

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)

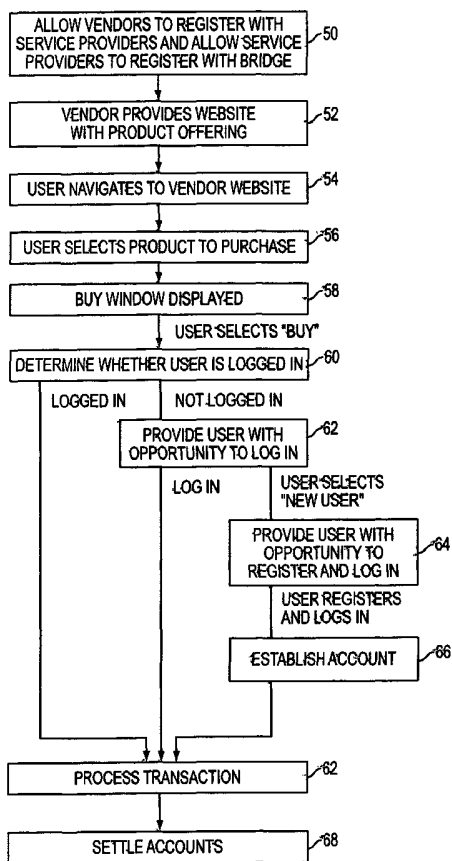
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/015526 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/024417
- (22) International Filing Date: 4 August 2003 (04.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 10/217,871 12 August 2002 (12.08.2002) 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, 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, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, 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).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BRIDGE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are provided for supporting electronic commerce in an environment in which multiple service providers (18) each have associated vendors (16) and in which a user (14) may maintain an account at a service provider that is different from the service provider associated with the vendor from which a user makes an on-line purchase. Both tangible products and electronic content products may be sold using the system. A bridge computer (22) may be used to facilitate interactions between service providers. The bridge computer may be used to implement service charge fees, to reimburse service providers for credit card transaction fees, to reimburse service providers with appropriate referral fees, and to otherwise support operation of the system.

WO 2004/015526 A3



**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *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:**

17 June 2004

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/24417

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60  
 US CL : 705/26

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. : 705/26, 27, 39, 78

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)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CA 2,305,233 A (GANESAN) 26 October 2000 (26.10.2000), page 36, line to page 38, line 8.	1-13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 April 2004 (30.04.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

**11 MAY 2004**

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

PCT/US03/24417

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

EAST: service, provider, facilitator, intermediary, third, party, go, between, clearinghouse, anonymous, multiple, plural, plurality, electronic, internet, online, commerce, shop, shopping, buying, purchasing