

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 October 2007 (25.10.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/120649 A3

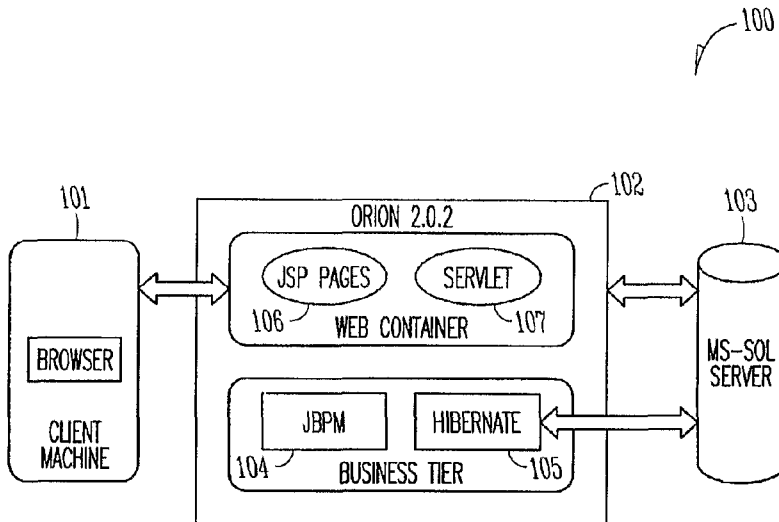
- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
G06Q 40/00 (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2007/008822
- (22) **International Filing Date:** 10 April 2007 (10.04.2007)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
11/401,155 10 April 2006 (10.04.2006) US
- (71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US):** FOUN-
DATIONIP, LLC [US/US]; Oracle Center, 900 2nd Av-
enue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 (US).
- (72) **Inventors; and**
- (75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only):** LUNDBERG,
Steven, W. [US/US]; 4517 Arden Avenue, Edina, Min-
nesota 55424 (US). SINHA, Pradeep [US/US]; 4050
Wild Meadow Drive, Medina, Minnesota 55340 (US).
BERGSTROM, Andrew, W. [US/US]; 5629 James
Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-1610 (US).

- (74) **Agents:** CLISE, Timothy, B. et al; Schwegman, Lund-
berg & Woessner, P.A., P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, Min-
nesota 55402 (US).
- (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH,
CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES,
FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN,
IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY,
MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS,
RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW
- (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ANNUITY PROCESSING



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a system, apparatus, and method for annuity processing. In some embodiments, an annuity processing module is used in conjunction with an internet-based patent- and trademark-application management system. This annuity-processing module reflects a software implementation of various business rules or methods associated with paying the annuity due on a patent. These rules are, in some embodiments, derived from various laws relating to the payment of annuities. In some embodiments, these rules are provided to a workflow engine via a DTD or XML schema. The workflow engine manages the execution of the various business rules and states associated with this execution. These rules, including the decision to make a payment, can be manually executed or automatically executed by a member of an organization implementing the annuity payment module as a part of a larger system. This larger application could, in some embodiments, be an internet-based patent- and trademark-application management system.



WO 2007/120649 A3



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

17 January 2008

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/US 07/08822

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - G06Q 40/00 (2007.01)
 USPC - 705/40
 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)
 705/40

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 705/1, 35, 36R 700/1, 90

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 WEST(USPAT, US PUB, EPO, JPO, DERWENT) DialogPRO(Engineering), Google - workflow, verify, instructions, data, management system, payment, annuity

C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	US 2002/0161733 A1 (Grainger) 31 October 2002 (31 10 2002), entire document, especially para [0032]-[0131]	1-20
A	US 2005/0210009 A1 (Tran) 22 September 2005 (22 09 2005), entire document	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

* Special categories of cited documents	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 September 2007 (17 09 2007)	Date of mailing of the international search report 24 OCT 2007
---	--

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Artn ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P O Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No 571-273-3201	Authorized officer Lee W Young PCT Helpdesk 571 272-4300 PCT OSP 571 272-7774
--	--