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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

**Published:**

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19 July 2012

(54) Title: ONLINE REWARD SHARING

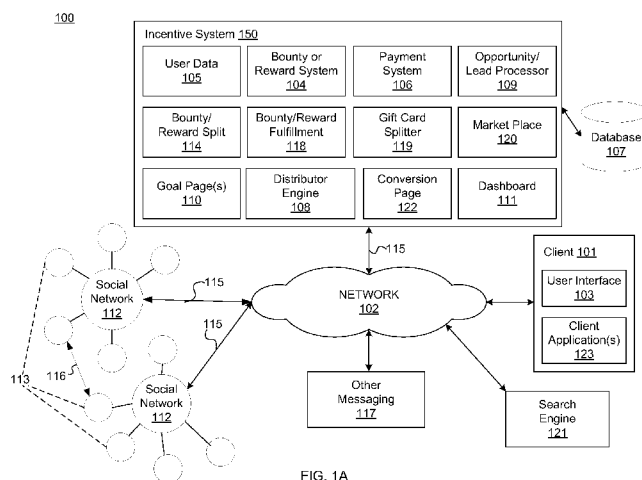


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: Creating a reward on at least one server in a communication network is described. An electronic posting is created on the communication network. The posting is based on information received from a posting user, and the received information includes a description of a goal or need. An incentive is associated with the posting, the incentive being for the successful submission of a solution opportunity in response to the posting. The posting is disseminated and includes information about the incentive to at least one communication platform on the network. At least one solution opportunity is received, in response to the posting, from at least a second user of the at least one communication platform. A selection of at least one solution opportunity is allowed from any received solution opportunity. The incentive is awarded, based on the selected solution opportunity, to at least one recipient associated with the selected solution opportunity.

WO 2012/047669 A3

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.  
PCT/US2011/053502

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(8) - G06Q 20/24 (2012.01)  
USPC - 705/26.4

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(8) - G06Q 20/00, 08, 22, 24; 30/00, 02, 06 (2012.01)  
USPC - 705/14.1, 14.16, 14.4, 14.49, 14.51, 14.55, 14.56, 14.61, 14.66, 14.69, 14.72, 14.73, 26.1, 26.4, 26.61, 319

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)

PatBase, Google Patents, Google Scholar

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2009/0099927 A1 (STEWART et al) 16 April 2009 (16.04.2009) entire document	1-10
A	US 2010/0218128 A1 (BONAT et al) 26 August 2010 (26.08.2010) entire document	1-10
A	US 2010/0241500 A1 (MILONE) 23 September 2010 (23.09.2010) entire document	1-10
A	US 2005/0004837 A1 (SWEENEY et al) 06 January 2005 (06.01.2005) entire document	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* 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
"E" earlier application or patent but 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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 18 April 2012	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>25 APR 2012</b>
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. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver  PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US2011/053502

**Box No. 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 No. 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 Extra 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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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.:  
1-10

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
  - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
  - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2011/053502

Continuation of Box No. III:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to an incentive system on at least one server in a communication network, comprising: a payment system configured to collect a fund based on the associated incentive and distribute the fund based on the selection of the at least one solution opportunity.

Group II, claims 11-65, drawn to an incentive system on at least one server in a communication network, a computer-implemented method for creating a reward on at least one server in a communication network and a computer system on at least one server in a communication network, comprising: a payment system module configured to associate, at the at least one server, the selected solution opportunity with at least one recipient and award the incentive to the at least one recipient.

Group III, claims 66-67, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method for paying out a reward, comprising: determining a chain of contacts that resulted in the submission of selected at least one solution and splitting the reward among the contacts in the chain.

Group IV, claims 68-81, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method of modifying a reward page on a communication network, comprising: receiving a request from at least one contact from the plurality of contacts to modify the associated initial reward amount, updating the reward page to indicate the modified reward amount, disseminating the reward page with the modified reward amount to the at least one communication platform on the network and award the modified reward amount to at least one recipient who submitted the selected one of the plurality of solution opportunities.

Group V, claims 82-91, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method for creating a reward, comprising: creating a reward headline associated with the reward file, posting the reward headline on the remote website, and awarding the reward value to a recipient selected from a plurality of users who submitted the plurality of solution opportunities, wherein the group of users includes the at least second user.

Group VI, claims 92-107, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method for viewing and sharing a reward on a server in a communication network, comprising: receiving login information from a user, selecting a plurality of reward pages from a repository of reward pages and notifying a reward creator of the solution opportunity, wherein the selected at least one reward page was created based on information provided by the reward creator.

Group VII, claims 108-113, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and computer-implemented method for operating a reward sharing system, comprising: selecting a winner from the one or more submissions.

Group VIII, claims 114-123, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method for searching reward postings, comprising: receiving a reward query through a user interface of a reward system from a user on a communication network, requesting a search for a plurality of reward pages associated with at least one term in the query from a search engine and displaying at least a subset of the plurality of reward pages on a web browser on the communication network.

Group IX, claims 124-135, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and computer-implemented method for accessing services of a reward incentive system on at least one server in a communication network, comprising: registering the user with the reward incentive system in response to receiving the profile information, creating a registered user profile and sending a notification to the user about at least one reward posting based on at least one factor from the profile information.

Group X, claims 136-138 and 151-153, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method of monitoring a user's activity on a reward incentive system, comprising: extracting relevancy data from determining of at least first, second, or third action and storing data from determining the at least first, second, and third actions and the extracted relevancy data.

Group XI, claims 139-150 and 154-165, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network, a computer-implemented method of monitoring activity on a reward incentive system, comprising: receiving an acceptance or rejection selection indicator for each of the received solution opportunities, if a solution opportunity is rejection, associating a rating value with the rejected solution opportunity, and determining a future privilege for each user who submitted the rejected solution opportunity based on the rating value associated with the rejected solution opportunity.

Group XII, claims 166-173, drawn to a computer system on at least one server in a communication network and a computer-implemented method for providing a graphical user interface by a reward system on a communication network, comprising: displaying the graphical user interface window to the user and generating a reward page based on the received first, second, third, and fourth content entered in a first, second, third, and fourth field of the graphical user, and posting the reward page to at least one communication platform.

Cont. on Next Sheet

Box Ni. III (cont.):

The inventions listed as Groups I-XII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of the Group I invention: a payment system configured to collect a fund based on the associated incentive and distribute the fund based on the selection of the at least one solution opportunity as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups II-XII. The special technical feature of the Group II invention: a payment system module configured to associate, at the at least one server, the selected solution opportunity with at least one recipient and award the incentive to the at least one recipient as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I, III-XII. The special technical feature of the Group III invention: determining a chain of contacts that resulted in the submission of selected at least one solution and splitting the reward among the contacts in the chain as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I, II, IV-XII. The special technical feature of the Group IV invention: receiving a request from at least one contact from the plurality of contacts to modify the associated initial reward amount, updating the reward page to indicate the modified reward amount, disseminating the reward page with the modified reward amount to the at least one communication platform on the network and award the modified reward amount to at least one recipient who submitted the selected one of the plurality of solution opportunities as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I, II, III or V-XII. The special technical feature of the Group V invention: creating a reward headline associated with the reward file, posting the reward headline on the remote website, and awarding the reward value to a recipient selected from a plurality of users who submitted the plurality of solution opportunities, wherein the group of users includes the at least second user as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-IV, VI-XII. The special technical feature of the Group VI invention: receiving login information from a user, selecting a plurality of reward pages from a repository of reward pages and notifying a reward creator of the solution opportunity, wherein the selected at least one reward page was created based on information provided by the reward creator as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-V, VII-XII. The special technical feature of the Group VII invention: selecting a winner from the one or more submissions as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-VI or VIII-XII. The special technical feature of the Group VIII invention: receiving a reward query through a user interface of a reward system from a user on a communication network, requesting a search for a plurality of reward pages associated with at least one term in the query from a search engine and displaying at least a subset of the plurality of reward pages on a web browser on the communication network as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-VII or IX-XII. The special technical feature of the Group IX invention: registering the user with the reward incentive system in response to receiving the profile information, creating a registered user profile and sending a notification to the user about at least one reward posting based on at least one factor from the profile information as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-VIII or X-XII. The special technical feature of the Group X invention: extracting relevancy data from determining of at least first, second, or third action and storing data from determining the at least first, second, and third actions and the extracted relevancy data as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-IX or XI-XII. The special technical feature of the Group XI invention: receiving an acceptance or rejection selection indicator for each of the received solution opportunities, if a solution opportunity is rejection, associating a rating value with the rejected solution opportunity, and determining a future privilege for each user who submitted the rejected solution opportunity based on the rating value associated with the rejected solution opportunity as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-X or XII. The special technical feature of the Group XII invention: displaying the graphical user interface window to the user and generating a reward page based on the received first, second, third, and fourth content entered in a first, second, third, and fourth field of the graphical user, and posting the reward page to at least one communication platform. as claimed therein is not present in the invention of Groups I-XI.

Groups I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII lack unity of invention because even though the inventions of these groups require the technical feature of an incentive system for generating and distributing goal pages to a plurality of users comprising receiving and storing user profile and activity information, generating a user interface to allow at least one user to input a goal or need and an associated incentive, posting of the goal page to a plurality of communication platforms, processing a plurality of solution opportunities received in response to the posting, selecting at least one solution opportunity and collecting funds and distributing rewards, this technical feature is not a special technical feature as it does not make a contribution over the prior art in view of US 2009/0099927 A1 (STEWART et al) 16 April 2009 (16.04.2009) paragraphs 0019, 0027-0029, 0031, 0035-0037 and 0039-0045.

Since none of the special technical features of the Group I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI or XII inventions are found in more than one of the inventions, unity of invention is lacking.