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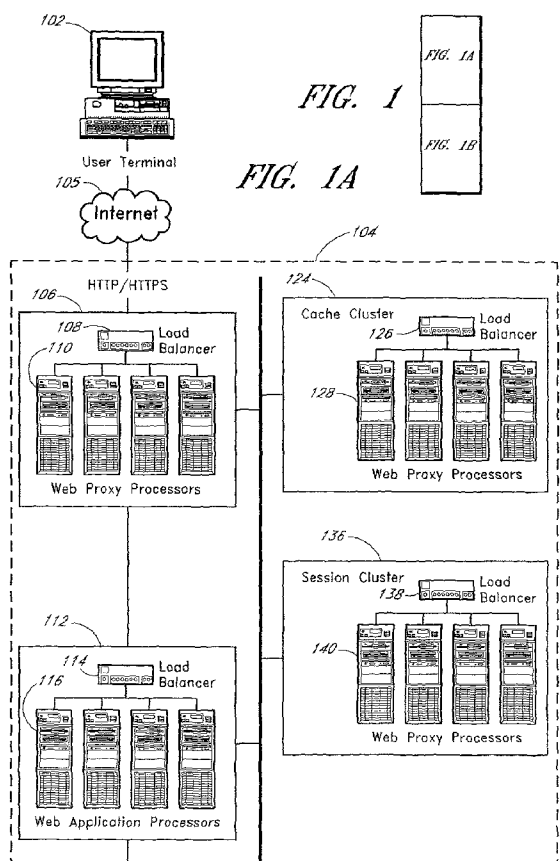
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING RESOURCES ALLOCATION IN A NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: Methods and systems for allocating resources, such as computer controlled resources, in a networked system are described. In an example embodiment, a plurality of requests to select one or more resources are received from distributed computer systems over a network at a receiving computer system. The receiving computer system allocates resource selection time windows to at least a portion of the requests based on one or more allocation criteria, and transmits information regarding the allocated resource selection time windows to corresponding requesting computer systems.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/72364

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(8) - G06F 15/173 (2009.01) USPC - 709/226 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) USPC: 709/226 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC: 709/201, 203, 223, 225, 226, 229; 718/100, 102, 104; 700/90, 91, 99, 101 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Electronic Databases Searched: PubWEST (PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB); GoogleScholar Search Terms Used: grid computing, distributed processing, load balancing, resource allocation/scheduling, networking, ranking/priority authorization, time, temporal, window/frame, authorization code/key/ticket/token etc.		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2007/0055554 A1 (SUSSMAN et al.) 08 March 2007 (08.03.2007) Entire document, especially: para [0008]-[0009], [0028], [0078], [0096]-[0099], [0105], [0180], [0304], [0307], [0338], [0362], [0372]	22-30
Y	US 2005/0138175 A1 (KUMAR et al.) 23 June 2005 (23.06.2005) Entire document, especially: para [0005], [0016]-[0017], [0021]-[0030], [0034]-[0035], [0044] and Fig. 1, 3	1-21
Y	US 2007/0087756 A1 (HOFFBERG) 19 April 2007 (19.04.2007) Entire document, especially: Abstract; Claim 5, 6, 8; para [0096]-[0099], [0214], [0220], [0457], [0496], [0502]-[0512]; and Fig. 8, 9	1-21
A	US 2005/0027863 A1 (TALWAR et al.) 03 February 2005 (03.02.2005)	1-30
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* 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 but 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 21 January 2009 (21.01.2009)		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>30 JAN 2009</b>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/72364

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

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

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims 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.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

(See Extra 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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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.:  
Claims 1-30

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of:

Box No. III -- Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

(i) Invention Groups:

Group 1: claims 1-30

Group 2: claims 31-85 and 87-111

Group 3: claims 86 and 112-160

(ii) Reasons for lack of Unity of Invention:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group 1, claims 1-30, drawn to a method/system for allocating computer resources by allocating ranked rights to select resources to the user requests based on the rankable criteria/ attribute.

Group 2, claims 31-85 and 87-111, drawn to a method/system for adjusting item characteristic/value by determining users/bidders for the items based on number of received user request/bids, number of allocated items and/or number of available unallocated items.

Group 3, claims 86 and 112-160, a method/system for reallocating item by transmitting to the user terminal an offer to resale item and receiving from the user terminal an indication to resale item and a specified resale price for the item.

The inventions listed as Groups 1-3 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: The special technical feature of the Group 1 invention is allocating computer resources by allocating ranked rights to select resources to the user requests based on the rankable criteria/ attribute. The special technical feature of the Group 2 invention is adjusting item characteristic/value by determining users/bidders for the items based on number of received user request/bids, number of allocated items and/or number of available unallocated items. The special technical feature of the Group 3 invention is reallocating item by transmitting to the user terminal an offer to resale item and receiving from the user terminal an indication to resale item and a specified resale price for the item. None of these special technical features are common to the other groups, nor do they correspond to a special technical feature in the other groups. Therefore, unity of invention is lacking.