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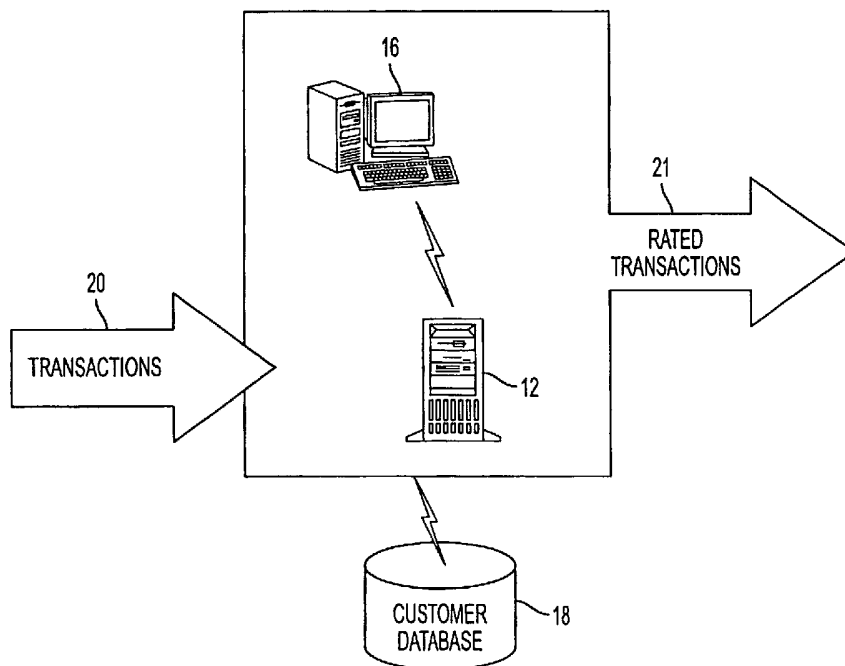
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- Published:
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RULE-BASED SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR RATING TRANSACTIONS



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is provided for defining rules in a general-purpose rules engine (12) and applying those rules to the rating of usage records, optionally using external data sets, without reprogramming the engine. Available inputs, data sets, and required outputs are defined and rules are entered into a spreadsheet. The rules are extracted and compiled, then executed. The method and apparatus are applicable to any service that requires billing or other business response based on customer usage of the service(s).(s).



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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

International application No.

PCT/US02/20123

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 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. : 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)
Please See Continuation Sheet**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,199,047 B1 (DIMINO et al.) 06 March 2001 (06.03.2001), col. 32, lines 11-56.	1-34
A	WO 97/05734 A1 (ALLISON et al.) 13 February 1997 (13.02.1997), Abstract.	1-34
A, P	US 2001/00332207 A1 (HARTLEY et al.) 18 October 2001 (18.10.2001), paragraphs [0002] and [0009].	1-34

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family 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 application or patent published on or after the international filing date

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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

"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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document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/20123

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST: search terms: ((call adj detail adj record) or cdr), rating, rules-based, (rating adj system), (telephone adj usage), (customer adj usage), pricing, legacy, rules, (rating with event), (historic adj usage), spreadsheet, (spreadsheet and rules and event and input and result), (execution adj sequence), (machine adj code), type-checking, (dependency adj graph), billing, (usage or service), internet.

DIALOG: search terms: RATEINTEGRATION, PRICEMAKER, spreadsheet, PROSPERO, INTERCONNECT, TELEPRICE, E-RATE(w)MODELLER, ICL, INTEC, KSS, SEPRO, Matthew(w)Lucas, rating(w)engine, legacy, TELESTRATEGIES, MSIX, (IAF/RATER or IAF(w)RATER).