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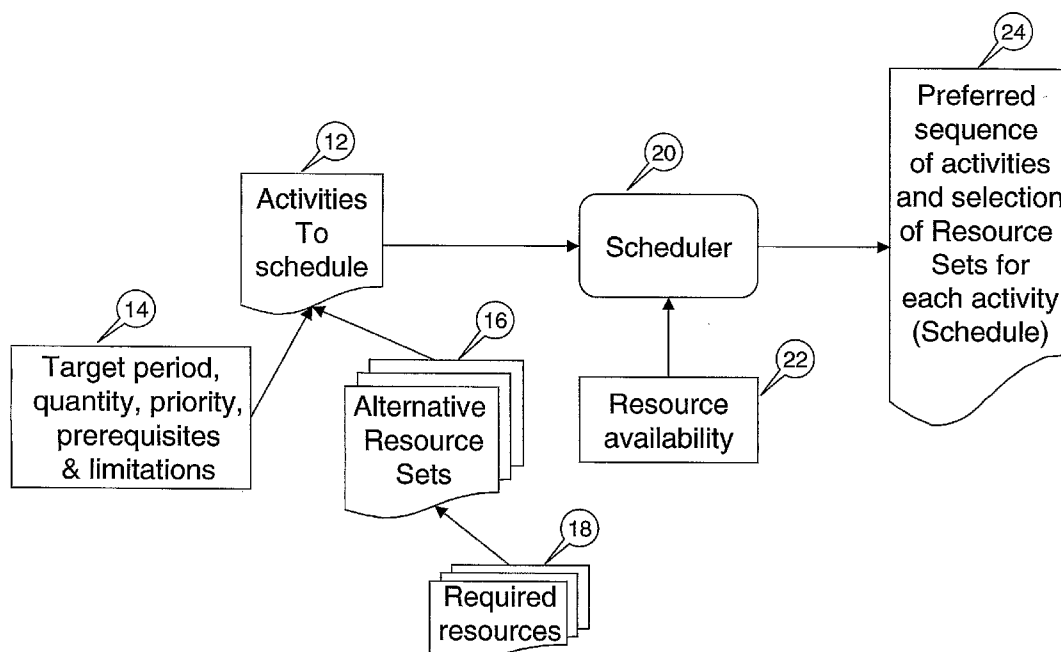
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

19 April 2007

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.

(54) Title: SCHEDULING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A scheduler combines characteristics of a forward and backward schedulers to determine a schedule for activities that require the use of resources. The system handles conflicting requirements for resources by considering target dates and the relative priority of the activities. As a result, higher priority activities are more likely to be scheduled to complete on or before their target date than are lower priority activities.

WO 2006/007447 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/21619

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **G06F 17/30**(2007.01)

USPC: 705/8

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. : 705/8, 705/9

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 --- Y	US 5,890,134 (FOX) 30 March 1999 (30.03.1999), column 3, lines 25-65, column 5, lines 30-45, column 6, lines 15-55, column 7, lines 10-25 and 35-50, column 8, lines 15-40, column 9, lines 25-55, column 10, column 13, lines 45-65, column 14, lines 1-10.	1-2,5-8,11-12,14-16,19-20,22-23 ----- 3-4,9-10,13,17-18,21,24
Y	US 2002/0007297 (Clarke) 17 January 2002 (17.01.2002), paragraphs 4-6, 29, 32-4, 39-41, 46-7, 71, 80, 85	1-24
Y	U.S. 5,787,000 (Lilly et al.) 28 July 1998 (28.07.1998), column 3, lines 5-30, column 4, lines 33-45, columns 6-7.	1-24
Y	U.S. 5,845,258 (Kennedy) 01 December 1998 (01.12.1998) column 2, lines 25-40 and 45-55, column 9, lines 1-35	10,18,24



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
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"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

11 December 2006 (11.12.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 JAN 2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/21619

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 25 and 26
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Please See Continuation Sheet
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/21619

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable 1. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Claim 25 recites "a computer readable medium having software for performing the process of claim 1". As currently recited, the claim is merely directed to a computer readable medium which has software, with either the medium or software performing the method (it is not clearly linked to one or the other). Computer programs and software are merely a set of instructions capable of being executed by a computer. Without specific language stating that a computer or computer processor is actively executing the computer program/software or language stating that the software is functionally embodied on the medium, computer programs and software are not considered to be statutory processes or machines. Therefore, there must be some functional act performed by a computer or computer element on the software/computer program to impart statutory subject matter or there must be some language suggesting that the software is functionally embodied on the medium. Further, as currently recited, the

Claim 26 recites substantially similar limitations to claim 25 and therefore has the same deficiencies.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

US Patent Database, Japanese Patent Database, IBM Technical Disclosures, US PG-Pub Database, European Patent Database