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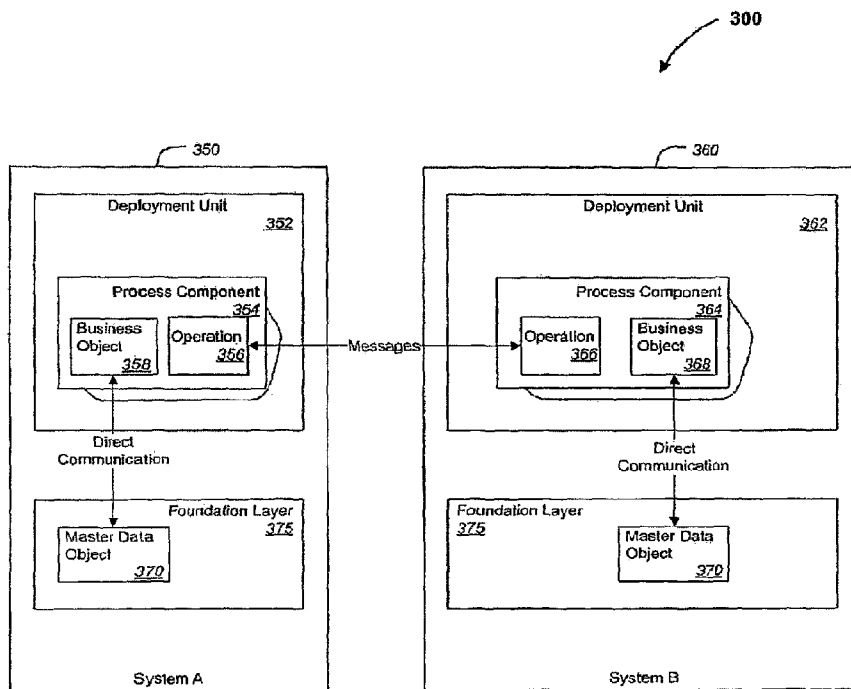
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONSISTENT SET OF INTERFACES DERIVED FROM A BUSINESS OBJECT MODEL



(57) Abstract: A business object model, which reflects data that is used during a given business transaction, is utilized to generate interfaces. This business object model facilitates commercial transactions by providing consistent interfaces that are suitable for use across industries, across businesses, and across different departments within a business during a business transaction.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/11378

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - G06Q 10/00; G06F 17/30; G07B 17/00; G06Q 40/00 (2008.01) USPC - 705/1, 10, 30, 35 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): G06Q 10/00; G06F 17/30; G07B 17/00; G06Q 40/00 (2008.01) USPC: 705/1, 10, 30, 35 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC: 705/1, 8, 10, 11, 19, 28, 30, 35, 400, 500; 709/201, 203, 206; 707/1, 10, 100; 700/1, 90 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Electronic databases: USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); Google Scholar Search Terms Used: business or company or enterprise object model, hierarchical or tree structure, root or subordinate nodes, accounting or invoicing or general ledger or logistics or forecasting or employee time, service-oriented or messaging etc.		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/0085450 A1 (SEUBERT et al.) 20 April 2006 (20.04.2006) (abstract, and para [0016]-[0026], [0503]-[0509], [0808]-[0907], [1416]-[1475], [3104]-[3136], [5664]-[5722])	1-2 and 10
X	US 2006/0085336 A1 (SEUBERT et al.) 20 April 2006 (20.04.2006) (abstract, and para [0012]-[0022], [0223]-[0269], [0334]-[0344], [0358]-[0369], [0405]-[0411], [0588]-[0597])	65 and 119
X	US 2006/0080338 A1 (SEUBERT et al.) 13 April 2006 (13.04.2006) (abstract, and para [0013]-[0023], [0296]-[0308], [0937]-[0962], [1138]-[1156], [1364]-[1368], [1564]-[1567], [2500]-[2512], [4526]-[4572])	120-122
A	US 6,970,844 B1 (BIERENBAUM) 29 November 2005 (29.11.2005)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 2005/0222896 A1 (RHYNE et al.) 06 October 2005 (06.10.2005)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 2005/0171833 A1 (JOST et al.) 04 August 2005 (04.08.2005)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 2004/0138942 A1 (PEARSON et al.) 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 6,763,353 B2 (LI et al.) 13 July 2004 (13.07.2004)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 2002/0184070 A1 (CHEN et al.) 05 December 2002 (05.12.2002)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
A	US 6,438,594 B1 (BOWMAN-AMUAH) 20 August 2002 (20.08.2002)	1-2, 10, 65, and 119-122
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* 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 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 16 March 2008 (16.03.2008)		Date of mailing of the international search report 30 APR 2008
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/11378

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims 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. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

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

See Continuation Sheet

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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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.:
Claims 1-2, 10, 65, 119-122
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/11378

Continuation of:

Box No. III --- Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

Group 1:Claims 1-2; Group 2:Claim 3; Group 3:Claim 4; Group 4:Claims 5-6; Group 5:Claims 7-8; Group 6:Claim 9; Group 7:Claim 10; Group 8:Claims 11-12; Group 9:Claims 13-14; Group 10:Claim 15; Group 11:Claims 16-17; Group 12:Claims 18-20; Group 13:Claims 21-23; Group 14:Claims 24-25; Group 15: Claim 26; Group 16:Claims 27-28; Group 17:Claims 29-30; Group 18:Claims 31-32; Group 19: Claim 33; Group 20:Claims 34-36; Group 21:Claim 37; Group 22:Claim 38; Group 23:Claims 39-41; Group 24:Claim 42; Group 25:Claim 43; Group 26:Claims 44-45; Group 27:Claims 46-47; Group 28:Claims 48; Group 29:Claim 49; Group 30:Claim 50; Group 31:Claim 51; Group 32:Claim 52; Group 33:Claim 53; Group 34:Claim 54; Group 35:Claim 55; Group 36:Claim 56; Group 37:Claims 57-58; Group 38:Claim 59; Group 39:Claim 60; Group 40:Claim 61; Group 41:Claim 62; Group 42:Claim 63; Group 43:Claim 64; Group 44:Claim 65; Group 45:Claim 66; Group 46:Claim 67; Group 47:Claim 68; Group 48:Claim 69; Group 49:Claim 70; Group 50:Claim 71; Group 51:Claim 72; Group 52:Claim 73; Group 53:Claim 74; Group 54:Claims 75-76; Group 55:Claim 77; Group 56:Claims 78-79; Group 57:Claim 80-81; Group 58:Claims 82-83; Group 59:Claim 84; Group 60:Claim 85; Group 61:Claim 86; Group 62:Claims 87-88; Group 63:Claims 89-91; Group 64:Claims 92-94; Group 65:Claim 95; Group 66:Claims 96-97; Group 67: Claims 98-99; Group 68:Claim 100; Group 69:Claim 101; Group 70:Claims 102-103; Group 71:Claims 104-105; Group 72:Claims 106; Group 73:Claims 107-108; Group 74:Claims 109-110; Group 75: Claim 111; Group 76:Claim 112; Group 77:Claims 113-114; Group 78:Claims 115-116; Group 79:Claims 117-118; Group 80:Claim 119; Group 81:Claim 120; Group 82:Claims 121-122; Group 83:Claim 123; Group 84:Claim 124; Group 85:Claims 125-126; Group 86:Claims 127-128; Group 87:Claims 129-130; Group 88:Claims 131-132

Group 1 requires the special technical feature of generating a Customer Invoice Request business object and comprising a Customer Invoice Request root node, not required by Groups 2-88.

Group 2 requires the special technical feature of generating an Opportunity business object and comprising an Opportunity root node comprising a unique identifier of opportunity assigned by the user, not required by Groups 1 and 3-88.

Group 3 requires the special technical feature of generating a Due Clearing business object and comprising a Due Clearing root node, not required by Groups 1-2 and 4-88.

Group 4 requires the special technical feature of generating a Due Payment business object and comprising a Due Payment root node, not required by Groups 1-3 and 5-88.

Group 5 requires the special technical feature of generating a Dunning business object and comprising a Dunning root node, not required by Groups 1-4 and 6-88.

Group 6 requires the special technical feature of generating a Tax Receivables Payables Register business object and comprising a Tax Receivables Payables Register root node, not required by Groups 1-5 and 7-88.

Group 7 requires the special technical feature of generating a Trade Receivables Payables Account business object and comprising a Trade Receivables Payables Account root node, not required by Groups 1-6 and 8-88.

Group 8 requires the special technical feature of generating a Trade Receivables Payables Account Statement business object and comprising a Trade Receivables Payables Account Statement root node, not required by Groups 1-7 and 9-88.

Group 9 requires the special technical feature of generating a Trade Receivables Payable Register business object and comprising a Trade Receivables Payables Register root node, not required by Groups 1-8 and 10-88.

Group 10 requires the special technical feature of generating an Accounting Clearing Object History and comprising an Accounting Clearing Object History root node, not required by Groups 1-9 and 11-88.

Group 11 requires the special technical feature of generating an Accounting Document business object and comprising an Accounting Document root node, not required by Groups 1-10 and 12-88.

Group 12 requires the special technical feature of generating an Accounting Document Report business object and comprising an Accounting Document Report root node, not required by Groups 1-11 and 13-88.

Group 13 requires the special technical feature of generating an Accounting Entry business object and comprising an Accounting Entry root node, not required by Groups 1-12 and 14-88.

Group 14 requires the special technical feature of generating a Resource Valuation Data business object and comprising a Resource Valuation Data root node, not required by Groups 1-13 and 15-88.

Group 15 requires the special technical feature of generating a Sales Ledger Account business object and comprising a Sales Ledger Account root node, not required by Groups 1-14 and 16-88.

Group 16 requires the special technical feature of generating a Service Product Valuation Data business object and comprising a Service Product Valuation Data root node, not required by Groups 1-15 and 17-88.

Group 17 requires the special technical feature of generating a Tax Ledger Account business object and comprising a Tax Ledger Account root node, not required by Groups 1-16 and 18-88.

Group 18 requires the special technical feature of generating an Access Control List business object and comprising an Access Control List root node, not required by Groups 1-17 and 19-88.

Group 19 requires the special technical feature of generating an Access Group business object and comprising an Access Group root node, not required by Groups 1-18 and 20-88.

Group 20 requires the special technical feature of generating an Activity business object and comprising an Activity root node, not required by Groups 1-19 and 21-88.

Group 21 requires the special technical feature of generating an Address business object and comprising an Address root node, not required by Groups 1-20 and 22-88.

Group 22 requires the special technical feature of generating an Attachment Folder business object and comprising an Attachment Folder root node, not required by Groups 1-21 and 23-88.

Group 23 requires the special technical feature of generating a Bank Directory Entry business object and comprising a Bank Directory Entry root node, not required by Groups 1-22 and 24-88.

Group 24 requires the special technical feature of generating a Cash Discount Terms business object and comprising a Cash Discount Terms root node, not required by Groups 1-23 and 25-88.

Group 25 requires the special technical feature of generating a Change Document business object and comprising a Change Document root node, not required by Groups 1-24 and 26-88.

Group 26 requires the special technical feature of generating a Business Partner business object and comprising a Business Partner root node, not required by Groups 1-25 and 27-88.

Group 27 requires the special technical feature of generating a Company Tax Arrangement business object and comprising a Company Tax Arrangement root node, not required by Groups 1-26 and 28-88.

(See Next Extra Sheet)

Preceding Extra Sheet

Box No. III --- Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

Group 28 requires the special technical feature of generating a Compensation Component Type business object and comprising a Compensation Component Type root node, not required by Groups 1-27 and 29-88.

Group 29 requires the special technical feature of generating a Controlled Output Request business object and comprising a Controlled Output Request root node, not required by Groups 1-28 and 30-88.

Group 30 requires the special technical feature of generating a Cross Product Catalogue Search business object and comprising a Cross Product Catalogue root node, not required by Groups 1-29 and 31-88.

Group 31 requires the special technical feature of generating a Document business object and comprising a Document root node, not required by Groups 1-30 and 32-88.

Group 32 requires the special technical feature of generating an Employment business object and comprising an Employment root node, not required by Groups 1-31 and 33-88.

Group 33 requires the special technical feature of generating an Engineering Change Order business object and comprising an Engineering Change Order root node, not required by Groups 1-32 and 34-88.

Group 34 requires the special technical feature of generating an Exchange Rate business object and comprising an Exchange Rate root node, not required by Groups 1-33 and 35-88.

Group 35 requires the special technical feature of generating a Financial Audit Trail Documentation business object and comprising a Financial Audit Trail Documentation root node, not required by Groups 1-34 and 36-88.

Group 36 requires the special technical feature of generating an Identified Stock business object and comprising an Identified Stock root node, not required by Groups 1-35 and 37-88.

Group 37 requires the special technical feature of generating an Identity business object and comprising an Identity root node, not required by Groups 1-36 and 38-88.

Group 38 requires the special technical feature of generating an Installation Point business object and comprising an Installation Point root node, not required by Groups 1-37 and 39-88.

Group 39 requires the special technical feature of generating an Installed Base business object and comprising an Installed Base root node, not required by Groups 1-38 and 40-88.

Group 40 requires the special technical feature of generating a Job business object and comprising a Job root node, not required by Groups 1-39 and 41-88.

Group 41 requires the special technical feature of generating a Location business object and comprising a Location root node, not required by Groups 1-40 and 42-88.

Group 42 requires the special technical feature of generating a Logistics Area business object and comprising a Logistics Area root node, not required by Groups 1-41 and 43-88.

Group 43 requires the special technical feature of generating a Logistics Shift business object and comprising a Logistics Shift root node, not required by Groups 1-42 and 44-88.

Group 44 requires the special technical feature of generating a Logistics Unit business object and comprising a Logistics Unit root node, not required by Groups 1-43 and 45-88.

Group 45 requires the special technical feature of generating an Organizational Centre business object and comprising an Organizational Centre root node, not required by Groups 1-44 and 46-88.

Group 46 requires the special technical feature of generating a Market Segment business object and comprising a Market Segment root node, not required by Groups 1-45 and 47-88.

Group 47 requires the special technical feature of generating an Operating Hours business object and comprising an Operating Hours root node, not required by Groups 1-46 and 48-88.

Group 48 requires the special technical feature of generating a Party business object and comprising a Party root node, not required by Groups 1-47 and 49-88.

Group 49 requires the special technical feature of generating a Payment Agreement business object and comprising a Payment Agreement root node, not required by Groups 1-48 and 50-88.

Group 50 requires the special technical feature of generating a Payment Control business object and comprising a Payment Control root node, not required by Groups 1-49 and 51-88.

Group 51 requires the special technical feature of generating a Payment Explanation business object and comprising a Payment Explanation root node, not required by Groups 1-50 and 52-88.

Group 52 requires the special technical feature of generating a Position business object and comprising a Position root node, not required by Groups 1-51 and 53-88.

Group 53 requires the special technical feature of generating a Price and Tax Calculation business object and comprising a Price and Tax Calculation root node, not required by Groups 1-52 and 54-88.

Group 54 requires the special technical feature of generating a Procurement Arrangement business object and comprising a Procurement Arrangement root node, not required by Groups 1-53 and 55-88.

Group 55 requires the special technical feature of generating a Product Category Hierarchy business object and comprising a Product Category Hierarchy root node, not required by Groups 1-54 and 56-88.

Group 56 requires the special technical feature of generating a Production Segment business object and comprising a Production Segment root node, not required by Groups 1-55 and 57-88.

Group 57 requires the special technical feature of generating a Released Execution Production Model business object and comprising a Released Execution Production Model root node not required by Groups 1-56 and 58-88.

Group 58 requires the special technical feature of generating a Released Planning Production Model business object and comprising a Released Planning Production Model root node, not required by Groups 1-57 and 59-88.

Group 59 requires the special technical feature of generating a Resource business object and comprising a Resource root node, not required by Groups 1-58 and 60-88.

Group 60 requires the special technical feature of generating a Released Site Logistics Process Model business object and comprising a Released Site Logistics Process Model root node, not required by Groups 1-59 and 61-88.

Group 61 requires the special technical feature of generating a Responsibility business object and comprising a Responsibility root node, not required by Groups 1-60 and 62-88.

Group 62 requires the special technical feature of generating a Sales Agreement business object and comprising a Sales Agreement root node, not required by Groups 1-61 and 63-88.

(See Next Extra Sheet)

Preceding Extra Sheet

Box No. III --- Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

Group 63 requires the special technical feature of generating a Sales Price List business object and comprising a Sales Price List root node, not required by Groups 1-62 and 64-88.

Group 64 requires the special technical feature of generating a Sales Price Specification business object and comprising a Sales Price Specification root node, not required by Groups 1-63 and 65-88.

Group 65 requires the special technical feature of generating a Service Issue Category Catalogue business object and comprising a Service Issue Category Catalogue root node, not required by Groups 1-64 and 66-88.

Group 66 requires the special technical feature of generating a Site Logistics Process Model business object and comprising a Site Logistics Process Model root node, not required by Groups 1-65 and 67-88.

Group 67 requires the special technical feature of generating a Site Logistics Process Segment business object and comprising a Site Logistics Process Segment root node, not required by Groups 1-66 and 68-88.

Group 68 requires the special technical feature of generating a Source of Supply business object and comprising a Source of Supply root node, not required by Groups 1-67 and 69-88.

Group 69 requires the special technical feature of generating a Sourcing List business object and comprising a Sourcing List root node, not required by Groups 1-68 and 70-88.

Group 70 requires the special technical feature of generating a Transportation Lane business object and comprising a Transportation Lane root node, not required by Groups 1-69 and 71-88.

Group 71 requires the special technical feature of generating a Storage Behavior Method business object and comprising a Storage Behavior Method root node, not required by Groups 1-70 and 72-88.

Group 72 requires the special technical feature of generating a Storage Control business object and comprising a Storage Control root node, not required by Groups 1-71 and 73-88.

Group 73 requires the special technical feature of generating a Supply Planning Area business object and comprising a Supply Planning Area root node, not required by Groups 1-72 and 74-88.

Group 74 requires the special technical feature of generating a Supply Quota Arrangement business object and comprising a Supply Quota Arrangement root node, not required by Groups 1-73 and 75-88.

Group 75 requires the special technical feature of generating a Text Collection business object and comprising a Text Collection root node, not required by Groups 1-74 and 76-88.

Group 76 requires the special technical feature of generating a Purchase Order Confirmation business object and comprising a Purchase Order Confirmation root node, not required by Groups 1-75 and 77-88.

Group 77 requires the special technical feature of generating a Purchase Request business object and comprising a Purchase Request root node, not required by Groups 1-76 and 78-88.

Group 78 requires the special technical feature of generating a Supplier Quote business object and comprising a Supplier Quote root node, not required by Groups 1-77 and 79-88.

Group 79 requires the special technical feature of generating a Request for Quote business object and comprising a Request for Quote root node, not required by Groups 1-78 and 80-88.

Group 80 requires the special technical feature of generating a General Ledger Account business object and comprising a General Ledger Account root node, not required by Groups 1-79 and 81-88.

Group 81 requires the special technical feature of generating an Employee Time business object and comprising an Employee Time root node, not required by Groups 1-80 and 82-88.

Group 82 requires the special technical feature of generating a Liquidity Forecast business object and comprising a Liquidity Forecast root node, not required by Groups 1-81 and 83-88.

Group 83 requires the special technical feature of generating an Inventory business object and comprising an Inventory root node, not required by Groups 1-82 and 84-88.

Group 84 requires the special technical feature of generating a Product Purchase Request business object and comprising a Product Purchase Request root node, not required by Groups 1-83 and 85-88.

Group 85 requires the special technical feature of generating a Purchase Order business object and comprising a Purchase Order root node, not required by Groups 1-84 and 86-88.

Group 86 requires the special technical feature of generating an Internal Request business object and comprising an Internal Request root node, not required by Groups 1-85 and 87-88.

Group 87 requires the special technical feature of generating a Supplier Invoice business object and comprising a Supplier Invoice root node, not required by Groups 1-86 and 88.

Group 88 requires the special technical feature of generating a Demand Forecast business object and comprising a Demand Forecast root node, not required by Groups 1-87.

None of these technical features are common to the other groups, nor do they correspond to a special technical feature in the other groups.

Claims 1-132 cannot claim technical unity as the shared technical features of these claims are anticipated by the publication entitled "Engineering a Business Process Platform" by Peter Zencke (SAP AG2005, EngineeringBPP, URL: http://www.sap.com/community/pub/webcast/2006_01_16_Analyst_Summit_Vegas/2006_01_16_Analyst_Summit_Vegas_009.pdf). Zencke discloses a computer-implemented method for implementing a service-oriented architecture utilizing one or more consistent interfaces (pg 9 - APAB Workbench, Java Dev Studio), generating business objects by an application (pg 5 - Sales Order Business Object), the business object represented in a hierarchy having a root node (pg 5 - <root node> SalesOrder Business Object Node and SalesOrderItem Business Object Node), sending a message related to the business object (pg 5 - MessageHeader, GenericMessage), the application executing in a landscape of computer systems providing message-based services (pg 21 - Paradigm Shift: From Database to Message-Based Integration and pg 22 - Business Process Platform Technology Blueprint).

Therefore, unity of invention is lacking under PCT Rule 13.1.