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(71) Applicant: **THE COCA-COLA COMPANY** [US/US];
One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30313 (US).

(72) Inventor: **VOGT, David**; 2555 Townsgate Road, Westlake
Village, CA 91361 (US).

(74) Agents: **BIRCH, ANTHONY, L.** et al.; FINNEGAN,
HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER,
L.L.P., 1300 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005-3315
(US).

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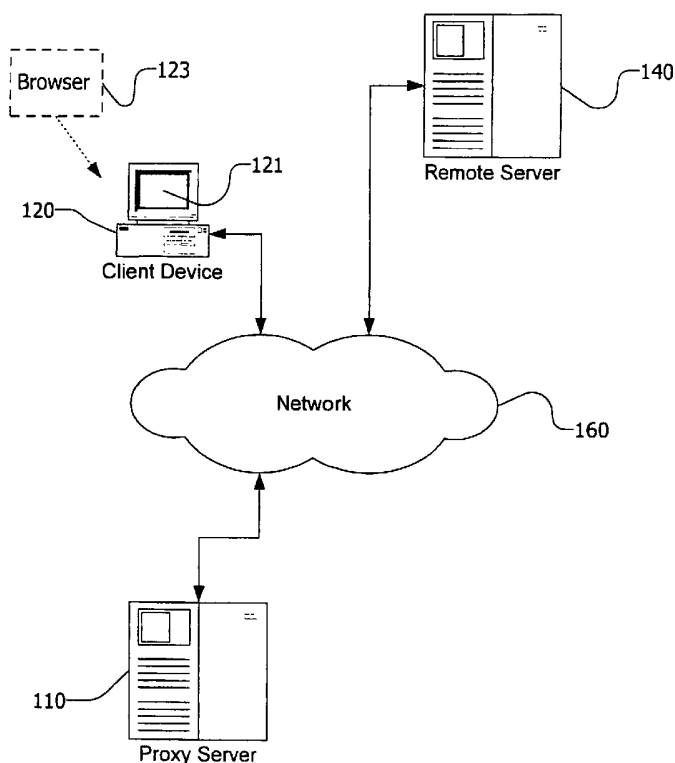
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(54) Title: PROVISION OF TRANSPARENT PROXY SERVICES TO A USER OF A CLIENT DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A proxy server (110) for the transparent control of electronic commerce transactions is provided through which an individual without a credit card is enabled to shop at online merchant sites. Upon opening an account within the proxy server, the account can be funded using numerous fund sources, for example credit cards, checking accounts, money orders, gift certificates, incentive codes, online currency, coupons, and stored value cards. A user (120) with a funded account can shop at numerous remote servers (140) through the proxy server. When merchandise is selected for purchase, a purchase transaction is executed in which a credit card belonging to the proxy server is temporarily or permanently assigned to the user. The credit card, once loaded with funds from the user's corresponding funded account, is used to complete the purchase transaction. The proxy server provides controls that include monitoring the data streams and, in response, controlling the information flow between the user and the merchant sites.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16

US CL : 709/201,203;247,202,229; 713/201;707/501

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. : 709/201,203;247,202,229; 713/201;707/501

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,138,162 A (PISTRITTO et al) 24 October 2000, col 2-col 11.	1-96
Y	US 5,991,795 A (HOWARD et al) 23 November 1999, col 2-col 13.	1-96
Y	US 6,185,625 B1 (TSO et al) 6 February 2001, col 2-col 19.	1-96
Y	US 6,173,311 B1 (HASSETT et al) 9 January 2001 col 2- col 21.	1-96
Y	US 6,182,226 B1 (REID et al) 30 January 2001 col 2 -col 14.	1-96
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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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document member of the same patent family

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Box PCT

Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Mark Powell

Telephone No. 703-305-3800