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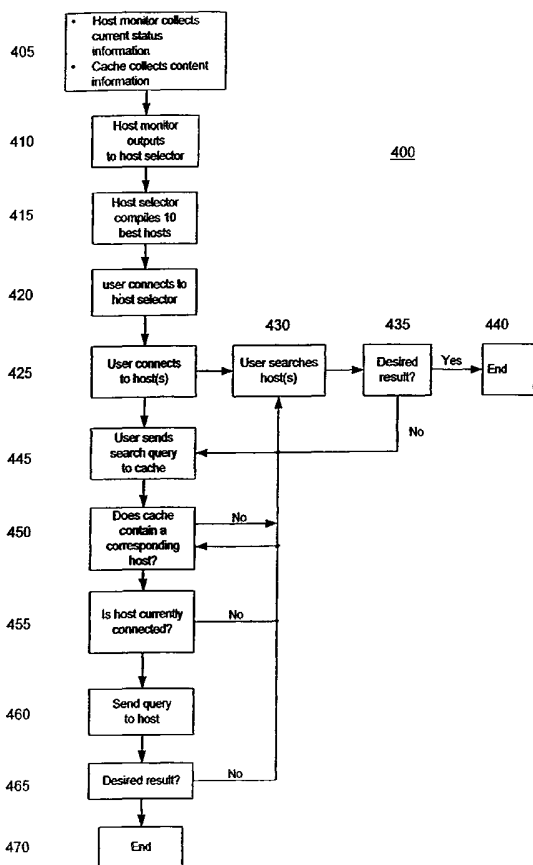
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SEARCHING PEER-TO-PEER COMPUTER NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: A method and system for intelligently directing a search of a peer-to-peer network, in which a user performing a search is assisted in choosing a host which is likely to return fast, favorable results to the user. A host monitor monitors the peer-to-peer network and collects data on various characteristics of the hosts which make up the network. Thereafter, a host selector ranks the hosts using the data, and passes this information to the user. The user then selects one or more of the highly-ranked hosts as an entry point into the network. Additionally, a cache may collect a list of hosts based on the content on the hosts. In this way, a user may choose to connect to a host which is known to contain information relevant to the user's search. The host selector may be used to select from among the hosts listed in the cache.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US 01/25096

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G06F17/30

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)  
IPC 7 G06F H04L

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, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 341 477 A (MORENCY JOHN P ET AL) 23 August 1994 (1994-08-23)	1,2,6, 10,11, 23,24, 28,32, 44-47,53
Y	column 2, line 36 -column 3, line 55 column 8, line 40 -column 9, line 20 column 10, line 47 -column 11, line 60 column 5, line 50 -column 6, line 22 column 6, line 56 -column 6, line 61 ----- -/--	12,13, 16,33, 34,38, 48,49, 56-58

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 35302 A (OATES MARTIN JOHN ; PENGELLY ALAN DAVID (GB); BRITISH TELECOMM (GB)) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13)	1, 23, 45, 55-58
Y	abstract page 2, line 3 -page 4, line 2 page 5, line 17 -page 6, line 11 page 7, line 15 -page 7, line 17 page 14, line 3 -page 17, line 1 page 21, line 5 -page 27, line 5	12, 13, 16, 33, 34, 38, 48, 49, 56-58
X	EP 0 648 038 A (IBM) 12 April 1995 (1995-04-12)	1, 2, 10, 23, 24, 45, 46
A	abstract column 2, line 56 -column 4, line 51 claims	
	SILIS, A., HAWICK, K.A.: "The DISCWorld Peer-to-Peer Architecture" TECHNICAL REPORT DHPC-028, 'Online! January 1998 (1998-01), pages 1-4, XP002257712 Adelaide, Australia Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/137347.htm 1> 'retrieved on 2003-10-13! the whole document	1, 2, 10, 23, 24, 32, 45, 46

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Information on patent family members

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