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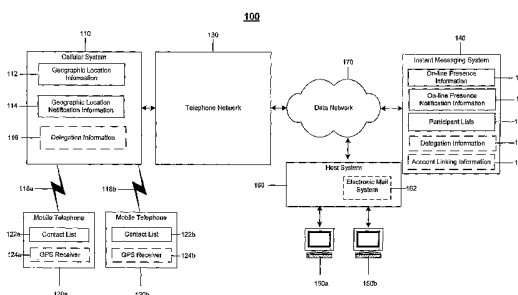
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(54) Title: PRESENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION NOTIFICATION



(57) Abstract: A user of an instant messaging system may store names of other users of the instant messaging system on a participant list (which may be referred to as a "buddy list"), and the names may be categorized into one or more groups. Similarly, a user of a mobile device, such as a mobile telephone, may store contact information about people on the mobile device. Information describing the on-line presence of the user within the instant messaging system or geographic location of a mobile device, such as a mobile telephone associated with the user system, may be disseminated to users on the participant list or people on the contact list based on geographical location information that is associated with groups of users or contacts. A user interface enables a user to specify the manner of disseminating on-line presence information and/or geographic location information to groups of users or contacts. Information describing the on-line presence of the user within the instant messaging system or the geographic location of a mobile device, such as a mobile telephone associated with the user, may be disseminated to users on the participant list or top people on the contact list base on notification information that is associated with groups of users or contacts. A delegation model may be used to control whether a user is permitted to make modifications to the notification information. The user may use multiple identities to communicate within the instant messaging system and/or with the mobile communications device or devices. The user can maintain sets of temporal periods for each of the multiple identities. Only one identity may be used at a specific time to communicate to a specific other identity, but the multiple identities of the user may be linked such that on-line presence and/or geographic location associated with one of the identities is disseminated based on the temporal periods set for one or more of the multiple identities.

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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

International application No.

PCT/US04/15872

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : G09G 5/00; G06F 15/16; H04Q 7/20 US CL : 715/752; 709/201; 455/466 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. : 715/752; 709/201; 455/466 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) Please See Continuation Sheet		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E	US 6,791,583 (TANG et al) 14 September 2004 (14.09.2004), column 17, Line 15, Line 58, Figure 15, Column 16, Line 37, Figure 18, Column 10, Line 9, Column 9, Line 23, Figure	1-14 and 59
Y, P	US 6,714,791 (Friedman) 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004), Column 13, Lines 1-45, Figure 11, Column 6, Line 44.	16-50, 59-68, 78, 79, 88, 89, 90-100
Y	US 2003/0060214 (Hendrey et al) 27 March 2003 (27.03.2003), Paragraph 50.	16-50, 59-68
Y, P	US 2003/0119522 (Barclay et al) 26 June 2003 (26.06.2003), Abstract.	22
Y	US 6,564,261 (Gudjonsson et al) 13 May 2003 (13.05.2003), Column 27, Line 23	26-30, 65
Y, E	US 2005/0071435 (Karstens) 31 March 2005 (31.03.2005), Paragraph 8, Figure 5.	38, 39
Y	US 6,463,292 (Rahman et al) 8 October 2002 (08.10.2003), Abstract	43
Y, P	US 2004/0010808(deCarmo) 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004), Paragraph 36.	50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> 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	"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
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 November 2004 (10.11.2004)		Date of mailing of the international search report 24 OCT 2005
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) 273-8300		Authorized officer Boris Pesin Telephone No. 571-272-2100

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International application No.
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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2003/0050986(Matthews et al) 13 March 2003 (13.03.2003), Paragraphs 64, 44, 19.	71, 73-77, 80, 81, 83-87 ----- 72, 78, 79, 82, 88, 89
Y	US 2003/0088824(Ayan) 8 May 2003 (08.05.2003), Paragraphs 9, and 36.	72, 82
Y, P	US 6,659,872 (Kaufman et al) 9 December 2003 (09.12.2003), Cloumns 1-2, Lines 59-11	90-100

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/15872

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.: 15
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:
There is no claim 15
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:
Please 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 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.

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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

1. This International Preliminary Examining Authority has found 4 inventions claimed in the International Application covered by the claims indicated below:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to a method.
- II. Claims 16-70, drawn to a method.
- III. Claims 71-89, drawn to a method.
- IV. Claims 90-100, drawn to a method

and it considers that the International Application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:

The inventions listed as Groups 1-4 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Group one has a special technical feature of displaying a participant list using a graphical user interface.

Group two has a special technical feature of accessing notification setting information that identifies a temporal condition.

Group three has a special technical feature of using delegation information associated with a communications identity to manage modifying notification setting information to control dissemination of notification information relating to the communications identity.

Group four has a special technical feature of controlling and managing geographical information.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3: