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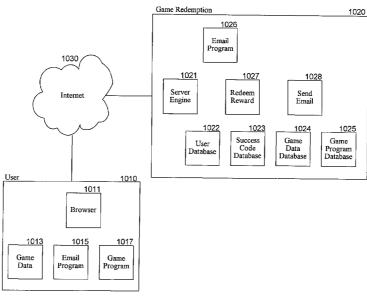
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL



(57) Abstract: A method and system for receiving and playing a computer game is provided. In one embodiment, the user executes a game program that is self-contained within an email message sent by a game server computer system. If the outcome of the game indicates success, then the computer game may display instructions on how to redeem a reward. Because the computer game is sent via email, and stored in the user's email system, the user can choose to play the game even when no connection to a game web site is established. The user can later redeem their rewards, if any, when a connection to a redemption web site is established. Thus, the user can play the computer games even when not connected to the game web site.



WO 02/027677 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched} & \text{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ IPC & 7 & G07F & G06F & A63F \\ \end{array}$

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

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Y	WO 98 36809 A (REALTIME MEDIA INC) 27 August 1998 (1998-08-27) page 2, line 22 -page 3, line 20 abstract; claim 1; figure 1	1-30

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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "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) "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	 "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 "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 "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. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 16 October 2002	Date of mailing of the international search report 23/10/2002
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Reule, D

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