

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

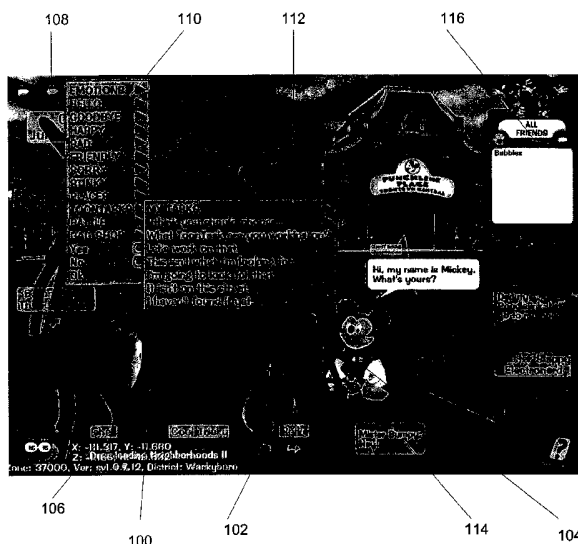
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/036807 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F 15/16
 - (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/031426
 - (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003)
 - (25) Filing Language: English
 - (26) Publication Language: English
 - (30) Priority Data:
 - 60/415,730 2 October 2002 (02.10.2002) US
 - 10/677,958 1 October 2003 (01.10.2003) US
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 - (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
 - (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:**
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A MULTI-USER INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORK ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: A system and method for initiating communication in real-time between two users in a multi-user communication environment. To limit the receipt of unwanted messages, a unique code (122) is provided to a first user and transmitted by the first user to a second user outside of the multi-user communication environment. The second user may then initiate real-time communication with the first user (102) after the code is authenticated in the multi-user communication environment. To ensure secure and comprehensible communications, at least one word may be selected from a first menu (110) having a plurality of words to enable a second menu (112) comprising a plurality of words. A string is formed by selecting at least one of a word from the second menu (112) which string may then be communicated to at least one of a word from the second menu which string may then be communicated to at least on of a user or a program in the multi-user communication environment.

WO 2004/036807 A3



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
10 February 2005

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/US03/31426

<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : GO6F 15/16 US CL : 709/205 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																				
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 709/205 345/758 709/204</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST WEST</p>																				
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Y,P</td> <td>US 6,532,488 B1 (CIARLANTE et al.) 11 March 2003 (11.03.2003), column 9, lines 29-67 and column 10, lines 1-5.</td> <td>1-7, 16-20, and 24-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,205,479 B1 (DULAI et al.) 20 March 2001 (20.03.2001), column 5, lines 29-65.</td> <td>1-7, 16-20, and 24-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A, E</td> <td>US 6,714,982 B1 (MCDONOUGH et al.) 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004), see abstract.</td> <td>1 and 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 5,884,161 A (HEGEMAN et al.) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), see abstract.</td> <td>1 and 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 6,144,848 A (WALSH et al.) 7 November 2000 (07.11.2000), see abstract.</td> <td>1 and 24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	Y,P	US 6,532,488 B1 (CIARLANTE et al.) 11 March 2003 (11.03.2003), column 9, lines 29-67 and column 10, lines 1-5.	1-7, 16-20, and 24-28	Y	US 6,205,479 B1 (DULAI et al.) 20 March 2001 (20.03.2001), column 5, lines 29-65.	1-7, 16-20, and 24-28	A, E	US 6,714,982 B1 (MCDONOUGH et al.) 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004), see abstract.	1 and 24	A	US 5,884,161 A (HEGEMAN et al.) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), see abstract.	1 and 24	A	US 6,144,848 A (WALSH et al.) 7 November 2000 (07.11.2000), see abstract.	1 and 24
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>																				
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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>"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>"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>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"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	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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	"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)	"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	"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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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 September 2004 (27.09.2004)</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report 13 OCT 2004</p>																		
<p>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</p>		<p>Authorized officer <i>Michelle R. Burgess</i> Glen Burgess Telephone No. 703-305-3900</p>																		