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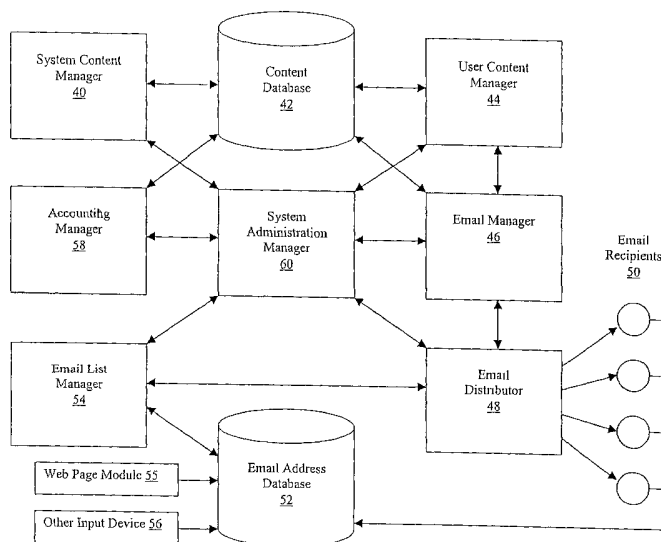
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR MULTILEVEL ELECTRONIC MAIL COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS



(57) Abstract: An electronic mail communication system enables a user to create an email message (46) from system supplied content and user supplied content. The system may be configured in accordance with an electronic mail communication program participant hierarchy. Each system user within the communication program is affiliated with a participant, and each participant has access to a respective set of system tools used in the creation of an email message that incorporates system content (40) and user content (44). Each system user further has a respective level of authority in accordance with the use of system tools based on its participant affiliation.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/36042

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : G06F 17/21

US CL : 715/501.1, 513, 530; 709/206; 705/14

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. : 715/501.1, 513, 530; 709/206; 705/14

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)

WEST Database:

email, marketing, e-commerce, customize email, email editors, etc.

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,230,156 B1 (HUSSEY) 08 May 2001, all.	1-71
A, P	US 6,453,347 B1 (REVASHETTI et al) 17 September 2002, all.	1-71
A, P	US 6,393,464 B1 (DIETERMAN) 21 May 2002, all.	1-71
A, P	US 6,446,115 B2 (POWERS) 03 September 2002, all.	1-71
A, E	US 6,480,885 B1 (OLIVIER) 12 November 2002, all.	1-71

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"Z" document member of the same patent family
"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	

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