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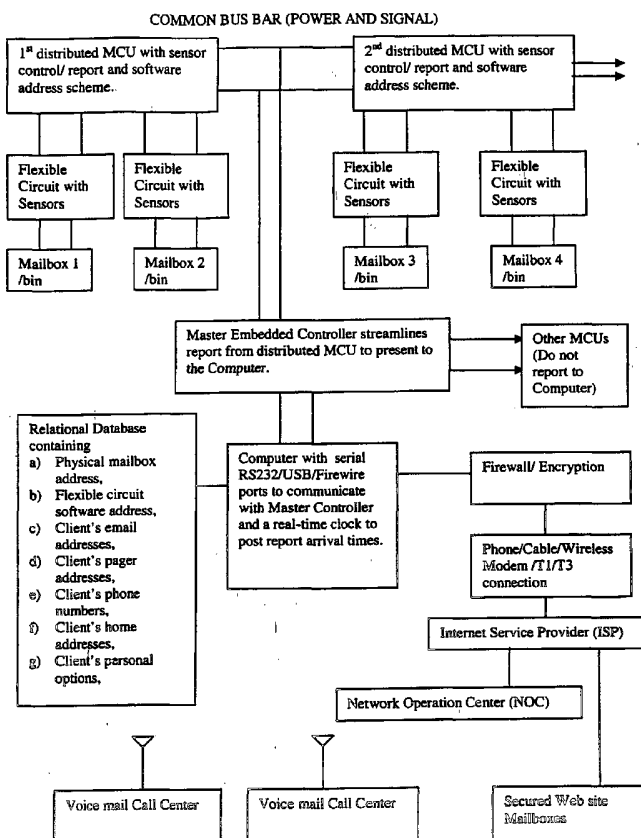
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(54) Title: AUTOMATED DELIVERY AND INVENTORY STATUS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An automated, flexible and programmable system to update delivery and inventory status for an aggregate of remote mailboxes (27), bins, shelves, sorter bins, and/or a plurality of bins to distant customers and vendors through email, pager, personal digital assistant (PDA), cellular phone mail, voice mail at call centers and/or web site mailboxes. It can function as a delivery notice to mailbox recipients or as inventory stock management to store owners and vendors at remote locations. Various sensors (23, 24) mounted on flexible circuit boards (22) located on the mailboxes (27), bins, or shelves together with distributed microcontrollers report status through a common bus to a master controller and then to a computer system. The computer in turn dispatches reports and information to various owners and vendors via a remote network operation center accessed through a dedicated line, a wireless service or an Internet Service Provider. The frequency of report update, changing of locations of update, and the relational database can also be reprogrammed at any time from a remote central service location.

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*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**

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PCT/US02/29544

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IPC(7) : G08B 13/14 US CL : 340/569, 570, 545.6		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 340/569, 570, 545.6, 545.3. 551-565		
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) EAST		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,028,517A (SANSONE et al) 22 February 2000, column 2, lines 60-67; col. 3, lines 1-35; col. 4, lines 7-67; col. 5, lines 5-42.	1-26
<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	"&" document member of the same patent family
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