IBM, JPO, EPO, INTERNET

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,778,651 B1 (JOST et al) 17 August 2004 (17.08.2004), whole document	1-20
A	US 6,564,128 B2 (BAIRD, et al.) 13 May 2003 (13.05.2003), whole document	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
18 June 2007 (18.06.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report  
**18 JUL 2007**

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. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer  
Diane Mizahi  
Telephone No. (703) 305-9001  
**Jacqueline A. Whitfield**  
**Special Project Asst.**