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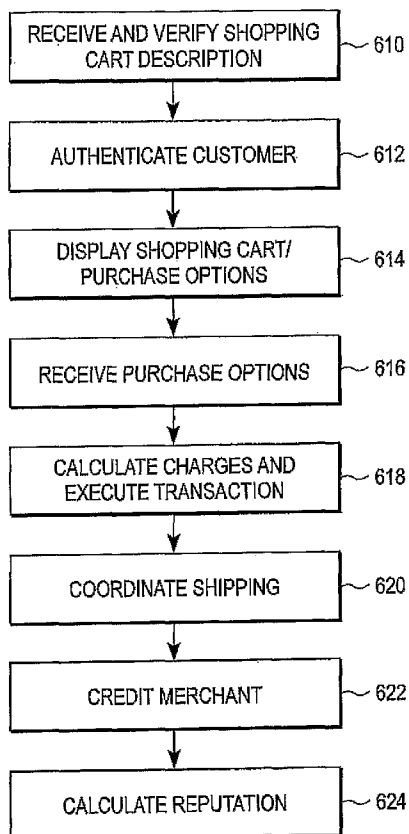
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(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONIC COMMERCE SYSTEM WITH CENTRALIZED POINT OF PURCHASE



(57) Abstract: An electronic commerce system includes a broker that enables customers to purchase items from merchants. A customer interacts with the merchant to identify items to purchase, and the merchant directs the customer to the broker in order to complete the transaction. The broker receives a description of a virtual shopping cart generated by the merchant and presents the customer with an interface allowing the customer to select shipping and other options for the purchase. The broker calculates a total amount for the transaction based on the shopping cart description and the options selected by the customer. The broker informs the merchant of the purchase and coordinates the shipment of the purchased items from the merchant to the customer.

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 6,499,052 B1 (HOANG et al.) 24 December 2002 (24.12.2002), entire document, especially Abstract, col 7, ln 5 - col 8, ln 15	1-3, 7-10, 14-17, and 21 4-6, 11-13, 18-20
Y	US 5,999,914 A (BLINN et al.) 7 December 1999 (07.12.1999) entire document, especially Abstract	4-6, 11-13, 18-20
A	US 5,918,213 A (BERNARD et al.) 29 June 1999 (29.06.1999), entire document	7, 14, 21
A	US 6,167,383 A (HENSON) 26 December 2000 (26.12.2000), entire document.	1-21
A	US 6,167,382 A (SPARKS et al.) 26 December 2000 (26.12.2000) entire document.	1-21
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