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(54) Title: UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USE WITH AN INTERNET WORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: A universal internet product code system and method of classifying a plurality of items is provided so that the items can be remotely searched on a network. The system and method includes, for each item of the plurality of items, receiving a request for registering an item, receiving data describing the item and determining if at least one of a plurality of previously created categories already properly include the item. The item is then assigned to at least one of the previously created categories when the item is already properly included in the category. Otherwise, the method includes creating a new category associated with the item when none of the previously created categories should include the item. Additionally first codes are created having an entire character sequence corresponding to a combination of categories including the new categories so that each the first code indicates a type of item. This also includes assigning one of the first codes to the item, and finally relationally storing the first code, the category to which the item is assigned, and the data describing the item on a database.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : GO6F 17/60
US CL : 705/26

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/26

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	NAICS ASSOCIATION, WWW.NAICS.COM, pages 1-4, 1998-2001	1-16
X	BUSINESS & INDUSTRY DATABASE USER'S MANUAL, sections 1-2, April 1997.	1-16

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
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"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		

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