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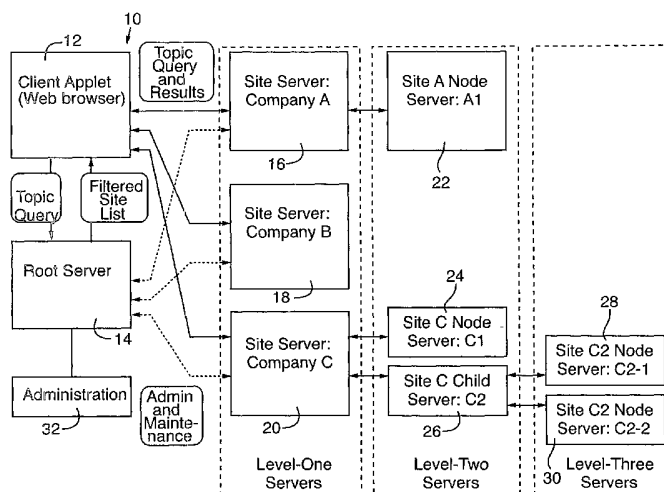
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(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A distributed information network (10) is constructed for gathering information from sites (16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30) distributed across a globally accessible computer network, *i.e.*, the Internet. The distributed information network preferably includes a root server (14) that stores a list of multiple distributed sites each represented by metadata. A network browser (12) delivers an information search request to the root server, which in response develops a profiled information search request. The information provider of each of the distributed sites stores metadata corresponding to information content that is retrievable in response to the profiled information search request for search results derivable from the information content to which the metadata correspond. A profiled information communication link between the root server and each of the multiple distribution sites enables formation of a path for delivery of the search results to a destination site, from a site or sites represented by the metadata of the profiled information search request.



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*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.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/00915

**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)

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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, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	HINDS N ET AL: "Managing metadata for distributed information servers" SYSTEM SCIENCES, 1998., PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KOHALA COAST, HI, USA 6-9 JAN. 1998, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 6 January 1998 (1998-01-06), pages 513-522, XP010263112 ISBN: 0-8186-8255-8 the whole document	1-9, 14, 15
A	--- -/--	10, 12

☒ 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

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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.
A	<p>DOS SANTOS A L M ET AL: "Safe areas of computation for secure computing with insecure applications" COMPUTER SECURITY APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE, 1999. (ACSAC '99). PROCEEDINGS. 15TH ANNUAL PHOENIX, AZ, USA 6-10 DEC. 1999, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 6 December 1999 (1999-12-06), pages 35-44, XP010368615 ISBN: 0-7695-0346-2 page 35, left-hand column, paragraph 1 -right-hand column, paragraph 2 page 36, left-hand column, paragraph 2 -right-hand column page 37, right-hand column, paragraph 3 -page 38, left-hand column, paragraph 3 -----</p>	10,12