02-07-00 A/PROV

JC759 U.S. PTO 02/04/00

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION COVER SHEET**
This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (b)(2)

| Docket No. | WEBL:028PZ1 | Type a plus sign (+) inside this box → | + |
|---|---|---|---|

**INVENTOR(s)/APPLICANT(s)**

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE INITIAL | RESIDENCE (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kurganov | Alex | | Buffalo Grove, Illinois, USA |
| | | | |
| | | | |

jc542 U.S. PTO 02/04/00 60/180343

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)**

Personal Voice-Based Information Retrieval System

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS** *(check all that apply)*

- ☒ **Specification** — *Number of Pages:* 6
- ☒ **Drawing(s)** — *Number of Sheets:* 1
- ☒ **Small Entity Statement**
- ☐ **Other (specify)** _____

**METHOD OF PAYMENT** *(check one)*

- ☒ **A check or money order is enclosed to cover the Provisional filing fees.**
- ☒ **The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deficiencies and credit Deposit Account Number:** 10-0447/WEBL·028PZ1

**PROVISIONAL FILING FEE AMOUNT** $150

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

☒ No.

☐ Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____

Date: 2/4/00

Respectfully submitted,

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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EM340963632US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: February 4, 2000

I hereby certify that this transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Box Provisional Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Signature: James M. Sklena
James M. Sklena

C: 98056(23NS01!.DOC)

**PROVISIONAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | |
|---|---|
| In re Application of:<br>Alex Kurganov | |
| Serial No.: Unknown | Group Art Unit: Unknown |
| Filed: February 4, 1999 | Examiner: Unknown |
| For: Personal Voice-Based Information Retrieval System | Atty. Dkt. No.: WEBL:028PZ1 |

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR §§ 1.9(F) AND 1.27(C)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN: Webley Systems, Inc.
ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN: 570 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR § 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR § 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR § 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR § 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR § 1.9(e).

*NOTE. Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR § 1 27)

FULL NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR § 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signature: Robert McConnell DATE: 2/4/00

Name: Robert McConnell
Title: Chief Financial Officer
Webley Systems, Inc.

**PATENT**

**[WEBL:028]**

# PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 153 (b) (2)

**for**

# PERSONAL VOICE-BASED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

**by**

**Alex Kurganov**

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: February 4, 2000

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Signature: James M. Sklena
James M. Sklena

# PERSONAL VOICE-BASED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of providing information access. In particular, the invention relates to a personalized system for accessing information from the Internet or other information sources.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Popular methods of information access and retrieval using the Internet or other computer networks can be time-consuming and complicated. A user must frequently wade through vast amounts of information to get to a small bit of relevant information. This can be time-consuming, frustrating, and, depending on the access method, costly. A user needs to continuously identify reliable sources of information and, if these information sources are used frequently, repeatedly access these sources.

Current methods of information access and retrieval on the Internet and other computer networks generally require user access to a computer. While computers are becoming increasingly smaller and easier to transport, computer access is still more difficult than simply using a phone to retrieve information. As voice recognition routines allow a user to convert his voice into a computer-usable message, phone access to digital information is becoming more and more feasible. Voice recognition technology is growing stronger in its ability to allow a wide variety of users to use a wide vocabulary, and is already quite accurate when a single, known user only needs to use a small vocabulary. One object of the present invention is to solve the difficulties of information retrieval from the Internet or other computer networks and eliminate the need for computer access. A need exists for an information access and retrieval method that combines efficient information selection by the user with easy-to-use voice commands.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, these and other objectives are realized by a customized, voice-activated information access method. A



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user uses a "clipping client" to access his own personal selection of content. At each selected content location, the user identifies specific information he would like to access in the future, and cuts and pastes the content from the content location into the clipping client. The user then assigns a pronounceable name to the selected content and this pronounceable name is saved on the clipping client along with a resource locator for the location holding the selected content. Next, the user may call into a voice server having access to the information saved via the clipping client and give the voice server verbal commands based on the predefined, pronounceable names he has assigned. The voice server associates the predefined name with the selected locator, retrieves the information from that locator, and, using a text-to-voice conversion method, returns a voice message with the desired information to the user.

One object of this invention is to allow customized, voice-activated information retrieval from the Internet or other computer networks.

Another object of this invention is to provide secure and reliable retrieval of information over the Internet or other computer networks using pre-defined verbal commands set by a user.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 displays a personal information selection system for use with the present invention; and

FIG. 2 displays a voice server's interaction with a user and the Internet for use in one embodiment of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention uses various forms of signal and data transmission to allow a user to retrieve customized information using audio communication. In the present invention, a user associates information found on the Internet or other computer networks with a pronounceable term. Later, the user telephones a voice server that is able to retrieve the associated information when it gets the respective pronounceable term as a voice message from the user.



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A user may begin interacting with the system of the present invention by using a "clipping client" to access the Internet. Once on the Internet, the user selects specific information sources he knows will be useful in the future and clips these sources to the clipping client. The clipping client associates the clipped sources with the resource from which the information can be obtained. After clipping the information, the user associates the information source with a pronounceable term.

For example, the user might clip information on Chicago weather from a weather web page, then associate the pronounceable term, "Chicago weather" with the Chicago weather information. The clipping client stores the pronounceable term and links the pronounceable term to the information source identified by the user, using the appropriate locator.

The clipping client is capable of allowing the user to clip information from a wide variety of sources. The clipping client can also parse content using a robust middleware package, so that when information changes location or format, the information will still be available to the user through the present invention. For example, the middleware package is capable of tracking information sources coded in Hypertext Markup Language ("HTML") or Wireless Markup Language ("WML") so that even if the format or location changes, the information will still be available to the user.

To access the desired information after making the necessary associations via the clipping client, the user accesses a voice server. The voice server may be accessed via a standard voice phone call or via any voice-based communication method. After connecting with the voice server, the user states the pronounceable term he associated with the desired information. The voice server then associates the pronounceable term with the locator where the information is located, and sends an appropriate request for the information to the information source identified by the user. The information source returns the information to the voice server in text form. The voice server uses a text-to-speech conversion program to convert this computer-readable text to a speech message which will be understood by the user. Next, the voice server transmits the information in understandable speech form to the user. The user may make several verbal information requests during one interaction with the voice server, and the voice



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server simply repeats the above-described procedure for each information request. The voice server is also capable of identifying changes in the location or format of the information, so that the information is consistently available to the user via the present invention.

The present invention will now be described in connection with the preferred embodiment shown in the drawings. These drawings are provided to illustrate the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of the claimed invention.

Referring now to FIG. 1, a block diagram of the information source identification and pronounceable term assignment functions of the present invention is shown. The invention will be described in reference to a typical information assignment. The user 10 will assign information on Chicago weather to the spoken term, "Chicago weather." First, the user uses the clipping client 12 to access a desired website 16 via the internet 14. In the example, the user will access a website with information on Chicago weather. When the user finds a desired site using familiar web-surfing methods, the user "clips" information from that site using a cut-and-paste method. The clipping client 12 records the URL of the website 16 holding the desired information and stores the URL. For example, the website accessed by the user 10 may have a URL such as: "http://www.chicagoweathersite.com." Next, the user 10 associates a pronounceable term with the URL that the clipping client 12 has recorded. For example, the user 10 could associate the term "Chicago weather" with the URL "http://www.chicagoweathersite.com." The web-clipping server then "remembers" that when it is given an information request in the form of "Chicago weather," it must link that request to the URL "http://www.chicagoweathersite.com."

After surfing the Internet as shown in FIG. 1, the user 10 may retrieve the desired information using only voice commands as shown in FIG. 2. To begin retrieving desired information, the user 10 may place a standard telephone call to a voice server 20 call using a standard telephone 18. Once reaching the voice server 20, the user 10 may simply speak the term he has associated with the information he wants. In this case, if the user wants information on the weather in Chicago, the user will say, "Chicago weather" into the telephone 18. This message is sent to the voice



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server 20 that uses a speech-to-text conversion program (for example, Nuance™) to convert the voice request into a computer-readable text format.

Following this conversion, the voice server 20 finds the converted text in a pronounceable name list 22 which it receives from the clipping client 12. Upon finding the correct term in the pronounceable name list 22, the voice server associates the pronounceable name with the assigned information source in an information source list 24. In this case, it would find that the correct association is http://www.chicagoweathersite.com. The voice server 20 then uses the associated URL to retrieve the desired information from the Internet. Since the voice server 20 uses the URL and retrieves new information from the Internet each time a request is made, the requested information is always updated.

The requested information then travels back to the voice server 20, where it is converted from text to speech by a text-to-speech conversion program. Finally, the voice server 20 sends a voice message containing the requested information back to the user 10.

While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.



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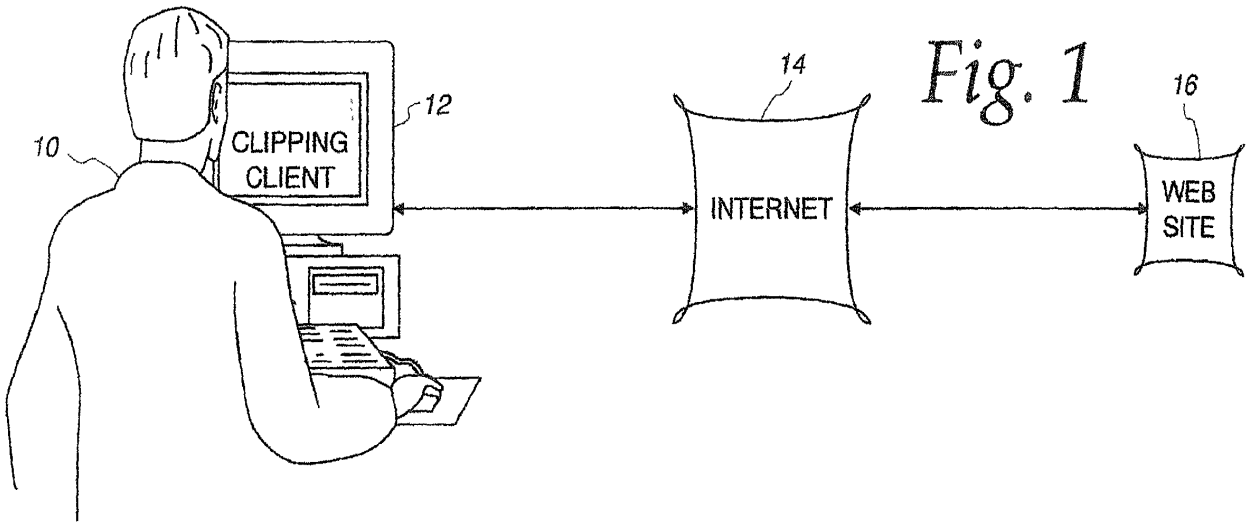


Fig. 1



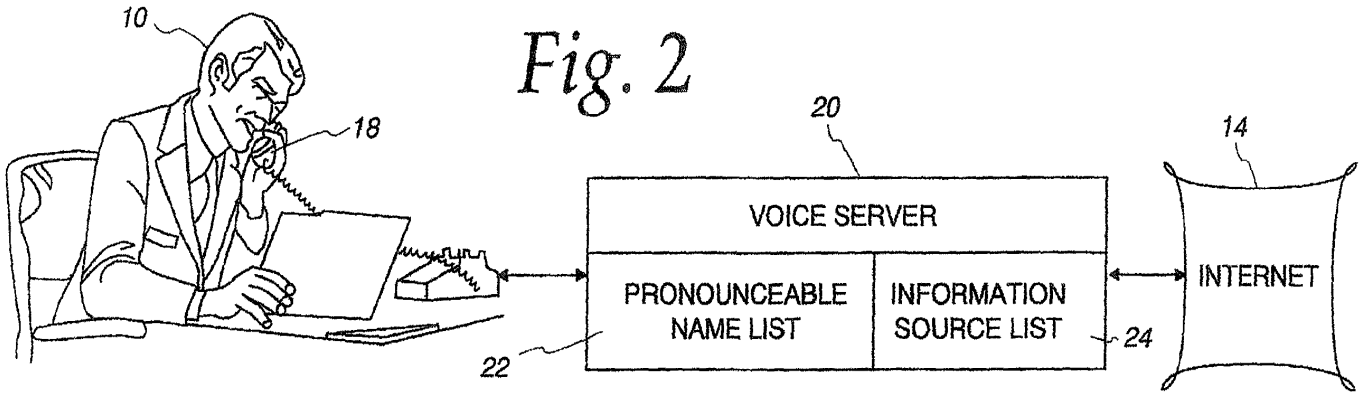


Fig. 2

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