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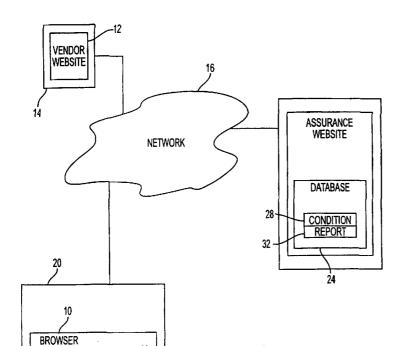
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AN ON-LINE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE INDICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An e-commerce business record system that loads status information about the business record of a web-site into a cutomer's browser each time the customer browses a merchant's web-site. The status information is obtained by sending a query to an on-line database using the merchant's universal resource locator (URL) as a search term. The status condition information indicates the merchant record with respect to completing e-commerce transactions. The information returned from the search also includes a hyperlink to additional business information about the site. The additional information indicates why the site has a particular status. The browser is provided with an icon or button which indicates the status and which can be used to hyperlink to the additional information about the merchant

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30~ ICON

LINK

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URL

APPLE1



IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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""TERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\label{localization} \begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{G06F} \end{array}$

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, WPI Data, INSPEC, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
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Special categories of cited documents: A¹ document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance E¹ earlier document but published on or after the international filing date L¹ 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) O¹ document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P¹ document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but clted to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention '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 '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 combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
19 November 2001	27/11/2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Platzer, C

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