

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 December 2004 (09.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/107129 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification: ⁷ G06F 17/60
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/016895
- (22) International Filing Date: 28 May 2004 (28.05.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
 - 60/473,815 28 May 2003 (28.05.2003) US
 - 10/855,247 27 May 2004 (27.05.2004) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): WALKER DIGITAL, LLC [US/US]; 1177 High Ridge Road, Suite 128, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WALKER, Jay, S. [US/US]; 260 Oscaleta Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (US). BREITENBACH, Paul, T. [US/US]; 33 Hillbrook Road, Wilton, CT 06897 (US). LEE, Sih, Y. [US/US]; 131 Rockland Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647 (US). O'NEIL, Michael, V. [US/US]; 175 West 73rd Street, Apartment

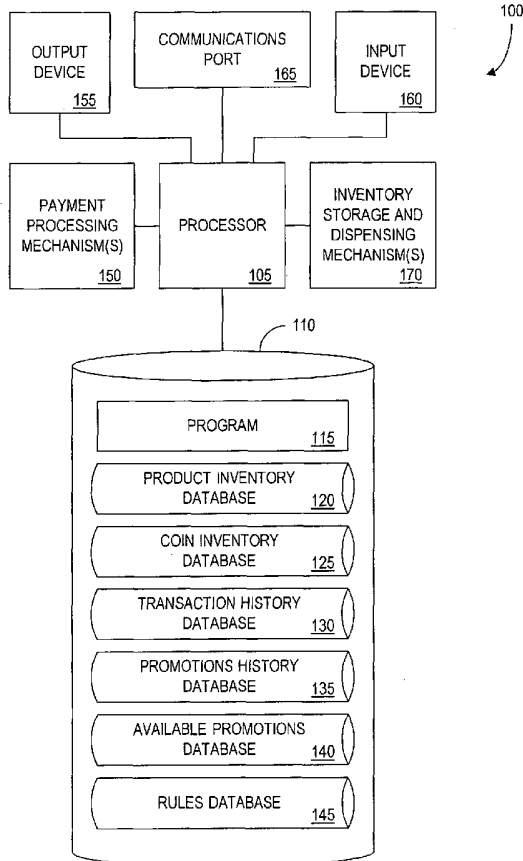
16D, New York, NY 10023 (US). SIGNORELLI, Paul, D. [US/US]; 241 East 76th Street 2D, New York, NY 10021 (US). TEDESCO, Daniel, E. [US/US]; Two Arden Lane, Huntington, CT 06484 (US). JORASCH, James, A. [US/US]; 25 Forest Street, Apt. 5G, Stamford, CT 06901 (US). GELMAN, Geoffrey, M. [US/US]; 21 Belltown Road, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

(74) Agents: FINCHAM, Madgalena, M. et al.; Walker Digital Management, LLC, Intellectual Property Department, Five High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

(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.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING VENDING MACHINE OFFERS



(57) Abstract: In accordance with one or more embodiments, a promotion redeemable at a vending machine is determined. The promotion comprises an offer distinct from a general offer to sell products from the vending machine at posted prices. The promotion is output (e.g., via an output device of a vending machine, an output device of a peripheral device of a vending machine, an output device of a customer device, or a combination thereof). In some embodiments, the promotion may be determined such that it satisfies the goal of increasing the profitability of the vending machine and/or the goal of conserving an inventory of coins in the vending machine. In some embodiments, determining a promotion may comprise constructing a promotion instance by populating a parameter of a promotion type with a value selected based on one or more rules.

WO 2004/107129 A3



(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).

Published:

— *with international search report*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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

9 February 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/US04/16895

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60
 US CL : 705.14

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. : 705.14

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: promo, promot\$4, vending, coins, loyalty

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,997,928 (KAISH et al) 07 December 1999, col 4-5.	1, 2, 10, 11, 25-27, 30, 39-46, 48, 49 ----- 3-9, 12-24, 28, 29, 31- 38, 47, 50-68
Y	US 5,482,139 (RIVALTO) 09 January 1996 (09.01.1996), abstract.	3-5, 8, 9, 12-15, 17-24, 29, 31-38, 47, 50-51, 56-61, 63-66, 67, 68
Y	US 6,119,099 (WALKER et al) 12 September 2000 (12.09.2000) entire document	6, 7, 16, 52, 53-56, 62

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	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

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 December 2005 (02.12.2005)

15 DEC 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) 273-3201

Authorized officer
D. Wildermuth for
 Jeffrey D. Carlson
 Telephone No. 571-272-3600