(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC MAIL

(57) Abstract: A sender email client, in response to a request to send an email with attachment, determines whether a recipient of the email has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments. If so, a location server is consulted for the distributed storage’s network address and its availability is determined. The send request is then serviced accordingly. An email server, in response to receiving an email with attachment, determines whether a recipient of the email has distributed storage for storing email attachments. If so, its network address and availability are likewise determined. The attachments are forwarded to the recipient’s distributed storage for storage, when it becomes available. An email recipient client, in response to a request to access an email attachment, retrieves the attachment from the recipient’s distributed storage or the incoming email server, as appropriate.
Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— as to applicant’s entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations
— as to the applicant’s entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

Published:
— with international search report
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 6 November 2003

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

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC 7 H04L 12/58

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)
   IPC 7 H04L

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, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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<td>1-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>abstract page 3, line 2 -page 4, line 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>page 7, line 20 -page 9, line 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>page 11, line 1 - line 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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  *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
   28 August 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report
   05/09/2003

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US 5903723 A 11-05-1999 NONE

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