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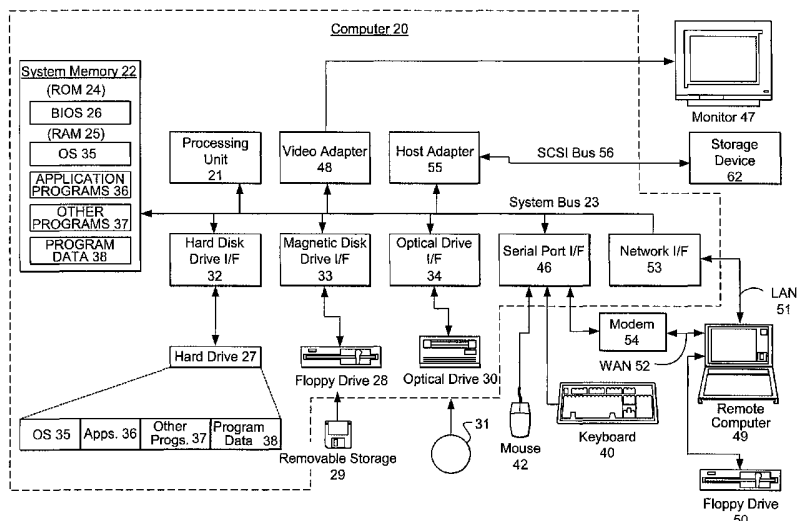
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND DATABASE FOR CLASSIFYING PRODUCT INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A COMPUTER NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A product search system is provided which comprises a logic defining a branched decision tree; logic associated with each decision node defining a query that needs to be satisfied by a product description of a product entry to be classified in order for that product entry to be classified with the tree level or branch terminus to which the branch associated with that decision node extends; logic for classifying product entries having product description with a branch terminus of the decision tree by assigning the product entry to a first tree level of the decision tree, and testing the product descriptions against decision node queries leading from the first tree level until a decision node query leading to a branch terminus is satisfied; and logic for searching the classified product entries.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/30 G06F17/60

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 7 G06F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 630 125 A (ZELLWEGER PAUL) 13 May 1997 (1997-05-13)	1-67
Y	* abstract * column 5, line 18 - line 26 column 7, line 40 - line 54 column 7, line 62 - column 8, line 12 column 8, line 4 - line 27 column 9, line 28 - line 37 column 10, line 3 - line 18 column 16, line 27 - line 34 figure 4 --- -/--	68-165



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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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.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DASARI R V ET AL: "Analysis of part families for group technology applications using decision trees" INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, 1997, SPRINGER-VERLAG, UK, vol. 13, no. 2, pages 116-124, XP001098647 ISSN: 0268-3768 * abstract * * page 177, section 2.2 Decision Trees *	1,2, 4-24, 26-67
A		3,25, 68-165
Y	US 5 960 407 A (VIVONA ROBERT G) 28 September 1999 (1999-09-28)	120-165
A	* abstract * column 1, line 10 - line 27; figure 1 column 4, line 12 - line 18 column 5, line 25 - line 39 column 6, line 5 - line 34 column 7, line 8 - line 19 column 11, line 52 - column 12, line 5 claims 1-17	1-119
X	BILLO R E ET AL: "Representing group technology classification and coding techniques with object oriented modeling principles" IIE TRANSACTIONS, AUG. 1995, UK, vol. 27, no. 4, pages 542-554, XP001098642 ISSN: 0740-817X	1-67
Y	* abstract *	68-119
A	* sections 3 to 5.5, 8.1 *	120-165

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US 5630125	A	13-05-1997	NONE	
US 5960407	A	28-09-1999	NONE	