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(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor *(for all designated States except US)*: WOLFBERG, Larry [US/US]; Suite 1578, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (US).

(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: WOLFBERG, Brent [US/US]; Suite 1578, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (US).

(74) Agents: D'ALESSANDRO, Kenneth et al.; D'Alessandro & Ritchie, P.O. Box 640640, San Jose, CA 95164-0640 (US).

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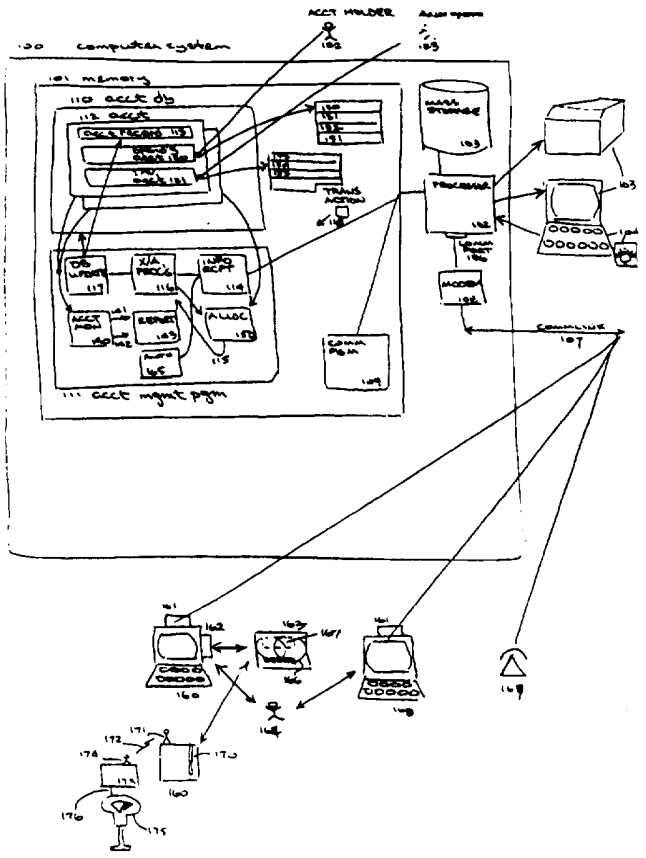
(54) Title: IMPROVED INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A method and computer system manages an investment and spending account, so as to achieve selected guidelines for investment returns and spending flexibility. A computer system (100), having a memory (101) for recording account information (110) and a processor (102) for processing account data and transactions associated with the account, implements a combined investment and spending account, by which an account holder achieves a selected investment return and a selected degree of spending flexibility. The computer system monitors inflows to and outflows from the account, and investment returns achieved for the account, and indicates when adjustments to the account are required to achieve the selected investment guidelines while presenting the account holder with the selected spending flexibility.



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This application is submitted in the name of inventor **Larry Wolfberg**, a citizen of the United States having a postal address at 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1578, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

Title of the Invention

Improved Investment and Account Management System

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a computer system implementing an improved investment and account management system.

/ / /

Summary of the Invention

The invention provides a method and computer system for managing an investment and spending account, so as to achieve selected guidelines for investment returns and spending flexibility. A computer system, having a memory for recording account information and a processor for processing account data and transactions associated with the account, implements a combined investment and spending account, by which an account holder achieves a selected investment return and a selected degree of spending flexibility. The computer system monitors inflows to and outflows from the account, and investment returns achieved for the account, and indicates when adjustments to the account are required to achieve the selected investment guidelines while presenting the account holder with the selected spending flexibility.

[NOTE: ... This is described as an "investment and spending account" because those are the two activities associated with the account. We will broadly claim the concept of this dual account, even though embodiments may only have "investment" to the extent that a bank guarantees a fixed return at the end of a fixed maturity, i.e., there is no investment controlled by the account holder or managed for his or her sake.]

In a preferred embodiment, the computer system associates a spending account with a related investment account (for

example, the related investment account may comprise: an annuity personalized to the account holder, a share in an investment mutual fund, or an obligation by an investment entity such as an insurance company), so that the account holder may access the spending account within the spending flexibility guidelines, while an account manager controls the associated investment account within the investment guidelines. The computer system monitors the resources available in the spending account and the investment account, and responsive thereto, presents the account manager with signals indicating whether investment adjustments are suggested for meeting the investment guidelines and while still permitting the spending flexibility guidelines, and/or presents the account holder with signals indicating whether monetary inflows are needed or outflows are permitted within the spending flexibility guidelines and while still meeting the investment guidelines.

[NOTE: ... The computer system is described as giving alternative investment and spending signals, such as: (spending) "increase your inflows", "decrease your outflows", or (investment) "increase your stock/bond ratio", even though in the "Beyond Card" embodiment the investment signals would have no meaning to the account holder and might be ignored by the bank obligor.]

In a preferred embodiment, the investment guidelines are selected from a group comprising known cash returns, known maturity dates, known percent returns, and combinations thereof. The spending flexibility guidelines are selected from a group

comprising known cash loan buffers, known interest rates, known payment rates, known percent of account size loan buffers, and combinations thereof.

For example, the account holder may select an account having the following investment guidelines: an initial account size of $10,000, a known percent return of 50% of the initial account size, and a known maturity date of 20 years from account initiation, and the following spending flexibility guidelines: an overdraft buffer of 25% of the initial account size, an payment interest rate of 4% over the prime rate, and rolling credit payments within 30 days of any account negative balance.

In this example, while the account is active, the account holder may make deposits to and withdrawals from the account just like another type of account, such as: a checking or savings account, a credit card or debit card account, or another type of account. Periodically, such as each month, the computer system examines the transactions associated with the account and determines if the status of the account permits the investment guidelines to be met. For example, if the account holder has drawn down the account balance, it may occur that the investment guidelines cannot be met without a monetary inflow. In this case, the computer system may indicate to the account holder that a monetary inflow is required, such as by appending a charge to an account statement for that month. Similarly, if the account holder has increased the account balance, the computer system may indicate to the account holder that additional funds are avail-

able for spending, such as by increasing a spending limit or credit limit.

[NOTE: ... The computer system might also be broadly described as being tied more closely to a credit card model, such as arranging: automatic payments to payees, or rebates for frequent purchases, etc., even though in the "Beyond Card" embodiment this might not be implemented in full.]

[NOTE: ... The computer system might also be broadly described as being tied more closely to an insurance or investment model, such as arranging: automatic payments into mutual funds or bond purchase, automatic payments into insurance contracts, etc., again, even though in the "Beyond Card" embodiment this might not be implemented in full.]

/ / /

Claims

I claim:

1. A computer system for managing and tracking an investment and spending account, comprising

a memory comprising account information, said account information being associated with an account;

a processor coupled to said memory, said processor being disposed to process said account information and to process at least one transaction associated with said account;

said memory comprising a set of investment guidelines associated with said account and a set of spending flexibility guidelines associated with said account;

means for directing said processor to determine, responsive to said account information, a first condition for raising a first signal associated with said investment guidelines;

means for directing said processor to determine, responsive to said account information, a second condition for raising a second signal associated with said spending flexibility guidelines; and

means for directing said processor to raise said first signal or said signal, responsive to said account information and said at least one transaction.

2. A system as in claim 1, comprising

means for communicating with an account holder; and

means for communicating with an account manager.

3. A system as in claim 1, comprising means for directing said processor to indicate suggested adjustments to said account, responsive to said first signal or said second signal.

4. A system as in claim 3, wherein said suggested adjustments to said account comprise account statements to an account holder associated with said account.

5. A system as in claim 3, wherein said suggested adjustments to said account comprise investment statements to an account manager associated with said account.

6. A system as in claim 1, comprising

means for monitoring expected inflows and expected outflows associated with said account;

means for altering said account information responsive to said expected inflows and expected outflows, whereby said first signal or said second signal are raised responsive to changes in said expected inflows and expected outflows.

7. A system as in claim 1, wherein said means for directing said processor to determine, responsive to said account information, a first condition for raising a first signal associated with said investment guidelines, comprises

means for directing said processor to determine an expected investment return, responsive to said investment guidelines;

means for directing said processor to compare said expected investment return with said investment guidelines; and

means for directing said processor to define said first condition responsive to a result of a comparison performed by said processor responsive to said means for directing said processor to compare said expected investment return with said investment guidelines.

8. A system as in claim 1, wherein said means for directing said processor to determine, responsive to said account information, a second condition for raising a second signal associated with said spending flexibility guidelines, comprises

means for directing said processor to determine an expected investment return, responsive to said investment guidelines;

means for directing said processor to compare said expected investment return with said investment guidelines; and

means for directing said processor to define said second condition responsive to a result of a comparison performed by said processor responsive to said means for directing said processor to compare said expected investment return with said investment guidelines.

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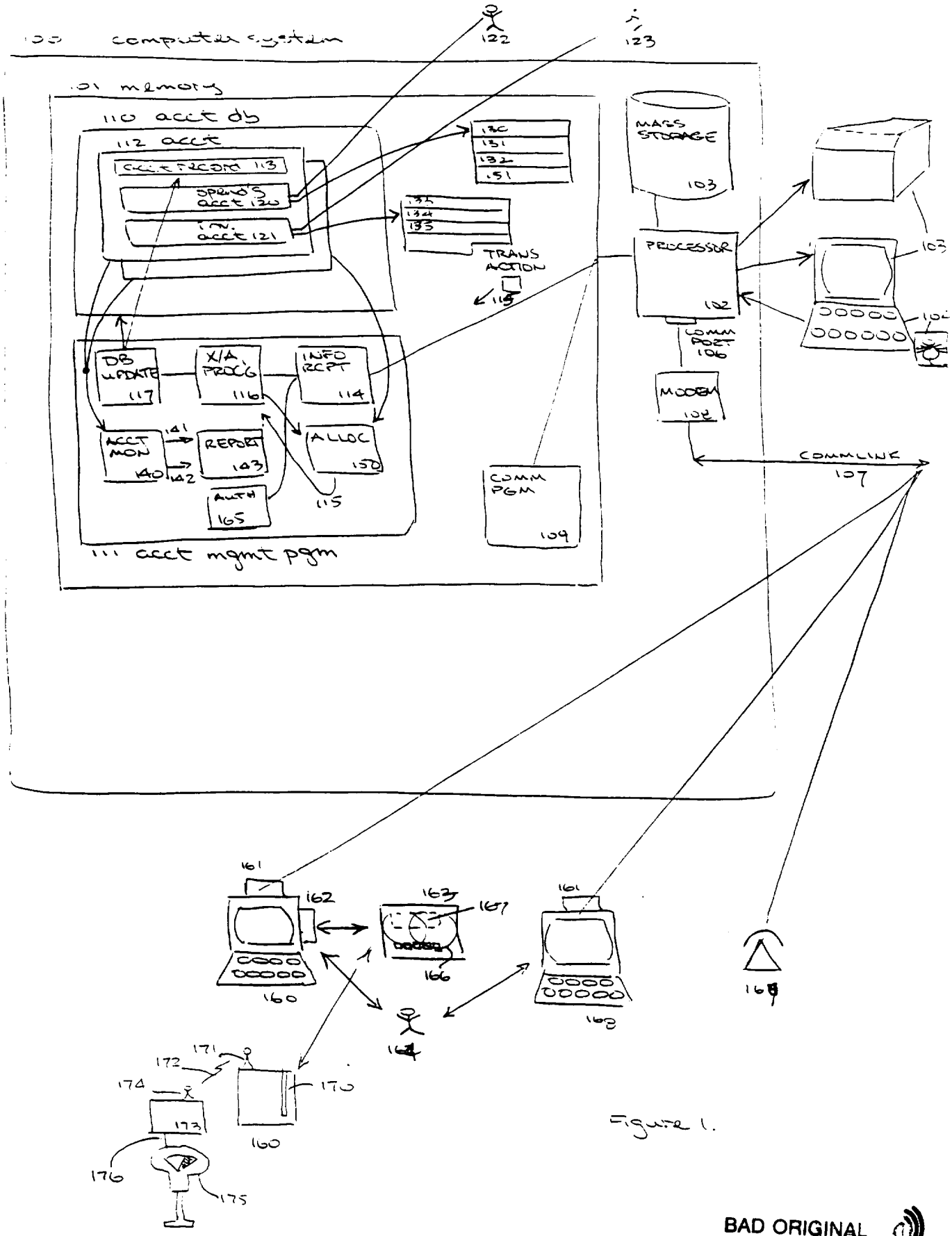

Figure 1.

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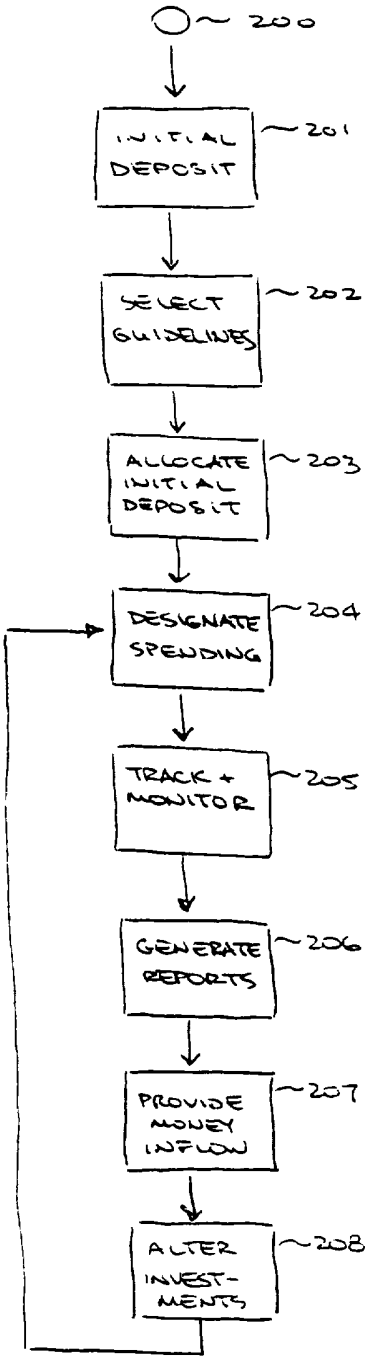
Figure 2.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/17068

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :G06F 17/60; G06G 7/52
US CL :364/408, 406
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. : 364/408, 406, 401R

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)

APS, DIALOG
search terms: investment#, spending, guidelines, account holder, acocunt manager

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,346,442 (Musmanno) 24 AUGUST 1982 see Abstract	1-8
A	US, A, 4,885,685 (Wolfberg et al.) 5 DECEMBER 1989 see Abstract	1-8
A	US, A, 4,994,964 (Wolfberg et al.) 19 FEBRUARY 1991 see Abstract, col. 1	1-8
A	DIALOG SOFTWARE ABSTRACT: File 237, Acc# 00015505; MONEYCOUNTS; version 7.0; Parsons Technologies Inc.; Date Released: 1992	1-8
A	US, A, 5,210,687 (Wolfberg et al.) 11 MAY 1993 see Abstract; col. 1	1-8

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [ ] See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
GAIL O. HAYES
Telephone No. (703) 305-3800

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/17068

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 5,214,579 (Wolfberg et al.) 25 MAY 1993 see Abstract; cols. 1-31	1-8