

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 February 2003 (06.02.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/010635 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/60**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/24232

(22) International Filing Date: 24 July 2002 (24.07.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/307,482 24 July 2001 (24.07.2001) US
10/080,846 22 February 2002 (22.02.2002) US

(71) Applicants: **PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS**
[US/US]; 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York,
NY 10019 (US). **PricewaterhouseCoopers** [GB/GB]; 1
Embankment Place, London WC2N 6RH (GB).

(72) Inventors: **LINGWOOD, Janice, Mary**; 18 Park Avenue
South, London, N8 8LT (GB). **EVANS, Paul, James**; 19

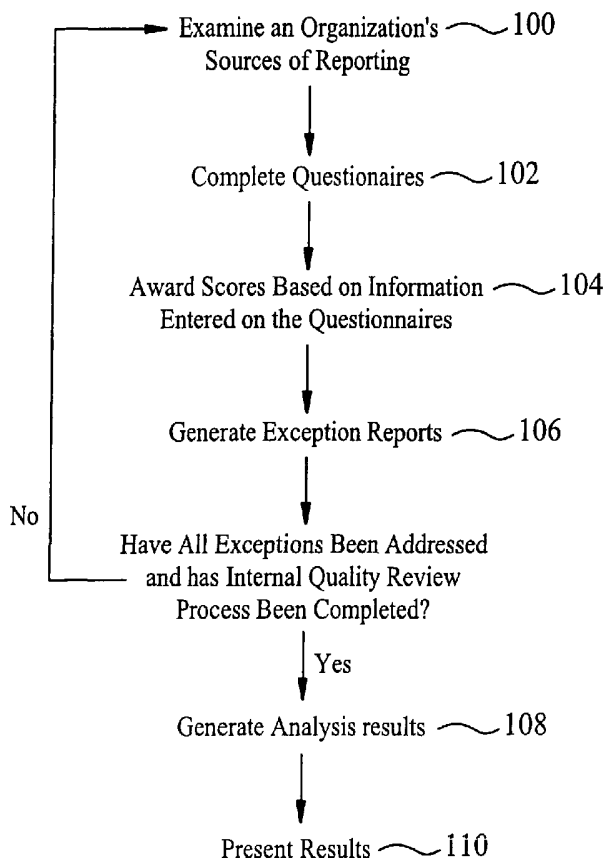
New Tree Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
TN4 0BD (GB). **CANTOS, Andrew, Howard**; 1255
Turnbury Lane, North Wales, PA 19454 (US). **WATSON,**
Annette; 241 Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park, Victoria
3206 (AU). **ASHTON, Philip, Priestly**; Russells Green,
Coombe Hill Road, Kingston-Upon Thames, KT2 7DY
(GB).

(74) Agent: **BORODACH, Samuel**; Fish & Richardson P.C.,
Suite 2800, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10111
(US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN,
YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: EVALUATING AN ORGANIZATION'S LEVEL OF SELF-REPORTING



(57) Abstract: A software-based tool provides an evaluation of a company's level of reporting about itself. The tool can, in some case provide an assessment of a company's communications against a framework that assumes transparent reporting is desirable. A comparison with pre-selected criteria such as a pre-selected peer group of companies or against a set of recommended practices may be provided in some implementations. Based on the result of the analysis (108), a score (104) can be generated for different areas of the framework. The scores (104) can be summarized in a executive level presentation (110) that may include, in some implementations, benchmark results against the framework and the pre-selected criteria, identification of best practice examples, the recommendations for improvement.



WO 03/010635 A3



(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
20 November 2003

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.

Published:

— with international search report

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/24232

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/2

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. : 705/2,10, 45

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)

WEST: assessment reports, organization reports using pre-determined criteria from survey or questionnaire

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,737,494 A (GUINTA et al) 07 April 1998 (07.04.1998), column 2, lines 38-46, column 3, lines 42-44 and column 4, lines 51-65.	1-50
Y	US 5,189,608 A (LYONS et al) 23 February 1993 (23.02.1993), column 2, lines 16-20, Table II and column 3, lines 20-26).	1-50
A, P	US 6,327,571 B1 (KHAYAT et al) 04 December 2001 (04.12.2001) column 2, lines 31-47).	1-50
A	US 6,161,101 A (GUINTA et al) 12 December 2000 (12.12.2000), column 3, lines 25-29, 62 to column 4, lines 18 and column 4, lines 52-63).	1-50

☐ 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

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"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

"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

"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 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

27 September 2002 (27.09.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 MAY 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Box PCT

Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Joseph Thomas

Telephone No. 703-308-1113

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/24232

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.