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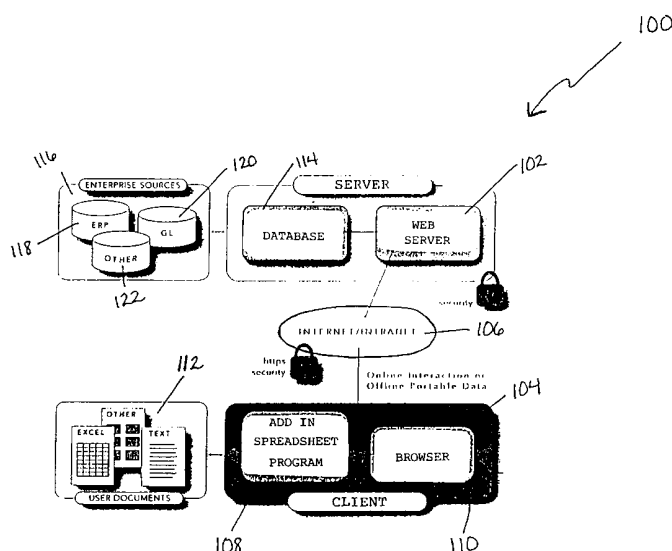
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING NETWORKED INFORMATION EXCHANGE



(57) Abstract: A method and system for facilitating information exchange between individuals and entities interacting on a shared project are provided, and more particularly a method and system for horizontal, i.e., non-hierarchical, participation in and/or contribution to a spreadsheet-based project (108). The method and system is Web-based and utilizes conventional browser (110) and spreadsheet technology to achieve collaborative exchanges of information on an enterprise-wide basis. The method and system also facilitate efficient remote information access and exchange, e.g., over a computer network (106) such as the Internet and/or the World Wide Web, through a caching function that combines individual queries initiated by a spreadsheet program before transmitting across a network to a server for consideration.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US01/16276

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/00

US CL : 707/10; 345/751, 759; 709/202, 328.

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. : 707/10; 345/751, 759; 709/202, 328.

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)

IEEE, ACM

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,634,019 A (KOPPOLU et al) 27 MAY 1997, col. 7, line 46 - col. 9, line 53.	1-13
A	NELSON, M. N., et al, Caching in an Object-Oriented System, IEEE publication, 1993. pp. 95-106. see sections 3-6.	1-13
A	US 6,055,548 A (COMER et al) 25 APRIL, 2000, col. 7, lines 31-38; col. 9, lines 31-35.	1-13



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* 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
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"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)	"Z" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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