(57) Abstract: The present invention resolves the problems associated with traditionally distinct media-based systems (100) by providing an integrated solution, which is medium independent and has the capability of interfacing with various types of communication systems (350). In particular, the present invention provides a simple interface via a selection transceiver (330) for the user to interact with traditional media (310, 320) as well as any new types of media (310, 320) that might later be developed. In addition, a gateway (340) provides an interface between the selection transceiver (330) and a communication network (350). Furthermore, the processing unit (360), which receives the data codes received by the selection transceiver (330) from the various mediums (310, 320), provides the user with a convenient mechanism to communicate via the communication network (350) with the source units (e.g., merchants) (310, 320) without interrupting the activities of the user. Lastly, the present invention provides the source units (310, 320) with a cost effective mechanism for disseminating information to users and obtaining potentially immediate responses back from the users as to their selections. This present invention, therefore, achieves a low cost, simple, secure, easy to use, integrated selection and distribution system (100) by eliminating the reliance on any one form of media (310, 320), any one form of communication (350) for the user to communicate selections to the source unit (310, 320) and eliminating the need for sophisticated encryption techniques.
PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, 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), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 15 November 2001

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**

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
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<th>IPC(7)</th>
<th>US CL.</th>
<th>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</th>
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<td>:G06F 17/60</td>
<td>:705/26; :705/17, 27; :707/10, 104</td>
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

| U.S. | 705/16, 17, 26, 27, 707/1, 10, 104 |

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

None

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>ANTHES: &quot;Internet commercial uses blossom: Service could offer small business access to 11,000 networks worldwide&quot;; Computerworld, 28 June 1993, vol. 27, no. 26, pages 71, 73, see lines 15-17.</td>
<td>1-17 &amp; 22-40, 18, 20, 21</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>JP 10-51572 A (IWAMURA) 20 February 1998, see abstract.</td>
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<td>US 5,724,424 A (GIFFORD) 03 March 1998, see abstract.</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 MAY 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 JUN 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)*
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<td>JP 10-320646 A (SHIGENO) 04 December 1998, see solution.</td>
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<td>US 6,047,268 A (BARTOLI et al) 04 April 2000, see abstract.</td>
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### Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. □ Claims Nos.:  
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. X Claims Nos.: 19  
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

   2.1 Since claim 19 can not depend from itself, the scope and meaning of this claim can not be determined.

3. □ Claims Nos.:  
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. □ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest.  
□ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(1)) (July 1998)