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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **REUTERS AMERICA** [US/US]; 3 Times Square, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10036 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **BOSE, Subhra** [US/US]; Mohegan Lake, NY (US). **SCIMONE, Steve** [US/US]; Massapequa, NY (US). **SRIRAMAN, Nallan** [US/US]; Nesconset, NY (US). **DUAN, Ziyang** [US/US]; Stony Brook, NY (US). **BERNSTEIN, Arthur** [US/US]; Setauket, NY (US). **LEWIS, Philip** [US/US]; Stony Brook, NY (US). **GROSU, Radu** [US/US]; Rocky Point, NY (US).

(74) Agent: **GLEMBOCKI, Christopher, R.**; Banner & Witcoff, Ltd., 1001 G. Street, N.W., 11th Floor, Washington, D.C 2001-4597 (US).

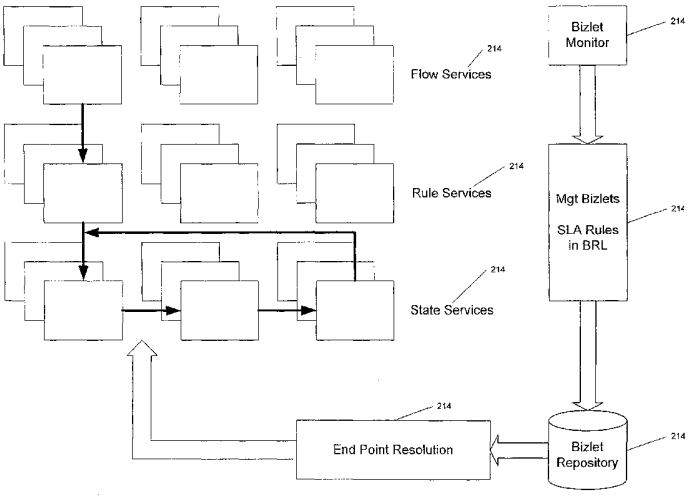
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BUSINESS PROCESS AUTOMATION THROUGH THE USE OF WORKFLOW



(57) Abstract: A system for business processes within and between organizations and/or individuals may be automated using standards-based, service-oriented business process automation architectures based on XML and Web Services Standards is described. An execution framework for the business processes is also described. Further aspects include a decomposition methodology for deconstructing business process specifications into business flows, business rules and business states. The business flows (Fig 9, #214), rules (Fig 9, #214) and states (Fig 9, #214) may be defined in declarative languages and include the interaction, cooperation and coordination between the flow, rules and state engines, and the execution model for business processes within the framework.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : G06F 9/44
US CL : 717/103
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. : 717/103

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Examiners Digest

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	Martin, James, Principles of Object-Oriented Anayksis and Design, October 29, 1992, pages 103-153 and 321-245	1-4,7-10,21,22 --- 5,6,11-20,23-25
Y	Blake Brian, M, "Toward the USe of Agent Technology of B2B Electronic Commerce", June 28, 2002, 16 pages total - pages 1,10,11	5,6,11-20,22-25

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
21 August 2005 (21.08.2005)	19 OCT 2005
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