

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
20 December 2001 (20.12.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 01/96981 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/18975

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(22) International Filing Date: 13 June 2001 (13.06.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) **Designated States (national)**: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, 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, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) **Priority Data**:  
09/593,309 13 June 2000 (13.06.2000) US

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

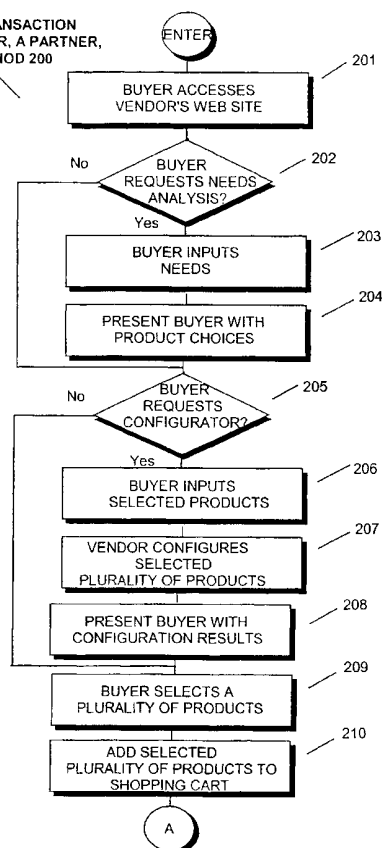
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title: A METHOD, SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM FOR FACILITATING A TRANSACTION BETWEEN A MANUFACTURER, A DISTRIBUTOR, AND A RESELLER**

FACILITATING A TRANSACTION  
BETWEEN A VENDOR, A PARTNER,  
AND A BUYER METHOD 200



(57) **Abstract:** A method, system, and computer readable medium for facilitating a transaction in a complex sales model which includes at least one buyer, at least one partner, and at least one vendor is provided. A buyer accesses a vendor web site (201) to obtain information on a plurality of products in a single purchase encounter. The vendor may configure the plurality of products (207) selected by the buyer to ensure compatibility (208). The vendor may also provide promotional information (204). The buyer obtains price and availability information from a variety of partners. The buyer then selects a partner (211) from multiple partners to supply the plurality of products. A selected partner may also provide the buyer with promotional information (214). The partner then ships the plurality of products to the buyer (219). The buyer may also be a reseller.



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**Published:**

— with international search report

*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.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

6 June 2002

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/18975

## 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. : 705/26, 27, 37; 709/200

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 Extra Sheet.

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,016,504A (ARNOLD et al) 18 January 2000; see at least abstract; Fig. 1A (1A01, 1A09, 1A10, 1A11); col. 4, lines 1-32; col. 8, lines 9-44.	1-27
Y	US 6,012,045A (BARZILAI et al) 4 January 2000; see at least abstract; Fig. 2 (110, 60a, 60b); col. 1, lines 47-67; col. 2, lines 1-18.	1-27
Y,P	US 6,167,383A (HENSON) 26 December 2000; see at least abstract; Fig. 3A (70); Fig. 3C (84); Fig. 6 (102); col. 2, lines 61-67; col 3, lines 1-54.	1-27

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>
Date of the actual completion of the international search  02 NOVEMBER 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report  20 DEC 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>Peggy Harwood</i> ROBERT MADISON POND Telephone No. (703) 605-4253

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US01/18975

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,064,979A (PERKOWSKI) 16 May 2000; see at least abstract; Fig. 1 (1); Fig. 1A (7); Fig. 2A1; col. 3, lines 35-67; col. 4, lines 1-67; col. 5, lines 1-59.	1-27
Y	US 5,870,717A (WIECHA) 9 February 1999; see at least abstract; col. 1, lines 11-67; col. 2, lines 1-49.	1-27
Y	US 6,055,516A (JOHNSON et al) 25 April 2000; see at least abstract; Fig. 1A (5); col. 2, lines 51-67; col. 3, lines 1-29.	1-27

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/18975

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

EAST

search terms: distributor, wholeseller, aggregator, partner, merchant, seller, shop, shopping cart, buyer, purchaser, customer, network, Internet