

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 February 2003 (06.02.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2003/010621 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2001/050499

(22) International Filing Date:  
19 December 2001 (19.12.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
09/740,502 19 December 2000 (19.12.2000) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EBAY, INC.** [US/US]; 2125 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BOONE, Barry** [US/US]; 1725 Glen Una Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (US).

(74) Agents: **MALLIE, Michael, J.** et al.; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
30 June 2005

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: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING PREDEFINED FEEDBACK

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus utilized in operating a feedback forum in an online auction environment is described. Instead of allowing users of the system to enter free-form comments for and about other users, a number of predefined feedback comments are provided that relate to an auction transaction. Users leaving feedback for other users are permitted to select a comment they desire to leave for or about another user relative to a transaction. The predefined feedback comments selected by the users are associated with the users whom the comment is about, and at some time thereafter, the predefined feedback comment is displayed for viewing by other users of the system.



WO 2003/010621 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/50499

| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| IPC(7) : G06F 17/60<br>US CL : 705/10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>U.S. : 705/10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| 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)<br>Please See Continuation Sheet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Category *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                                                                                               | Relevant to claim No.                                                                                                                                                                               |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 6,029,141 A (BEZOS et al) 22 February 2000 (22.02.2000), entire document                                                                                                                                                                      | 1-72                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 6,066,075 A (POULTON) 23 May 2000 (23.05.2000), entire document                                                                                                                                                                               | 1-72                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 6,161,099 A (HARRINGTON et al) 12 December 2000 (12.12.2000), entire document                                                                                                                                                                 | 1-72                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Y,P                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | US 6,189,029 B1 (FUERST) 13 February 2001 (13.02.2001), entire document                                                                                                                                                                          | 1-72                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Y,P                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | US 6,236,975 B1 (BOE et al) 22 May 2001 (22.05.2001), entire document                                                                                                                                                                            | 1-72                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2">* Special categories of cited documents:</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     | * 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 |  |  |
| * 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<br>26 February 2004 (26.02.2004)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Date of mailing of the international search report<br>23 APR 2004                                                                                                                                   |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450<br>Facsimile No. (703)305-3230                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Authorized officer<br>Tariq Hafiz P. Vofse<br>Telephone No. (703) 308-1113                                                                                                                          |                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |  |                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                        |  |  |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US01/50499

## Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

DIALOG

search terms: feedback, internet, online, predefined, indicator