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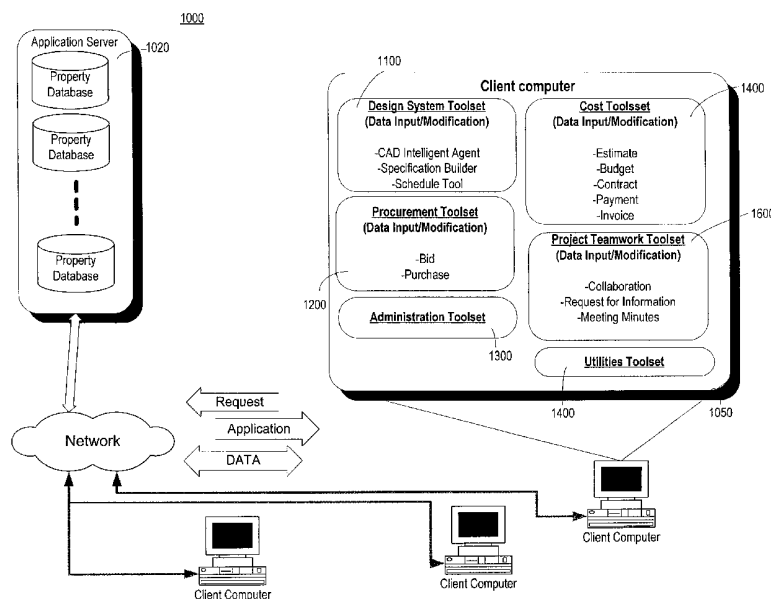
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ITEM SPECIFICATION OBJECT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system and method for constructing data concerning items of an asset. The method comprises: providing a user data entry interface; receiving a plurality of data values, each into a data field of the interface; wherein the plurality of data fields comprise a specification for the item and each data field of the specification describes an attribute of the item, and storing the specification into a database on a computer system. The system includes a data store for item specification data provided on a host computer coupled to a network; and a data input toolset comprising at least an item type manager and an item specification manager.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US 01/48494

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F9/44		
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) IPC 7 G06F		
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 practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ		
<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	PAUL R. KRISTOFF, DAVID P. NUNN: "The Process Specification System for MMST" IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING, vol. 8, no. 3, August 1995 (1995-08) - August 1995 (1995-08), pages 262-271, XP002200145 page 1, column 1, line 1 -page 1, column 2, line 40; figures 1-5,8-13 Section V, VI, VII and X	9-14, 16, 17, 19-27, 29-39, 41-51
A	the whole document	15, 18, 28, 40
P, X	WO 01 63449 A (EMPRIVA INC) 30 August 2001 (2001-08-30) page 2, line 14 -page 4, line 8; figures 3-8	9, 28, 35
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
° 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 document 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  28 May 2002	Date of mailing of the international search report  03/07/2002	
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Huber, A	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Application No  
 PCT/US 01/48494

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 01 67279 A (MARNELL CORRAO ASSOCIATES INC) 13 September 2001 (2001-09-13) page 4, line 5 -page 5, line 5; figure 5 page 11, line 11 -page 13, line 22 ---	9,28,35
A	US 6 035 293 A (SHEA JOHN ET AL) 7 March 2000 (2000-03-07) column 1, line 6 -column 3, line 64; figures 6,7 ---	9-51
A	PENG T-K ET AL: "A step toward STEP-compatible engineering data management: the data models of product structure and engineering changes" ROBOTICS AND COMPUTER INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS BV., BARKING, GB, vol. 14, no. 2, 1 April 1998 (1998-04-01), pages 89-109, XP004124442 ISSN: 0736-5845 abstract; figures 4,5,15,17; tables 1,2 Section 1. Introduction Section 3. Architecture Section 4.4 Engineering change ---	9-51
A	JOHN MCGEHEE, JOHN HEBLEY, JACK MAHAFFEY: "The MMST Computer-Integrated Manufacturing System Framework" IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING, vol. 7, no. 2, May 1994 (1994-05), pages 107-116, XP002200194 Sections II-V abstract; figures 1-4 ---	9-51
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 02, 29 February 1996 (1996-02-29) & JP 07 271569 A (HITACHI SOFTWARE ENG CO LTD), 20 October 1995 (1995-10-20) abstract ---	9-51
A	HORI M ET AL: "OpenMES: scalable manufacturing execution framework based on distributed object computing", SYSTEMS, MAN, AND CYBERNETICS, 1999. IEEE SMC '99 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. 1999 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOKYO, JAPAN 12-15 OCT. 1999, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA,IEEE, US, PAGE(S) 398-403 XP010363021 ISBN: 0-7803-5731-0 column 2, line 1 -column 5, line 15 -----	9-51

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 1-8

The claims 1-8 relate to subject matter for which no search is required according to Rule 39.1(v) PCT - Presentation of information. Given that the claims are formulated in terms of such subject matter or merely specify commonplace features relating to its technological implementation, the search examiner could not establish any technical problem which might potentially have required an inventive step to overcome. Hence it was not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art (Art. 17(2)(a)(i) and (ii) PCT; see EPC Guidelines Part B Chapter VIII, 1-6).

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

national application No.  
PCT/US 01/48494

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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.: 1-8  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

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

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

onal Application No  
PCT/US 01/48494

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WO 0167279	A	13-09-2001	AU 5602300 A WO 0167279 A2	17-09-2001 13-09-2001
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