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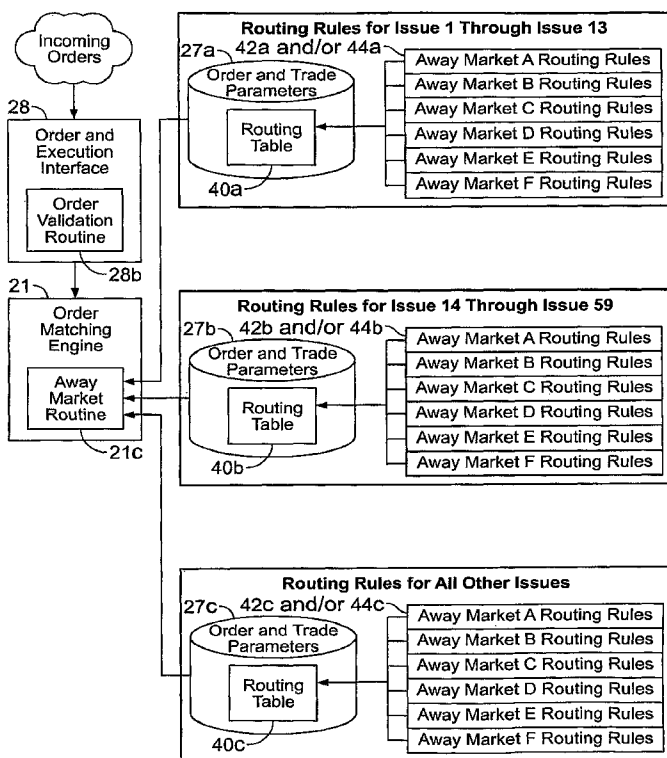
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ROUTING OF ORDERS IN EQUITY OPTIONS BY MEANS OF A PARAMETERIZED RULES-BASED ROUTING TABLE

Routing Tables can be Configured Independently for Different Issues



(57) Abstract: An enhanced system and method for the "smart" routing of orders in an electronic options environment is disclosed. The method of routing includes different rules and protocols for orders that are allowed to route using a traditional intermarket linkage than for orders that are allowed to route using an alternative private direct connection or third-party service provider. The system and method of routing has at its basis a configurable, rules-based routing table that allows orders to be routed using different protocols based on the account type of the incoming order.

WO 2008/027124 A3



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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **G06F 17/60**

USPC: 705/37  
 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. : 705/37

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: search terms: options, trading, routing, market center, NBB, NBBO, market maker

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 20030023536 A1 (HOLLERMAN et al.) 30 Jan. 2003 (30.01.2003), entire document	1-50
Y	US 7,356,498 B2 (KAMINSKY et al.) 8 Apr. 2008 (08.04.2008), entire document	1-50
Y	US 7,197,483 B2 (BRADY et al.) 27 Mar. 2007 (27.03.2007), entire document	1-50

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
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"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		

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