

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
27 January 2005 (27.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/008417 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 21/00**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/022216

(22) International Filing Date: 9 July 2004 (09.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/486,754 11 July 2003 (11.07.2003) US

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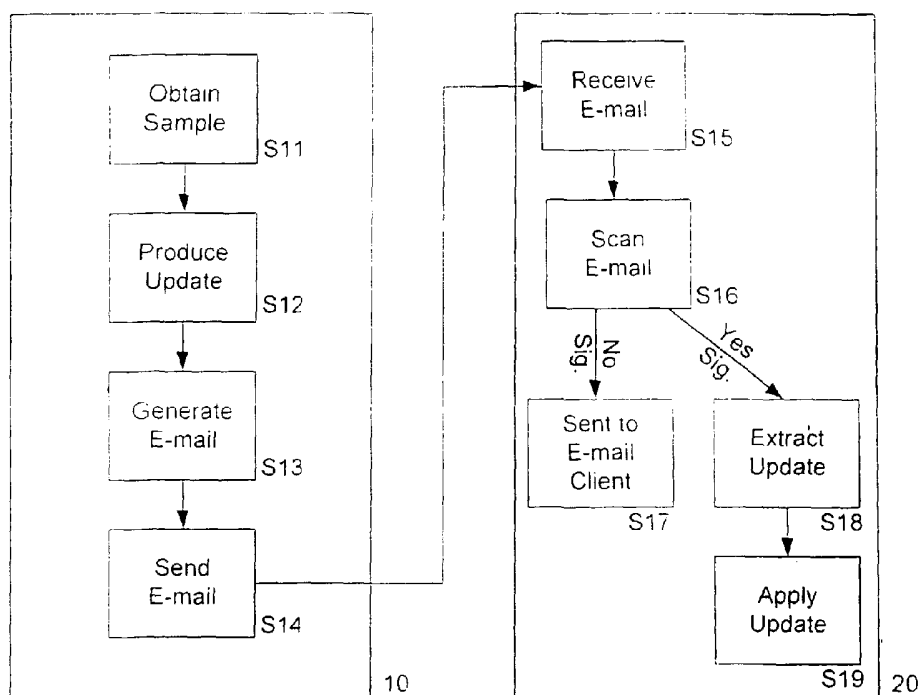
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
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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 (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**  
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROTECTING AGAINST COMPUTER VIRUSES



(57) Abstract: A method for delivering an update to at least one user including creating an electronic communication including an update and a unique signature identifying, the electronic communication as including the update and sending the electronic communication to the user.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*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.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
24 March 2005

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US2004/022216

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G06F21/00

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 G06F

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, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 956 408 A (ARNOLD TODD WESTON) 21 September 1999 (1999-09-21)  abstract; figures 2-5 column 5 - column 10 -----	1-36, 40-75, 79-114
X	US 6 049 671 A (SLIVKA BENJAMIN W ET AL) 11 April 2000 (2000-04-11)  abstract; figures 2-7 column 4 - column 18 -----	1-36, 40-75, 79-114
Y	US 2003/084322 A1 (SCHERTZ RICHARD L ET AL) 1 May 2003 (2003-05-01)  the whole document -----  -/--	1-36, 40-75, 79-114

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

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- \*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
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- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/01/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/022216

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 948 104 A (LANDO JUDAH L ET AL) 7 September 1999 (1999-09-07)  the whole document	1-36, 40-75, 79-114
X	US 2003/065926 A1 (SCHULTZ MATTHEW G ET AL) 3 April 2003 (2003-04-03)  abstract; figures 8-10 paragraph '0038! - paragraph '0083! paragraph '0093! - paragraph '0120!	37-39, 76-78, 115-117
X	EP 1 280 040 A (NETWORKS ASSOCIATES TECHNOLOGY) 29 January 2003 (2003-01-29)  abstract; figures 1,2 paragraph '0020! - paragraph '0034!	37-39, 76-78, 115-117
X	MARMELSTEIN R E ET AL: "A distributed architecture for an adaptive computer virus immune system" SYSTEMS, MAN, AND CYBERNETICS, 1998. 1998 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAN DIEGO, CA, USA 11-14 OCT. 1998, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 11 October 1998 (1998-10-11), pages 3838-3843, XP010310923 ISBN: 0-7803-4778-1 the whole document	37-39, 76-78, 115-117
X	NORTON ANTIVIRUS CORPORATE EDITION 7.6 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE, 'Online! 12 September 2001 (2001-09-12), pages 355-367, XP002312339 CUPERTINO, CA, USA Retrieved from the Internet: URL:ftp://ftp.symantec.com/public/english_us_canada/products/norton_antivirus/navcorp/manuals/navce76i.pdf> 'retrieved on 2005-01-04! the whole document	37-39, 76-78, 115-117

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2004/022216

### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search 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.:  
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:
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 III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

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.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-36, 40-75, 79-114

Method and system for delivering and receiving software updates.

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2. claims: 37-39, 76-78, 115-117

Method and system for delivering a sample having a low risk of being infected to a provider.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US2004/022216

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5956408	A	21-09-1999	CA 2157971 A1 EP 0706275 A2	16-03-1996 10-04-1996
US 6049671	A	11-04-2000	US 6256668 B1 US 2003195949 A1	03-07-2001 16-10-2003
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US 2003065926	A1	03-04-2003	NONE	
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