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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **SONY ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT LLC** [US/US]; 8928 Terman Court, San Diego, California 92121 (US).

(72) Inventor: **MCCULLER, Patrick**; #6, 10926 Ivy Hill Drive, San Diego, California 92131 (US).

(74) Agent: **LEE, Samuel S.**; Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, 530 B. Street, Suite 2100, San Diego, California 92101 (US).

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(54) Title: DETERMINING INFLUENTIAL/POPULAR PARTICIPANTS IN A COMMUNICATION NETWORK

(57) Abstract: Determining influential and/or popular participants in a network using messages exchanged among a group of participants. One method includes: representing the group of participants and the messages exchanged among the group of participants as nodes and links, respectively; analyzing the messages to produce message relevant data for each node; and propagating the message relevant data of the each node out to other nodes in the network to produce an influence value for the each node, wherein the influence value indicates relative size and strength of social activity or connections of a participant corresponding to each node.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **G06F 15/16** (2006.01)

USPC: 709/204
 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. : 709/204,205,206,207

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 --- Y	"PieSpy Social Network Bot Inferring and Visualizing Social Networks on IRC" Paul Mutton. Dec 04 ,2003. Internet Archive WaybackMachine http://web.archive.org/web/20031204185952/http://jibble.org/piespy/, whole document.	1-3,11-13,21-22 ----- 4-10,14-20
Y,P	US 2006/0248573 A1 (Pannu et al) 2 Nov 2006 (16.11.2006), abstract, figures 3A-9, [0002],[0041-0044], [0083], [0101].	4-10,14-20
Y	US 2005/0075917 A1 (Flores et al) 7 April 2005 (07.04.2005), whole document.	1-22

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer Jeffrey Pwu Telephone No. 571-270-1896
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