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Niebanck

(54) METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROXY VOTING

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(73) Assignee: **Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.**, Jersey City, NJ (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **13/871,222**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 26, 2013**

Related U.S. Application Data

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G06F 3/0484 (2006.01)

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CPC *G06F 3/0484* (2013.01)
USPC **715/753**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

One embodiment of the present invention relates to electronic voting methods and systems that help simplify the management of institutional proxies. In one example, the methods and systems manage the process of meeting notifications, voting, tracking, mailing, reporting, record maintenance and/or vote disclosure rules enacted by the SEC. In one specific example, this may be done for thousands of publicly traded securities custodied at various banks, brokers and global custodians. In another example, a system (and corresponding method) may be provided for integrating, organizing and displaying (e.g., via a website) information in a language of preference for each user of the system. The information may comprise meeting, agenda and/or ballot information and the users of the system/method may be voting entities empowered to cast votes via the system.

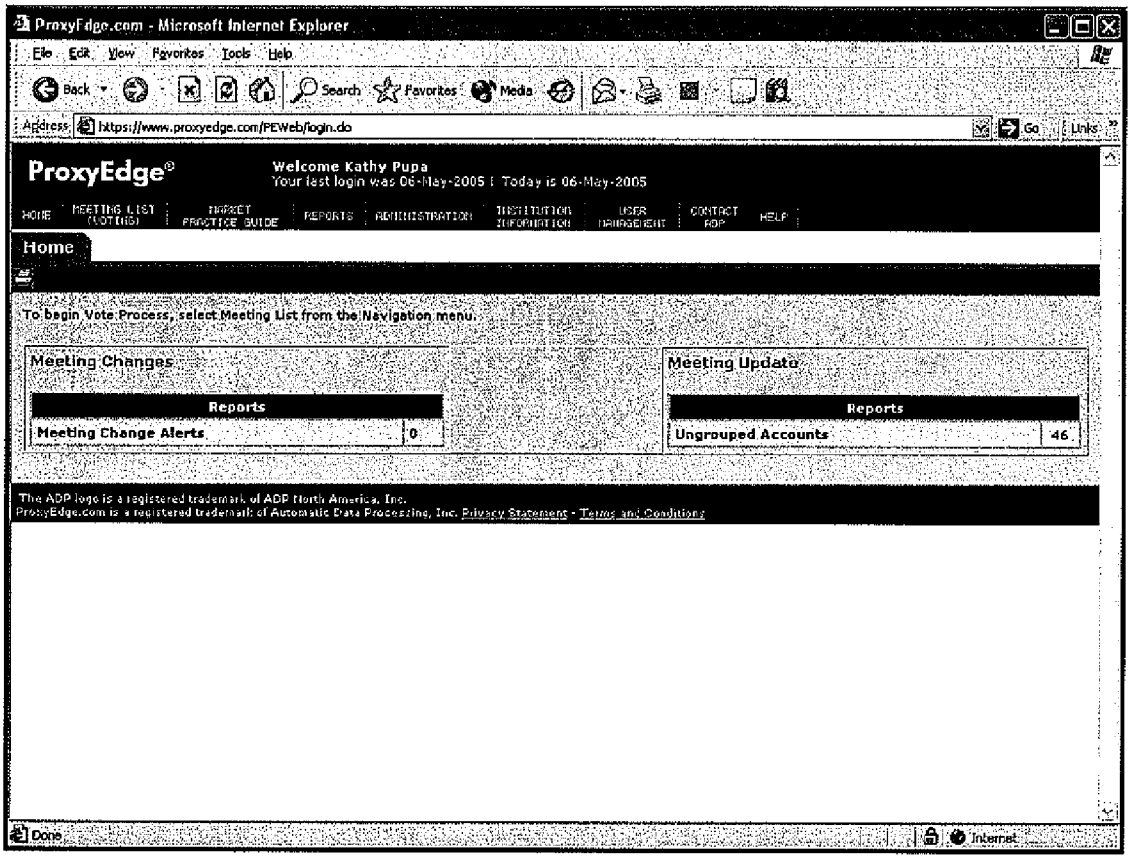
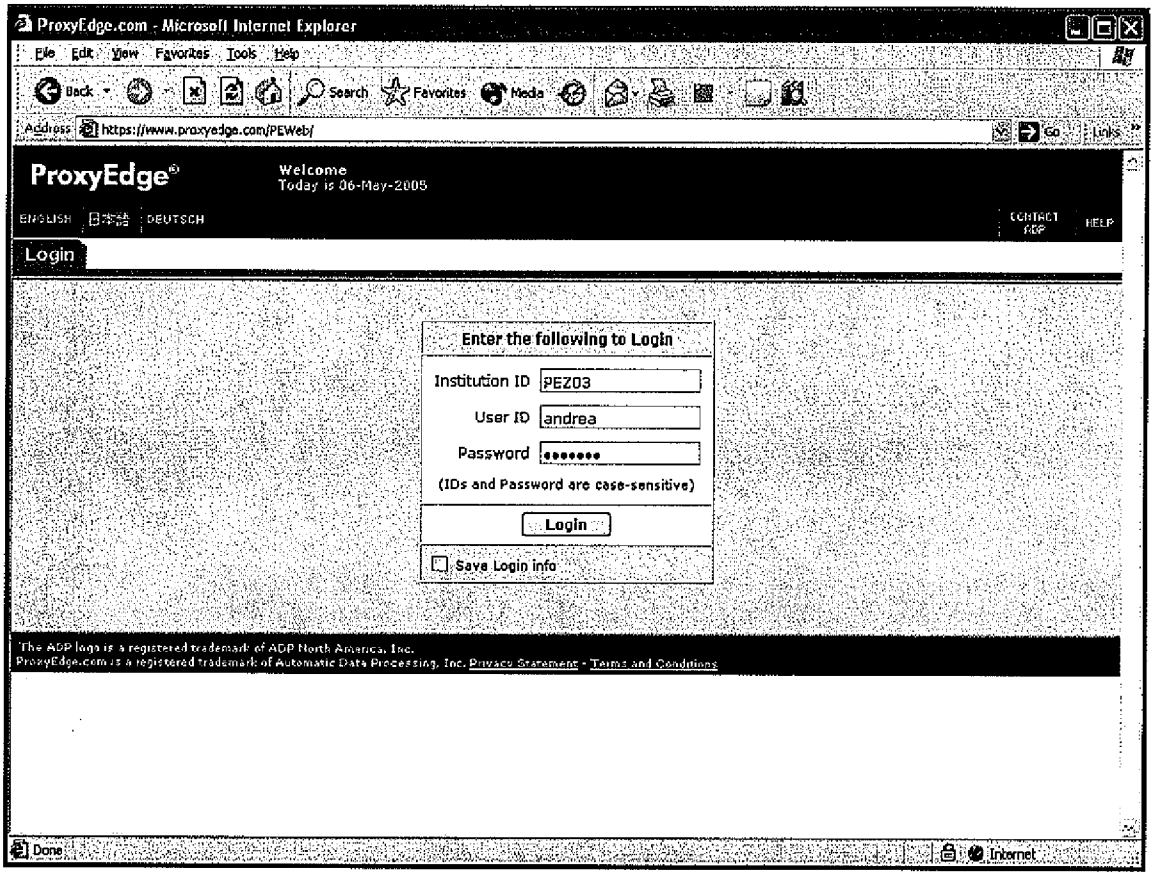


Fig. 1


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
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Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/
Go Links
ProxyEdge®
Welcome
Today is 06-May-2005
ENGLISH DEUTSCH
CONTACT ADP HELP
Login
Enter the following to Login
Institution ID PEZ03
User ID andrea
Password
(IDs and Password are case-sensitive)
Login
Save Login info
The ADP logo is a registered trademark of ADP North America, Inc.
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Done
Internet

Fig. 2

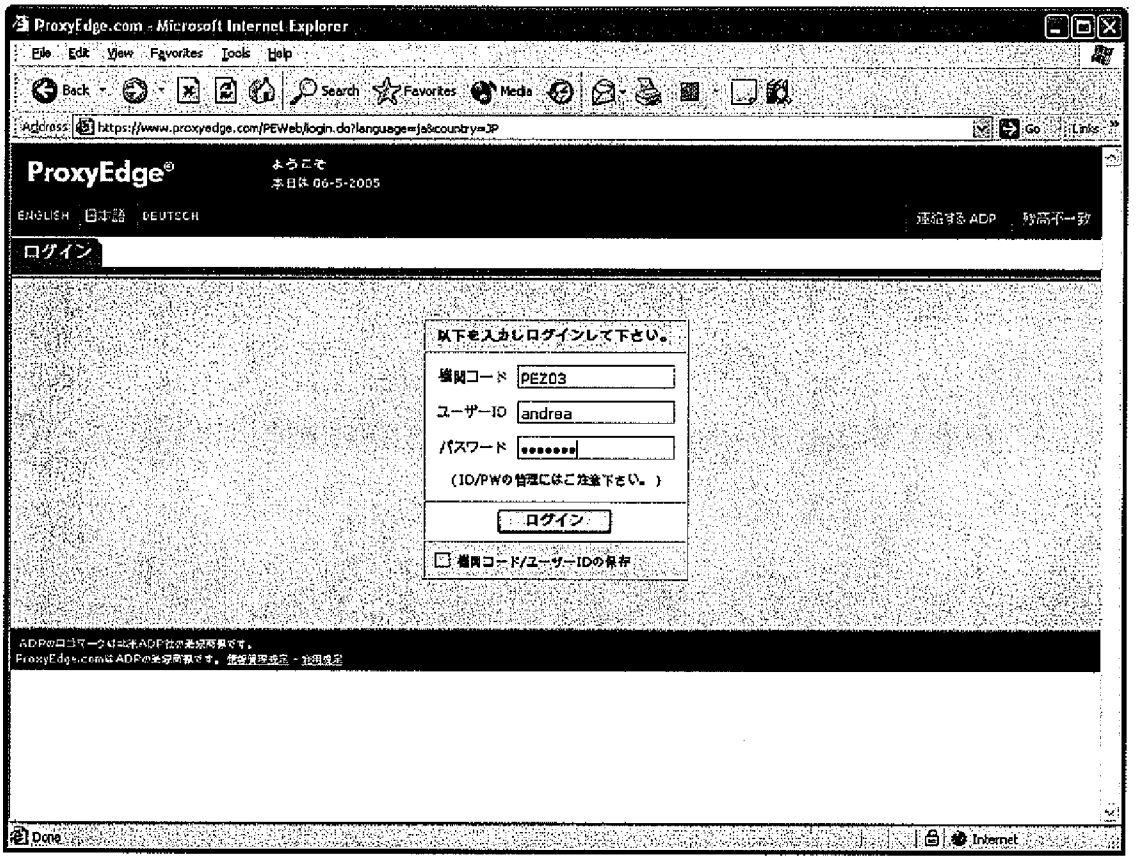

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/login.do?language=ja&country=JP
Go Links
ProxyEdge®
ようこそ
ENGLISH 日本語 DEUTSCH
ログイン
以下を入力しログインして下さい。
機関コード PEZ03
ユーザーID andrea
パスワード
(ID/PWの管理にはご注意下さい。)
ログイン
機関コード/ユーザーIDの保存
Done
Internet

Fig. 3

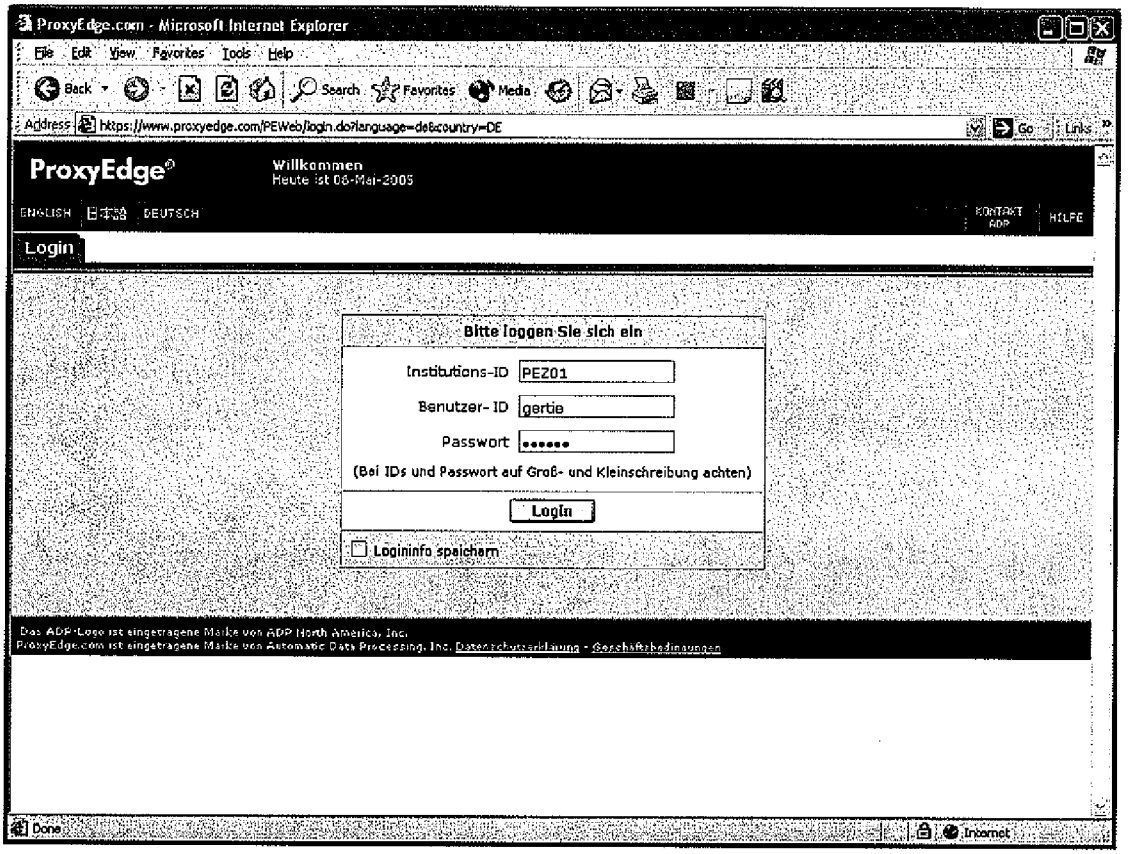

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/login.do?language=de&country=DE
Go Links
ProxyEdge
Willkommen
Heute ist 08-Mai-2005
ENGLISH DEUTSCH
KONTAKT ADP
HILFE
Login
Bitte loggen Sie sich ein
Institutions-ID PEZ01
Benutzer-ID gertie
Passwort ••••••
(Bei IDs und Passwort auf Groß- und Kleinschreibung achten)
Login
Logininfo speichern
Das ADP-Logo ist eingetragene Marke von ADP North America, Inc.
ProxyEdge.com ist eingetragene Marke von Automatic Data Processing, Inc. Datenschutzerklärung - Geschäftsbedingungen
Done
Internet

Fig. 4

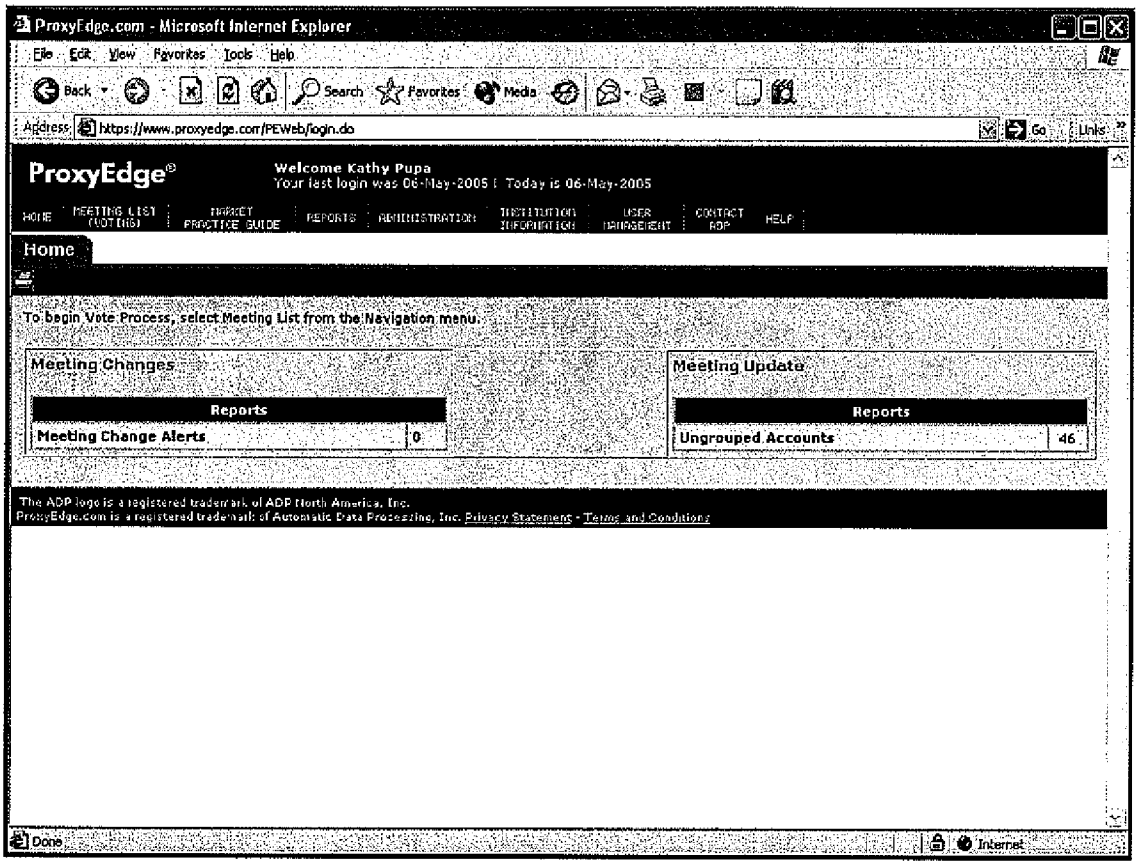
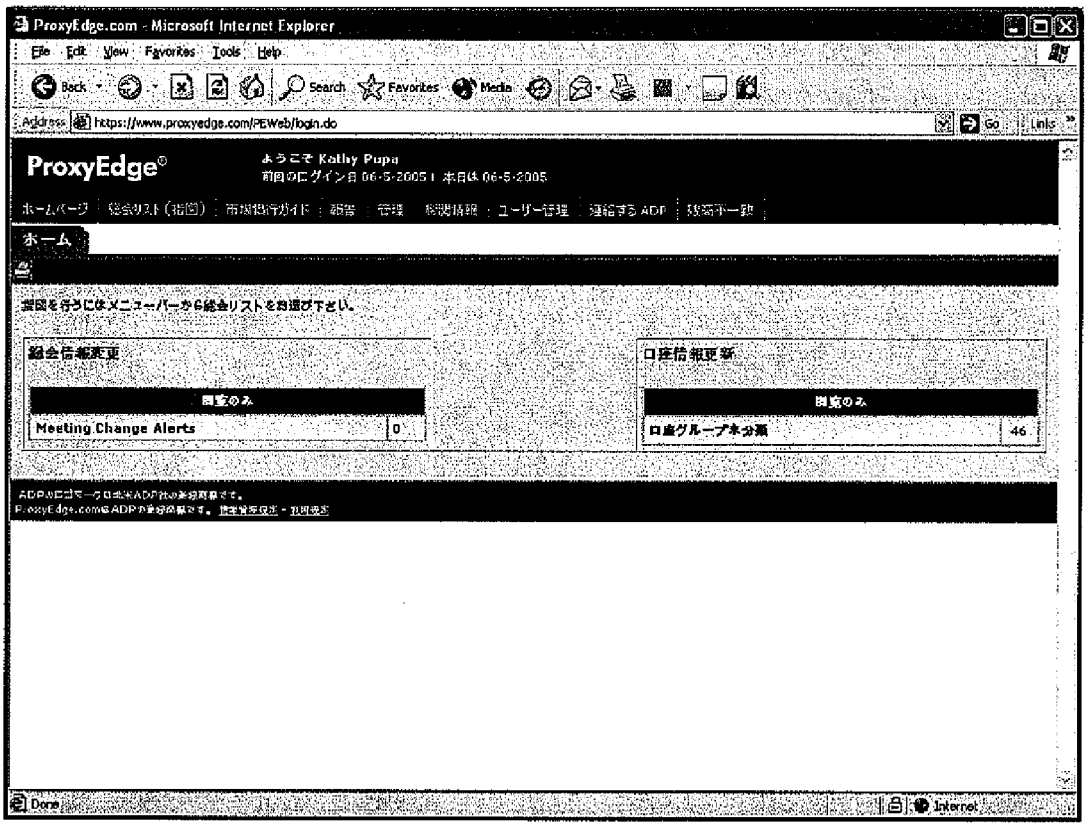

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/login.do
Go Links
ProxyEdge®
Welcome Kathy Pupa
Your last login was 06-May-2005 | Today is 06-May-2005
HOME MEETING LIST (VOTING) MARKET PRACTICE GUIDE REPORTS ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTION INFORMATION USER MANAGEMENT CONTACT ADP HELP
Home
To begin Vote Process, select Meeting List from the Navigation menu.
Meeting Changes
Reports
Meeting Change Alerts 0
Meeting Update
Reports
Ungrouped Accounts 46
The ADP logo is a registered trademark of ADP North America, Inc.
ProxyEdge.com is a registered trademark of Automatic Data Processing, Inc. Privacy Statement - Terms and Conditions
Done
Internet

Fig. 5


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/login.do
Go Links
ProxyEdge
ようこそ Kathy Pupa
前回のログイン日 06-5-2005 | 本日は 06-5-2005
ホームページ 総会リスト（指図） 市場投資ガイド 報告 管理 概要情報 ユーザー管理 連絡する ADP 残高不一致
ホーム
指図を行うにはメニューバーから総会リストをお選び下さい。
総会情報変更
閲覧のみ
Meeting Change Alerts
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口座情報更新
閲覧のみ
口座グループネ分類
46
Done
Internet

Fig. 6

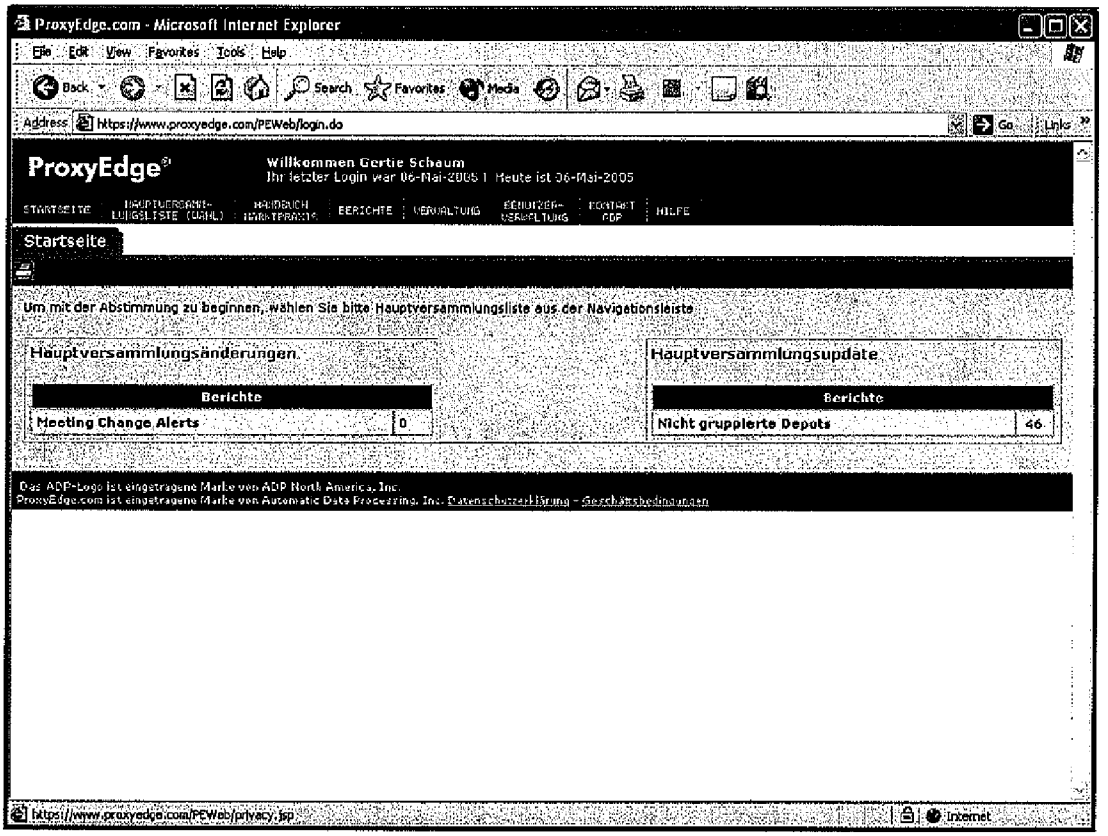
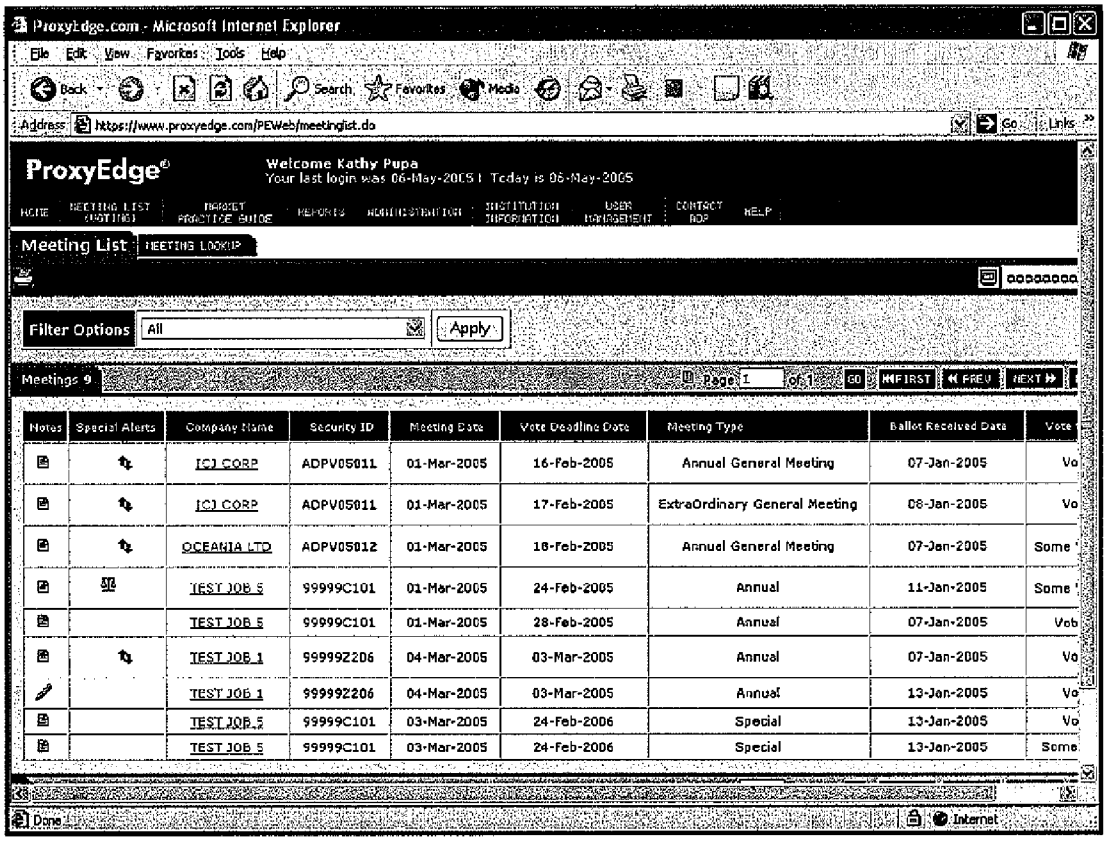

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/login.do
ProxyEdge
Willkommen Gertie Schaum
Ihr letzter Login war 06-Mai-2005 | Heute ist 06-Mai-2005
Startseite
Um mit der Abstimmung zu beginnen, wählen Sie bitte Hauptversammlungsliste aus der Navigationsleiste.
Hauptversammlungsänderungen
Berichte
Meeting Change Alerts 0
Hauptversammlungsupdate
Berichte
Nicht gruppierte Depots 46
Das ADP-Logo ist eingetragene Marke von ADP North America, Inc.
ProxyEdge.com ist eingetragene Marke von Automatic Data Processing, Inc. Datenschutzerklärung - Geschäftsbedingungen
https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/privacy.jsp
Internet

Fig. 7


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/meetinglist.do
ProxyEdge®
Welcome Kathy Pupa
Your last login was 06-May-2005 | Today is 06-May-2005
HOME MEETING LIST (VOTING) MARKET PRACTICE GUIDE REPORTS ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTION INFORMATION USER MANAGEMENT CONTRACT ADP HELP
Meeting List MEETING LOOKUP
Filter Options All Apply
Meetings 9
Page 1 of 1 GO FIRST PREV NEXT
Notes | Special Alerts | Company Name | Security ID | Meeting Date | Vote Deadline Date | Meeting Type | Ballot Received Date | Vote
IC) CORP | ADPV05011 | 01-Mar-2005 | 16-Feb-2005 | Annual General Meeting | 07-Jan-2005
IC) CORP | ADPV05011 | 01-Mar-2005 | 17-Feb-2005 | ExtraOrdinary General Meeting | 08-Jan-2005
OCEANIA LTD | ADPV05012 | 01-Mar-2005 | 18-Feb-2005 | Annual General Meeting | 07-Jan-2005
TEST JOB 5 | 99999C101 | 01-Mar-2005 | 24-Feb-2005 | Annual | 11-Jan-2005
TEST JOB 5 | 99999C101 | 01-Mar-2005 | 28-Feb-2005 | Annual | 07-Jan-2005
TEST JOB 1 | 99999Z206 | 04-Mar-2005 | 03-Mar-2005 | Annual | 07-Jan-2005
TEST JOB 1 | 99999Z206 | 04-Mar-2005 | 03-Mar-2005 | Annual | 13-Jan-2005
TEST JOB 5 | 99999C101 | 03-Mar-2005 | 24-Feb-2006 | Special | 13-Jan-2005
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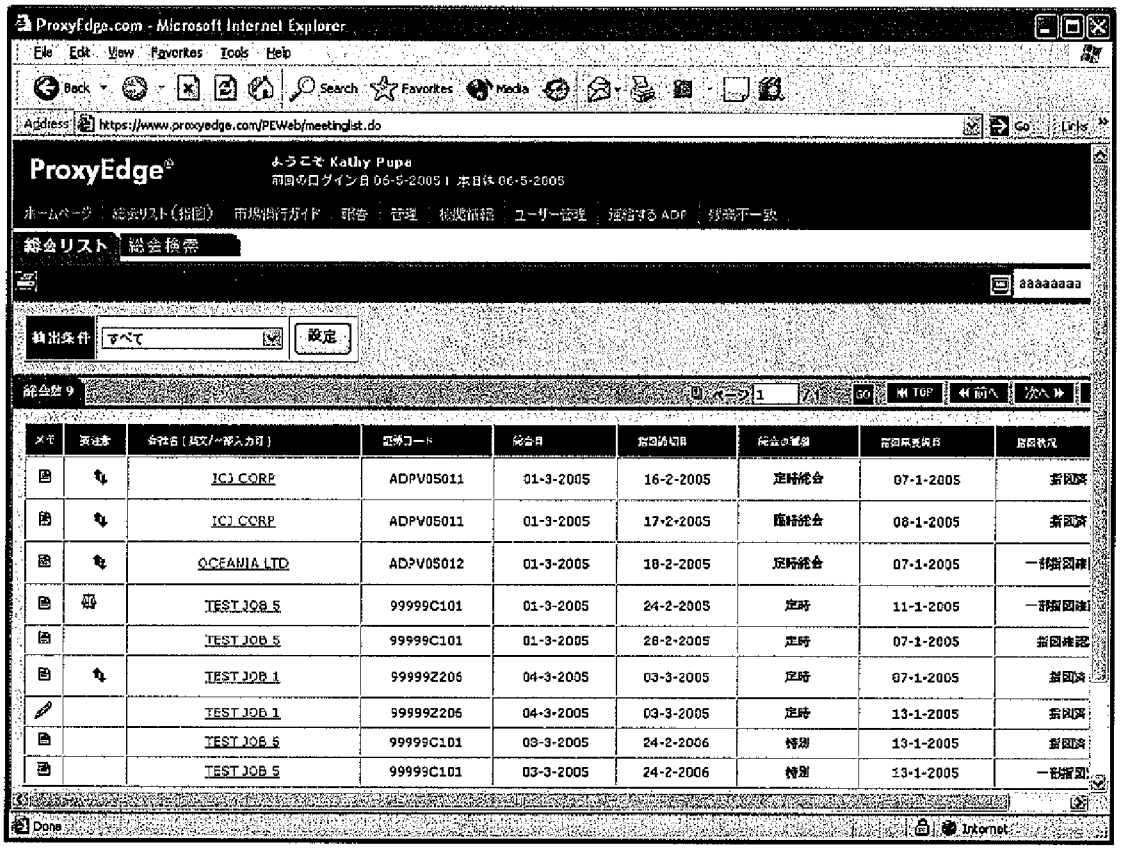
Done
Internet

Fig. 8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File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/meetinglist.do
Go Links
ProxyEdge
ようこそ Kathy Pupe
前回のログイン日 06-5-2005 | 本日休 06-5-2005
ホームページ 総会リスト(指図) 市場進行ガイド 報告 管理 機関情報 ユーザー管理 連絡する ADP 残高不一致
総会リスト 総会検索
aaaaaaaa
抽出条件 すべて 設定
総会数 9
ページ 1 / 1 GO TOP 前へ 次へ
メモ 要注意 会社名(英文/~部入力可) 証券コード 総会日 指図締切日 総会の種類 指図無表現日 指図状況
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ICJ CORP ADPV05011 01-3-2005 17-2-2005 臨時総会 08-1-2005 指図済
OCEANIA LTD ADPV05012 01-3-2005 18-2-2005 定時総会 07-1-2005 一部指図確
TEST JOB 5 99999C101 01-3-2005 24-2-2005 定時 11-1-2005 一部指図確
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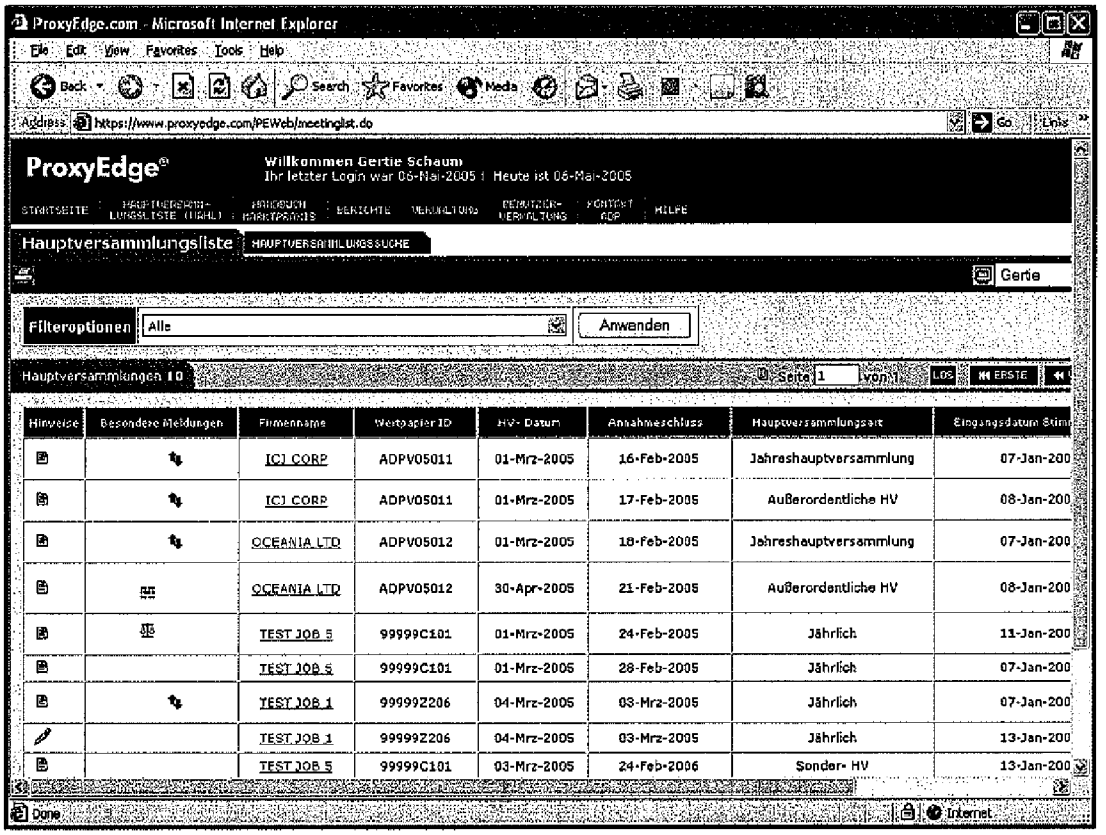
Fig. 9


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
ProxyEdge®
Willkommen Gertie Schaum
Ihr letzter Login war 06-Mai-2005 | Heute ist 06-Mai-2005
Hauptversammlungsliste
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Filteroptionen
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Anwenden
Hauptversammlungen 10
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28-Feb-2005
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07-Jan-200
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07-Jan-200
TEST JOB 1
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13-Jan-200
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24-Feb-2006
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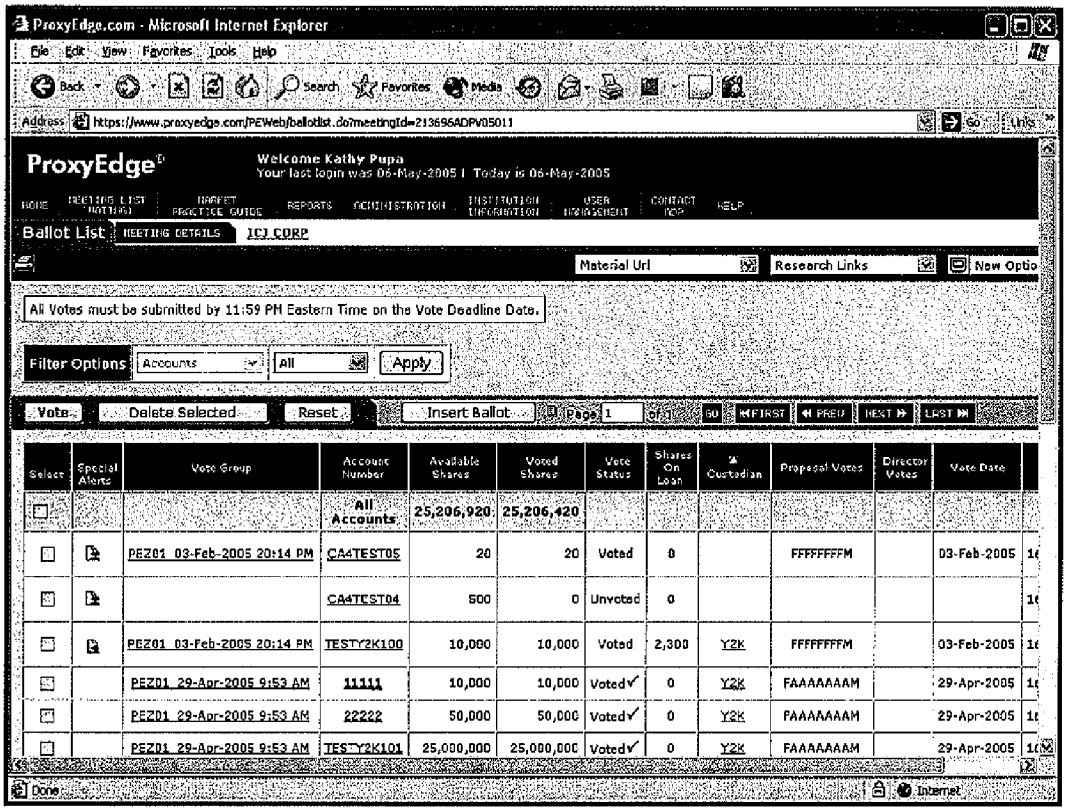
13-Jan-200
Done
Internet

Fig. 10


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
ProxyEdge®
Welcome Kathy Pupa
Your last login was 06-May-2005 | Today is 06-May-2005
Ballot List
MEETING DETAILS
ICJ CORP
All Votes must be submitted by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the Vote Deadline Date.
Filter Options
Accounts
All
Apply
Vote
Delete Selected
Reset
Insert Ballot
Page 1
Select
Special Alerts
Vote Group
Account Number
Available Shares
Voted Shares
Vote Status
Shares On Loan
Custodian
Proposal Votes
Director Votes
Vote Date
All Accounts
25,206,920
25,206,420
PEZ01 03-Feb-2005 20:14 PM
CA4TEST05
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Voted
FFFFFFFFM
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CA4TEST04
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Unvoted
PEZ01 03-Feb-2005 20:14 PM
TESTY2K100
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10,000
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Y2K
FFFFFFFFM
03-Feb-2005
PEZ01 29-Apr-2005 9:53 AM
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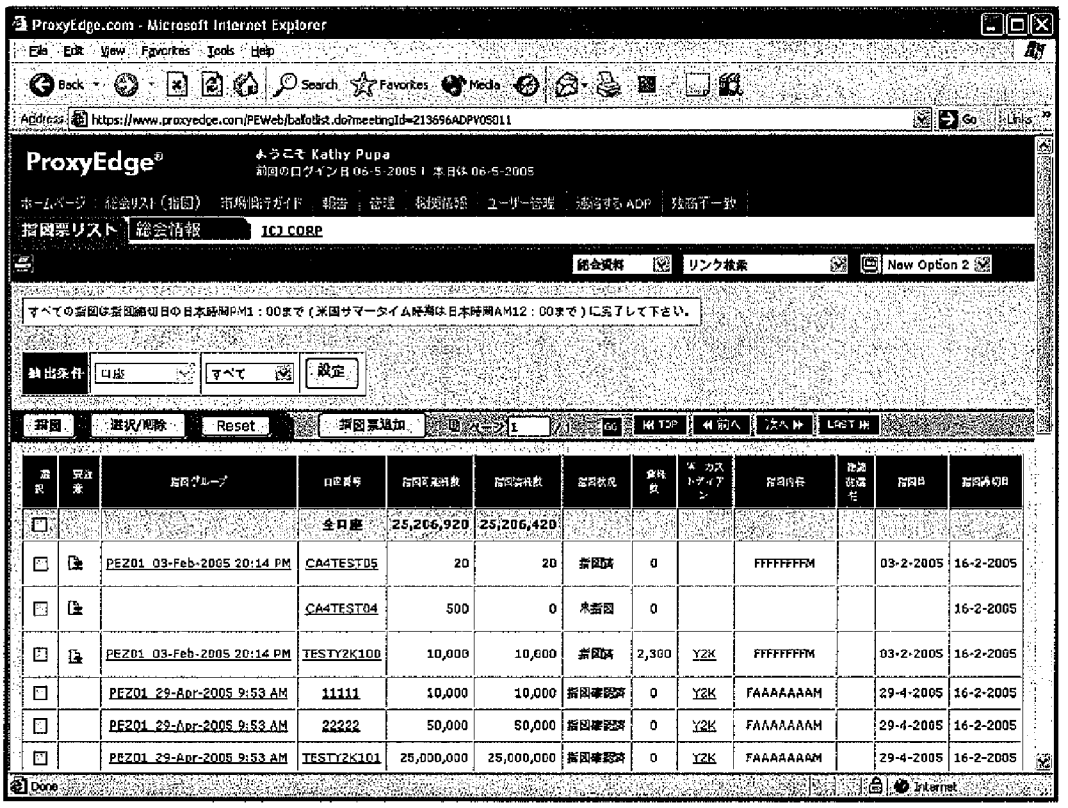
Fig. 11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Reset
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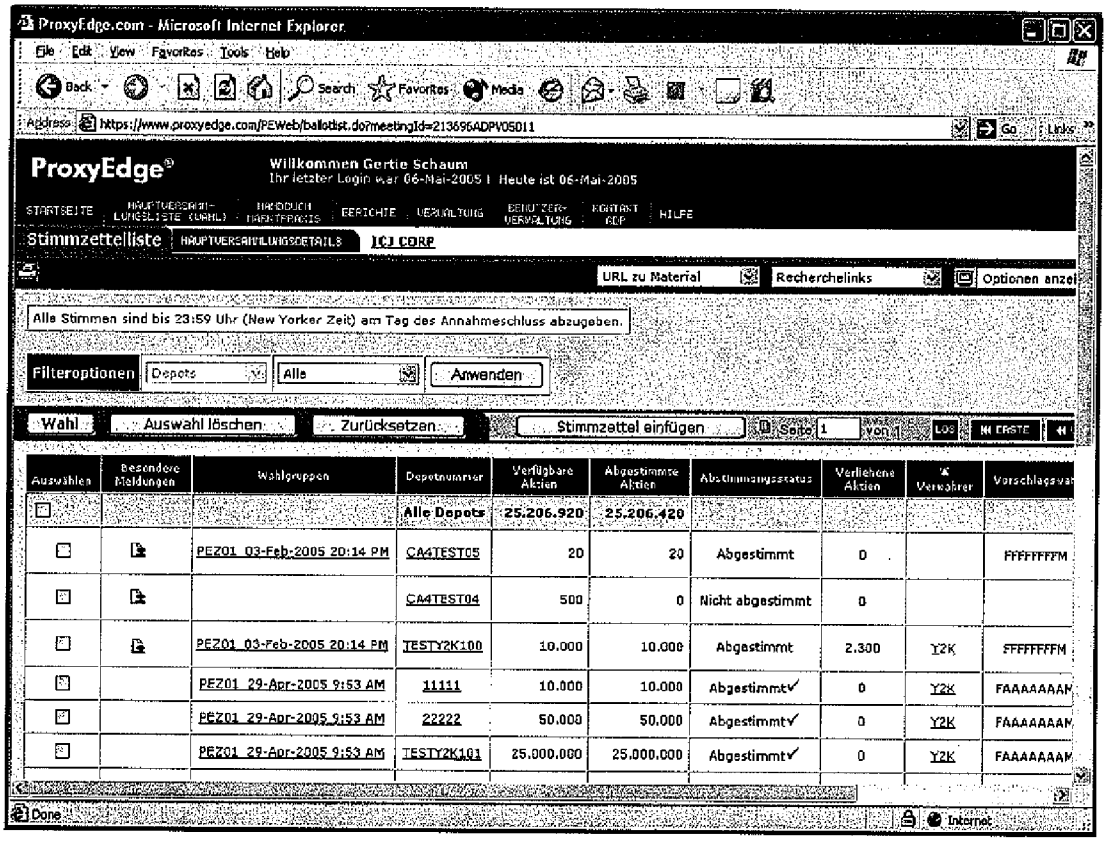
Fig. 12



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☐			Alle Depots	25.206.920	25.206.420				
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☐			CA4TEST04	500	0	Nicht abgestimmt	0		
☐		PEZ01 03-Feb-2005 20:14 PM	TESTY2K100	10.000	10.000	Abgestimmt	2.300	Y2K	FFFFFFFM
☐		PEZ01 29-Apr-2005 9:53 AM	11111	10.000	10.000	Abgestimmt✓	0	Y2K	FAAAAAAAM
☐		PEZ01 29-Apr-2005 9:53 AM	22222	50.000	50.000	Abgestimmt✓	0	Y2K	FAAAAAAAM
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Fig. 13

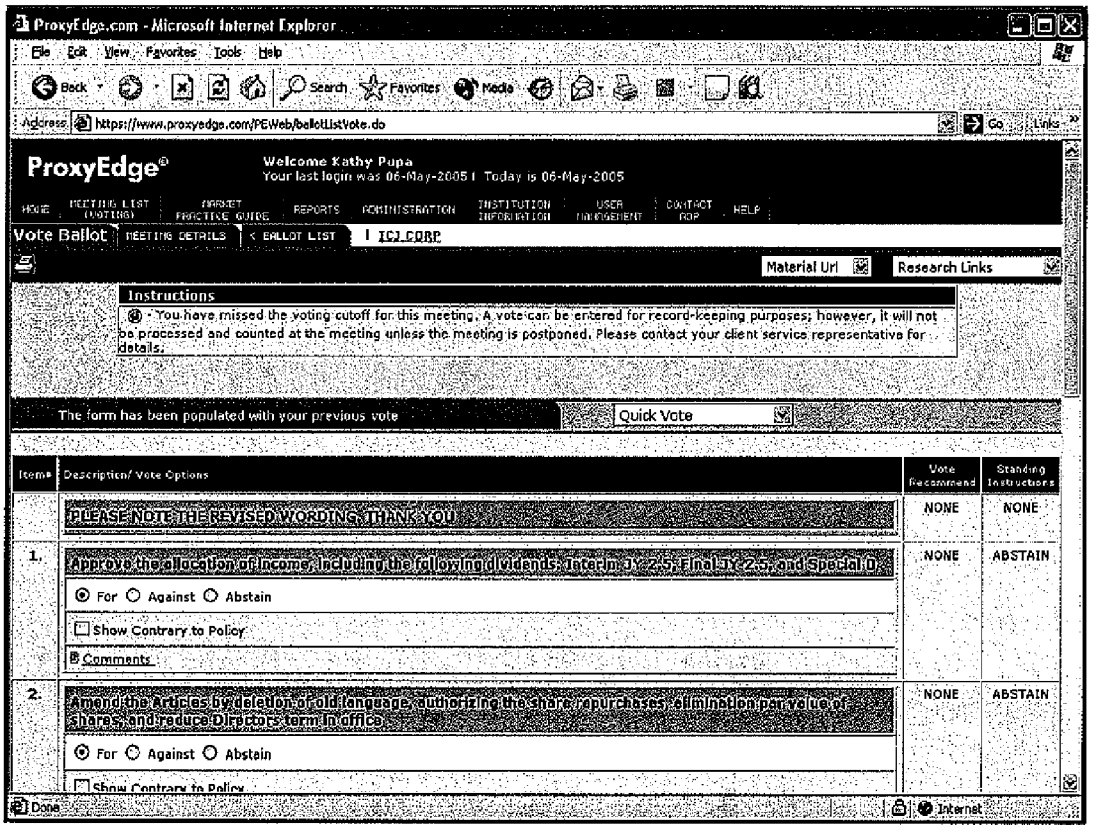

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/ballotListVote.do
ProxyEdge®
Welcome Kathy Pupa
Your last login was 06-May-2005 | Today is 06-May-2005
HOME MEETING LIST (VOTING) MARKET PRACTICE GUIDE REPORTS ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTION INFORMATION USER MANAGEMENT CONTACT ROP HELP
Vote Ballot MEETING DETAILS < BALLOT LIST | IC] CORP
Material Url Research Links
Instructions
You have missed the voting cutoff for this meeting. A vote can be entered for record-keeping purposes; however, it will not be processed and counted at the meeting unless the meeting is postponed. Please contact your client service representative for details.
The form has been populated with your previous vote
Quick Vote
Item# Description/ Vote Options Vote Recommend Standing Instructions
PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED WORDING. THANK YOU NONE NONE
1. Approve the allocation of income, including the following dividends: Interim JY 2.5, Final JY 2.5, and Special 0 NONE ABSTAIN
For Against Abstain
Show Contrary to Policy
Comments
2. Amend the Articles by deletion of old language, authorizing the share repurchases, elimination par value of shares, and reduce Directors term in office NONE ABSTAIN
For Against Abstain
Show Contrary to Policy
Done
Internet

Fig. 14

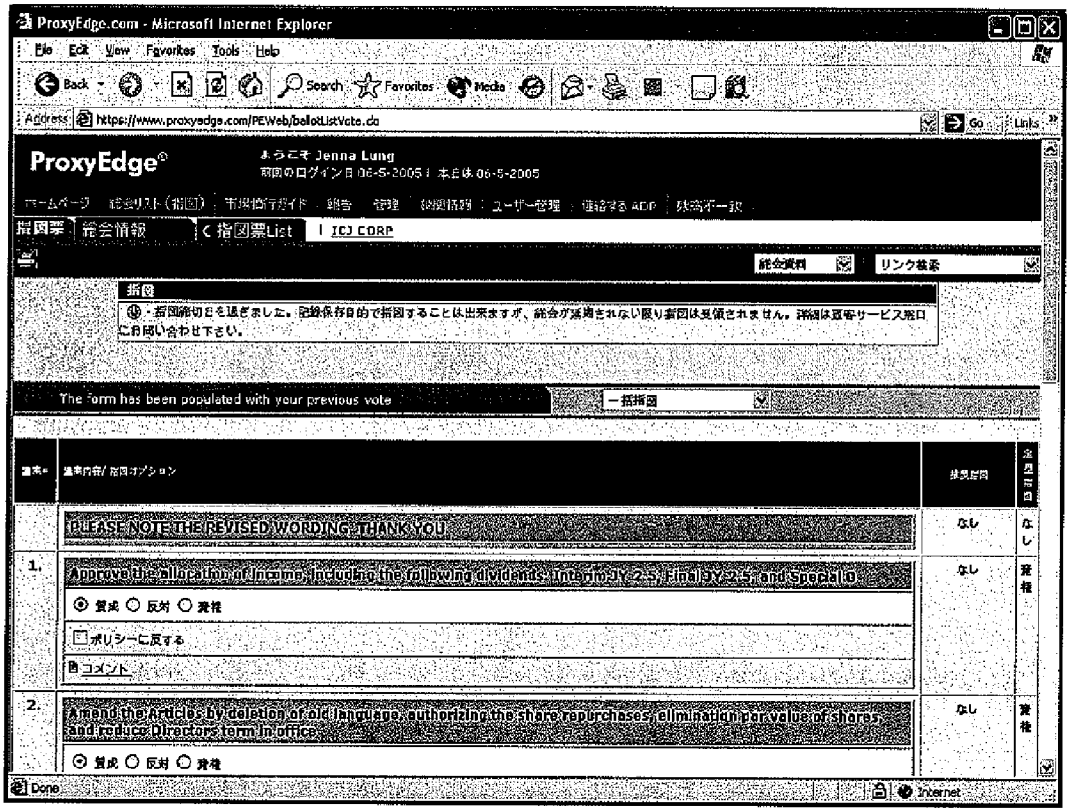
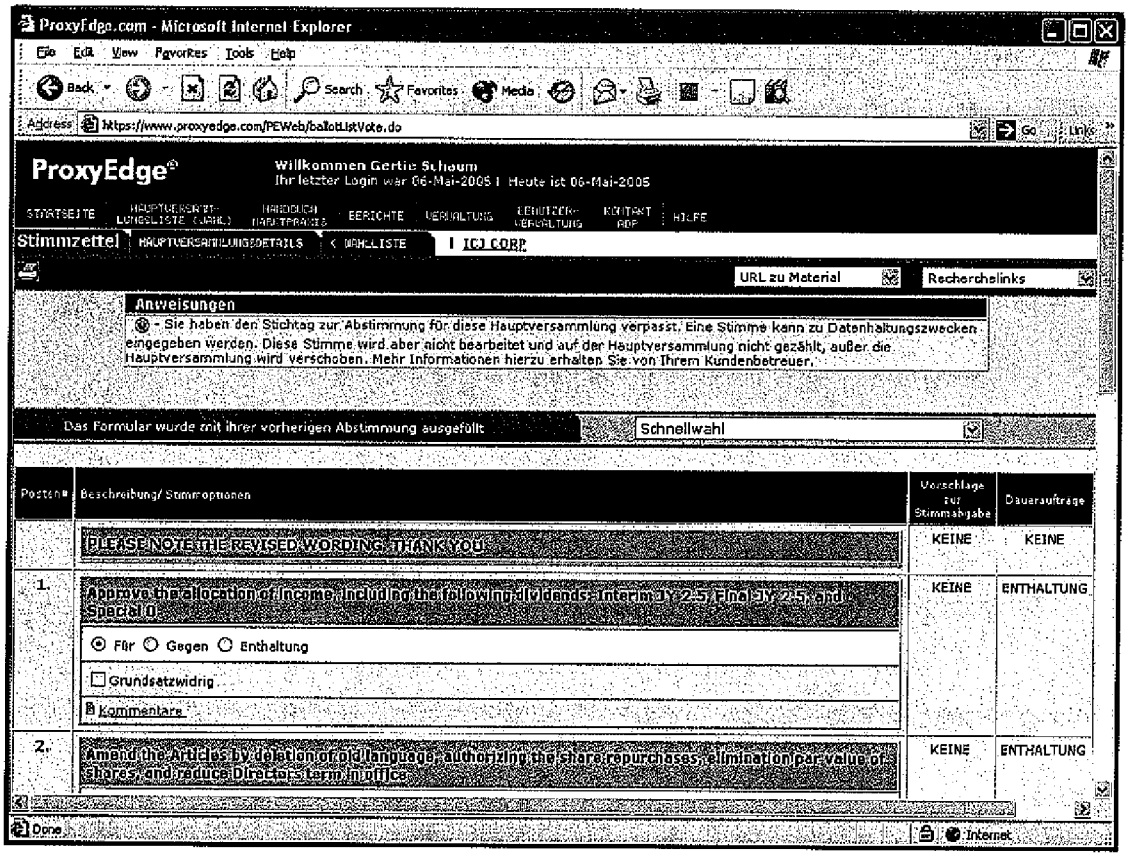

ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/ballotListVote.do
Go Links
ProxyEdge
ようこそ Jenna Lung
ICJ CORP
The form has been populated with your previous vote
PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED WORDING. THANK YOU
1.
Approve the allocation of income, including the following dividends: Interim JY 2.5, Final JY 2.5, and Special 0
賛成 反対 棄権
ポリシーに反する
コメント
2.
Amend the Articles by deletion of old language, authorizing the share repurchases, elimination par value of shares, and reduce Directors term in office
賛成 反対 棄権
なし
Done
Internet

Fig. 15


ProxyEdge.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
https://www.proxyedge.com/PEWeb/ballotListVote.do
ProxyEdge
Willkommen Gertie Schaum
Ihr letzter Login war 06-Mai-2005 | Heute ist 06-Mai-2005
Stimmzettel
ICJ CORP
URL zu Material
Recherchelinks
Anweisungen
Das Formular wurde mit Ihrer vorherigen Abstimmung ausgefüllt
Schnellwahl
Posten#
Beschreibung/ Stimmoptionen
Vorschläge zur Stimmabgabe
Dauerauftrage
PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED WORDING. THANK YOU.
KEINE
KEINE
1.
Approve the allocation of income, including the following dividends: Interim DY 2.5/ Final DY 2.5 and Special D
KEINE
ENTHALTUNG
Für
Gegen
Enthaltung
Grundsatzwidrig
Kommentare
2.
Amend the Articles by deletion of old language; authorizing the share repurchases; elimination par value of shares; and reduce Director's term in office
KEINE
ENTHALTUNG
Done
Internet

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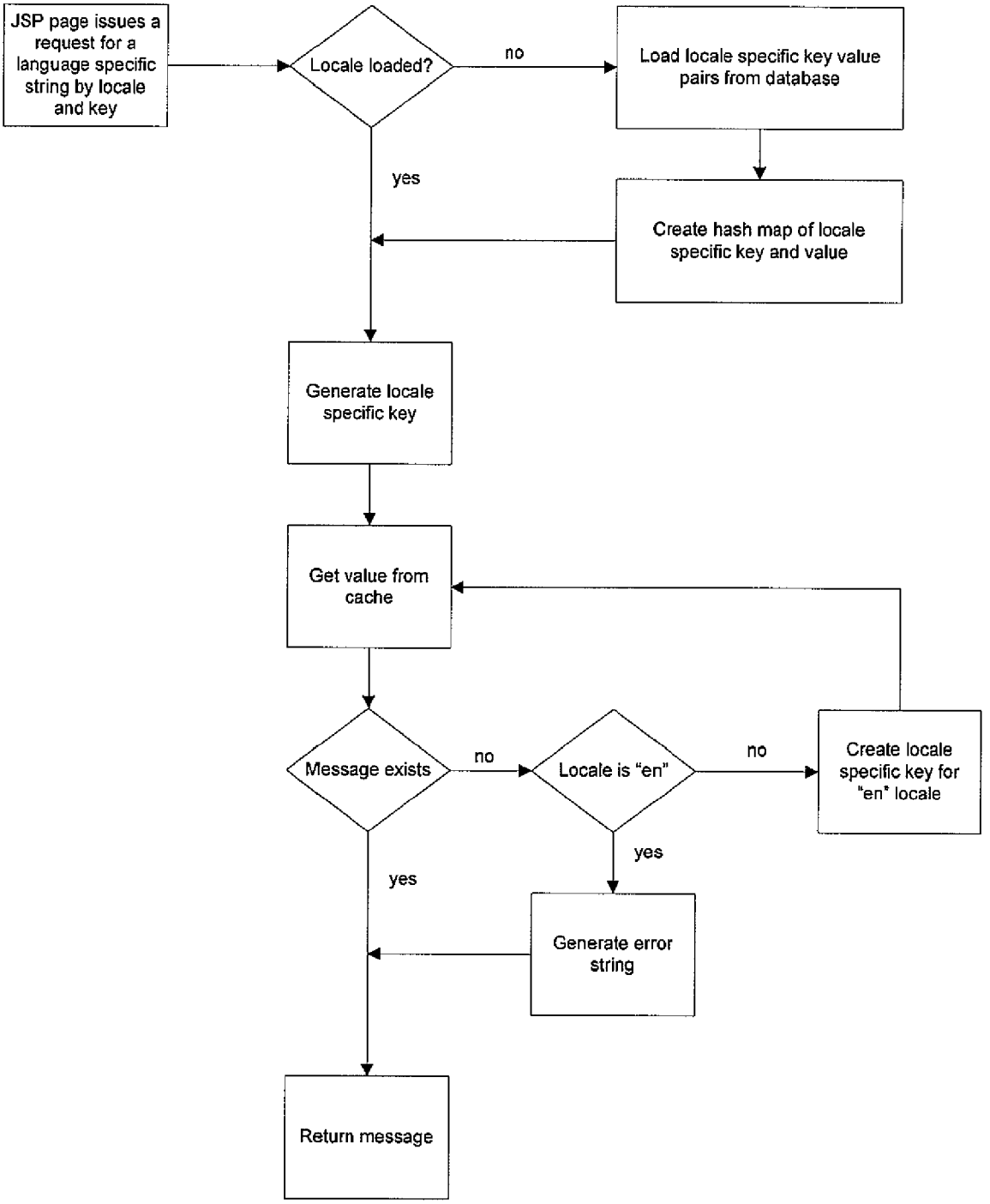

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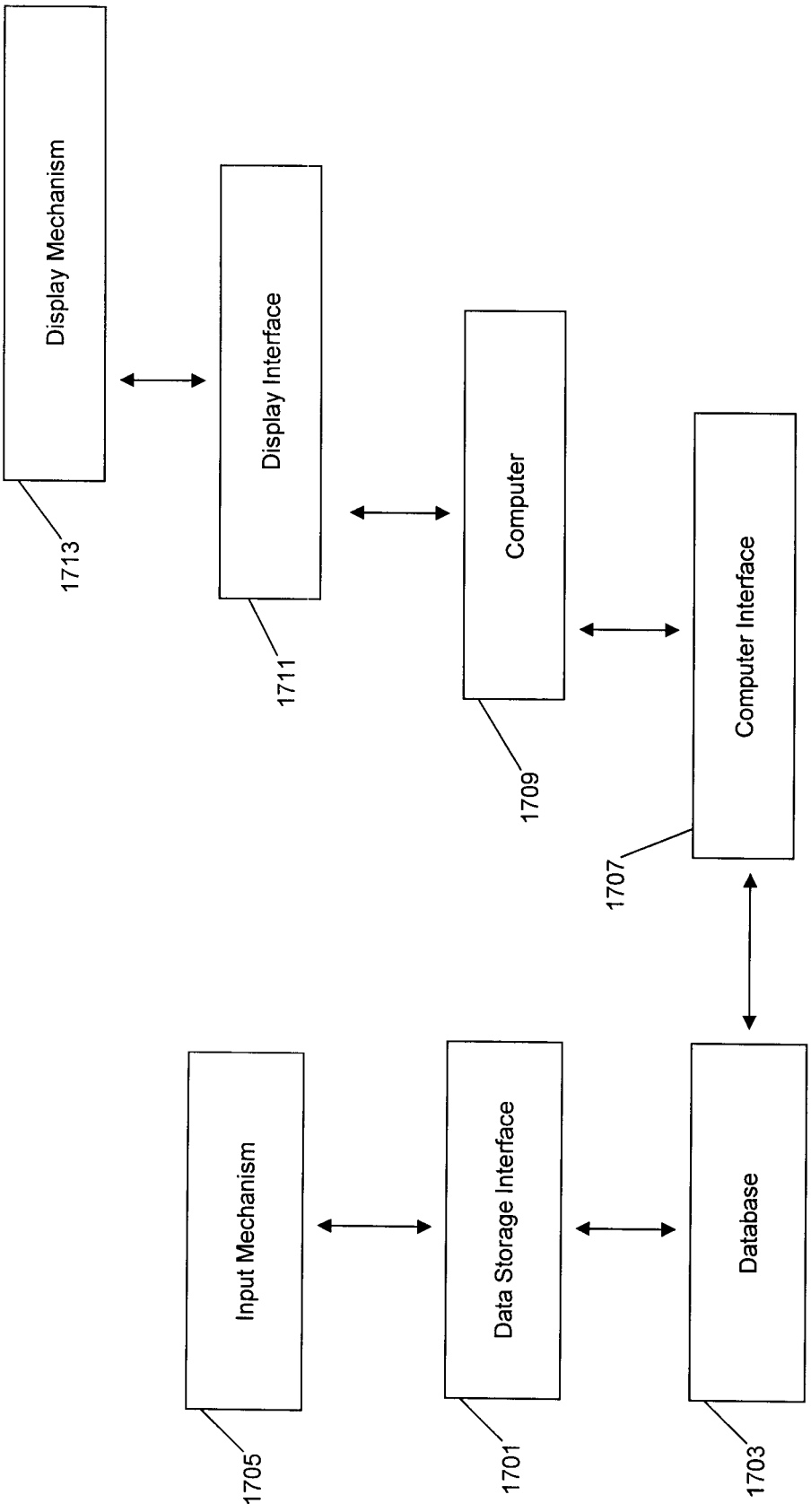
Display Mechanism
Display Interface
Computer
Computer Interface
Input Mechanism
Data Storage Interface
Database
1713
1711
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Fig. 17

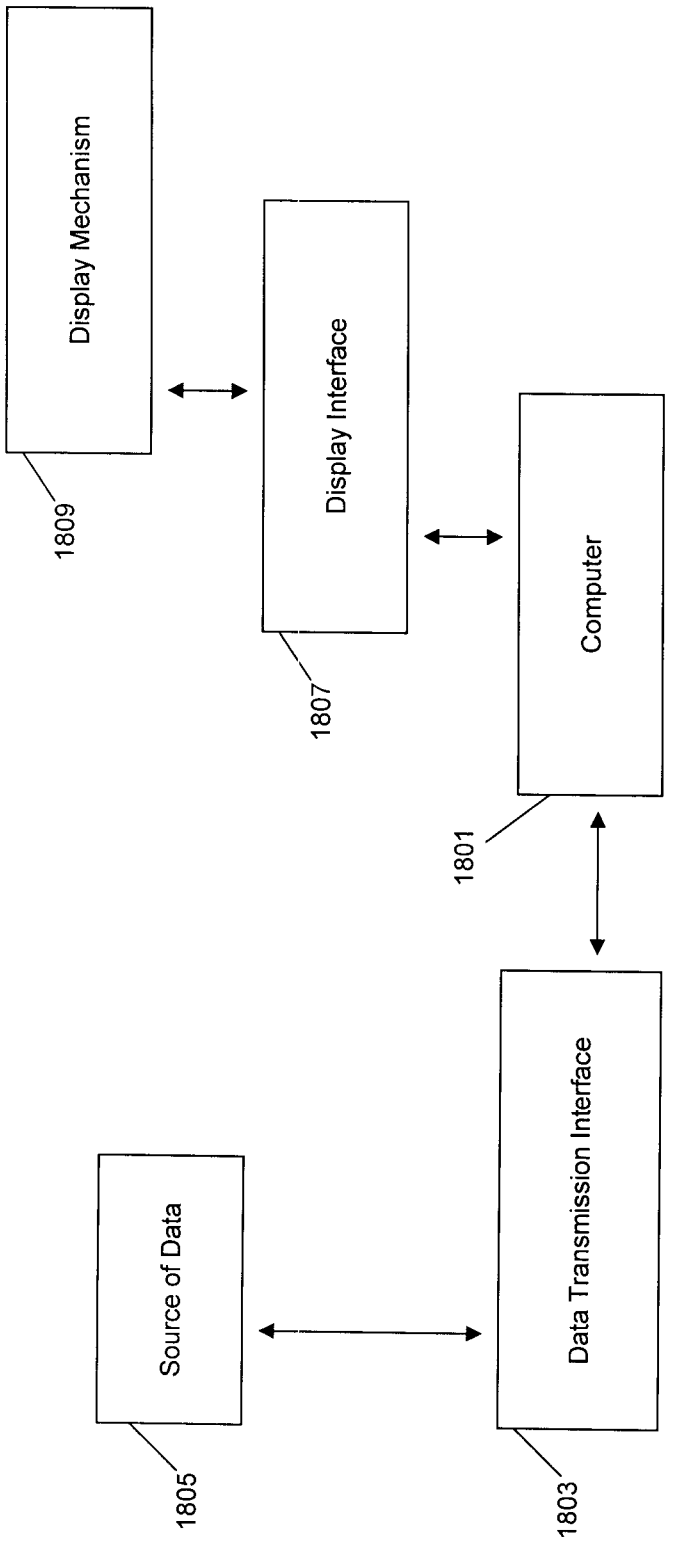
Display Mechanism
1809
Display Interface
1807
Computer
1801
Source of Data
1805
Data Transmission Interface
1803

Fig. 18

METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROXY VOTING

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 13/607,247, filed Sep. 7, 2012, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 13/117,663, filed May 27, 2011, which is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 7,953,589, issued May 31, 2011, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Appln. No. 60/773,529, filed Feb. 15, 2006, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] One embodiment of the present invention relates to electronic voting methods and systems that help simplify the management of institutional proxies.

[0003] In one example, the methods and systems manage the process of meeting notifications, voting, tracking, mailing, reporting, record maintenance and/or vote disclosure rules enacted by the SEC. In one specific example, this may be done for thousands of publicly traded securities custodied at various banks, brokers and global custodians.

[0004] In another example, a system (and corresponding method) may be provided for integrating, organizing and displaying (e.g., via a website) information in a language of preference for each user of the system. The information may comprise meeting, agenda and/or ballot information and the users of the system/method may be voting entities empowered to cast votes via the system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0005] There are various patents related to personalized/customized content delivery based on localization (e.g., languages). The following are a few examples: U.S. Pat. No. 7,149,964, issued Dec. 12, 1006 in the name of Cottrille et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,623,529, issued Sep. 23, 2003 in the name of Lakritz; U.S. Pat. No. 6,557,005, issued Apr. 29, 2003 in the name of Buget; U.S. Pat. No. 6,429,995, issued Dec. 10, 2002 in the name of Atkin et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 6,345,293, issued Feb. 5, 2002 in the name of Chaddha.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIGS. **1-3** are website pages showing "login" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0007] FIGS. **4-6** are website pages showing "home" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0008] FIGS. **7-9** are website pages showing "Meeting List" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0009] FIGS. **10-12** are website pages showing "Ballot List" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0010] FIGS. **13-15** are website pages showing "Vote Ballot" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] FIG. **16** shows a flowchart relating to building a language specific html page from a jsp template according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0012] FIG. **17** shows a diagram of a computer device for presenting information associated with a website according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

[0013] FIG. **18** shows a diagram of a computer device for presenting information associated with a website according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] Among those benefits and improvements that have been disclosed, other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures. The figures constitute a part of this specification and include illustrative embodiments of the present invention and illustrate various objects and features thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] Detailed embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely illustrative of the invention that may be embodied in various forms. In addition, each of the examples given in connection with the various embodiments of the invention is intended to be illustrative, and not restrictive. Further, the figures are not necessarily to scale, some features may be exaggerated to show details of particular components. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention.

[0016] Advisors and managers are typically required to comply with SEC regulations regarding their proxy voting procedures and record keeping. One embodiment of the present invention provides an Internet tool that helps such advisors and managers achieve compliance and streamline voting. In one example, the present invention may help advisors and managers to manage, track, reconcile and report proxy voting through electronic delivery of ballots, online voting, and SEC compliant reporting and record keeping (proxy information may, in one example, be provided through an automated electronic interface based on share positions provided directly to a system operator by various custodian bank(s)/broker(s)).

[0017] One embodiment of the present invention provides a system for integrating, organizing and displaying (e.g., via a website) information in a language of preference for each user of the system (see FIGS. **1-15** for examples of such displays according to various language preferences). In one example (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the information may comprise meeting, agenda and/or ballot information. In another example (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the language of preference for each user may be expressed by the user each time that the user signs on to the system. In another example (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the language of preference for each user may be expressed by the user once, such as at the time of a first sign-on. In this latter example, the language of preference may then be used for that user for subsequent sign-ons (or until changed by the user). In another example (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the users of the system may be voting entities empowered to cast votes via the system.

[0018] Referring now to FIGS. **1-3**, website pages showing "login" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention are shown.

[0019] Of note, various graphical user interface elements incorporate the specific languages associated with each webpage. For example, FIG. **1** shows use of text entry box labels in English (see, e.g., "Institution ID", "User ID", "Password"), use of a command button caption in English (see, e.g., "Login"), use of a check box label in English (see, e.g., "Save Login Info") use of a tab element caption in English (see, e.g., "Login") and use of various text labels in English. FIGS. **2** and **3** show the corresponding elements in the respective languages.

[0020] Referring now to FIGS. **4-6**, website pages showing "home" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention are shown.

[0021] Again, various graphical user interface elements incorporate the specific languages associated with each webpage. For example, FIG. **4** shows use of various text labels in English and use of a tab element caption in English (see, e.g., "Home"). FIGS. **5** and **6** show the corresponding elements in the respective languages.

[0022] Referring now to FIGS. **7-9**, website pages showing "Meeting List" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention are shown.

[0023] Again, various graphical user interface elements incorporate the specific languages associated with each webpage. For example, FIG. **7** shows use of a drop-down list box in English (see, e.g., "All"), use of a command button caption in English (see, e.g., "Apply"), use of text labels in English associated with the columns of the table, use of various table data in English, use of tab element captions in English (see, e.g., ""Meeting List", "Meeting Lookup"") and use of various text labels in English. FIGS. **8** and **9** show the corresponding elements in the respective languages.

[0024] Referring now to FIGS. **10-12**, website pages showing "Ballot List" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention are shown.

[0025] Again, various graphical user interface elements incorporate the specific languages associated with each webpage. For example, FIG. **10** shows use of drop-down list boxes in English (see, e.g., "Accounts" and "All"), use of a command button caption in English (see, e.g., "Apply"), use of text labels in English associated with the columns of the table, use of various table data in English, use of tab element captions in English (see, e.g., ""Ballot List", "Meeting Details") and use of various text labels in English. FIGS. **11** and **12** show the corresponding elements in the respective languages.

[0026] Referring now to FIGS. **13-15**, website pages showing "Vote Ballot" screens (presented, respectively, in English, Japanese and German) according to an embodiment of the present invention are shown.

[0027] Again, various graphical user interface elements incorporate the specific languages associated with each webpage. For example, FIG. **13** shows use of drop-down list boxes in English (see, e.g., "Quick Vote"), use of radio button captions in English (see, e.g., "For", "Against", "Abstain"), use of check box text labels in English (see, e.g., "Show Contrary To Policy"), use of a hyperlink in English (see, e.g., "Comments"), use of text labels in English associated with the columns of the table, use of various table data in English, use of tab element captions in English (see, e.g., ""Vote Ballot", "Meeting Details", "Ballot List") and use of various text labels in English. FIGS. **14** and **15** show the corresponding elements in the respective languages.

[0028] Of note, one embodiment of the present invention may use "message tokens" to identify various script items that need to be displayed. These message tokens may refer, for example, to specific rows in a translation database (wherein there is a column in the database for every language that the system needs to support). In this configuration, the application logic may be consistent for all applications across a given website (for example), but the language of the presentation can be tailored to the preference of any particular user at any particular time. To give one specific example of such tailoring of language preferences (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the message token "pe.common.label.account" may call up "Account" to the screen if the language preference was English, the appropriate Japanese characters to the screen if the language preference was Japanese, and "Depot" to the screen if the language preference was German (the system would recognize that the content of the field was the account regardless of how it was described to the user).

[0029] In another embodiment of the present invention a method (e.g., a data processing method) may be provided. This method may include, but not be limited to: (a) tabularizing text elements into message tokens composed of a hierarchical string of descriptors including, but not limited to: application; page specific/common; content type; context; content key; (b) interpreting the message tokens to locate the row in a translation sheet database that identifies the interpretation of the text element in any supported language; (c) combining the message token and language preference indicator to select the column and row in the database to select the appropriate display; and (d) displaying the appropriate language on the application screen.

[0030] Again, in one specific example (which example is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the method may provide meeting, agenda and/or ballot information which may be used by voting entities in the language of their choice.

[0031] In other examples (which examples are intended to be illustrative and not restrictive), the invention may provide for the translation of any fixed body of information to be displayed electronically, statically, dynamically and/or interactively. Generic applications (e.g., global applications and/or help screens) can be developed independent of the language of presentation and additional languages can be added as needed (e.g., by inserting another column in the database).

[0032] Referring now to FIG. **16**, an example of building language specific html from a JavaServer Pages template is shown. More particularly, as seen in this FIG. **16**, the following steps may be employed:

[0033] JSP page issues a request for a language specific string by locale (language preference) and key (message token)

[0034] Translation sheet program looks to see if that language is already loaded. If it is, the program drops through, picks up the text associated with the language specific key from the cache and returns it to the requesting JSP page.

[0035] If the language specific key is not loaded in the cache, the program gets the language specific key value

pairs from the database and creates a hash map of the locale specific keys and values that is then loaded into cache for rapid access.

[0036] If no language specific text is in the database corresponding to the language specific key provided, the program will bring in the "English" text and present English as the default language for that particular message token to the JSP page for presentation. The remainder of the page will be in the user selected language if available.

[0037] If there is no "English" text and no language specific text for the locale of choice, the system will generate an error message string of "???message token???" and return it to the JSP page for presentation.

[0038] Referring now to FIG. **17**, a computer device for presenting information associated with a website according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. As seen in this FIG. **17**, data storage interface **1701** (which may comprise, for example, a direct connection and/or a network such as the Internet and/or an intranet) is arranged and configured to be coupled between database **1703** (which may comprise one or more physical databases) and input mechanism **1705** (which may comprise, for example, a website, a dedicated terminal, and/or any other desired input mechanism).

[0039] Further, the data storage interface **1701** operates to receive data indicative of at least a first word in a first language and provide the data to the database **1703** and the data storage interface **1701** operates to receive data indicative of at least the first word in a second language and provide the data to the database **1703**, wherein the second language is different from the first language.

[0040] Further still, computer interface **1707** (which may comprise, for example, a direct connection and/or a network such as the Internet and/or an intranet) is arranged and configured to be coupled between the database **1703** and computer **1709** (which may comprise, for example, one or more computer servers operating as website server(s)). The computer **1709** determines whether to display data to a user of the website in the first language or the second language (e.g., based on a preference set by the user and/or by a system administrator).

[0041] Further still, display interface **1711** (which may comprise, for example, a direct connection and/or a network such as the Internet and/or an intranet) is arranged and configured to be coupled between the computer **1709** and display mechanism **1713** (which may comprise, for example, a monitor displaying one or more webpages at one or more websites).

[0042] Computer **1709** displays on display mechanism **1713** via display interface **1711** the data indicative of the first word in the first language from database **1703** if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language; computer **1709** displays on display mechanism **1713** via display interface **1711** the data indicative of the first word in the second language from database **1703** if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the second language; and computer **1709** displays on display mechanism **1713** via display interface **1711** at least one graphical user interface element.

[0043] Of note, the display in the first language may comprise incorporating the stored data indicative of the first word in the first language into the graphical user interface element; and the display in the second language may comprise incorporating the stored data indicative of the first word in the second language into the graphical user interface element.

[0044] Referring now to FIG. **18**, a computer device for presenting information associated with a website according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. As seen in this FIG. **18**, computer **1801** (which may comprise, for example, one or more computer servers operating as website server(s)) determines whether to display data to a user of the website in a first language or a second language, wherein the second language is different from the first language.

[0045] Further data transmission interface **1803** (which may comprise, for example, a direct connection and/or a network such as the Internet and/or an intranet) is arranged and configured to be coupled between source of data **1805** (which may comprise, for example, one or more physical databases, a mechanism for inputting data, and/or any other desired source(s) of data) and the computer **1801**.

[0046] Further still, display interface **1807** (which may comprise, for example, a direct connection and/or a network such as the Internet and/or an intranet) is arranged and configured to be coupled between the computer **1801** and display mechanism **1809** (which may comprise, for example, a monitor displaying one or more webpages at one or more websites).

[0047] If it had been determined by the computer **1801** to display data to the user of the website in the first language, the following is performed: (i) obtaining data indicative of at least a first word in the first language, wherein the data is obtained from the source of data **1805** via the data transmission interface **1803**; (ii) displaying on the display mechanism **1809** via the display interface **1807** the data indicative of the first word in the first language; and (iii) displaying on the display mechanism **1809** via the display interface **1807** at least one graphical user interface element.

[0048] If it had been determined by the computer **1801** to display data to the user of the website in the second language, the following is performed: (i) obtaining data indicative of at least the first word in the second language, wherein the data is obtained from the source of data **1805** via the data transmission interface **1803**; (ii) displaying on the display mechanism **1809** via the display interface **1807** the data indicative of the first word in the second language; and (iii) displaying on the display mechanism **1809** via the display interface **1807** at least one graphical user interface element.

[0049] Of note, the display in the first language may comprise incorporating the obtained data indicative of the first word in the first language into the graphical user interface element; and the display in the second language may comprise incorporating the obtained data indicative of the first word in the second language into the graphical user interface element.

[0050] In another embodiment of the present invention the system may use essentially the same application logic (regardless of language display), but allow the presentation of the information to be sensitive to the language preference of the user and/or administrator and to the contextual differences between like expressions in different languages.

[0051] Of note, the present invention may, of course, be implemented using any appropriate computer hardware and/or computer software. In this regard, those of ordinary skill in the art are well versed in the type of computer hardware that may be used (e.g., a mainframe, a mini-computer, a personal computer ("PC"), a network (e.g., an intranet and/or the Internet)), the type of computer programming techniques that may

be used (e.g., object oriented programming), and the type of computer programming languages that may be used (e.g., C++, Basic). The aforementioned examples are, of course, illustrative and not restrictive.

[0052] While a number of embodiments of the present invention have been described, it is understood that these embodiments are illustrative only, and not restrictive, and that many modifications may become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, certain methods may be "computer implementable" or "computer implemented." In this regard, it is noted that while such methods can be implemented using a computer, the methods do not necessarily have to be implemented using a computer. Also, to the extent that such methods are implemented using a computer, not every step must necessarily be implemented using a computer. Further, the present invention may be used in the context of any desired number of different languages (the three presented herein are examples only). Further still, any desired number of users may be supported. Further still, any steps may be carried out in any desired order (and any desired steps may be added and/or any desired steps may be eliminated).

What is claimed is:

1. A computer implemented method for proxy voting, comprising:

entering a website for proxy voting, wherein the website is entered by a user and wherein the user is a voting entity empowered to cast votes via the website;

storing data indicative of at least a first word in a first language;

storing data indicative of at least the first word in a second language, wherein the second language is different from the first language;

determining whether to display data to the user of the website in the first language or the second language;

incorporating the stored data indicative of the first word in the first language into a graphical user interface element if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language;

incorporating the stored data indicative of the first word in the second language into a graphical user interface element if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the second language;

displaying to the user of the website the data indicative of the first word in the first language as incorporated into the graphical user interface element if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language; and

displaying to the user of the website the data indicative of the first word in the second language as incorporated into the graphical user interface element if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the second language;

wherein information associated with the graphical user interface element comprises at least one of meeting information, agenda information and ballot information.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the graphical user interface element is selected from the group consisting of: (a) a text label for a text entry box; (b) a text label for a drop-down list box; (c) a text label for a drop-down combo box; (d) a text label associated with a column of a table; (e) a text label associated with a row of a table; (f) a text label for a radio button; (g) a text label for a check box; (h) a caption for a tab element; and (i) a caption for a command button.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein computer instruction logic for displaying the graphical user interface element is constant regardless of whether it had been determined to display the stored data indicative of the first word in the first language or the stored data indicative of the first word in the second language.

4. The method of claim **1**, further comprising storing data indicative of a plurality of words in the first language and storing data indicative of a plurality of words in the second language.

5. The method of claim **4**, further comprising displaying to the user of the website the data indicative of each of the plurality of words in the first language if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language.

6. The method of claim **4**, further comprising displaying to the user of the website the data indicative of each of the plurality of words in the second language if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the second language.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the determination of whether to display data to the user of the website in the first language or the second language is made by the user.

8. The method of claim **1**, wherein the determination of whether to display data to the user of the website in the first language or the second language is made by the user each time the user logs-on to the website.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the determination of whether to display data to the user of the website in the first language or the second language is made by the user once and is then stored.

10. The method of claim **9**, wherein the determination of whether to display data to the user of the website in the first language or the second language is subsequently changed by the user.

11. The method of claim **1**, wherein the data indicative of the first word in the first language is stored in a database and the data indicative of the first word in the second language is stored in a database.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein the database in which the data indicative of the first word in the first language is stored is the same as the database in which the data indicative of the first word in the second language is stored.

13. The method of claim **1**, wherein the steps are carried out in the order recited.

14. A computer implemented method for proxy voting, comprising:

entering a website for proxy voting, wherein the website is entered by a user and wherein the user is a voting entity empowered to cast votes via the website;

determining whether to display data to the user of the website in a first language or a second language, wherein the second language is different from the first language;

if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language: obtaining data indicative of at least a first word in the first language, incorporating the obtained data indicative of the first word in the first language into a graphical user interface element and displaying to the user the data indicative of the first word in the first language as incorporated into the graphical user interface element; and

if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the second language: obtaining data indicative of at least the first word in the second language,

incorporating the obtained data indicative of the first word in the second language into a graphical user interface element and displaying to the user the data indicative of the first word in the second language as incorporated into the graphical user interface element;

wherein the information associated with the graphical user interface element comprises at least one of meeting information, agenda information and ballot information.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the obtaining of the data indicative of the first word in the first language comprises retrieving the data from storage.

16. The method of claim **14**, wherein the obtaining of the data indicative of the first word in the second language comprises retrieving the data from storage.

17. The method of claim **14**, wherein the graphical user interface element is selected from the group consisting of: (a) a text label for a text entry box; (b) a text label for a drop-down list box; (c) a text label for a drop-down combo box; (d) a text label associated with a column of a table; (e) a text label associated with a row of a table; (f) a text label for a radio button; (g) a text label for a check box; (h) a caption for a tab element; and (i) a caption for a command button.

18. The method of claim **14**, wherein computer instruction logic for displaying the graphical user interface element is constant regardless of whether it had been determined to display the data indicative of the first word in the first language or the data indicative of the first word in the second language.

19. The method of claim **14**, further comprising storing data indicative of a plurality of words in the first language and storing data indicative of a plurality of words in the second language.

20. The method of claim **19**, further comprising displaying to the user of the website the data indicative of each of the plurality of words in the first language if it had been determined to display data to the user of the website in the first language.

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