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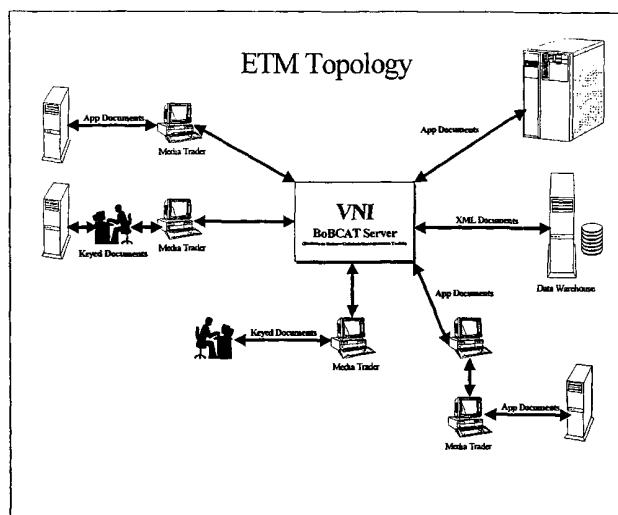
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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC COMMERCE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE CABLE TELEVISION INDUSTRY



(57) Abstract: Electronic commerce systems and processes which are adapted to manage workflow, information and product distribution in transactions among various parties in a supply chain. The systems and processes may rely on a common document model which allows each of the entities to maintain and use its own legacy or proprietary systems and interfaces, but yet to communicate and transact with each other through a master platform or system which handles data with associated metadata, such as via a common document model, so that all platforms have ready, efficient and easily translatable or transformable access to common information. Such systems and other transactions in the cable television industry, including transactions associated with advertising and commercials (Fig. 2).



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/04817

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/34

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. : 705/34, 16, 20, 28, 29

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Please See Extra Sheet.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,117,353 A (STIPANOVICH ET AL.) 26 May 1992, the background, the abstract, and the summary of the invention.	1-23
Y	US 5,202,977 A (PASETES, JR. ET AL.) 13 APRIL 1993, the background, and the summary of the invention.	1-23
Y	US 5,491,325 A (HUANG ET AL.) 13 FEBRUARY 1996, the abstract, the background, the summary, and the claims of the invention.	1-23
Y,P	US 5,926,806 A (MARSHALL ET AL.) 20 JULY 1999, the background, and the detail description of the invention.	1-23



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* 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 document 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
* Q* 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	

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International application No.  
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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y,P	US 5,963,925 A (KOLLING ET AL.) 05 OCTOBER 1999, the background, the summary, and the detail description of the invention.	1-23
Y,P	US 5,970,475 A (BARNES ET AL.) 19 OCTOBER 1999, the entire document.	1-23
Y,E	US 6,078,891 A (RIORDAN ET AL.) 20 JUNE 2000, the background, and the entire document.	1-23
Y,E	US 6,101,493 A (MARSHALL ET AL.) 08 August 2000, the background and the summary of the invention.	1-23
Y,P	PR NEWSWIRE p1896, Sources & sidebars for Friday, April 23: AT&T makes \$58B bid for MediaOne, PR Newswire Association, Inc. 23 April 1999	1-23
A	ANONYMOUS, Who's showing what where, Editor and Publisher v126n20, pp: 12N-56N, 15 May 1993.	1-23
A	Third annual 1990 directory of human resources services, products and suppliers, from Personnel, v67, n1, p41(109), January 1990.	1-23
Y,P	RICHARDSON, Street smart strategies, from Food in Canada, 59, 9, 20, November 1999.	1-23
A	SHARON HORMELL STAFF WRITER, Customers call inexact bin volume rubbish trash hauler in local cities admits containers hold less than 3 cubic yards, from Press-Telegram, AM ED, P B6, 27 March 1995.	1-23
A	Final determinations of sales at less than fair value: Antifriction Bearings..., from Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, vol. 54, Issue 84, page 18992, 03 May 1989.	1-23

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International application No.  
PCT/US00/04817

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Documentation other than minimum documentation that are included in the fields searched:

Microsoft Press, Computer Dictionary 3rd edition.

Considine, Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia, 6th edition.

Downes et al., Barron's Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms, 5th edition.

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST2.0/DERWENT, DIALOG CLASSIC, NPL(PROQUEST DIRECT & CORPORATE RESOURCE NET), THE WWWWeb (with Netscape)

search terms: invoice\$ with advertis\$, broker, representative, @py < = 1998, US Classification 705/18,20,28,29,34; price list\$, cable television, multi-media, receive, organize, prepare, category, bill-able fee, identity, management, negotiate, purchase, opportunity, interface, parse, extract, rule, deliver, tracking display, transform, billing, insert, send, log, acknowledge