Title: COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIER FOR A PHYSICAL DEVICE'S AVATAR

Abstract: The present invention provides a system (302, 304; 402, 406) and method (102, 104, 106, 108, 110; 202, 204, 206, 208, 210) for automatically linking a physical device and a predetermined associated virtual device to provide the physical device with access to at least one service. The method includes the steps of: manufacturing (102) the physical device that is associated with the predetermined virtual device and attaching (104), to the physical device, a substantially non-removable communication identifier for communicating with the predetermined virtual device. The communication identifier typically facilitates communication over an information space such as the Internet.
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16
US CL : 709/200, 204, 245

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. : 709/200, 204, 245

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, EPO, JPO, Derwent, OCR, PGPUB

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5771354 A (CRAWFORD) 23 JUNE 1998 (23.06.1998), col. 1 line 9 to col. 30 line 65.</td>
<td>1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y,E</td>
<td>US 65530480 B1 (MERREL et al.) 22 APRIL 2003 (22.04.2003), col. 1 line 65 to col. 22 line 27.</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5638517 A (BARTEK et al.) 10 JUNE 1997 (10.06.1997), col. 2 line 21 to col. 12 line 25.</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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