



- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 9/50 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2012/055446
- (22) International Filing Date:
28 March 2012 (28.03.2012)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
11305533.9 6 May 2011 (06.05.2011) EP
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD, A SYSTEM, A FIRST SERVER, A SECOND SERVER, A COMPUTER PROGRAM AND A COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR SENDING INFORMATION ABOUT USERS ASSIGNED TO WORK ON TASKS IN A COMPUTER NETWORK

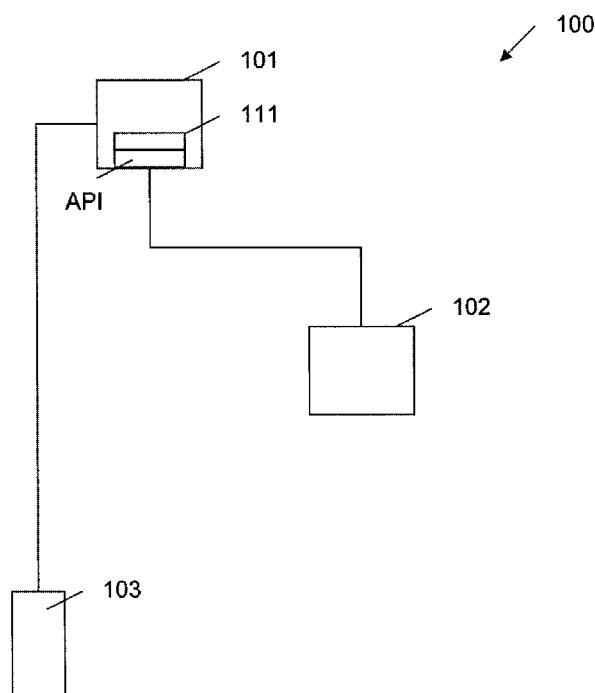


Fig.1

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, wherein data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to are stored in particular on a first server (101), wherein a request for information about a user is received, in particular via a receiver (API) of said first server (101), wherein said request comprises information about a predetermined task, wherein a test is performed, in particular by a processor (111) of said first server (101) to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, wherein a reply is sent, in particular by a sender (API) of said first server (101), depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.



SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

Published:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

A method, a system, a first server, a second server, a computer program and a computer program product for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks in a computer network

Field of the invention

5 The invention relates to a method, a system, a first server, a second server, a computer program and a computer program product for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks in a computer network.

Background

10 Assigning tasks to users in a computer network is known for example from resource management computer programs. In such resource management computer programs, typically projects are divided into tasks. Each task is assigned to one or more users. Datasets, for example in databases, are used to make such
15 assignments. Said datasets for example comprise username and task name.

Typically, the user of such resource management tool, the users working on tasks and - optionally - managers supporting the users, may access information about users and tasks via
20 said resource management tool. However, resource management systems are typically limited to provide static information about users working on tasks.

Summary

The object of the invention is thus to provide dynamic information about users working on tasks in said resource management system.

5 The main idea of the invention is thus to send information about users assigned to work on tasks, wherein datasets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to are stored, in particular on a first server, wherein a request for information about a user is received, in
10 particular via a receiver of said first server, wherein said request comprises information about a predetermined task, wherein a test is performed in particular by a processor of said first server to determine a dataset comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, wherein a
15 reply is sent in particular by a sender of said first server, depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user. This way, dynamic information about said users is provided to said resource management system via said computer network.

20 Advantageously, said reply is sent only if a dataset of a user assigned to said predetermined task is found. This avoids unnecessary network traffic.

Advantageously, a request to assign a dataset comprising information about a predetermined user with a predetermined
25 task is received in particular via said receiver of said first server. This way, a storage, storing said datasets, is updated with the latest information about users and their assignments to tasks in said resource management system. This improves further the quality of the information sent.

30 Advantageously, upon receipt of said request, said dataset of said predetermined user is assigned with said predetermined

task. This way, a new task assignment is recorded in said dataset to improve reliability of the information sent.

Advantageously, said request to assign said dataset is determined by a second server, in particular during creation of a new task in a resource management computer program executing on said second server, depending on input received upon prompting to select a user to be assigned to work on a predetermined task. This way, any change to task assignments on said second server using said resource management computer program are provided to said first server for up-to-date information about users to be sent back to said second server.

Advantageously, said reply is received and displayed by a second server. This way, said resource management system integrates said user information sent by said first server.

Advantageously, said information about said user comprises information about a geographical position of a device assigned to said user. This way, dynamically additional information like the geographic position of a user is added to the information sent.

Advantageously, said information about said user comprises information about an address of a device assigned to said user. This way, said user may be reachable via said device using the address of said device.

Advantageously, a communication connection request is sent do said address of said device assigned to said user. This way, an easy way for connecting user assigned to the same task of said resource management computer program is provided.

Further developments of the invention can be gathered from dependent claims and the following description.

Brief description of the figures

In the following the invention will be explained further, making reference to the attached drawings.

Figure 1 schematically shows part of a computer network.

5 Figure 2 schematically shows a first flowchart.

Figure 3 schematically shows a second flowchart.

Description of the embodiments

Figure 1 shows a part of a computer network 100.

10 Said computer network 100 comprises a first server 101, a second server 102 and a device 103.

Said first server 101, said second server 102 and said device 103 are connected for example via local area network (LAN), wireless local area network (WLAN, 802.11N) or wide area
15 network (WAN).

Said connection is for example according to the well known internet protocol (IP), user datagram protocol (UDP), transmission control protocol (TCP) or a stream control transmission protocol (SCTP).

20 Signaling is for example according to the well known simple object access protocol (SOAP), representational state transfer (REST) or session initiation protocol (SIP) or internet protocol multimedia subsystem (IMS).

Addressing may be done using the well known uniform resource
25 locators (URL), uniform resource identifiers (URI), names or namespaces of extensible markup language (XML version 1.0, 3rd edition, W3C recommendation 8, December 2009).

The connection can but must not be directly between the servers and the device. The typical use is on wide area networks with multiple intermediate devices, where only said servers and said device are depicted in figure 1.

5 Said first server 101 is adapted to store datasets comprising information about users. Furthermore, said datasets comprise information about tasks the users are assigned to.

Said datasets for example comprise a user identifier, for example a user name, a task marker, for example a string
10 "task1". Said dataset optionally comprises an address of a device assigned to said user, for example an IP-address. Furthermore said dataset for example comprises a user information, for example a GPS position from a device assigned to said user.

15 Furthermore, said first server 101 comprises a sender and receiver API, for example an application programmable interface. Said sender and receiver API is adapted to send and receive messages according to any of the aforementioned protocols.

20 Said first server 101 comprises a processor 111, adapted to determine datasets comprising information about users assigned to predetermined tasks.

Said first server 101 is for example adapted to upon receipt of a request for user information by said receiver determine
25 said user information from said datasets via said processor 111 and to send a reply comprising said information about said user using said sender API.

Optionally, said first server 101 is adapted to receive frequent updates from devices of users having datasets stored
30 on said first server 101. For example said first server 101 is adapted to receive pushed or polled updates. For example said

updates are regarding a GPS position of users having devices connected to said first server 101 via said computer network 100. For example said updates are pushed or polled every minute.

5 Said first server 101 is for example a server of an enterprise telecom system running a computer program providing said API and having a data base of telecommunication users.

10 Said second server 102 is adapted to run a resource management computer program. Said resource management computer program is for example a computer program adapted to assign individual tasks of a project to individual users. To that end, said second server 102 may comprise a database storing information about tasks and users and the assignment of tasks and users.

15 Additionally, said second server 102 is adapted to send and receive messages to and from said first server, for example using said application programmable interface of said first server.

20 Furthermore, said second server 102 is adapted to display replies received from said first server, for example said information about said user. For example said second server 102 is adapted to display said additional information like said GPS position next to said user's name in said resource management computer program.

25 Furthermore, said second server 102 may be adapted to establish a connection with a device assigned to a user. To that end, said second server 102 is for example adapted to receive said IP-number from said first server 101 as said information about said user and to send a request for a
30 connection to said device 103 of said user using said IP-address.

Said second server 102 is for example a server of a company who's worker use communication devices via said first server 101, e.g. said enterprise telecom system.

5 Methods for resource management and computer programs for that are well known to the person skilled in the art and not explained further. Said device 103 is adapted to connect to said first server 101 via said computer network 100. For example, said device 103 is a mobile phone with a GPS sensor having an address, for example an internet protocol address.
10 Furthermore, said device 103 is adapted to send GPS data to said first server 101 optionally. Said device 103 may send said GPS data to said first server via pushing or polling mode.

Furthermore, said device 103 is adapted to receive connection requests, for example using IP-addresses. Said device 103 is
15 for example assigned by said company to said worker and registered with said enterprise telecom system.

Below methods for integrating resource management system and enterprise telecom system are explained. Goal is to create a way for participants of a task in said resource management
20 system to access information about users of said device 103 that is typically only available to the telecom system.

A first method for sending user information is described below, making reference to figure 2. Goal of said first method is to create a link between a user of said resource management
25 and said enterprise communication system, preferably in real time.

Said message starts for example when a user of said resource management program adds a user to a task during creation of a new task or when modifying an existing task.

30 After the start, a step 201 is executed.

In said step 201, a prompt for user input, for example a window with a list of available users in order to select a user to be assigned to work on a predetermined task is displayed. Said task for example is identified by a task marker "task1".

5 Said users are for example identified by said user identifier, for example said user name.

Afterwards a optional step 202 is executed.

10 In said step 202 optionally a prompt for user input, for example a checkbox is displayed next to said user to be assigned to work on said predetermined task. Said prompt for example requests confirmation to add said user to a communication group for said predetermined task.

Afterwards, a optional step 203 is executed.

15 Said step 203 is optional. In said Step 203 a test is performed to determine if said user input, prompting confirmation for the addition of said user to said communication group is yes or no. For example said test determined via said checkbox is checked or not. In case said user shall be added to said communication group a step 204 is
20 executed. Otherwise the method ends. Ending in this context means that the regular resource management computer program continues with storing the information about said user and task assigned to without further information.

25 In said step 204 a request to assign the dataset of the predetermined user with the predetermined task is sent to said first server 101. Said request for example comprises said task marker "task1" and said user identifier, for example said username. Afterwards, a step 205 is executed.

30 In said step 205 a test is performed to determine whether a request to assign a dataset of a predetermined user with a predetermined task has been received, for example via said

receiver API. In case a request has been received a step 207 is executed, otherwise a step 206 is executed.

In said step 207 said dataset of said predetermined user is assigned to said predetermined user. For example said task
5 marker "task1" is stored in said dataset together with said user identifier, for example said username. Afterwards, the method ends.

In said step 206 a timeout condition is monitored. In case said timeout condition is met, said method ends. Otherwise said
10 step 205 is executed.

A second method for sending said user information is described making reference to figure 3. Goal of said second method is to use said link between a user of said resource management and said enterprise communication system, to make
15 updated information about said user from said telecom system available in said resource management system, preferably in real time. This way ad hoc conferences with available workers of tasks can easily be scheduled, workers tagged by said task marker may be found and communication may be routed by said
20 enterprise telecom system automatically, or position of users working on the task tagged with said task marker may be displayed in said resource management system.

Said method starts for example upon receipt of a request about information about a user assigned to a predetermined
25 task. Said request for example contains said task marker "task1".

After the start, a step 301 is executed.

In said step 301 a test is performed to determine if datasets containing said task marker for example "task1" is available in
30 said storage. In case a dataset containing said task marker is found, a step 302 is executed. Otherwise said method ends.

In said step 302 said user information is determined, for example said username is determined from said dataset.

Afterwards an optional step 303 is executed.

5 In said optional step 303 a test is performed to determine if said user information has been determined for all datasets containing said task marker. In case all user information from all datasets containing said task marker, e.g. "task1" have been determined, a step 304 is executed, otherwise said step 302 is executed.

10 In said step 304 said user information, for example said username is sent. Afterwards, said method ends.

Optionally, in said step 304 all usernames found in step 302 and 303 are sent.

15 Optionally, said GPS-data of one or all users are determined from said datasets and set in said steps 302, 303 and 304.

The methods described above may be implemented as computer programs and stored on computer program products.

20 The description and drawings merely illustrate the principles of the invention. It will thus be appreciated that those skilled in the art will be able to devise various arrangements that, although not explicitly described or shown herein, embody the principles of the invention and are included within its spirit and scope. Furthermore, all examples recited herein are principally intended expressly to be only for pedagogical
25 purposes to aid the reader in understanding the principles of the invention and the concepts contributed by the inventor(s) to furthering the art, and are to be construed as being without limitation to such specifically recited examples and conditions. Moreover, all statements herein reciting
30 principles, aspects, and embodiments of the invention, as well

as specific examples thereof, are intended to encompass equivalents thereof.

The functions of the various elements shown in the figures, including any functional blocks labeled as 'processors', may be provided through the use of dedicated hardware as well as hardware capable of executing software in association with appropriate software. When provided by a processor, the functions may be provided by a single dedicated processor, by a single shared processor, or by a plurality of individual processors, some of which may be shared. Moreover, explicit use of the term 'processor' or 'controller' should not be construed to refer exclusively to hardware capable of executing software, and may implicitly include, without limitation, digital signal processor (DSP) hardware, network processor, application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), field programmable gate array (FPGA), read only memory (ROM) for storing software, random access memory (RAM), and non volatile storage. Other hardware, conventional and/or custom, may also be included. Similarly, any switches shown in the figures are conceptual only. Their function may be carried out through the operation of program logic, through dedicated logic, through the interaction of program control and dedicated logic, or even manually, the particular technique being selectable by the implementer as more specifically understood from the context.

It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that any block diagrams herein represent conceptual views of illustrative circuitry embodying the principles of the invention. Similarly, it will be appreciated that any flow charts, flow diagrams, state transition diagrams, pseudo code, and the like represent various processes which may be substantially represented in computer readable medium and so executed by a computer or processor, whether or not such computer or processor is explicitly shown.

A person of skill in the art would readily recognize that steps of various above-described methods can be performed by programmed computers. Herein, some embodiments are also intended to cover program storage devices, e.g., digital data storage media, which are machine or computer readable and encode machine-executable or computer-executable programs of instructions, wherein said instructions perform some or all of the steps of said above-described methods. The program storage devices may be, e.g., digital memories, magnetic storage media such as a magnetic disks and magnetic tapes, hard drives, or optically readable digital data storage media. The embodiments are also intended to cover computers programmed to perform said steps of the above-described methods.

Claims

1. A method for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, **wherein** data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to are stored in particular on a first server (101), wherein a request for information about a user is received, in particular via a receiver (API) of said first server (101), wherein said request comprises information about a predetermined task, wherein a test is performed, in particular by a processor (111) of said first server (101) to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, wherein a reply is sent, in particular by a sender (API) of said first server (101), depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said reply is sent only if a data set of a user assigned to said predetermined task is found.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein a request to assign a data set comprising information about a predetermined user with a predetermined task is received, in particular via said receiver (API) of said first server (101).
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein upon receipt of said request, said data set of said predetermined user is assigned with said predetermined task.
5. The method according to claim 3, wherein said request to assign said data set is determined by a second server (102), in particular during creation of a new task in a resource management computer program executing on said second server (102), depending on input received upon

prompting to select a user to be assigned to work on a predetermined task.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said reply is received and displayed by a second server (102).

5 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said information about said user comprises information about a geographical position of a device (103) assigned to said user.

10 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said information about said user comprises information about an address of a device (103) assigned to said user.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein a communication connection request is sent to said address of said device assigned to said user.

15 10. A first server (101) for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, **wherein** said first server (101) is adapted to store data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to, wherein a receiver (API) of said first server (101) is adapted to receive a request for information about a user, wherein
20 said request comprises information about a predetermined task, wherein a processor (111) of said first server (101) is adapted to perform a test to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, a sender (API) of said first server
25 (101) is adapted to send a reply depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.

30 11. A second server (102) for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, **wherein** said second server (102) is adapted to determine and send a request to assign

a data set, during creation of a new task in a resource management computer program executing on said second server (102), depending on input received upon prompting to select a user to be assigned to work on a predetermined task, and wherein said second server (102) is adapted to receive a reply , wherein said reply comprises information about said user.

12. A system for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, **wherein** a first server (101) is adapted to store data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to, wherein a receiver (API) of said first server (101) is adapted to receive a request for information about a user, wherein said request comprises information about a predetermined task, wherein a processor (111) of said first server (101) is adapted to perform a test to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, a sender (API) of said first server (101) is adapted to send a reply depending on the result of said test wherein a second server (102) is adapted to determine and send a request to assign a data set, in particular during creation of a new task in a resource management computer program executing on said second server (102), depending on input received upon prompting to select a user to be assigned to work on a predetermined task, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.

13. A computer program for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks, **wherein** said computer program, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to store data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to, to receive a request for information about a user, in particular via a interface (API), wherein said request comprises information about a

predetermined task, to perform a test to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, and to send a reply depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.

14. A computer program product for sending information about users assigned to work on tasks comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program, **wherein** said computer readable program, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to store data sets comprising information about users and tasks the users are assigned to, to receive a request for information about a user, in particular via a interface (API), wherein said request comprises information about a predetermined task, to perform a test to determine a data set comprising information about a user assigned to said predetermined task, and to send a reply depending on the result of said test, wherein said reply comprises information about said user.

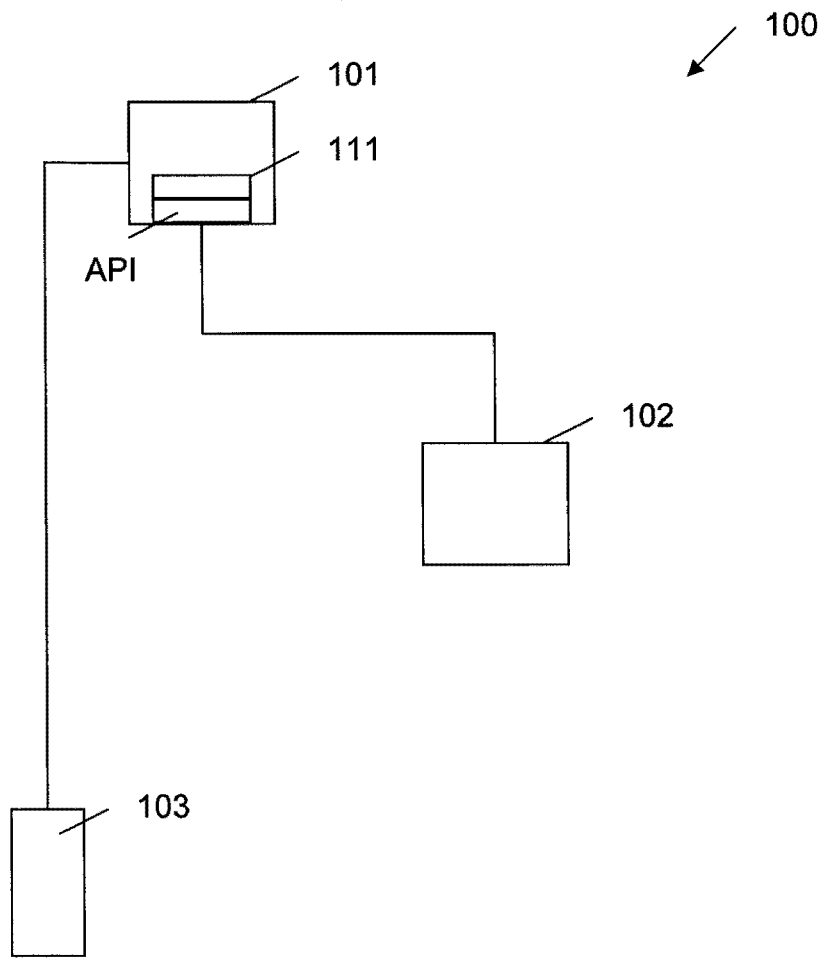


Fig.1

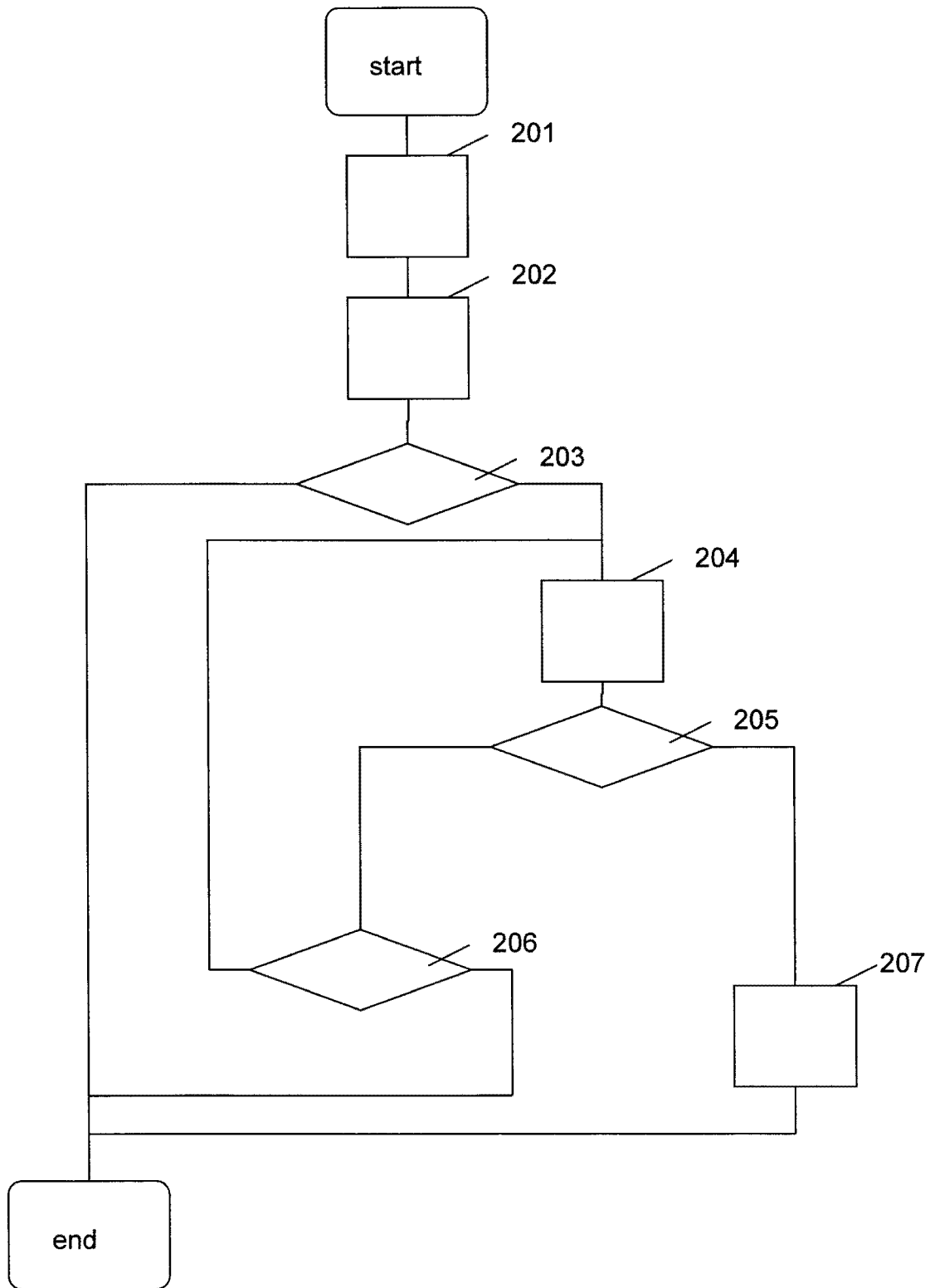


Fig.2

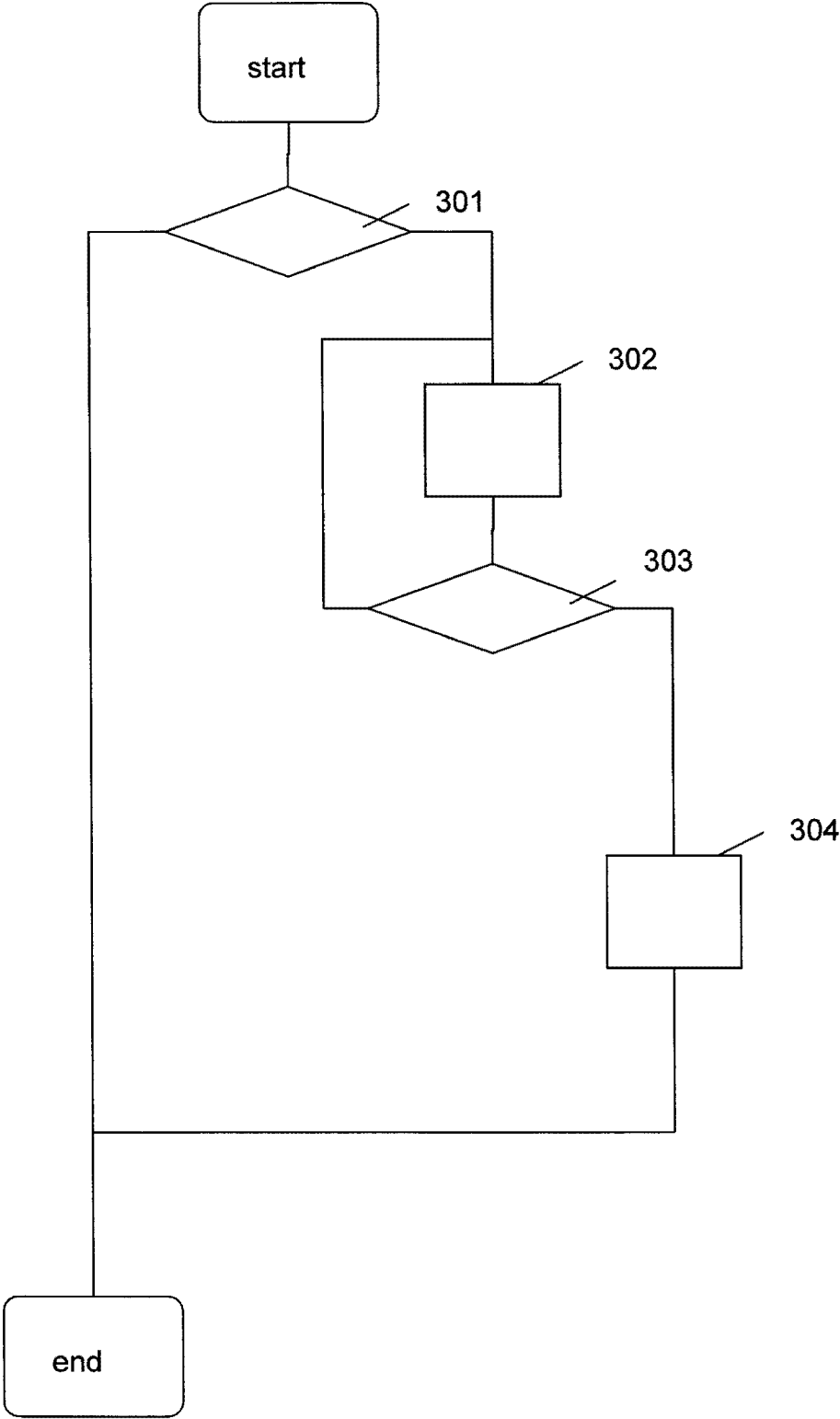


Fig.3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2012/055446

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06F9/50
ADD.

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)
H04L G06F G06Q

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2010/076774 A1 (FRANCE TELECOM [FR]; LAU WILSON WAI-SANG [US]; LEE DOMINIC [US]) 8 July 2010 (2010-07-08) page 8, line 25 - page 10, line 14 page 27, line 30 - page 37, line 26 figure 5	1-14
A	----- HOLLINGSWORTH D: "Workflow Management Coalition, The Workflow Reference Model", INTERNET CITATION, 19 January 1995 (1995-01-19), XP002218704, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.wfmc.org/standards/docs/tc0 03v11.pdf [retrieved on 2002-10-29] the whole document -----	1-14



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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- "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

- "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
- "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
- "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.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 April 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/04/2012

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Mühlenbrock, Martin

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2012/055446

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2010076774 A1	08-07-2010	EP 2382590 A1 WO 2010076774 A1	02-11-2011 08-07-2010
