

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 March 2002 (07.03.2002)

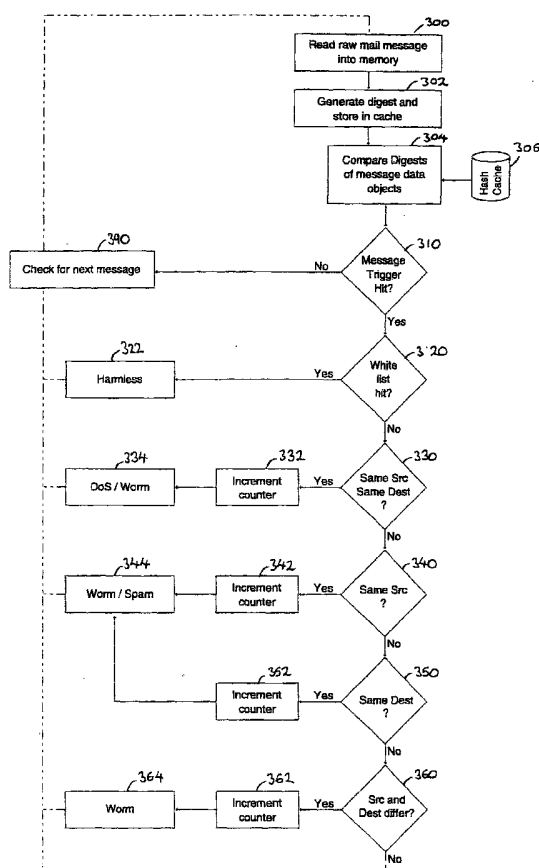
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 02/019069 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 1/00**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB01/03852
- (22) International Filing Date: 29 August 2001 (29.08.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0021444.5 31 August 2000 (31.08.2000) GB
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MONITORING ELECTRONIC MAIL MESSAGE DIGESTS



(57) Abstract: A method for monitoring electronic mail messages, each mail message comprising header information and a main body, particularly for protection against virus attacks and unsolicited commercial email (UCE). The method comprises generating a summary digest of only the subject line and the message content of the main body, wherein the message content may comprise textual content and/or attached files. The generated summary digest is stored in a memory, and compared with existing summary digests stored in memory. If the number of matches exceeds a threshold value, an alert signal is raised and appropriate action initiated. A timestamp may be stored with each summary digest, together with sender/recipient details and the internet protocol (IP) address of origin, to aid detection of the originator of the message.



CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
9 October 2003

**Published:**

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No

PCT/GB 01/03852

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 7 G06F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.   |
|------------|--|---|
| X          | <p>PAUL RUBIN: "Re: spam (hash codes)"<br/> INTERNET ARTICLE, 'Online!<br/> 20 February 1995 (1995-02-20), XP002229452<br/> alt.current-events.net-abuse,news.admin.mi<br/> sc,news.admin.policy<br/> Retrieved from the Internet:<br/> &lt;URL:http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=<br/> phrD4A6Ip.LFA%40netcom.com&amp;output=gplain&gt;<br/> 'retrieved on 2003-01-30!<br/> the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---<br/>-/--</p> | <p>1-13,<br/> 15-21,<br/> 23-38,<br/> 40-46,<br/> 48-62,<br/> 64-70,<br/> 72-77</p> |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 January 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/02/2003

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In International Application No  
PCT/GB 01/03852

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A          | <p>RAGNAR LONN: "Re: automated spam detection"<br/>INTERNET ARTICLE, 'Online!<br/>16 February 1999 (1999-02-16), XP002229453<br/>anti-spam-wg<br/>Retrieved from the Internet:<br/>&lt;URL:http://www.ripe.net/ripe/mail-archive<br/>s/anti-spam-wg/1999/msg00156.html&gt;<br/>'retrieved on 2003-01-30!<br/>the whole document<br/>-----</p> | 1-77                  |
| A          | <p>WO 99 33188 A (BRIGHT LIGHT TECHNOLOGIES<br/>INC) 1 July 1999 (1999-07-01)<br/>the whole document<br/>-----</p>  | 1-77                  |

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/03852

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| WO 9933188                                | A | 01-07-1999          | US 6052709 A               | 18-04-2000          |
|   |   |                     | AU 1631199 A               | 12-07-1999          |
|   |   |                     | EP 1040584 A2              | 04-10-2000          |
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