

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
3 June 2004 (03.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/046888 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:  
G06F 17/30 (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/037068

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(22) International Filing Date:  
19 November 2003 (19.11.2003)

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, 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, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/427,660 19 November 2002 (19.11.2002) US  
10/337,167 6 January 2003 (06.01.2003) US

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

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— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
18 June 2009



WO 2004/046888 A3

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE SELECTION OF PRODUCTS BY BUYERS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE SELECTED PRODUCTS FROM A SUPPLIER

(57) Abstract: A method is disclosed for managing the sale of a plurality of items from a plurality of corresponding suppliers to at least one buyer, wherein the one buyer determines a description of the item to be purchased. The method enables each of the plurality of suppliers to store at least one catalogue of its items in a database and responding to a search request of the one buyer to identify any item in the catalogues stored in the database with a description that matches the item description of the buyer.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US03/37068

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC: G06F 17/30( 2006.01)

USPC: 705/26,27

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. : 705/26,27

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 data base text search, proquest database search

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,023,683 (JOHNSON et al.) 8 February 2000 (08.02.2000).	1-9,13-19; 26-42;44,45
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Y		10-12, 20-25, 43
Y	US 6,128,600 (IMAMURA et al.) 3 October 2000 (03.10.2000).	10-12, 20-24 and 43
Y	US 5,570,291 (DUDLE et al.) 29 October 1996 (29.10.1996) column 19 lines 5-12.	25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"&"

document member of the same patent family

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2008 (22.02.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 MAR 2008

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Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner of Patents  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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