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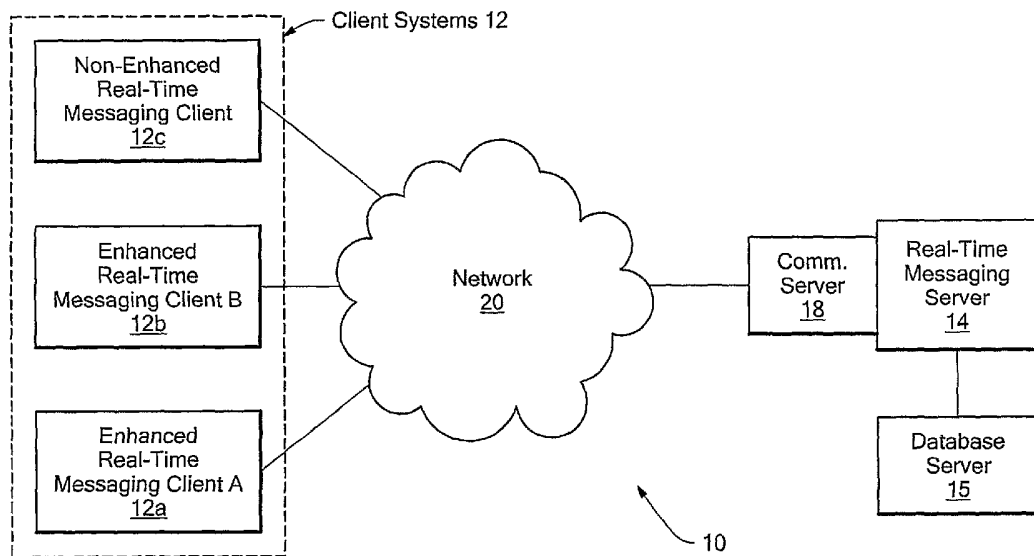
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RULES BASED REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A rules-based real-time messaging system for groups of users, in which an availability status is maintained in association with each user. Clients are communicably coupled to a real-time messaging server, which maintains indications of the online/offline presence of each user, as well as other user attributes. Rules and a rules engine are maintained in the real-time messaging server for controlling the delivery of messages to the users, and for controlling how the availability of users is provided to other users. Based on the specific rules stored on the real-time messaging server, the rules engine determines the state of various relevant conditions such as the availability of users of the system, and detects the occurrence of various real-time events such as a user logging-on to or logging-off from the system for controlling the delivery of various types of messages and/or the performance of resulting actions.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/03017

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : G06F 13/00 US CL : 709/204, 205, 207, 219 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. : 709/204, 205, 207, 219 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)														
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT														
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.												
X Y Y Y Y	US 6,678,719 (Stimmel) 13 January 2004, column 3 lines 50-52, column 4 line 66 to column 5 line 5. US: 6,772,229 (Achacoso et al) 03 August 2004, column 15 line 21-23 US 6,772,229 (Achacoso et al) 03 August 2004, column 12 line 20 to column 14 line 36. US: 6,047,053 (Miner et al) 04 April 2000, column 5 line 40-67 US: 5,742,905 (Pepe et al) 21 April 1998, column 6 line 52 to column 8 line 19.	1-9, 11-14, 30 10 15-17 18-25 26-29												
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<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> * Special categories of cited documents: </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> "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 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance </td> <td style="border: none;"> "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 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> "B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date </td> <td style="border: none;"> "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 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> "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) </td> <td style="border: none;"> "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means </td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table>			* 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	"B" earlier application or patent 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	
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Fan Tsan <i>[Signature]</i> Telephone No. N/A	