Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING INVOICES WITH SPECIAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS

Abstract: A software system and method for managing special or complex billing for large utility customers is disclosed. Utilities that bill customers for usage of a commodity or service (e.g., electricity, natural gas, water, oil or gasoline, the phone, cable, mobile communications, or another metered service) may use the software system and method to produce invoices or billing statements for their customers. Special billing requirements for each utility customer may be based on special billing products (228, 232, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212) offered by the utility. Data regarding the special billing products may be entered into a product allocation table (234) along with customer (200) and usage data (228, 232, 202, 204, 208, 210, 212). The software system and method automatically calculates billing determinants (236) using the product allocation table data and applies appropriate rates and charges to produce an invoice (238) or billing statement.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : G06F 17/60
US CL : 705/35-42; 235/379,380
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. : 705/35-42; 235/379,380

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 Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,146, 067 A (SLOAN et al) 08 September 1992, (08.09.1992), column 5, lines 20+</td>
<td>1-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,483, 445 A (PICKERING) 09 June 1996 (09.06.1996), Abstract; column 4, line 7 to column 6, line 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,943, 656 A (CROOKS et al) 24 August 1999 (24.08.1999), column 8, line 11 to column 10, line 27</td>
<td>1-18</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search
01 May 2003 (01.05.2003)

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

Search Terms: Billing method, utilities