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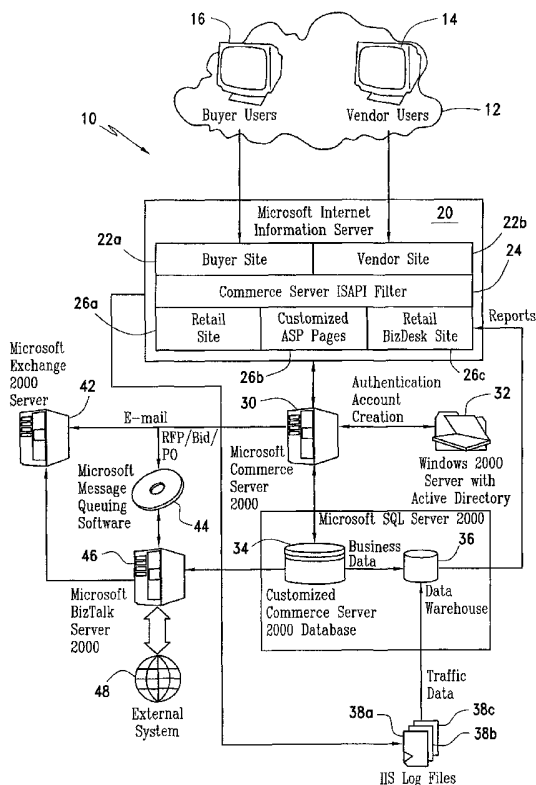
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE SELECTION OF PRODUCTS BY BUYERS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE SELECTED PRODUCTS FROM A SUPPLIER



(57) Abstract: A method is disclosed for managing the sale of a plurality of items from a plurality of corresponding suppliers to at least one buyer, wherein the one buyer determines a description of the item to be purchased. The method enables each of the plurality of suppliers to store at least one catalogue of its items in a database and responding to a search request of the one buyer to identify any item in the catalogues stored in the database with a description that matches the item description of the buyer.

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1 **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE SELECTION**
2 **OF PRODUCTS BY BUYERS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE**
3 **SELECTED PRODUCTS FROM A SUPPLIER**

4
5 **Field of the Invention**

6 This invention relates to systems and methods for conducting sales transactions
7 involving the sale of items, e.g., products and/or services, involving a plurality purchasers
8 and a plurality of suppliers of the items. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the
9 system and apparatus are implement in a network or Internet environment. Such an
10 embodiments have been popularly referred to as E-commerce.

11
12 **Related Application**

13 This international application is related to and depends for priority from: 1) U.S.
14 Provisional Application No. 60/427,660, filed November 19, 2002 in the names of Leonard
15 Steven Haynes, Kevin Frederick Lippincott and William Craig Dunlap, entitled
16 "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE SELECTION OF
17 PRODUCTS BY BUYERS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE SELECTED PRODUCTS
18 FROM SUPPLIERS", and incorporated herein by reference; and 2) U.S. Non-Provisional
19 Application No. 10/337,167, filed January 6, 2003 in the names of Leonard Steven Haynes,
20 Kevin Frederick Lippincott and William Craig Dunlap, entitled "APPARATUS AND
21 METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE SELECTION OF PRODUCTS BY BUYERS AND
22 THE PURCHASE OF THE SELECTED PRODUCTS FROM SUPPLIERS", and
23 incorporated herein by reference.

24
25 **Background of the Invention**

26 The advent of the Internet has given rise to E-Commerce, whereby buyers and sellers
27 may offer goods and/or services for sale, select the goods and/or services to be purchased and
28 to consummate the sale by arranging for the payment of the services and/or goods. The
29 Internet comprises a vast number of computers and computer networks that are
30 interconnected through communication links. The interconnected computers exchange
31 information using various services, such as electronic mail, Gopher, and the World Wide

1 Web ("WWW"). The WWW service allows a server computer system (i.e., web server or
2 web site) to send graphical web pages of information to a remote client computer system.
3 The remote client computer system can then display the web pages. Each resource (e.g.,
4 computer or web page) of the WWW is uniquely identifiable by a Uniform Resource Locator
5 ("URL"). To view a specific web page, a client computer system specifies the URL for that
6 web page in a request (e.g. a HyperText Transfer Protocol ("HTTP") request). The request is
7 forwarded to the web server that supports that web page. When the web server receives the
8 request, it sends that web page to the client computer system. When the client computer
9 system receives that web page, it typically displays the web page using a browser. A
10 browser is a special-purpose application program that effects the requesting of web pages
11 and the displaying of web pages.

12 Currently, web pages are typically composed using HyperText Markup Language
13 ("HTML"). HTML provides a standard set of tags that define how a web page is to be
14 displayed. When a user indicates to the browser to display a web page, the browser sends a
15 request to the server computer system to transfer to the client computer system an HTML
16 document that defines the web page. When the requested HTML document is received by
17 the client computer system, the browser displays the web page as defined by the HTML
18 document. The HTML document contains various tags that control the displaying of text,
19 graphics, controls, and other features. The HTML document may contain URLs of other
20 web pages available on that server computer system or other server computer systems.

21 The World Wide Web or Internet is especially conducive to conducting commerce,
22 commonly referred to as E-Commerce. Web Servers have been programmed to permit
23 vendors to provide a wide array of products and services for sale over the Internet. A user,
24 who is a potential purchaser, may browse one or more web sites, which provide lists of
25 products or services for sale, much like a catalogue. A purchaser may preview these lists to
26 select a desired product or services to be purchased. When the user has completed selecting
27 the items to be purchased, the server computer system then prompts the user to enter
28 information to complete the ordering of the selected items. This purchase generally deals
29 with how and where the selected items may be delivered to the purchaser and how the
30 purchaser will pay for the selected items.

1 E-Commerce has also been used to facilitate the distribution and purchase of
2 promotional items such as clothing, writing utensils, and a variety of other goods and
3 services. Typically, a marking such as a trademark, a logo or the like phrase may be added
4 to a selected promotional product. For example, the buyer may select from a list or catalogue
5 of products a particular product and then insert, superimpose or otherwise attach the selected
6 marking to the product. One of the problems associated with the distribution and sale of
7 promotional products and/or services is the difficulty in providing a representation of the
8 promotional product with the selected marking superimposed thereon to the perspective
9 buyer. Before the advent of E-Commerce, a promotional products distributor would
10 physically superimpose the selected marking on to the selected product and forward that
11 sample product to the perspective buyer, thus permitting the perspective buyer to preview the
12 composite image before placing an order for a quantity of such customized products.

13 E-commerce has permitted a service to be marketed over the Internet that involves the
14 superimposing of one image on another to permit the prospective purchaser to preview the
15 composite image before buying. TOMAX USA.com (www.tomaxusa.com/e-sample/) is an
16 example of such a service, where a second image of a logo of a business, a company or an
17 athletic team for example may be superimposed on a *first image in the form of promotion*
18 *merchandise* such as a watch, clock, calculators or other electronics. Initially, a second
19 image logo is forwarded to TOMAX. The logo may be in the form of a photograph, e.g., a
20 black and white color separated artwork of the logo, and, in that form, would be forwarded
21 by mail to TOMAX. Alternatively, the logo may be scanned and converted to a digital
22 signal, before being formatted by Adobe Illustrator into an EPS format or by Adobe
23 PhotoShop; the formatted signals are then transmitted to TOMAX USA.com. If E-mailed, an
24 indication of the PMS color also needs to be transmitted to permit the logo to be reproduced
25 at the processing site in its precise colors. At the processing site, the received image of the
26 logo is converted back to a hard copy, before it is assembled with the selected promotional
27 product and a photograph of the logo superimposed on the product is taken. In turn, the
28 photograph is scanned and the converted, and the rasterized image is transmitted as an E-
29 mail attachment to the user's browser, where it may be previewed. TOMAX USA indicates
30 that the superimposing process will require 60 hours or perhaps less, depending on workload.

1 In addition, a security code number is transmitted with the superimposed image to the
2 purchaser, while the superimposed image is also uploaded to the web site of TOMAX USA..
3 The purchaser may use that security code to access on line the superimposed image from
4 TOMAX USA's web site. Similarly, the purchaser may give that security code to another
5 person, a customer of the purchaser for example, whereby the customer may also view the
6 superimposed image from this web site. A drawback to the technique described above is that
7 the superimposing is performed photographically and, as a result, requires a significant
8 amount of time.

9 U.S. Patent 6,334,853, assigned to the same assignee of this invention, describes an
10 E-Commerce system comprising a client's system for one or more potential buyers, and at
11 least one server to support the client's system or systems. The server includes at least first
12 and second libraries for respectively storing first images of promotional goods, products
13 and/or services, and markings, e.g., logos, trademarks or the like. The server is programmed
14 to construct a first web page with a description of at least one of the promotional products,
15 and a second web page with a description and/or an image of the marking to be
16 superimposed on a product. The first and second web pages are downloaded to the client
17 system, whereby the perspective buyer may browse the offered products and select one of the
18 promotional products and one of the markings to be superimposed upon the selected product
19 to provide a composite image. The composite image is in turn embedded in a third web
20 page, which is downloaded to the client system, whereby the composite image may be
21 displayed upon the client's system and the perspective buyer may preview the composite
22 image before purchasing.

23 International Patent Publication No. WO 01/23989 describes an E-Commerce system
24 for distributing promotional products, which may be used by the following entities: 1) a user
25 (e.g., customer or buyer); 2) a distributor who may control the server; and 3) a supplier of the
26 promotional goods and/or services. The distributor uses icons to display the promotional
27 items, which are included in a view and sent to a user. By activating one of these icons, the
28 user sends to the distributor a signal to display the different styles of the promotional
29 products. The supplier may pay an additional fee to the distributor to have its promotional
30 products more prominently displayed so that a user would be more inclined to order it.

1 Further, the distributor can determine which supplier or suppliers will provide a particular
2 promotional product. Further, a user sends to the receiver an order that includes an
3 electronic file comprised of the promotional product and a marking. Then, the distributor
4 combines the promotional item with the marking to create a representation of how the
5 marking should appear on the promotional product. If the user has a further interest in the
6 displayed promotional item, the user sends to the distributor a signal to display further
7 information about the promotional product. Further, the distributor can determine which
8 supplier or suppliers will provide a promotional product at a particular icon. If the user
9 wishes to order a particular product it will input further details of the particular promotional
10 product. As such details are input by the user, they are sent to the receiver, whereby the user
11 can see how prices are changing as information is changed. In particular, the screen includes
12 a view of a quantity section with various quantity levels that correspond to various prices.
13 When the user determines the quantity of a particular promotional item that he or she desires,
14 he or she will enter the proper quantity into the system. After the user has provided its
15 authorization to the distributor, the distributor in turn sends order information to the supplier.
16 Maintenance of the database used for a promotional items web site can be performed in part
17 by the distributor, the supplier or both. Typically, the distributor will control the database
18 but may allow limited access to the supplier. Both the distributor and the supplier may send
19 an electronic signal to add or remove items from the database. When the order is placed, the
20 distributor sends appropriate information to the suppliers. However, the user may not even
21 know that different suppliers are being used. Because the ordering can be done over the
22 Internet, it allows the order to move more quickly and be processed by the supplier.

23 The above identified International Publication notes the difficulty in facilitating a
24 purchaser to find a particular promotional product due to the number of suppliers and
25 promotional items that are available. Typically there are a large number of distributors and
26 an even larger number of promotional items. Each distributor has at least one catalogue
27 listing products and/or services which are selected by a distributor from a supplier and
28 incorporated into the distributor's catalogue.

29 Various economic models are employed to compensate the various entities for their
30 participation in the distribution and sale of promotional products and/or goods. One of the

1 most common economic models is to permit the distributor to provide a mark up of the
2 supplier's price; typically, such mark up may be fifty or more percent of the supplier's price,
3 thus resulting in a significant increase in the price to a buyer. In the above noted
4 International Application, there is described a system involving the buyer, the distributor, the
5 supplier and an intermediary. The supplier and distributor in such a system can pay a
6 commission or other fees to the intermediary based on the use (monitored by hits or central
7 processing unit time) or by orders made using the system. In another embodiment, order
8 information is sent to the distributor and the supplier. Alternatively, financial information
9 for the order is sent by the intermediary to the supplier. When consideration is received by
10 the supplier from the buyer, the supplier keeps it's share and pays a portion of the
11 consideration to the distributor and another portion to the intermediary.

12 13 **Object of the Invention**

14 It is an object of this invention to provide new and improved method and apparatus
15 for facilitating the sale to any of a plurality of buyers of a large number of items supplied by
16 a plurality of suppliers.

17 It is a further object of this invention to eliminate from the purchasing process any
18 distributor or middle-man and their markup charges.

19 It is a still further object of this invention to provide apparatus and method that
20 permits any of the plurality of buyers to communicate directly with any of the plurality of
21 suppliers.

22 It is a still further object of this invention to carry out the purchasing process of this
23 invention in a network and, in particular, an Internet environment whereby this invention's
24 apparatus and method may automated for cost efficiency, speed of process and increasing
25 significantly the number of items (products and/or services) that are readily available for sale
26 to potential buyers.

27 **Summary**

28 In accordance with these and other objects of this invention, there is disclosed a
29 method of managing the sale of a plurality of items from a plurality of corresponding
30 suppliers to at least one buyer, wherein the one buyer determines a description of the item to

1 be purchased. The method enables each of the plurality of suppliers to store at least one
2 catalogue of its items in a database and responding to a search request of the one buyer to
3 identify any item in the catalogues stored in the database with a description that matches the
4 item description of the buyer.

5 In a further aspect of the invention, there is disclosed a system for carrying out a
6 transaction involving at least one item supplied by at least one supplier and potentially
7 purchased by at least one buyer. Each of the one supplier and the one buyer has a terminal
8 connected to a network. The system comprises at least one interface including a database
9 and at least one server that is connected to the network and is programmed to provide a buyer
10 web site to permit the one buyer to communicate over the network between the buyer's
11 terminal and the interface. The server is further programmed to provide a supplier web site
12 to permit the supplier to communicate over the network between the supplier's terminal and
13 the interface, whereby one of the buyer and supplier may transmit a message related to the
14 one item from its terminal to the interface and further transmit the message from the interface
15 to the terminal of the other of the buyer and supplier.

16 In another aspect of this invention, there is described a method of constructing a
17 searchable database that stores at least one catalogue of items that may be bought by at least
18 one buyer and are supplied by at least one supplier. The method comprises the steps of the
19 one supplier selecting which of its items that are to be included in its catalogue, the supplier
20 attaching to each selected item a description of that item and, then, storing each item and
21 attached description in a database. Thus the buyer is entitled to search the catalog of items
22 stored in the database based on the descriptions of the items.

23 In a still further feature of this invention, there is described a method of managing a
24 system to carry out transactions involving the purchase by each of a plurality of buyers of
25 selected of a plurality of items, selected of the plurality of items being supplied by
26 corresponding ones of a plurality of suppliers. Each of the plurality of buyers and each of
27 said plurality of suppliers is assigned a unique ID. The system comprises a server and a
28 database. First, the method initially obtains from each of the plurality of buyers and
29 suppliers their unique ID, and receives and compares the ID of each of the plurality of buyers

1 who seeks access to the system. If there is a match, the method grants to that buyer or
2 supplier access to the system.

3 In a still further aspect of this invention, there is described a method of managing the
4 selecting and purchasing at least one item by a buyer, wherein each of the plurality of distinct
5 items is associated with a definition which defines the variables of its item, and then
6 constructing a screen displaying the variables of the selected item in accordance with the
7 definition of the selected item.

8 In another feature of this invention, there is disclosed a method of constructing a
9 unique screen that displays a price matrix for at least one particular item. The item includes
10 a definition of the variables associated with the item. The method of constructing comprises
11 the steps of reiteratively changing each of the plurality of variables for each reiteration of
12 each of the variables a corresponding price matrix dependent on the values of each of the
13 plurality of variables for that reiteration. Then, the values for each of the corresponding
14 variables and the corresponding price matrix are stored in a database for each reiteration.
15 Finally, a screen is construed for a set of variables of particular values by accessing the
16 database to determine the price matrix corresponding to the set of variable of the particular
17 values. The screen includes the set of values for the variables and the corresponding price
18 matrix.

19 In a still further aspect of this invention, a database structure is provided to facilitate
20 communications over a network between any of a plurality of suppliers of items and any of a
21 plurality of buyers of the items. The database structure includes a buyers' memory structure
22 comprising a plurality of sections, one section for each buyer for storing an ID unique to its
23 buyer and the orders initiated by that buyer, and a supplier memory structure comprising a
24 plurality of sections, one for each supplier for storing an ID unique to that supplier and at
25 least one catalog of the items of each supplier.

26 In another feature of this invention, a method is disclosed for controlling
27 communications over a network between at least one supplier of at least one item and at least
28 one buyer to whom that one item is offered for sale. The method comprises the steps of
29 receiving and storing a message in a memory from the buyer that relates to the item and

1 includes an identification of the supplier that supplies the item, and searching the memory for
2 all messages with an identification that matches that of the supplier of the item.

3 In another feature of this invention, a method is disclosed for operating a searchable
4 database to facilitate at least one buyer to select a certain one of a plurality of items that
5 matches a description of the item sought by the one buyer, wherein the plurality of items is
6 variously supplied by a plurality of suppliers and each supplier supplies a set of its items.
7 The method includes the steps of storing a plurality of files in the searchable database,
8 wherein each of the plurality of files comprises an identification of at least one item, a
9 description of the one item and an identification of the particular supplier that supplied the
10 one item. Next, each of the plurality of buyers is enabled to search the plurality of files
11 stored in the searchable database for an item whose description matches the description of
12 the one buyer and to withdraw from the database any file with an item that matches the
13 buyer's description.

14 In a still further aspect of this invention, a method is described for constructing a
15 searchable database to facilitate each of a plurality of buyers to select certain ones of a
16 plurality of items that matches an item description of each buyer. The plurality of items is
17 variously supplied by a plurality of suppliers, and each supplier supplies a set of its items.
18 The constructing method includes the steps of constructing for each of the plurality of items
19 an identification of the one item, a description of the one item to be matched with the item
20 description of one of the plurality of buyers, and an indication of the particular supplier that
21 supplied the one item. Next, the construction step is repeated for each item of the set of
22 items for each supplier. Then, the files are stored for a particular supplier in a distinct
23 section of the database.

24 In a still further aspect of this invention, a method is described for controlling the
25 communications over a network between at least one supplier of at least one item and at least
26 one buyer to whom that one item is offered for sale. The method comprises the steps of
27 receiving a first message from the buyer that relates to the one item and includes an
28 identification of the supplier that supplies the one item, storing the first message in a memory
29 and responding to the storing of the first message in the memory to send a second message

1 to the supplier identified by the supplier identification to indicate that the first message has
2 been stored in the memory.

3

4 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

5 The forgoing objects and advantages of the present invention may be more readily
6 understood by one skilled in the art with reference being had to the following detailed
7 description of a preferred embodiment thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying
8 drawings wherein like elements are designated by identical reference numerals throughout
9 the several views, and in which:

10 FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of the arrangement of servers (computers) and
11 databases for storing the data involved in the E-Commerce system of this invention and
12 which is programmed to permit bi-directional communication between selected of the buyers
13 and selected of the suppliers;

14 FIG. 2 is a flow diagram illustrating how the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 is
15 programmed to permit any of the users to identify a particular product and/or service from
16 any of the suppliers, to purchase same and to arrange for payment of such purchase;

17 FIGS. 3A - 3W are respectively screens generated by the E-Commerce system of
18 FIG. 1 and downloaded to the terminal of a particular buyer;

19 FIGS. 4A - 4I are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and
20 downloaded to the terminal of a particular supplier;

21 FIG. 5 is a flow diagram that illustrates how new items are added to the catalog(s) of
22 a selected supplier and stored in a data warehouse as shown in FIG. 1;

23 FIGS. 6A-6F are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG 1 and are used
24 in the course of carrying out the process shown in FIG. 5 to add new items to the catalogs
25 that are stored in the data warehouse;

26 FIG. 7 is a flow diagram that illustrates how a previous entered catalog may be edited:
27 FIGS. 8A-8D are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and are used by
28 the process shown in FIG. 7 to edit the items that were previously added to the catalog(s) of a
29 particular supplier and stored in the data warehouse;

1 FIG. 9 is a flow diagram that illustrates how a buyer select and upload a marking to
2 be combined with a selected item:

3 FIGS. 10A-10C are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and used
4 by the process shown in FIG. 9 to facilitate a buyer to select and upload a marking to be
5 combined with a selected item;

6 FIG. 11 is a flow diagram that illustrates how a buyer can search the items stored in
7 the data warehouse by category;

8 FIGS 12A-12D are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and are
9 used by the process shown in FIG. 11 to facilitate a buyer to search the items by category;

10 FIG. 13 is a flow diagram that illustrates how a buyer can carry out an advance search
11 of the items stored in the data warehouse;

12 FIG. 14A-14D are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and are
13 used by the process shown in FIG. 13 to conduct an advanced search of the items;

14 FIG. 15 is a flow diagram that illustrates how a buyer conducts a keyword search of
15 the items stored in the data warehouse;

16 FIGS. 16A-16B are screens generated by the E-Commerce system of FIG. 1 and are
17 used by the process shown in FIG. 15 to conduct a keyword search of the items;

18 FIG. 17A is a flow diagram that illustrates a process for the buyer to variously
19 communicate with a selected supplier;

20 FIG. 17B is a flow diagram that illustrates a process for the supplier to variously
21 communicate with a selected buyer; and

22 FIG. 17C is a flow diagram that illustrates a process for the buyer to select a
23 particular item and to generate a template for that item including the price matrix associated
24 with the item.

25

26 **Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment of the Invention**

27 Referring now to the drawings and in particular to FIG. 1, there is shown an E-
28 Commerce system 10, which is programmed to permit any of a plurality of users to select the
29 desired products and/or services of a particular supplier, to receive information about at least
30 one product and/or service, to purchase the selected product and/or service and to effect

1 payment therefore. The E-Commerce system 10 is connected via an information
2 communication network 12 to a terminal 16 of a buyer and to a terminal 14 of a vendor or
3 supplier of the products and/or services. Though only a single terminal 14 is shown for a
4 vendor, it is appreciated that the system 10 may be connected to a plurality of such vendor
5 terminals 14. Likewise though only a single buyer terminal 16 is illustrated in FIG. 1, it is
6 appreciated that the system 10 may be connected to a plurality of such buyer terminals 16. In
7 an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the system 10 may be coupled to a large number
8 of vendors and an even larger number of buyers. It is contemplated that tens of thousands
9 and more users may be so coupled and that thousands of vendors or suppliers may be so
10 coupled to the system 10. The E-Commerce system 10 of this invention differs from those
11 systems described above, in that the system 10 of this invention is adapted to operate with
12 not only a different set of entities, but also carries out a different economic model than those
13 systems described above. As described above, the prior systems were programmed to
14 interact with a buyer, a supplier or vendor and a distributor. The system 10 of this invention
15 does not operate in conjunction with a distributor in the sense as described by the systems
16 above. Rather there is included in this system a vendor or supplier, a buyer and a service
17 provider, which primarily acts to service the E-Commerce system 10 of this invention. In
18 one embodiment of this invention, service providers of this invention are compensated by a
19 percentage of the value of the purchases made by the buyers. In particular, the E-Commerce
20 system is programmed to establish an interface between at least one buyer and at least one
21 supplier of the products and/or the services, whereby a bi-directional transmission of data is
22 established between the one buyer and the one supplier. Such an interface permits a buyer to
23 search a catalogue of products and/or services of a particular supplier, select particular
24 products and/or services for purchase, facilitate the purchase of the particular products or
25 services, provide financial information to facilitate the buyers providing the supplier with
26 financial information and effect payment to the supplier, authorize the purchase of the
27 selected products and/or services, and provide an indication of the status of the current
28 transaction.

29 As shown in FIG. 1, each of the buyers' terminals 16 and each of the vendors' or
30 suppliers' terminals 14 is coupled to a web server 20, which in one illustrative embodiment

1 of this invention may take the form of a Microsoft Internet information server. In particular
2 the server 20 is programmed to manage a buyer site 22a and a vendor or supplier site 22b. In
3 particular, the buyer site 16 generates and transmits certain web pages or screens to a
4 selected one of the buyer terminals 16. The buyer screens are shown in FIG. 3 and facilitate,
5 in a general sense, each buyer to conduct a search for at least one, particular product and/or
6 service, to obtain if needed further information about the preliminarily chosen product or
7 service, to combine with a further marking such as a trademark, logo or the like if needed,
8 and to place an order, which is transmitted through an interface to that vendor of the selected
9 product or service.

10 The vendor site 22b is programmed to generate a plurality of web pages or screens as
11 shown in FIG. 4 that are particularly adapted to display information to the vendor, whereby
12 each vendor may view this information upon it's terminal 14. Such information includes
13 generally information about the order placed by a buyer for a particular product or service of
14 that vendor. Each of the buyer site 22a and vendor site 22b is programmed to provide
15 security for the information that is input and output to the Internet information server 20. In
16 particular, each buyer and each vendor is assigned a password, which must be entered before
17 that buyer or that vendor is permitted access to the E-Commerce System and, in particular, to
18 the Internet information server 20. The Internet information server 20 further includes a
19 filter 24, which may be implemented in an illustrative embodiment of this invention by a
20 commerce server ISAPI of Microsoft. The filter 114 is programmed to functionally track the
21 transmissions of messages between a buyer at it's terminal 16 and a vendor or supplier at it's
22 terminal 14. The filter 24 further implements the security of the system by checking the
23 passwords of each of the buyers and vendors, and authenticates these passwords before
24 permitting either the buyer or the vendor access to this system 10. The filter 24 further
25 includes a retail site 26a, a site for customizing active server pages (ASP), and an interface
26 site 26c. In particular, the retail site 26a is programmed to connect each buyer through its
27 terminal 16 to the buyer's homepage 200 as shown in FIG. 3A. In an illustrative embodiment
28 of this invention, a screen for each of the buyers may be generated from a common template,
29 which is personalized by embedding in the template data and information which is
30 characteristic of a particular buyer. In an illustrative embodiment, the interface site 26c may

1 be implemented by a BizDesk@server 2000 of Microsoft and is programmed to connect each
2 vendor or supplier to it's own web page or site. The web page for each vendor is generated
3 from a common template which is programmed with data and information characteristic of
4 it's vendor. The programmed functionality of the block 26b implemented by the use of
5 Active Server Pages (ASP) each of the buyer screens as shown in FIGS. 3A through 3W and
6 the vendor screens as shown in FIGS. 4A through 4I without the time consuming
7 construction of a web page by writing code in the HTML language as would be a common
8 way of providing such screens. In one illustrative embodiment of this invention, there are
9 approximately 100 ASP pages, which are used to generate screens for different purposes.
10 For example, each vendor has a catalogue of products. A screen for each of these products is
11 generated by populating a template with data from an ASP page. In this fashion, it is not
12 necessary to generate a web page for each product of each vendor, thus reducing
13 significantly the time and labor costs of generating these web pages. Further, there is an ASP
14 page for each of the suppliers and buyers, the homepage, and a set of screens to permit each
15 buyer and each supplier to send and to receive emails. Further, an ASP page is used to
16 generate screens that are used to carry out the customizing and order functions of this system
17 10.

18 The code for these ASP pages is stored and accessed in a data warehouse 36 under the
19 control of a database server 34. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the SQL
20 Server 2000 technology of Microsoft and a customized Commerce Server 2000 of Microsoft
21 may be employed to implement the data warehouse 36 and the database server 34. The code
22 carried by the ASP pages is stored in the data warehouse 36. In other words, all data
23 associated with the buyers and vendors is stored in the data warehouse 36. In particular, the
24 data stored in the warehouse 36 includes the identification for each of the buyers and
25 suppliers that has logged onto the E-Commerce System 10. Also included are all of the
26 catalogues for each of the suppliers. These catalogues include pictures of each of the
27 products, prices for each of the products, written descriptions of the products, the software
28 necessary to display the pictures in either two or three dimensions, data indicative of the
29 various characteristics of the products, and the underlying data that enables the generation of
30 price matrixes. The generation of price matrixes requires a significant amount of data. In

1 one illustrative embodiment of this invention, a screen for a single product will need code to
2 accommodate seventeen hundred variations of that product. If that product were for example
3 a shirt, the variations would include color, the pattern of the cloth from which the shirt is
4 made, the various sizes in which the shirt may appear, the type of imprintings that may be
5 made upon the shirt, and the different prices for different numbers of shirts. With such a
6 capability, a screen may be generated with a price matrix that is dependent upon each of
7 these variants or variations. It is appreciated that even if one of these characteristics of the
8 shirt is changed, that there will be a resulting change in it's price matrix.

9 A server 30 is connected to an Internet information server 20 and is programmed to
10 control the purchasing of the products and/or services from the suppliers. In an illustrative
11 embodiment of this invention the server 30 may take the form of a Microsoft Commerce
12 Server 2000. In particular, the server 30 captures a wide range of commerce information,
13 e.g., the purchasing of the various products and/or services of particular buyers and transmits
14 such data to particular suppliers at their terminals 14. In addition, the server 30 is
15 programmed to track the accessing by a particular buyer of a particular product web page
16 within the catalogue of a particular supplier. In addition, the server 30 enables the E-
17 Commerce System 10 to be scalable, whereby the system 10 may accommodate and service
18 tens of thousands (or more) users and at least thousands of suppliers.

19 The database server 34 is connected to the server 30 to facilitate the bi-directional
20 transmission of data there between. In turn, the database server 34 is coupled to input data
21 into the data warehouse 132. As described above, the coding for the ASP pages is stored in
22 the data warehouse 36 and, in particular, the code for the pages associated with the buyer
23 screens as shown in FIG. 3 and the supplier or vendor screens as shown in FIG. 4, as well as
24 the catalogues of each of the suppliers are stored in the data warehouse 36. It is understood
25 that such storage enables a buyer to search the products and/or services that are contained in
26 all of the catalogues of all the suppliers and to selectively purchase at least one product
27 and/or service from a particular supplier. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the
28 database server 34 and the data warehouse 36 may take the form of a Microsoft SQL Server
29 2000; in particular, the database server 34 may take the form of a Customized Commerce
30 Server 2000 database.

1 Further, the E-Commerce System 10 includes a set of files 38a-c, which are
2 connected to receive data from the Internet information server 20. In particular, the files 38
3 track the transmission of data between the suppliers and the vendors. In particular, the files
4 38 collect data to provide a history of the activity of the buyers and, in particular, to provide
5 a history of the transactions of the buyers to purchase certain products and/or services. In an
6 illustrative embodiment of this invention, such files 38 may be used to develop a profile of
7 the particular preferences of each of the buyers. The files 38 are connected to the data
8 warehouse 36, whereby traffic data of the buyers and/or suppliers may be stored therein.

9 The E-Commerce System 10 also includes an active directory 32, which is connected
10 to the server 30 in a manner to facilitate the bi-directional transmission of data there between.
11 In particular, the directory 32 accumulates and stores the passwords of each of the buyers
12 and/or suppliers associated with the system 10. The active directory 32 is programmed to
13 authenticate each of the system's buyers and sellers, before access to the system 10 is granted
14 to any buyer and/or seller. In particular, this authentication is carried out by asking each
15 buyer or supplier, prior to access to the system 10, to enter its password, which is transmitted
16 via the Internet information server 20 and the server 30 to the active directory 32 and is there
17 compared with the previously entered passwords of the authorized buyers and/or suppliers.
18 If there is a match with a previously stored password, then an authorization signal is
19 transmitted back via the server 30 to the Internet information server 20, whereby the user
20 seeking access to the system is authorized.

21 Further, the E-Commerce System 10 includes a server 42, which provides an email
22 capability for the system 10, whereby any of the buyers may transmit emails from their
23 terminals 16 to any of the suppliers at their terminals 14. As shown in FIG. 1, the server 42
24 is coupled via the server 30 and the Internet information server 20 to each of the buyers and
25 its terminal 16 and to each of the suppliers and its terminals 14. Further, the server 42 is
26 also coupled to a further server 46, which will be described below. In particular, the server
27 42 may in an illustrative embodiment of this invention take the form of a Microsoft
28 Exchange 2000 Server and provides an email engine to sort and route emails over the
29 Internet 12 between selected of the buyer terminals 16 and the vendor terminals 14.

1 The server 46 provides a connection to another, external system 48. In an illustrative
2 embodiment of this invention, the system 48 may be directly connected to a database of each
3 of the suppliers' terminals 14. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the server 46
4 may take the form of a Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000. In operation, the catalogue of each
5 of the suppliers may be stored in a memory or database of it's terminal 14. Though not
6 shown in FIG. 1, the external system 48 may be coupled to a terminal 14 of a selected
7 supplier, whereby it's catalogue of products and/or services may be downloaded to the
8 system 10 and, in particular, applied to the server 46, which in turn transmits such data via
9 the database server 34 to the data warehouse 36, where the product and/or services catalogue
10 of the suppliers are stored.

11 Referring now to FIG. 2, and FIGS. 3, there is respectively shown a flow diagram of
12 the operation of the E-Commerce System 10 as discussed above with respect to FIG. 1, and
13 the web pages which are to be displayed at the terminal 16 to the buyer. Initially a buyer by
14 use of it's terminal 16 (FIG. 1) brings up upon it's display a system homepage 200, as shown
15 in FIG. 3A. The system homepage 200 permits the buyer access to the system 10. In
16 particular, the buyer is prompted to click on a button 201. If that buyer is new to the system
17 10, the new buyer is registered and a password chosen by the buyer and stored in the files 38
18 (FIG. 1). If the buyer has previously registered in the system 10, the buyer enters it's user
19 name and password in the boxes 202 and 203 respectively, before actuating the "go" button
20 204. The system homepage 200 includes a further button 205, which a new user may actuate
21 to receive a demonstration of the operation of the E-Commerce System 10.

22 Upon actuation of the button 205, the program 100 (FIG. 2) moves to step 104,
23 wherein the web page 210 is displayed. The page 210 prompts a buyer to initiate a search for
24 a particular product or service among those stored in the data warehouse 36 (FIG. 1). In
25 particular, the buyer has an option as to the type of search that he/she would like to conduct.
26 The web page 210 bears a menu 211, which has a plurality of boxes which the buyer may
27 click on to initiate that particular type of search. In particular, the menu 211 includes a box
28 211a for a category search, a box 211b for an advanced search, a box 211c for a key word
29 search, and a box 211d for entering words that will describe the type of product and/or
30 service desired. After the buyer has actuated one of these boxes, he/she may then actuate a

1 "go" box 211e, whereby the program 100 moves to one of the searches that are performed in
2 steps 106a, b and c. In particular, upon actuating the box 211a, the program 100 will move
3 to the step 106b, whereby the buyer is permitted to search for a particular product and/or
4 service of a particular category as will be described below in detail with respect to FIGS. 11,
5 and 12A - 12D. Upon actuating the box 211b, the program 100 will move to step 106c,
6 whereby an advanced search will be conducted as will be explained in detail below with
7 respect to FIGS. 13, and 14A - 14D. Similarly, when a buyer actuates the box 211c, the
8 program 100 moves to step 106a, whereby a key word search is conducted as will be
9 described below in greater detail with respect to FIGS. 15, 16A - 16D.

10 Further, the homepage 210 bears a menu 223 that functions as a tool box whereby a
11 number of functions may be carried out. The tool box 223 includes a plurality of buttons
12 223a - g, select of which may be actuated by the buyer to effect a corresponding function. In
13 an example where the buyer is an employee of a store, the buyer may actuate the My Store
14 box 223a to select a number of products for sale to the regular customers of that store. In an
15 example where the buyer is an employee of a company, the buyer may hit the "Company
16 Store" box 223b, to select certain products and/or services for sale to the employees of the
17 company. In particular, such selected products and/or services may be customized by
18 placing the logo or trademark of that company on the selected promotional products. If the
19 buyer actuates a "Project Files" button 223c, the selected products and/or services may be put
20 into a file in the nature of a "shopping cart" for sale to the buyer. If the buyer hits a "Request
21 for Proposal" button 223d, the buyer causes a message describing a particular product to be
22 transmitted to selected suppliers with a request for bid from each of those designated
23 suppliers for the particular product. Upon receipt of the responses from the suppliers, the
24 buyer then may select the most advantageous response. If the buyer actuates a "categories"
25 box 223e, the supplier may select which categories that may be used by either the buyer or
26 the supplier to search for a particular product. If the buyer actuates a "Logo Library" box
27 223f, the buyer initiates a process for uploading particular markings such as a trademark,
28 logo or the like into a dedicated library that is established within the data warehouse 36 (FIG.
29 1). Further, the buyer may set limitations upon the use of these markings as by example, the
30 markings are limited for use by a selected group of people, the employees of a particular

1 buyer, or may authorize unrestricted use of certain markings. Further, if the buyer hits a "My
2 Account" box 223g, the buyer may access it's account. Illustratively a buyer's account may
3 include a profile of the buyer, the previous history of orders placed by the buyer including
4 the status of the orders and designates others who may have access to the buyer's account.
5 For example, if the buyer is a company, it's administrator (and others) may be given access to
6 the employer's account. If a buyer actuates a "Reference Guide" box 223h, the user is given
7 access to a reference section, which may include (for example) the definition of terms that
8 are used by the suppliers, descriptions of the processes that are carried out by the E-
9 Commerce System 10, a glossary of industry terms, a glossary of Internet terms and the like.

10 Still referring to FIG. 3B, the user homepage 210 further includes a menu 219 that
11 permits a particular user to monitor its emailing activity and, in particular, includes a box
12 219a for indicating the number of the users' messages, a box 219b for indicating the number
13 of responses to the buyer's request for purchases, and a box 219c for the number of order
14 updates that the buyer has made. Further, the page 210 further includes a button 216 that
15 may be actuated by the buyer to permit the buyer to browse promotional products, a button
16 217 actuated by the buyer to browse premium products, a button 218 actuated by the user to
17 view the various services of the suppliers, a button 220a that may be actuated by the buyer to
18 receive a guided tour of the E-Commerce System 10 and a button 220b that may be actuated
19 by the buyer to permit the display of various notices and information about the E-Commerce
20 System 10. Further, there is a tool bar which comprises buttons 221a - 221f to facilitate the
21 buyer by it's service provider to implement the functionality of these buttons. The page 210
22 has a second tool bar, which includes a button 222a that may be actuated by the buyer to
23 enter a chat room, a button 222b that may be is actuated to cause the display of the benefits
24 that are available to the buyer by using the E-Commerce System 10, and a button 222c that
25 permits the buyer to log off of the system 10.

26 If the buyer clicks on the category search button 211a (FIG. 3B), the program 100
27 moves from step 104 to step 106b as shown in FIG. 2, wherein a category search web page
28 210 is displayed on the buyer's terminal 16 as shown in FIG. 3B. In a category search, the
29 buyer may actuate a browse button 216 to review a plurality of promotional items, a browse
30 button 217 to inspect a series of premium products, and/or a browse button 218 to review the

1 services of identified suppliers. Also see FIGS. 11 and 12A - 12D for a more detailed
2 description of a category search.

3 On the other hand, if the buyer actuates the advanced search button 211b, the program
4 100 moves from step 104 to step 106c as shown in FIG. 2. In the advanced search 106c as
5 will be explained below with respect to FIG. 3C, a web page 230 is displayed on the buyer's
6 terminal 16, which facilitates the buyer to enter words descriptive of the product and/or
7 service desired to be purchased. The advanced search 106c may be carried out by
8 developing the description of the various desired characteristics of the product and/or by
9 identifying the supplier of the product or products upon which a licensee will permit the
10 placement of its marking, trademark, logo or the like. In particular, the web page 230
11 includes the following boxes 233a - n for receiving respectively a buyer's input as to its key
12 word, the quantity of products and/or services to be used, the price per piece, the SKU, colors
13 in logo, a 3D image, blank goods, decorator service, custom products, supplier, materials,
14 events and themes. Further, there is included a license name block 234, whereby the buyer
15 may enter a particular marking, licensed name, logo, trademark or the like. The search by
16 description will then proceed to identify those products and/or services, which the licensor of
17 the name has licensed or otherwise authorized to be used with it's marking. For example, the
18 licensor Coors has authorized it's trademark, "Coors", to be used with a limited number of
19 products, which the search would find and identify. A more detailed description of the
20 advanced search is provided below with respect to FIGS. 13 and 14A - 14D.

21 In a similar fashion, the buyer may actuate the key word search button 211c (FIG. 3B)
22 to move the program 100 from step 104 to step 106a (FIG. 2), whereby a search of products
23 and/or services according to the entered key words is carried out as will be described below
24 in detail with respect to FIGS. 15 and 16A - 16D.

25 After any one of the key word search 106a, the category search 106b or the advanced
26 search 106c (FIG. 2) is selected, the selected search is conducted through the products and/or
27 services stored in the data warehouse 36 (FIG. 1) and one or more products and/or services
28 are identified. The buyer selects from the drop down screen one of the displayed products
29 about which further information is needed before purchasing. The identified items of each of
30 the searches 106a, b and c are displayed in step 108 on a dropdown screen (not shown) of it's

1 web page 240 as shown in FIG. 3D. Upon clicking on the selected product, the program 100
2 goes to step 108, wherein a product details web page 240 is displayed on the buyer's terminal
3 106. Next in step 110a, a detailed description 241 and a relatively large image 242 of the
4 selected product are displayed. As will be explained, the image 242 is sufficiently large to
5 permit the customer to customize it. Next information concerning the selected product
6 and/or service is collected in the data warehouse 36 and is displayed as the web page 240 as
7 shown in FIG. 3D on the buyer's terminal 16. In particular, the web page 240 provides a
8 written description 241 of the selected product, e.g., a TomCat bicycle. Further, an image
9 249 of the selected product 249 may be displayed within a window 242. The buyer can click
10 on a print sample box 243, whereby a printout of the image 249 may be obtained.

11 The product details web page 240 further includes an extra charges button 244a,
12 which the buyer may actuate to obtain an indication of extra charges that may be involved in
13 the purchase of the product 249. Further, the web page 240 may include a series of step
14 buttons 244b, c, d and e, which may be actuated by the buyer to control some attribute of the
15 product 249 or to initiate the placement of an order for the product 249. In particular, the
16 buyer may actuate the button 244b to select a particular variant of the product 249. Next in
17 step 112, the buyer may actuate the button 244c to initiate the customizing of the product,
18 e.g., to select and place a marking or logo on the product 249. In particular, step 112
19 customizes the product viewed in the customization image or window 242 by the use of the
20 tool bar 245. The tool box 245 facilitates the superimposing of a licensed name or marking
21 upon the product image 249 and, in particular, positioned by the buyer in a desired
22 relationship with respect to the product. It is appreciated that the licensed name or mark as
23 obtained by entering a license name into block 234 may be the marking that is positioned or
24 superimposed on the product 249. In particular, there is a zoom box 245a, which may be
25 actuated to zoom in on a particular part of the product 249, a rotate button to rotate the image
26 249, and a move box 245c whereby the user can move or drag the marking to a particular
27 location and orientation with respect to the product image 249. After the product has been
28 selected and its characteristics defined, the button 244d initiates the preparation of the details
29 of an order for that product and/or service. In particular, step 110c generates a product image
30 249, which may be either a two-dimensional or a three-dimensional view of the selected

1 product 249. Finally, actuation of the button 244e permits the desired quantity of the product
2 to be determined and the order to be finalized and sent. Once the box 244e is clicked on by
3 the buyer and the buyer inputs via its terminal 16 the number of desired products, step 110b
4 generates a price list or matrix 251, as shown in FIG. 3E, to reflect the range of quantities for
5 each of a plurality of prices. Still further, the product details web page 240 includes an array
6 246 of boxes 246a - h for receiving the name and characteristics of suppliers that may be
7 entered into the boxes. In particular, the price matrix places in the quantity column a range
8 of the numbers for the corresponding price of a particular product. Upon entry of this
9 information into the boxes 246, the buyer may actuate a search button 248a, whereby a list of
10 suppliers meeting the inputted criteria is provided to the buyer. If the buyer desires to obtain
11 another list of suppliers, he/she may hit a reset button 248b, before again inputting a different
12 set of supplier criteria.

13 Next in step 116, the web page 260 is displayed as shown in FIG. 3F upon the buyer's
14 terminal 16, wherein there is shown a window 261 containing the recently used logos. If the
15 buyer wants to review other logos, he/she presses the "view all logos" button 263 to initiate
16 step 116 and to display a logo library web page 270 on the buyer's terminal 16. Each buyer
17 has a library of the logos that it's buyer is authorized to use, and that are stored in the data
18 warehouse 26, as shown in FIG. 3G. Thus when the buyer actuates the "view all logos"
19 button 263, the buyer's library in the data warehouse 26 is accessed and all of the authorized
20 logos 274a - l are displayed in a frame or window 275. Further, the programming underlying
21 the window 270 permits a buyer to sort by buttons 273a, b and c to sort the logos by logo
22 name, color and owner. Further, the buyer has an option to add new logos by actuating the
23 button 272a, to pull up the logos of the buyer in step 272b, to identify a particular group of
24 logos by actuating button 272c, to display public logos by actuating the button 272d, and to
25 display the inactive logos by actuating button 272c. Further, the active one of the buttons
26 may be changed by pressing the arrows 227-3d-1 and 227-3d-2.

27 When the buyer clicks on to one of the markings 274a - l (FIG. 3G) in step 116, the
28 program moves to step 118, wherein the product detail web page 280 is displayed as shown
29 in FIG. 3H upon the buyer's terminal 16 (FIG. 1). The web page includes a window 242',
30 wherein the superimposed images of the selected product 249' and the selected logo 274 are

1 shown. At this point in the process, the customizing of the particular product 249' has been
2 completed, and the buyer clicks on to the "specify order details" button, whereby the product
3 details may be viewed. For example, if the buyer would like to change the color of the
4 product 249', he/she would again actuate the "select product variants" button 244b', whereby
5 the various characteristics of the product 249 are displayed and may be changed as explained
6 above.

7 If the product 249' with the marking 274 thereon is acceptable, the buyer actuates the
8 button 244e', whereby the program 100 moves to step 120, wherein any special instructions
9 and/or the delivery date of the buyer are entered. In particular, a product detail web page 290
10 is displayed as shown in FIG. 3I on the buyer's terminal 16. The web page 290 includes a
11 "special instructions" box 291a whereby a particular instruction with respect to the product
12 249' may be entered, a "logo dimensions" box 291b for permitting the entry of the
13 dimensions of the logo, and a "delivery date" box 21c is provided to permit the buyer to enter
14 the desired delivery date. To use these features, the buyer actuates the "specify order details"
15 box 244d' and then enters it's instructions into the box 291a, or the logo dimensions into box
16 291b or the delivery date into box 291c. If the buyer is satisfied with the displayed product
17 249', the particular marking 274 and the relative position thereof, the buyer actuates the
18 "specify quantities and continue" button 244e'.

19 Upon actuating the button 244e' (FIG. 3I), the program 100 moves to step 122,
20 wherein the desired quantity of the products is set. In particular, the product detail web page
21 300 is displayed as shown in FIG. 3J on the buyer terminal 16 and includes an array of boxes
22 301a - d, each representing a separate color of the product and permitting the entry by the
23 buyer to a number of the products of a particular color which are desired. The web page 300
24 further includes an "add to cart" button 302a, an "add to project file" button 302b and an "add
25 to my store" button 302c. If the buyer wishes to enter the quantity of products needed,
26 he/she actuates the "specify quantities and continue" button 244e', and then inserts the
27 number or quantity of products 249' into one or more of the boxes 301a - d depending on the
28 color of the desired product.

29 Upon pressing the "add to cart" button 302a (FIG. 3J), the program 100 moves from
30 step 122 to step 124, wherein the shopping cart web page 310, as shown in FIG. 3K, is

1 displayed upon the buyer's terminal 16. The web page 310 also displays a summary of the
2 details of the buyer's order and includes boxes 312a - f for respectively displaying the
3 quantity, product image, model and supplier, unit price, total price and delivery or in-hand
4 date. Further, the buyer may enter special instructions into a box 314a and logo dimensions
5 into a box 314b. Further, there is "change logo" box 313a and "delete" box 313b, whereby
6 the buyer can change or delete a logo or marking. Thereafter, the buyer may enter special
7 instructions in the box 314a or the logo dimensions in box 314b. If the product order has
8 been changed, then the buyer will actuate the "update shopping cart" 315a. Further, it is
9 appreciated that the order data may also be saved as a project file or a file for the MyStore
10 feature. In particular the buyer can actuate the "save all as project file" button 315b whereby
11 the data is saved in the project file. Still further, the buyer may hit the "remove all" button
12 315c to remove the previously entered order data. After the buyer has reviewed the order
13 information and has found it to be satisfactory, he/she may hit a "proceed to checkout" button
14 311.

15 When the "proceed to checkout" button 311 is actuated, the program 100 moves from
16 step 124 to step 126 (FIG. 2), wherein an address information web page 320 is displayed as
17 shown in FIG. 3L upon the user's terminal 16. The web page 320 includes a "select address"
18 button 322, an "edit address" button 320b and a "delete address" button 322c, whereby the
19 buyer may input it's address data into an address column 322d. If the buyer's billing address
20 is the same as the shipping address entered above, the buyer actuates the button 323,
21 otherwise the buyer will actuate a "add new address" button 321b whereby a new, shipping
22 address may be added. Further, if the products and/or services are to be shipped to different
23 addresses, the buyer will actuate a "ship to multiple addresses" button 321a and then click on
24 the "add new address" button 321b, whereby one or more additional addresses may be
25 entered. If all of the address information has been inputted by the buyer, he/she actuates a
26 "select address" button 324 whereby the address information is saved.

27 When the "select address" button 324 is actuated (FIG. 3L), the program moves from
28 step 126 to step 128, wherein a shipping options web page 330 is displayed as shown in FIG.
29 3M upon the user's terminal 16 and facilitates the buyer's entry of shipping information into
30 the E-Commerce System 10 and in particular to the active directory 32 (FIG. 1). In

1 particular, the web page 330 includes a plurality of buttons 332a - y, which as seen in FIG.
2 3M provides various options for shipping the product and/or services; in particular, the buyer
3 can actuate on one of these buttons 332a - y to define the type of shipping that the buyer
4 requires. Further, the web page 330 includes display space wherein descriptions 33a and b of
5 the shipping service may be presented. In addition, the web page 330 includes a box 334a,
6 wherein the buyer's account with a particular carrier may be entered, and a box 334b which
7 may be actuated by the buyer to indicate that a freight forwarder for this particular product
8 order is desired. After all of the shipping information has been entered by the buyer, he/she
9 actuates a "check out" button 335.

10 When the "check out" button 335 (FIG. 3M) has been actuated, the program 100
11 moves from step 128 to 130, wherein the buyer finally reviews a particular order before
12 submitting it for transmission to a particular supplier, and an order summary web page 340 as
13 shown in FIG. 3M is displayed on the buyer's terminal 16. In particular, the web page 340
14 includes a display area 341a for the buyer's billing address, a display 341b for displaying a
15 buyer's shipping address, an area 342a for displaying the product number (or SKU) and the
16 name of the supplier, an area 342b for displaying a description of the product, an area 342c
17 for displaying the quantity or number of ordered products, an area 342d for displaying the
18 unit price and an area 342e for displaying the total price of the order. An area 343a is
19 provided to display the total order subtotal, an area 342b for tax, an area 343c for shipping
20 and an area 343d for the cost of the total order. The buyer reviews this order summary and if
21 a particular aspect of the order needs change, he/she may actuate a backup button, whereby
22 the program 100 may return to the "add to basket" step 124 wherein changes may be made to
23 the product and/or service order. On the other hand, if the order as displayed on the web
24 page 340 is satisfactory, the buyer may actuate a "check out" button 344.

25 When the "check out" button 344 (FIG. 3M) is actuated, the program 100 (FIG. 2)
26 moves from step 128 to 130, wherein a payment information web page 350 bearing the
27 buyer's credit card payment information is displayed as shown in FIG. 3N on the buyer's
28 terminal 16 and the approved order is transmitted to a selected supplier. In particular, the
29 logo page 350 includes a box 351a for receiving the name as it appears on the buyer's credit
30 card, a box 351b for receiving a credit card number, a box 351c for receiving the type or

1 brand of credit card, a box 351d for receiving the expiration month, and a box 351e for
2 receiving the expiration year. In addition, the web page 350 includes a box 353a for
3 receiving information as to other methods of payment, e.g., a purchase order. After the
4 method of payment has been entered, the buyer submits it's credit card information by
5 actuating a "submit" button 352a. If the buyer is submitting a purchase order, he/she may
6 actuate a "submit" button 353b. The buyer has the further option of resetting the information
7 by actuating a "reset" button 352b.

8 When either the "submit" button 352a or the "submit" button 353b (FIG. 3N) is
9 actuated, the program 100 (FIG. 2) moves from step 130 to 134, wherein the order is
10 confirmed and transmitted to a selected supplier or vendor through the retail site 26c of the
11 Internet information server 20. In step 134, the buyer evaluates it's order and checks that the
12 order has been satisfactorily submitted to a particular supplier. Step 134 confirms the safe
13 receipt of this order by generating an order number and displaying it in a box 361b. If the
14 buyer wishes to place a new order, he/she may click onto a box 361c whereby the program
15 100 returns to the buyer's homepage 104 (FIG. 3O) to initiate a new search. To terminate the
16 buyer's current section with the E-Commerce System 10, the buyer actuates a "log off"
17 button 362.

18 The web pages of FIG. 3, as described above, transmit data and information to and
19 from the buyer via it's terminal 16. In FIGS. 4, the web pages that are particularly adapted to
20 transmit and receive information and data from and to one of the vendors or suppliers are
21 shown. Referring now to FIG. 4A, there is shown a vendor login web page 370, which as
22 displayed on the vendor's terminal 14 and controls the supplier's access to the vendor site 22b
23 of the information server 20 (FIG. 1). In particular the web page 370 includes a "vendor
24 name" box 371a for submitting the name of the supplier seeking access to the system 10, and
25 a "password" box 371b for entering the password of this supplier. After the entry of data into
26 the boxes 371a and b, the supplier may actuate a "submit" button 372a, whereby the
27 supplier's name and password are transmitted to the active directory 32 for comparison with
28 the previously stored name and password. If there is a match as determined by the active
29 directory 32, this supplier is permitted access to the vendor site 22b.

1 If access is given to the buyer, the buyer can login to its homepage 390, which is
2 displayed as shown in FIG. 4B on the vendor's terminal 14. The homepage 390 lists the
3 potential activities in which the supplier may engage by actuating one of the buttons 391a to
4 k. If the supplier actuates the "orders" button 391g, the program 100 will move to the step
5 136, wherein the supplier may confirm the buyer's order and submit changes to that order, if
6 needed. When the supplier actuates the "order's" box 391g (FIG. 4B), the program 100
7 moves to a list of orders web page 380 as shown in FIG. 4C. In particular, the web page 380
8 generates a list of the supplier orders and a description thereof. In particular, there is a
9 column 382a for the number of each of the vendors' orders, a column 382b for the status of
10 each of the vendors' orders, a column 382c for the name of the buyer issuing the order, a
11 column 382d for listing the total price of the order, and a column 382e for listing the date of
12 its order. Further, the web page 380 includes a "search by status" box 381a, which may
13 effect a search of the supplier's orders by various parameters, e.g., all orders, by actuating a
14 "find" button 381b.

15 As shown in FIG. 1, the retail site 26c is part of the interface between the vendor site
16 22b and the buyer site 22a. When a supplier desires to see the list provided by the web page
17 380, it sends a request through the retail site 26c, requesting that list. In turn, this list or
18 orders is downloaded via the retail site 26 to be displayed upon the vendor's terminal 14.
19 When the supplier inserts a particular order number into the box 381a and actuates the "find"
20 button 381b, an order detail web page 400 is accessed and is displayed as shown in FIG. 4D
21 upon the vendor's terminal 14. In particular, the web page 400 has a series of boxes 401a - w
22 for receiving information about different aspects of the selected order. Of particular interest
23 are box 401a which indicates that the order is ready for the buyer's approval, box 401b that
24 indicates the order is being processed and box 401c that indicates the entire order has been
25 shipped and the selected order is fulfilled. Typically, the supplier will review the various
26 terms of the buyer's proposed order and can fill in one of the boxes 401a to w if it has not
27 been completed or the supplier wishes to change it. After a buyer's order has been reviewed
28 and approved by the supplier, the supplier actuates the box 401a, whereby a message, e.g.,
29 typically in the form of an email, is transmitted to the particular buyer that issued the order,

1 informing the buyer that its supplier has reviewed its order and that the buyer may now
2 access and respond to the reviewed order.

3 In an example of this invention, the order of interest to the supplier is 1976 and its
4 status is indicated initially as being that of a new order. After the order 1976 has been
5 processed and reviewed by the supplier, the supplier can enter the order number into the box
6 381 (FIG. 4C) and actuate the "find" box 381b. The supplier after reviewing the order as
7 displayed on the order detail web page 400 as shown in FIG. 4D, actuates the box 401a to
8 indicate that the supplier has reviewed the buyer's order, and if necessary has made changes
9 thereto. As a result, the status of the order 1978 has changed from being a new "order": as
10 indicated in the status column 382b of the list of orders web site 380, to "pending buyer
11 approval" as indicated in the status column 412b of the list of orders web page 410 as shown
12 in FIG. 4E. The status of the order 1978 will remain "pending buyer approval" until the
13 buyer approves this order. When a change of status has occurred, the retail site 26c of the
14 Internet information server 20 (FIG. 1) is programmed to send an email to the vendor, e.g., to
15 be received at the vendor's terminal 14, thereby alerting the vendor that the particular order
16 1978 is ready for the vendor's approval.

17 Next in step 138 (FIG. 2) after a buyer has received its notification of a change of a
18 status of one of its orders, the buyer via its terminal 16 accesses its buyer site 22a (FIG. 1)
19 and causes its order history web page 420 as shown in FIG. 3P to be displayed on its buyer's
20 terminal 16. When the status of an order of a buyer changes, the retail site 26c (FIG. 1) is
21 programmed to generate and transmit an email message to that buyer alerting that buyer to
22 the change in one of its orders. Responding to that email, the buyer accesses its vendor site
23 22b and brings up for display the buyer's order history web page 420 as shown in FIG. 3P.
24 In particular, the buyer clicks onto its order 1978, whereby the next order history web page
25 430 as shown in FIG. 3Q is displayed on the buyer's terminal 16. In particular, the buyer
26 notes the order status 433 and that the order 1978 has changed its status from "new order" to
27 "pending buyer approval". The buyer has four options corresponding to an "approve order"
28 button 434a, a "resubmit order" button 434b, a "cancel order" box 434c or a "post new
29 message" box 434d.

1 If the buyer finally approves the order 1978 as reviewed and/or changed by the
2 supplier and actuates the "approve order" button 434a, an order history web page 440 is
3 displayed as shown in FIG. 3R on the buyer's terminal 14, and the status of the order 1978
4 changes as shown in column 442c from "pending buyer approval" as shown on the web page
5 430 (FIG. 3Q) and on the web page 420 as shown in FIG. 3P, to "buyer approved" as shown
6 in the "status" column 442c of the order history web page 440 as shown in FIG. 3R. The
7 change of status of the order is inputted and stored in the data warehouse 36 under the
8 control of the retail site 26c (FIG. 1). In particular the site 26c responds to this status change
9 and sends an email message to the supplier designated in this order. This supplier responds
10 to the email message by calling up it's list of orders web page 460 that is displayed as shown
11 in FIG. 4F on the vendor's or supplier's terminal 14 and proceeds to click on the 1978 order,
12 whereby an order detail web page 460 as shown in FIG. 4G displays upon the vendor's
13 terminal 14 the details of the 1978 order and, in particular, indicates in the box 461d that the
14 status of the order 1978 is "buyer approved". In step 140 if the supplier also approves the
15 order, the supplier accesses the box 461d and changes the status from "buyer approved" to
16 "work in progress", whereby the retail site 26c, i.e., the interface of the E-Commerce System
17 10 as shown in FIG. 1, transmits an email from the site 26c to both the buyer and supplier of
18 this particular order indicating this further change of status of the order 1978. The supplier is
19 prompted by this email to access it's list of orders web page 470, which is displayed as
20 shown in FIG. 4H on the supplier's terminal 14, whereby the change of status to "work in
21 progress" is indicated in the status column 472b of the web page 470 for the order 1978.
22 Similarly, the buyer of order 1978 can access it's order history web page 480 as shown in
23 FIG. 3S that may be displayed on the buyer's terminal 16 and is apprised that the status has
24 changed to "work in progress" as shown in the status column 482c for the order 1978.

25 In step 140, the supplier initiates fulfilling the order by accessing it's order detail web
26 page 490 that is displayed as shown in FIG. 4I on the vendor's terminal 14 and actuating the
27 box 491b to indicate that the "order is being processed". When the order has been completed
28 and shipped, the supplier will now actuate the box 981c to confirm to the system 10 that the
29 "entire order has been shipped". At this point, the retail site 26c (FIG. 1) causes a change in
30 the interface and in the data stored in the data warehouse 36 to indicate that the order has

1 been shipped as reflected in the status column 502b of the web page 500 as shown in FIG. 4J.
2 Upon changing the status to "shipped", the retail site 26c also sends an email message to the
3 buyer at it's terminal 16 indicating a change of status. Upon receipt of this email, the buyer
4 accesses it's order history web page 510 as shown in FIG. 3T and observes in the status
5 column 512b that the order 1978 has been shipped. In step 144, the buyer confirms receipt
6 of the product by pulling up it's order history web page 520 as shown in FIG. 3U and
7 changes the status as shown in area 523 from "shipped" to "completed" as now also indicated
8 in the order history web page 530 as shown in FIG. 3W. The retail site 26 is responsive to
9 the change of status of the order 1978 to "completed" by informing the buyer through it's
10 order history 530 that the status of the order has changed to "completed" and by informing
11 the supplier through it's list of orders 540 as shown in FIG. 4I that likewise the order 1978 is
12 completed as shown in the status column 542b. Likewise, an email message is sent in step
13 144 (FIG. 2) to the service provider of the E-Commerce System 10 indicating that the
14 particular order, i.e., order 1978, has been completed, whereby the service provider invoices
15 the supplier for a commission. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the
16 commission may be a certain percentage of the total sale price of the order. Finally in step
17 148, the supplier invoices the buyer for the price of the order.

18 In FIG. 5, there is shown a flow diagram of the functionality for adding and storing
19 new products and/or services of a particular supplier or vendor to the data warehouse 36
20 (FIG. 1). In a sense, the functionality carried out by the steps of the flow diagram of FIG. 5
21 provide a tool for the vendor for downloading the products and/or services from of it's one or
22 more catalogues into the data warehouse 36. To gain access to the E-Commerce System 10,
23 the vendor pulls up its vendor login web page 640, which as shown in FIG. 6A is displayed
24 on the vendor's terminal 14 and then enters it's user name and password into a pair of boxes
25 642 and 644, respectively. Then the vendor clicks on a submit button 646, whereby the flow
26 diagram 600 moves to its vendor home page (not shown) and selects to enter its catalogue
27 editor in step 604. Upon entering the step 604, the enter new product web page 650, which
28 as shown in FIG. 6B is displayed upon the vendor's terminal 14. The vendor in step 606
29 actuates a new button 655 to initiate the process of identifying a new product which is taken
30 from the vendor's catalogue and input into the data warehouse 36.

1 Upon actuating the new button 655, the program 600 moves to a step 608 of selecting
2 a product definition and, in particular, displays upon the vendor's terminal 14 a select a
3 product definition web page 660 as shown in FIG. 6C. Initially, the vendor actuates a new
4 product button 661, which permits the vendor to select one of the definitions. In FIG. 6C,
5 definitions 001 to 007 are shown. The vendor selects a particular definition, by using the
6 arrows 662 to move a highlighter 666 up or down to select a particular definition. When the
7 desired definition is selected, the vendor clicks on a button 664 selecting that particular
8 definition of a product. Generally, the product definition determines what set of variables or
9 variants is attached to a particular product as identified by its "SKU". This product
10 definition must remain constant for every variant of this SKU. In particular, the product
11 definition defines the product variants or characteristics which may be changed. For
12 example if the product is a shirt, these changeable characteristics or variants would include
13 shirt size, color, material, closure, weight, etc. The products so defined is identified by its
14 "SKU" which in effect is the product ID. Note however, that the product's "SKU" may be
15 used only once in a particular product catalogue of a given vendor. One of the purposes of
16 the product definition is to provide a capability of generating a screen that will permit a
17 buyer to select a particular product with particular characteristics that would define such a
18 product. The product definition further identifies a particular template, which may be
19 populated with data corresponding to the product variants or characteristics, whereby a
20 screen can be readily produced to permit input of data to select and to define the particular
21 characteristics of the product. The vendor selects a particular definition such that the defined
22 variables correspond to those of the vendor's product. To that end, it is understood that a
23 vendor would need a complete set of definitions, to permit a comparison and selection of that
24 definition which meets a particular product and/or service of the vendor.

25 When the product definition has been selected in step 608, the flow diagram 600
26 moves to step 610, whereby an enter general information web page 670 that as shown in FIG.
27 6D is displayed upon the vendor's terminal 14. Thereupon, the vendor fills in various pieces
28 of information about the particular product into a window 672 of boxes 672a to m. When the
29 vendor enters yes into the box entitled "is blank good", indicating that the vendor does have
30 an image of that product, the flow diagram 600 moves to step 612, wherein an upload images

1 related to that SKU web page 680 that as shown in FIG. 6E is displayed upon the vendor's
2 terminal 16. Then the vendor clicks on a browse button 681 and selects a file of a desired
3 image of the product. In turn, the vendor inserts the name of the selected image file into a
4 box 685b. It is appreciated that the file name also identifies the address or pass path to that
5 memory location within the vendor's terminal 16 where the selected image file is stored. In
6 addition, images 686a and b displayed in a window 686 to permit the vendor to preview
7 these products and, if appropriate, the supplier clicks on an "open" button 685d, whereby the
8 ID and address of a product of a supplier is held, as will be explained, in a buffer 624 as
9 shown in FIG. 5 until this data is uploaded to the data warehouse 36 (FIG. 1).

10 After clicking on the button 685d, the flow diagram 600 returns to the enter general
11 information web page 670 as shown in FIG. 6D. At this time, the supplier enters into a
12 custom box 672f as to yes or no as to whether a product of the supplier will be customized or
13 not. In FIG. 6D, no has been entered into box 672f indicating that this product is not to be
14 customized. Further, a default price, i.e., an average price in the range of prices as dictated
15 by the quantity of the products, is entered into a box 672m.

16 After entering data into the web page as shown in FIG. 6D, the supplier actuates an
17 icon 673, whereby an "enter pricing" matrix and imprinting methods web page 690 that as
18 shown in FIG. 6F is displayed upon the vendor's terminal 14. The web page 690 provides a
19 tool for the vendor or supplier, whereby the supplier may enter all of the variants or
20 variations for a particular product, appreciating that each variant for each product or service
21 may have a different price matrix. To create a price matrix for each variant, the supplier fills
22 in the boxes 695a - 7, which respectively receives an SKUvarID, a quantity of products
23 purchased, a minimum quantity of that range, a maximum quantity of that range, a product
24 variable, e.g. the color of the product, and a variant price. Note that the SKUvarID refers to
25 an ID of a particular variant. In the example of the web page 690 as shown in FIG. 6F, the
26 inputted data for three variants are shown in a window 693, where the columns correspond to
27 the data entered into the boxes 695. For example, the current entered variant information
28 indicates that the number or ID of a product variant is three, the quantity range is 50 to 99,
29 the minimum quantity is 50, the maximum quantity is 99, the product variant is the color of
30 the product, e.g., green, and the variant price for this particular range of product quantities is

1 \$1.36. After all of the variant data has been added, the supplier hits a "done" button 696a,
2 whereby the process moves to the imprinting methods section 698 of the window 690. If the
3 supplier wishes to cancel a particular variant, he/she strikes a "cancel" button 696b. As
4 noted above, a particular product may have as high as 1700 variants. In this case, the web
5 page 690 would provide a tool that would effectively permit the entry of significant
6 quantities of data for each variants of all of the products or services.

7 Next, the supplier moves to the imprinting methods section 698 of the web page 690.
8 Here the supplier selects one of the possible imprinting methods as displayed within a
9 window 696a. The supplier may manipulate a set of arrows 696b to highlight one or more
10 possible imprinting methods for a particular product. Once a selected method is chosen, it
11 may be added to an "available imprinting methods" window 697 by clicking on an "add"
12 button 698a. If a particular method is to be removed, the supplier highlights that method and
13 clicks on a "remove" button 698b.

14 Upon striking the "add" button 698a of the web page 690 (FIG. 6F), the flow diagram
15 600 moves to step 626, wherein category and relationship information on each SKU is input
16 into the E-Commerce System 10 and, in particular, and an "assigned categories, and
17 relationships" web page 700 is as shown in FIG. 6G displayed upon the vendor's terminal 12
18 (FIG. 1). Focusing particularly on an assigned category section of the web page 700, there is
19 shown a window 702, which displays the available categories. The supplier may chose one
20 of these categories by clicking on a particular category within the window 72a and then
21 actuating an "add" button 703a, whereby the selected category is transferred to an "assigned
22 categories" window 702b. By assigning one or more categories to a particular product or
23 SKU, the supplier is permitting that product to be searched by using the designated category.
24 In particular, both the buyer and the vendor can search the products and/or services held in
25 the data warehouse 36 by the use of a designated category, when that category has been
26 related to a particular product or service as described above to a particular category.

27 Next, the supplier moves to the "product family relationships" section 704 of the
28 "assigned categories and relationships" web page 700. By the use of this "relationship
29 feature, the vendor may relate each of it's products and/or services to at least one other
30 product and/or service. In particular, the supplier may actuate a "new" button 706a, whereby

1 the supplier may enter into the window 705 relationship data in a box 705a, the particular
2 item (product or service) in box 705b and/or item type in box 705c. When the buyer hits on
3 a button 708, a drop down will appear in the web page 700, which lists all of the products or
4 SKUs that are included in the vendor's present catalogue. Upon completion of entering data
5 into the web page 700, the vendor clicks on a "accept" button 706b, whereby all of the data
6 entered by the functionality of the flow diagram 600 is saved for entering into the data
7 warehouse 36, as will be explained.

8 Referring now to FIG. 5, the image files that are obtained from the vendor are
9 uploaded in step 612 and are examined in step 614 to determine whether the uploaded
10 images are the relatively large, high definition images of a product or service, or the
11 relatively small or thumbnail images of a lower image resolution of such an item. If a
12 primary or larger image is being uploaded, step 614 passes a primary image to step 618,
13 where the primary image is put into a JPEG file to be displayed in two dimensions.
14 Alternatively, the primary image may be applied to step 616, where programming that will
15 permit the primary image to be displayed in three dimensions is attached to the primary
16 image data. Step 620 inputs the primary data image as modified in steps 616 and 618 to a
17 buffer step 624, whereby the primary data as well as the thumbnail data derived from step
18 622 are held in a buffer. Further, all of the data entered by operation of the adding new
19 products flow diagram 600 is held in step 632 in a buffer, until all of the information
20 concerning the products and/or services of a particular supplier has been entered, at which
21 time step 634 passes all of the data derived from the vendor's terminal 14 is downloaded via
22 the Internet information server 20, the block 26b, the commerce server 30 and the database
23 server 34 to be stored in the data warehouse 36 for use by both of the vendor and the buyer.

24 After the data associated with the new products has been entered by the flow diagram
25 of FIG. 5 as explained above, the vendor product data may be edited and changed by a
26 vendor data editing process whose flow diagram 720a is shown in FIG. 7. Initially in step
27 722, the vendor pulls down and displays a "vendor login" web page 750 as shown in FIG. 8A
28 on the vendor's terminal 14. The vendor then enters it's user name in a box 751a and its
29 password in a box 751b and, thereafter, clicks on a "submit" button 752a. If the entered user
30 name and password corresponds to those kept in the active directory 32, the active directory

1 32 authenticates this particular supplier and provides the vendor access to the E-Commerce
2 System 10.

3 Next, an "enter vendor catalogue" web page 760 as shown in FIG. 8B is displayed in
4 step 724 upon the vendor's terminal 14. The vendor clicks on a "catalogue editor" button
5 762d, whereby the vendor data edit process of the flow diagram 720 moves to step 726.
6 Then, the vendor clicks on the "catalogue editor" button 762d (FIG. 8B), whereby the flow
7 diagram of FIG. 7 moves to the "select product to be edited" step 726, whereby a "highlight a
8 product and edit" web page 770 as shown in FIG. 8C is displayed in the vendor terminal 14.
9 In particular, the web page 770 includes a window 775c wherein each of the previously
10 entered products or SKUs is displayed. One of the products may be selected by manipulating
11 the arrows 778 to change the position of the highlight to a selected product. To select the
12 highlighted product, the vendor clicks onto an "edit" button 776b, whereby the editing
13 process as shown by the flow diagram 720 of FIG. 7 moves to step 728.

14 Step 728 accesses and pulls up an "editing form" 780, which as shown in FIG. 8D is
15 displayed in step 730 upon the vendor's terminal 14. In particular, the form 780 includes a
16 series of boxes 781a - m which are populated with the data for the selected product or SKU.
17 Now, the vendor may edit any of the data as shown in the block 781 and, if satisfied with the
18 edits, clicks onto a save button 782, whereby the changes or edits made to the data appearing
19 in the block 781 is saved in step 732. Upon completion of saving the edited data, the process
20 720 goes to step 734, wherein all of SKU, variants and image data are loaded into the
21 database server 34. Then, all of the edited data is assembled in step 736 into a complete
22 SKU entry, before step 738 downloads the edited data via the customized commerce server
23 34 to be kept in the data warehouse 36.

24 If the buyer wishes to customize a selected product, he/she can select a marking, e.g.,
25 a trademark, a logo or the like, and upload the selected marking to be superimposed on the
26 selected product by employing a buyer's logo upload process as carried out by a flow
27 diagram 800 as shown in FIG. 9. Initially in step 802, the buyer logs into a "buyer's login"
28 web page 830 as shown in FIG. 10A by inserting it's user name and password into boxes
29 832a and b, respectively, before hitting a "go" button 832c. If the active directory 32 (FIG.

1) finds a correspondence between the entered user name and password and those previously stored therein, this buyer is authorized and is provided access to the E-Commerce System 10.

Upon clicking on the "go" button 832c, the flow diagram 800 moves from step 802 to 804, wherein a "buyer's logo home" web page 840 as shown in FIG. 10B is displayed upon the buyer's terminal 16. The web page 840 includes a window 841, wherein all of the markings 842a - k that belong to this buyer are displayed. In particular, the array of markings is constructed by accessing the data warehouse 36 to identify all of the markings that are assigned to this buyer and to populate the window 841 with those markings. In order to select a particular marking or logo to be uploaded, the buyer highlights one of the markings 841 within the window 841 and then clicks on an "add new" button 843 to select the highlighted marking and to go from step 806 to step 808 (FIG. 9).

In step 808, a "buyer logo upload" page 850 is displayed as shown in FIG. 10C on the buyer's terminal 16. The "buyer logo upload" page 850 includes a series of boxes 851a to 851i. The buyer clicks on a "browse" button 252, whereby a pop up display (not shown) is pulled up with a thumbnail image of each of the buyer's markings displayed thereon. The buyer selects one of the markings displayed upon the pop up screen and then proceeds to fill in the boxes 851a to 851i with respectively the address or file path of the selected marking, the address of the viewpoint file, the number of colors, the colors used in the selected marking, the color values, the security with which the markings of the buyer are to be treated, a short description of the marking, a full description of the marking, and the applicable uses and methods of superimposing the selected marking on the product. For example, the buyer may actuate selected of the arrows 253a - d to transfer a particular application from the available window 851i to the selected window 851i2. In this particular illustrative embodiment, the selected marking is authorized to have one or two spot colors and a color imprint associated therewith.

After a marking has been selected and its address in the memory of the buyer's terminal 16 determined, the flow chart 800 moves from step 808 to 810, wherein the image of the marking is converted into a thumbnail image in step 812 before being returned to a logo or marking library in step 812. Further, the selected marking or logo image is converted in step 814 to a flash file, before it is applied or superimposed onto the product or a screen to

1 a logo application in step 818. Further, the image is converted to an EPS production file in
2 step 816, whereby the marking may be used in selected of the screens that are shown to the
3 vendor. The EPS production files are in turn filed in step 822 in the data warehouse 36 by
4 the customized commerce database server 34.

5 After the number of products and/or services has been reduced to a sufficiently
6 refined degree and a desired marking has been selected, the flow diagram 880 moves from
7 stem 888 to 890, wherein a desired product and/or service is selected. The marking 863a as
8 combined or superimposed on a selected product is shown in step 818 (FIG. 9) on a window
9 863 of a "buyer logo application" web page 860 as displayed as shown in FIG. 10D on the
10 buyer's terminal 16. If the buyer accepts the customization, he/she clicks onto an "accept
11 customization" button 864a. If not, the buyer hits a "cancel" button 864b.

12 Referring now to FIG. 11, there is shown a buyer's category search process, which is
13 illustrated by a flow diagram 880. In an initial step 882 of the flow diagram 880, the "buyer
14 login authorization" web page 900 is displayed as shown in FIG. 12A by the buyer's terminal
15 16. In particular, the buyer enters it's user name and password in boxes 901 and 902, before
16 clicking on a "go" button 903. Upon clicking on the button 903, the flow diagram 880
17 moves from step 882 to step 884, wherein a "buyer category searches" web page 910 is
18 displayed as shown in FIG. 12B by the buyer's terminal 16. The "buyer category search"
19 web page 910 includes a "browse" button 911 to permit a review of promotional products, a
20 "browse" button 912 to permit a review of premium products and a "browse" button 913 to
21 permit a review of services as provided by suppliers or providers. The buyer may click on
22 any of the buttons 911, 912 or 913 to review or browse products and/or services in the
23 various categories, e.g., promotional products, premium products and services. Though only
24 four categories are shown in FIG. 12B, it is appreciated that a category search may be
25 initialized and/or programmed for any number of products and/or service categories.

26 In an illustrative category search, the buyer may click on the promotional product
27 browse button 911, whereby the flow diagram 880 moves from step 884 to step 886a,
28 wherein a "buyer's category search results" web page 920 is displayed as shown in FIG. 12C
29 upon the buyer's terminal 16. FIG. 12C indicates how a buyer may bore down to
30 successively chose a narrower category. In this illustrative embodiment, the buyer first

1 actuates a search for the relatively broad category premium products as indicated at space
2 921a. In particular, upon striking the premium products browse button 912, a search is made
3 through the data warehouse 36 and identifies and collects all premium products to be
4 displayed at the area 924 of the web page 920. The web page 920 provides a set of buttons
5 923 including a "sort by supplier" button 923a, a "sort by product" button 923b, a "sort by 3-
6 D" button 923c and a "sort by price" button 923d. Upon clicking on one of the buttons 923,
7 the flow diagram 880 moves from one of the steps 886a - d to step 888 wherein subordinate
8 categories are selected. Illustratively, the buyer may click on the "sort by product" button
9 923b whereby a further search is conducted to locate the office products as indicated at area
10 921b. A second search may be made of the previously identified products to find which of
11 these products are office products, and the office products are now displayed within the
12 display area 924. The search may continue in this fashion by actuating various of the keys
13 923 whereby the number of identified products is successively refined and reduced. When
14 the number of promotional products is reduced to a sufficiently refined number and/or the
15 buyer finds the product and/or service of interest, the buyer clicks onto one of the selected
16 products as appear in the space 924.

17 Upon clicking upon the desired product and/or service , a "product detailed" web page
18 930 is displayed as shown in FIG. 12D upon the buyer's terminal 16. In this illustrative
19 embodiment, the buyer has selected a "mini calculator key ring" which appears in a display
20 space 931a. The space 931a provides a relatively small thumbnail image of the key ring, as
21 well as it's SKU number, the name of the supplier and a brief written description. Further,
22 the web page 930 includes a window 931b in which a relatively large image of the key ring is
23 displayed with a marking, e.g., the trademark Microsoft, superimposed thereon. Further, the
24 web page 930 includes four buttons 932a - d, which operate in a manner similar to that
25 explained above with respect to the buttons 244b - e as shown in FIG. 3D. Briefly, the buyer
26 may actuate the button 932a to select the various product variants of the key ring, e.g., color.
27 The buyer may click on the button 932b to effect customizing of the key ring as by the
28 addition or superimposing of the marking "Microsoft" as shown in the screen 931b, the
29 button 932c to add specific order details and, finally, the button 932d to specify the quantities
30 of the key ring to be ordered and to formulate a detailed order for the key rings.

1 If the buyer would need to conduct an advanced search, he/she will log into the
2 advanced search process, which is shown as a flow diagram 940 in FIG. 13. Initially, the
3 user logs into the E-Commerce System 10 and, in particular, to the buyer site 22a (FIG. 1) by
4 inserting it's user name and passwords into the boxes 951a and b respectively, before clicking
5 onto a "go" button 952, whereby the flow diagram 940 moves from step 942 to step 944.
6 Step 944 displays a vendor home web page, which as shown in FIG. 14B displays a search
7 screen 960 (a part of the home page) that includes a plurality of search buttons 961a - d.
8 When the user clicks onto the "advanced search" button 961b, the flow diagram 940
9 advances from step 944 to step 946, wherein an "advanced search form" web page 970 is
10 displayed as shown in FIG. 14C in step 946 upon the vendor's terminal 16. The web page
11 970 is divided into three parts, each facilitating a different kind of search, whereby the buyer
12 may pick one or more of the search types to be conducted. In particular, there is a search by
13 written description as identified by the numeral 971. The buyer may insert into a box 971
14 various key words that are descriptive of the desired product and/or service. Further, various
15 types of searches may be selected by scrolling through the descriptors presented in a box
16 971b. The web page 970, further includes a section 972 to permit a search by license,
17 whereby a particular name of the license may be entered to identify the product. In
18 particular, the buyer can scroll through the various licensed products and select a desired
19 licensed product.

20 Further, the buyer may be able to search by a particular supplier. In one illustrative
21 embodiment, the buyer may insert in box 973a the name of a particular supplier whose goods
22 and/or services are desired. Alternatively, a particular supplier may be identified by the
23 types of service provided by that supplier and a particular service may be entered into
24 selected of the boxes 973b to h. The buyer may also select a supplier who had rush service
25 in box 973b or a supplier that was minority owned in step 973c. Upon completion of making
26 the various entries on the advanced search form web page 970, the buyer clicks on a "search"
27 button 974a, whereby the flow diagram 940 of FIG. 13 may move from step 948 to 950.

28 Upon clicking upon the button 974a, a search of the data warehouse 36 is made to
29 find all of those products and/or services which meet the entered criteria. Then step 950
30 generates an "advanced search results" web page 980, which is displayed as shown in FIG.

1 14D on the buyer's terminal 16. The initial number of matches or hits is indicated in display
2 space 981. To reduce the number of matches and to refine the search, the user may click on
3 one of a "sort by supplier" button 982, a "sort by product" button 982b, a "sort by 3-D"
4 button 982c and a "sort by price" button 982. The search may be repeated any number of
5 times, each rerun being more refined than the last. The web page 980 further includes a
6 product and/or service display area 983, wherein the products identified in the course of the
7 search are displayed. The search criteria may be further refined in window 984, which
8 includes a pair of boxes 984a for receiving further key words and a box 984b which may be
9 scrolled by the buyer to select further key words. When the buyer finds a product or service
10 as shown in the display space 983 that he/she wishes to find further information about, the
11 buyer clicks on the particular item as displayed in the space 983, whereby the flow diagram
12 940 moves from step 950 to step 952, whereby a web page (not shown) may be generated to
13 provide more information about the selected product and/or service. When a particular
14 product and/or service has been selected in step 950, the data identifying and/or related to
15 that product or service is downloaded by the SQL database server 34 into the data warehouse
16 36 in step 954.

17 Referring now to FIG. 15, there is shown the process of conducting a buyer's keyword
18 search, which is illustrated by a flow diagram 1000. The buyer enters in step 100z it's user
19 name and password into respective boxes of a "buyer login authorization" web page (similar
20 to that described with respect to FIG. 5). If there is a match between the entered buyer's
21 name and password with those previously stored in the data warehouse 36, this buyer is then
22 granted access to the E-Commerce system 10. The "login authorization" web page also
23 includes a "go" button, which if actuated by the buyer causes the flow diagram 1000 to move
24 from step 1002 to step 1004, wherein a "buyer enter keyword" search screen 1040 is
25 displayed as shown in FIG. 16A upon the buyer's terminal 16. The "buyer enter keyword"
26 screen 1040 includes boxes 1041c and d, into which the buyer may enter respectively
27 keywords and may control the scope of the keyword search by clicking on an arrow
28 associated with the box 1041d. Further, the screen 1040 includes a "go" button 1042. After
29 entering the keyword(s) and adjusting the search, the buyer clicks on the "go" button 1042,
30 whereby the flow diagram 1000 moves from step 1004 to step 1006. In step 1006, the

1 commerce server filter 24 (FIG. 1) uses the ASP pages to formulate a search of the data
2 warehouse 36 based upon the keywords and the search scope input by the buyer. In
3 particular, the search uses the SKU identifications as shown in step 1010, a name of the
4 product as shown in step 1012 and a written description of the product as shown in step 1014
5 to identify those products and/or services that satisfy the buyer's input. After developing the
6 search scope base on these inputs, the flow diagram 1000 moves to step 1016, wherein
7 synonyms for the entered keywords are processed to enhance the scope of the search. In one
8 illustrative embodiment of this invention, step 1016 is implemented by the Thesaurus
9 Component Software of Microsoft. Next the flow diagram 1000 moves to step 1018,
10 wherein a search of the data warehouse 36 is made to locate the various products and/or
11 services which match the inputted and processed search criteria.

12 Next in step 1020, data reflecting the matches between the products and/or services
13 and the search criteria is organized to be displayed on a "buyer search results" web page
14 1050 as will be explained in detail below with respect to FIG. 16B. Next in step 1022, the
15 product (and/or service) data is randomized so that one supplier will not be favored as how
16 it's products will be displayed to the buyers. Next in step 1024, a "buyer search results" web
17 page 1050 is displayed as shown in FIG. 16B on the buyer's terminal 16. In particular, the
18 web page 1050 includes a space 1052 wherein a particular set of products 1040a to 1054h as
19 identified by the keyword search are displayed. Each product is presented as a thumbnail
20 image in column 1055, the name of it's supplier in column 1053a, a short written description
21 of the product in column 1053b, the type of image in column 1053c and the price of the
22 product in column 1053d. As indicated above, step 1022 presents the displayed products in a
23 random order so as to not favor any particular supplier, e.g., those suppliers whose names
24 starts with the letter toward the front (or back) of the alphabet. If further searching is
25 required, the buyer can enter additional keywords without leaving the web page 1050, in the
26 box 1041c' or to change the nature of the search in box 1041d', before again hitting a "go"
27 button 1042'.

28 Further as shown in FIG. 15, the flow diagram 1000 moves to step 1026, wherein the
29 buyer can select a different way of rearranging and/or sorting the order in which the products
30 are displayed. In an illustrative embodiment of this invention, the buyer can select a further

1 name or names of a supplier in step 1028a, may select products that are displayed in 2D or
2 3D, may reorganize the products by placing them in alphabetical order by name, and
3 reordering the presentation of the products by their price. The data representing the
4 rearranged products and/or services is again used to search the data warehouse 36 and the
5 matching products and/or services are rearranged to step 1030, wherein a "rearrange of
6 search results" web page 1060 is displayed as shown in FIG. 16C on the buyer's terminal 16.
7 As a comparison of FIGS. 16B and C will indicate, the product data is displayed in a fashion
8 that 3D images are given preference. It is understood, as explained above, that the order of
9 the products may be by price, alphabetized by name, or alphabetized by the name of their
10 supplier.

11 Referring now to FIG. 17A, there is shown a detailed flow diagram 1100 for
12 permitting a buyer from his/her terminal 16 to communicate with the E-commerce system 10
13 (FIG. 1). In step 1102, the buyer logs in to the home page 1104 (see web page 200 of FIG.
14 3A) by inserting therein its user name and password, as explained above. In particular, the
15 buyer clicks onto one of the buttons (not shown) on the home page 1104 which corresponds
16 to each of an order updates page 1106, a Request for Proposal (RFP) page 1107, a chat home
17 page 1120 and a product page 1124. Upon clicking onto the button that corresponds to the
18 order updates page 1106, the process 1100 moves to the step, wherein a search of the data
19 warehouse 36 (FIG. 1) for all of the supplier responses that were made to the orders of the
20 logged-in buyer that had been previously stored in the data warehouse 36. As explained
21 above, each buyer (who has logged-in to the system 10) may place an order for a certain
22 item, whether a product and/or a service. The buyer's order includes the unique ID of the
23 buyer that placed the order. In turn, the supplier receiving this buyer's order formulates and
24 transmits a response bearing the buyer's ID and an indication of whether the supplier accepts
25 the buyer's order or provides a counter offer by modifying the provisions of the buyer's order.
26 The supplier's response is stored in the data warehouse 36 and an email is automatically sent
27 to the originating buyer to prompt this buyer to access the system 10 and bring up the order
28 updates page 1106 as described above. In particular, the buyer side 22a of the internet
29 information server 20 searches the data warehouse 36 for all of the supplier responses
30 bearing the buyer's ID and constructs a list of the identified suppliers' responses to be

1 displayed on the order updates page 1106. Next, the buyer selects by clicking on one of the
2 listed supplier response displayed on the order updates page, whereby the buyer may review
3 the selected supplier response on its terminal 16 (FIG. 1) and send a return message, e.g. by
4 email, to the supplier providing the selected response. Next in step 1108, a system decision
5 is made as to whether to transmit the buyer's email by an internal Email system 110a, i.e., an
6 email system of the E-commerce system 10, or by an external Email system, i.e., an email
7 system of the supplier sending the response. The supplier may have its own email system
8 that has been adapted to process buyers' responses for this supplier; in such an embodiment,
9 the suppliers would make an input to the system 10, typically at the time the supplier
10 registers with the E-commerce system 10, where by the system will use the supplier's email
11 system 1110b. Next in step 1112, the buyer's email is sent to the corresponding supplier and,
12 in step 1114, this Email message is stored in a section of the data warehouse 36 dedicated to
13 the buyer that sent the Email. In step 1116, the supplier receives the buyer's email as will be
14 explained below with respect to FIG. 17B.

15 Next if the buyer clicks on the RFP button on the home page 1104, the RFP page
16 1107 is displayed on at the buyer's terminal 16 (FIG. 1). Upon clicking on the RFP button,
17 the buyer side of the server 20 searches the data warehouse 36 for all response by suppliers
18 to the RFP placed by the buyer and constructs a list of all of the supplier responses on the
19 RFP page 1107. The buyer then selects a supplier response to review and clicks on that
20 response as listed on the page 1107, whereby that supplier response is displayed on the
21 buyer's terminal 16. After reviewing that response, the buyer sends its response in the form
22 of an email. The buyer's email may be transmitted by the email system 1110a of the E-
23 commerce system 10 or the supplier's email system 1110b, as determined in step 1108, in a
24 manner similar to that described above. In step 1112, the email is sent to the supplier
25 responding to the buyer's RFP and the buyer's Email response is stored in step 1114 in the
26 data warehouse 36. Finally the buyer's Email message is received and reviewed by the
27 supplier in step 1116.

28 Next if the buyer would like to directly communicate with a particular supplier, the
29 buyer may click on the chat button appearing on the home page 1104, whereby the E-
30 commerce system 10 pulls up and displays a list of the suppliers that are currently in their

1 chat rooms and are currently available to communicate with. To implement such a display,
2 the supplier can store an indication in the data warehouse 36, that it is available to chat,
3 whereby each available supplier may be identified and a list thereof may be displayed on a
4 buyer's terminal 16. If the buyer finds a supplier with which he/she wants to communicate,
5 the buyer clicks on that buyer and a chat is carried out in step 1122. In an illustrative
6 embodiment of this invention, the messages sent by the buyer and supplier in the course of
7 the chat may be stored in step 1123 in the data warehouse 36.

8 If the buyer needs further information about a particular item that was identified by
9 the search engine 104 and one of the searches 106a, b or c, the buyer may request the
10 supplier of that product in step 108 to provide more information about that product. If the
11 buyer wants to view that item information, the buyer clicks on the products page button on
12 the home page 1104, whereby the web page bearing further information about the item is
13 displayed on the buyer's terminal 16. The buyer may then take further action by
14 communicating with the supplier 116. For example, the buyer may then send an order to the
15 supplier 1116.

16 Referring now to FIG. 17B, there is shown a detailed diagram of a vendor
17 communications process 1140, whereby one of the plurality of suppliers may communicate
18 with a selected buyer. Initially in step 1142, a supplier or vendor enters its user name and
19 password into a supplier's home page (see web page 370 in FIG. 4A) and if authenticated as
20 described above, the process 1140 move to step 1144, wherein the supplier gains access to
21 the E-commerce system 10 and, in particular to the supplier side 22b of the Internet
22 information server 20 (FIG. 1). Upon authentication of the supplier, a home page (page 340
23 as shown in FIG. 4B) is displayed on the supplier's terminal 14 (FIG. 1). The supplier's
24 home page includes a button (391g of FIG. 4B), which the supplier may click on to draw
25 from the ware house 36 each of the orders, which were placed by various buyers and for
26 items that were supplied by this supplier. When a buyer places an order for a particular item,
27 the order indicates the supplier of that item and is stored in the data warehouse 36. In turn,
28 all of the orders for items of this supplier are drawn in step 1150 from the data warehouse 36
29 and a list of all of these orders for this supplier's items, is constructed in step 1148 and
30 displayed on an order page 1146 on this supplier's terminal 14. The supplier reviews the list

1 of orders for the items of this supplier and selects one the orders for review. In step 1152,
2 the supplier decides whether to accept or reject the buyer's order. If the order is rejected, the
3 communication session of the supplier terminates. If the supplier accepts the buyer's order,
4 the supplier prepares a response accepting the order and stores it in the data warehouse 36,
5 and an email is automatically generated and transmitted as described above via one of the
6 email systems of the E-commerce system or the supplier, as controlled by the supplier. In
7 step 1160, the buyer receives the supplier's response that agreement has been reached by the
8 buyer and the supplier, and that the purchase of the items has been completed. The buyer is
9 provided, in one embodiment of this invention, the option to make minor changes, as long as
10 they do effect the final compensation to the buyer. Further, the final emails from the supplier
11 are stored in the data warehouse 252.

12 Further, the supplier in step 1144 may click a RFP button on the home page, whereby
13 the process 1140 moves to step 1150, wherein each RFP, that designates the items of this
14 supplier and has been stored in the data warehouse 36, is drawn from the data warehouse 36
15 and a list thereof is constructed and displayed in step 1170 on the RFP page on the supplier's
16 terminal 14 (FIG. 1). Next in step 1172, the supplier selects and reviews each of the RFPs,
17 before deciding whether or not to make any response to the RFP, to accept the RFP or to
18 make in step 1174 a counter offer to the originating buyer. The buyer receives the supplier's
19 response in step 1168, and if the buyer accepts the supplier's counter offer in step 1166, an
20 email is automatically sent to each of the buyer and the supplier informing them that the
21 terms of RFP have been accepted by both parties. This communication is also stored in the
22 data warehouse 36 in step 1162.

23 Further, the supplier may in step 144 click onto a chat room button appearing on the
24 supplier home page, whereby the process moves to step 1176, wherein the data warehouse
25 may be searched to identify which of the buyers are currently in the chat room and available
26 to communicate with, and to construct and display a list of the available buyers. Then in step
27 1178, the supplier may click on a selected one of the listed buyers and start in step 1178 a
28 session in the chat room with the selected buyer.

29 Referring now to FIG. 17C, there is shown a detailed flow diagram of a process 1200
30 for facilitating a buyer to search the data warehouse 36 for those items that satisfy the buyer's

1 criteria, and to select at least one of the set of items to be purchase. Initially in step 1202, the
2 buyer logs in into the buyer's side 22a of the Internet information server 20 by entering its
3 user name and password in to the buyer's home page. Then the buyer initiates a search for
4 the items stored in the data warehouse 36 that match the buyer's criteria. In particular, the
5 buyer may initiate a key word search 1206a, an advanced search 1206b or a category search
6 1206c, as explained above. The set of items identified by the selected search is filtered to
7 reduce and refine the results of the search by the name of the desired supplier, the price, the
8 image type (2D or 3D) and the alphabetic order. In the following steps, the process 1200
9 proceeds to construct a web page or screen that displays the item along with information
10 about the item. In step 1212, a template is called according to the definition of that item.
11 Thus, the selected template will have boxes to receive the buyer's values of the variables
12 defined by the definition. For example if the item was a shirt, the variables of this items may
13 include size data, style data and color data. To select a particular item, the buyer would need
14 to enter small, medium or large into the size box, red into the color box and button-down into
15 the style box. Of course, other items would have difference variables and, thus, require their
16 own particular template. Next in step 1214, a page representing the item's particular
17 template is displayed on the buyer's terminal 17, whereby the buyer can enter the desired
18 value into each variable data input box. Next in step 1216, a price matrix corresponding to
19 the item values entered in step 1214 is added to the selected template. As described above
20 with respect to FIG. 5, a plurality of price matrixes were defined by the supplier, one for each
21 different set of variables. and are stored in the data warehouse 36. In particular, step 1216
22 defines the price matrix for each different set of variable by searching the data warehouse 36
23 to find the same set variables and then add the corresponding price matrix found in the data
24 warehouse 36 to the matching set of variables

25 To complete the screen, a marking such as a logo or trade mark may added to the
26 template for a particular product in an illustrative embodiment of this invention. Next in step
27 1218, the status of a particular buyer is examined to determine which markings that this
28 buyer is authorized by owner to use. Next in step 1220, the buyer selects from the set of
29 markings that he/she is authorized to use, that marking that is to be combined with or
30 superimposed on the selected item. The image data of the selected marking is then added to

1 the template in step 1222. Next in step 1224, the buyer adds to the template any special
2 instructions that the buyer may want to give to the supplier as to how the item should be
3 made or the marking superimposed thereon. The directions may also include the quantity of
4 the items to be supplied. Finally in step 1226, the user can add the particular item to its
5 basket, whereby the item can order the item at this time or later.

6 In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to
7 specific embodiments. However, one of ordinary skill in the art appreciates that various
8 modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the present
9 invention as set forth in the claims below. Accordingly, the specification and figures are to
10 be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense, and all such modifications are
11 intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

12 Benefits, other advantages, objects, and solutions to problems have been described
13 above with regard to specific embodiments. However, the benefits, advantages, solutions to
14 problems, objects, and any element(s) that may cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to
15 occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential
16 feature or element of any or all the claims. As used herein, the terms "comprises,"
17 "comprising," or any other variation thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion,
18 such that a process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises a list of elements does not
19 include only those elements but may include other elements not expressly listed or inherent
20 to such process, method, article, or apparatus.

1 We claim:

2 1. A method of managing the sale of a plurality of items from a plurality of
3 corresponding suppliers to at least one buyer, the one buyer determines a description of the
4 item to be purchased, said method of managing comprising the steps of:

5 a) enabling each of the plurality of suppliers to store at least one catalogue
6 of its items in a database; and

7 b) responding to a search request of the one buyer to identify any item in
8 the catalogues stored in the database with a description that matches the item description of
9 the buyer.

10 2. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 1,
11 wherein there is further included the step of determining the identification of the supplier of
12 the identified item.

13 3. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 1,
14 wherein there is further included the step of transmitting an order containing an identification
15 of the item identified in step b) to be stored in a memory.

16 4. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 3,
17 wherein there is further included the step of transmitting a prompt to the supplier of the
18 identified item that corresponds to the identified supplier.

19 5. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 4,
20 wherein the identified supplier is prompted to identify the order in the memory based upon
21 the supplier identification borne by the order and to display the order to the identified
22 supplier.

23 6. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 5,
24 wherein the identified item supplier transmits to and stores in the memory a response bearing
25 an identification of the one buyer and a response to one buyer's order.

26 7. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 6,
27 wherein the response comprises an acceptance of the order or a counter offer modifying the
28 terms of the one buyer's order.

29 8. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 5,
30 wherein there is included the step of identifying the supplier's response based on the

1 identification of the one buyer and to draw from the memory the response for display to the
2 one buyer.

3 9. The method of managing the sale of a plurality of items as claimed in claim 1,
4 wherein the items contained in the one catalog comprise a promotional product.

5 10. A system for carrying out a transaction involving at least one item supplied by
6 at least one supplier and potentially purchased by at least one buyer, each of the one supplier
7 and the one buyer having a terminal connected to a network, said system comprising:

8 a) at least one interface including a database; and

9 b) at least one server that is connected to the network and is programmed to
10 provide a buyer web site to permit the one buyer to communicate over the network between
11 the buyer's terminal and the interface, and to provide a supplier Webster to permit the
12 supplier to communicate over the network between the supplier's terminal and the interface,
13 whereby one of the buyer and supplier may transmit a message related to the one item from
14 its terminal to the interface and further transmit the message from the interface to the
15 terminal of the other of the buyer and supplier.

16 11. The system for carrying out a transaction as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
17 server is programmed to search and identify an item that meets the one buyer's description,
18 and to transmit an order from the buyer to be stored on the database, the order comprising an
19 identification of the one buyer, a description of the one item and an identification of the one
20 supplier.

21 12. The system for carrying out a transaction as claimed in claim 11, wherein said
22 server is programmed to construct a response to a buyer's order comprising the identification
23 of the buyer, a response by the one buyer and an identification of the one supplier, and to
24 transmit the response from the one supplier to be stored on said database.

25 13. A method of constructing a searchable database that stores at least one
26 catalogue of items that may be bought by at least one buyer and are supplied by at least one
27 supplier, the database being coupled to a server that is programmed to communicate over a
28 network with a terminal of the buyer and a terminal of the supplier, said method comprising
29 the steps of:

- 1 a) the one supplier selecting which of its items that are to be included in
2 its catalogue;
- 3 b) the supplier attaching to each selected item a description of that item;
4 and
- 5 c) then storing each item and attached description in a database, whereby
6 the buyer may search the catalog of items stored in the database based on the descriptions of
7 the items.

8 14. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 13,
9 wherein there is further included the step of the supplier further attaching to each selected
10 item an identification of the supplier of each of the selected items.

11 15. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 13,
12 wherein there is further included the step of the supplier further attaching to each selected
13 item an identification of the one buyer.

14 16. A method of managing a system to carry out transactions involving the
15 purchase by each of a plurality of buyers of selected of a plurality of items, selected of the
16 plurality of items being supplied by corresponding ones of a plurality of suppliers, each of
17 the plurality of buyers and each of said plurality of suppliers having a terminal and being
18 assigned a unique ID, each of the buyer terminals and the supplier terminals being connected
19 to a network, the system being connected to the network, the system comprising a server and
20 a database, said managing method comprising the steps of:

- 21 a) initially obtaining from each of the plurality of buyers and suppliers
22 their unique ID to be stored in the database;
- 23 b) subsequently receiving and comparing the ID of each of the plurality of
24 buyers who seeks access to the system and, if there is a match, granting to that buyer or
25 supplier access to the system; and
- 26 c) effecting a plurality of transactions, each transaction involving the
27 potential purchase by the buyer of at least one of item supplied by one supplier.

28 17. The method of managing a system to carry out purchase transactions as
29 claimed in claim 16, wherein there is further included the step of creating a record of each of

1 the plurality of transactions and attaching to each of the records the ID of each of the buyer
2 and supplier involved in the transaction.

3 18. The method of managing a system to carry out purchase transactions as
4 claimed in claim 17, wherein there is further include the step of storing each of the records in
5 the database.

6 19. The method of managing a system to carry out purchase transactions as
7 claimed in claim 18, wherein there is further included the step of granting to at least one of
8 the plurality of buyers or one of the plurality of suppliers access to a particular record if the
9 buyer or the supplier has an ID that matches the one ID that is attached to the particular
10 record.

11 20. A method of managing the selecting and purchasing at least one item by a
12 buyer, said managing method comprising the steps of:

13 a) associating with each of the plurality of distinct items a definition
14 which defines the variables of its item; and

15 b) constructing a screen displaying the variables of the selected item in
16 accordance with the definition of the selected item.

17 21. The method of managing the selecting and purchasing at least one item as
18 claimed in claim 20, wherein there is further include the step of displaying the screen to the
19 one buyer to prompt the one buyer to set the values of the variables.

20 22. The method of managing the selecting and purchasing at least one item as
21 claimed in claim 20, wherein there is a library of markings and there is further included the
22 step of facilitating the buyer to select one of the markings of the library.

23 23. The method of managing the selecting and purchasing at least one item as
24 claimed in claim 21, wherein there is further included the step of constructing an order
25 comprising the identification of the item, an image of the selected marking and an
26 identification of the supplier.

27 24. The method of managing the selecting and purchasing of at least one item as
28 claimed in claim 20, wherein the item is a promotional product and the marking is a logo.

1 25. A method of constructing a unique screen that displays a price matrix for at
2 least one particular item, the item includes a definition of the variables associated with the
3 item, said method of constructing comprising the steps of:

- 4 a) reiteratively changing each of the plurality of variables;
5 b) for each reiteration of each of the variables, attaching a corresponding
6 price matrix dependent on the values of each of the plurality of variables for that reiteration;
7 c) storing in a database for each reiteration the values for each of the
8 corresponding variables and the corresponding price matrix; and
9 d) constructing a screen for a set of variables of particular values by
10 accessing the database to determine the price matrix corresponding to the set of variable of
11 the particular values, and by composing the screen to include the set of values for the
12 variables and the corresponding price matrix.

13 26. A database structure to facilitate communications over a network between any
14 of a plurality of suppliers of items and any of a plurality of buyers of the items, said database
15 structure comprising:

- 16 a) a buyers' memory structure comprising a plurality of sections, one
17 section for each buyer for storing an ID unique to its buyer and the orders initiated by that
18 buyer; and
19 b) a supplier memory structure comprising a plurality of sections, one for
20 each supplier for storing an ID unique to that supplier and at least one catalog of the items of
21 each supplier.

22 27. The database structure to facilitate communications over a network as claimed
23 in claim 26, wherein the database is adapted for use with a server, the communications relate
24 to the purchase of the item supplied by the suppliers and offered for sale to the buyers, each
25 of the suppliers and buyers having a terminal, and each of the suppliers having at least one
26 catalog of its items.

27 28. The database structure to facilitate communications as claimed in claim 26,
28 wherein said supplier section stores a definition of each item supplied by the corresponding
29 supplier.

1 29. The database structure to facilitate communications as claimed in claim 28,
2 wherein said supplier section stores an image for selected items supplied by corresponding
3 suppliers.

4 30. The database structure to facilitate communications as claimed in claim 29,
5 wherein said supplier section stores a plurality of sets of values of item variables as
6 determined by the corresponding buyer of that item.

7 31. A method of controlling communications over a network between at least one
8 supplier of at least one item and at least one buyer to whom that one item is offered for sale,
9 said method comprising the steps of:

10 a) receiving and storing a message in a memory from the buyer that
11 relates to the item and includes an identification of the supplier that supplies the item; and

12 b) searching the memory for all messages with an identification that
13 matches that of the supplier of the item.

14 32. The method of controlling communications as claimed in claim 31, wherein
15 said method controls the operation of at least one server to communicate over the network,
16 each of the one supplier and the one buyer having a terminal, and the server being associated
17 with the memory.

18 33. The method of controlling communications as claimed in claim 32, wherein
19 there is further included the step of programming the one server to construct a supplier site to
20 communicate over the network to the supplier terminal and to construct a buyer site to
21 communicate over the network to the buyer terminal.

22 34. The method of operating at least one server as claimed in claim 32, wherein
23 the server is further programmed to respond to the storing of the first message in the memory
24 to send a second message to the terminal of the supplier identified in the first message to
25 prompt the identified supplier to search the memory for the first message.

26 35. The method of operating at least one servers as claimed in claim 34, wherein
27 there is further included the step of permissioning only the supplier of the one item to search
28 the memory and to access the first message.

29 36. A method of operating a searchable database to facilitate at least one buyer to
30 select a certain one of a plurality of items that matches a description of the item sought by the

1 one buyer, the plurality of items being variously supplied by a plurality of suppliers, each
2 supplier supplying a set of its items, said operating method comprising the steps of:

- 3 a) storing a plurality of files in the searchable database, each of the
4 plurality of files comprising an identification of at least one item, a description of the one
5 item and an identification of the particular supplier that supplied the one item, and
6 b) facilitating each of the plurality of buyers to search the plurality of files
7 stored in the searchable database for an item whose description matches the description of
8 the one buyer and to withdraw from the database any file with an item that matches the
9 buyer's description.

10 37. The method of operating a searchable data base as claimed in claim 36,
11 wherein each of the buyers constructs an order comprising the withdrawn file, an
12 identification of the corresponding buyer, an identification of the corresponding item and an
13 identification of the corresponding supplier of the item.

14 38. The method of operating a searchable database as claimed in claim 36,
15 wherein there is included a library of markings, and there is further included the step of
16 selecting at least one marking from the library and include an identification of that marking
17 with the order. .

18 39. A method of constructing a searchable database to facilitate each of a plurality
19 of buyers to select certain ones of a plurality of items that matches an item description of
20 each buyer, the plurality of items being variously supplied by a plurality of suppliers, each
21 supplier supplying a set of its items, said constructing method comprising the steps of:

- 22 a) constructing for each of the plurality of items an identification of the
23 one item, a description of the one item to be matched with the item description of one of the
24 plurality of buyers, and an indication of the particular supplier that supplied the one item;
25 b) repeating step a) for each item of the set for each supplier; and
26 c) storing the files for a particular supplier in a distinct section of the
27 database.

28 40. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 39,
29 wherein in step a) the file is constructed to include an identification of the one item.

1 41. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 40,
2 wherein in step a) the file is constructed to include a description of the one item to be
3 matched with the item description of one of the plurality of buyers.

4 42. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 39,
5 wherein in step a) the file is constructed to include a definition of the variables of the item.

6 43. The method of constructing a searchable database as claimed in claim 42,
7 wherein there is further included the step of constructing a screen displaying the variables of
8 the selected item in accordance with the definition of the selected item.

9 44. A method of controlling the communications over a network between at least
10 one supplier of at least one item and at least one buyer to whom that one item is offered for
11 sale, said method comprising the steps of:

12 a) receiving a first message from the buyer that relates to the one item and
13 includes an identification of the supplier that supplies the one item;

14 b) storing the first message in a memory; and

15 c) responding to the storing of the first message in the memory to send a
16 second message to the supplier identified by the supplier identification to indicate that the
17 first message has been stored in the memory.

18 45. The method of controlling communications as claimed in claim 44, wherein
19 there is included a step of searching the memory for the first message using an identification
20 that matches that of the supplier of the item whereby the one supplier gains access to the first
21 message.

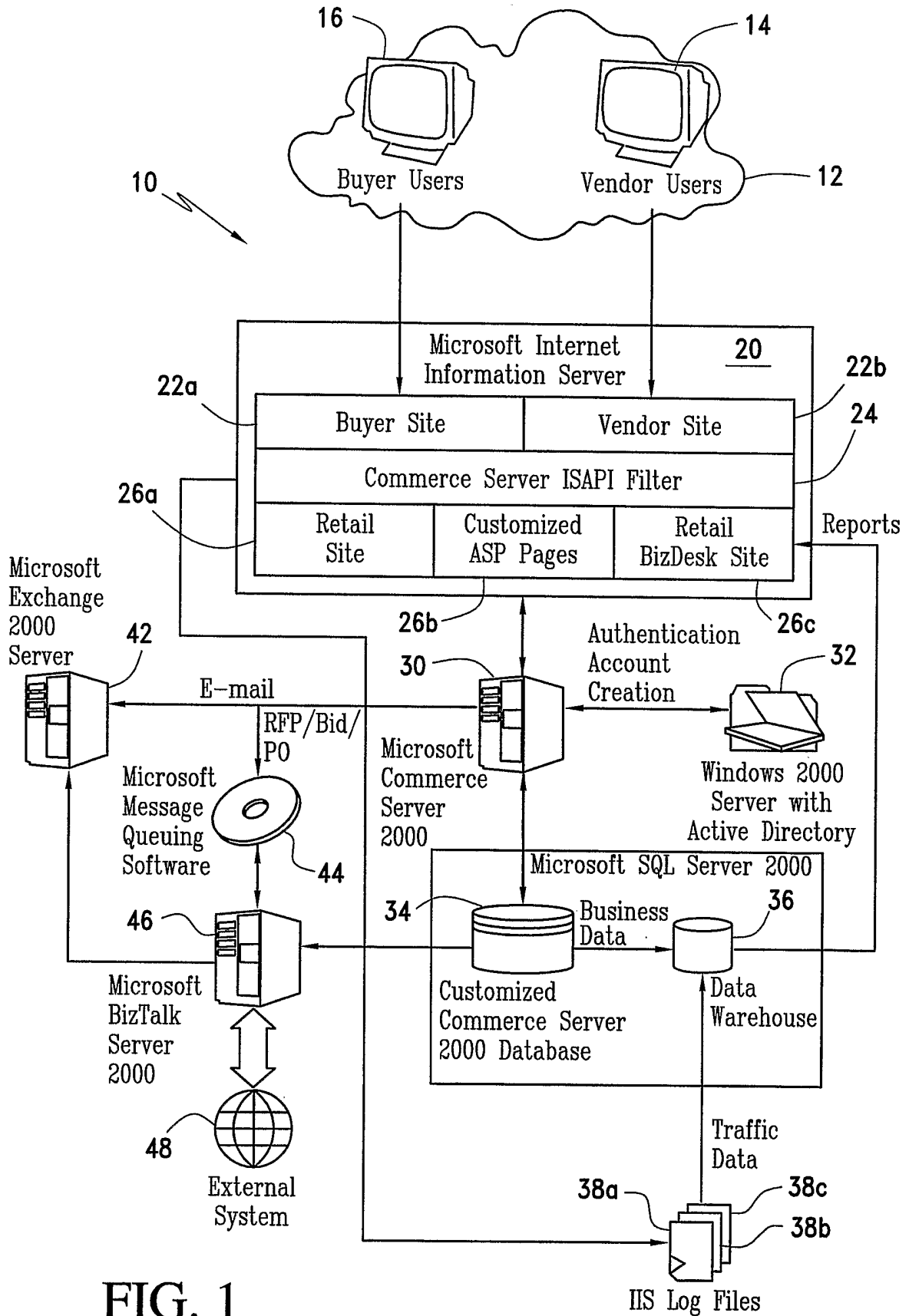


FIG. 1

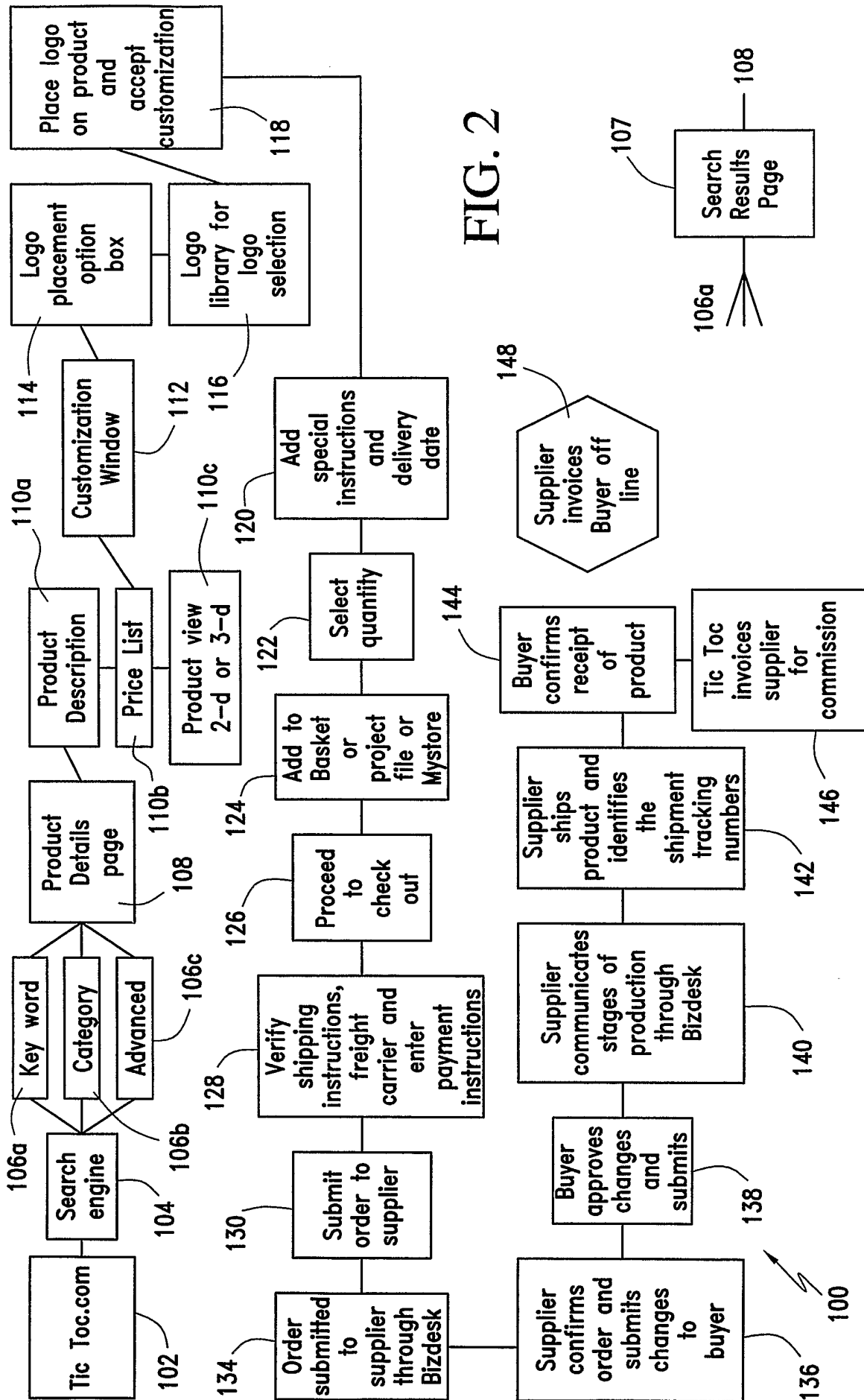


FIG. 2

Tic Toc marketplace
your resource for marketing on the Frontline™

202 save 20 - 50% on promotional items!

Welcome to Tic Toc Marketplace, your comprehensive online source for promotional products and services. With direct access to more than half a million items from leading global manufacturers, you can:

- 203** promotional products
Promotional Items include our most popular choices for easy customization. Choices range from ceramic mugs to tea shirts.
- 204** premium products
Premium Products include special gifts for your valuable customers and staff. Choices range from radios to vacation packages.
- 205** service providers
View suppliers that provide a service.

204

- Enjoy wholesale savings of 20% to 50% by buying direct
- Get a wider selection of high-quality items, delivered faster
- Retain control over the entire process
- Set up your own custom store and more

Take a spin through our demos or contact Tic Toc to start saving today!

[tic toc marketplace admin](#)

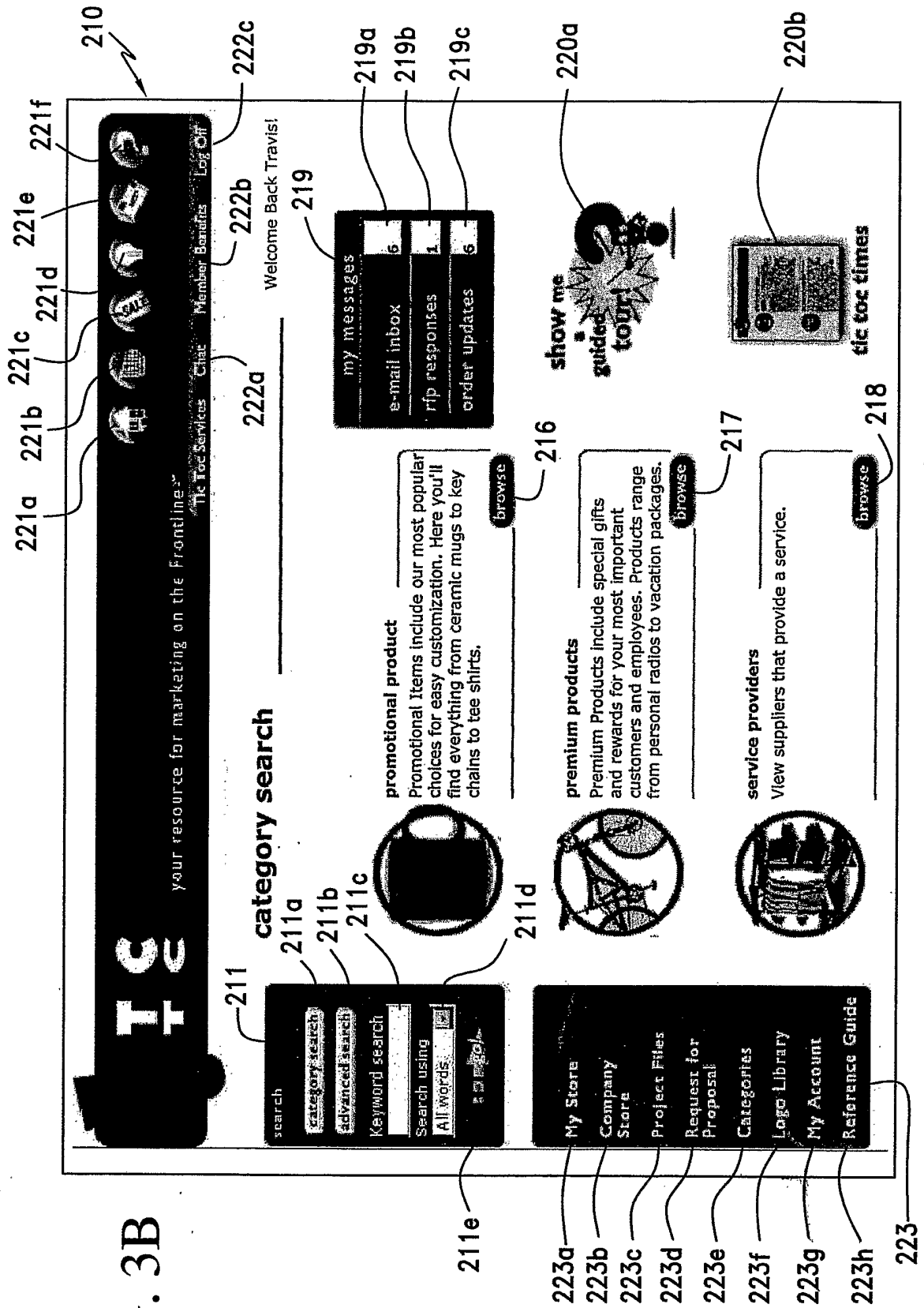
[205](#)

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FIG. 3A

FIG. 3B



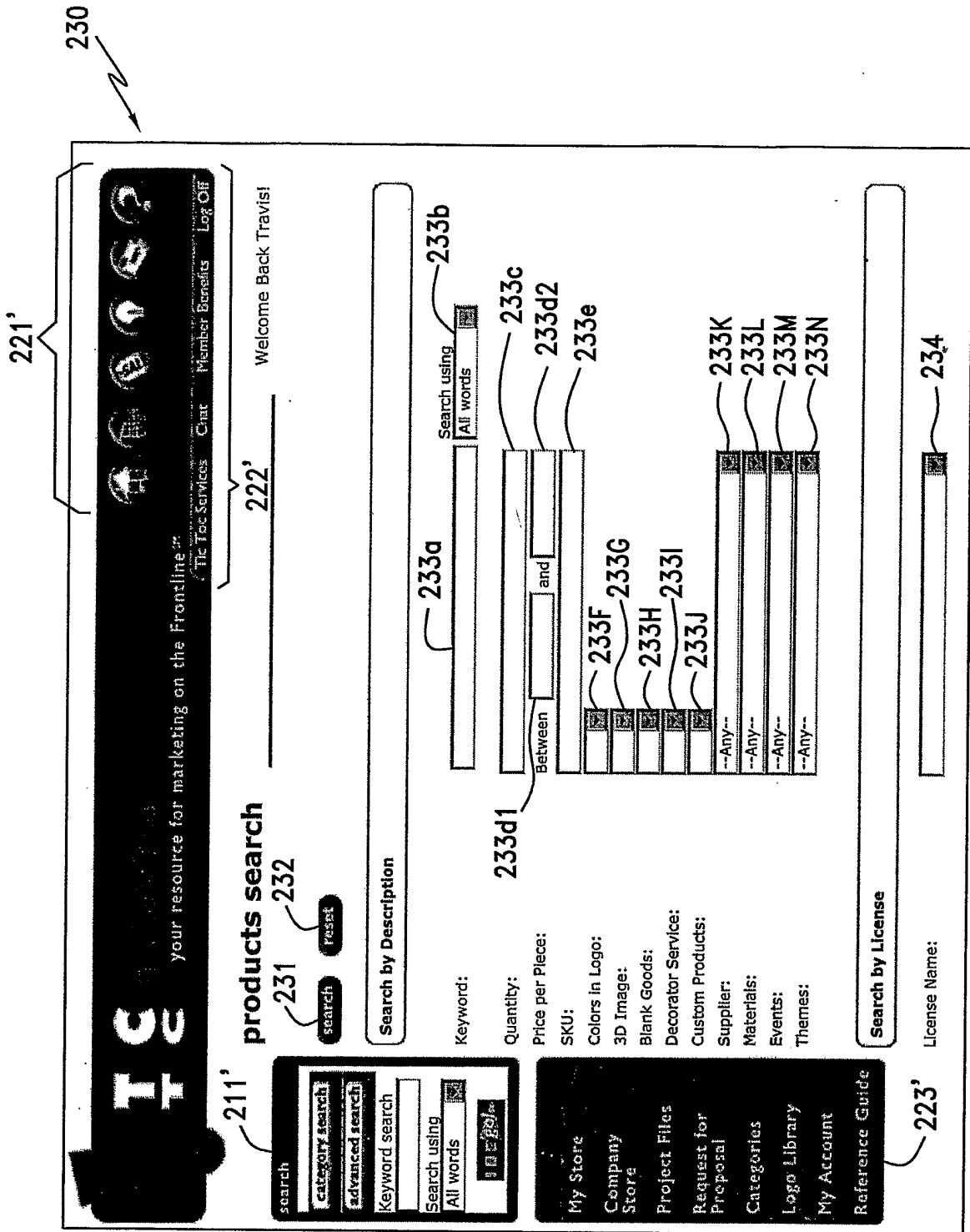
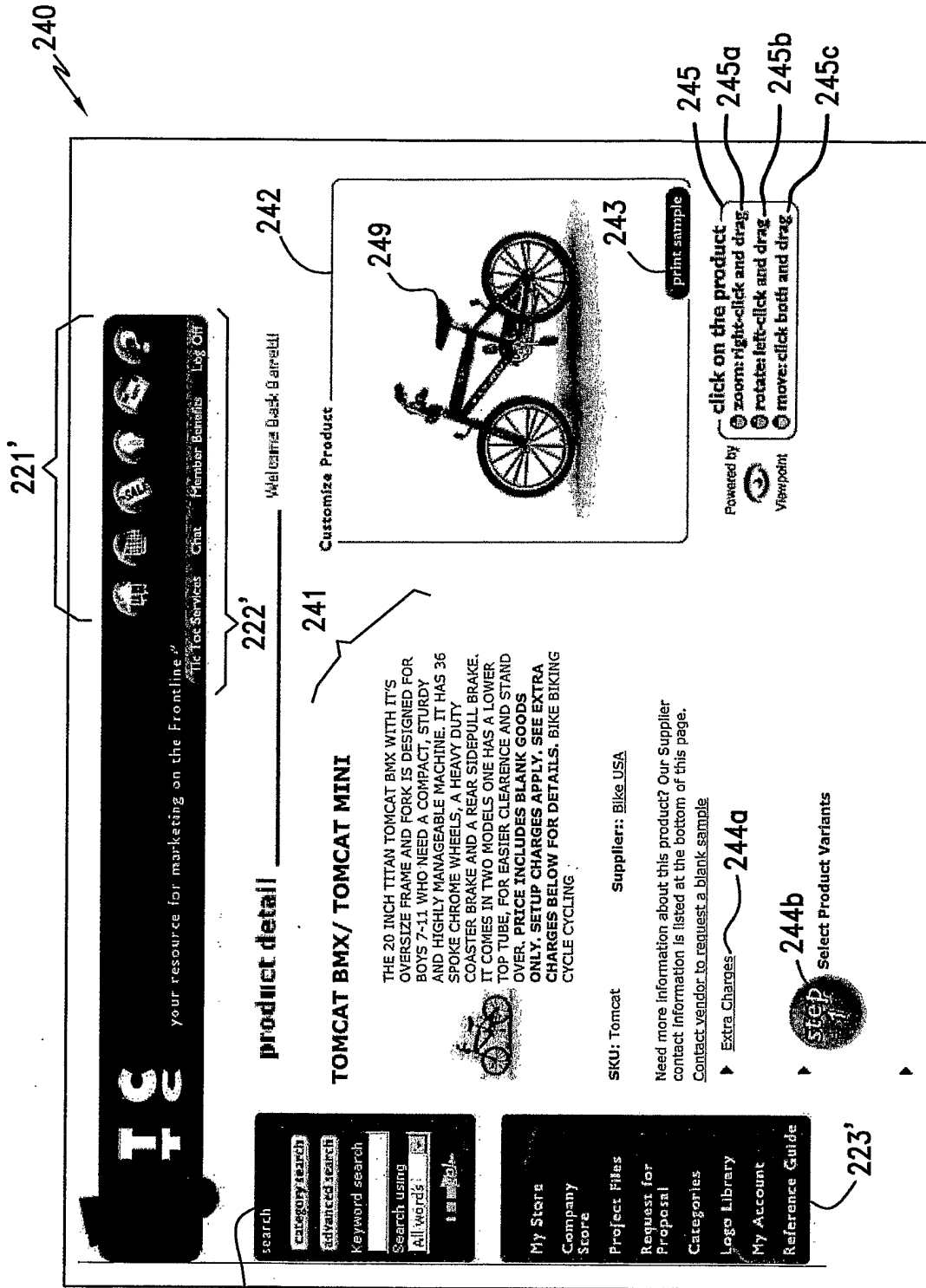


FIG. 3C

FIG. 3D-1



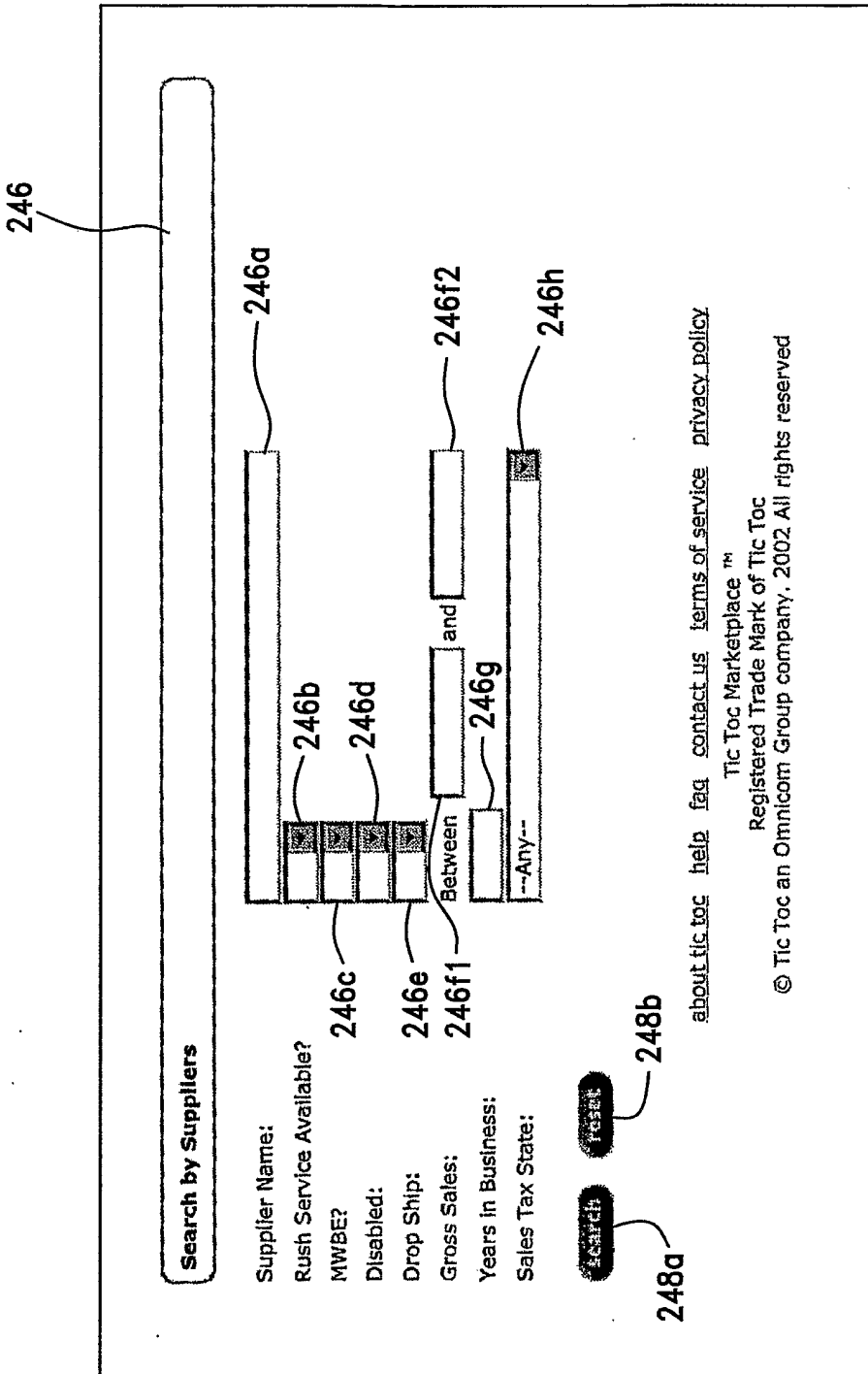


FIG. 3D-2

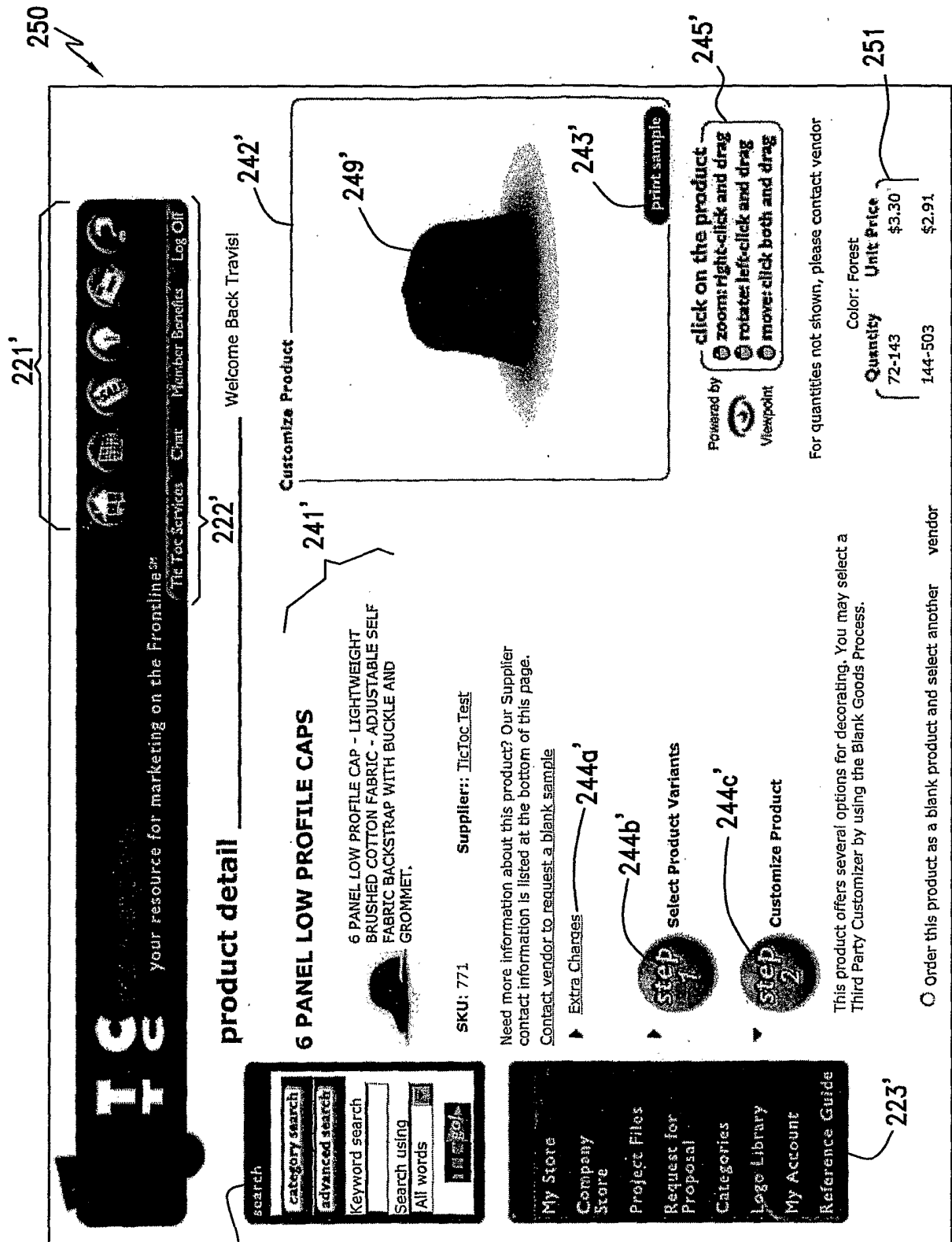
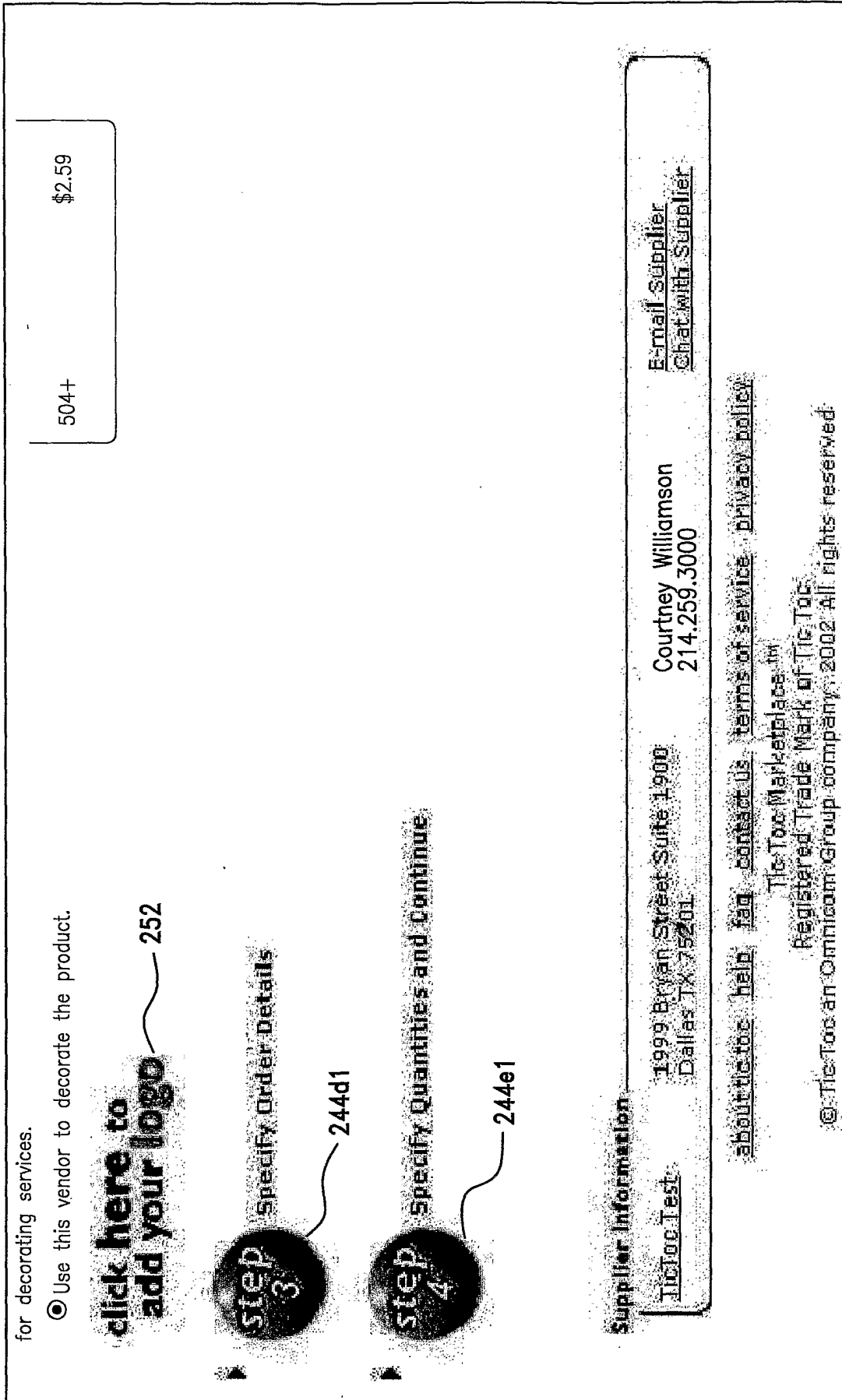


FIG. 3E-1

FIG. 3E-2



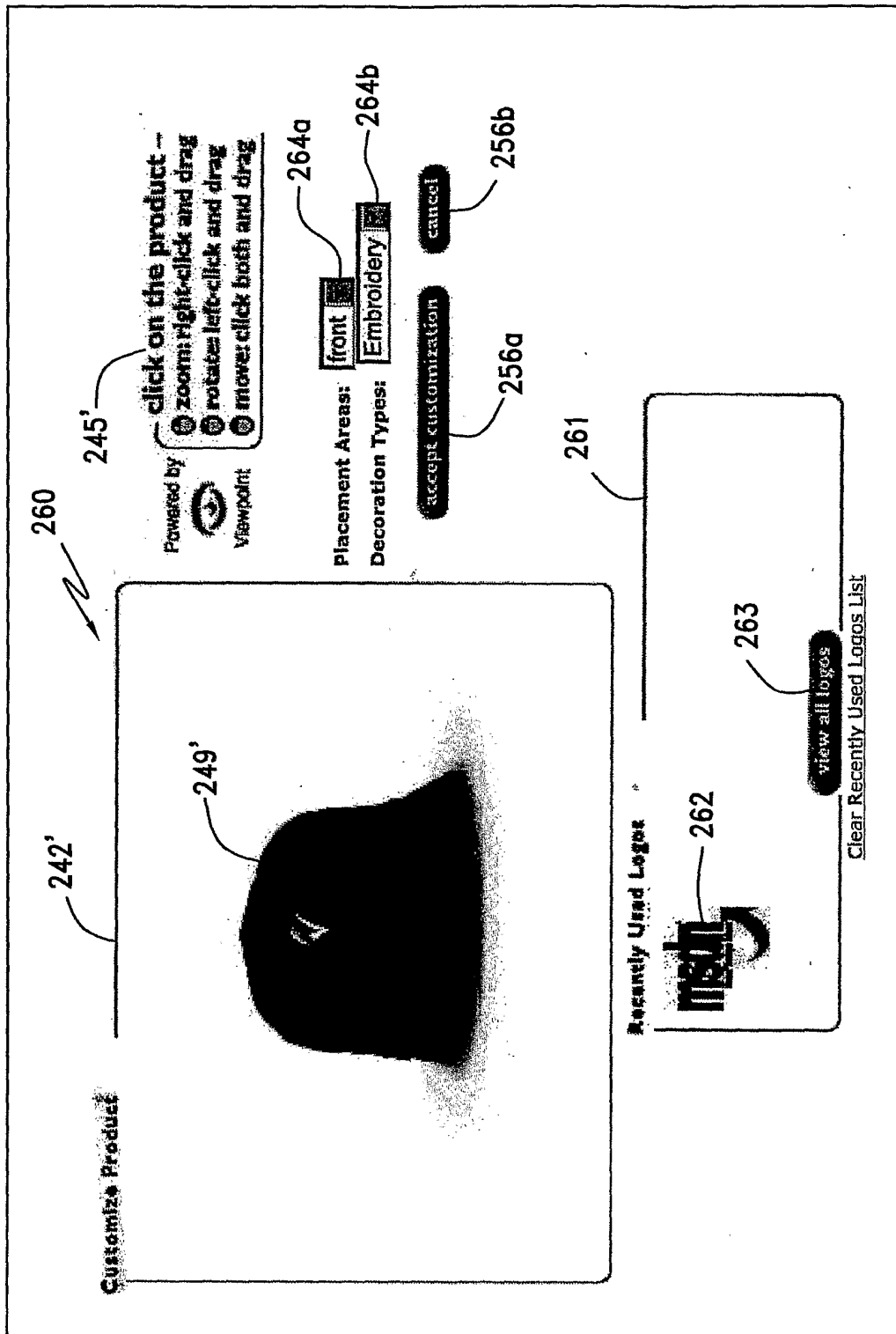


FIG. 3F

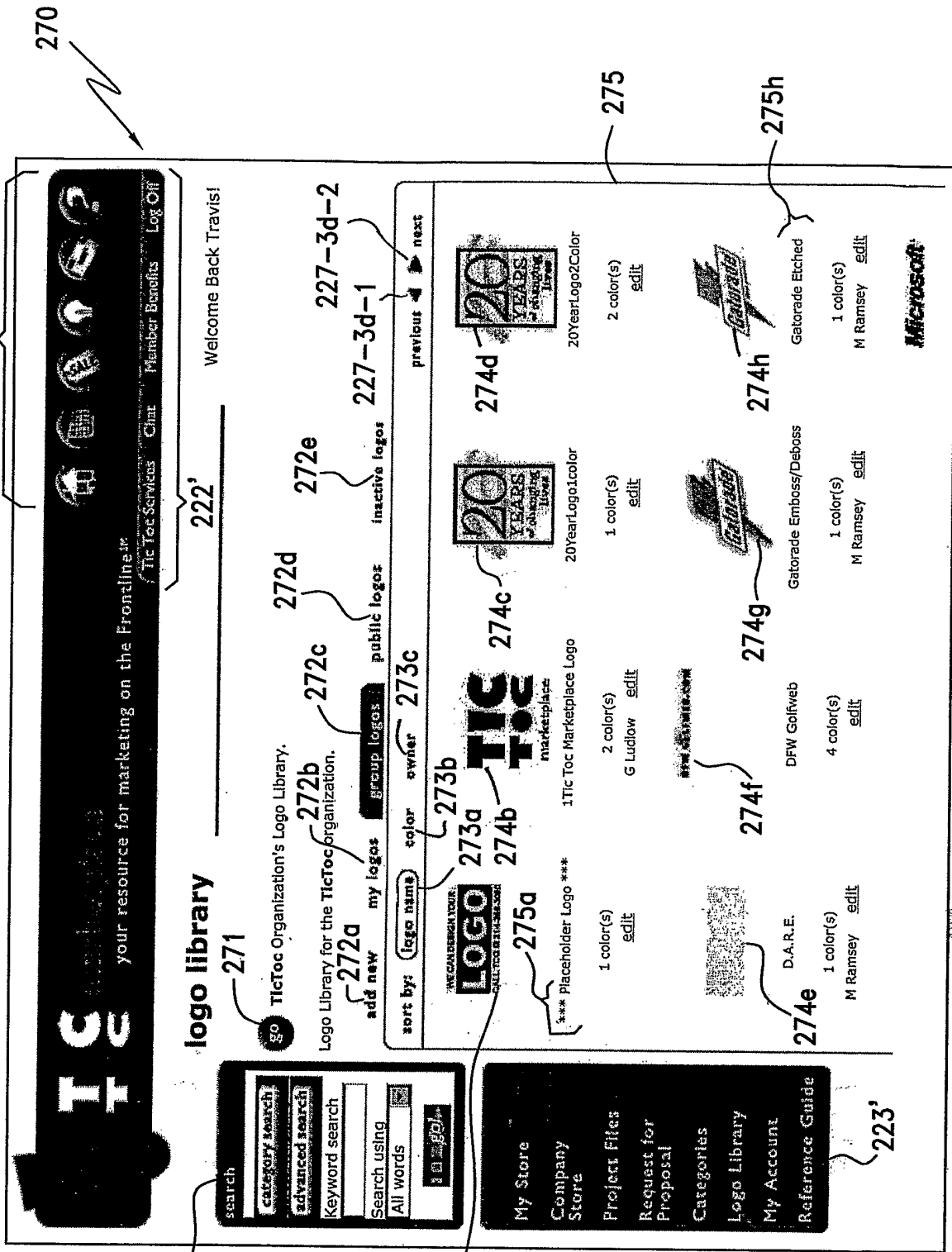


FIG. 3G-1

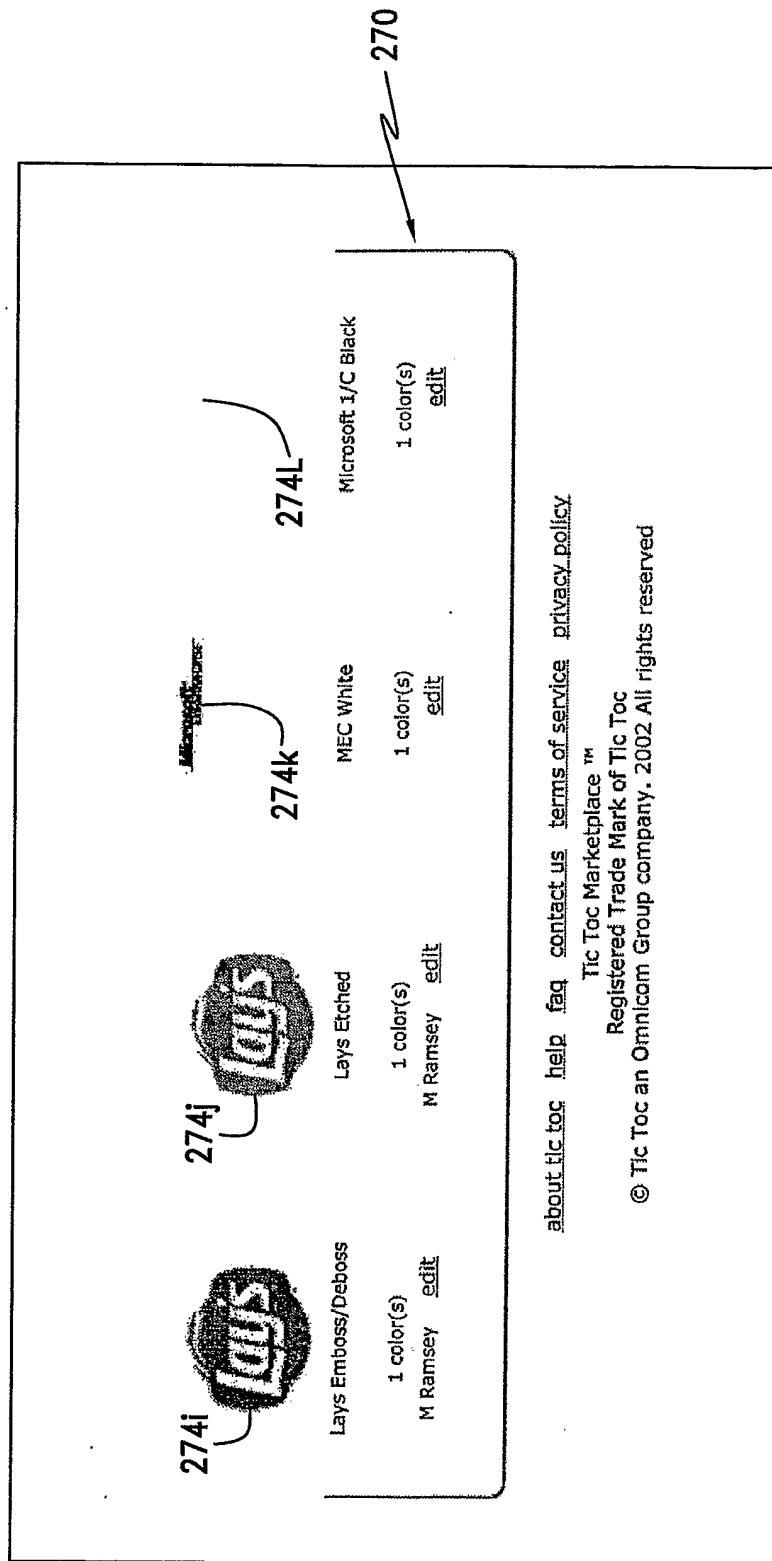
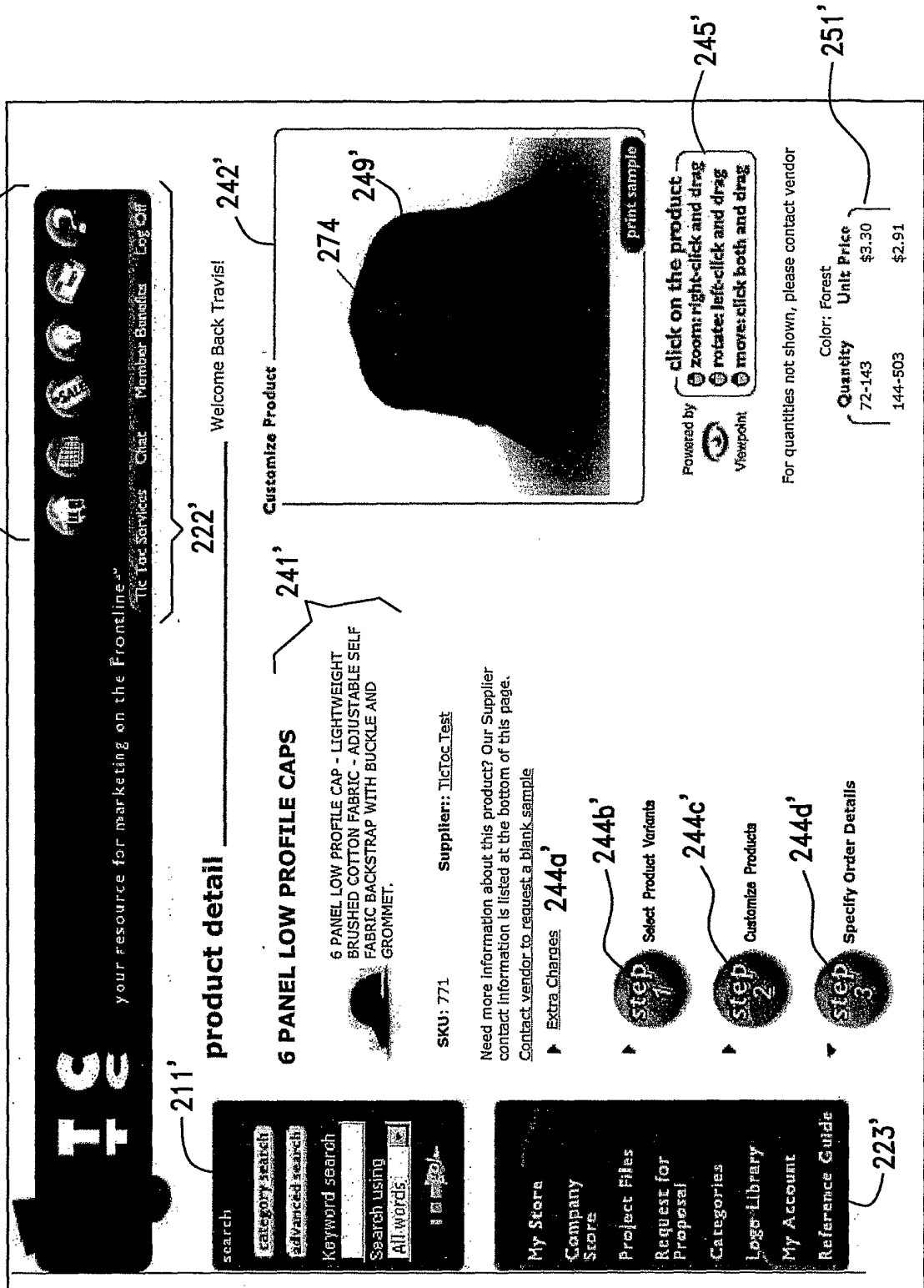


FIG. 3G-2

FIG. 3H-1



244e' **step 4** Specify Quantities and Continue

504+ \$2.59

Supplier Information

TicTocTest 1999 Bryan Street Suite 1900 Courtney Williamson E-mail Supplier
 Dallas TX 75201 214.259.3107 Chat with Supplier

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FIG. 3H-2

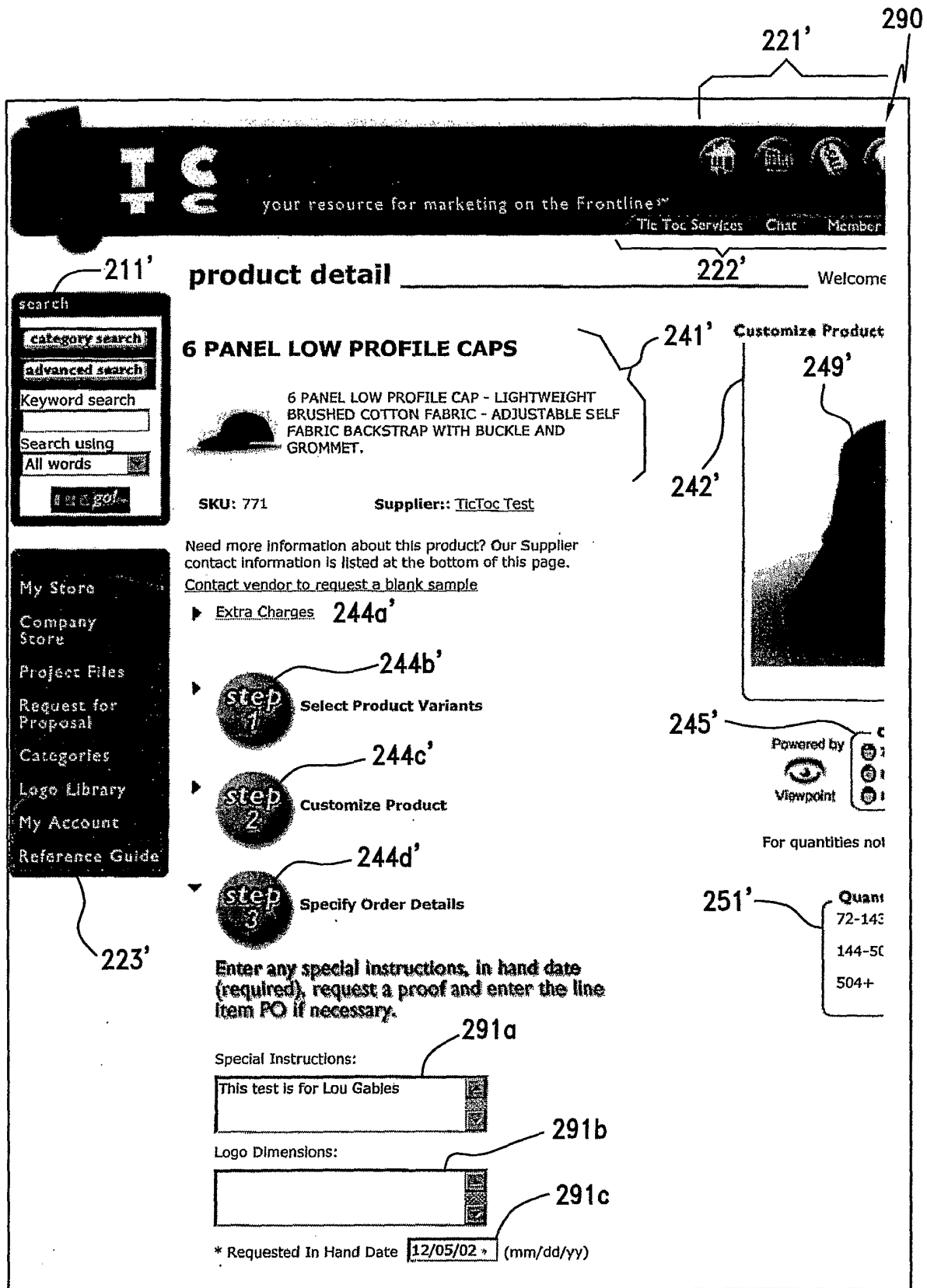


FIG. 3I-1

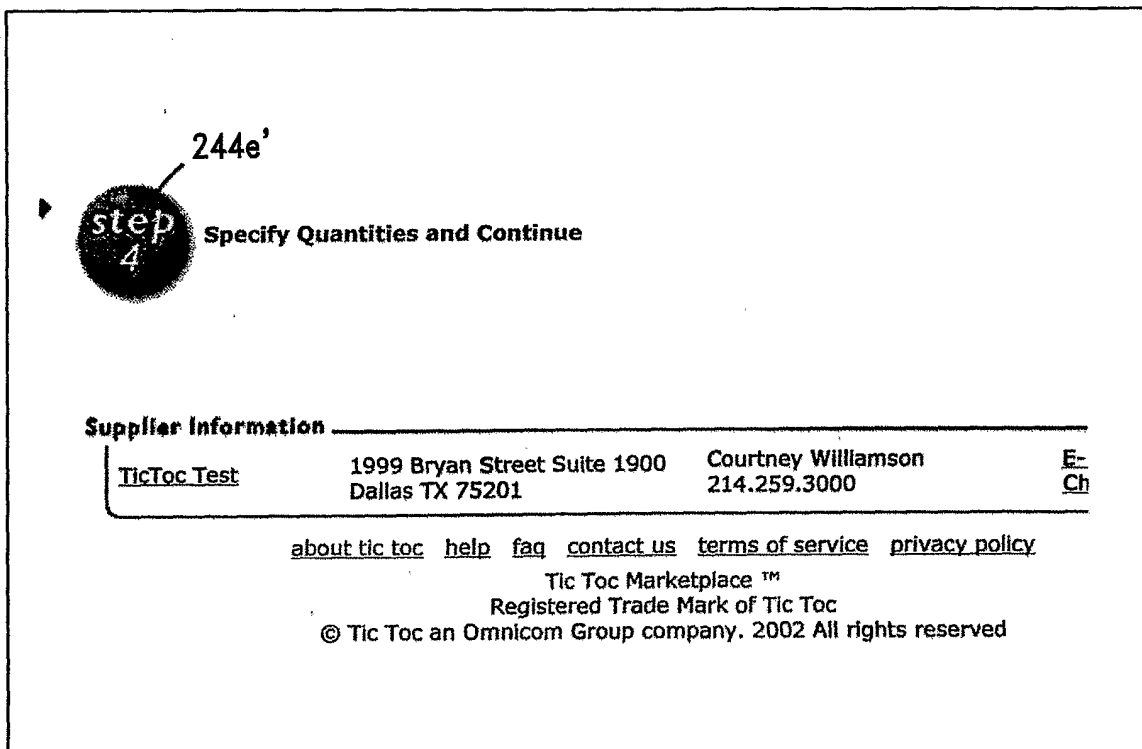


FIG. 3I-2

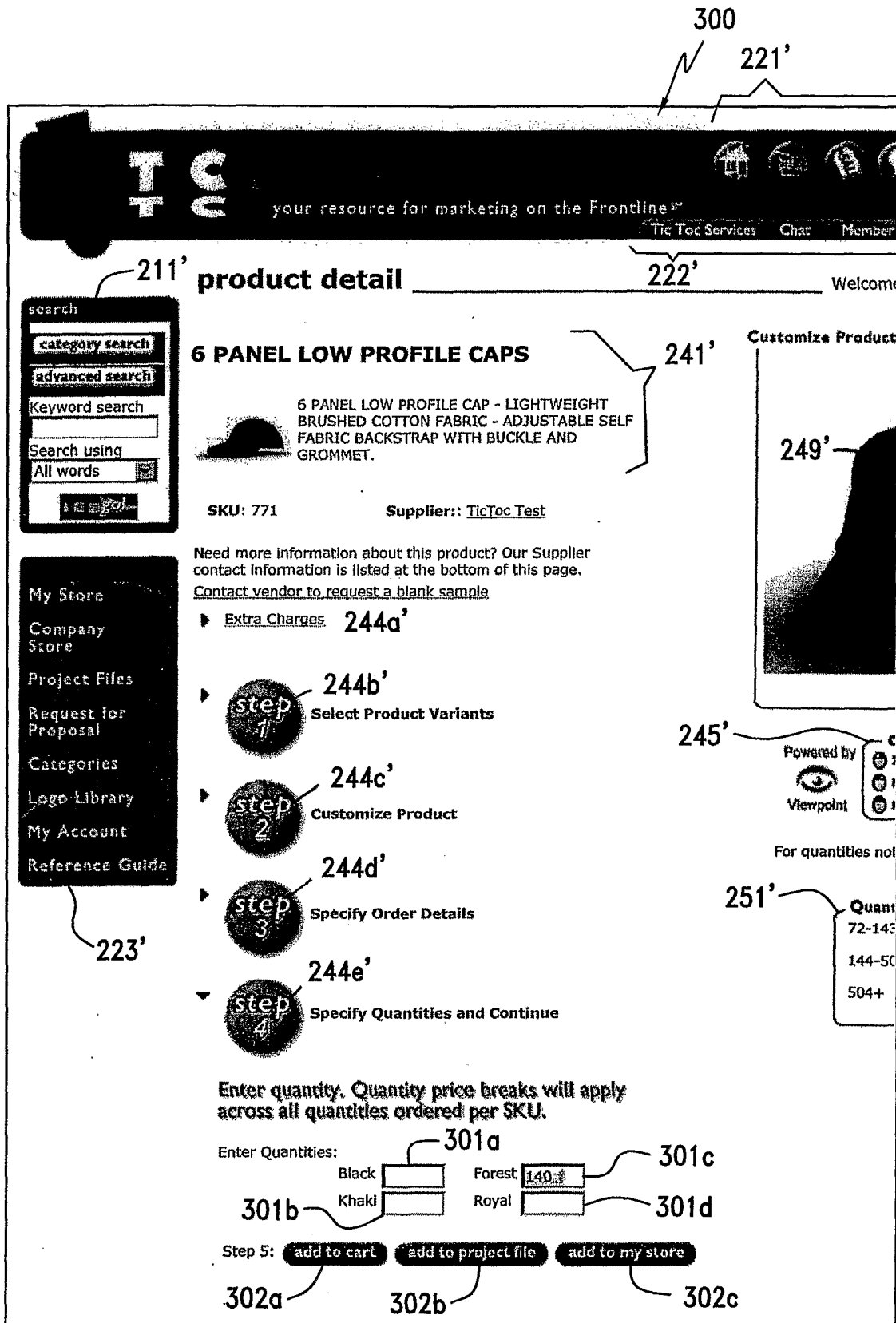


FIG. 3J

310

221'

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 Tic Toc Services Chat Member Benefits Log Off

shopping cart Welcome Back Travis!

311 proceed to check out

Quantity	Image	Product SKU/Supplier	Unit Price	Total Price	In Hand Date	Customize	Delete
140		312a 312b 6 Panel Low Profile Caps 771-4 TicToc Test	\$3.30	\$462.00	12/05/02	change logo	delete
		312c 312d Color: Forest Options: Embroidered		312e	314b	313a	313b
		314a Special Instructions: This test is for Lou Gables		315a			
		315b Logo Dimensions:					
		315c update shopping cart					
		315d save all as project file					
		315e remove all					

* Discount has been applied.

222' 223'

221' 310

search
 category search
 advanced search
 keyword search
 search using
 All words
 go

My Store
 Company Store
 Project Files
 Request for Proposal
 Categories
 Logo Library
 My Account
 Reference Guide

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FIG. 3K

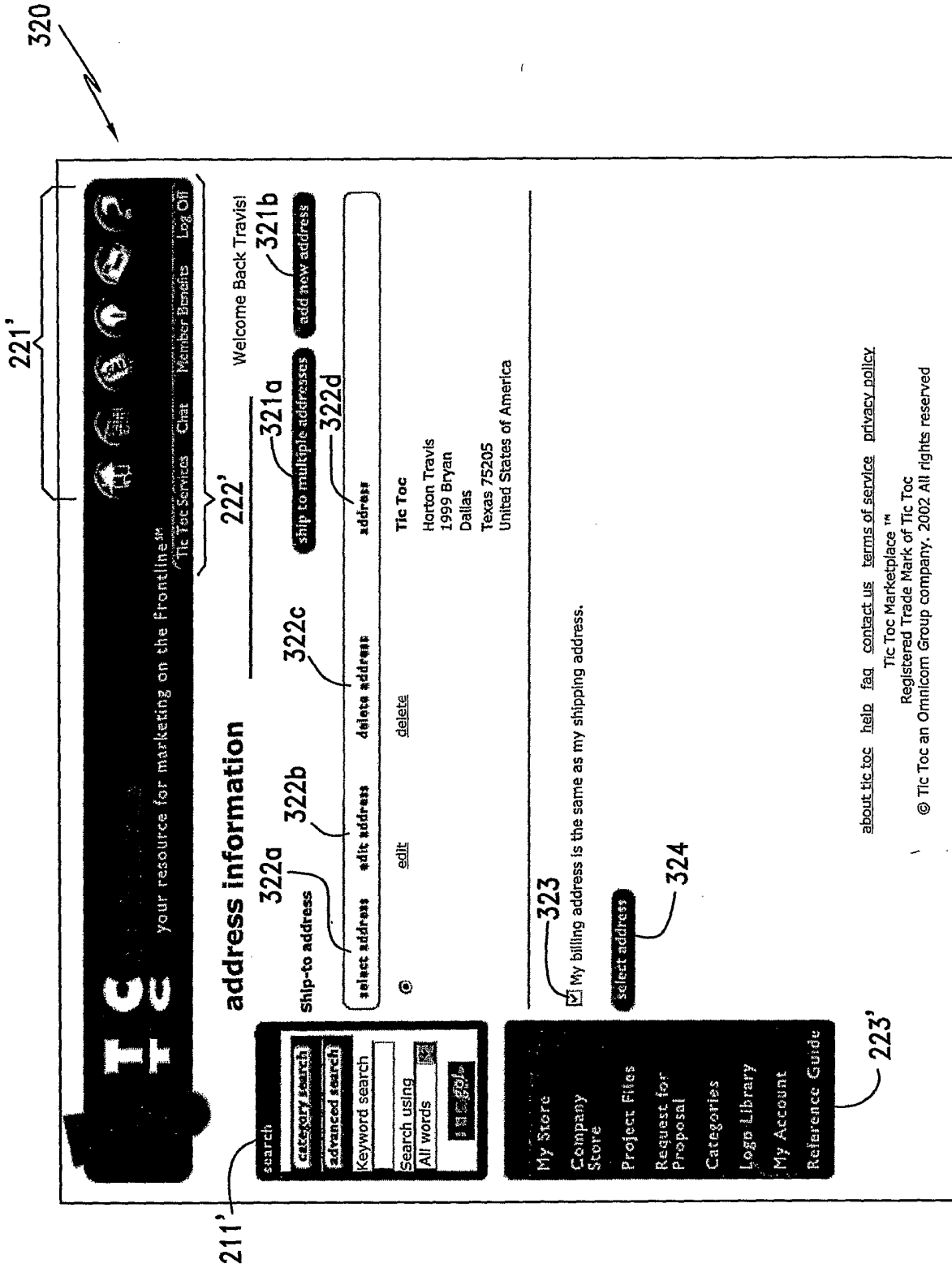


FIG. 3L

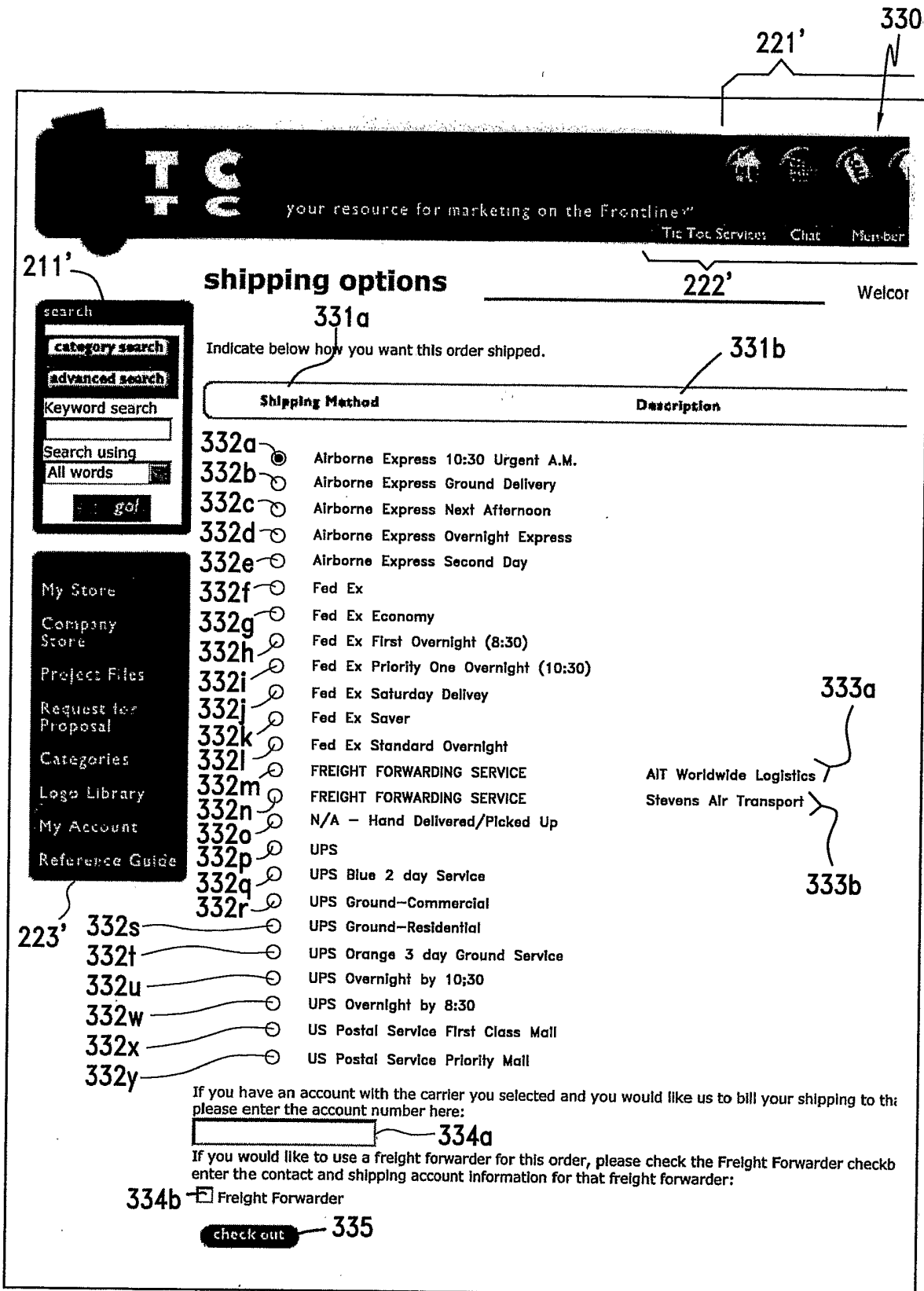


FIG. 3M-1

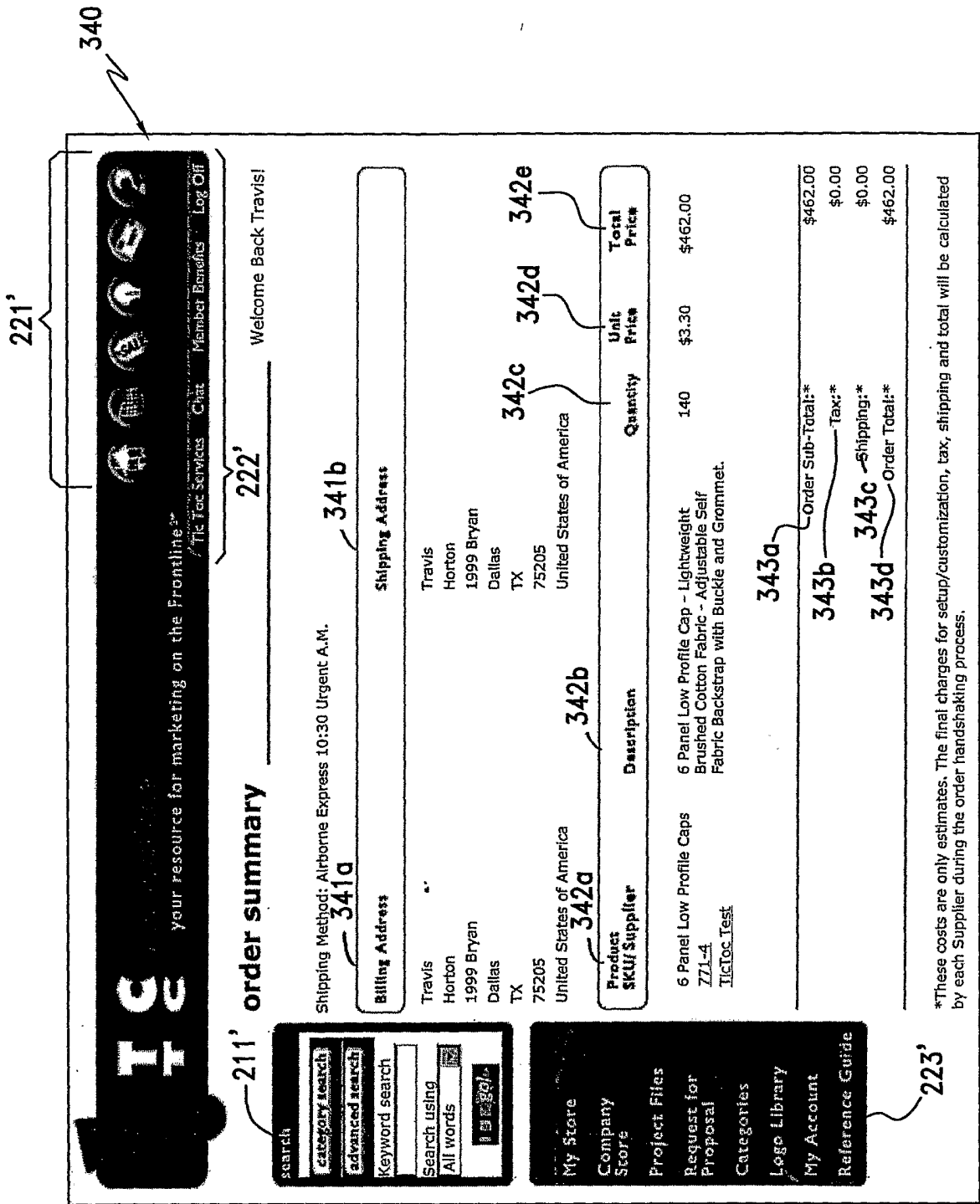


FIG. 3M-2

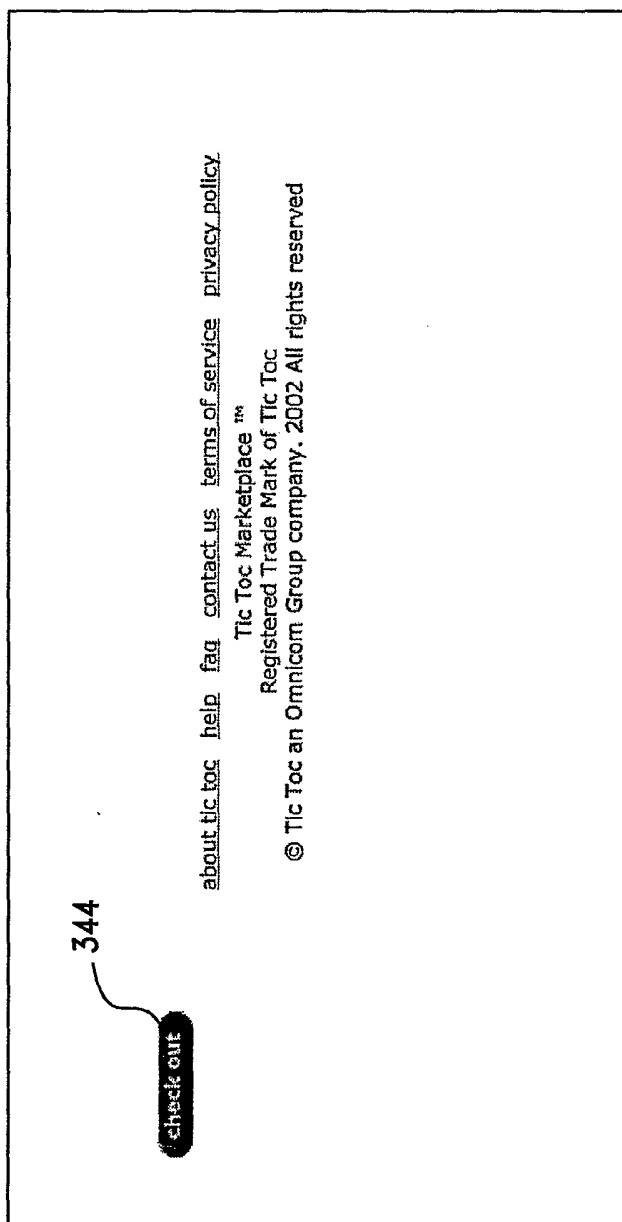
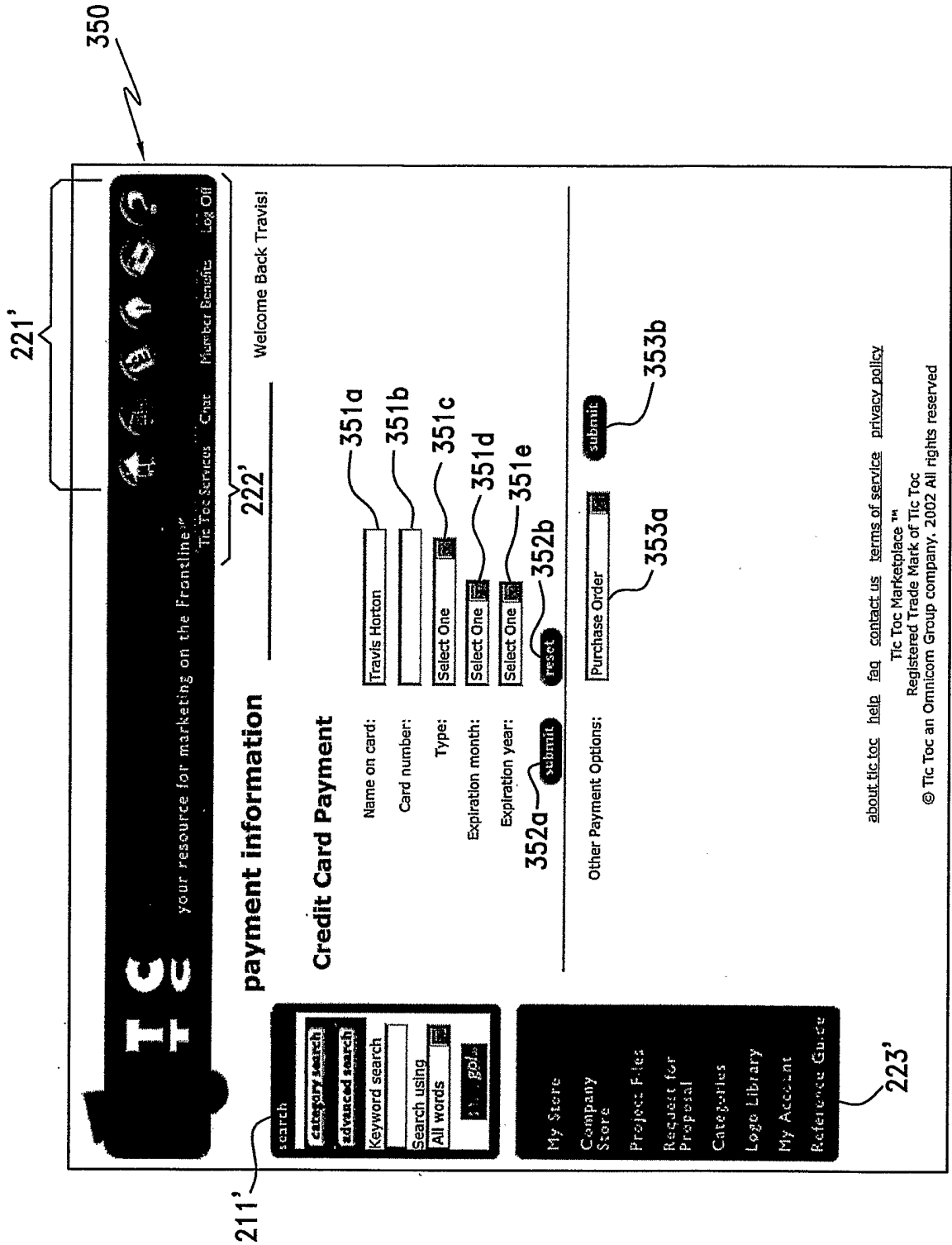


FIG. 3M-3

FIG. 3N



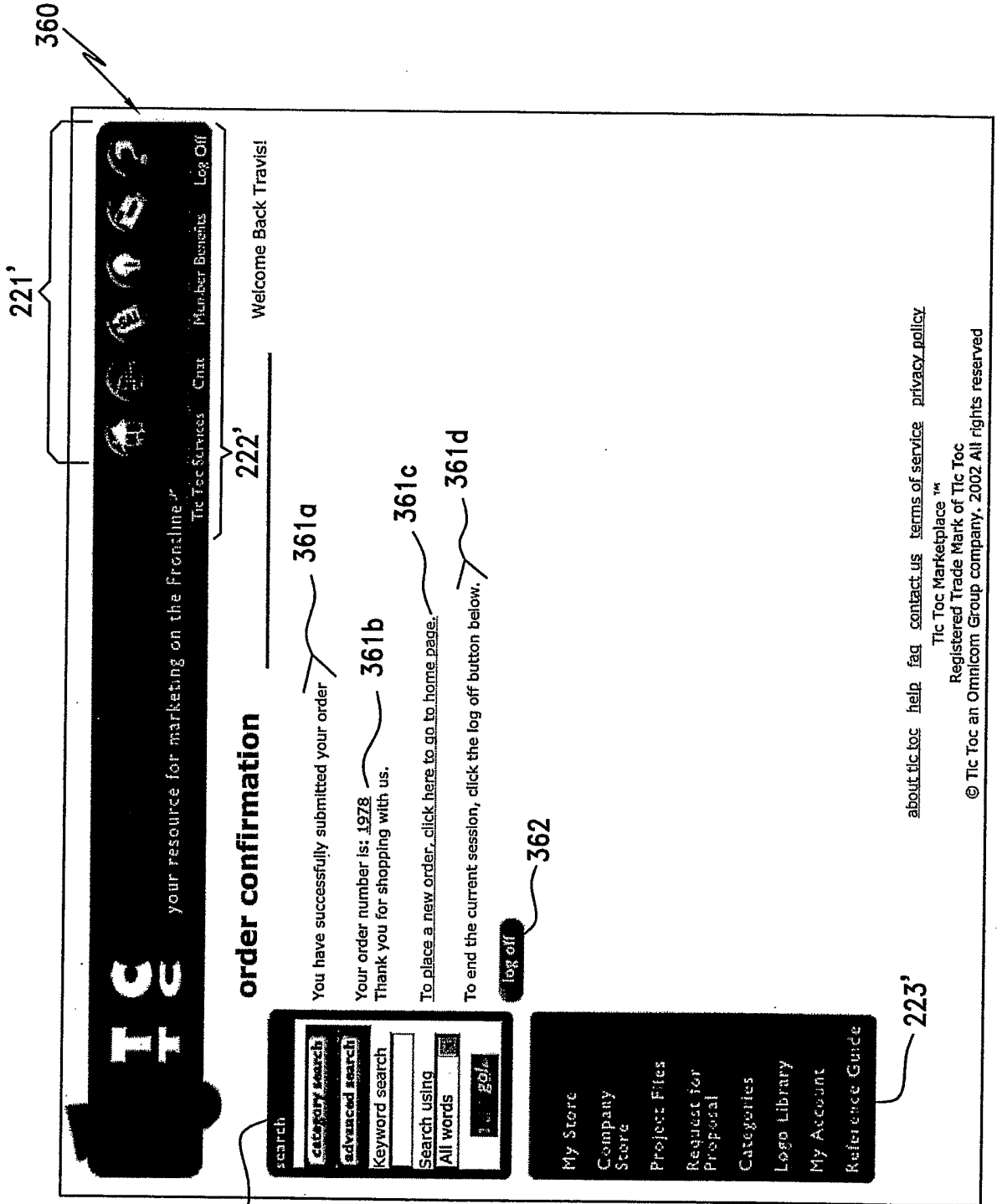



FIG. 30

420

221'

FIG. 3P



your resource for marketing on the FrontlineSM

Tic Toc Services Chat Member Benefits Log Off

Welcome Back Travis!

order history

Hide Completed and Canceled Orders

Order
Supplier
Status
Adjusted Total
Order Total
Date

1978	TicToc_Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$462.00	\$482.00	11/26/2002
1974	TicToc_Test	New Order	\$23.00	\$29.00	11/8/2002
1964	TicToc_Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$8,500.00	\$8,825.00	10/31/2002
1955	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$112,880.00	\$112,882.00	10/23/2002
1953	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	10/18/2002
1949	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$105,000.00	\$105,100.00	10/10/2002
1948	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$10,500.00	\$10,540.00	10/10/2002
1940	TicToc_Test	Shipped	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	9/19/2002
1935	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	9/18/2002
1883	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	8/22/2002
1881	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,220.00	8/20/2002
1879	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,900.00	8/19/2002
1878	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$2,925.00	\$3,075.00	8/19/2002
1875	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/15/2002
1873	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,855.00	8/14/2002
1869	TicToc_Test	Shipped	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	8/13/2002
1866	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/12/2002
1865	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	8/9/2002
1861	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$959.00	\$959.00	8/9/2002
1858	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/8/2002
1855	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$4,495.00	\$4,595.00	8/6/2002
1853	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$15,800.00	\$16,350.00	8/6/2002
1852	TicToc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,850.00	8/6/2002

211'

search

category search

advanced search

keyword search

Search using

All words

222'

submit

221'

My Store

Company Store

Project Files

Request for Proposal

Categories

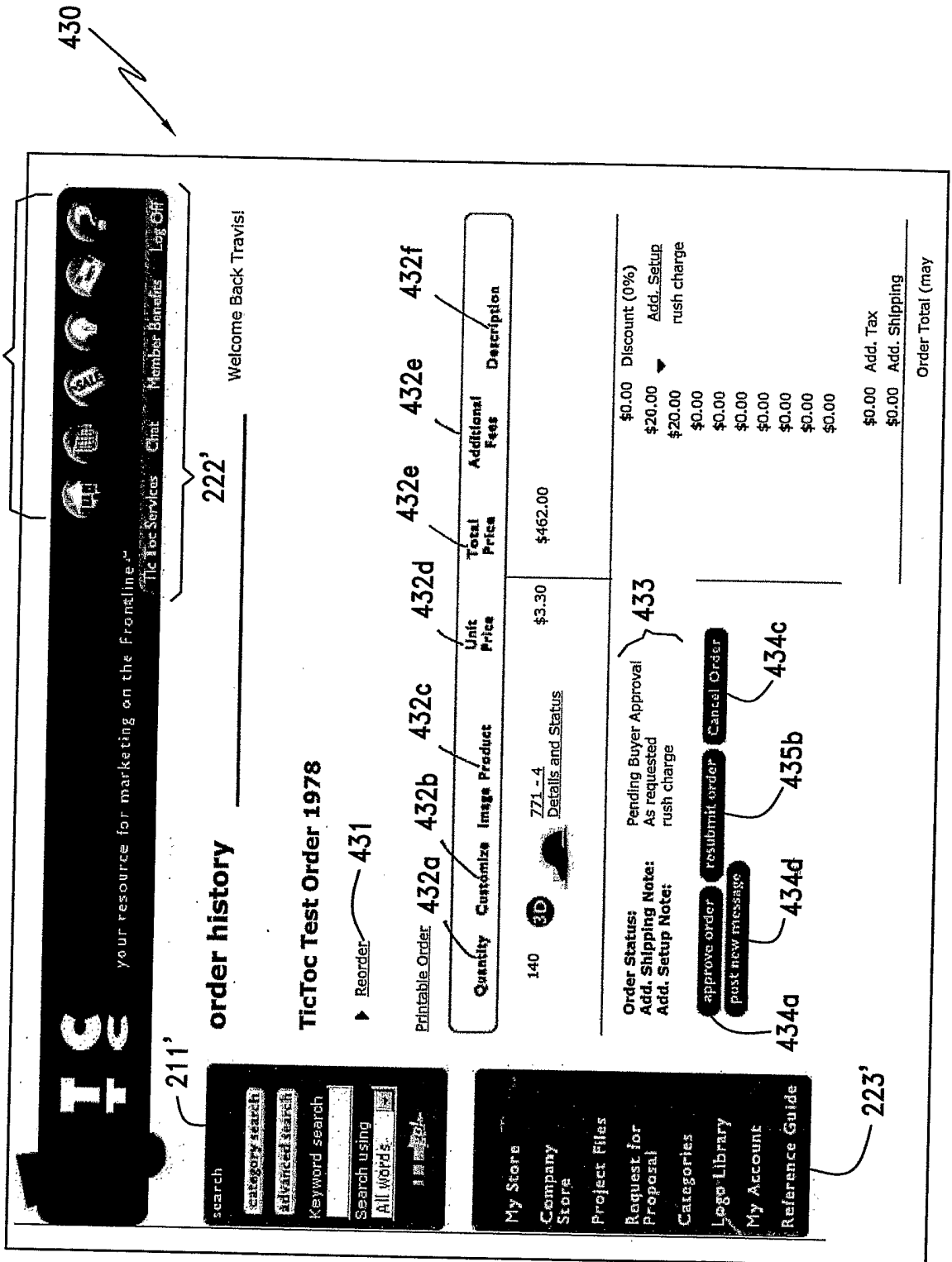
Logo Library

My Account

Reference Guide

223'

FIG. 3Q-1



435a Supplier Information

TicToc Test

include Setup, Tax
and Shipping)

\$482.00

435b Supplier Information

1999 Bryan Street Suite 1900
Dallas TX 75201

435c Courtney Williamson
214.259.3000

435d E-mail Supplier
Chat with Supplier

436a Order Discussion

Author

436b (Copy) Dear Travis Horton. The supplier has updated your order with ap...

436c (Copy) Dear TicToc Test Notification that supplier has updated the or...

436d (Copy) Hello Travis Horton, The purpose of this email is to confirm t...

436e (Copy) Hello TicToc Test. A purchase order for one of your products h...

Author	Date
System	11/26/2002
System	11/26/2002
System	11/26/2002
System	11/26/2002

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FIG. 3Q-2


440 ↗

221'



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The ITC Services Chat Member Benefits Log Off



order history

211' 441a 441b 441c

Hide Completed and Canceled Orders 442e 442f

442a 442b 442c 442d

Supplier

Welcome Back Travis!

222'

Adjusted Total Order Total Date

Order #	Supplier	Status	Adjusted Total	Order Total	Date
1978	IiCtoC_Test	Buyer Approved	\$462.00	\$482.00	11/26/2002
1974	IiCtoC_Test	New Order	\$23.00	\$29.00	11/8/2002
1964	IiCtoC_Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$8,500.00	\$8,825.00	10/31/2002
1955	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$112,880.00	\$112,882.00	10/23/2002
1953	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	10/18/2002
1949	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$105,000.00	\$105,100.00	10/10/2002
1948	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$10,500.00	\$10,540.00	10/10/2002
1940	IiCtoC_Test	Shipped	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	9/19/2002
1935	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	9/18/2002
1883	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	8/22/2002
1881	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$2150.00	\$2,220.00	8/20/2002
1879	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,900.00	8/19/2002
1878	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$2,925.00	\$3,075.00	8/19/2002
1875	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/15/2002
1873	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,855.00	8/14/2002
1869	IiCtoC_Test	Shipped	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	8/13/2002
1866	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/12/2002
1865	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	8/9/2002
1861	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$959.00	\$959.00	8/9/2002
1858	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/8/2002
1855	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$4,495.00	\$4,595.00	8/6/2002
1852	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$15,800.00	\$16,350.00	8/6/2002
1852	IiCtoC_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,850.00	8/6/2002

211'

search

Search using

223'

My Store

Company Store

Project Files

Request for Proposal

Categories

Logo Library


My Account

Reference Guide

FIG. 3R

480 ↗


221'



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211'

search

category search

advanced search

keyword search

search using

all words

My Store

Company Store

Project Files

Request for Proposal

Categories

Logo Library

My Account

Reference Guide

222'

Welcome Back Travis!

order history

All

481a

482a

Hide Completed and Canceled Orders

submit

481b

482c

481c

482e

482f

Order

Supplier

Status

Adjusted Total

Order Total

Date

1978	IcIoc_Test	Work in Progress	\$462.00	\$482.00	11/26/2002
1974	IcIoc_Test	New Order	\$23.00	\$29.00	11/8/2002
1964	IcIoc_Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$8,825.00	\$8,825.00	10/31/2002
1955	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$112,880.00	\$112,882.00	10/23/2002
1953	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	10/18/2002
1949	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$105,000.00	\$105,100.00	10/10/2002
1948	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$10,500.00	\$10,540.00	10/10/2002
1940	IcIoc_Test	Shipped	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	9/19/2002
1935	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	9/18/2002
1883	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	8/22/2002
1881	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,220.00	8/20/2002
1879	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,900.00	8/19/2002
1878	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$2,925.00	\$3,075.00	8/19/2002
1875	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/15/2002
1873	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,855.00	8/14/2002
1869	IcIoc_Test	Shipped	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	8/13/2002
1866	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/12/2002
1865	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	8/9/2002
1861	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$959.00	\$959.00	8/9/2002
1858	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/8/2002
1855	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$4,495.00	\$4,595.00	8/6/2002
1852	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$15,800.00	\$16,350.00	8/6/2002
1852	IcIoc_Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,850.00	8/6/2002

223'

FIG. 3S

510

221'

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211'

order history

511a

512a

511b

512b

512c

512d

512e

222'

Welcome Back Travis!

Order	Supplier	Status	Adjusted Total	Order Total	Date
1978	ITeDoc Test	Shipped	\$462.00	\$482.00	11/26/2002
1974	ITeDoc Test	New Order	\$23.00	\$29.00	11/8/2002
1964	ITeDoc Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$8,500.00	\$8,825.00	10/31/2002
1955	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$112,882.00	\$112,882.00	10/23/2002
1953	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	10/18/2002
1949	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$105,000.00	\$105,100.00	10/10/2002
1948	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$10,500.00	\$10,540.00	10/10/2002
1940	ITeDoc Test	Shipped	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	9/19/2002
1935	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	9/18/2002
1883	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	8/22/2002
1881	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/20/2002
1879	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,900.00	8/19/2002
1878	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$2,925.00	\$3,075.00	8/19/2002
1875	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/15/2002
1873	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,855.00	8/14/2002
1869	ITeDoc Test	Shipped	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	8/13/2002
1866	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/12/2002
1865	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	8/9/2002
1861	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$959.00	\$959.00	8/9/2002
1858	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	8/8/2002
1855	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$4,495.00	\$4,595.00	8/6/2002
1853	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$15,800.00	\$16,350.00	8/6/2002
1852	ITeDoc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,850.00	8/6/2002

223'

My Store

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223'

FIG. 3T

31/81

520

221'



your resource for marketing on the Frontline™

TicToc Services Chat Member Benefits Log Off

211'

search

Category Search

Advanced Search

Keyword search

Search using All words

222'

Welcome Back Travis!


order history

TicToc Test Order 1978

▶ Reorder 521a

Printable Order 522a

522b 522c 522d 522e 522f 522g

Quantity	Customize Image	Product	Unit Price	Total Price	Additional Fees	Description
140		771-4 Details and Status	\$3.30	\$462.00		

223'

My Store

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Order Status: Shipped 523

Add. Shipping Note: As requested

Add. Setup Note: rush charge

Click the close button below to flag the order as complete.

close 524

Supplier Information

TicToc Test 525a

1999 Bryan Street Suite 1900 Dallas TX 75201 525b

Courtney Williamson 214.259.3000 525c

E-mail Supplier 525d

Chat with Supplier

FIG. 3U-1

526a	526b	Order/Discussion Author	Subject	526c	Date
System			(Copy) Dear Travis Horton. The purpose of this email is to confirm tha...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear TicToc. Test Notification that PO is shipped fully. ...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear Travis Horton. The purpose of this email is to inform you ...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear TicToc. Test Notification that PO is work in progress....		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear Travis Horton. The supplier has accepted your order and wi...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear TicToc. Test Notification that PO is buyer approved.		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear Travis Horton. The supplier has updated your order with ap...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Dear TicToc. Test Notification that supplier has updated the or...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Hello Travis Horton, The purpose of this email is to confirm t...		11/26/2002
System			(Copy) Hello TicToc. Test. A purchase order for one of your products h...		11/26/2002

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FIG. 3U-2

530

221'



ITC

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[Member Benefits](#)
[Log Off](#)

211'

search

category search

advanced search

keyword search

Search using

All words

222'

Welcome Back Travis!

order history

531a 531b 532e 532d

Hide Completed and Canceled Orders

Order Status Adjusted Total Order Total Date

Order	Supplier	Status	Adjusted Total	Order Total	Date
1978	TicToc Test	Completed	\$462.00	\$482.00	11/26/2002
1974	TicToc Test	New Order	\$23.00	\$29.00	11/8/2002
1964	TicToc Test	Pending Buyer Approval	\$8,500.00	\$8,825.00	10/31/2002
1955	TicToc Test	Completed	\$112,880.00	\$112,882.00	10/23/2002
1953	TicToc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	10/18/2002
1949	TicToc Test	Completed	\$105,000.00	\$105,100.00	10/10/2002
1948	TicToc Test	Completed	\$10,500.00	\$10,540.00	10/10/2002
1940	TicToc Test	Shipped	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	9/19/2002
1935	TicToc Test	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	9/18/2002
1883	TicToc Test	Completed	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	8/22/2002
1881	TicToc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,220.00	8/20/2002
1879	TicToc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,900.00	8/19/2002
1878	TicToc Test	Completed	\$2,925.00	\$3,075.00	8/19/2002
1875	TicToc Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/15/2002
1873	TicToc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,855.00	8/14/2002
1869	TicToc Test	Shipped	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	8/13/2002
1866	TicToc Test	Completed	\$2,150.00	\$2,200.00	8/12/2002
1865	TicToc Test	Completed	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	8/9/2002
1861	TicToc Test	Completed	\$959.00	\$959.00	8/9/2002
1858	TicToc Test	Completed	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00	8/8/2002
1855	TicToc Test	Completed	\$4,495.00	\$4,595.00	8/6/2002
1853	TicToc Test	Completed	\$15,800.00	\$16,350.00	8/6/2002
1852	TicToc Test	Completed	\$3,800.00	\$3,850.00	8/6/2002

223'

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FIG. 3W

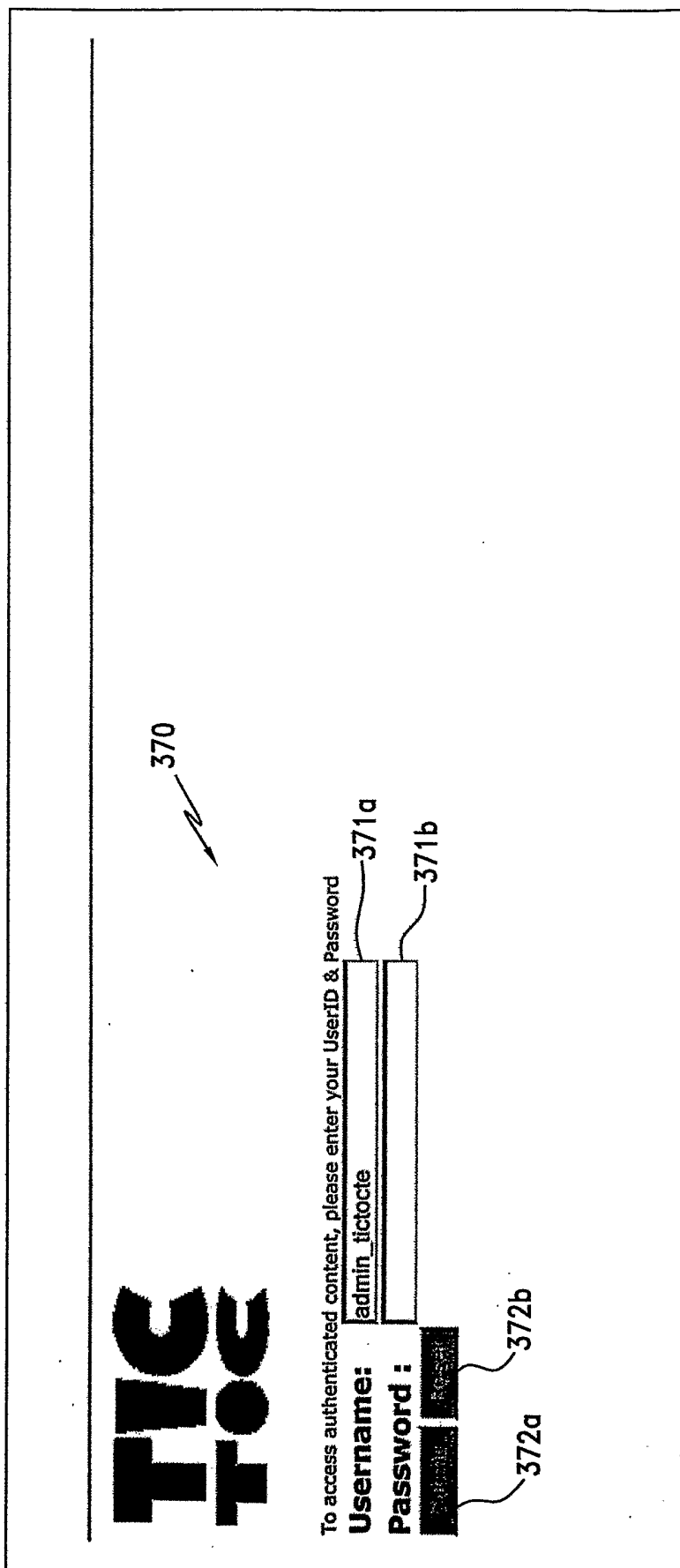


FIG. 4A

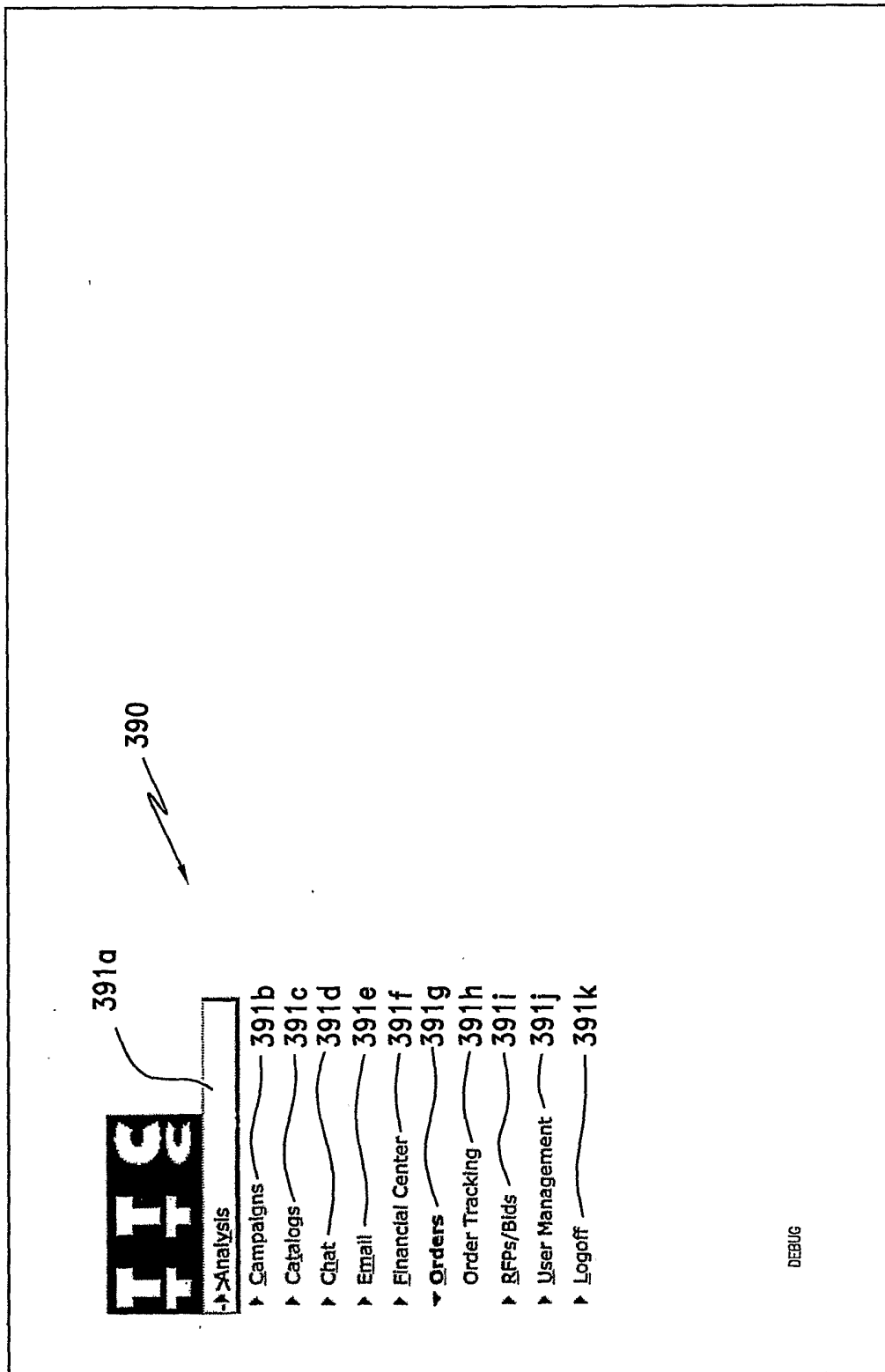


FIG. 4B

380

List of Orders DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE)

381a All Orders

381b

Search by status:

Year	Status	TicTot	Amount	Date	Order ID
1978	Completed	TicTot	\$462.00	12/5/2002	382d
1977	New Order	TicTot	\$736.77	12/12/2012	382e
1976	New Order	TicTot	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1975	New Order	TicTot	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1974	New Order	TicTot	\$29.00	12/12/2012	
1971	New Order	TicTot	\$1250.00		
1970	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$1109.00	11/15/2002	
1969	Canceled Order	TicTot	\$1455.00	11/11/2002	
1968	New Order	TicTot	\$600.00		
1964	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$8825.00	12/5/2002	
1962	Shipped	TicTot	\$7116.25	11/4/2002	
1960	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$4690.00	12/12/2012	
1959	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$190.00	12/30/2002	
1958	Completed	TicTot	\$22.00	12/21/2002	
1957	Work In Progress	TicTot	\$1032.61	12/20/2002	
1955	Completed	TicTot	\$112882.00	10/25/2003	
1953	Completed	TicTot	\$2200.00	12/12/2002	
1949	Completed	TicTot	\$105100.00	10/20/2002	
1948	Completed	TicTot	\$10540.00	10/20/2002	
1945	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$47.50	12/12/2012	

r:[0]o/0 s:7/0 a:41

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383

List total: 245

FIG. 4C

Order Detail DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE) 400

View printable version

Order Information 401

Order is ready for buyer's approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	401d
Order is being processed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	401b
Entire order has been shipped	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	401c
Status	New Order	401d
Order Number	1978	401e
Buyer's Name	Travis Horton	401f
Buyer's personal email	travish@ttctocusa.com	401g
Buyer's phone number	214.259.3105	401h
Buyer's fax number	214.259.3052	401i
Buyer's Organization Name	TicToc	401j
Billing Address	Tic Toc	401k
Buyer's Preferred Shipping Method	Airborne Express 10:30 Urgent A.M.	401l
Buyer's Shipping Account Number		401m
Freight Forwarder		401n
Buyer's payment information	Purchase Order. Available once the buyer approves the order.	401o
Buyer's purchasing guidelines	Browse to download purchasing guidelines.	401p
Discount on order (%)	0	401q
Discount	0.00	401r
Subtotal	462.00	401s
Setup Charge (detailed below)	20.00	401t
Setup Description	rush charge	401u
Tax	0.00	401w

FIG. 4D

List of Orders DEBUG r v (TRUE/FALSE) 410

411a 411b 412a 412b 412c 412d 412e

Search by status: r:[0]0/0 sr:7/0 a:41

Year	Status	TicToc	Amount	Date
1978	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$482.00	12/5/2002
1977	New Order	TicToc	\$736.77	12/12/2012
1976	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012
1975	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012
1974	New Order	TicToc	\$29.00	12/12/2012
1971	New Order	TicToc	\$1250.00	
1970	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$1109.00	11/15/2002
1969	Canceled Order	TicToc	\$1455.00	11/11/2002
1968	New Order	TicToc	\$600.00	
1964	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$8825.00	12/5/2002
1962	Shipped	TicToc	\$7116.25	11/4/2002
1960	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$4690.00	12/12/2012
1959	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$190.00	12/30/2002
1958	Completed	TicToc	\$22.00	12/21/2002
1957	Work In Progress	TicToc	\$1032.61	12/20/2002
1955	Completed	TicToc	\$112882.00	10/25/2003
1953	Completed	TicToc	\$2200.00	12/12/2002
1949	Completed	TicToc	\$105100.00	10/20/2002
1948	Completed	TicToc	\$10540.00	10/20/2002
1945	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$47.50	12/12/2012

List total: 245 Page: 1/13

FIG. 4E

FIG. 4F

List of Orders DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE)

451a 451b 450

Search by status: All Orders

Year	Status	TicTot	Amount	Date	Order ID
1978	Buyer Approved	TicTot		12/5/2002	452d
1977	New Order	TicTot	\$482.00	12/12/2012	452e
1976	New Order	TicTot	\$736.77	12/12/2012	
1975	New Order	TicTot	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1974	New Order	TicTot	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1971	New Order	TicTot	\$29.00		
1970	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$1250.00		
1969	Canceled Order	TicTot	\$1109.00	11/15/2002	
1968	New Order	TicTot	\$1455.00	11/11/2002	
1964	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$600.00		
1962	Shipped	TicTot	\$8825.00	12/5/2002	
1960	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$7116.25	11/4/2002	
1959	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$4690.00	12/12/2012	
1958	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$190.00	12/30/2002	
1958	Completed	TicTot	\$22.00	12/21/2002	
1957	Work In Progress	TicTot	\$1032.61	12/20/2002	
1955	Completed	TicTot	\$112882.00	10/25/2003	
1953	Completed	TicTot	\$2200.00	12/12/2002	
1949	Completed	TicTot	\$105100.00	10/20/2002	
1948	Completed	TicTot	\$10540.00	10/20/2002	
1945	Pending Buyer Approval	TicTot	\$47.50	12/12/2012	

452a 452b 452c

r:[0]0/0 s:7/0 a:41/

List total: 245 Page: 1 / 13

Order Detail DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE)		460
	View printable version	
	Order Information	
Order is ready for buyer's approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	461a
Order is being processed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	461b
Entire order has been shipped	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	461c
Status	Buyer Approval	461d
Order Number	1978	461e
Buyer's Name	Travis Horton	461f
Buyer's personal email	travish@tictocusa.com	461g
Buyer's phone number	214.259.3105	461h
Buyer's fax number	214.259.3052	461i
Buyer's Organization Name	TicToc	461j
Billing Address	Tic Toc	461k
Buyer's Preferred Shipping Method	Airborne Express 10:30 Urgent A.M.	461l
Buyer's Shipping Account Number		461m
Freight Forwarder		461n
Buyer's payment information	Purchase Order. Available once the buyer approves the order.	461o
Buyer's purchasing guidelines	Browse to download purchasing guidelines.	461p
Discount on order (%)	0	461r
Discount	0.00	461s
Subtotal	462.00	461t
Setup Charge (detailed below)	20.00	461u
Setup Description	rush charge	461v
Tax	0.00	461w

FIG. 4G

List of Orders DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE) **471a** **471b** **470**

Search by status: All Orders

Year	Status	TicToc	Amount	Date	Order ID
1978	Work in Progress	TicToc			
1977	New Order	TicToc	\$482.00	12/5/2002	472d
1976	New Order	TicToc	\$736.77	12/12/2012	472e
1975	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1974	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1971	New Order	TicToc	\$29.00		
1970	New Order	TicToc	\$1250.00		
1970	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$1109.00		
1969	Canceled Order	TicToc	\$1455.00	11/15/2002	
1968	New Order	TicToc	\$600.00	11/11/2002	
1964	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$8825.00	12/5/2002	
1962	Shipped	TicToc	\$7116.25	11/4/2002	
1960	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$4690.00	12/12/2012	
1959	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$190.00	12/30/2002	
1958	Completed	TicToc	\$22.00	12/21/2002	
1957	Work In Progress	TicToc	\$1032.61	12/20/2002	
1955	Completed	TicToc	\$112882.00	10/25/2003	
1953	Completed	TicToc	\$2200.00	12/12/2002	
1949	Completed	TicToc	\$105100.00	10/20/2002	
1948	Completed	TicToc	\$10540.00	10/20/2002	
1945	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$47.50	12/12/2012	

r:[0]c/0 s:7/0 a:41/

List total: 245

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FIG. 4H

List of Orders DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE)

540

541a

541b

Search by status:

Order ID	Status	Order Description	Amount	Order Date	Order Type
1978	Completed				
1977	New Order		\$482.00	12/5/2002	543d
1976	New Order		\$736.77	12/12/2012	543c
1975	New Order		\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1974	New Order		\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1971	New Order		\$29.00		
1970	Pending Buyer Approval		\$1250.00		
1969	Canceled Order		\$1109.00		
1968	New Order		\$1455.00		
1964	Pending Buyer Approval		\$600.00	11/15/2002	
1962	Shipped		\$8825.00	12/5/2002	
1960	Pending Buyer Approval		\$7116.25	11/4/2002	
1959	Pending Buyer Approval		\$4690.00	12/12/2012	
1958	Completed		\$190.00	12/30/2002	
1957	Work In Progress		\$22.00	12/21/2002	
1955	Completed		\$1032.61	12/20/2002	
1953	Completed		\$112882.00	10/25/2003	
1949	Completed		\$2200.00	12/12/2002	
1948	Completed		\$105100.00	10/20/2002	
1945	Pending Buyer Approval		\$10540.00	10/20/2002	
			\$47.50	12/12/2012	

r:[0]0/0 s:7/0 a:41

Page: 1 / 13

List total: 245

FIG. 4I-1

490

Order Detail DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE)

View printable version
 Order Information

Order is ready for buyer's approval	491a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Order is being processed	491b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Entire order has been shipped	491c	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Status	491d	Work In Progress
Order Number	491e	1978
Buyer's Name	491f	Travis Horton
Buyer's personal email	491g	travish@tictocusa.com
Buyer's phone number	491h	214.259.3105
Buyer's fax number	491i	214.259.3052
Buyer's Organization Name	491j	TicToc
Billing Address	491k	Tic Toc
Buyer's Preferred Shipping Method	491l	Airborne Express 10:30 Urgent A.M.
Buyer's Shipping Account Number	491m	
Freight Forwarder	491n	
Buyer's payment information	491o	Purchase Order. Available once the buyer approves the order.
Buyer's purchasing guidelines	491p	Browse to download purchasing guidelines.
Discount on order (%)	491r	0
Discount	491s	0.00
Subtotal	491t	462.00
Setup Charge (detailed below)	491v	20.00
Setup Description	491u	rush charge
Tax	491w	0.00

FIG. 4I-2

List of Orders DEBUG d r v (TRUE/FALSE) 500

501a 501b

Search by status:

1978	Completed	TicToc	\$482.00	12/5/2002	502d
1977	New Order	TicToc	\$736.77	12/12/2012	502e
1976	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1975	New Order	TicToc	\$37.50	12/12/2012	
1974	New Order	TicToc	\$29.00		
1971	New Order	TicToc	\$1250.00		
1970	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$1109.00	11/15/2002	
1969	Canceled Order	TicToc	\$1455.00	11/11/2002	
1968	New Order	TicToc	\$600.00		
1964	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$8825.00	12/5/2002	
1962	Shipped	TicToc	\$7116.25	11/4/2002	
1960	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$4690.00	12/12/2012	
1959	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$190.00	12/30/2002	
1958	Completed	TicToc	\$22.00	12/21/2002	
1957	Work In Progress	TicToc	\$1032.61	12/20/2002	
1955	Completed	TicToc	\$112882.00	10/25/2003	
1953	Completed	TicToc	\$2200.00	12/12/2002	
1949	Completed	TicToc	\$105100.00	10/20/2002	
1948	Completed	TicToc	\$10540.00	10/20/2002	
1945	Pending Buyer Approval	TicToc	\$47.50	12/12/2012	

r:\0\0\0 s:7\0 a:41

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503

List total: 245

FIG. 4J

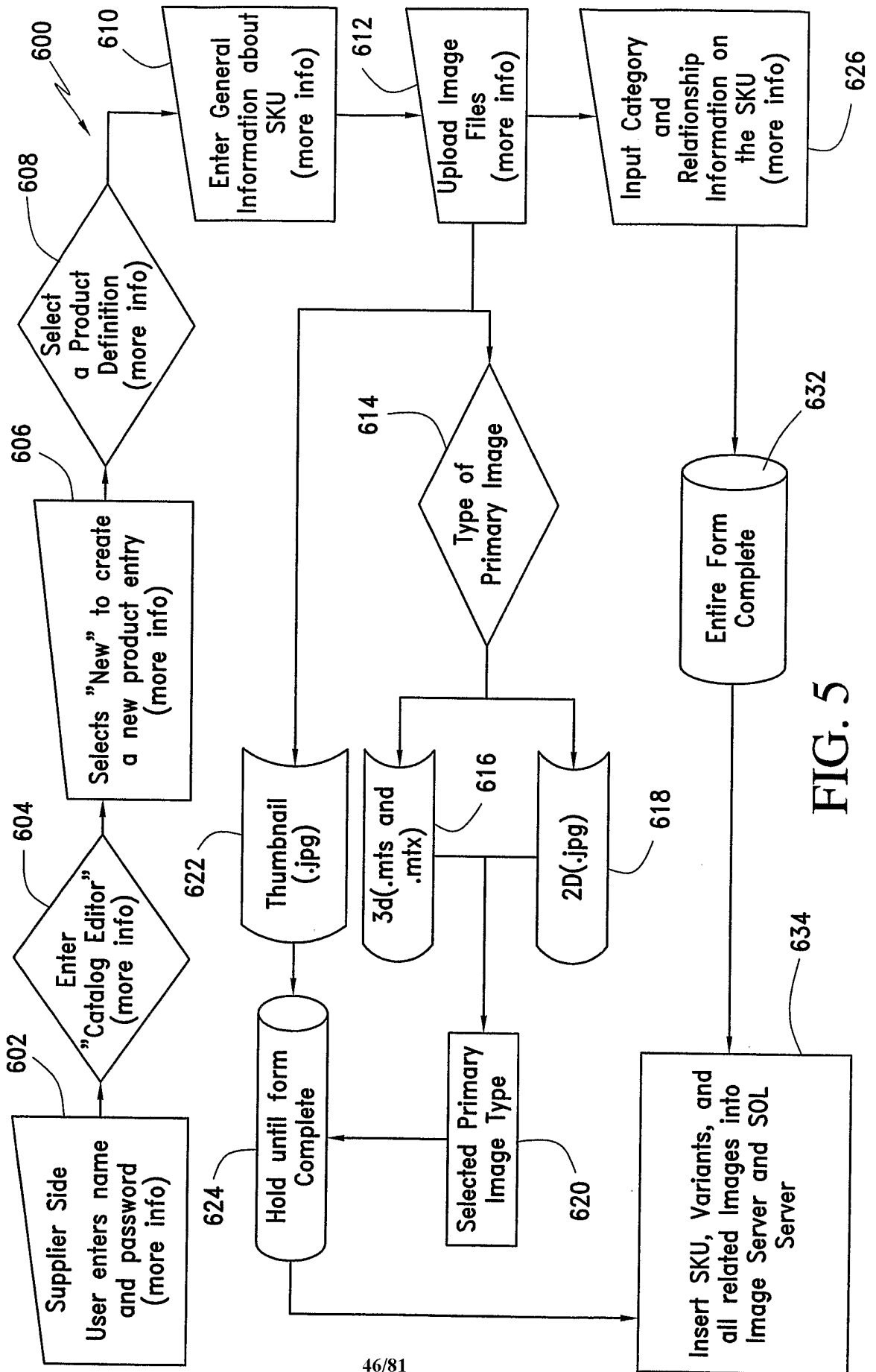


FIG. 5

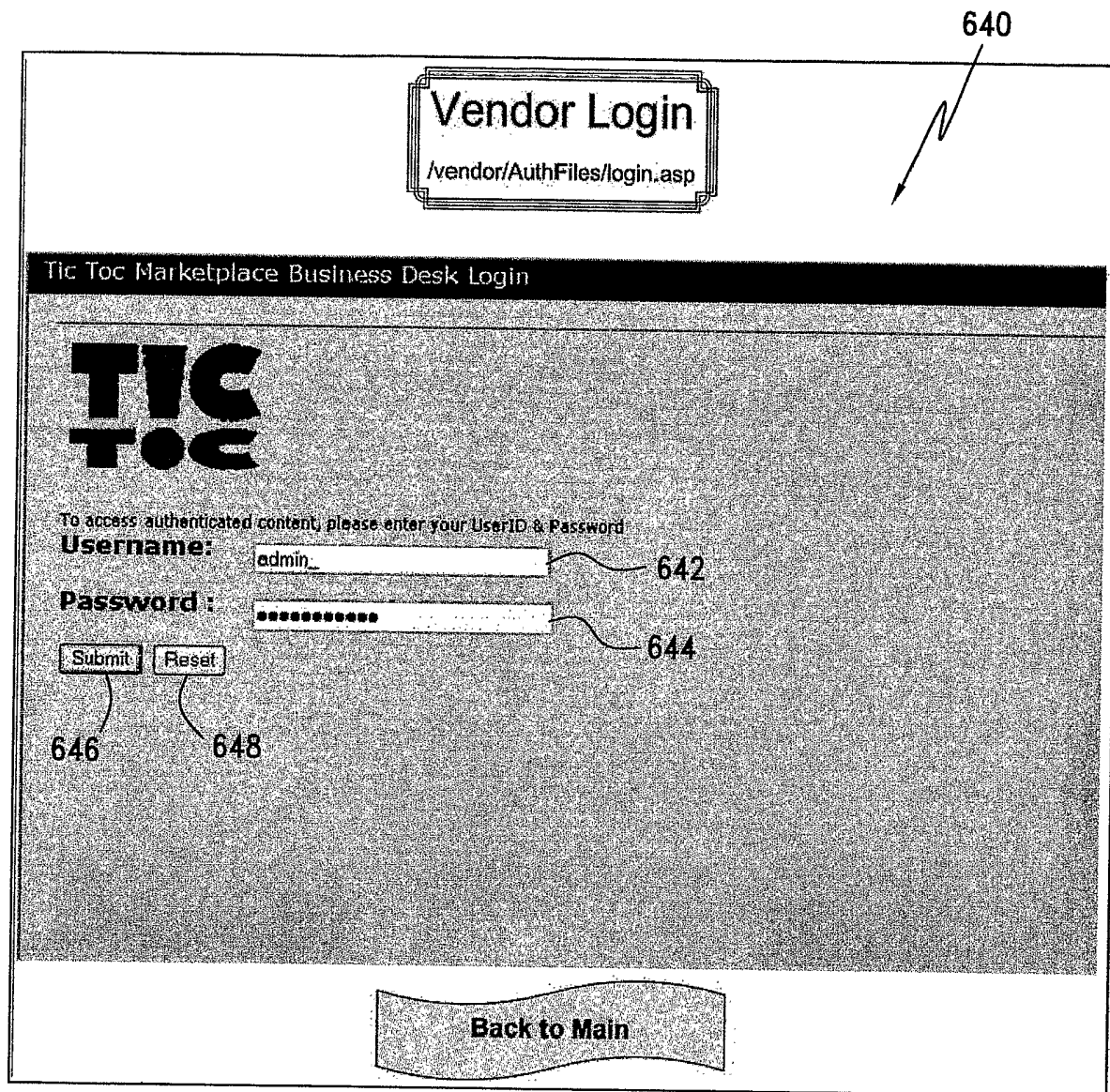


FIG. 6A

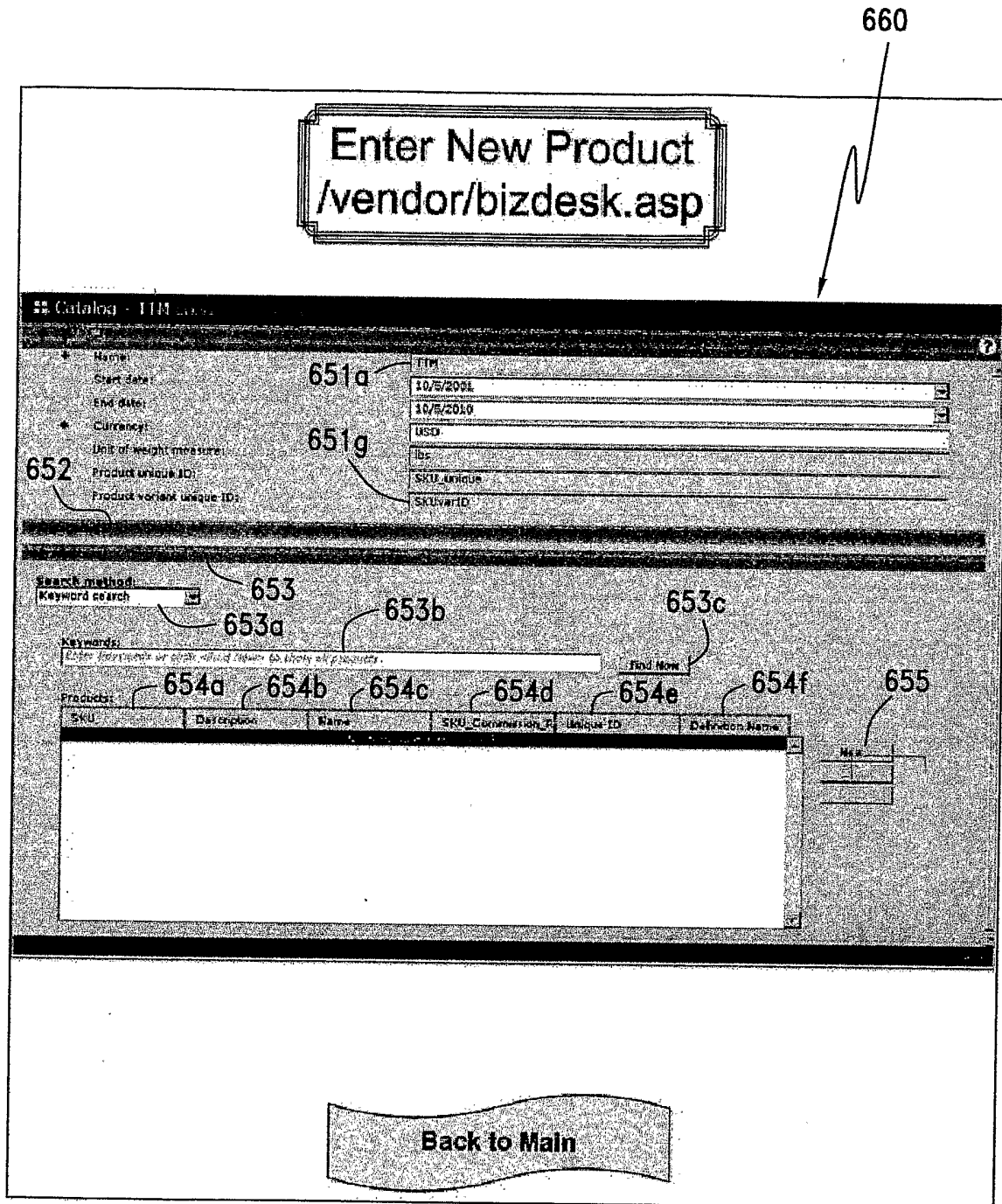


FIG. 6B

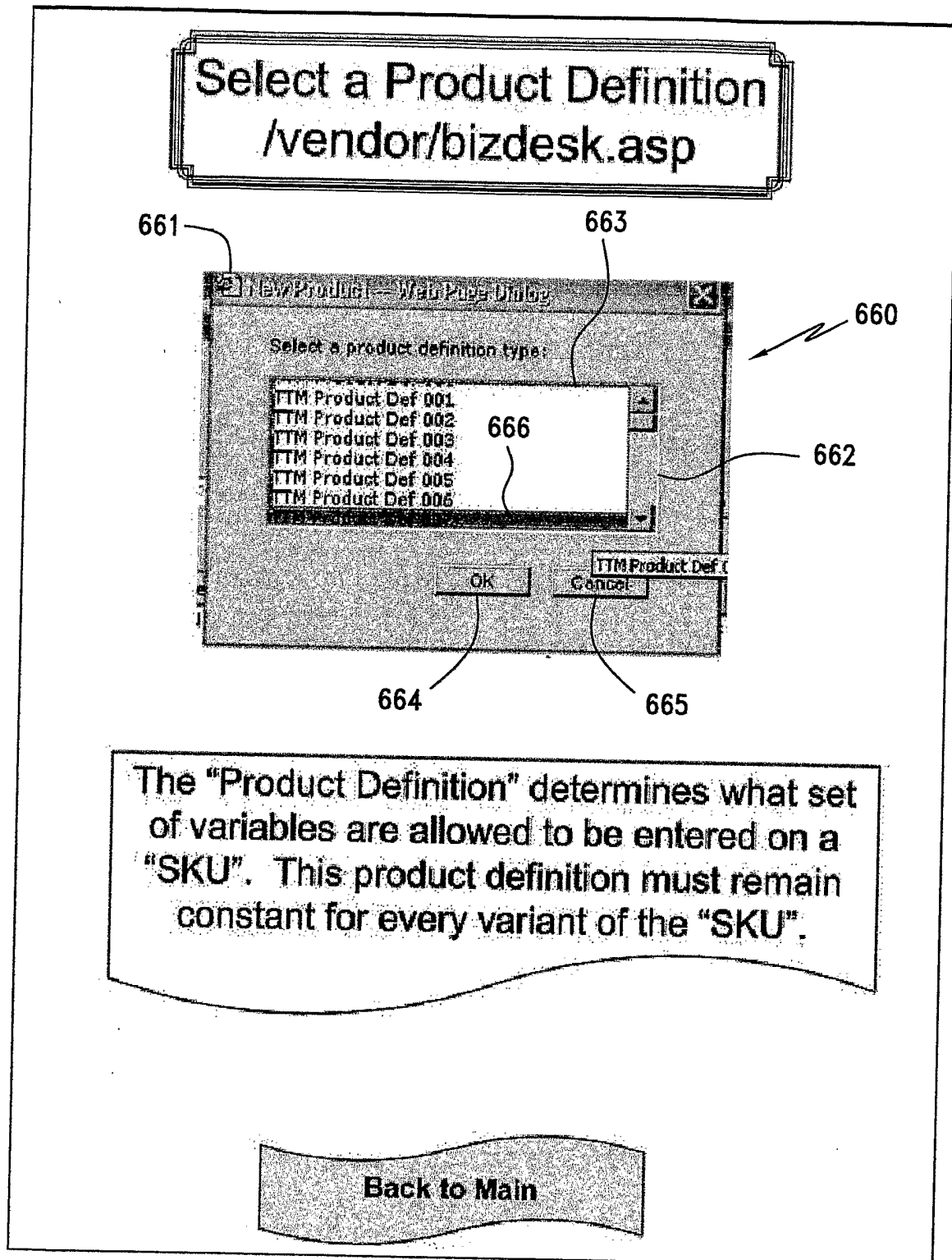


FIG. 6C

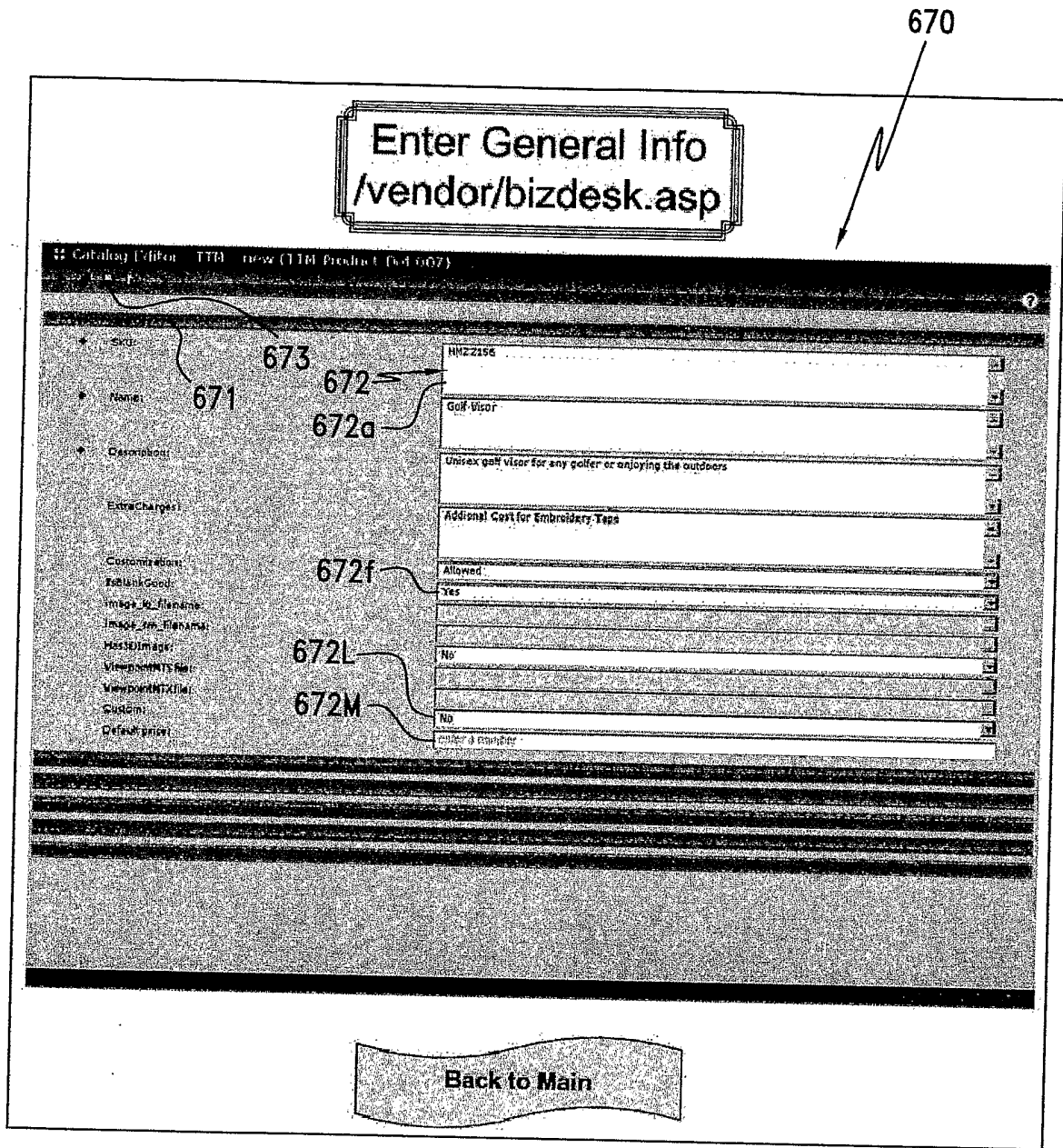


FIG. 6D

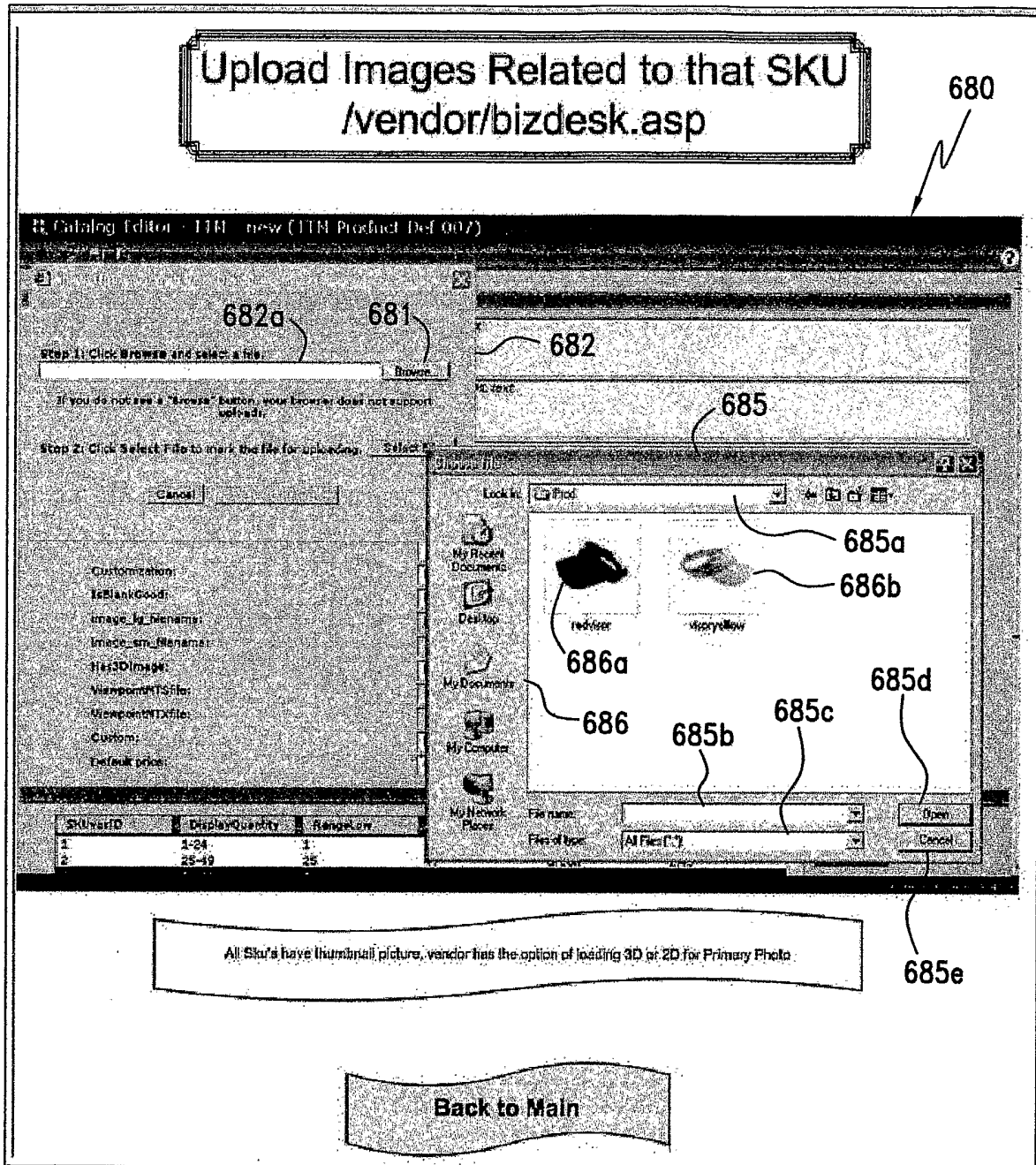


FIG. 6E

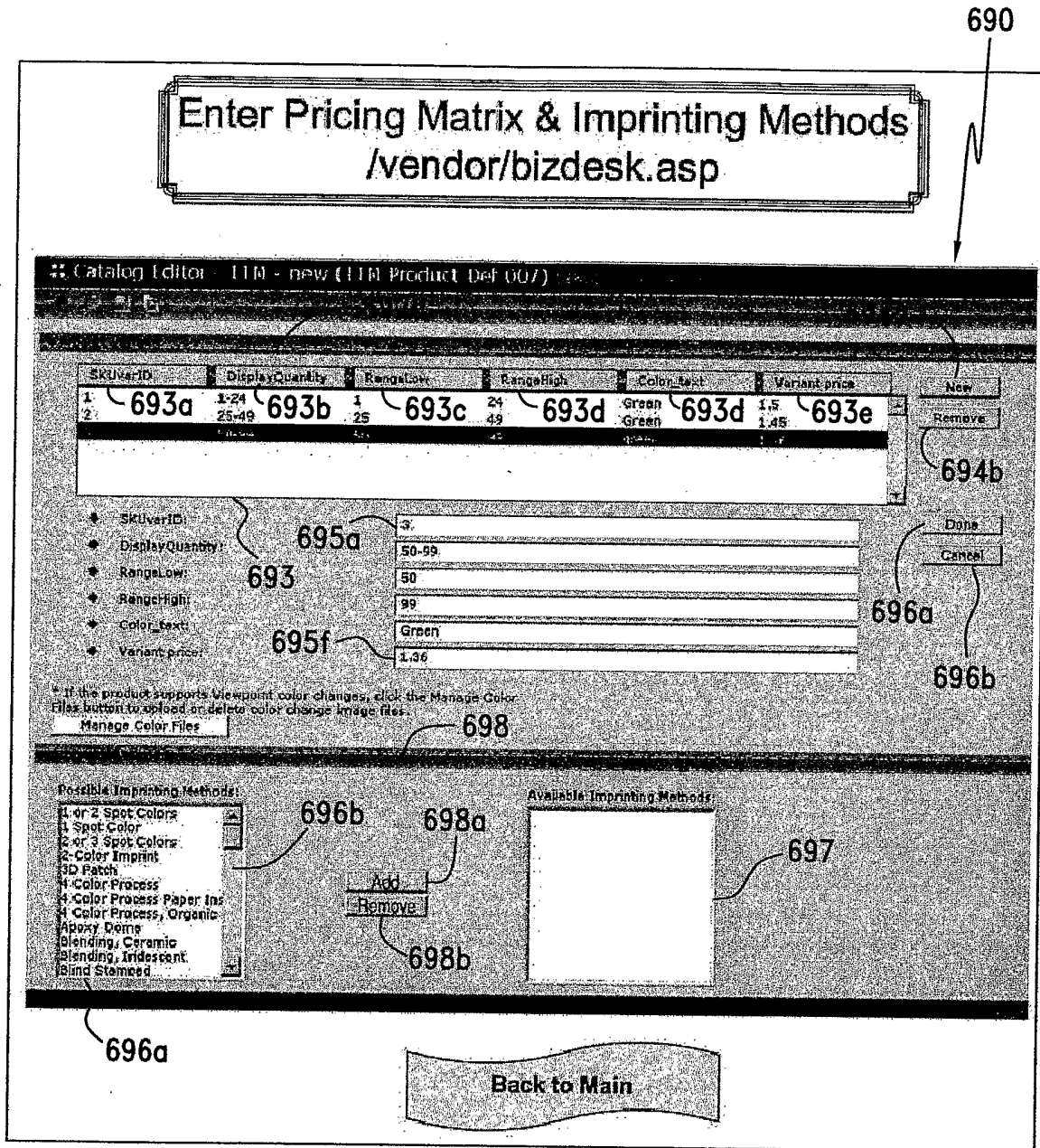


FIG. 6F

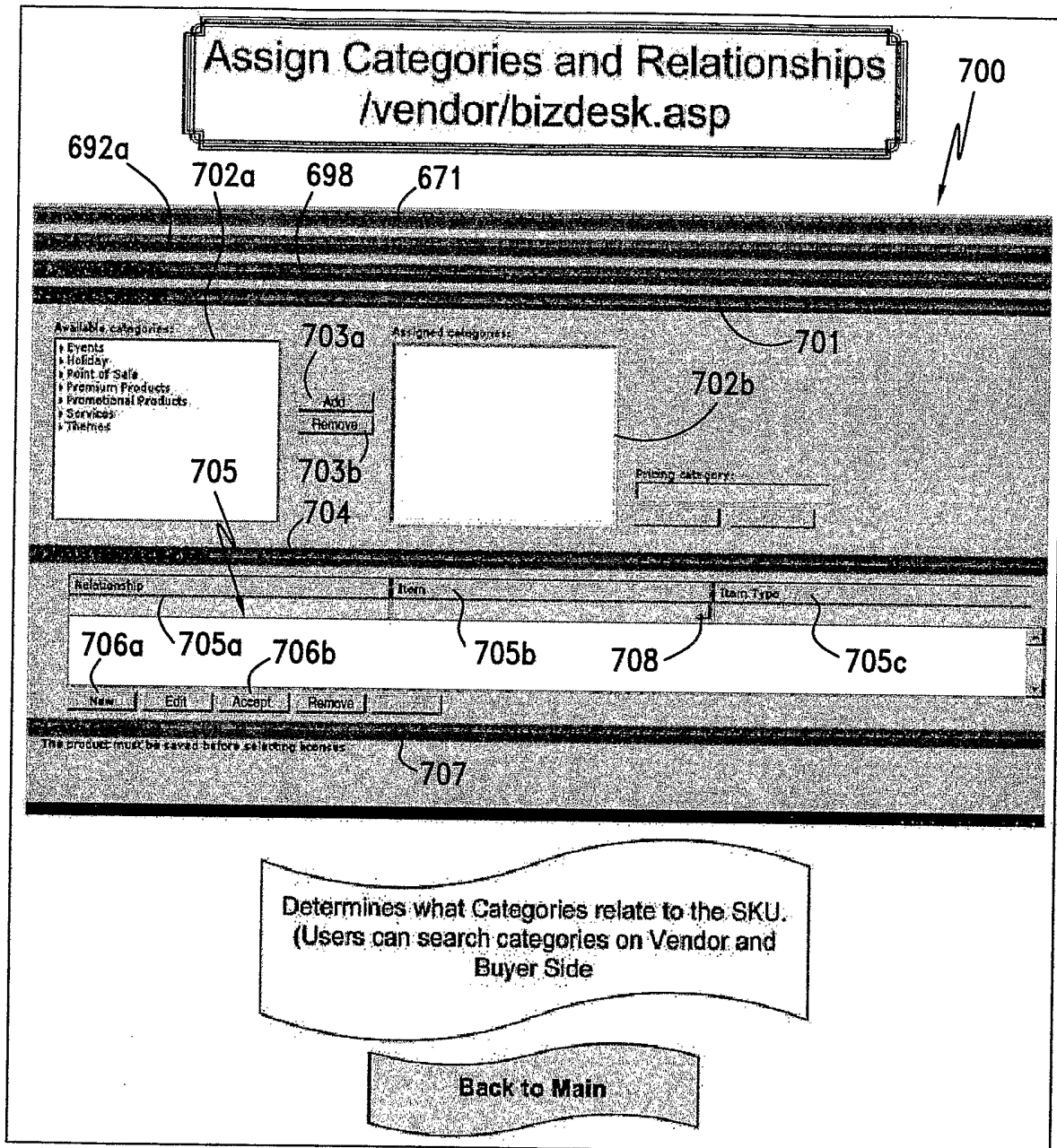


FIG. 6G

Vendor Data Edit Process

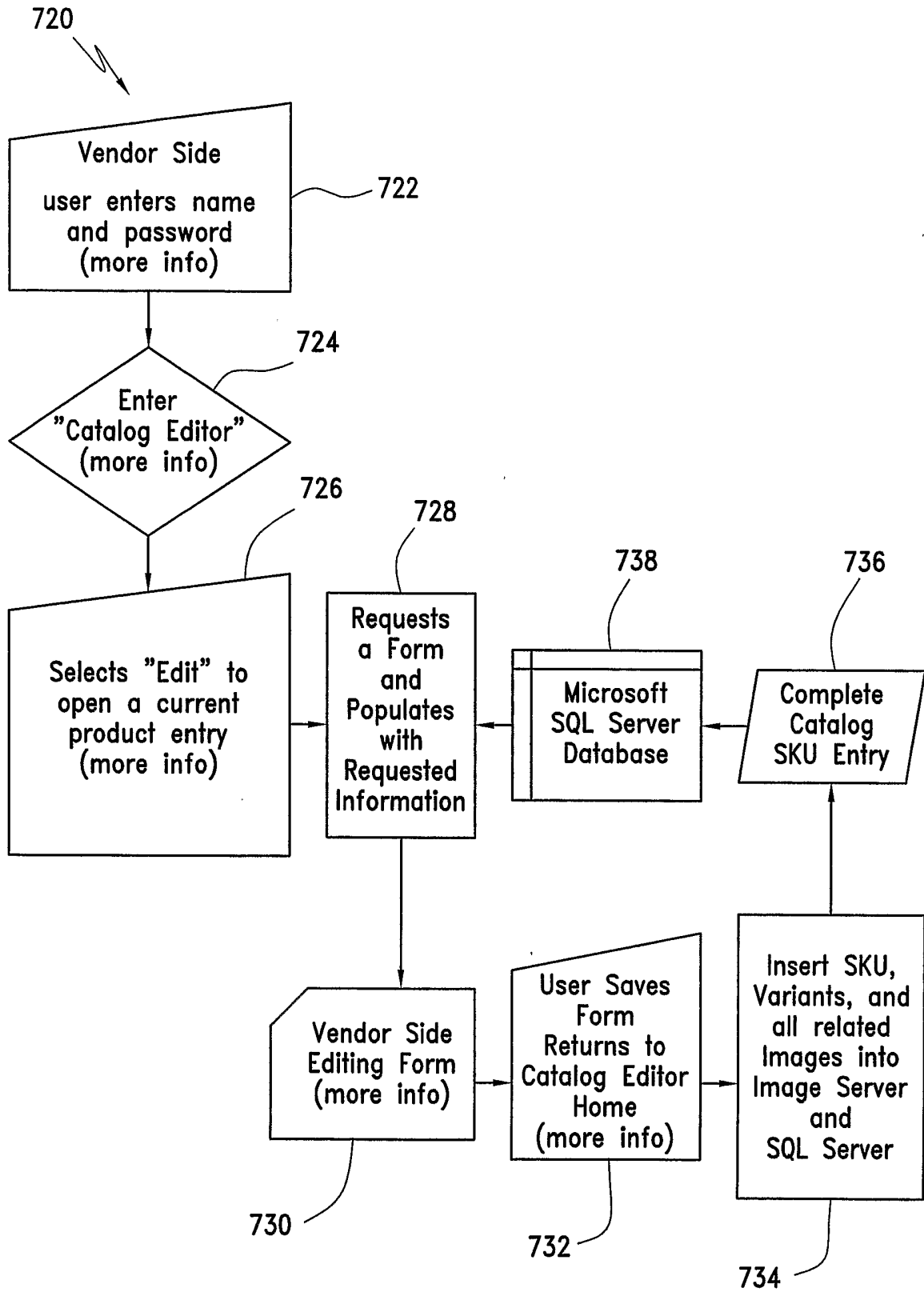


FIG. 7

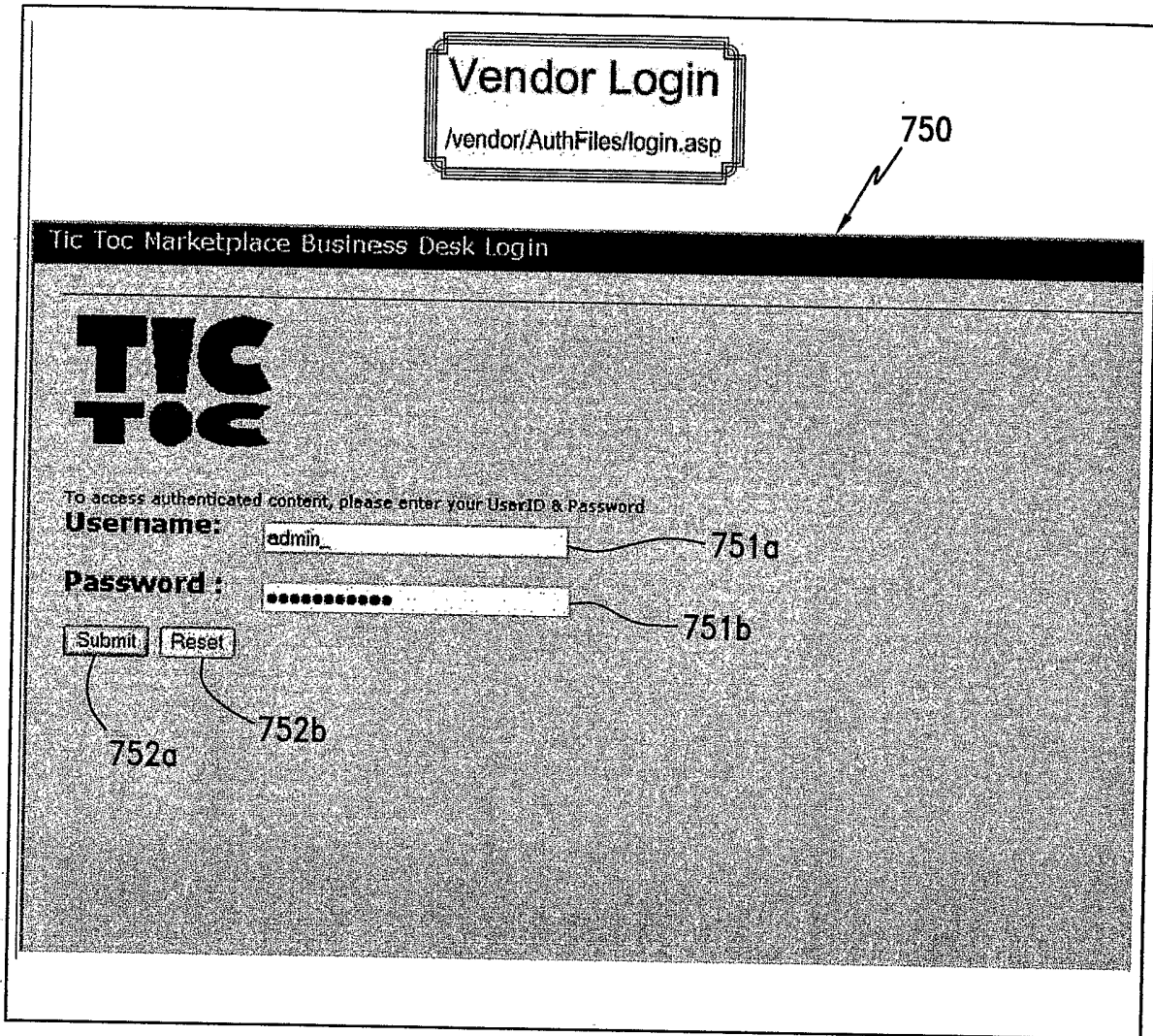


FIG. 8A



FIG. 8B

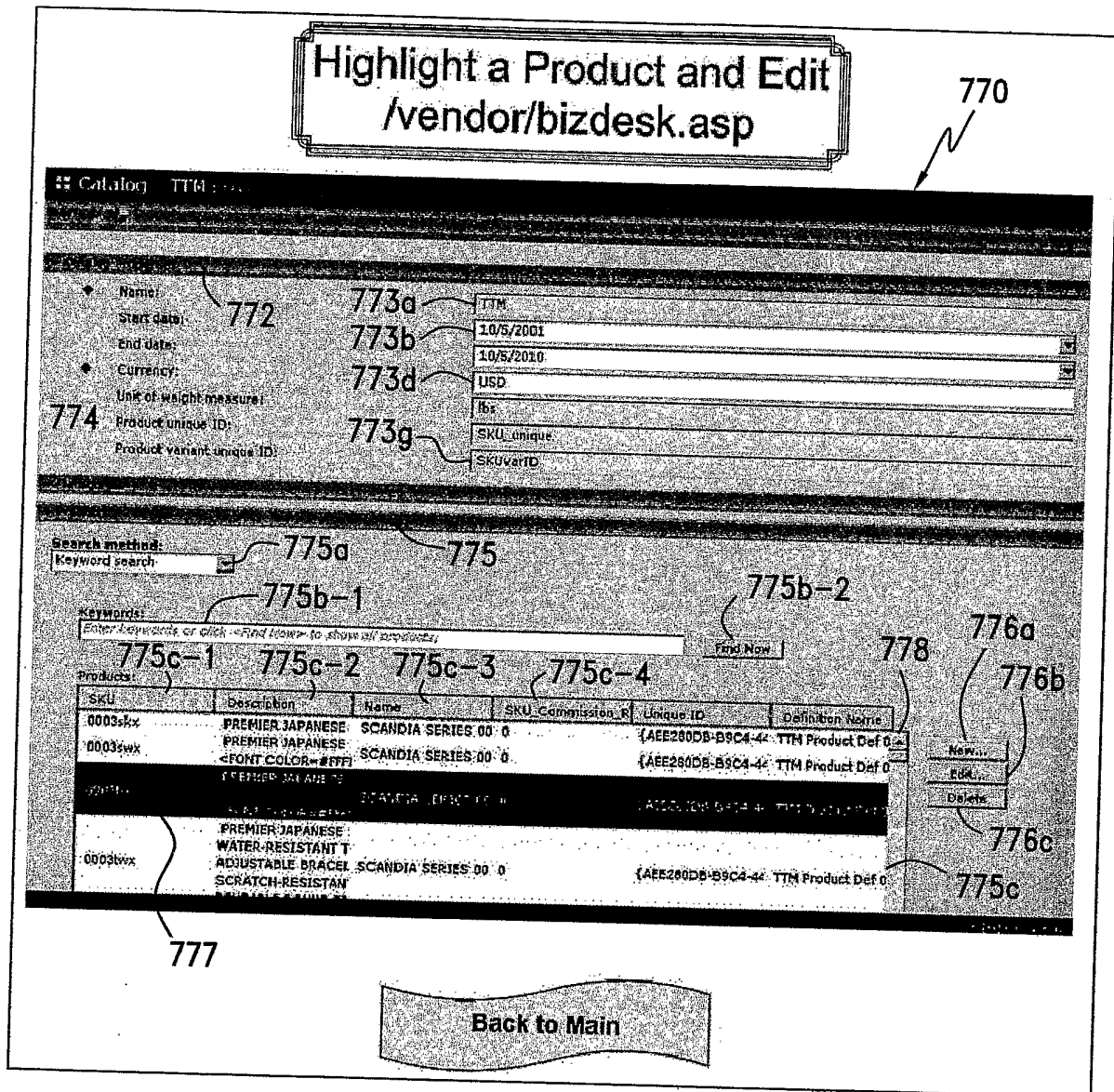


FIG. 8C

FIG. 8D

Editing Form
/vendor/bizdesk.asp

780

Category Editor: ITM 000231X (IBM Product Def 002)

SKU:	782
SKU display:	781a
Name:	772
Description:	781b
Exchanges:	781c
Customize:	781d
Default price:	781m

00030X
SCANDIA SERIES 0068TX

PREMIER JAPANESE QUARTZ MOVEMENT, ACCURATE TO WITHIN ONE MINUTE PER YEAR, WITH A LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY. WATER-RESISTANT TO 100', ADJUSTABLE BRACELETS. SCRATCH-RESISTANT MINERAL GLASS CRYSTALS. REUSABLE ROUND TIN GIFT BOX.

Die Charges: Pad-Printed Dial: add \$40.00 for the first color and \$24.00 for each additional color. Please note there are usually separate dies and charges for men's and women's watches.
Reorder Set-Up Charges: \$20.00.

Allowed	
No	
00030x.jpg	
00030x_sm.jpg	
No	
3D_JamalMed2.mts	
00030x.mtx	
No	
0.00	

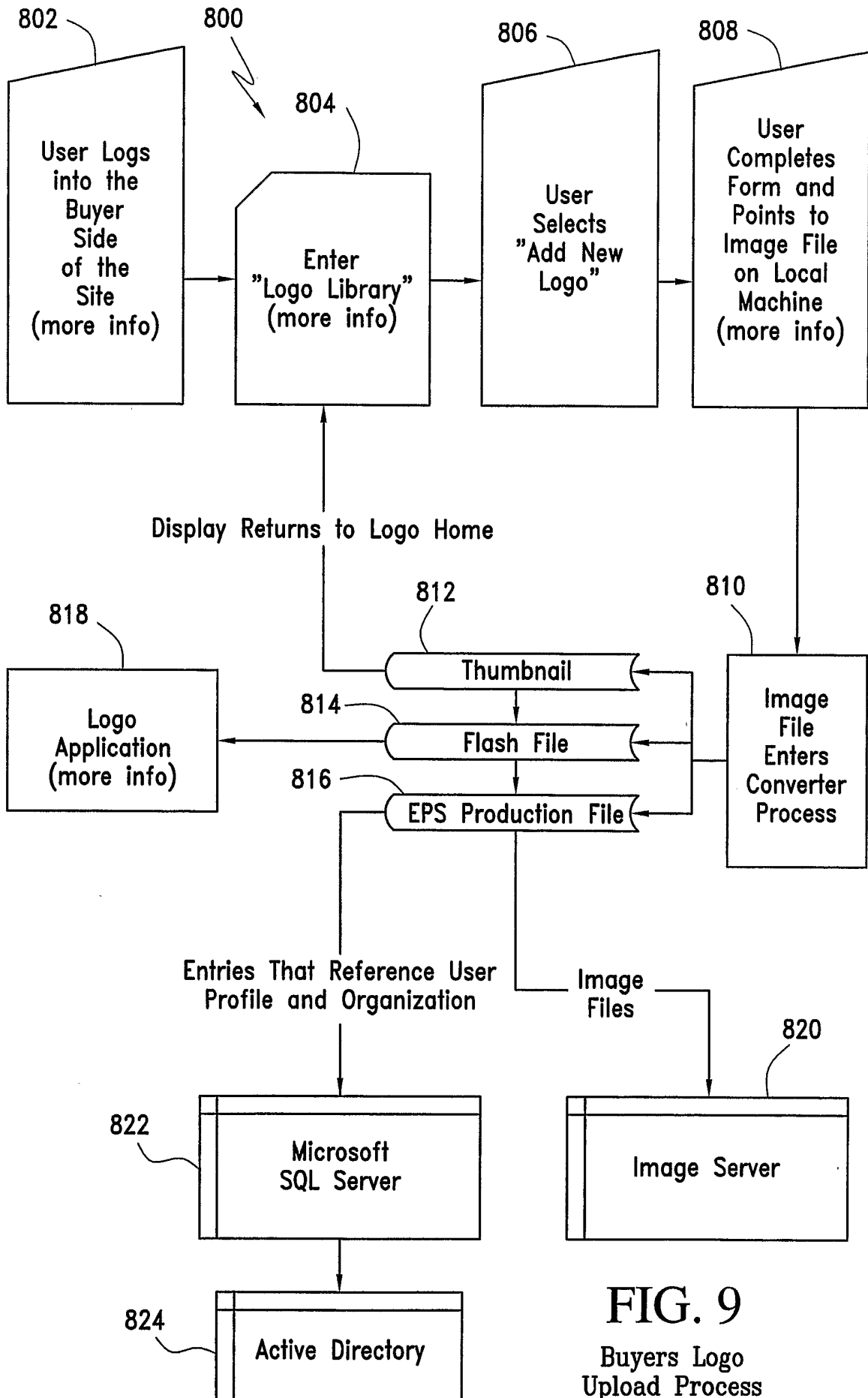


FIG. 9
Buyers Logo Upload Process

Buyer Login
AuthFiles/login.asp

830

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new around here?
[Click Here](#)

User Name

Password

[Password
Reminder](#)

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delivered faster
- ! Retain control over the entire process
- ! Set up your own custom store and more.

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popular choices for easy
customization. Choices range from
ceramic mugs to tee shirts.

premium products
Premium Products include special
gifts for your valuable customers and
staff. Choices range from radios to
vacation packages.

service providers
View suppliers that provide a service.

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FIG. 10A

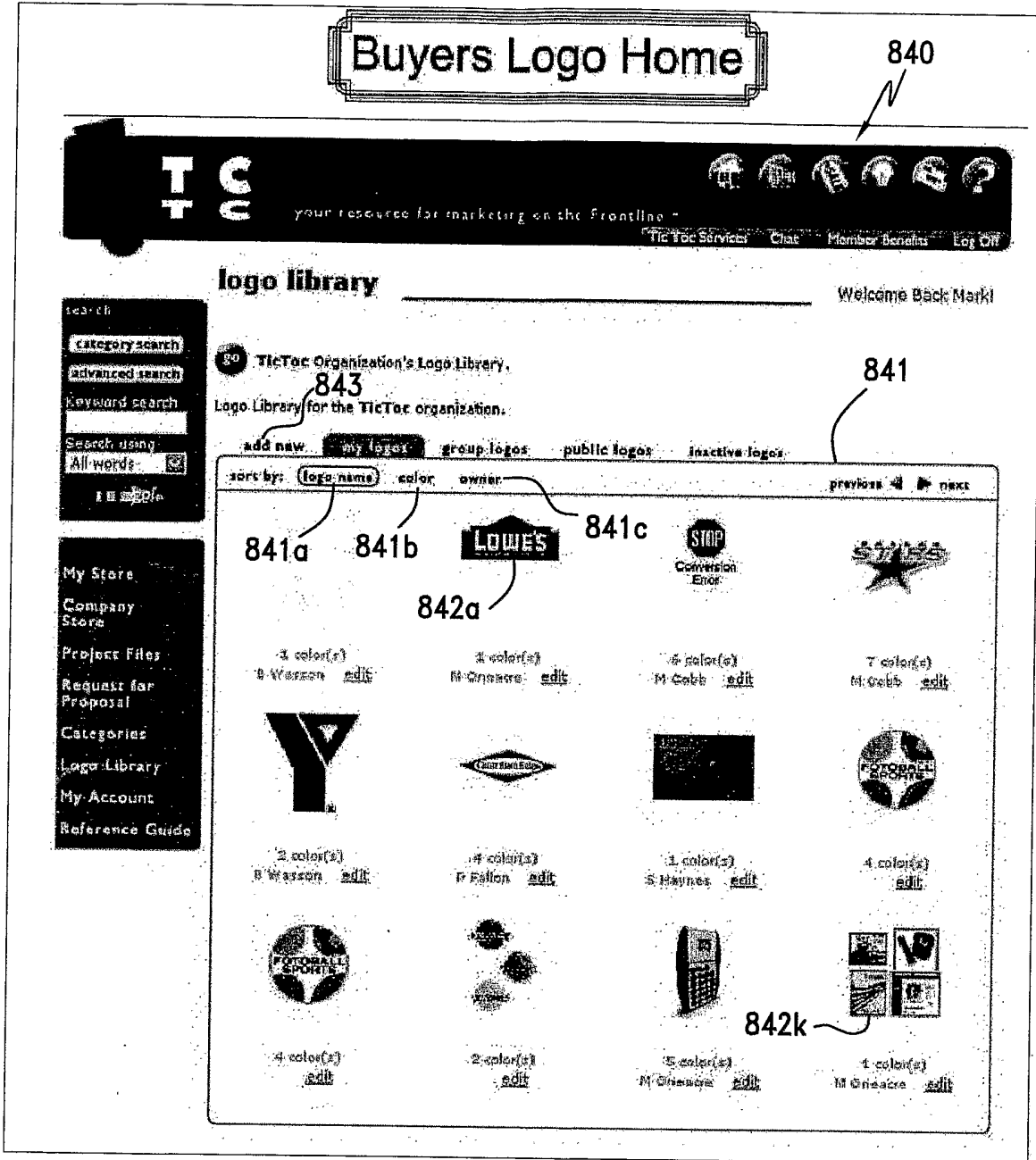


FIG. 10B

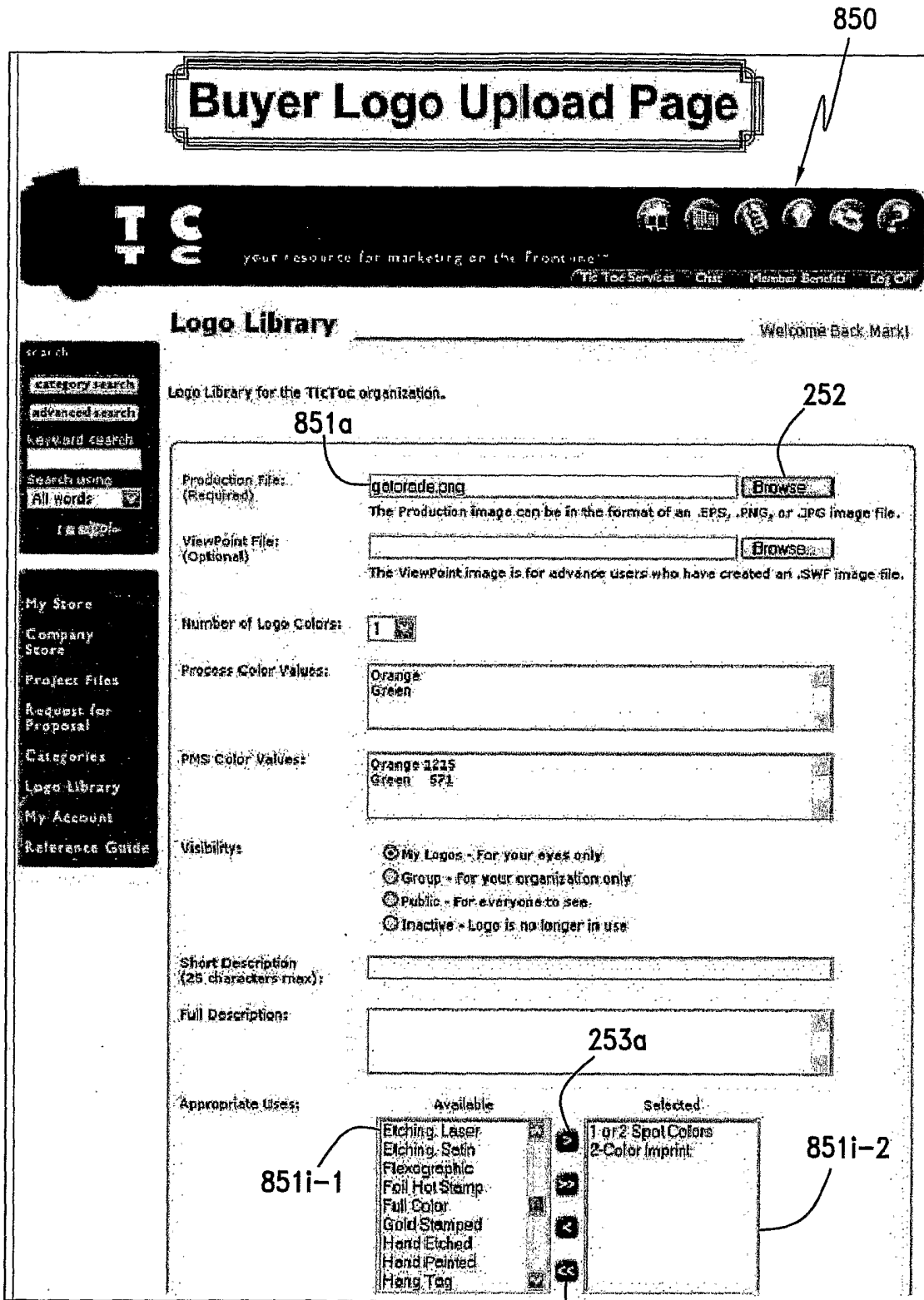


FIG. 10C

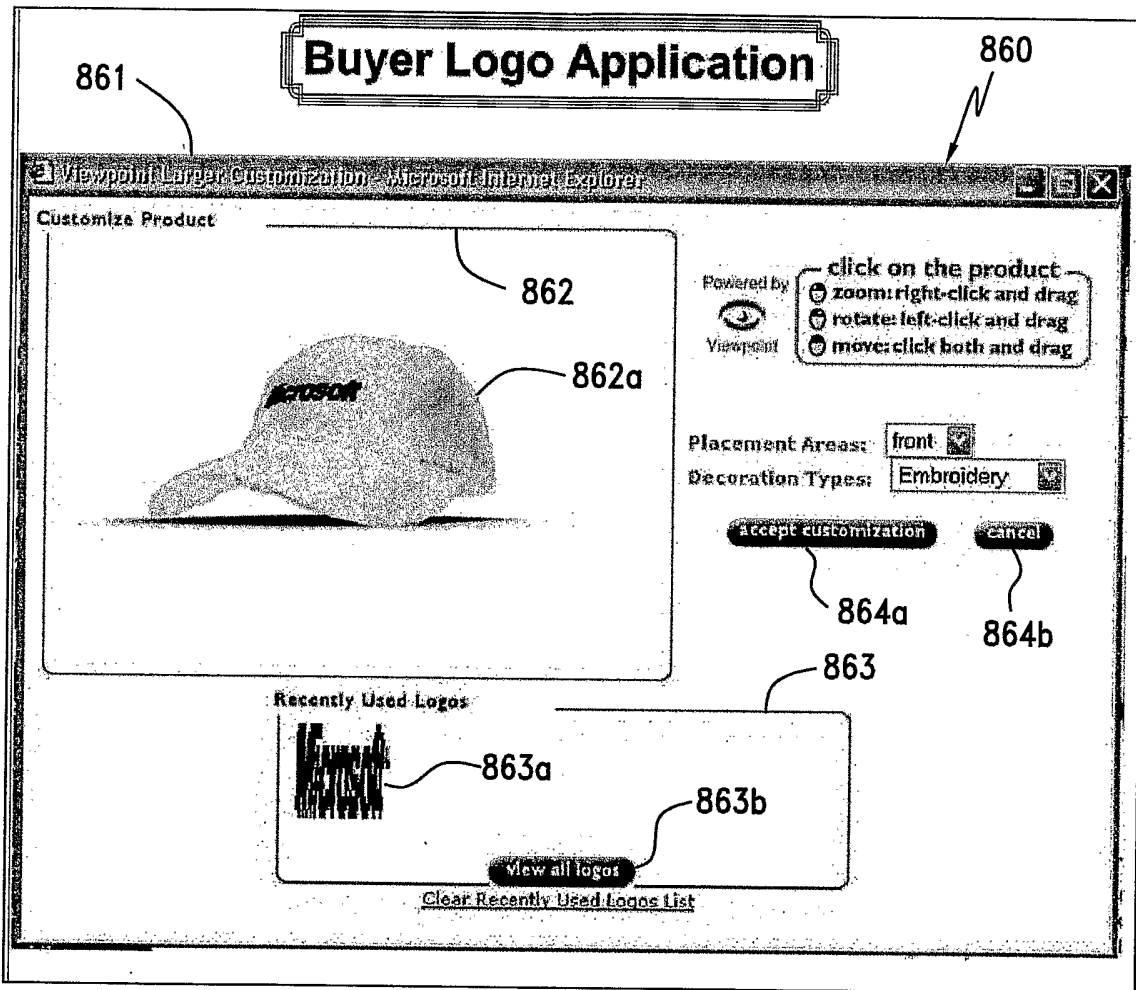


FIG. 10D

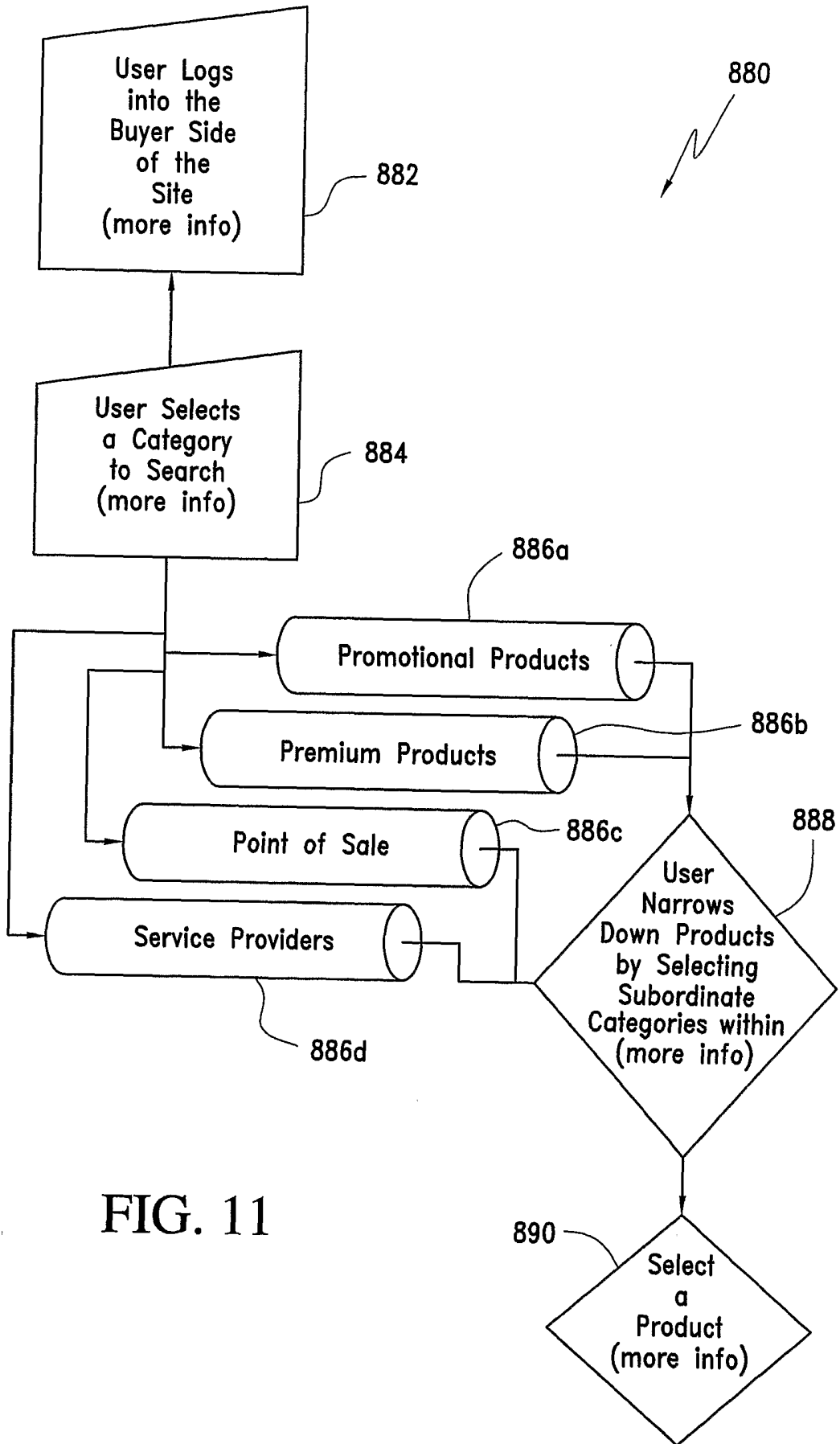



FIG. 11

Buyer Login
<AuthFiles/login.asp>

900 ↙


your resource for marketing on the frontline™

901 [Click Here](#)
to Register

902

903

[Contact Tic Toc](#)

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save 20 - 50% on promotional items!

Welcome to Tic Toc Marketplace, your comprehensive online source for promotional products and services. With direct access to more than half a million items from leading global manufacturers, you can:

- ! Enjoy wholesale savings of 20% to 50% by buying direct
- ! Get a wider selection of high-quality items, delivered faster
- ! Retain control over the entire process
- ! Set up your own custom store and more

Take a spin through our demos or contact Tic Toc to start saving today!

[tic toc marketplace demo](#)

promotional products
Promotional Items include our most popular choices for easy customization. Choices range from ceramic mugs to tee shirts.

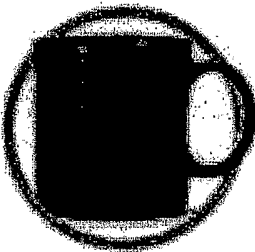
premium products
Premium Products include special gifts for your valuable customers and staff. Choices range from radios to vacation packages.

service providers
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FIG. 12A

Buyer Category Searches default.asp

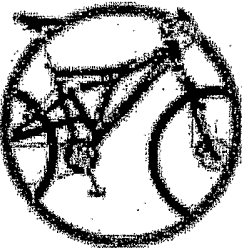


promotional product

Promotional Items include our most popular choices for easy customization. Here you'll find everything from ceramic mugs to key chains to tee shirts.

[browse](#)

900

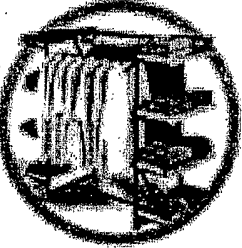


premium products

Premium Products include special gifts and rewards for your most important customers and employees. Products range from personal radios to vacation packages.

[browse](#)

911



service providers

View suppliers that provide a service.

[browse](#)

912

FIG. 12B

913

Buyers Category Search default.asp

920

TIC marketplace
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Tic Toc Services Chat Member Benefits Log Off

product search Welcome Back Mark!

search
category search
advanced search
Keyword search
Search using
All words

921a Premium Products > Office Products > Calculators

921b

921c

Number of matches: 23 **922** Results shown: 20 per page

◀ previous 1 2 next ▶

Can't find what you're looking for? We can help. Call 1.866.4.TIC.TOC (1.866.484.2862)

923a 923b 923c 923d **924**

sort by supplier sort by product sort by 3D sort by price

	Winston Mfg	<u>"ULTIMO" ORGANIZER</u>	\$45.50 - \$49.35
	Winston Mfg	<u>"ULTIMO" ORGANIZER</u>	\$36.40 - \$39.48
	Winston Mfg	<u>BUSINESS CARD CASE WITH CALCULATOR "REDESIGNED"</u>	\$9.65 - \$10.49

FIG. 12C

Buyer Product Page
product.asp

TC marketplace your resource for marketing on the Frontline™

[TC Tac Services](#)
[Chat](#)
[Member Benefits](#)
[Log Off](#)

search

category search

advanced search

keyword search

Search using

All words

Go

product detail Welcome Back Mark!

MINI CALCULATOR KEY RING 931a

1-1/2" W X 2-1/4" H PACKAGING - GIFT BOX
PRICE INCLUDES ONE POSITION
IMPRINT.

SKU: 7109 Supplier: Akira Sales

Need more information about this product? Our Supplier
contact information is listed at the bottom of this page.
Contact vendor to request a blank sample.

▶ Extra Charges

step 1

932a Select Product Variants

step 2

932b Customize Product

step 3

932c Specify Order Details

step 4

932d Specify Quantities and Continue

931b

Customize Product



print sample

Powered by  **click on the product**

- ⊕ zoom: right-click and drag
- ⊞ rotate: left-click and drag
- ⊞ move: click both and drag

For quantities not shown, please contact vendor

Quantity	Unit Price
100-249	\$1.05
250-499	\$0.99
500-999	\$0.87
1000+	\$0.75

FIG. 12D

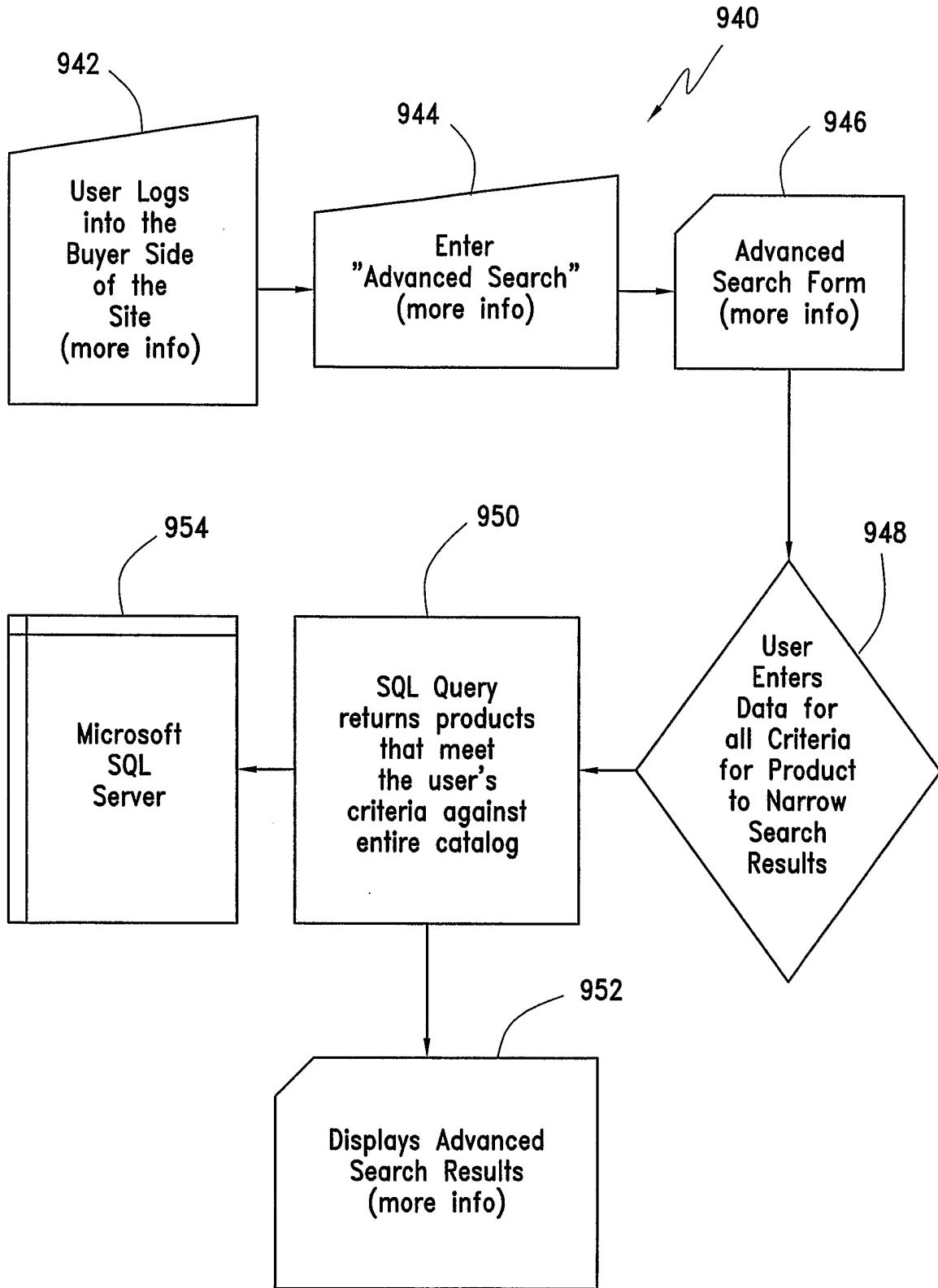
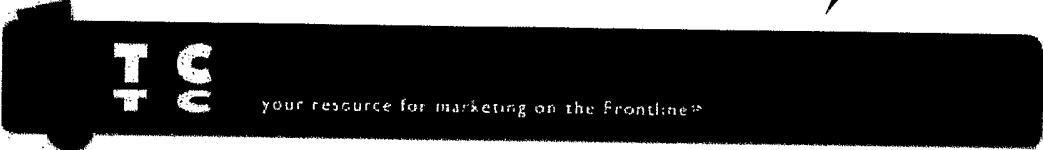


FIG. 13
Advanced Search Process

Buyer Login
AuthFiles/login.asp

950



save 20 - 50% on promotional items!

Welcome to Tic Toc Marketplace, your comprehensive online source for promotional products and services. With direct access to more than half a million items from leading global manufacturers, you can:

- Enjoy wholesale savings of 20% to 50% by buying direct
- Get a wider selection of high-quality items, delivered faster
- Retain control over the entire process
- Set up your own custom store and more

Take a spin through our demos or contact Tic Toc to start saving today!

[tic toc marketplace demo](#)

951a [Click Here](#)

951b User Name:
Password:

952 Password Reminder
Contact Tic Toc

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promotional products
Promotional Items include our most popular choices for easy customization. Choices range from ceramic mugs to tee shirts.

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FIG. 14A

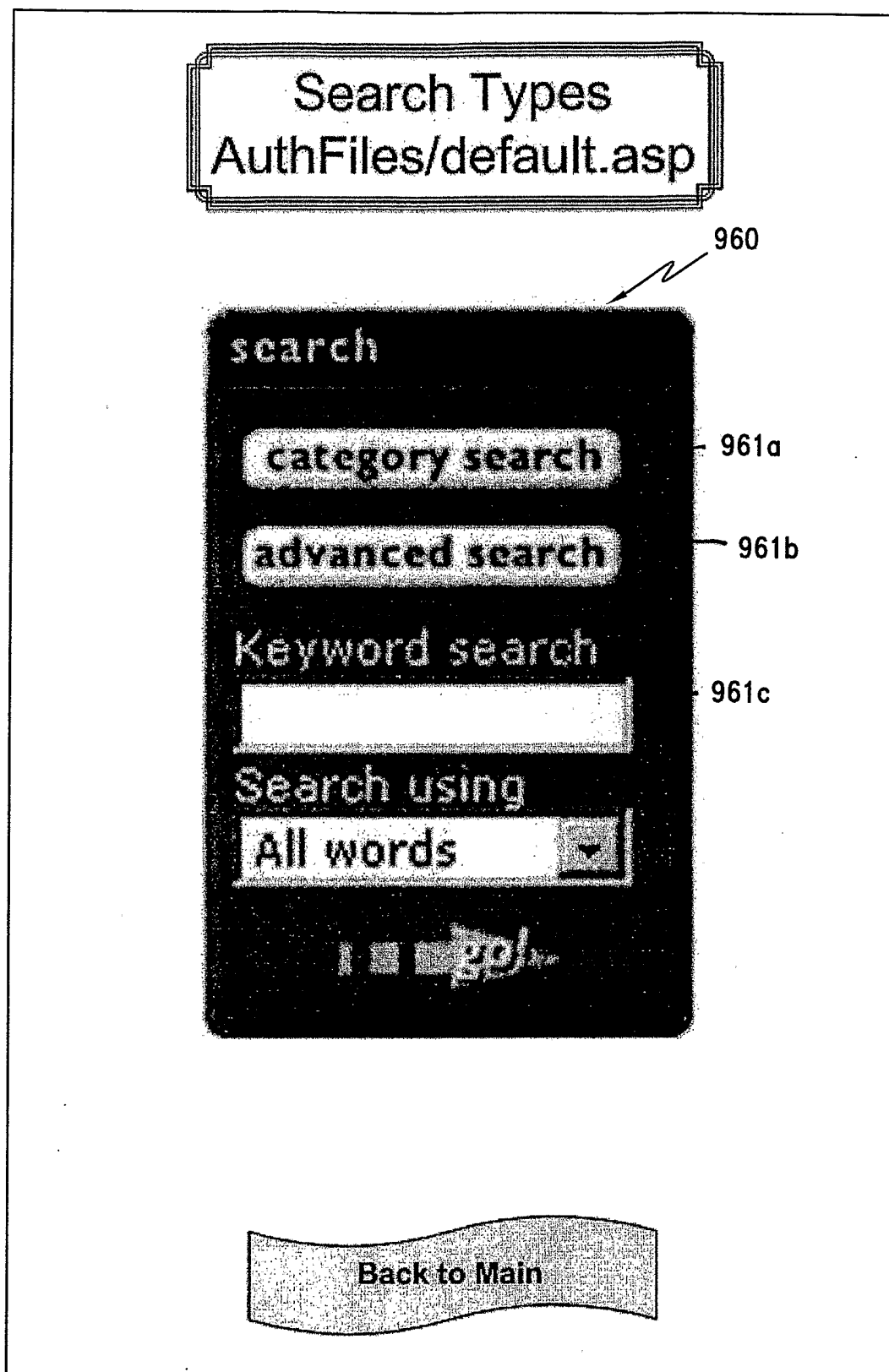


FIG. 14B

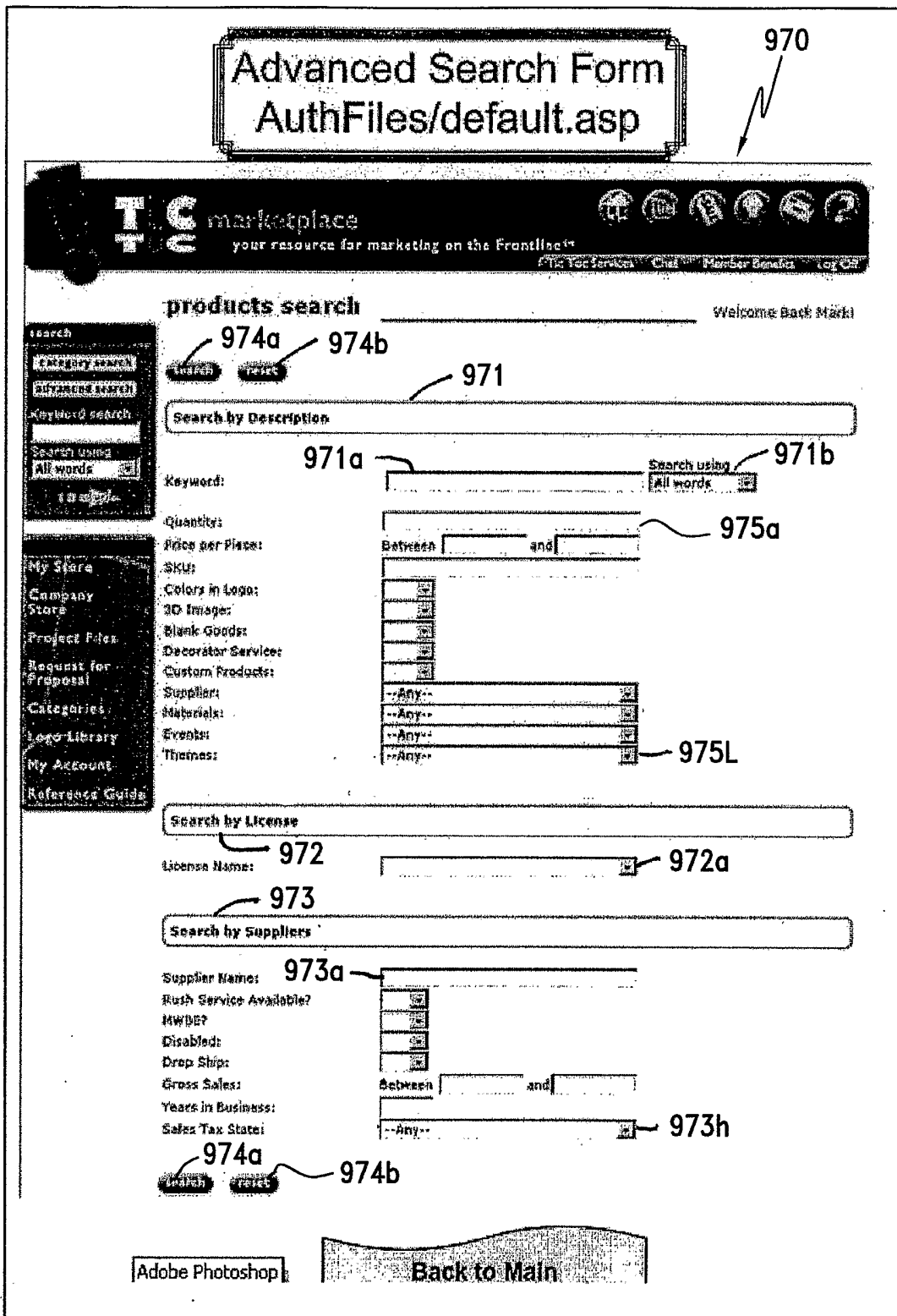


FIG. 14C

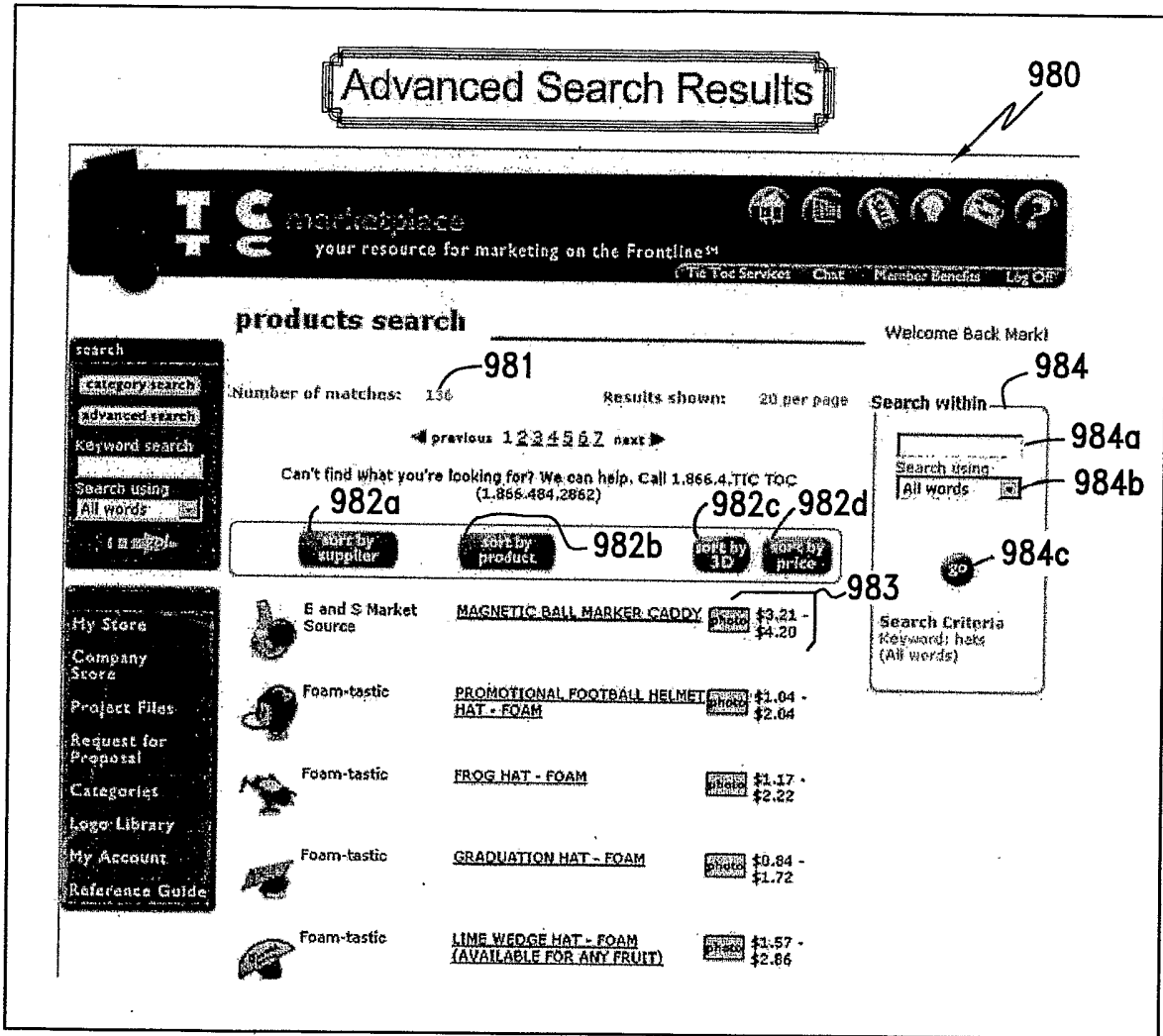


FIG. 14D

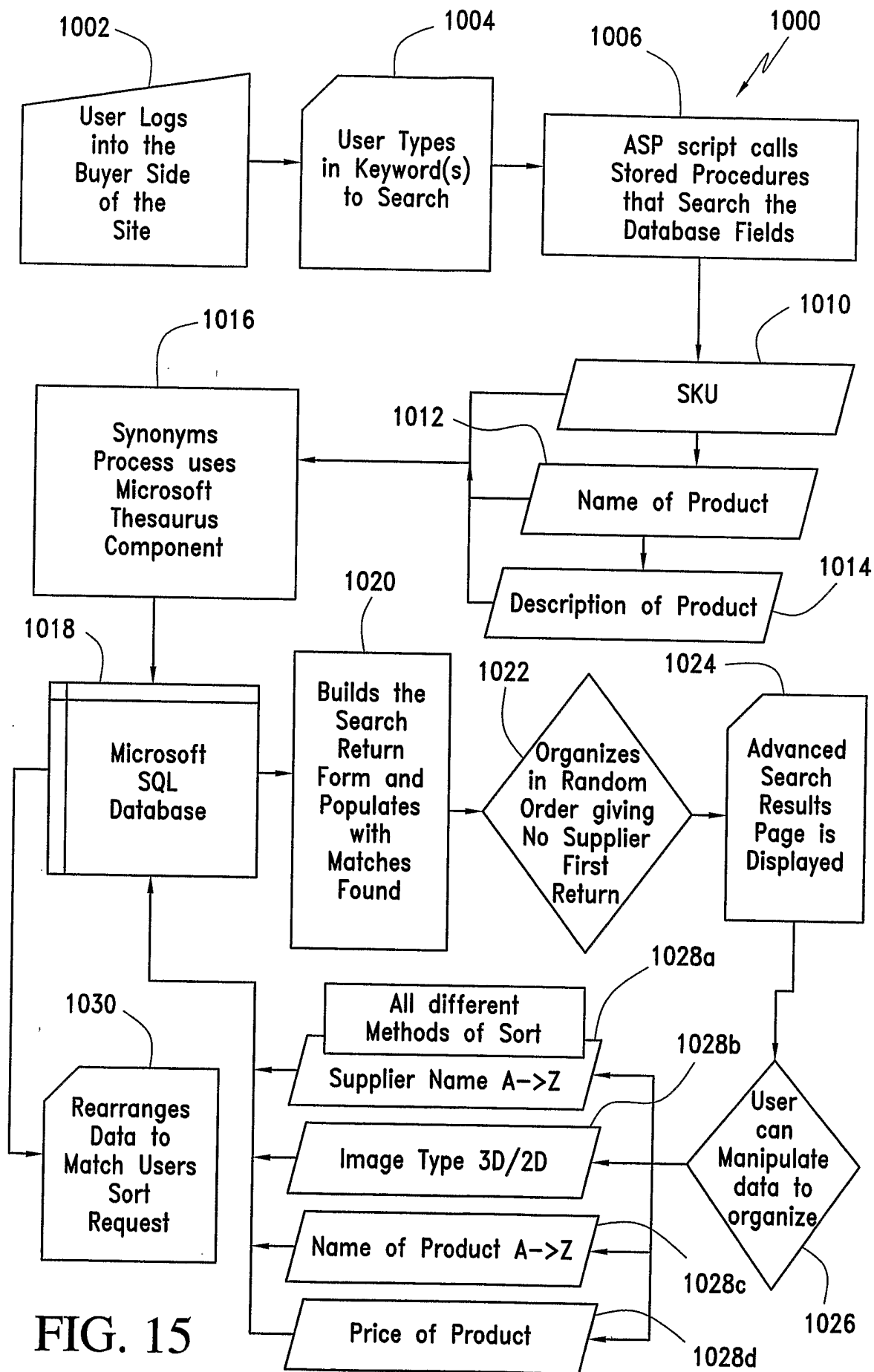


FIG. 15

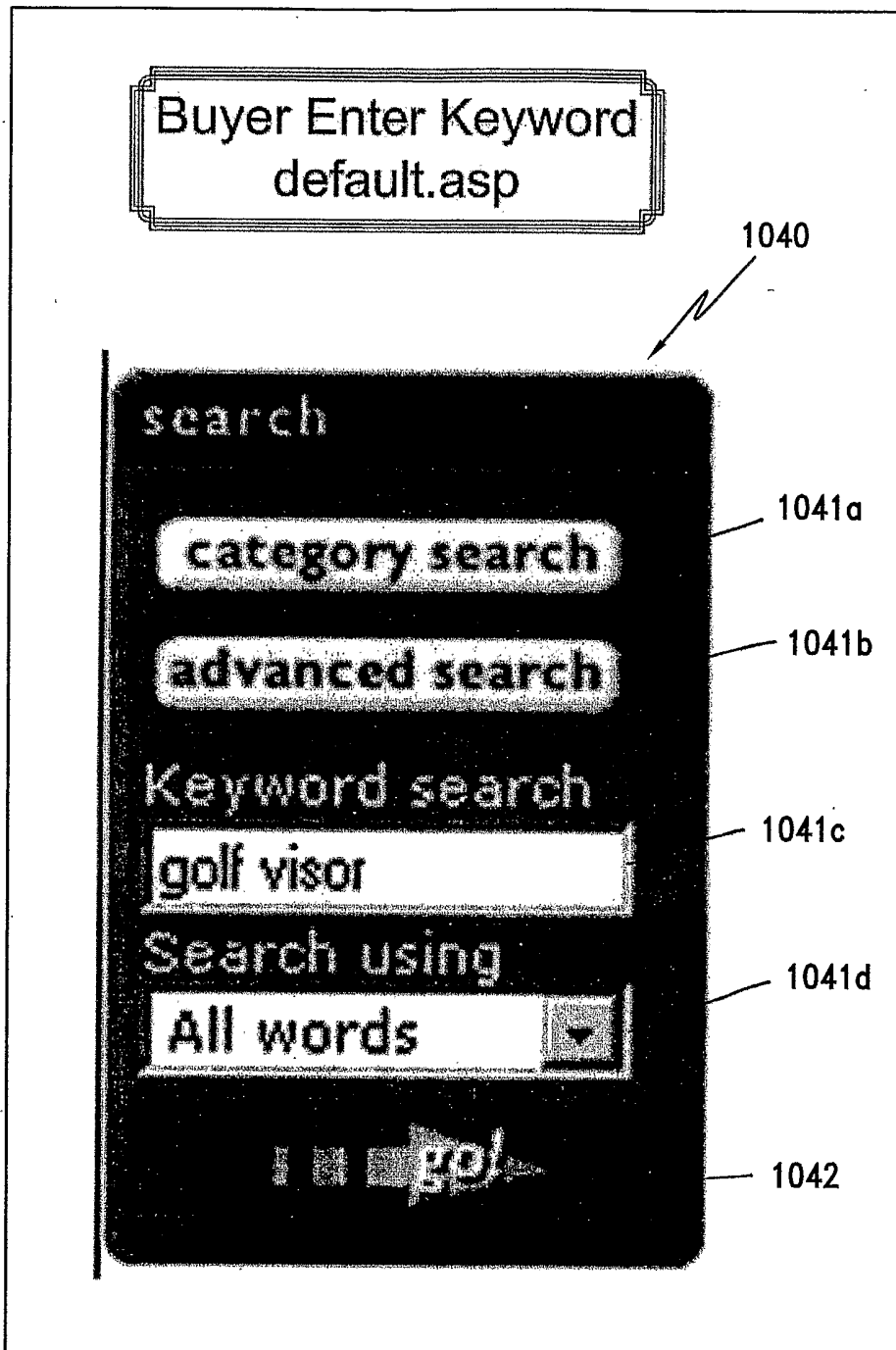


FIG. 16A

Buyer Search Results
advsearchresults.asp

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products search

Number of matches: 120
Results shown: 20 per page

1055
Can't find what you're looking for? We can help. Call 1.866.4.TIC.TOC
(1.866.484.2862)

Categories: Auto Visor, Accessories, Sun Visors

Sort by: Supplier
Description Image Price

1051

1052

1053b 1053c

1053a

1053d

Supplier	Description	Image	Price
1054a	Form-tastic #1 HAND POP-UP VISOR - FOAM		\$0.32 - \$0.67
	Bagmasters Factory Direct 12 CO VISOR PORTFOLIO		\$4.69 - \$9.62
	Head To Toe 5 PANEL HAT		\$0.99 - \$2.99
	Head To Toe 6 PANEL CAP		\$0.99 - \$2.99
	Head To Toe 6 PANEL LOW PROFILE		\$2.32 - \$4.58
	Head To Toe 6 PANEL LOW PROFILE		\$1.53 - \$3.64
	Head To Toe 6 PANEL PRO SHAPE		\$0.99 - \$2.99
1054h	Head To Toe 6 PANEL UNSTRUCTURED		\$1.78 - \$3.84

Search within

1040'

1041c'

1041d'

1042'

FIG. 16B

Rearrange of Search Results (by image type)

advsearchresults.asp

1060 ↘

marketplace

your resource for marketing on the Frontline™

[Tic Toc Services](#)
[Chat](#)
[Member Benefits](#)
[Log Off](#)

products search

Welcome Back Mark!

search

category search

advanced search

keyword search

Search using

All words

Number of matches: 126 1061 Results shown: 20 per page

◀ previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 next ▶

Can't find what you're looking for? We can help. Call 1.866.4.TIC.TOC (1.866.484.2662)

Sort by...
1063a
1063c
1062

Supplier	Description	Image	Price
	<u>POLO CAP WITH SEWN EYELETS</u>		\$2.85 - \$3.55
	<u>VISOR</u>		\$2.80 - \$3.65
AdCapitol	<u>PAINTERS CAP-DUCK</u>		\$0.77 - \$0.88
H3	<u>CONTRAST STITCH ROLLED VISOR CAP</u>		\$3.20 - \$4.10
Transamerica Intl Group	<u>CD VISOR</u>		\$3.25 - \$3.25
Gagwear	<u>ENZYME WASHED VISOR</u>		\$2.25 - \$2.98

1063f

Search within

Search using

All words

Search Criteria

Keywords: visor

(All words)

FIG. 16C

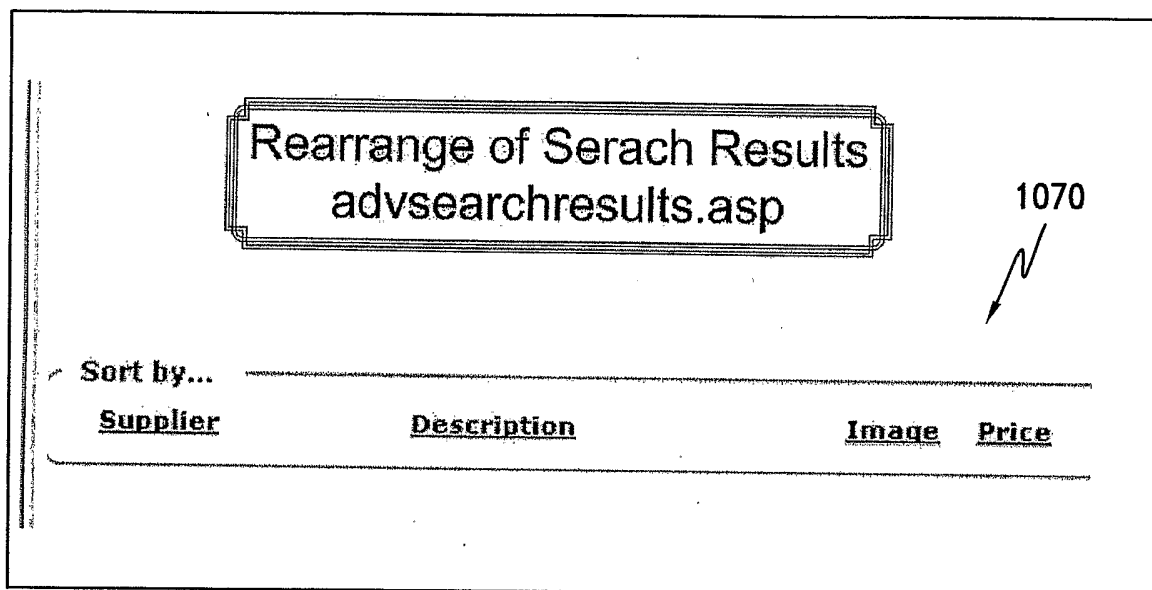
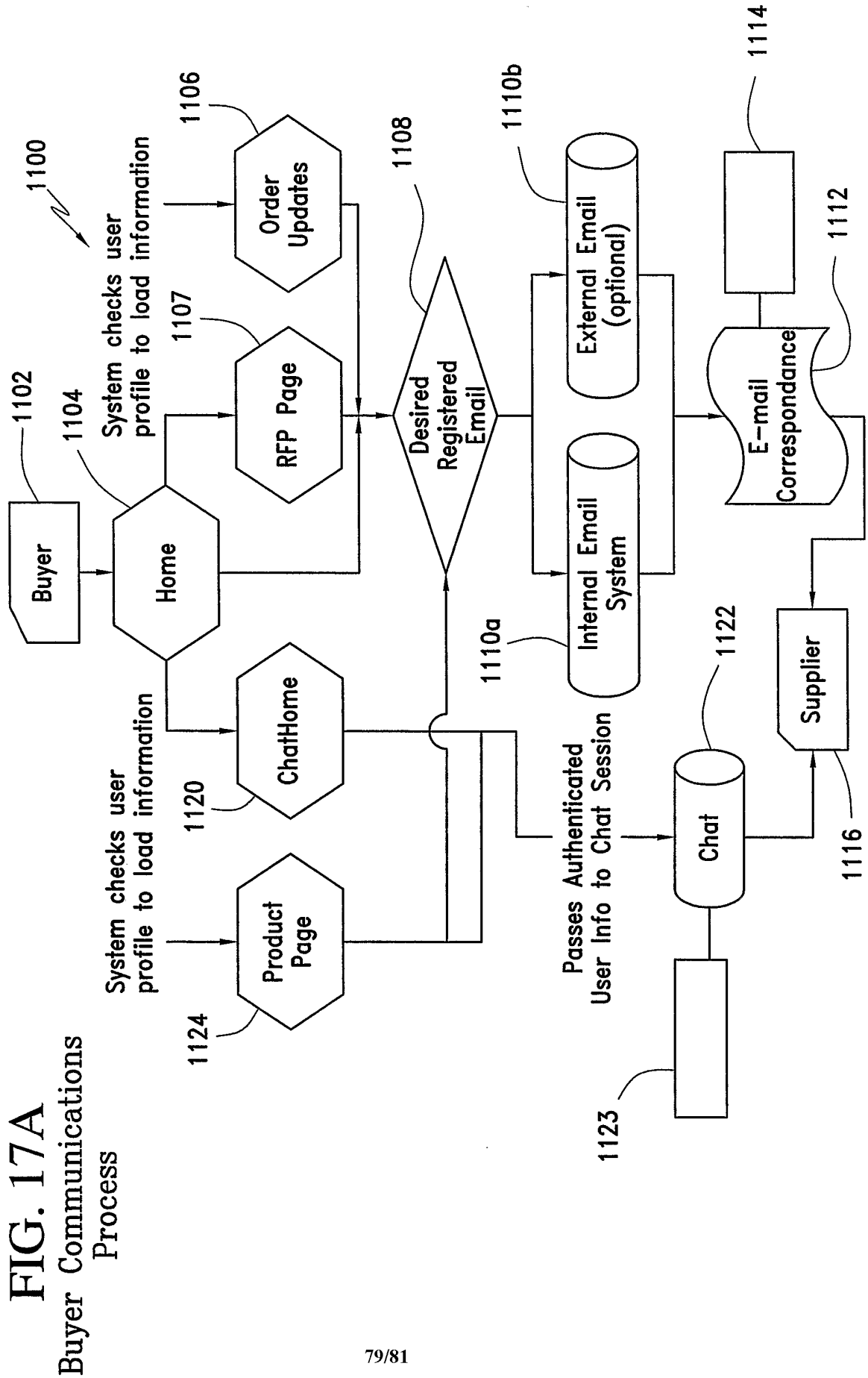


FIG. 16D

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ: ΠΑΥΛΟΣ, Γ. ΣΟΦΙΑΝΑ ΝΤΑΒΕΤΤ



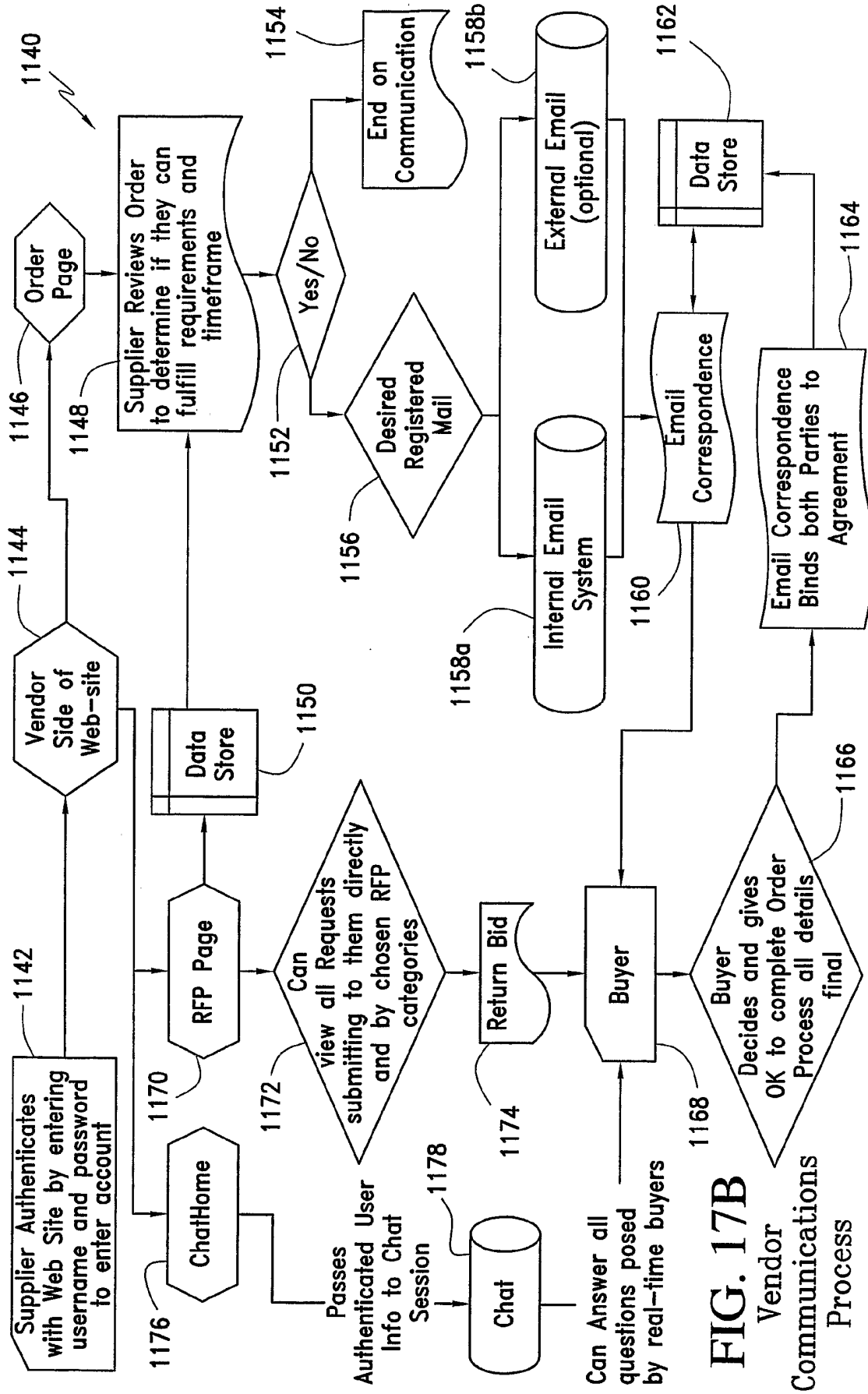


FIG. 17B
Vendor Communications Process

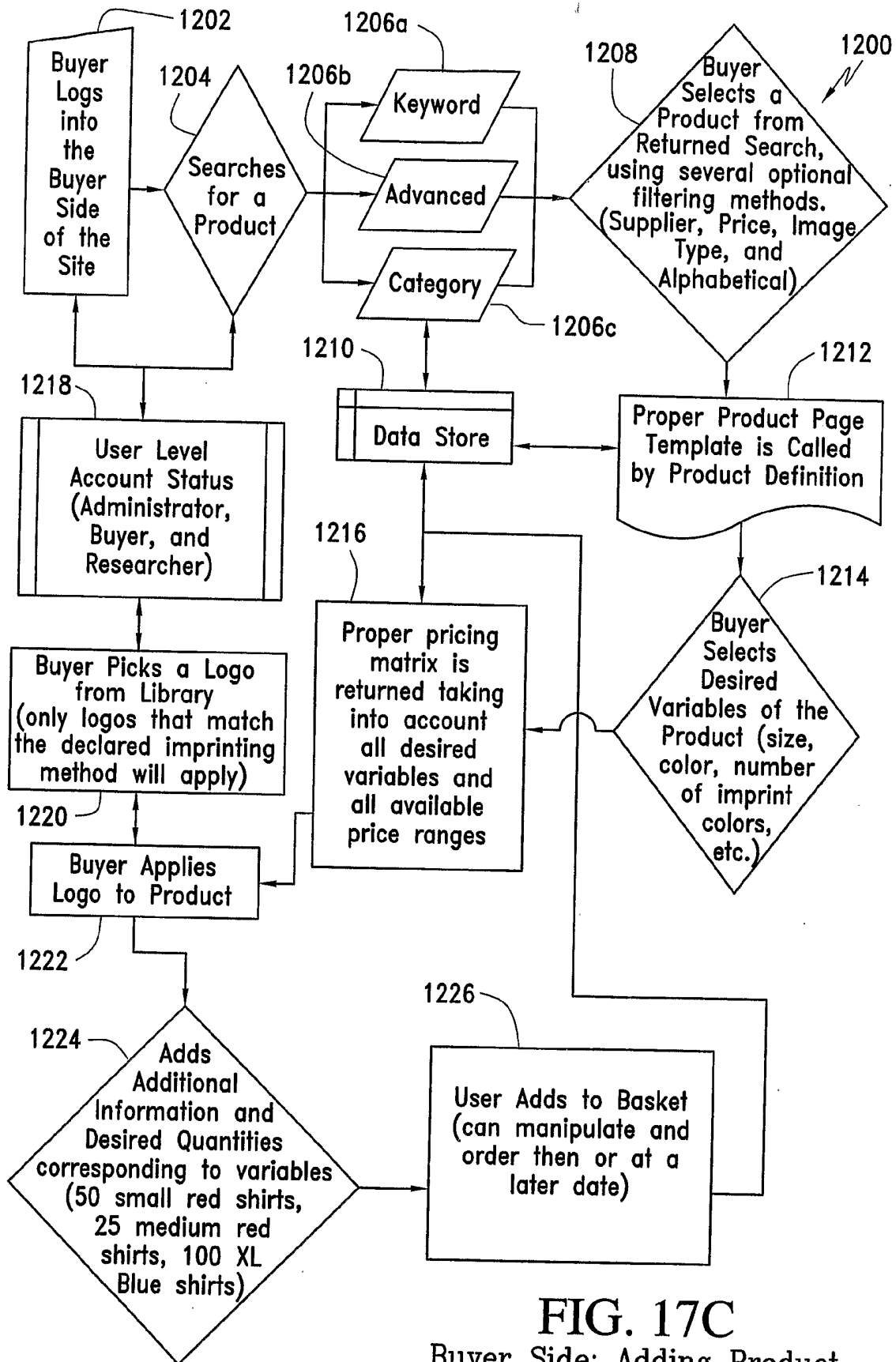


FIG. 17C
 Buyer Side: Adding Product to Basket