

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
3 April 2003 (03.04.2003)

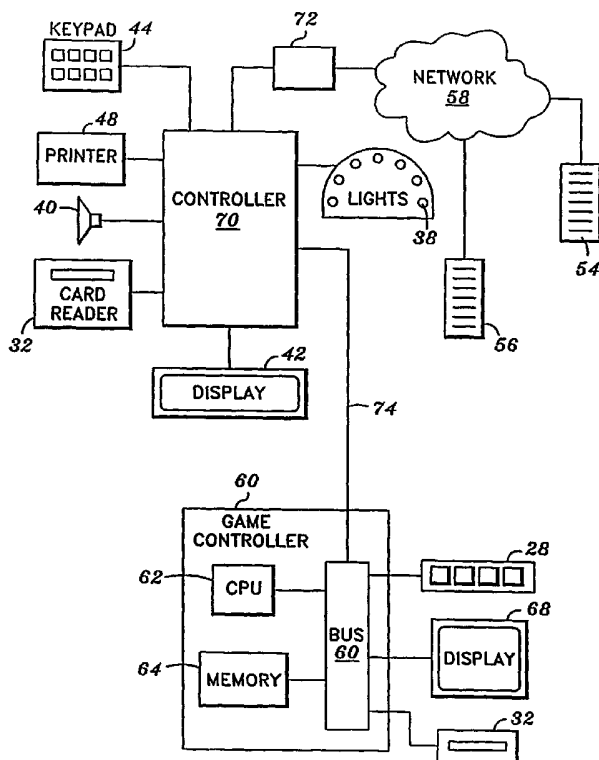
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2003/026381 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A63F 9/00**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2002/030669
- (22) International Filing Date:  
25 September 2002 (25.09.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
09/965,786 27 September 2001 (27.09.2001) US
- (71) Applicant: **IGT** [US/US]; A Nevada Corporation, 9295  
Prototyp Drive, Reno, NV 89511 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **ROWE, Rick**; 2312 N. Green Valley Pkwy,  
Apt. #925, Henderson, NV 89014 (US). **OBERBERGER,**  
**Mike**; 4591 Lynnfield Court, Reno, NV 89509 (US).
- (74) Agent: **WEAVER, Jeffrey, K.**; Beyer Weaver & Thomas  
LLP, 2030 Addison Street, 7th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704  
(US).
- (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, EC, 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, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN,  
YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (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, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK,  
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIRECTING INFORMATION TO PARTICULAR GAME PLAYERS



(57) Abstract: This invention is a system and method for providing information to a particular player or players of a game or gaming machine. In one embodiment, the information system includes a player tracking device at the gaming machine, a remote player tracking host (54) and a network (58) by which information may be sent to and from the player tracking device and player tracking host (54). The information system includes a information system host (56) associated with the network, the information system host capable of generation information which is transmitted to the player tracking device at the gaming machine via the network (58). In one embodiment, the player tracking device includes a player device controller (70) and one or more peripherals, such as a card reader (32), display (42) and speakers.



**Published:**

— with international search report

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

6 January 2005

*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/US02/30669

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A63F 9/00  
US CL : 463/16-25, 40-42

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. : 463/16-25, 40-42

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 6,162,122 A (ACRES et al) 19 December 2000 (19.12.2000), abstract; Figure 1 and Figure 7A.	1-5, 7-10, 13 and 14-20
---		-----
Y		6 and 11-12
Y	US 5,429,361 A (RAVEN et al) 04 July 1995 (04.07.1995), Fig. 2 and Figure 3, #38.	6 and 11-12

☐ 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	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" 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

15 December 2002 (15.12.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 JAN 2003

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

Tom Hughes

Telephone No. 703-308-1078

Shelia Verney  
Paralegal Specialist  
Group 3700

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

PCT/US02/30669

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

**EAST**

search terms: player tracking and slot machine