



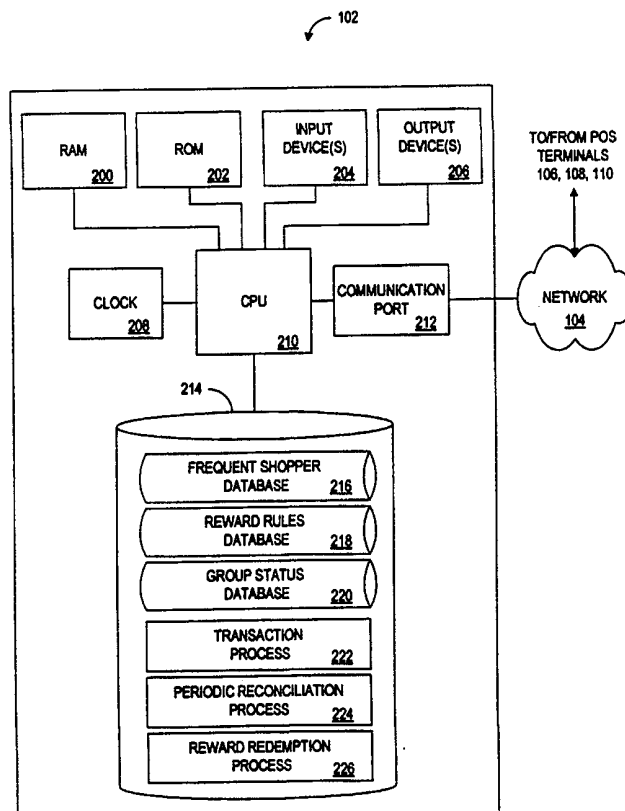
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(54) Title: POINT-OF-SALE SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GROUP REWARDS

(57) Abstract

In a method and apparatus for managing a group reward program, a group of consumers is registered with a merchant as a shopping group. The apparatus includes a frequent shopper database (216), a reward rules database (218), a group status database (220), a CPU (210), and a network (104) of point-of-sale terminals (106, 108, 110).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
PCT/US98/21218
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :G06F 17/60

US CL :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. : 705/10, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 38, 41

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.
A	US 5,025,372 A (BURTON et al.) 18 JUNE 1991 see Abstract	1-58
A	US 5,053,957 A (SUZUKI) 01 OCTOBER 1991 see Abstract	1-58
A	US 5,056,019 A (SCHULTZ et al.) 08 OCTOBER 1991 see Abstract	1-58
A	US 5,287,268 A (MCCARTHY) 15 FEBRUARY 1994 see Abstract	1-58
A	US 5,297,026 A (HOFFMAN) 22 MARCH 1994 see Abstract	1-58

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Sinton, Peter; "Pick a Card, But Not Just Any Card"; The San Francisco Chronicle; October 10, 1994; p. D1; see entire document	1-58
A	Jones, Cliff; "Plastic Interest in Sweet Charity"; The Guardian; December 10, 1994; p. 35; see entire document	1-58
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A	Drexel Alumni Affinity Card (http://alum.ia.drexel.edu); January 1, 1996; see entire document	1-58
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A	Jolis, Alan; "The Good Banker"; The Independent; May 5, 1996; see entire document	1-58
A	US 5,537,314 A (KANTER) 16 JULY 1996 see Abstract	1-58
A	"Affinity Cards"; BradescoNet Internet Banking; (http://www.bradesco.com.br/veringl/ccard/affinity/closedc.html); download date: July 21, 1996; see entire document	1-58
A	"MasterCard Affinity Card"; McGill University (http://www.mcgill.ca/alumni/m_card.html); download date: July 21, 1996; see entire document	1-58
A	"The Binghamton University Alumni Association Mastercard(R) Credit Card"; Binghamton University (http://www.webapply.com/bingu/apply.html); download date: July 21, 1996; see entire document	1-58
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A	US 5,621,640 A (BURKE) 15 APRIL 1997 see Abstract	1-58

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Sanders, Edmund; "Card Sharks"; The Orange County Register; June 15, 1997; p. K01; see entire document	1-58
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