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(54) Title: ADAPTIVE PROCESS FOR MANAGING BUSINESS PROCESSES

(57) Abstract: A system and associated method which are computer enabled provide automation, management and user decision support of long-running, distributed business processes whose flow is variable and partially determined by user decisions. The system dynamically schedules and assigns tasks in response to current process data and provides context-sensitive support for required user decisions. Each process instance is represented by a set of activities, a set of participants, and a set of constraint relationships between them that as a whole specify the implications of current process data, the current process state, and the current and future process options. The system is open, enabling users to extend the process instance with unstructured activities. Where tasks are assigned to other software applications and the required actions are fully determined, the system will automatically make the required requests and ensure task completion. An electronic audit trails maintains a record of all actions, providing the basis for ongoing performance analysis. The system and method can be applied to any business or similar process having one or more users and software systems across one or more locations and computer networks.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/01223

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: G06F 17/50(2006.01)

 USPC: 705/7
 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. : 705/7

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT


| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 6,934,931 B2 (PLUMER et al) 23 August 2005 (23.8.2005) | 1-44 |
| A | US 2003/0195783 A1 (GREENSTEIN) 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003) | 1-44 |
| A | US 6,415,259 B1 (WOLFINGER et al) 2 July 2002 (2.7.2002) | 1-44 |
| A | US 2003/0046130 (GOLIGHTLY et al) 6 March 2003 (6.3.2003) | 1-44 |

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