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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
27 November 2008

(54) Title: MOBILE TRADING CARD GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

(57) Abstract: A computer-implemented method for generating and distributing electronic trading cards, such as for use with mobile devices, generates instances of electronic trading cards and distributes the instances to users over a computer network. A finite number of instances of each electronic trading card may be generated. Electronic trading card instances may include an image and a digital watermark. Each instance of an electronic trading card may have a unique identifier. One instance of an electronic trading card may include content that is not included on all other instances of the same card. A randomly-generated "pack" of cards may be purchased by and distributed to the user. The contents of the pack may not be made visible to the user until completion of the purchase. Users may purchase additional features, such as a guarantee that the user will not be provided with duplicate instances of any trading card.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/08099

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A63F 13/00(2006.01)

USPC: 463/42

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. : 463/42

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,200,216 (Peppel) 13 March 2001 (13.3.2001), ALL	27-33
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Y		1-26
Y	US 2002/0165694 (Ishihara) 7 November 2002 (7.11.2002) ALL	1-26
A	US 2005/0056700 (McKinley et al) 17 March 2005 (17.03.2005), ALL	ALL

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"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

07 August 2008 (07.08.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/08099

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-33

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING**

Group I, claim(s) 1-33, drawn to generating an electronic card.

Group II, claim(s) 34-36, drawn to an electronic card service program payment plan.

1. This International Searching Authority considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I does not generally deal with a program payment plan. Group II does not generally deal with generating an electronic trading card.