

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 December 2009 (03.12.2009)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/146130 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 17/00 (2006.01) G06Q 50/00 (2006.01)
G06F 3/00 (2006.01)
- (74) Agent: GARCIA, Edouard; Attorney At Law, 1351 Cuernavaca Circulo, Mountain View, CA 94040 (US).
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2009/039470
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date:
3 April 2009 (03.04.2009)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
61/042,714 5 April 2008 (05.04.2008) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY [US/US]; 2086 Potter Street, Eugene, OR 97405 (US).
- (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, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (71) Applicants : VAN WIE, David [US/US]; PO Box 5610, Eugene, OR 97405 (US). BRODY, Paul, J. [US/US]; PO Box 5610, Eugene, OR 97405 (US).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SHARED VIRTUAL AREA COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT BASED APPARATUS AND METHODS

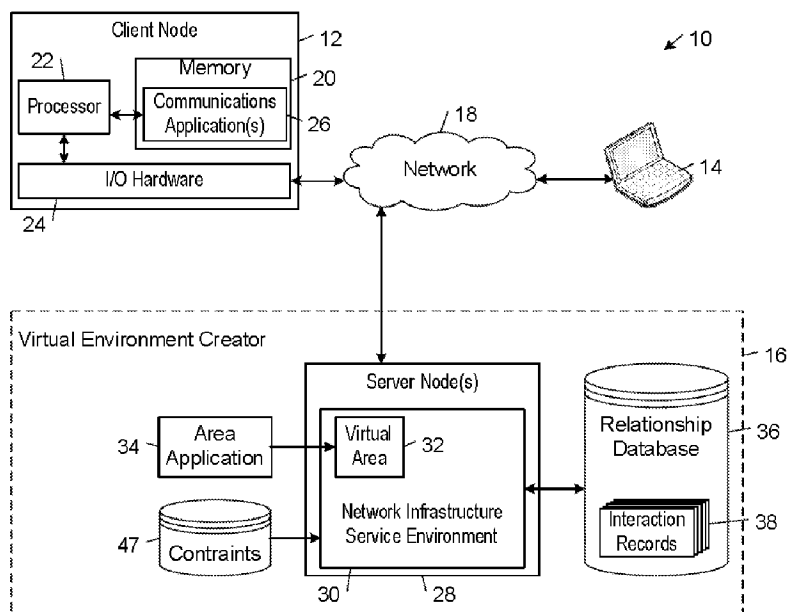


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Improved systems and methods for navigating and interacting in virtual communication environments (10). At least some of these systems and methods provide a framework that includes one or more virtual areas (32) and supports realtime communications between the communicants. At least some of these systems and methods provide an interface (260, 340) that includes navigation controls that enable a user to navigate virtual areas and interaction controls that enable the user to interact with other communicants in the one or more virtual areas.

WO 2009/146130 A3

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

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

18 March 2010

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**G06F 17/00(2006.01)i, G06F 3/00(2006.01)i, G06Q 50/00(2006.01)i**

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)

IPC 8 : G06F 15/16, G06F 17/30, G09G 5/00, G06Q 30/00, A63F 13/12, H04M 3/42

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975
Japanese Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) : "virtual and (avatar or character) and communication and environment and (interface or GUI)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- A	US 2007-0233785 A1 (SUBIL M. ABRAHAM et al.) 2007.10.04. See the whole document.	1-9,18,34-35,40-43, 46-50,72-78,149-158 ----- 10-17,19-33,36-39,44- 45,51-71,79-148, 159-216
A	EP 01964597 A1 (SONY COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT EUROPE LTD.) 2008.03.09. See abstract; paragraphs [0008]-[0010], [0063]-[0073], [0088]; claims 1, 4; figs. 1, 4-10.	1-216
A	KR 10-2007-0105088 A (HAM, HYUN JOO) 2007.10.30. See abstract; paragraphs [11]-[14], [40]-[45]; figs. 3-5.	1-216
A	KR 10-2004-0011825 A (KIM, DONG HYUN) 2004.02.11. See abstract; page 3, lines 13-17; figs. 1, 4-7.	1-216
A	KR 10-2000-0030491 A (CHUN, BYUNG NYUN et al.) 2000.06.05. See abstract; page 4, lines 31-59; figs. 4-5.	1-216

 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 but 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 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

19 NOVEMBER 2009 (19.11.2009)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 NOVEMBER 2009 (20.11.2009)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

Korean Intellectual Property Office
Government Complex-Daejeon, 139 Seonsa-ro, Seo-
gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea

Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140

Authorized officer

KIM, SANG CHEOL

Telephone No. 82-42-481-8521



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2009/039470

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KR 10-2003-0054874 A (ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE) 2003.07.02. See abstract; page 3, lines 35-42; fig. 4.	1-216
A	KR 10-2001-0100589 A (QUARTERVIEW CO., LTD.) 2001.11.14. See abstract; page 3 lines 40-49, page 4 lines 23-26; figs. 3-5.	1-216
A	KR 10-1999-0078775 A (SHIN, YOO JIN) 1999.11.05. See abstract; page 9, lines 25-36; figs. 9-10.	1-216
A	US 2005-0154574 A1 (KENICHI TAKEMURA et al.) 2005.07.14. See abstract; claims 1, 3-7; figs. 1-10.	1-216

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2009/039470

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2007-233785 A1	04.10.2007	None	
EP 01964597 A1	03.09.2008	GB 2447095 A GB 2447020 A GB 0715650 D0 GB 0703974 D0 GB 2447096 A GB 2447100 A GB 2447094 A US 2008-0215679 A1 US 2008-0214253 A1 US 2008-0215971 A1 US 2008-0235582 A1 US 2008-0215994 A1 US 2008-0215975 A1 US 2008-0215974 A1 US 2008-0215973 A1 US 2008-0215972 A1 WO 2008-109299 A3 WO 2008-104782 A2 WO 2008-104782 A3 WO 2008-104783 A1 WO 2008-104784 A1	03.09.2008 03.09.2008 19.09.2007 11.04.2007 03.09.2008 03.09.2008 03.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 25.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008 04.09.2008
KR 10-2007-0105088 A	30.10.2007	None	
KR 10-2004-0011825 A	11.02.2004	None	
KR 10-2000-0030491 A	05.06.2000	None	
KR 10-2003-0054874 A	02.07.2003	KR 10-0453225 B1 US 2003-0120823 A1	15.10.2004 26.06.2003
KR 10-2001-0100589 A	14.11.2001	KR 10-0382854 B1 WO 2001-084334 A1	09.05.2003 08.11.2001
KR 10-1999-0078775 A	05.11.1999	AU 2000-51125 A1 WO 2001-011511 A1	08.06.2000 15.02.2001
US 2005-0154574 A1	14.07.2005	CN 1692672 A EP 1453345 A1 JP 2004-135051 A KR 10-2005-0067359 A US 07594179 B2 US 2009-0100355 A1 WO 2004-034729 A1	02.11.2005 01.09.2004 30.04.2004 01.07.2005 22.09.2009 16.04.2009 22.04.2004