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(54) Title: INTERFACE FOR FACILITATING TRANSFER OF INFORMATION RELATED TO SHIPPING OF PACKAGES

(57) Abstract: A shipping system (20) having a server (22) with an application programming interface that allows XML formatted data to be used with the shipping server (22), so as to facilitate the retrieval and presentation of shipping information to a user (26), is disclosed. The shipping system server (22) is accessible to users (26) via the Internet (24), wherein package rating and shipping information is obtained by one or more information request queries that can be made by the user (26) using a client software program, such as, for example, a Web browser, and standard Internet protocol such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). Responses to the queries are provided in a well defined XML format having beginning and ending tags, thereby allowing easy parsing of the information contained in the responses by the client software program for presentation to the user (26).
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60
US CL. : 705/1, 26, 400, 406, 407, 408, 410

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. : 705/1, 26, 400, 406, 407, 408, 410

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, Google

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<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>X, P</td>
<td>WO 02/17045 A2 (UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE) 28 February 2002 (28.02.2002), see Figs. 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 12; pages 33-35; claims.</td>
<td>1-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,047,264 A (FISHER et al.) 04 April 2000 (04.04.2000), see Figs. 1-5; col. 1, lines 16-33; col. 1, line 63 - col. 2, line 41; col. 2, line 65 - col. 4, line 27.</td>
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<td>A, P</td>
<td>US 6,463,420 B1 (GUIDICE et al.) 08 October 2002 (08.10.2002), see Figs. 1, 3-5; col. 1, line 18 - col. 2, line 27.</td>
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<td>A, P</td>
<td>WO 02/21388 A1 (UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE) 14 March 2002 (14.03.2002), see Figs. 1-3; para. [002] - [011]; claims.</td>
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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 June 2003 (28.06.2003)

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