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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE TARGETED DISTRIBUTION OF DISCOUNT COUPONS OVER A NETWORK

(57) Abstract: A coupon distribution system (see Figure 3) comprising a plurality of consumer units each operated by a consumer and comprising a display monitor, a memory for storing data, a data processing unit having a modem connectable over a communications channel to a coupon server, and a user input device. The coupon server comprises a memory for storing first data corresponding to one or more participating retail outlets, and second data containing coupon data used for generating electronic discount coupons, and a data processing unit having a modem. The server data processing unit transmits [307]: a first file containing a list of participating retail outlets which may be individually selected, a second file containing first data corresponding to the selected retail outlet and the identity of goods offered for sale by the selected retail outlet, a third file containing electronic coupons corresponding to one or more of the selected goods [309].



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US00/10518

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : Please See Extra Sheet.

US CL : 705/14

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. : 705/14

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)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P <u>Y,P</u>	US 5,909,673 A (GREGORY) 01 June 1999, fig. 1; col. 3, lines 52-67; col. 6, lines 23-64; col. 7, lines 1-31; col. 7, lines 65-67; col. 8, lines 1-29; col. 22, lines 8-24; col. 22, lines 40-50.	1-2, 4-6, 12 <u>3, 7-11, 13</u>
Y	US 5,848,399 A (BURKE) 08 December 1998, col. 4, lines 58-67; col. 5, lines 1-25.	9-11
Y	US 5,855,007 A (JOVICIC et al.) 29 December 1998, Abstract.	3, 7-11, 13
Y,E	US 6,055,513 A (KATZ et al.) 25 April 2000, col. 15, lines 38-65; col. 16, lines 9-17.	3, 7-8

☐ 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
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
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