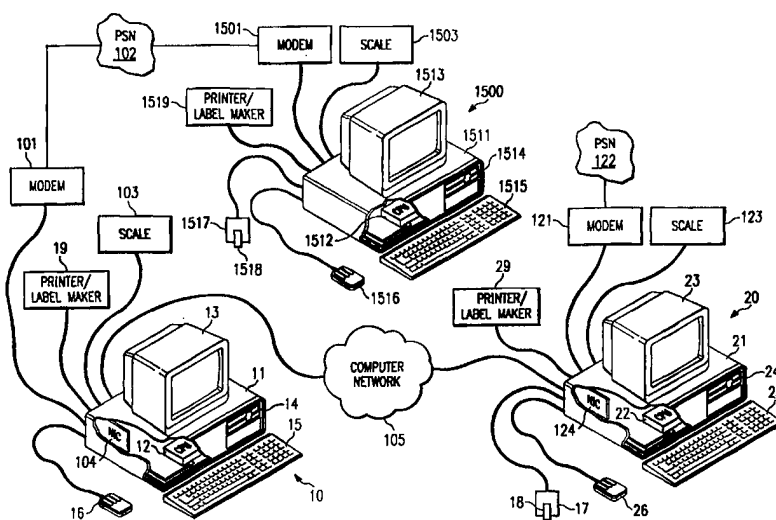


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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/17875 (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 1997 (02.10.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/727,833 2 October 1996 (02.10.96) US (71) Applicant: E-STAMP CORPORATION [US/US]; Suite 110, 3050 Post Oak Boulevard, Houston, TX 77056-6524 (US). (72) Inventor: KARA, Salim, G.; Suite 110, 3050 Post Oak Boulevard, Houston, TX 77056-6524 (US). (74) Agents: TANNENBAUM, David, H. et al.; Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., Suite 2800, 2200 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 4 June 1998 (04.06.98)	

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING POSTAGE CREDIT OVER A NETWORK



(57) Abstract

A system and method for printing postage indicia, including a desired postage amount, onto a piece of mail. A user takes a postal dispensing device to, or establishes information communication with, an authorized agent of a postal authority in order to obtain a replenishment of the amount of postage stored within the portable postage dispensing device. A desired amount of postage is entered into the dispensing device by an authorized agent through a host processor-based system. The user is then able to access this stored postage at the user's location through a network of processor-based systems. By using the network of processor-based systems the user is able to couple the portable dispensing device to a first processor-based system and then allow distribution of postage amounts to multiple ones of the networked processor-based systems. These ones of the networked processor-based systems may then print an authorized postage indicia on a postal item.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 97/17875

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: G07B 17/00

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)

IPC6: G07B

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)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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