

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 November 2006 (23.11.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/124471 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
G05B 11/01 (2006.01)

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land, OH 44114 (US).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/018122

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV,
LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 11 May 2006 (11.05.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/680,682 13 May 2005 (13.05.2005) US
11/238,537 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005) US

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,
RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
9 April 2009

(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED DATABASE IN AN INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION ENVIRONMENT

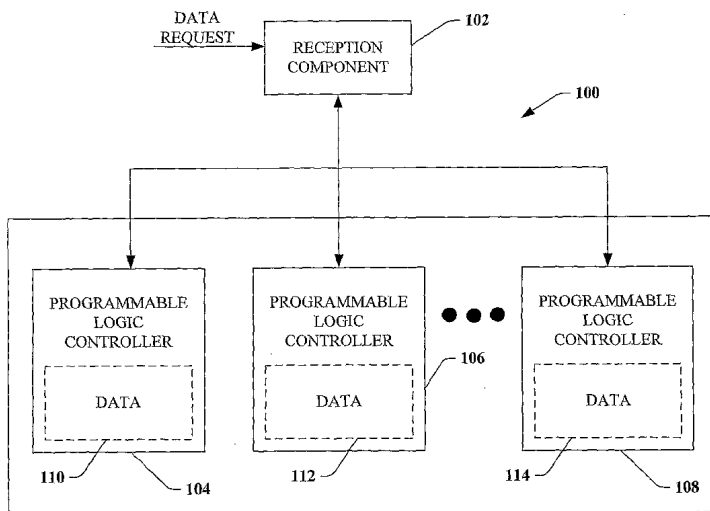


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A distributed database system(100) within an industrial automation environment comprises a plurality of associated programmable logic controllers(104, 106, 108), wherein each of the programmable logic controllers (104, 106, 108) includes data (110, 112, 114) relating to one of a process and a device. Furthermore, the data within the plurality of programmable logic controller (104, 106, 108) can conform to a hierarchically structured data model, which, for example, can be based upon ISA \$95, ISA \$88, OMAC, or any suitable combination thereof. A reception component (102) receives and services a request for data that is located within at least one of the programmable logic controllers (104, 106, 108).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/18122

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **G05B 11/01**(2006.01)

USPC: 700/20

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 700/20, 2, 4, 19

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,832,120 B1 (FRANK et al.) 14 December 2004(14.12.2004) column 10, lines10-12; column 4, lines 21-67; cololumn 6, lines 57-67; column 9, lines 21-23; column 3, lines 1-14.	1-30
Y	US 6,484,061 B2 (PAPADOPOULOS et al.) 19 November 2002(19.11.2002) column 3. lines 1-14.	1-2, 5-10, 12-13, 19-27, 29-30
Y	US 5,282,244(FULLER et al.) 25 January 1994(25.01.1994) coulumn 9, lines 38-52.	3, 28
Y	US 5,611,059 (BENTON et al.) 11 March 1997(11.03.1997) coulumn 4 lines 1-14.	4
Y	US 6,643,555 B1 (ELLER et al.) 4 November 2003(04.11.2003) coulumn 6, lines 12-25).	11
Y	US 6,615,091 B1 (BIRCHENOUGH et al.) 2 september 2003(02.09.2003) coulumn 51, lines 8-13; column 57, lines 45-47; column 62, lines 44-45; column 55, lines 36-51.	14-18
Y	US 5,970,494 (VELISSAROPOULOS et al.) 19 October 1999(19.10.1999) abstract.	27

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 April 2008 (15.04.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

06 MAY 2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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