

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 May 2001 (10.05.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/33516 A3

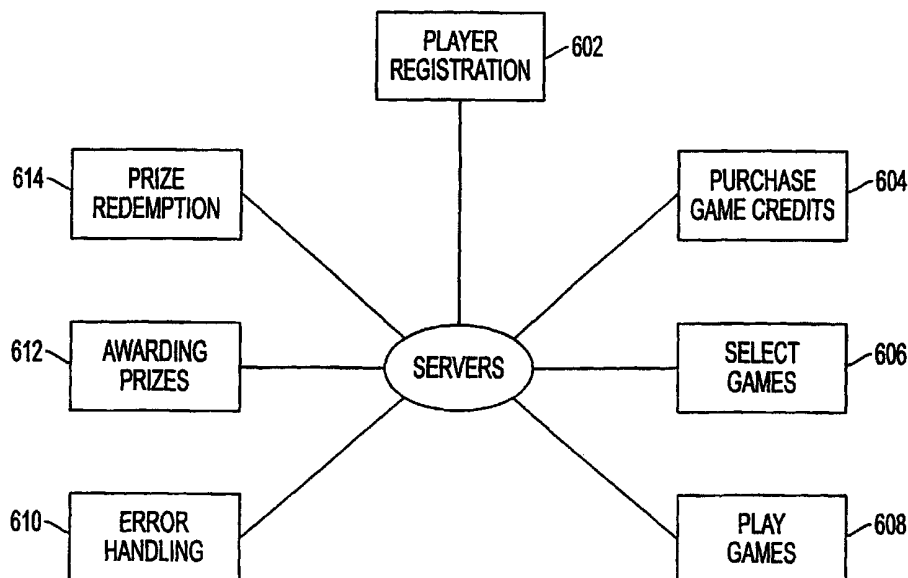
- (51) International Patent Classification: **A63F 9/24**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/41636
- (22) International Filing Date: 27 October 2000 (27.10.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/433,516 3 November 1999 (03.11.1999) US
- (71) Applicant: **ARCADE PLANET, INC.** [US/US]; 4430 Willow Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **KELLY, Matthew, F.**; 35 Hilltop Court, San Ramon, CA (US). **KELLY, Bryan, M.**; 24 Holiday Drive, Alamo, CA (US). **PETERMEIER, Norman, B.**; 1092 Piemonte Drive, Pleasanton, CA (US). **KROECKER, John, G.**; 828 Pinehurst Place, San Ramon, CA (US). **LINK, John, E.**; 763 Saddleback Court, Tracy, CA (US).
- (74) Agent: **HICKMAN, Paul, L.**; Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly, LLP, P.O. Box 52037, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

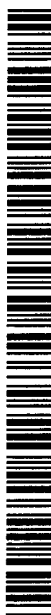
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
4 October 2001

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROFILE-DRIVEN NETWORK GAMING AND PRIZE REDEMPTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method (fig. 4A and 9) and article of manufacture for implementing a user profile-driven gaming and prize redeeming system are provided. The user profile-driven gaming and prize redemption system allows for the tailoring of a user's experience of playing a computer implemented game on a network gaming system by first receiving an identifier selected from a group of identifiers including a user identifier relating to the user (i.e. player) of the network gaming system, a game identifier relating to a particular game played by the user of the network gaming system, and a site identification relating to the location (i.e. web site) from which the game is being played. The network gaming system then alters the computer-implemented game played by the user in a manner based upon the selected identifier. The user profile-driven gaming system is also used in conjunction with a prize redemption system.



WO 01/33516 A3



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/US00/41636

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :A63F 9/24

US CL :273/139; 463/13; 725/23; 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. : 273/139, 138.1, 138.2, 118R; 463/1, 9, 11-13; 725/23, 25; 705/14; 700/91-93

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---	US 4,856,787 A (<i>ITKIS</i>) 15 August 1989, See the entire document.	1-4, 10-14
Y		8 and 17
X ---	US 5,618,232 A (<i>MARTIN</i>) 08 April 1997, See the entire document.	1, 5-7, 10 and 14-16
Y		8 and 17
Y	US 5,643,088 A (<i>VAUGHN et al.</i>) 01 July 1997, See the entire document.	8 and 17
A	US 5,292,127 A (<i>KELLY et al.</i>) 08 March 1994, See the entire document.	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*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
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*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
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*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
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)	*&* document member of the same patent family
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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 APRIL 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

MAY 02 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

M. SAGER

Telephone No. (703) 308-1148

Shelia Vance
Paralegal Specialist
Technology Center 3700

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/41636

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international 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.:
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:

Please See Extra 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.

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-8 and 10-17, drawn to a method or program for implementing a gaming system.

Group II, claims 9 and 18, drawn to a method and program for implementing a prize redemption system.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single 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: the special technical features of group I claims include the particular steps for providing a game and awarding a credit based upon the outcome of the game as claimed therein; while, the special technical features of group II claims include the particular steps for providing a prize redemption system and redeeming a prize in exchange for at least one prize credit claimed therein. Since the special technical features of Group I are not claimed in Group II claims and since the special technical features of Group II are not in Group I claims, unity of invention is lacking.