(51) International Patent Classification: 
G06F 9/44 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number: 
PCT/US2005/017179

(22) International Filing Date:  
16 May 2005 (16.05.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): 
AFFINNOVA, INC. [US/US]; 52 Second Avenue, 2nd Floor South, Waltham, MA 02451 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(74) Agents: TOSTI, Robert, J et al.; Edwards & Angell, LLP, P.O. Box 55874, Boston, MA 02205 (US).


(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published: 
— with international search report 
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 15 March 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: DETERMINING DESIGN PREFERENCES OF A GROUP

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for efficiently analyzing selectors' design preference tendencies from among various design alternatives for decision objects and their attributes. Selectors may use one or more client systems (10, 20, 30, 40) to communicate with one or more server computing systems (50, 52, 54) over a network (100).
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**
IPC: G06F 9/44 (2007.01)
USPC: 705/10
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.: 705/10

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)
WEST CAS ONLINE, DIALOG

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,125,551 A (KAUFMAN) 26 September 2000. See entire document.</td>
<td>1-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>WO 00/02138 A1 (BONABEAU) 13 January 2000. See entire document.</td>
<td>1-61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  ☐ See patent family annex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>* Special categories of cited documents:</th>
<th>&quot;P&quot; 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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;A&quot; document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td>
<td>&quot;X&quot; 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;E&quot; earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td>
<td>&quot;Y&quot; 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;L&quot; 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>&quot;&amp;&quot; document member of the same patent family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;O&quot; document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td>
<td>&quot;F&quot; document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 02 November 2006 (02.11.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 16 JAN 2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Authorized officer

Telephone No. (703) 872-9306