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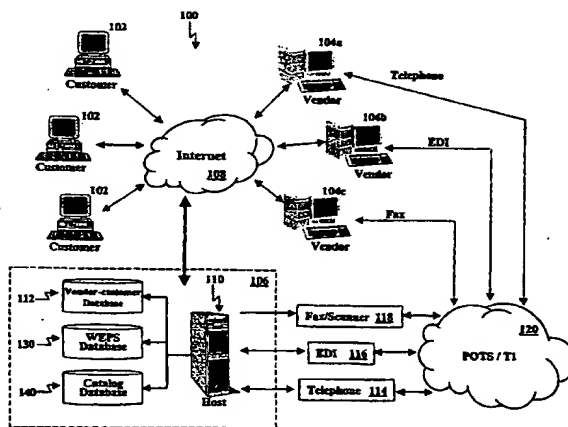
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- Published:**
- With international search report.
  - Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ELECTRONIC COMMERCE



(57) Abstract: A system and method for satisfying a customer's request (100) to purchase a particular product, part or service when none of the customer's existing vendors can do so. The invention operates by way of the Internet (108), providing customers (102) with a single interface (106) for relaying all of their requests to each of their vendors (104) regardless of the communication medium through which a particular vendor prefers to have any requests provided. The host (110) formats the customer's request in accordance with its vendor's preferred transmission modes and conveys responses back to the customer through the Internet, e.g., by e-mail or through a Web browser. The invention introduces a host-approved vendor to the customer only when the customer's existing vendors do not have the requested product. The existing business relationships between the customer and its existing vendors are not disrupted nor are they displaced because those vendors were not able to satisfy the request. A subsequent request by the same customer for the same product will be conveyed only to the customer's existing vendors to again give those business contacts a first chance to satisfy the request.



WO 00/72213 A1

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/14365

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G06F 17/60  
US CL :705/26, 27

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

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)

WEST, INTERNET  
PROCURE, BUY, PURCHASE, SELECTED OR PREFERRED, VENDOR, SUPPLIER, QUOTE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	US 5,970,475 A (BARNES ET AL.) 19 OCTOBER 1999, COL. 8 LINE 36 TO COL. 9 LINE 54, COL. 23 LINE 1 TO COL. 24 LINE 54.	1-30
Y	US 5,842,178 A (GIOVANNOLI) 24 NOVEMBER 1998, COL. 3 LINE 58 TO COL. 8 LINE 31	1-30
Y	US 5,319,542 A (KING Jr. et al.) 07 JUNE 1994, COL. 3 LINE 60 TO COL. 6 LINE 29.	1-30
A	US 5,734,890 A (CASE ET AL.) 31 MARCH 1998, WHOLE DOCUMENT	1-30
A	US 5224,034 A (KATZ ET AL.) 29 JUNE 1993, WHOLE DOCUMENT	1-30

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
  See patent family annex.

* 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 document 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)	*G* document member of the same patent family
*Q* 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

01 SEPTEMBER 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 OCT 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Authorized officer

JAMES TRAMMELL *James R. Matthews*

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date 6/27/01 Label No. 2706743601US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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Docket No.: 2637/1F581-US2

07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Daniel NISSANOFF and Mark Allan SCHENECKER

Serial No.: t/b/a

Confirmation No.:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

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LETTER ACCOMPANYING U.S. NATIONAL PHASE FILING

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

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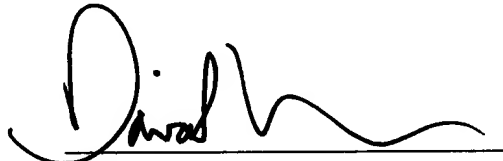
Sir:

Concurrently herewith, applicants have entered into the U.S. national phase of the above-identified international application under 35 U.S.C. §371.

During the course of international preliminary examination, Examiner Eric Stamber had found all of the claims to meet the PCT criteria under Article 33(2-4) as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. A copy of the international preliminary examination report is enclosed.

It is therefore submitted that the claims on file in this application are presently in condition for allowance under U.S. practice. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.496(b), it is requested that this application be taken up out of order.

Respectfully submitted,



David Leason  
Registration No. 36,195  
Agent for Applicant(s)

Dated: June 25, 2001

DARBY & DARBY  
805 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 527-7700

Encl.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TO: HR  
 ATTY REVIEWED \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

From the  
 INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: DAVID LEASON  
 DARBY & DARY P.C.  
 805 THIRD AVENUE  
 NEW YORK, NY 10022-7513

COPY

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
 INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
 EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing  
 (day/month/year) **12 JUN 2001**

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2637/2F581-W		<b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>	
International application No. PCT/US00/14365	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 MAY 2000	Priority Date (day/month/year) 24 MAY 1999	
Applicant PARTMINER, INC.			

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**  
  
 The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).  
  
 Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.  
  
 For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231  Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer ERIC STAMBER <i>Peggy Harrod</i>  Telephone No. (703) 305-8000
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2637/2P581-W	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/14365	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 MAY 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 24 MAY 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): GO6F 17/60 and US Cl.: 705/26. 27		
Applicant PARTMINER, INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22 DECEMBER 2000	Date of completion of this report 11 MAY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>Peggy Harrod</i> ERIC STAMBER Telephone No. (703) 305-8000

**I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application: \*

- the international application as originally filed
- the description:  
 pages 1-27 , as originally filed  
 pages NONE , filed with the demand  
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- the claims:  
 pages 28-32 , as originally filed  
 pages NONE , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
 pages NONE , filed with the demand  
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- the drawings:  
 pages 1-5 , as originally filed  
 pages NONE , filed with the demand  
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- the sequence listing part of the description:  
 pages NONE , as originally filed  
 pages NONE , filed with the demand  
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in printed form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages NONE
- the claims, Nos. NONE
- the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5.  This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\*Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

## 1. statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-30</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-30</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-30</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

## 2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-30 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest conveying to request obtained by the host Web site to the customer-selected vendors and conveying the request to the host-approved vendor only upon a prescribed condition.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----  
NONE



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/14365

**Supplemental Box**  
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10