



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

1

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
--------------------	-------------	-----------------------	---------------------

09/419,708 10/14/99 WIJ

EXAMINER

024739 TM02/0322
CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY
PO BOX 187
AROMAS CA 95004

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

DATE MAILED 2152

03/22/01

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) 15-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

N/K

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.
2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-14, drawn to distributed data processing, classified in class 709, subclass 201.
 - II. Claims 15-18, drawn to broadcasting messages, classified in class 709, subclass 206.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention Group I has separate utility such as interact with Internet Web sites to process a multi-component task, and Group II has separate utility such as broadcasting messages to multiple Internet destinations. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
 - a. These inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification
 - b. The search required for one Group is not required for the other Groups
- For the reasons above restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Serial Number: 09/419,708
Art Unit: 2152

3

4. Applicant is requested to formally cancel the non-elected claims.
5. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Donald R. Boys on 03/15/2001 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of GROUP I, claims 1-14. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in responding to this Office action. Claims 15-18 withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
7. Applicant is requested to formally cancel the non-elected claims.
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).

Serial Number: 09/419,708
Art Unit: 2152

4

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

10. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by DeLorme et al. (DeLorme) patent no. 5,948,040.

11. As to claims 1, 3-4, and 6-7 DeLorme teaches the invention as claimed, including an Internet portal system for accomplishing a multi-component task involving interaction with one or more Internet Web sites, comprising:

an Internet-connected server having access to client-related data;

an Internet-capable client station usable by a client; and

software executing on the server for managing individual component tasks in execution of the multi-component task;

wherein the software, in response to initiation of a multi-component task specified by the client, defines the component tasks, identifies Internet Web sources for completion of the tasks, manages interaction with the identified Web sites gathering results of the interactions, integrates the gathered results, and communicates final results to the client at the client station (Abstract; col. 6 line 55 - col. 9 line 2; col. 10 lines 19-33; col. 13 line 30 - col. 14 line 52; col. 15 line 33 - col. 16 line 15; col. 33 line 53 - col. 34 line 56) .

Serial Number: 09/419,708
Art Unit: 2152

5

12. As to claim 2, DeLorme teaches individual ones of the component tasks involve payment for services rendered in the interaction with one or more Internet Web sites, and wherein one of the component tasks is transfer of funds from a client account in payment for the service rendered (col. 8 line 49 - col. 9 line 2; col. 33 line 53 - col. 34 line 56).

13. As to claim 5, DeLorme teaches arranging services for a trip, including airline reservations, lodging reservations, or rental car reservations (col. 8 line 49 - col. 9 line 2; col. 12 lines 36-48).

14. Claims 8-14 have similar limitations as claims 1-7; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Le H. Luu, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9650. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached at (703) 305-4815.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.



Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.