

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 February 2006 (16.02.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/017268 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 17/00 (2006.01)

(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: **WALKER, Jay, S.** [US/US]; 260 Oscaleta Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (US). **BREITENBACH, Paul, T.** [US/US]; 33 Hillbook Road, Wilton, CT 06897 (US). **TEDESCO, Daniel, E.** [US/US]; Two Arden Lane, Huntington, CT 06484 (US). **BREITENBACH, Matthew, D.** [US/US]; 311 Old Branchville Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (US). **TEDESCO, Robert, C.** [US/US]; 1951 Congress Street, Fairfield, CT 06824 (US). **SIGNORELLI, Paul, D.** [US/US]; 241 East 76th Street, Apartment 2D, New York, NY 10021 (US). **TULLEY, Stephen, C.** [US/US]; 115 Ruane Street, Fairfield, CT 06824 (US). **GELMAN, Geoffrey, M.** [US/US]; 1134 HBS Student Mail Center, Boston, MA 02163 (US).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/024653

(22) International Filing Date: 12 July 2005 (12.07.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/587,179 12 July 2004 (12.07.2004) US

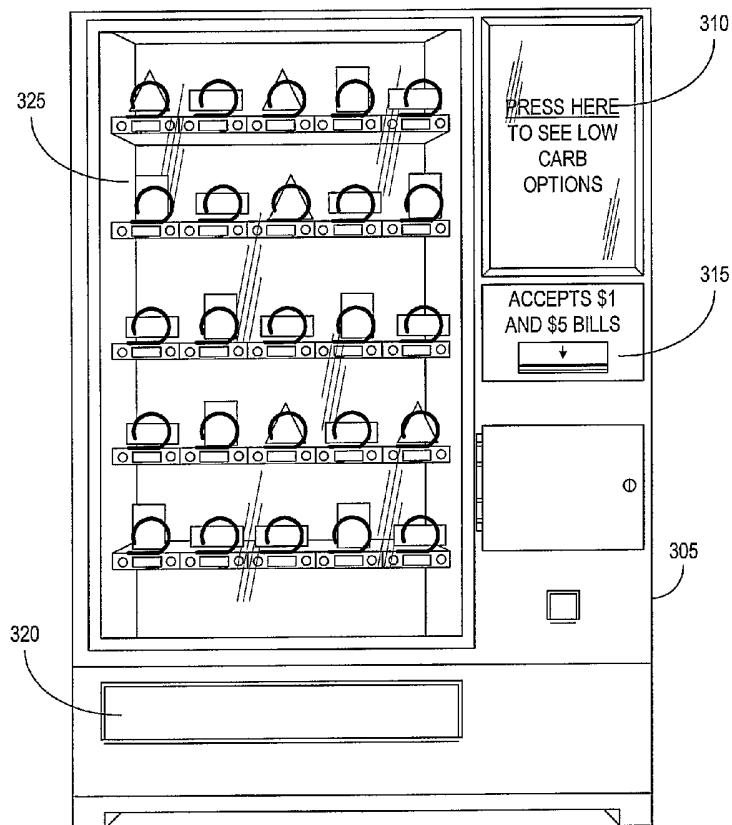
(74) Agents: **ALDERUCCI, Dean, P.** et al.; Walker Digital Management, LLC, Five High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
WALKER DIGITAL, LLC [US/US]; 1177 High Ridge Park, Suite 128, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES FOR COMMUNICATING INFORMATION REGARDING A PRODUCT DISPENSED BY A VENDING MACHINE



(57) Abstract: Information (310) about a product (325) is communicated to at least one customer of a vending machine (305). It is determined whether to dispense a product (325) from the vending machine (305), and the product (325) is dispensed (320) from the vending machine (305).

WO 2006/017268 A3



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, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (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, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, 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*

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

23 November 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/US05/24653

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G06F 17/00(2006.01)

US CL : 700/232; 705/16, 26.

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)
US CL : 700/231, 232, 233, 234, 237; 235/381; 705/16, 26, 27.

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)

PatentCafe ICO patent database collections; Google; USPTO Patent Full-Text and Full-Page Image Databases; SurfIP; New Zealand Digital Library

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0103033 A1 (READE et al.) 27 May 2004 (27.05.2004); entire document.	1-16
A	US 2002/0079368 A1 (HANKINS) 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002); abstract.	1-16
A	US 5,997,928 A (KAISH et al.) 07 December 1999; abstract.	1-16
A	US 6,658,323 B2 (TEDESCO et al.) 02 December 2003 (02.12.2003); entire document.	1-16
A	US 5,845,263 A (CAMAISA et al.) 01 December 1998 (01.12.1998); entire document.	1-16
A, P	US 2004/0193495 A1 (KIM) 30 September 2004 (30.09.2004); entire document.	1-16
A	US 5,918,211 A (SLOANE) 29 June 1999 (29.06.1999); entire document and particularly column 6, lines 39-54.	1-16
A	US 6,415,555 B1 (MONTAGUE) 09 July 2002 (09.07.2002); entire document.	1-16
A	WO 02/42948 A2 (WHITE) 30 May 2002 (30.05.2002); entire document.	1-16

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
- "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 but 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
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 October 2005 (20.10.2005)

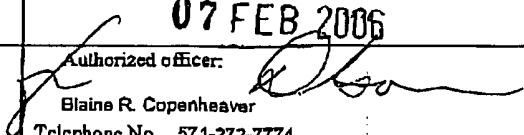
Date of mailing of the international search report

07 FEB 2006

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:


 Blaine R. Copenheaver
 Telephone No. 571-272-7774