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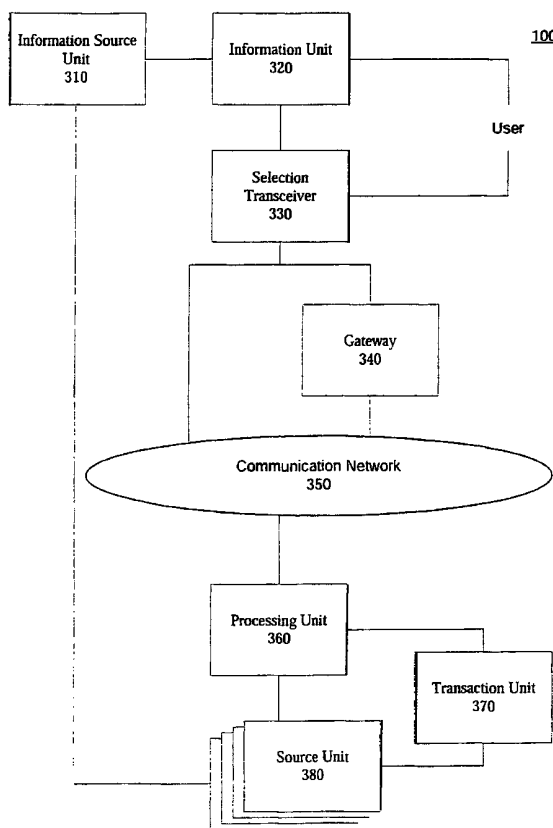
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEDIUM INDEPENDENT ELECTRONIC COMMERCE SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: The present invention resolves the problems associated with traditionally distinct media-based systems (100) by providing an integrated solution, which is medium independent and has the capability of interfacing with various types of communication systems (350). In particular, the present invention provides a simple interface via a selection transceiver (330) for the user to interact with traditional media (310, 320) as well as any new types of media (310, 320) that might later be developed. In addition, a gateway (340) provides an interface between the selection transceiver (330) and a communication network (350). Furthermore, the processing unit (360), which receives the data codes received by the selection transceiver (330) from the various mediums (310, 320), provides the user with a convenient mechanism to communicate via the communication network (350) with the source units (e.g., merchants) (310, 320) without interrupting the activities of the user. Lastly, the present invention provides the source units (310, 320) with a cost effective mechanism for disseminating information to users and obtaining potentially immediate responses back from the users as to their selections. This present invention, therefore, achieves a low cost, simple, secure, easy to use, integrated selection and distribution system (100) by eliminating the reliance on any one form of media (310, 320), any one form of communication (350) for the user to communicate selections to the source unit (310, 320) and eliminating the need for sophisticated encryption techniques.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ00/00042

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) :G06F 17/60 US CL :705/26; 705/17, 27; 707/10, 104 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. : 705/16, 17, 26, 27; 707/1, 10, 104 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 -- A	ANTHES: "Internet commerical uses blossom: Service could offer small business access to 11,000 networks worldwide"; Computerworld, 28 June 1993, vol. 27, no. 26, pages 71, 73, see lines 15-17.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20, 21
X -- A	MELANCON: "Electronic systems promise industry improved operations"; Card News, 20 February 1995, vol. 10, no. 3, page 8, see lines 2-6.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20 & 21
X -- A	JP 10-51572 A (IWAMURA) 20 February 1998, see abstract.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20 & 21
X -- A	US 5,724,424 A (GIFFORD) 03 March 1998, see abstract.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20 & 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* "A" "E" "L" "O" "P"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document published on or after the international filing date 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 referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"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 "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 "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 "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 13 MAY 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 13 JUN 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 EDWARD R COOPER <i>Edward R. Cooper</i> Telephone No. (703) 308-9783	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/NZ00/00042

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- A	JP 10-320646 A (SHIGENO) 04 December 1998, see solution.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20 & 21
X -- A	US 5,872,589 A (MORALES) 16 February 1999, see abstract.	18, 20 & 21 ----- 1-17 & 22-40
A, P	EP 0986275 A1 (STADELMANN) 15 March 2000, see abstract.	1-18 & 20-40
X, E ----- A, E	US 6,047,268 A (BARTOLI et al) 04 April 2000, see abstract.	1-17 & 22-40 ----- 18, 20 & 21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ00/00042

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.: 19
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:

2.1 Since claim 19 can not depend from itself, the scope and meaning of this claim can not be determined.

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:

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.