METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING MESSAGING TO MULTIPLE CLIENTS

A method and system are disclosed for providing a uniform multicast messaging service such that a brief message concerning a particular subject is simultaneously issued from a server to multiple clients. The message also includes a reference to further detailed information regarding the subject, e.g., in the form of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). The system includes a client (150) and server (110) component. A client application connects to the server (110) via TCP/IP and maintains the connection. An alert report administrator (112) issues an alert by sending an alert report message to the server. This message is then multicast simultaneously to all registered clients. In particular, the multicast and receipt of the messages is performed over the TCP/IP connection that was established during the initial registration. However, a connectionless transport protocol such as UDP is used. At the client (150), the alert report is processed to provide a notification on the user’s PC display (170). The alert notification takes the form of a detailed report that is displayed to the user. That report includes a date/time stamp, a brief message subject, and a URL. If the user clicks on, or otherwise selects, the alert report, the client navigates the user’s pre-existing web browser application (152) to the URL identified in the alert report message.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPC(7)</th>
<th>US CL</th>
<th>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</th>
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<tr>
<td>G06F 15/16</td>
<td>709/201; 705/14</td>
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 709/201; 705/14

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)

EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,892,909 A (GRASSO et al) 06 April 1999 (6.4.1999)</td>
<td>1 - 26</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,870,556 A (COTE et al) 09 February 1999 (9.2.1999)</td>
<td>1 - 26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

  - "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  - "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
  - "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)
  - "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
  - "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
  - "Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 08 May 2002 (08.05.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 31 May 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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