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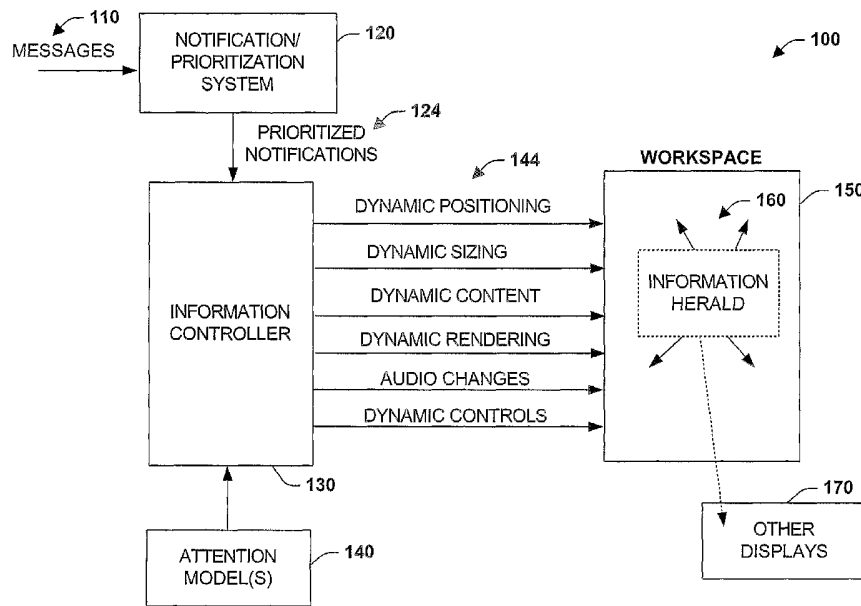
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POSITIONING AND RENDERING NOTIFICATION HERALDS BASED ON USER'S FOCUS OF ATTENTION AND ACTIVITY



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a system and method to facilitate providing computer users with efficient access to electronic notifications while minimizing disruption in the context of ongoing tasks. A notification system (120) provides visual information heralds (160) that provide summarizations of notifications to users. An information controller (130) considers the importance or urgency of content and a user's current and/or recent activities in decisions about the rendering and positioning of the information herald (160) on a display screen or screens (150,170) in order to facilitate user processing of the summarized notifications with minimal disruption to ongoing tasks.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US04/19915

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: G06F 15/16(2006.01)

USPC: 709/206

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. : 709/206, 207, 224

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E	US 2004/0225718 A1 (HEINZEL et al) 11 November 2004 (11.11.2004), see Abstract, Figs. 1-10, and Paragraphs [0005-0030].	1-51
X, P	US 2004/0061716 A1 (CHEUNG et al) 01 April 2004 (01.04.2004), see Abstract, Figs. 2-7, and Paragraphs [0004-0010].	1-51
A, E	US 2005/0248437 A1 (HELLEBUST et al) 10 November 2005 (10.11.2005), see the whole reference.	1-51.
A	US 6,459,913 B2 (CLOUTIER) 01 October 2002 (01.10.2002), see the whole reference.	1-51.
A	US 2003/0028603 A1 (AKTAS et al) 06 February 2003 (06.02.2003), see the whole reference.	1-51.

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" 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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 May 2006 (26.05.2006)	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 JUN 2006
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

Search Terms: alerts or notifications or warnings, messages or messaging or email, visual, events, prioritization.