

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

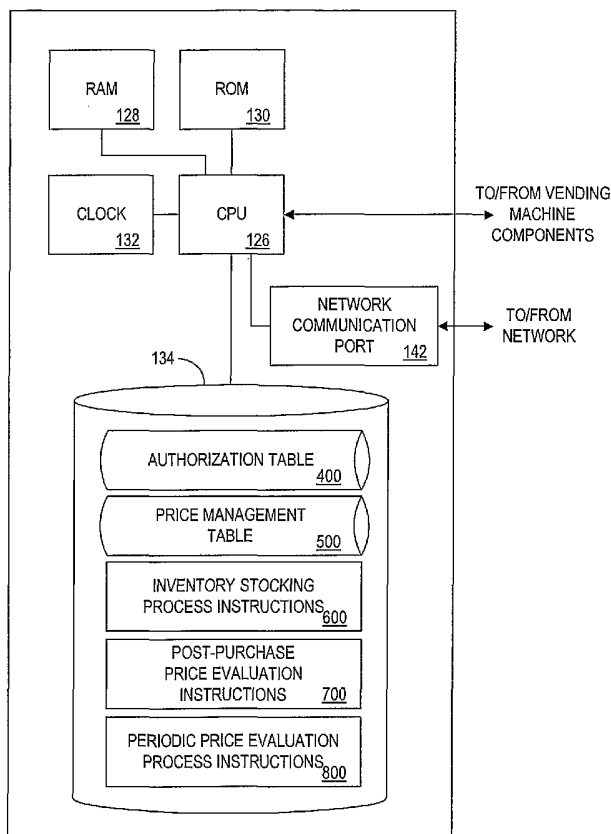
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2005/038593 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/033811
- (22) International Filing Date: 16 October 2004 (16.10.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/511,875 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003) US  
10/966,407 15 October 2004 (15.10.2004) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, 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, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES FOR MANAGING THE PRICES OF VENDING MACHINE INVENTORY



(57) Abstract: An apparatus determines a current price of a product for sale by the vending machine (100). It then determines, for the product, a price increment (700), a pre-determined price (800), and a demand threshold, that are defined by data stored in at least one data table. A rate of units of the product that are sold are determined. The rate is compared with the demand threshold. Based on the comparison of the rate with the demand data, it is determined whether the new price should be greater than or less than the current price (730). The new price is set to the pre-determined price if the new price should be greater than the current price (730). If the new price should be less than the current price (730), a price increment (730) amount is subtracted from the current price (730) to yield the new price. The determined new price is displayed.

WO 2005/038593 A3



**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

23 March 2006

*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.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US04/33811
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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(7) : G06F 17-60 US CL : 700/236; 705/15, 40; 414/345; 364/412 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC
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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 705/15; 414/403; 364/412
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
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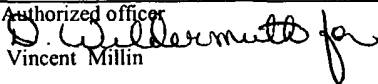
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,997,236 A (PICIOCCIO et al.) 7 December 1999 (07.12.1999), see entire document.	1-21
A	US 5,269,521 A (ROSSIDES) 14 December 1993 (14.12.1993), see entire document.	1-21
A	US 5,772,510 (ROBERTS) 30 June 1998 (30.06.1998), see entire document.	1-21
X	US 2002/0072976 A1 (VIRTANEN et al.) 13 June 2002 (13.06.2002), see entire document.	1-21

<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
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"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	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 16 November 2005 (16.11.2005)	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>13 DEC 2005</b>
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