

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 November 2001 (15.11.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/86385 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/00**

J.; 13707 Springmint Drive, Cypress, TX 77429 (US).
BARTH, Merlyn, W.; 13102 Roundstone Ct., St. Louis,
MO 63146 (US).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/40694

(22) International Filing Date: 8 May 2001 (08.05.2001)

(74) Agent: **LEWIS, Terril, G.**; Howrey Simon Arnold &
White, LLP, 750 Bering Drive, Houston, TX 77057-2198
(US).

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/202,432 8 May 2000 (08.05.2000) US

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK,
SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

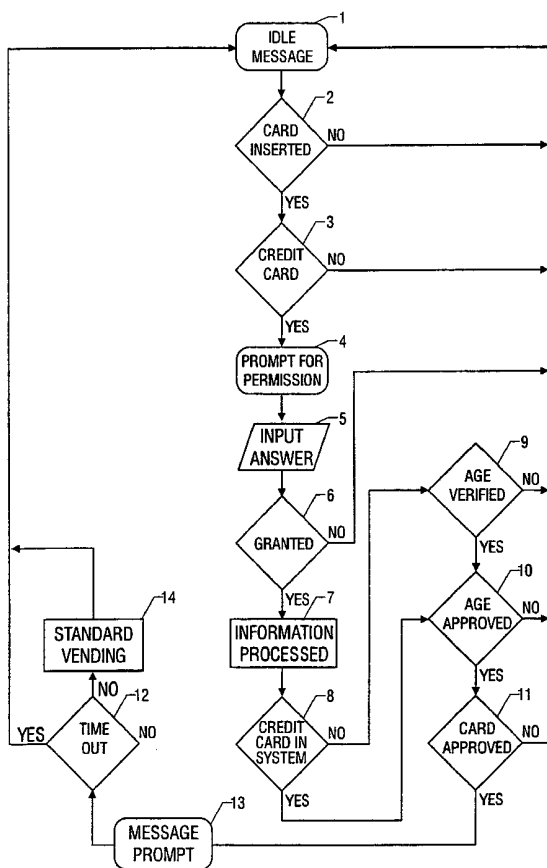
(71) Applicant: **THE DETSKY GROUP, LP** [US/US]; 13707
Springmint Drive, Cypress, TX 77429 (US).

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European

(72) Inventors: **METCALF, Jonathan, H.**; 12419 Logan Mill
Drive, Houston, TX 77070 (US). **O'LEARY, Robert,**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A VENDING MACHINE FOR VENDING AGE-RESTRICTED PRODUCTS USING A CREDIT CARD AND ASSO-
CIATED METHODS



(57) Abstract: An vending machine (10) for vending age-restricted products (14) is disclosed. The vending machine uses a customer's credit card to obtain age verification information from a consumer reporting agency via a modem (30). In a preferred embodiment, a customer inputs customer information, preferably a credit card number, into the vending machine (10). The vending machine (10) obtains permission from the customer to use the customer information to retrieve the customers age. The age data is either retrieved from a server farm (28) containing the age of the customer associated with the credit card or may be retrieved via a modem (30) from the database of a consumer reporting agency (32). The modem (30) connection allows the creditworthiness of the credit card to be checked via access to a credit card company database (32). If the age and credit card of the customer can be verified in this fashion, the vending machine (10) vends the product to the customer.

WO 01/86385 A3



patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

7 March 2002

Published:

— with international search report

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/40694

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC(7) :G06F 17/00 US CL : 700/237		
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. : 700/237		
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) East: USPAT,US-PGPUB,EPO,JPO,Derwent,IBM TDB; PLUS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P ----- Y, P	US 6,109,524 A (KANOH et al.) 29 August 2000, column 2, line 66; column 3, line 6; column 6, lines 10(30) (40, fig. 3) ; 16-32, 41-49,56-67; column 5, lines 46-61; column 2 line 66-column 3 line 6.	1, 5-22, 24, 27-32, 35-43, 45-51 ----- 2-4, 25, 26, 33, 34
X -- Y	US 5,042,686 A (STUCKI) 27 August 1991, column 3, lines 1-12, 31-67; abstract, column 4, lines 2, 23-38, 56-64, 65 to column 5, line 5. column 4, lines 45-55.	1-20, 22, 24-43, 45-51 ----- 8, 11, 19, 21, 37, 48
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
"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		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 04 OCTOBER 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 30 OCT 2001	
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 Christopher P. Ellis <i>Diane Smute f</i> Telephone No. (703) 308-0000	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/40694

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- Y	JP6-236477 A (SHIRAKAWA) 23 August 1994, computer translation, paragraphs 1, 3, 7-9, 11, 17 and 19.	1, 5-7, 9, 10, 14-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 40-43, 45, 46, 49-50 ----- 2-4, 25, 26, 33, 34
X	US 5,586,171 A (McCALLISTER et al.) 17 December 1996, column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 5; column 7, lines 6-14, 15-20 (310); 33-67.	1-8, 11-17, 19-22, 25-30, 32-37, 39, 41-43, 45-51
X	US 5,722,526 A (SHARRARD) 03 March 1998, column 2, lines 45-67; column 3, lines 3-44.	1-5, 8, 11, 19-21, 24- 27, 31-35, 40, 41, 43, 46
X	JP 8-241455 A (MISAWA) 17 September 1996, Abstract.	1,20,32,41, 24,31,40
A	US 4,995,081 A (LEIGHTON et al.) 19 February 1991.	1-51
A, P	US 6,085,976 A (SEHR) 11 July 2000.	1-51
A	US 5,139,384 A (TUTTOBENE) 18 August 1992.	1-51
A, P	US 6,078,902 A (SCHENKLER) 20 June 2000.	1-51
A	US 4,650,977 A (COUCH) 17 March 1987.	1-51
A	US 5,553,119 A (McCALLISTER et al.) 03 September 1996.	1-51
-	-	-
A	US 5,091,713 A (HORNE et al.) 25 February 1992.	1-51
A	US 5,647,505 A (SCOTT) 15 July 1997.	1-51
A	WO 99/09508 A (SMITH) 25 February 1999.	1-51

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/40694

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6,072,902 A (MYERS) 06 June 2000.	1-51