

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 January 2005 (27.01.2005)

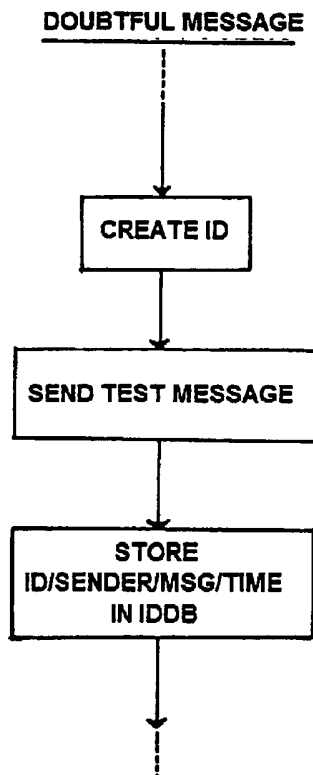
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/008983 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/60**, H04L 12/58
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2004/050687
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: Italian
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: RM2003A000353 17 July 2003 (17.07.2003) IT
- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **TOMASELLI, Diego, Angelo** [IT/IT]; Via
Abruzzi 56, I-20090 Segrate (IT).
- (74) Agents: **ROMANO, Giuseppe** et al.; Società Italiana
Brevetti S.p.A., Piazza di Pietra 39, I-00186 Rome (IT).
- (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, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (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, IT, LU, 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).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR ANTI-SPAM E-MAIL MANAGEMENT



(57) Abstract: A method for anti-spam management of an e-mail message received in a mailbox comprises a step of determining if the received message is to be considered an authorized message or not and, when the received message is not considered an authorized message, the steps of sending a test message to the sender's e-mail address of the received e-mail message, checking the reception of a "delivery error" or "denial" message corresponding to the test message, obtaining an error information and managing the received e-mail message based upon the error information, deleting the e-mail message from the mailbox if the error information designate the occurred reception of the "delivery error" or "denial" message.

WO 2005/008983 A3



Published:

— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

12 May 2005

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

 ational Application No
 PCT/IB2004/050687

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/60 H04L12/58		
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 H04L		
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	US 2003/009698 A1 (LINDEMAN TERRENCE E ET AL) 9 January 2003 (2003-01-09) paragraph '0083! - paragraph '0106! paragraph '0121!	1, 2, 4, 6-8, 13, 23-29, 34, 35
Y		5
Y	WO 03/044617 A (ADKINS REGINALD) 30 May 2003 (2003-05-30) page 5, line 17 - page 6, line 5 page 10, line 15 - page 11, line 4	5
X	US 6 546 416 B1 (KIRSCH STEVEN T) 8 April 2003 (2003-04-08) column 6, line 61 - column 9, line 30 column 12, line 23 - line 34	1-4, 6-29, 34, 35
	----- -/--	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
° Special categories of cited documents :		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 September 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 30. 12. 2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Ströbeck, A.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No
PCT/IB2004/050687

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/198950 A1 (LEEDS ROBERT G) 26 December 2002 (2002-12-26) paragraph '0024! paragraph '0026! paragraph '0033! -----	1, 2, 4, 6-8, 13, 23-29, 34, 35
X	WO 99/10817 A (COBB CHRISTOPHER ALAN) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) figure 7 -----	1-4, 6-8, 13, 23-29, 34, 35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/050687

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-29, 34, 35

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-29, 34, 35

method for identifying messages from senders trying to hide their identity

2. claims: 30, 31

method for updating spam filters

3. claims: 32, 33

method for identifying messages containing links to known sources of spam

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Application No
 PCT/IB2004/050687

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003009698	A1	09-01-2003	NONE	
WO 03044617	A	30-05-2003	WO 03044617 A2 US 2004243844 A1	30-05-2003 02-12-2004
US 6546416	B1	08-04-2003	US 2003167311 A1	04-09-2003
US 2002198950	A1	26-12-2002	US 2002016824 A1 US 2004249893 A1	07-02-2002 09-12-2004
WO 9910817	A	04-03-1999	US 6199102 B1 WO 9910817 A1	06-03-2001 04-03-1999