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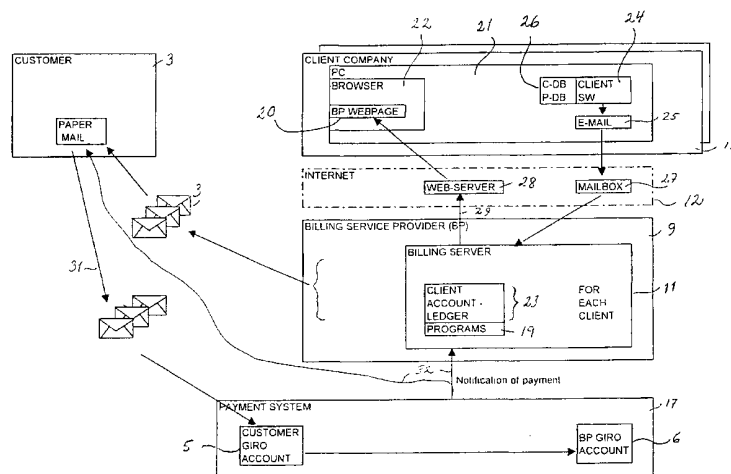
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(54) Title: A BILLING SERVICE SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A billing service system and method in accordance with the invention includes a billing server (11), a payment system (17), a web site (28), a web browser (22) and a client program (25). The billing server generates invoices, captures and stores information relating to the generated invoices and store information on received payments. The payment system, a bank for example, receives payments (31) and notifies (32) the billing server of received payments. On the billing service provider's web site a client (18) enters billing information and can study his ledger. Billing information is sent from the client to the billing server in e-mail (24) or files over the Internet (12). The billing server connects to the Internet for the short periods during which it polls its Internet mailbox (27) or file-server and downloads received invoices. The billing server can be distributed over several processors that are interconnected by a data network.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G07F 19/00, G06F 17/60

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)

IPC7: G06F, G07F

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)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0745947 A2 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION), 4 December 1996 (04.12.96), column 3, line 6 - column 4, line 7, figures 2,3 --	1-6,8-14
X	WO 9910823 A1 (CITIBANK, N.A.), 4 March 1999 (04.03.99), page 2, line 23 - page 8, line 29; page 12 - page 15, line 16, figures 2-4 --	1-6,8-14
X	US 6052674 A (ZERVIDES ET AL), 18 April 2000 (18.04.00), column 6, line 31 - line 59, figure 2 --	1-6,8-14

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

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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A	US 6032133 A (HILT ET AL), 29 February 2000 (29.02.00), whole document --	1-14
A	US 6047051 A (GINZBOORG ET AL), 4 April 2000 (04.04.00), column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 23 --	1-14
A	US 5970475 A (BARNES ET AL), 19 October 1999 (19.10.99), column 8, line 36 - column 9 -- -----	1-14

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