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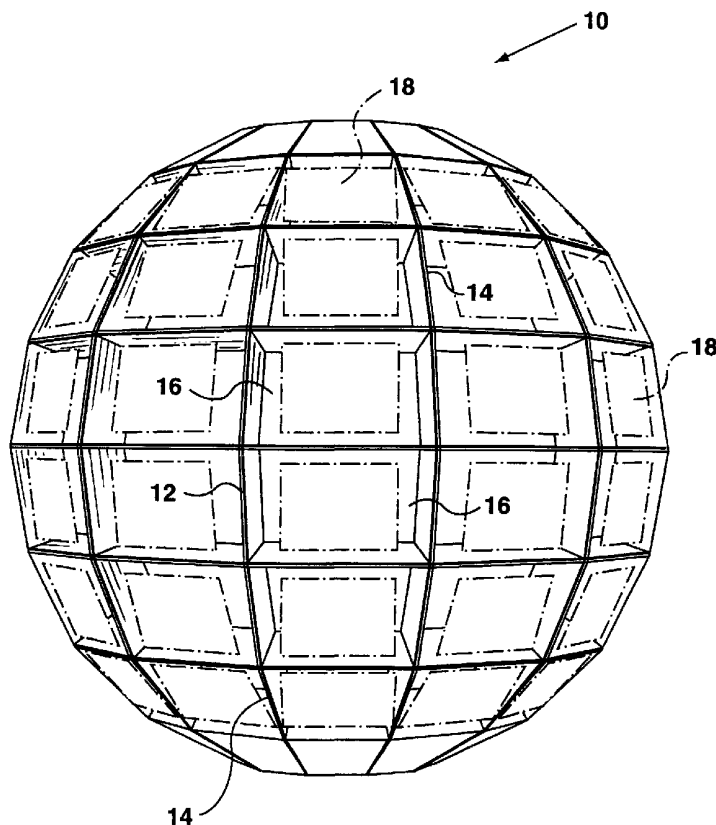
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **VIZ-
IBLE.COM INC.** [CA/CA]; 197 Spadina Avenue, Suite
300, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C8 (CA).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GALLO, Anthony,
Carmen** [CA/CA]; 18 Doncaster Avenue, Toronto, On-
tario M4C 1Y5 (CA). **GRAHAM, Colin, E.** [CA/CA]; 89
Leuty Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 2R2 (CA). **DEMBO,
Ron** [CA/CA]; 398 Markham Street, Toronto, Ontario
M6U 2K9 (CA). **TALBOT, Jimmy, D.** [CA/CA]; 1410-15
Martha Eaton Way, Toronto, Ontario M6M 5B5 (CA).
GALLAGHER, Peter, J. [CA/CA]; 1708-7 Crescent
Place, Toronto, Ontario M4C 5L7 (CA).
- (74) Agent: **BERESKIN & PARR**; 40 King Street West, 40th
Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2 (CA).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A THREE DIMENSIONAL SPATIAL USER INTERFACE



(57) Abstract: A method and system of providing a three dimensional spatial user interface (SUI) to a user of a computing device. The SUI may be manipulated in three dimensions and contains a plurality of portals. A portal may contain a sensory cue that provides a reminder as to the content of the portal. Upon selection of a portal, an application program associated with the cue in the portal is invoked. Portals may also contain further instances of the SUI of the present invention, thus providing hierarchical depth. In the preferred embodiment, the SUI is implemented as a sphere and may be viewed from an external or internal perspective.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F3/033

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	EP 0 767 418 A (SONY CORP) 9 April 1997 (1997-04-09) abstract column 6, line 19 -column 11, line 36 column 13, line 1 -column 43 claim 3 figures 9-24,26	1-10, 12-49
A	--- "VIRTUAL REALITY MENU SYSTEMS" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, IBM CORP. NEW YORK, US, vol. 36, no. 12, 1 December 1993 (1993-12-01), pages 227-228, XP000418950 ISSN: 0018-8689 the whole document --- -/--	1, 15, 16, 24, 25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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

- *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
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- *&* document member of the same patent family

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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

Ciarelli, N

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 678 015 A (GOH ENG LIM) 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14) cited in the application the whole document ---	1, 15, 16, 24, 25
A	US 5 515 486 A (AMRO HATIM Y ET AL) 7 May 1996 (1996-05-07) cited in the application the whole document -----	1, 15, 16, 24, 25

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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			JP 9097162 A	08-04-1997
			JP 9097154 A	08-04-1997
			EP 0767418 A1	09-04-1997
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