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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,257	01/23/2007	7168051	4957P001X	8338

8791 7590 01/03/2007
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 172 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Jack D. Robinson, San Francisco, CA;
Linda R. James, Castro Valley, CA;
Thomas Alonzo Cardaci II, San Francisco, CA;
Kristin Blandford, San Francisco, CA;

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

008791 7590 09/19/2006

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

12/12/2006 MWOLDGE2 00000018 09745257

01 FC:1501 1400.00 OP
 02 FC:1504 300.00 OP

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE/FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

David Castro (Depositor's name)
 (Signature)
 December 6, 2006 (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X	8338

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	12/19/2006

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SAX, STEVEN PAUL	2174	715-848000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Blakely, Sokoloff
 2 Taylor & Zafman, LLP
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

ADDNCLICK, INC.

Vacaville, CA

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☒ Issue Fee
☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☒ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 02-2666 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature Kevin G. Shao
 Typed or printed name Kevin G. Shao

Date December 6, 2006
 Registration No. 45,095

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

008791 7590 09/19/2006

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

EXAMINER

SAX, STEVEN PAUL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/745,257 12/20/2000 Jack D. Robinson 4957P001X 8338

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	12/19/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

008791 7590 09/19/2006

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/745,257 12/20/2000 Jack D. Robinson 4957P001X 8338

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APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	12/19/2006
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS				
SAX, STEVEN PAUL	2174	715-848000				

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.111. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X	8338

008791 7590 09/19/2006
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

EXAMINER

SAX, STEVEN PAUL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/745,257	ROBINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven P. Sax	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment 6/26/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

1. This application has been examined. The amendment filed 6/26/06 has been entered.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The amendment filed 6/26/06 places the application into condition for allowance by specifically incorporating into all of the independent claims the three dimensional desktop upon whose surfaces the icons are displayed in the three dimensional environment, and that the two dimensional web page converted to the useable form in the three dimensional environment is from the web server over the internet such that, a user may navigate content of the converted web page in a three dimensional manner including displaying content of the converted page in a persistent client window of the three dimensional desktop that is persistent even if the internet connection has been terminated. Baldwin et al and related art may convert between two and three dimensional interfaces, but do not show the specific conversion into the three dimensional desktop with the navigation and persistence features of the converted web page in the persistent client even when the internet connection is terminated, as combined with the other features of the independent claims. Also, note that claim 2 does meet the statutory requirements for U.S.C. 101 in that the medium as claimed and as brought out in the specification is the physical medium executing on the data processing system. The independent claims (1 – method, 2 - data process system-

readable medium, 17 – system) as brought out in the amendment are not set forth in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/745,257	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination ROBINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven P. Sax	Art Unit 2174	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-6,008,814	12-1999	Baldwin et al.	345/427
*	B	US-2004/0100480	05-2004	Lupu, Corneliu I.	345/700
*	C	US-2002/0033849	03-2002	Loppini et al.	345/848
*	D	US-2001/0043237	11-2001	Schmieder, Robert William	345/839
*	E	US-2002/0154214	10-2002	Scallie et al.	348/51
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EAST Search History

L6	0	((3d or ((three or "3") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") with (dimension or dimensional))) same desktop same (convert or converting or conversion or converted or transformed or transforming or transform or transformation) and ((internet or web))).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 18:08
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EAST Search History

L7	1	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) same desktop same (web or internet)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:43
L8	99	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) same (web or internet)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:44
L9	0	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) and (web or internet) same (persistent or consistent or persistence) with (disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:45

EAST Search History

L10	0	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) and (web or internet) same (persistent or consistent or persistence) same (disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:46
L11	58	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) and (web or internet) same(disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:48
L12	3	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (interface or environment) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) and (web or internet) same(disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:49

EAST Search History

L13	4	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (interface or environment) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) with (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) same desktop	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:45
L14	4	13 not 12	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 16:50
L15	7	715/836,757,848-852.ccls.and (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) same desktop	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:46
L16	45	715/836,757,848-852.ccls.and (convert or conversion or converted or converting or transform or transforming or transformed or transformation) with (interface or environment)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:46
L17	1	16 and (web or internet) same (disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:48
L18	0	16 and (web or internet) same (persistent or consistent or persistence)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:48
L19	323	(web or internet) same (disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination) same (persistent or persistence or consistent)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:48

EAST Search History

L20	76	(web or internet) same (disconnect or disconnected or disconnection or disable or disabled or unconnected or unconnect or unconnection or terminate or terminated or terminating or disconnecting or unconnecting or termination) with (persistent or persistence or consistent)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:48
L21	4	(3d or ((three or "3") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near4 (dimension or dimensional))) and 20	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 17:49


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 Relevance scale ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

1 [Fast detection of communication patterns in distributed executions](#)

Thomas Kunz, Michiel F. H. Seuren

 November 1997 **Proceedings of the 1997 conference of the Centre for Advanced Studies on Collaborative research**

Publisher: IBM Press

 Full text available: [pdf\(4.21 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

Understanding distributed applications is a tedious and difficult task. Visualizations based on process-time diagrams are often used to obtain a better understanding of the execution of the application. The visualization tool we use is Poet, an event tracer developed at the University of Waterloo. However, these diagrams are often very complex and do not provide the user with the desired overview of the application. In our experience, such tools display repeated occurrences of non-trivial commun ...

2 [Visualizing geospatial data](#)



Theresa Marie Rhyne, Alan MacEachren, Theresa-Marie Rhyne

 August 2004 **Proceedings of the conference on SIGGRAPH 2004 course notes SIGGRAPH '04**

Publisher: ACM Press

 Full text available: [pdf\(14.01 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#)

This course reviews concepts and highlights new directions in GeoVisualization. We review four levels of integrating geospatial data and geographic information systems (GIS) with scientific and information visualization (VIS) methods. These include:• Rudimentary: minimal data sharing between the GIS and Vis systems• Operational: consistency of geospatial data• Functional: transparent communication between the GIS and Vis systems• Merged: one comprehensive toolkit environmentW ...

3 [Shape-based retrieval and analysis of 3D models](#)



Thomas Funkhouser, Michael Kazhdan

 August 2004 **Proceedings of the conference on SIGGRAPH 2004 course notes SIGGRAPH '04**

Publisher: ACM Press

 Full text available: [pdf\(12.56 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#)

Large repositories of 3D data are rapidly becoming available in several fields, including mechanical CAD, molecular biology, and computer graphics. As the number of 3D models grows, there is an increasing need for computer algorithms to help people find the

interesting ones and discover relationships between them. Unfortunately, traditional text-based search techniques are not always effective for 3D models, especially when queries are geometric in nature (e.g., find me objects that fit into thi ...

4 Infrastructure: Adding a fourth dimension to three dimensional virtual spaces

 Robina E. Hetherington, John P. Scott

April 2004 **Proceedings of the ninth international conference on 3D Web technology**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  pdf(336.66 KB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

The development of new standards for distributed data offer new possibilities to combine and display multiple types of information. This paper is concerned with an architectural and historical application of X3D and XML to objects, such as buildings, which have an organic quality and tend to evolve over time. The display of a 3D computer model does not always adequately describe the building or artifact and additional data are often required. This paper describes and evaluates techniques for the ...

Keywords: Interactive 3D Graphics, X3D, XML, architecture, cultural heritage, information visualization

5 Mobile refinding of web information using a voice interface: an exploratory study

 Robert G. Capra, Manuel A. Pérez-Quñones

October 2005 **Proceedings of the 2005 Latin American conference on Human-computer interaction CLIHC '05**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  pdf(307.47 KB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#)

Refinding information found on the web is a considerable problem for many users, especially when in mobile situations. In this paper, we explore how a voice-controlled service, accessible by telephone, could help to support mobile users' needs for refinding specific information previously found on the web. We outline challenges in creating such a service and describe architectural and user interfaces issues involved in an exploratory prototype system called WebContext. We also present the results ...

Keywords: conversation analysis, information management, information refinding, speech recognition, voice user interfaces

6 Understanding and constructing shared spaces with mixed-reality boundaries

 Steve Benford, Chris Greenhalgh, Gail Reynard, Chris Brown, Boriana Koleva

September 1998 **ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI)**, Volume 5
Issue 3

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  pdf(2.50 MB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

We propose an approach to creating shared mixed realities based on the construction of transparent boundaries between real and virtual spaces. First, we introduce a taxonomy that classifies current approaches to shared spaces according to the three dimensions of transportation, artificiality, and spatiality. Second, we discuss our experience of staging a poetry performance simultaneously within real and virtual theaters. This demonstrates the complexities involved in establishing social in ...

Keywords: CSCW, augmented reality, collaborative virtual environments, media-spaces, mixed reality, shared spaces, telepresence, video, virtual reality

7 Device-aware desktop web page transformation for rendering on handhelds

A. Artail, Mackram Raydan

November 2005 **Personal and Ubiquitous Computing**, Volume 9 Issue 6

Publisher: Springer-Verlag

Full text available:  [pdf\(752.77 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [index terms](#)

This paper illustrates a new approach to automatic re-authoring of web pages for rendering on small-screen devices. The approach is based on automatic detection of the device type and screen size from the HTTP request header to render a desktop web page or a transformed one for display on small screen devices, for example, PDAs. Known algorithms (transforms) are employed to reduce the size of page elements, to hide parts of the text, and to transform tables into text while preserving the structure ...

Keywords: Context awareness, Mobile device types, Small screen devices, Transcoding, Web browsing, Web page rendering, Wireless devices

8 Conversations with Clement Mok and Jakob Nielsen, and with Bill Buxton and Clifford Nass

 Nass

Richard I. Anderson

January 2000 **interactions**, Volume 7 Issue 1

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(986.68 KB\)](#)  [html\(148.66 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

9 Putting it together a multi-dimensional approach to Internet security

 Frederick M. Avolio

May 1998 **netWorker**, Volume 2 Issue 2

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(367.36 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

10 In pursuit of desktop evolution: User problems and practices with modern desktop systems

 Pamela Ravasio, Sissel Guttormsen Schär, Helmut Krueger

June 2004 **ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI)**, Volume 11 Issue 2

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(2.33 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

This study deals with the problems users encounter in their daily work with computers and the typical practices that they employ. Sixteen daily computer users were interviewed about their habits and problems that they encountered during document classification and retrieval. For both these areas, we provide an overview of identified user practices and a citation-based analysis of the problems users encountered, including those related to the use of the screen real estate (the actual desktop). Two ...

Keywords: Desktop metaphor, document classification, document retrieval, improvements., personal computer, user practices, user problems, user study

11 The Diesel Combustion Collaboratory: combustion researchers collaborating over the

**Internet**

Carmen M. Pancerella, Larry A. Rahn, Christine L. Yang

January 1999 **Proceedings of the 1999 ACM/IEEE conference on Supercomputing (CDROM)****Publisher:** ACM PressFull text available: [pdf\(8.95 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)**12** Past, present, and future of user interface software tools 

Brad Myers, Scott E. Hudson, Randy Pausch

March 2000 **ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI)**, Volume 7 Issue 1**Publisher:** ACM PressFull text available: [pdf\(151.14 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#), [review](#)

A user interface software tool helps developers design and implement the user interface. Research on past tools has had enormous impact on today's developers—virtually all applications today are built using some form of user interface tool. In this article, we consider cases of both success and failure in past user interface tools. From these cases we extract a set of themes which can serve as lessons for future work. Using these themes, past tools can be characterized by what aspects ...

Keywords: event languages, interface builders, scripting languages, toolkits, user interface development environments, user interface software

13 Session 14: modeling and tools II: Conceptual modeling and code generation for rich internet applications 

Alessandro Bozzon, Sara Comai, Piero Fraternali, Giovanni Toffetti Carughi

July 2006 **Proceedings of the 6th international conference on Web engineering ICWE '06****Publisher:** ACM PressFull text available: [pdf\(690.56 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

This paper addresses conceptual modeling and automatic code generation for Rich Internet Applications, a variant of Web-based systems bridging desktop and thin-client Web interfaces. We show how classical Web modeling concepts are not enough to capture the specificity of RIAs, extend an existing Web modeling language, and provide an implementation of a CASE tool for visual modeling and code generation from RIA-aware specifications. Experimentation of the proposed approach in real-world scenarios is also ...

Keywords: rich internet applications, web engineering, web site design

14 Adapting to network and client variability via on-demand dynamic distillation 

Armando Fox, Steven D. Gribble, Eric A. Brewer, Elan Amir

October 1996 **ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review, ACM SIGPLAN Notices, Proceedings of the seventh international conference on Architectural support for programming languages and operating systems ASPLOS-VII**, Volume 30, 31 Issue 5, 9**Publisher:** ACM PressFull text available: [pdf\(1.64 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

The explosive growth of the Internet and the proliferation of smart cellular phones and handheld wireless devices is widening an already large gap between Internet clients.

Clients vary in their hardware resources, software sophistication, and quality of connectivity, yet server support for client variation ranges from relatively poor to none at all. In this paper we introduce some design principles that we believe are fundamental to providing "meaningful" Internet access for the entire range of ...

15 Conversation trees and threaded chats



Marc Smith, J. J. Cadiz, Byron Burkhalter

December 2000 **Proceedings of the 2000 ACM conference on Computer supported cooperative work**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available: pdf(163.07 KB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

Chat programs and instant messaging services are increasingly popular among Internet users. However, basic issues with the interfaces and data structures of most forms of chat limit their utility for use in formal interactions (like group meetings) and decision-making tasks. In this paper, we discuss Threaded Text Chat, a program designed to address some of the deficiencies of current chat programs. Standard forms of chat introduce ambiguity into interaction in a number of ways, most profo ...

Keywords: chat programs, computer mediated communication, conversation, human computer human interaction, persistent conversation, synchronous communication, turn-taking

16 Multi-platform interfaces: Flexible re-engineering of web sites



Laurent Bouillon, Jean Vanderdonckt, Kwok Chieu Chow

January 2004 **Proceedings of the 9th international conference on Intelligent user interface**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available: pdf(731.09 KB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

Re-engineering transforms a final user interface into a logical representation that is manipulable enough to allow forward engineering to port a UI from one computing platform to another with maximum flexibility and minimal effort. Re-engineering is used to adapt a UI to another context. This adaptation is governed by two main tasks: the adaptation of the code itself to the new computing platform and the redesign of the UI to better suit the new constraints of the target platform (interaction ca ...

Keywords: forward engineering, model-based approach, portability, reengineering, reverse engineering

17 A comparison of voice controlled and mouse controlled web browsing



Kevin Christian, Bill Kules, Ben Shneiderman, Adel Youssef

November 2000 **Proceedings of the fourth international ACM conference on Assistive technologies**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available: pdf(1.87 MB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

Keywords: human-computer, interaction, user interfaces, voice browsers, voice recognition, web browsing

18 Cluster-based scalable network services

-  Armando Fox, Steven D. Gribble, Yatin Chawathe, Eric A. Brewer, Paul Gauthier
October 1997 **ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review , Proceedings of the sixteenth ACM symposium on Operating systems principles SOSP '97**, Volume 31 Issue 5

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(2.42 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

19 Novel interfaces: FaceSpace: endo- and exo-spatial hypermedia in the transparent video facetop

-  David Stotts, Jason McC. Smith, Karl Gyllstrom
August 2004 **Proceedings of the fifteenth ACM conference on Hypertext and hypermedia HYPERTEXT '04**

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(2.19 MB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

The Transparent Video Facetop is a novel user interface concept that supports not only single-user interactions with a PC, but also close pair collaborations, such as that found in collaborative Web browsing, in distributed pair programming and in remote medicine. We recently demonstrated the Vis-a-Vid Facetop prototype as a single-user GUI for manipulating the elements of a traditional WIMP desktop [21]. In this paper we introduce FaceSpace, a Facetop-based hypermedia system that combines struc ...

Keywords: augmented reality, hypermedia, hypertext, transparency, video

20 Recovery guarantees for Internet applications

-  Roger Barga, David Lomet, German Shegalov, Gerhard Weikum
August 2004 **ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT)**, Volume 4 Issue 3

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available:  [pdf\(997.52 KB\)](#) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [index terms](#)

Internet-based e-services require application developers to deal explicitly with failures of the underlying software components, for example web servers, servlets, browser sessions, and so forth. This complicates application programming, and may expose failures to end users. This paper presents a framework for an application-independent infrastructure that provides recovery guarantees and masks almost all system failures, thus relieving the application programmer from having to deal with these f ...

Keywords: Exactly-once execution, application recovery, communication protocols, interaction contracts

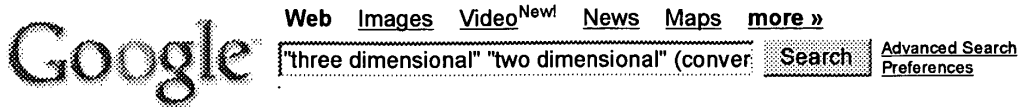
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File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
dimensional-looking **icons**. Yet the **desktop** itself has always. remained **two-dimensional**. There have been many attempts. at creating **three-dimensional** ...
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Opacity desktop with depth perception - Patent 7043701

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WebDeveloper.com ® -- Multimedia Web -- June 19, 1996

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L2	0	((3d or ((three or "3") near2 (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") near2 (dimension or dimensional))) same (convert or converting or conversion or converted or transformed or transforming or transform or transformation) same (icon or element or object) and ((internet or web) same (disconnect or disconnection or disconnected or disconnecting or unconnect or unconnecting or unconnected or unconnection or terminate or terminating or terminated or termination) with (persistent or persistence or consistent))).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 18:06

EAST Search History

L3	0	((3d or ((three or "3") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (convert or converting or conversion or converted or transformed or transforming or transform or transformation) same (icon or element or object) and ((internet or web) same (disconnect or disconnection or disconnected or disconnecting or unconnect or unconnecting or unconnected or unconnection or terminate or terminating or terminated or termination) with (persistent or persistence or consistent))).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 18:06
L4	0	((3d or ((three or "3") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (convert or converting or conversion or converted or transformed or transforming or transform or transformation) and ((internet or web) same (disconnect or disconnection or disconnected or disconnecting or unconnect or unconnecting or unconnected or unconnection or terminate or terminating or terminated or termination) with (persistent or persistence or consistent))).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 18:07
L5	0	((3d or ((three or "3") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (2d or ((two or "2") with (dimension or dimensional))) same (convert or converting or conversion or converted or transformed or transforming or transform or transformation) and ((internet or web) same (disconnect or disconnection or disconnected or disconnecting or unconnect or unconnecting or unconnected or unconnection or terminate or terminating or terminated or termination))).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2006/09/11 18:07



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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Jack D. Robinson et al :
Application No. 09/745,257 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: December 20, 2000 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)
Attorney Docket No. 4957P001X :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed June 26, 2006, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed August 11, 2003, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on November 12, 2003. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on March 9, 2004.

The petition satisfies the conditions for revival pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that (1) a reply; (2) the \$1,500 petition fee; and (3) the required statement of unintentional delay have been received. Accordingly, the reply to the non-final Office action of August 11, 2003 is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3218.

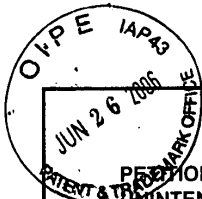
This matter is being referred to Technology Center AU 2174 for appropriate action in the normal course of business to the reply received June 26, 2006.


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT ABANDONED
UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)

Attorney Docket No.:
4957P001X

First Named Inventor: Jack D. Robinson

Examiner: Steven Paul Sax

Application No.: 09/745,257

Confirmation No: 8338

Filing Date: Dec. 20, 2000

Art Unit: 2174

Title: System and Method to Configure and Provide a Network-Enabled Three-Dimensional Computing Environment

Attention: Office of Petitions
Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
FAX: (571) 273-8300

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JUN 29 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact
Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to a notice or action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The date of abandonment is the day after the expiration date of the period set for reply in the Office notice or action plus any extensions of time actually obtained.

APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR REVIVAL OF THIS APPLICATION

NOTE: A grantable petition requires the following items:

- (1) Petition fee;
- (2) Reply and/or issue fee;
- (3) Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee – required for all utility and plant applications filed before June 8, 1995; and for all design applications; and
- (4) Statement that the entire delay was unintentional.

1. Petition fee

☐ Small entity fee \$ _____ (37 CFR 1.17(m)). Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☒ Other than small entity fee \$ 1,500.00 (37 CFR 1.17(m)).

2. Reply and/or fee

A. The reply and/or fee to the above-noted Office action in
the form of Amendment and Response to Office Action (identify type of reply);

- ☐ has been filed previously on _____.
- ☒ is enclosed herewith.

B. The issue fee of \$ _____

- ☐ has been paid previously on _____.
- ☐ is enclosed herewith.

06/28/2006 AWONDAF1 00000071 09745257

01 FC:1453

1500.00 OP

(Page 1 of 2)

Based on Form PTO/SB/64 (10-01) as modified by BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP on 10/28/03.

Quantum Imaging, LLC
Exhibit 2012
IPR2023-00954
Page 29

3. Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee

☒ Since this utility/plant application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, no terminal disclaimer is required.

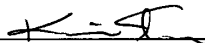
☐ A terminal disclaimer (and disclaimer fee (37 CFR 1.20(d)) of \$___ for a small entity or \$___ for other than a small entity) disclaiming the required period of time is enclosed herewith (see PTO/SB/63).

4. STATEMENT: The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. (NOTE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office may require additional information if there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional (MPEP 711.03(c), subsections (III)(C) and (D))).

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

June 21, 2006
Date

(408) 720-8300
Telephone Number


Signature

Kevin G. Shao
Typed or printed name

45,095
Reg. No.

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
Address

Enclosures: ☒ Fee Payment
☒ Reply
☐ Terminal Disclaimer Form
☐ Additional sheets containing statements establishing unintentional delay
☒ Other: Fee Transmittal (in duplicate), Return Receipt Postcard

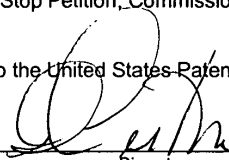
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

☐ transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

June 21, 2006
Date


Signature

David Castro
Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

(Page 2 of 2)

Based on Form PTO/SB/64 (10-01) as modified by BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP on 10/28/03.



Atty. Docket No. 4957P001X

#9-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Jack D. Robinson

Serial No.: 09/745,257

Filed: Dec. 20, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE
AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED
THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT

Examiner: Steven Paul Sax

Art Unit: 2174

Confirmation No.: 8338

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on

June 21, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

David Castro
(Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature)

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- A1
1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing a three-dimensional (3D) computing environment representing a 3D desktop
of a first computer system in a 3D environment, wherein one or more icons of
the desktop are displayed on a plurality of surfaces of the 3D desktop;
receiving a two-dimensional web page from a Web server over the Internet;
converting the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional
computing environment; and
presenting ~~the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page~~
contained therein to a user in the 3D desktop to allow a first user of the first
computer system to navigate content of the converted web page in a 3D
manner, including displaying at least a portion of the content of the converted
web page in a persistent client window of the 3D desktop that is persistent even
if a connection between the first computer system and the Internet has been
terminated.
 2. (Currently Amended) A data processing system-readable medium having a plurality of
instructions executable by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said
instructions when executed cause said data processing system to:

provide a three-dimensional (3D) computing environment representing a 3D desktop
of a first computer system in a 3D environment, wherein one or more icons of
the desktop are displayed on a plurality of surfaces of the 3D desktop;
receive a two-dimensional web page from a Web server over the Internet;
convert the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional
computing environment; and
present the ~~three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page in~~
the 3D desktop to allow a first user of the first computer system to navigate
content of the converted web page in a 3D manner, including displaying at
least a portion of content of the converted web page in a persistent client
window of the 3D desktop that is persistent even if a connection between the
first computer system and the Internet has been terminated~~contained therein to~~
~~a user.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method comprising:~~ The method of claim 1, further
comprising:
the first user navigating the content displayed within the persistent client window in a
3D manner; and
communicating within the persistent client window with a second user who is
navigating the same content from a second computer system over the Internet.
~~providing a three-dimensional computing environment;~~
~~receiving a two-dimensional application program;~~
~~converting the two-dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-~~
~~dimensional computing environment; and~~

~~presenting the three dimensional computing environment with the converted
application program contained therein to a user.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein communicating with the second user includes exchanging messages between the persistent client window of the first user of the first computer system with a persistent client window of the second user of the second computer system over the Internet. A data processing system readable medium having a plurality of instructions executable by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said instructions when executed cause said data processing system to:

A1
provide a three dimensional computing environment;
receive a two dimensional application program;
convert the two dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-
dimensional computing environment; and
present the three dimensional computing environment with the converted application
program contained therein to a user.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising the first user communicating with an avatar representing an owner of the content displayed within the persistent client window, including inquiring and/or acquiring an item displayed within the persistent client window. A method comprising:

accessing a website;
automatically accessing a 3D environment server in response to the access to the
website;
generating a 3D environment on the website; and

~~retaining information related to the website access in a repository.~~

6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein when the first computer system is offline, content displayed within the persistent client windows is buffered within the first computer system, and wherein in response an input from the first user within the persistent client window, a connection is automatically established between the first computer system and a server hosting the buffered content over the Internet to allow the first user continue to navigate the buffered content.

2A3
7. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising downloading a search engine and installing the search engine within the first computer system to allow the first user to search in the Internet within the 3D desktop without having to access a remote search facility.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising displaying a search result in the 3D desktop, wherein the content displayed in the persistent client window is selected from the search result in response to an activation of the first user.

9. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a persistent client module associated with the persistent client window is configured to capture a navigation behavior of the first user and wherein information regarding the navigation behavior of the first user is sent to the server hosting the content displayed within the persistent client window to allow the hosting server to provide further information tailored to the navigation behavior of the first user.

10. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the instructions further cause the data processing system to:

navigate the content displayed within the persistent client window in a 3D manner; and
communicate within the persistent client window with a second user who is navigating
the same content from a second computer system over the Internet.

11. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 10, wherein
communicating with the second user includes exchanging messages between the persistent
client window of the first user of the first computer system with a persistent client window of
the second user of the second computer system over the Internet.

12. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the instructions further cause the data processing system to have the first user communicating with an avatar representing an owner of the content displayed within the persistent client window, including inquiring and/or acquiring an item displayed within the persistent client window.

13. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 2, wherein when the first computer system is offline, content displayed within the persistent client windows is buffered within the first computer system, and wherein in response an input from the first user within the persistent client window, a connection is automatically established between the first computer system and a server hosting the buffered content over the Internet to allow the first user continue to navigate the buffered content.

14. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the instructions further cause the data processing system to download a search engine and installing the search engine within the first computer system to allow the first user to search in the Internet within the 3D desktop without having to access a remote search facility.

15. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions further cause the data processing system to display a search result in the 3D desktop, wherein the content displayed in the persistent client window is selected from the search result in response to an activation of the first user.

16. (New) The data processing system-readable medium of claim 2, wherein a persistent client module associated with the persistent client window is configured to capture a navigation behavior of the first user and wherein information regarding the navigation behavior of the first user is sent to the server hosting the content displayed within the persistent client window to allow the hosting server to provide further information tailored to the navigation behavior of the first user.

17. (New) A data processing system, comprising
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor for storing instructions, which when executed from the memory, cause the processor to perform a method, the method including providing a three-dimensional (3D) computing environment representing a 3D desktop of a first computer system in a 3D environment, wherein one or

A2

more icons of the desktop are displayed on a plurality of surfaces of the 3D desktop;
receiving a two-dimensional web page from a Web server over the Internet;
converting the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional computing environment; and
presenting the converted web page in the 3D desktop to allow a first user of the first computer system to navigate content of the converted web page in a 3D manner, including displaying at least a portion of the content of the converted web page in a persistent client window of the 3D desktop that is persistent even if a connection between the first computer system and the Internet has been terminated.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:
the first user navigating the content displayed within the persistent client window in a 3D manner; and
communicating within the persistent client window with a second user who is navigating the same content from a second computer system over the Internet.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein communicating with the second user includes exchanging messages between the persistent client window of the first user of the first computer system with a persistent client window of the second user of the second computer system over the Internet.

A2
20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the first user communicating with an avatar representing an owner of the content displayed within the persistent client window, including inquiring and/or acquiring an item displayed within the persistent client window.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 remain pending. Claims 1-5 have been rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 1-5 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim, in full, clear, concise, and exact terms, the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. In addition, new claims 6-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,313,855 to Shuping, et al. ("Shuping"). Applicant hereby reserves the right to swear behind Shuping. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 include limitations that are not disclosed by Shuping.

Specifically, for example, independent claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A method comprising:
providing a three-dimensional (3D) computing environment representing a 3D desktop of a first computer system in a 3D environment, wherein one or more icons of the desktop are displayed on a plurality of surfaces of the 3D desktop;
receiving a two-dimensional web page from a Web server over the Internet;
converting the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional computing environment; and
presenting the converted web page in the 3D desktop to allow a first user of the first computer system to navigate content of the converted web page in a 3D manner, including displaying at least a portion of the content of the converted web page in a persistent client window of the 3D desktop that is persistent even if a connection between the first computer system and the Internet has been terminated.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 1 includes a 3D desktop to display content of a Web page in a 3D environment, where the 3D desktop includes a persistent client window that is persistent even

if a connection to the Internet has been terminated. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are absent from Shuping.

Rather, Shuping discloses displaying multiple Web pages in a 3D manner, where, for example, a previous Web page is displayed at left panel; a current Web page is displayed at the center panel; while a next Web page is displayed at the right panel (see, e.g., Abstract; Fig. 3 and its corresponding description of Shuping).

It is respectfully submitted that the 3D environment of Shuping is not the same as a 3D desktop of the present invention as claimed. In addition, the content of a Web page of Shuping does not appear to be displayed in a 3D manner as required by claim 1. Rather, only multiple Web pages (e.g., previous, current, and next Web pages) as a whole are displayed in a 3D manner. Further, Shuping fails to disclose or suggest a persistent client window within the 3D desktop that is persistent even if the Internet connection has been terminated.

In order to anticipate a claim, each and every limitations of the claim must be taught by the cited reference. In view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that Shuping fails to disclose each and every limitations of claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Shuping.

Similarly, independent claims 2 and 17 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 17 are not anticipated by Shuping. Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are not anticipated by Shuping. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite

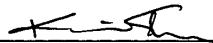
or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: June 21, 2006


Kevin G. Shao
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,095
Kevin_Shao@bstz.com

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300



FEE TRANSMITTAL FOR FY 2005

Effective on 12/08/2004. Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 1,500.00

Complete if Known:

Application No. 09/745,257
Filing Date Dec. 20, 2000
First Named Inventor Jack D. Robinson
Examiner Name Steven Paul Sax
Confirmation No. 8338
Art Unit 2174
Attorney Docket No. 4957P001X

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☒ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify)

☒ Deposit Account

Deposit Account Number : 02-2666

Deposit Account Name:

☒ The Director is Authorized to do the following with respect to the above-identified Deposit Account:

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below.

☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) during the pendency of this application.
Charge fee(s) indicated below except for the filing fee

☒ Credit any overpayments.

☒ Any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time should be treated as incorporating an appropriate petition for extension of time and all required fees should be charged.

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description		Fees Paid (\$)
Code	Fee (\$)	Code	Fee (\$)			
1011	300	2011	150	Utility application filing fee		
1111	500	2111	250	Utility search fee	1,000/500	
1311	200	2311	100	Utility examination fee		
1012	200	2012	100	Design application filing fee		
1112	100	2112	50	Design search fee	430/215	
1312	130	2312	65	Design examination fee		
1013	200	2013	100	Plant filing fee		
1113	300	2113	150	Plant search fee	660/330	
1313	160	2313	80	Plant examination fee		
1004	300	2004	150	Reissue filing fee		
1114	500	2114	250	Reissue search fee	1,400/700	
1314	600	2314	300	Reissue examination fee		
1005	200	2005	100	Provisional application filing fee		
SUBTOTAL (1) \$						<u>0.00</u>

09/745,257

- 1 -

4957P001X

Based on Form PTOSB/17 (12-04) as modified by BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP on 12/13/04

2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

	<u>Extra Claims</u>	<u>Fee from below</u>	<u>Fees Paid (\$)</u>
Total Claims <u>20</u> - 20 or HP = <u>0</u>		X \$50.00	= <u>0.00</u>
HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20			
Independent Claims <u>3</u> - 5 or HP = <u>0</u>		X \$200.00	= <u>0.00</u>
HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3			
Multiple Dependent Claims			= <u>0.00</u>

<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>		<u>Fee Description</u>
<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	
1202	50	2202	25	Each claim over 20
1201	200	2201	100	Each independent claim over 3
1203	360	2203	180	Multiple dependent claims, if not paid
1204	200	2204	100	Reissue: each claim over 20 and more than in the original patent
1205	50	2205	25	Reissue: each independent claim more than in the original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) \$ 0.00

3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

<u>Total Sheets</u>	<u>Extra Sheets</u>	<u>Number of each add'l 50 or fraction thereof</u>	<u>Fee from below</u>	<u>Fees paid (\$)</u>
	- 100 =	/ 50 = (round up to whole number)	X \$250.00	

<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>		<u>Fee Description</u>
<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	
1081	250	2081	125	Utility
1082	250	2082	125	Design
1083	250	2083	125	Plant
1084	250	2084	125	Reissue

SUBTOTAL (3) \$ 0.00

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**4. OTHER FEE(S)****Fees Paid (\$)**

Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

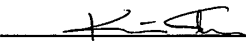
Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1813	8,800	1813	8,800	Request for inter parties reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	120	2251	60	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	450	2252	225	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	1,020	2253	510	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,590	2254	795	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,160	2255	1,080	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	500	2401	250	Notice of Appeal	
1402	500	2402	250	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	1,000	2403	500	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	500	2452	250	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,500	2453	750	Petition to revive - unintentional	1,500.00
1501	1,400	2501	700	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	800	2502	400	Design issue fee	
1503	1100	2503	550	Plant issue fee	
1462	400	1462	400	Petitions to the Commissioner (CFR 1.17(f) Group I)	
1463	200	1463	200	Petitions to the Commissioner (CFR 1.17(g) Group II)	
1464	130	1464	130	Petitions to the Commissioner (CFR 1.17(h) Group III)	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395	For filing a submission after final rejection (see 37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1814	130	2814	65	Statutory Disclaimer	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (see 37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
1504	300	1504	300	Publication fee for early, voluntary, or normal pub.	
1505	300	1505	300	Publication fee for republication	
1803	130	1803	130	Request for voluntary publication or republication	
1808	130	1808	130	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) (except provisionals)	
1454	1,370	1454	1,370	Acceptance of unintentionally delayed claim for priority	

Other fee (specify) _____

Other fee (specify) _____

SUBTOTAL (4) \$ 1,500.00

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBMITTED BY:Typed or Printed Name: Kevin G. ShaoSignature: Date: June 21, 2006Reg. Number: 45,095Telephone Number: 408-720-8300

Send to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X	8338
8791	7590	03/09/2004	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025			SAX, STEVEN PAUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2004

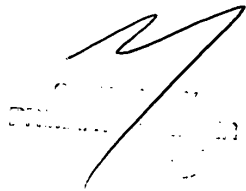
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Notice of Abandonment	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/745,257	ROBINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven P Sax	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

This application is abandoned in view of:

1. ☒ Applicant's failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter mailed on 11 August 2003.
 - (a) ☐ A reply was received on _____ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated _____), which is after the expiration of the period for reply (including a total extension of time of _____ month(s)) which expired on _____.
 - (b) ☐ A proposed reply was received on _____, but it does not constitute a proper reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (a) to the final rejection.
(A proper reply under 37 CFR 1.113 to a final rejection consists only of: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114).
 - (c) ☐ A reply was received on _____ but it does not constitute a proper reply, or a bona fide attempt at a proper reply, to the non-final rejection. See 37 CFR 1.85(a) and 1.111. (See explanation in box 7 below).
 - (d) ☒ No reply has been received.
2. ☐ Applicant's failure to timely pay the required issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, within the statutory period of three months from the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85).
 - (a) ☐ The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, was received on _____ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated _____), which is after the expiration of the statutory period for payment of the issue fee (and publication fee) set in the Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85).
 - (b) ☐ The submitted fee of \$_____ is insufficient. A balance of \$_____ is due.
The issue fee required by 37 CFR 1.18 is \$_____. The publication fee, if required by 37 CFR 1.18(d), is \$_____.
 - (c) ☐ The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, has not been received.
3. ☐ Applicant's failure to timely file corrected drawings as required by, and within the three-month period set in, the Notice of Allowability (PTO-37).
 - (a) ☐ Proposed corrected drawings were received on _____ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated _____), which is after the expiration of the period for reply.
 - (b) ☐ No corrected drawings have been received.
4. ☐ The letter of express abandonment which is signed by the attorney or agent of record, the assignee of the entire interest, or all of the applicants.
5. ☐ The letter of express abandonment which is signed by an attorney or agent (acting in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34(a)) upon the filing of a continuing application.
6. ☐ The decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference rendered on _____ and because the period for seeking court review of the decision has expired and there are no allowed claims.
7. ☐ The reason(s) below:



Petitions to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b), or requests to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, should be promptly filed to minimize any negative effects on patent term.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X	8338

8791 7590 08/11/2003

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

EXAMINER

SAX, STEVEN PAUL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/745,257

Applicant(s)
Robinson et al

Examiner
Steve Sax

Art Unit
2174



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ 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 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4-5 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2174

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined.
2. 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 -

(e) the invention was described in-

- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shuping et al (631385).
4. Regarding claim 1, Shuping et al show a method for providing a three dimensional computing environment (Figure 3, column 6 lines 62-67), receiving a two dimensional web page (column 6 lines 27-37, Figure 8), converting the two dimensional web page to a form useable in the three dimensional computing environment (column 2 lines 44-59, column 7 lines 1-5, Figure 9, column 9 lines 60-67), and presenting the three dimensional computing environment with the

Art Unit: 2174

converted web page to a user (Figure 9, column 9 lines 60-67, column 10 lines 6-15 for example).

5. Claims 2-4 show the same features as above and are rejected for the same reasons.
6. Regarding claim 5, in addition to the aforementioned, Shuping et al also show retaining information related to the website access in a repository (column 6 lines 39-45).
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Steve Sax at telephone number (703) 305-9582.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Sax whose telephone number is (703) 305-9582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238	After Final Communication
(703) 746-7239	Official Communication
(703) 746-7420	For Status Inquiries, draft communication

Application/Control Number: 09/745257

Page 4

Art Unit: 2174

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard S.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO (Modified)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/745,257
Filing Date	12/20/2000
First Named Inventor:	Jack D. Robinson et al.
Group Art Unit	2183
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	4957P001X

Sheet	2	of	2
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OTHER ART - NO PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
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Copy Of Search Report for PCT/US01/42578; mailed 03/22/2002; 1 page.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

1 Application Number 09/745,257

2 Filing Date 12/20/00

3 First Named Inventor Jack D. Robinson et al.

Group Art Unit 2183

Examiner Name Unassigned

Sheet 1 of 1 Attorney Docket Number 4957P001X

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Filing Date if Appropriate
	Number				
[Signature]	5,148,154		MacKay et al.	9/15/1992	12/4/1990
	5,276,785		Mackinlay et al.	1/4/1994	8/2/1990
	5,388,197		Rayner	2/7/1995	3/29/1994
	5,452,414		Rosendahl et al.	9/19/1995	4/11/1994
	5,555,354		Strasnick et al.	9/10/1996	3/23/1993
	5,973,694		Steele et al.	10/26/1999	4/21/1998
	6,043,818		Nakano et al.	3/28/2000	6/17/1996

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Translation? Yes/No
	Office or Country	Number	Date			

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published (if known).	Translation? Yes/No

Examiner
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Date
Considered

7/63

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/745,257	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexam Robinson et al	
	Examiner Steve Sax	Art Unit 2174	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY ¹	Name	Classification ²	
A	631,385	11/2001	Shuping et al	345	854
B	6,072,483	6/2000	Rosin et al	345	349
C	6,229,546	5/2001	Lancaster	345	419
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
L					
M					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY ¹	Country	Name	Classification ²	
N						
O						
P						
Q						
R						
S						
T						

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Include, as applicable: Author, Title, Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages
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* A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. See MPEP § 707.05(a). ¹ Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. ² Classifications may be U.S. or foreign.

L Number	Hits	Search Text	DB	Time stamp
1	32	web same convert same dimension	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:30
2	0	345/848-852 and web	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:30
3	804	((("3" or three) near2 (dimension or dimensional)) same user near2 interface	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:32
4	19	((("3" or three) near2 (dimension or dimensional)) same user near2 interface) same (transform or convert)	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:33
5	0	((("3" or three) near2 (dimension or dimensional)) same user near2 interface) same (transform or convert)) and web	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:32
6	9	((("3" or three) near2 (dimension or dimensional)) same user near2 interface) and (transform or convert) same web	USPAT	2003/07/26 23:33



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/745,257	12/20/2000	2173	1000	4957P001X	9	5	5

CONFIRMATION NO. 8338

008791

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC00000007635075

Date Mailed: 03/14/2002

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Jack D. Robinson, San Francisco, CA;
Linda R. James, Castro Valley, CA;
Thomas Alonzo Cardaci II, San Francisco, CA;
Kristin Blandford, San Francisco, CA;

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

THIS APPLICATION IS A CIP OF 09/686,206 10/10/2000

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 02/23/2001

Projected Publication Date: 06/20/2002

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

System and method to configure and provide a network-enabled three-dimensional computing environment

Preliminary Class

712

**LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

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The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

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2183

Attorney's Docket No. 4957P001X

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

Jack D. Robinson et al.

Application No.: 09/745,257

Filed: December 20, 2000

For: System And Method To Configure
And Provide A Network-Enabled
Three-Dimensional Computing Environment

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2183

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Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the documents cited on that form. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on May 1, 2002

(Date of Deposit)

Claire Wallters

(Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence)

Claire Wallters

(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under one of the following (as indicated by an "X" to the left of

the appropriate paragraph):

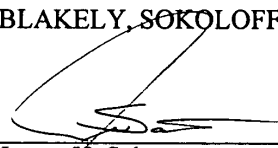
- XX 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).
- _____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement is one of the following:
- _____ A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or
- _____ A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- _____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement are the following:
- (1) A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); and
 - (2) A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of the Information Disclosure Statement.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 5/1, 2002


James H. Salter
Reg. No. 35,668

Customer No. 008791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300



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08 October 2001

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

VIA Express Mail

Re: USSN: 09/745,257 Filed 20 December 2000
Applicant: MyRoom.Com, Inc.
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A
NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT
Transmittal of Request to Rescind Previous Request
Under 35 USC 122(b)(2)(B)(ii)
Our File No.: 004957.P001X

Dear Sirs:

We have filed the above-identified application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. A Request and Certification under 35 USC 122(b)(2)(B)(i) has been submitted for this invention, we herewith submit a Request to Rescind Previous Nonpublication Request under 35 USC 122(b)(2)(B)(ii).

Very truly yours,

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

MJM/jls
Enclosure



PTO/SB/36(11-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST TO RESCIND PREVIOUS NONPUBLICATION REQUEST
35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(ii)

Application Number 09/745,257
Filing Date 20 December 2000
First Named Inventor : Jack D. ROBINSON
Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT
Attorney Docket No. 004957.P001X
Group Art Unit _____
Examiner _____

I hereby **rescind** the previous request that the above-identified application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

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OCT 16 2001
Technology Center 2100

10/8/01
Date

[Signature]
Signature

Michael J. Mallie

36,591

This request must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.33(b).

Send to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

11/28/00

6P2183#5

Attorney's Docket No. 4957P001X

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

Jack Robinson et al.

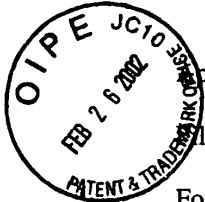
Application No.: 09/745,257

Filed: December 20, 2000

For: System And Method To Configure
And Provide A Network-Enabled
Three-Dimensional Computing Environment

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2183



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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the documents cited on that form. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on February 8, 2002

(Date of Deposit)

Claire Walters

(Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence)

Claire Walters

(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under one of the following (as indicated by an "X" to the left of the appropriate paragraph):

XX 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

_____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement is one of the following:

_____ A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or

_____ A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

_____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement are the following:

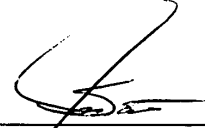
- (1) A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); and
- (2) A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of the Information Disclosure Statement.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 2/8/, 2002



James H. Salter
Reg. No. 35,668

Customer No. 008791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300



Attorney's Docket No. 4957P001X

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

Jack D. Robinson et al.

Application No.: 09/745,257

Filed: December 20, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO
CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A
NETWORK-ENABLED
THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2183

RECEIVED

MAR 2 8 2001

Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the documents cited on that form. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on

March 19, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

Claire Walters
(Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence)

Claire Walters
(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not

to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under one of the following (as indicated by an "X" to the left of the appropriate paragraph):

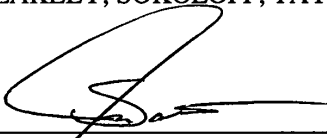
- XX 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).
- _____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement is one of the following:
- _____ A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or
- _____ A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- _____ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If so, then enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement are the following:
- (1) A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); and
 - (2) A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of the Information Disclosure Statement.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/19, 2001



James H. Salter
Reg. No. 35,668

Customer No. 008791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

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MAR 28 2001
Technology Center 2100

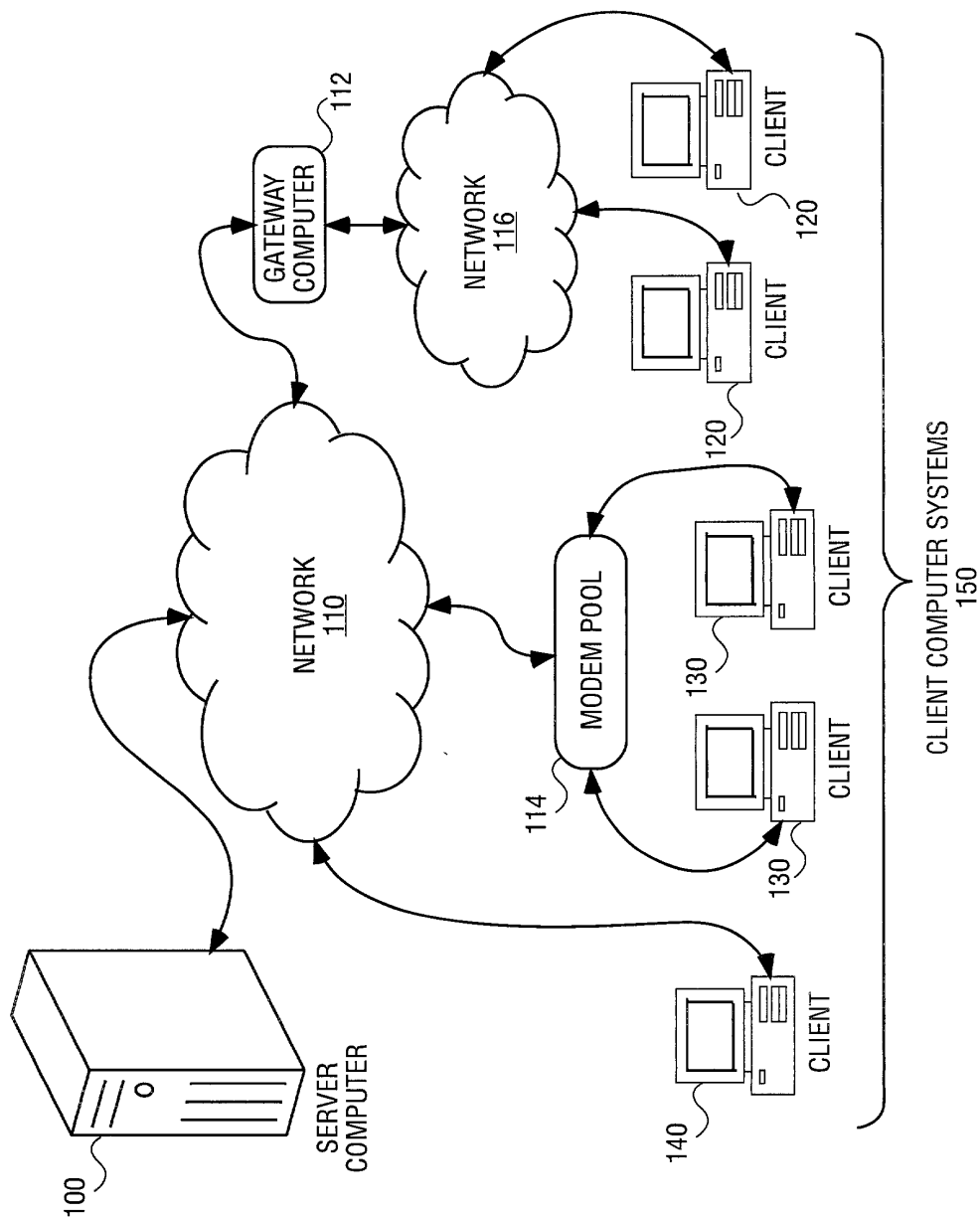


FIG. 1

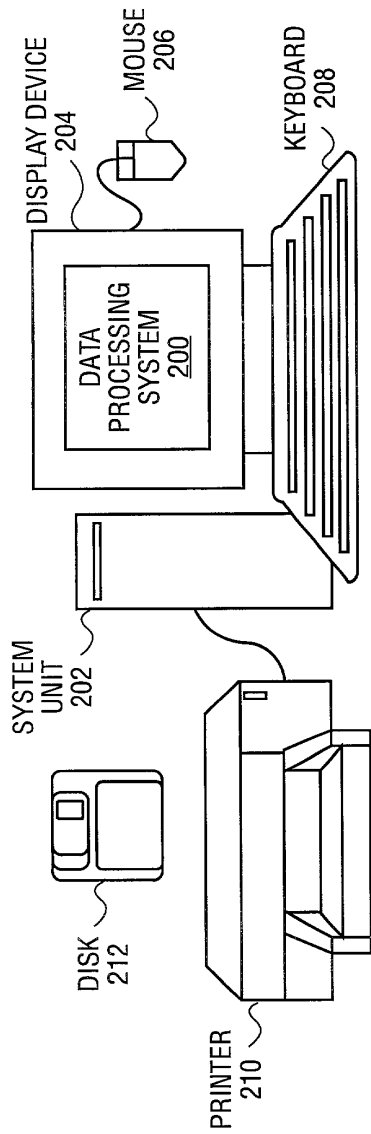


FIG. 2A

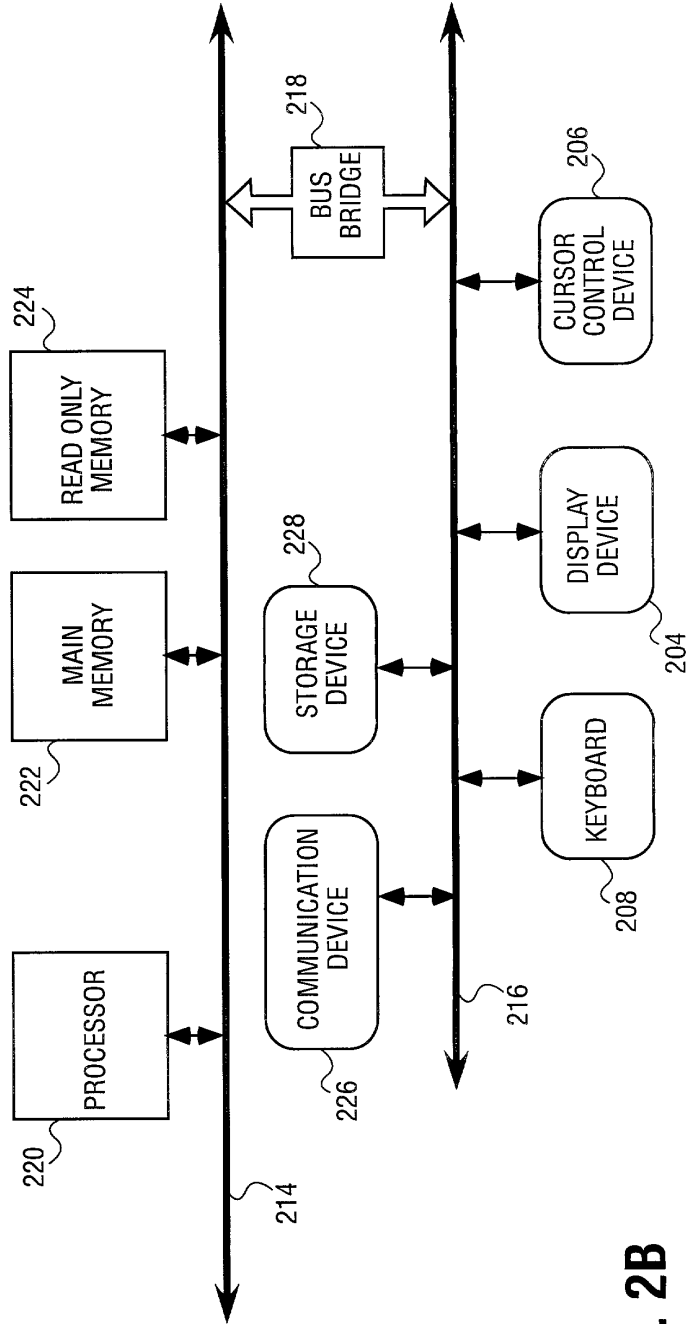
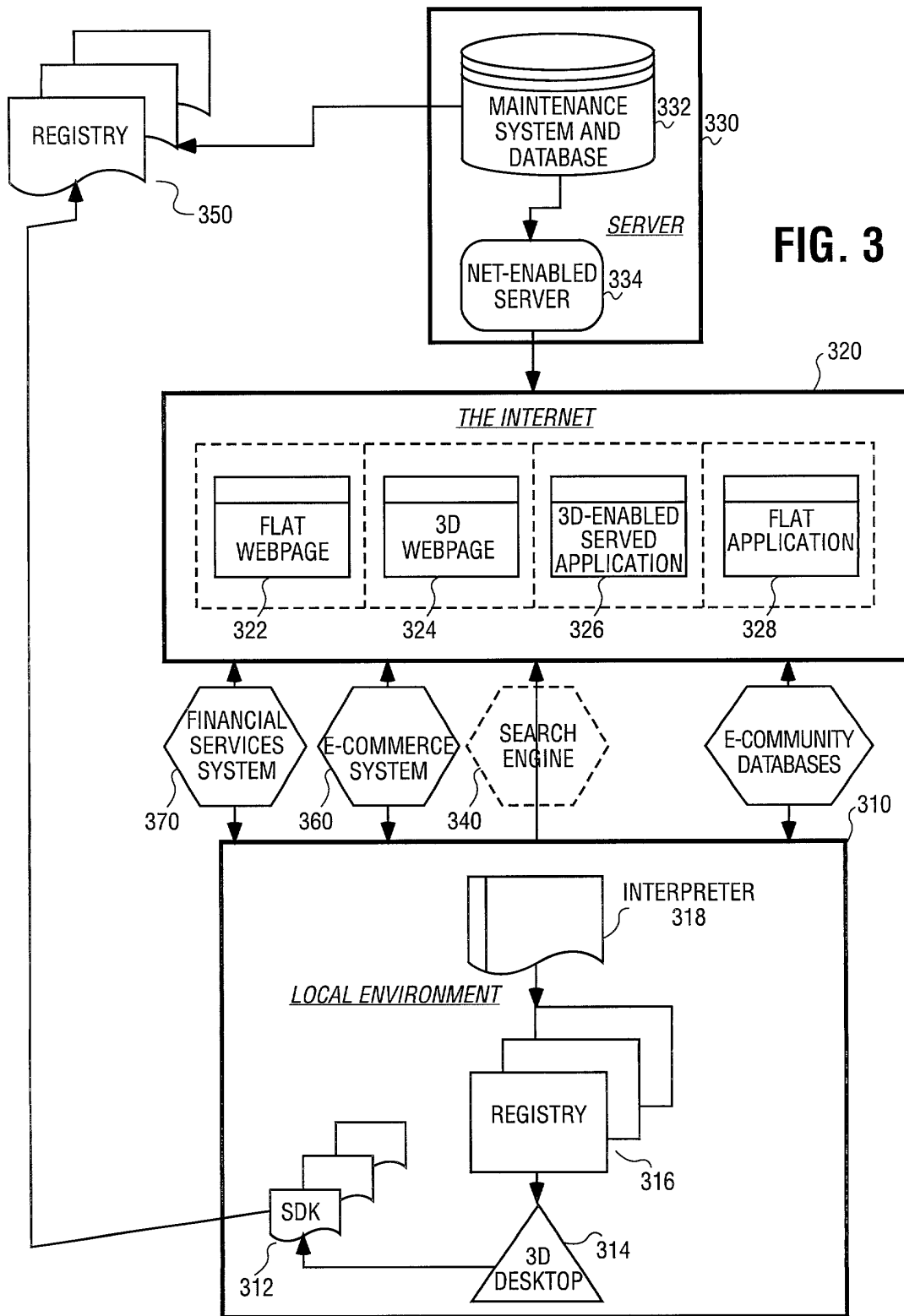


FIG. 2B



REVENUE SHARING WITH EXISTING E-COMMERCE ENGINES

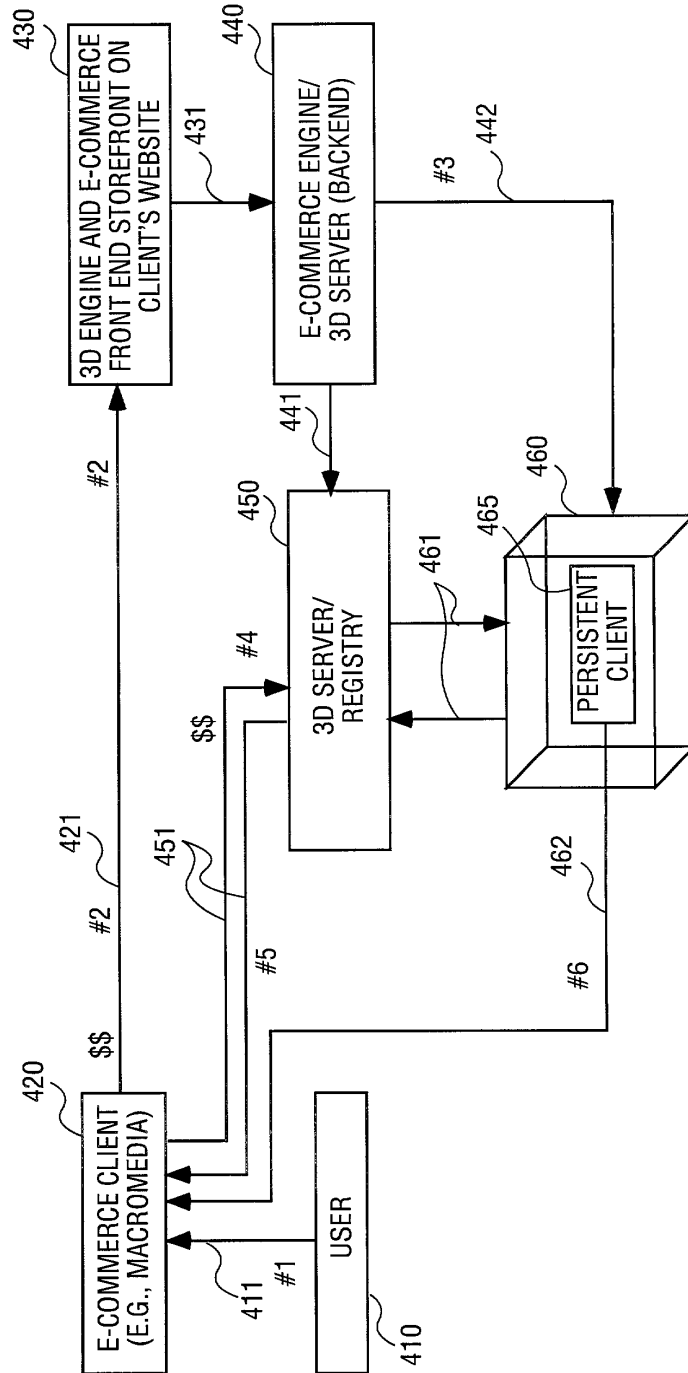


FIG. 4

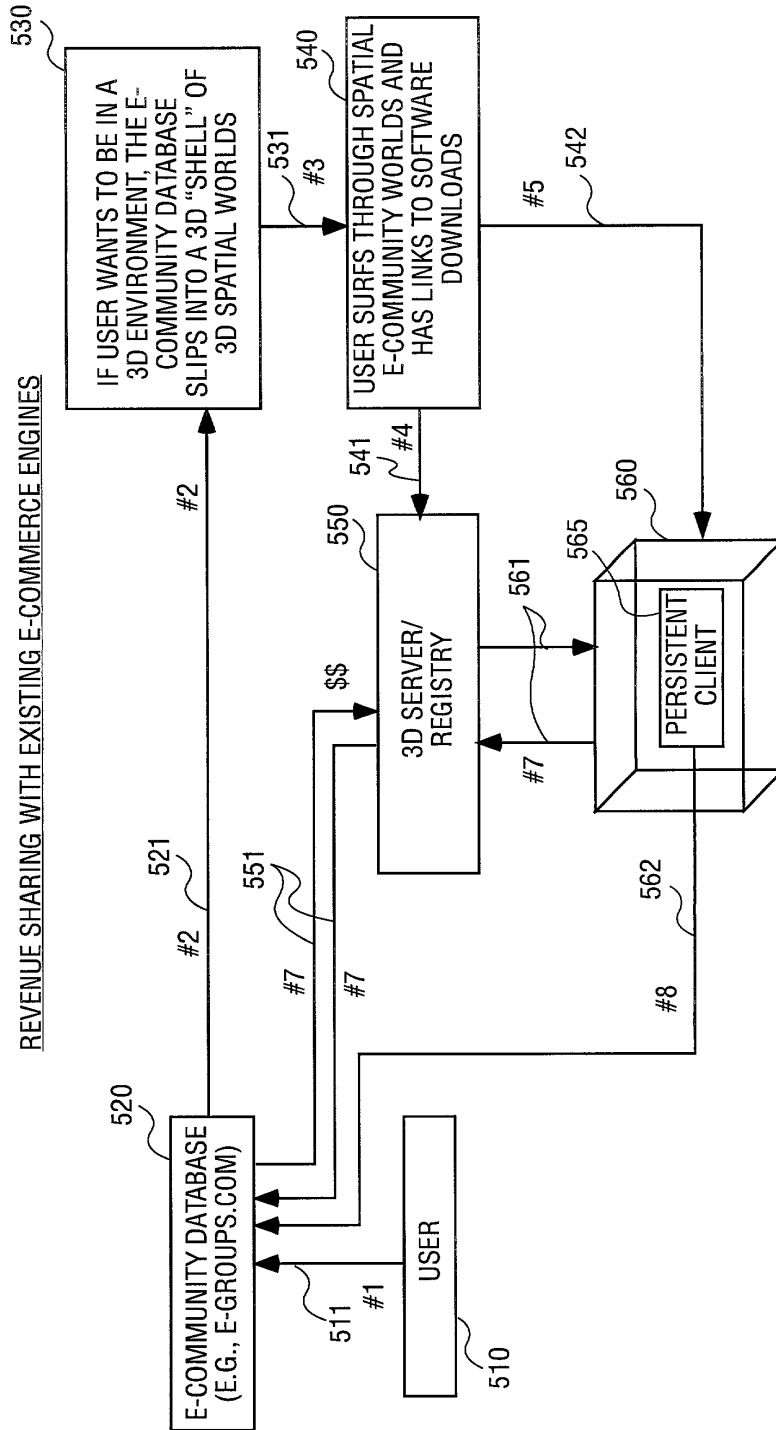


FIG. 5

ESTABLISH PERSISTENT SEARCH ENGINE PRESENCE ON USER DESKTOPS OR OTHER INFORMATION DISPLAY

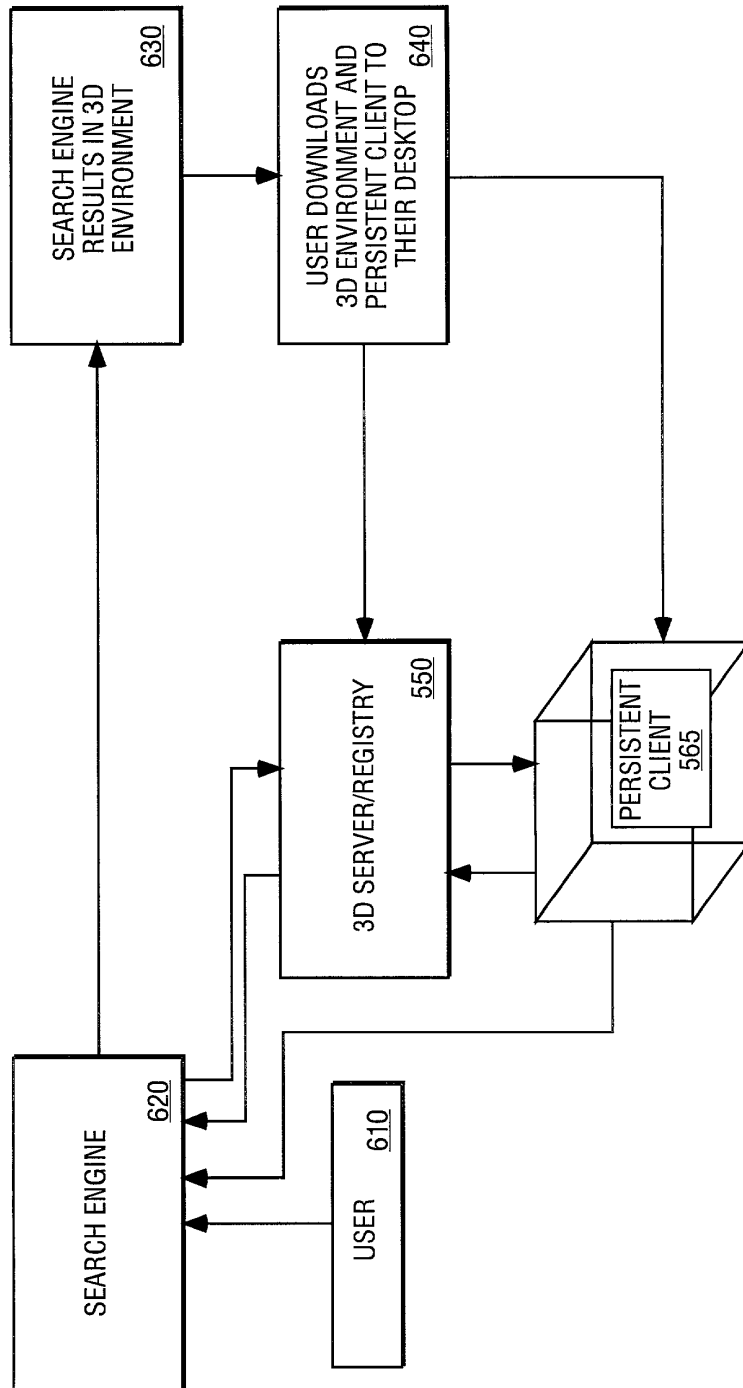


FIG. 6

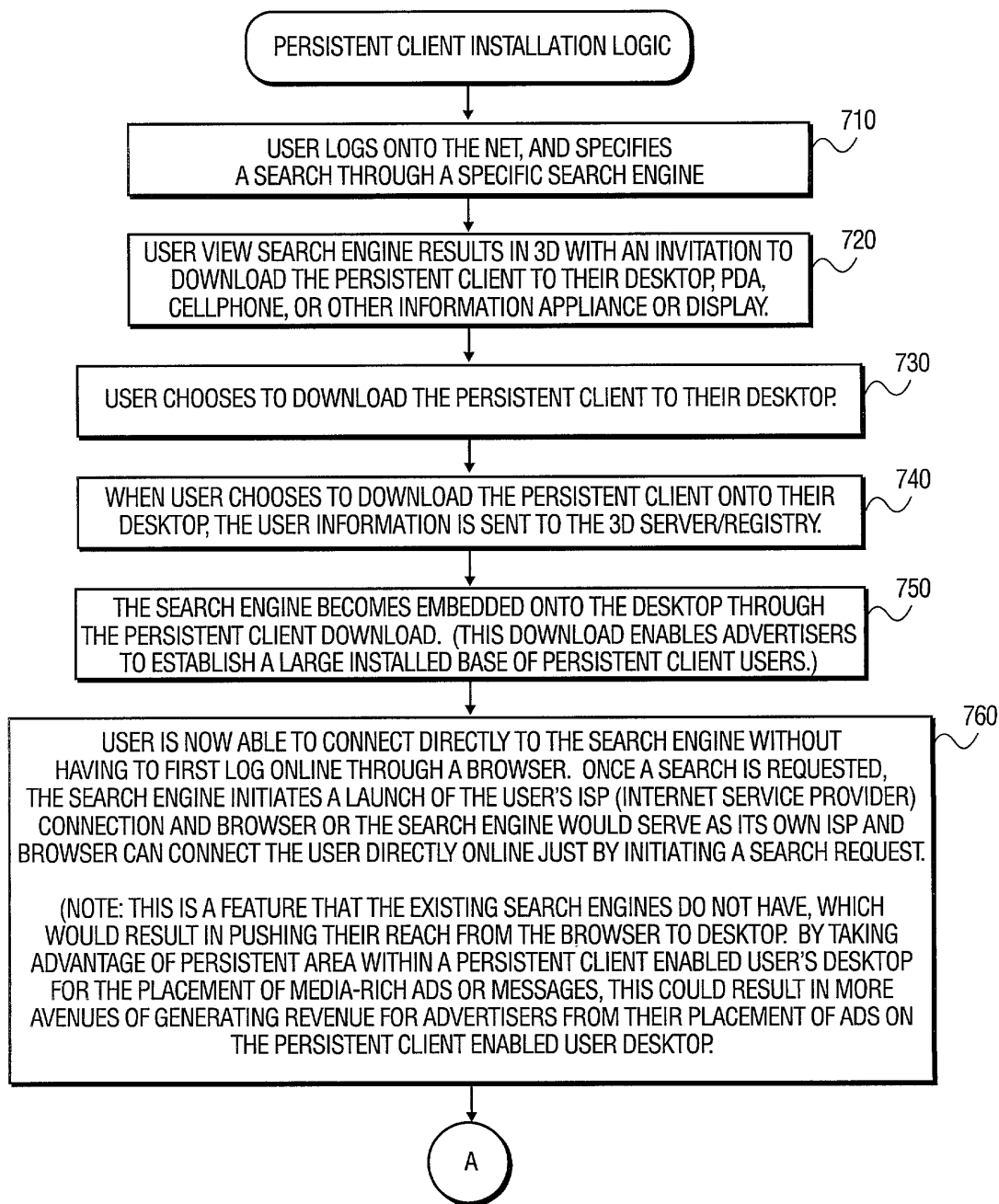


FIG. 7

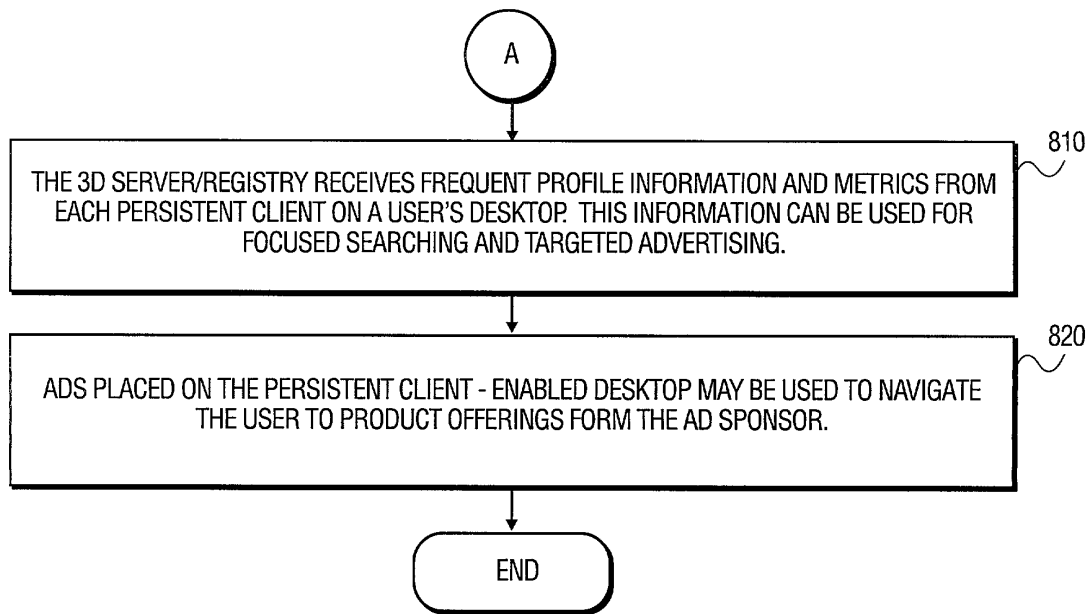
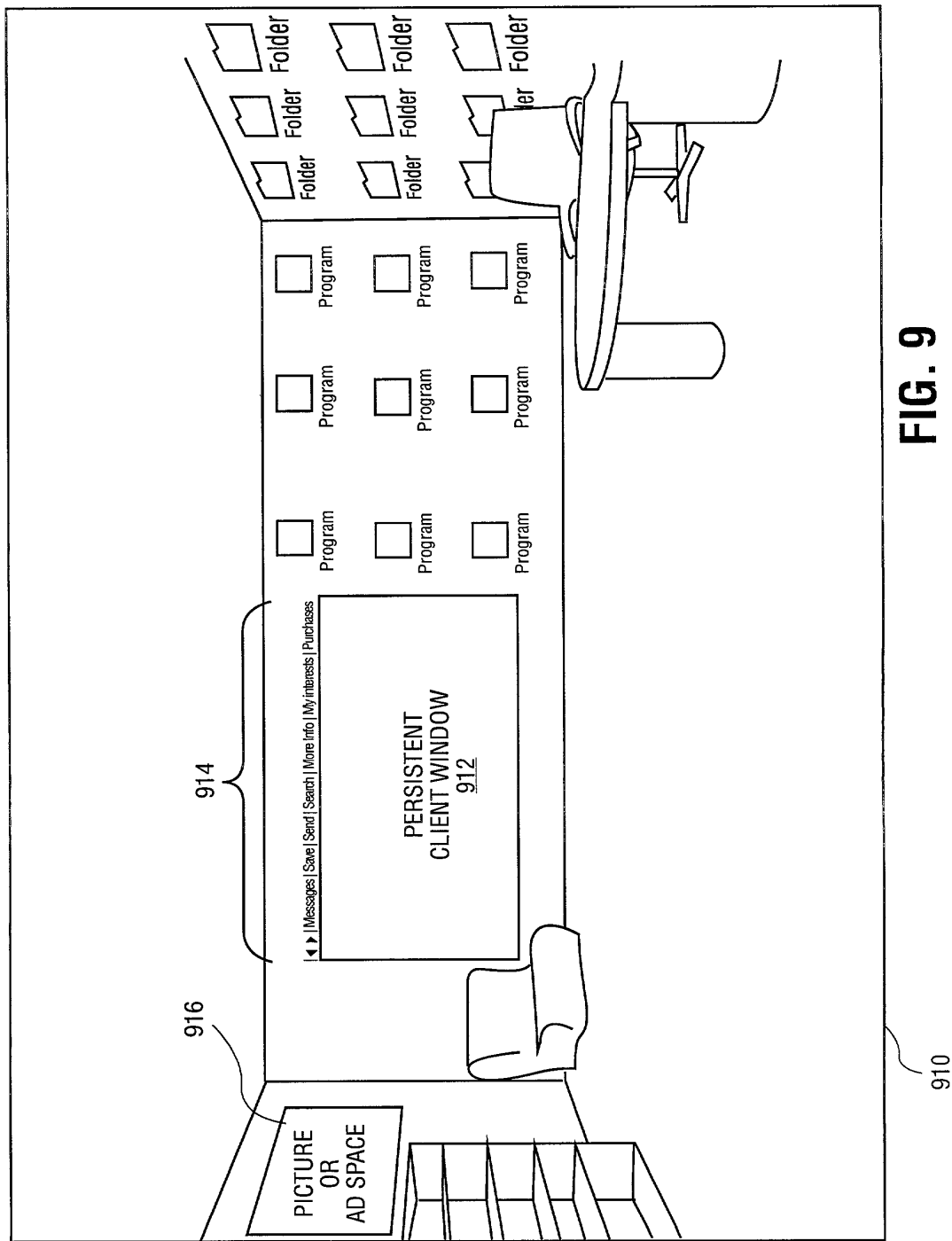


FIG. 8



4957P001X

Section
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Jack D. Robinson, et al.

Serial No.: 09/745,257

Filed: December 20, 2000

For: System and Method to Configure and Provide a Network-
Enabled Three-Dimensional Computing Environment

BOX MISSING PARTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

) Examiner: Unassigned

) Art Unit: Unassigned

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF APPLICATION
(FILING DATE GRANTED)

Sir:

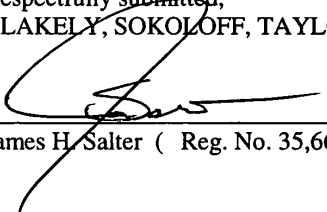
In response to the Notice to File Missing parts of Application (Filing Date Granted) mailed
February 23, 2001, please find enclosed:

- (1) a duly executed Declaration and Power of Attorney with respect to the above-referenced patent application;
- (2) a check in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the surcharge of 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e);
- (3) a new set of nine (9) sheets of drawings; and
- (4) a copy of the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. A duplicate of this Response is enclosed for deposit account charging purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/13/, 2001

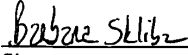

James H. Salter (Reg. No. 35,668)

Customer No. 008791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to BOX MISSING PARTS, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 13, 2001.

Barbara Skliba
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

3/13/01
Date

09/745,257

1

MAR 1 6 2001

FEE TRANSMITTAL FOR FY 2001

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 130.00

Complete if Known:

Application No. 09/745,257
 Filing Date December 20, 2000
 First Named Inventor Jack D. Robinson, et al.
 Group Art Unit Unassigned
 Examiner Name Unassigned
 Attorney Docket No. 4957P001X

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:
- Deposit Account Number _____
 Deposit Account Name _____
- ☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, and charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account Number 02-2666, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account Number 02-2666
- ☐ Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.131(b)
2. ☒ Payment Enclosed
☒ Check
 _____ Money Order
 _____ Other
3. ☐ Applicant claims small entity.
 See CFR 1.27

FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 11/29/00)

1. FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Code	Fee (\$)	Code	Fee (\$)		
101	710	201	355	Utility application filing fee	_____
106	320	206	160	Design application filing fee	_____
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee	_____
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee	_____
114	150	214	75	Provisional application filing fee	_____
SUBTOTAL (1)					\$ <u>0</u>

2. CLAIMS

		Extra		Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	_____	- 20 =	_____	X	_____
Independent Claims	_____	- 3 =	_____	X	_____
Multiple Dependent Claims	_____		_____	X	_____

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Code	Fee (\$)	Code	Fee (\$)		
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of twenty	_____
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3	_____
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim	_____
109	80	209	40	Reissue independent claims over original patent	_____
110	18	210	9	Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	_____
SUBTOTAL (2)					\$ <u>0</u>

1/25/01

1

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>		<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Fee Paid</u>
<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>		
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	130.00
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for response within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for response within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for response within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for response within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246	355	For filing a submission after final rejection	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
195	300	195	300	Publication fee for early, voluntary, or normal publication	
196	300	196	300	Publication fee for republication	
194	130	194	130	Request for voluntary publication or republication	
098	130	098	130	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i)	
091	1,240	091	1,240	Acceptance of unintentionally delayed claim for priority	

Other: _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) \$ 130.00

SUBMITTED BY:

Typed or Printed Name: James H. Salter

Signature

Date

Reg. Number

35,668

Customer No.

008791

(complete if applicable)

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to BOX MISSING PARTS, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 13, 2001.

Barbara Skliba

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Signature

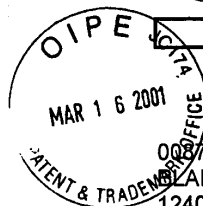
Date

1/25/01

2

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MyRoom.com

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X

003791
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025RECEIVED
MAR 02 2001CONFIRMATION NO. 8338
FORMALITIES LETTER

OC000000005794818

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
LOS ANGELES

Date Mailed: 02/23/2001

Previously Filed
4/23/01

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is unsigned.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.
- The balance due by applicant is \$ 130.

The application is informal since it does not comply with the regulations for the reason(s) indicated below. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to correct the informalities indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- Substitute drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 because:
 - drawing sheets do not have the appropriate margin(s) (see 37 CFR 1.84(g)). Each sheet must include a top margin of at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a left side margin of at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a right side margin of at least 1.5 cm. (5/8 inch), and a bottom margin of at least 1.0 cm. (3/8 inch);

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

S. Soher

03/19/2001 JAD001 00000053 09745257 130.00 00
01 FC:105

Customer Service Center
Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202
PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

4957P001X

#3
PATENT

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION (CONTINUATION-IN-PART)

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

the specification of which

 X is attached hereto.
was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 12/20/2000 as
United States Application Number 09/745,257
or PCT International Application Number _____
and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u>			<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Number	(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)
Application Number	(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>09/686,206</u>	<u>10/10/2000</u>	<u>Pending</u>
Application Number	(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)	Status -- patented, pending, abandoned
<u>Application Number</u>	<u>(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>Status -- patented, pending, abandoned</u>

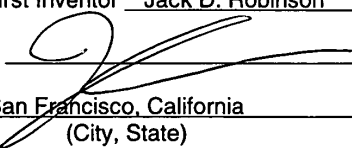
I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to James H. Salter, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF,
(Name of Attorney or Agent)
TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California

90025 and direct telephone calls to James H. Salter, (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

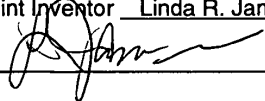
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, 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 or any patent issued thereon.

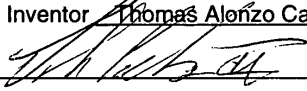
Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Jack D. Robinson

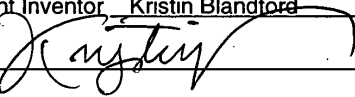
Inventor's Signature  Date 3-6-01

Residence San Francisco, California Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 3734 Anza Street, #3
San Francisco, CA 94121

Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor Linda R. James
Inventor's Signature  Date 3/8/01
Residence Castro Valley, California Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 18714 Walnut Street
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor Thomas Alonzo Cardaci, II
Inventor's Signature  Date 3/9/01
Residence San Francisco, California Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 231 Page Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor Kristin Blandford
Inventor's Signature  Date 3/9/01
Residence San Francisco, California Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 702 Oak Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

APPENDIX A

William E. Alford, Reg. No. 37,764; Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261; William Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591; Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. 41,600; Jordan Michael Becker, Reg. No. 39,602; Lisa N. Benado, Reg. No. 39,995; Bradley J. Berezna, Reg. No. 33,474; Michael A. Bernadicou, Reg. No. 35,934; Roger W. Blakely, Jr., Reg. No. 25,831; R. Alan Burnett, Reg. No. 46,149; Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926; Andrew C. Chen, Reg. No. 43,544; Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637; Donna Jo Coningsby, Reg. No. 41,684; Florin Corie, Reg. No. 46,244; Dennis M. deGuzman, Reg. No. 41,702; Stephen M. De Klerk, Reg. No. 46,503; Michael Anthony DeSanctis, Reg. No. 39,957; Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813; Sanjeet Dutta, Reg. No. 46,145; Matthew C. Fagan, Reg. No. 37,542; Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402; George Fountain, Reg. No. 37,374; James Y. Go, Reg. No. 40,621; James A. Henry, Reg. No. 41,064; Libby N. Ho, Reg. No. 46,774; Willmore F. Holbrow III, Reg. No. 41,845; Sheryl Sue Holloway, Reg. No. 37,850; George W. Hoover II, Reg. No. 32,992; Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139; William W. Kidd, Reg. No. 31,772; Sang Hui Kim, Reg. No. 40,450; Walter T. Kim, Reg. No. 42,731; Eric T. King, Reg. No. 44,188; George Brian Leavell, Reg. No. 45,436; Kurt P. Leyendecker, Reg. No. 42,799; Gordon R. Lindeen III, Reg. No. 33,192; Jan Carol Little, Reg. No. 41,181; Robert G. Litts, Reg. No. 46,876; Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765; Michael J. Mallie, Reg. No. 36,591; Andre L. Marais, under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b); Paul A. Mendonsa, Reg. No. 42,879; Clive D. Menezes, Reg. No. 45,493; Chun M. Ng, Reg. No. 36,878; Thien T. Nguyen, Reg. No. 43,835; Thinh V. Nguyen, Reg. No. 42,034; Dennis A. Nicholls, Reg. No. 42,036; Robert B. O'Rourke, Reg. No. 46,972; Daniel E. Ovanezian, Reg. No. 41,236; Kenneth B. Paley, Reg. No. 38,989; Gregg A. Peacock, Reg. No. 45,001; Marina Portnova, Reg. No. 45,750; William F. Ryann, Reg. No. 44,313; James H. Salter, Reg. No. 35,668; William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018; James C. Scheller, Reg. No. 31,195; Jeffrey Sam Smith, Reg. No. 39,377; Maria McCormack Sobrino, Reg. No. 31,639; Stanley W. Sokoloff, Reg. No. 25,128; Judith A. Szepesi, Reg. No. 39,393; Vincent P. Tassinari, Reg. No. 42,179; Edwin H. Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129; John F. Travis, Reg. No. 43,203; Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191; Tom Van Zandt, Reg. No. 43,219; Lester J. Vincent, Reg. No. 31,460; Glenn E. Von Tersch, Reg. No. 41,364; John Patrick Ward, Reg. No. 40,216; Mark L. Watson, Reg. No. 46,322; Thomas C. Webster, Reg. No. 46,154; and Norman Zafman, Reg. No. 26,250; my patent attorneys, and Firasat Ali, Reg. No. 45,715; Justin M. Dillon, Reg. No. 42,486; Thomas S. Ferrill, Reg. No. 42,532; and Raul Martinez, Reg. No. 46,904, my patent agents, of BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, with offices located at 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025, telephone (310) 207-3800, and James R. Thein, Reg. No. 31,710, my patent attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56
Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

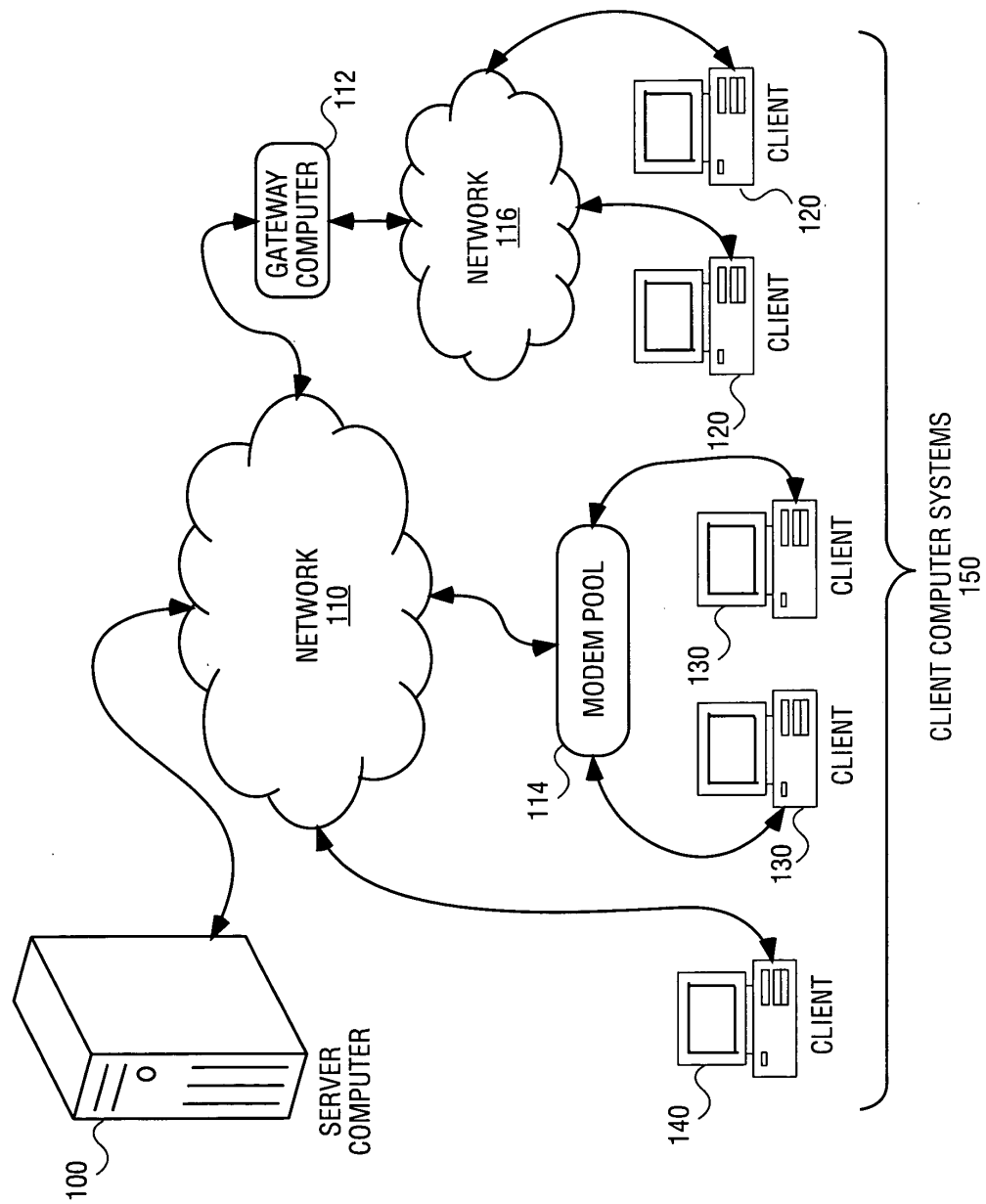


FIG. 1

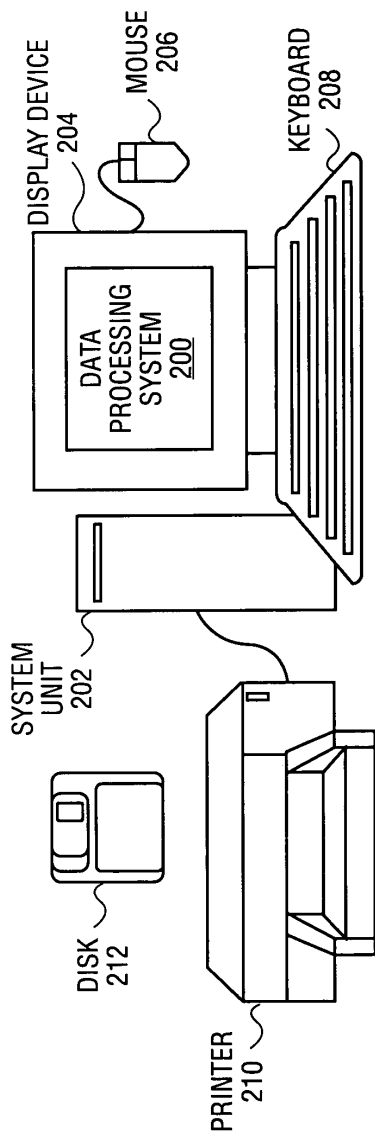


FIG. 2A

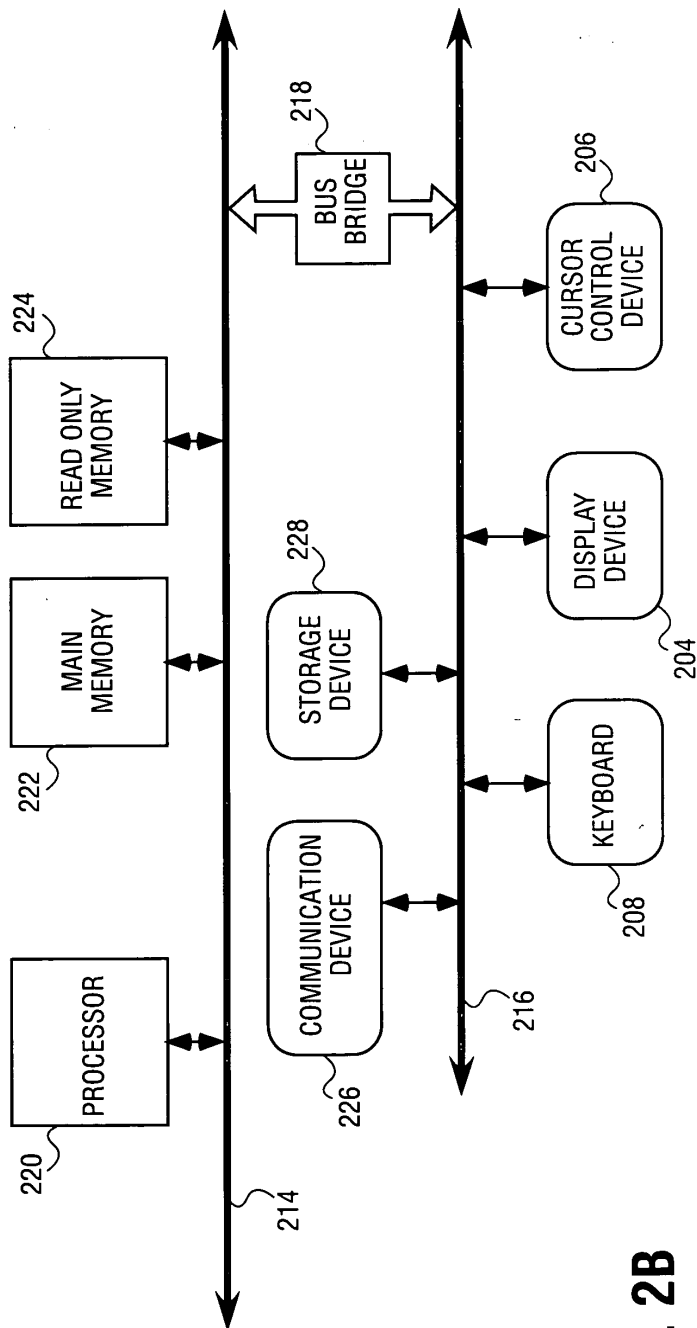
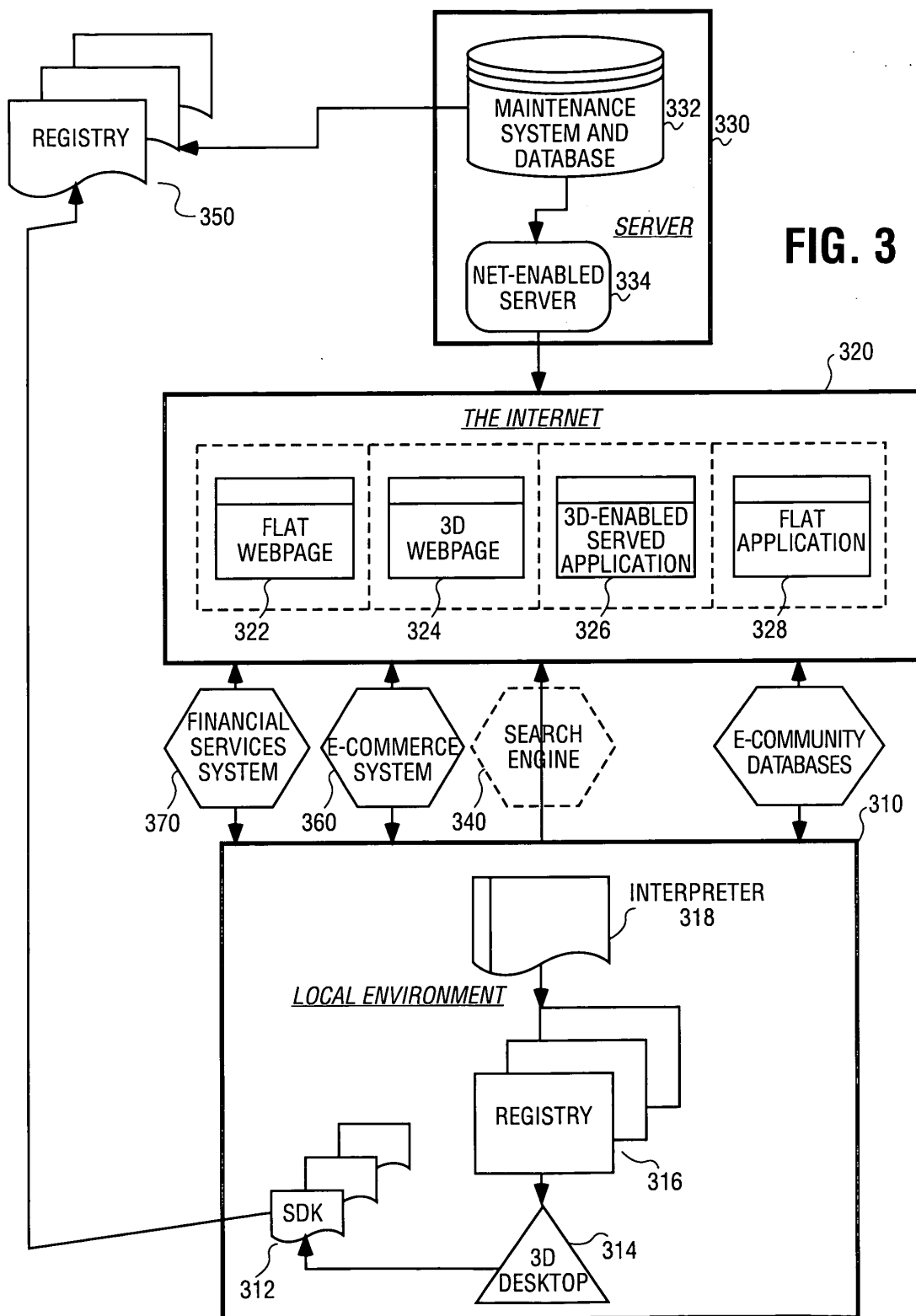


FIG. 2B

FIG. 3



REVENUE SHARING WITH EXISTING E-COMMERCE ENGINES

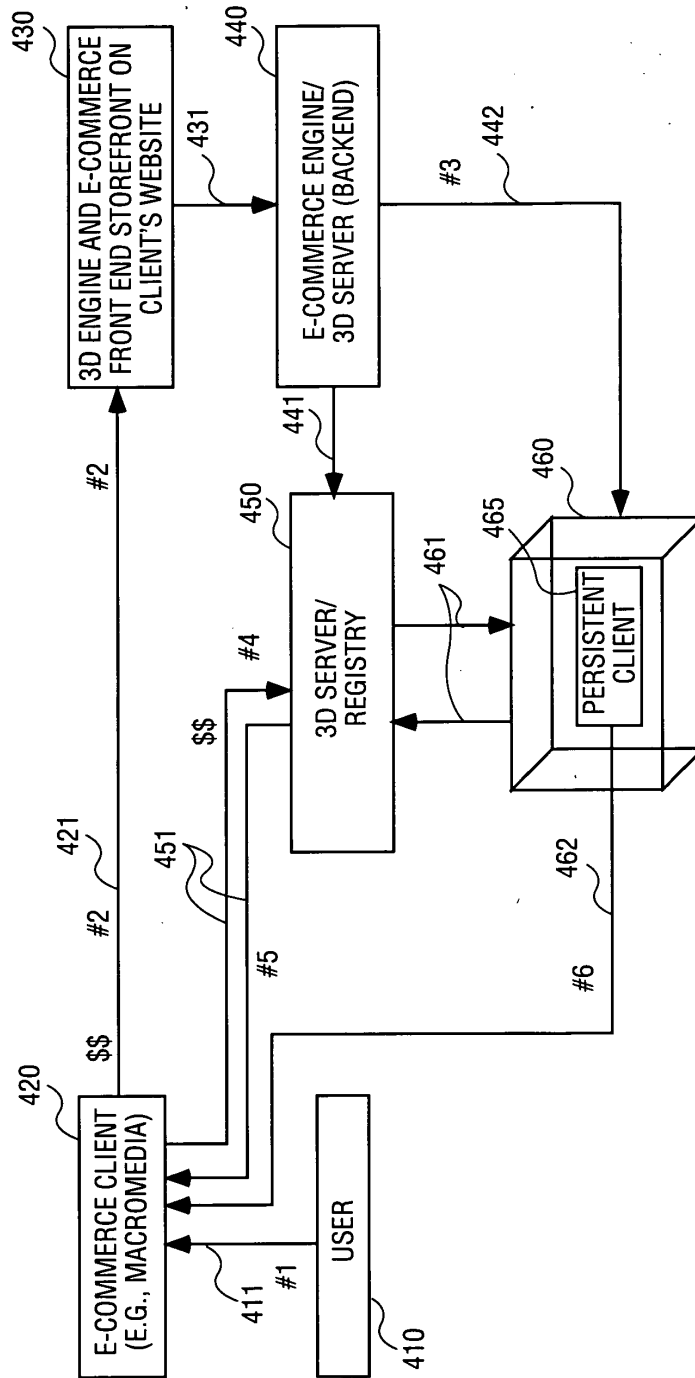


FIG. 4

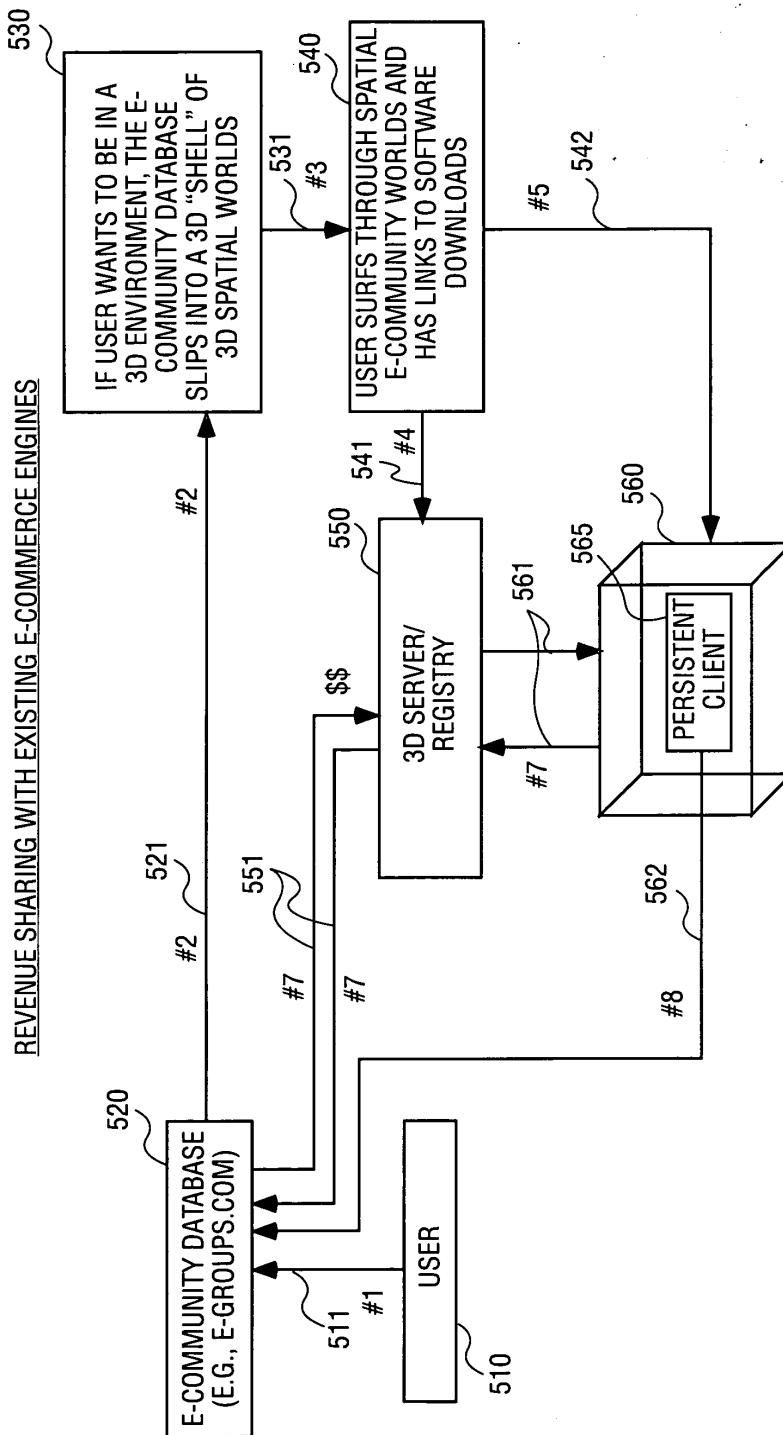


FIG. 5

ESTABLISH PERSISTENT SEARCH ENGINE PRESENCE ON USER DESKTOPS OR OTHER INFORMATION DISPLAY

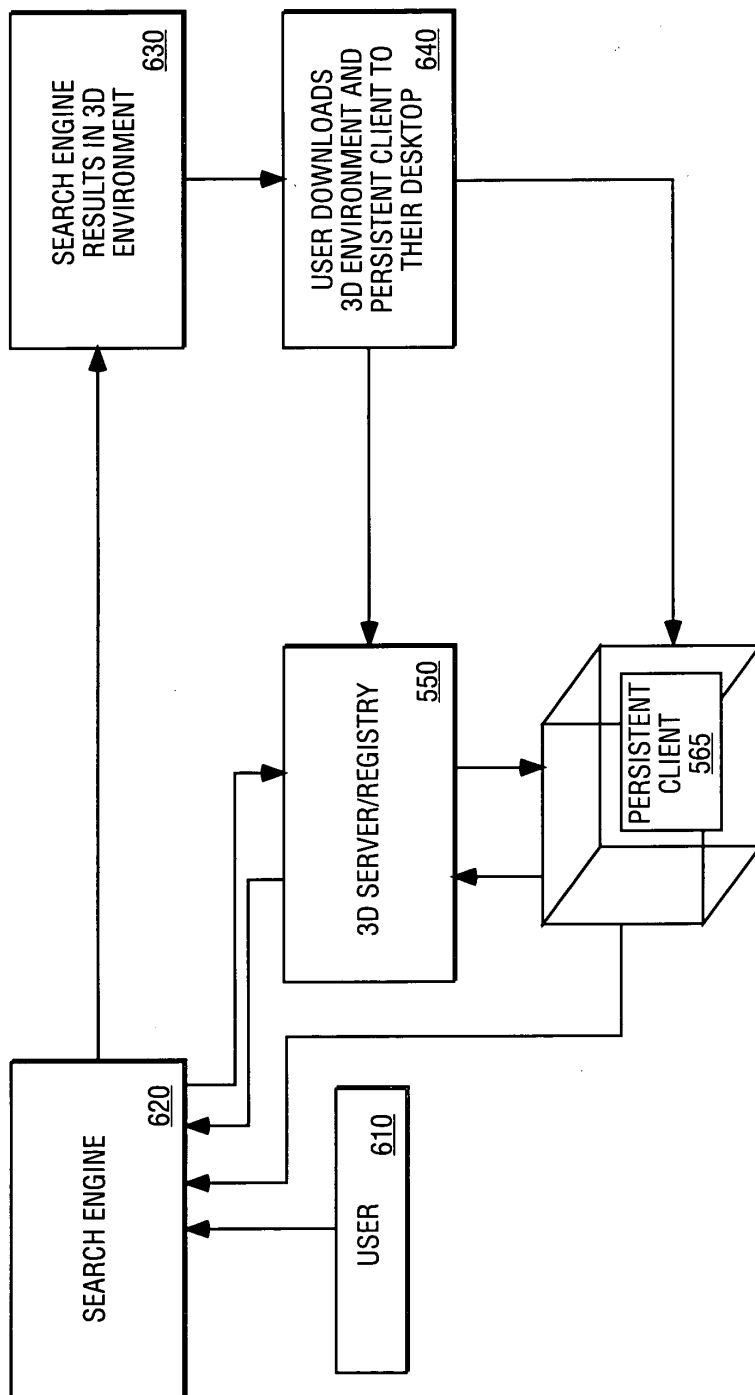


FIG. 6

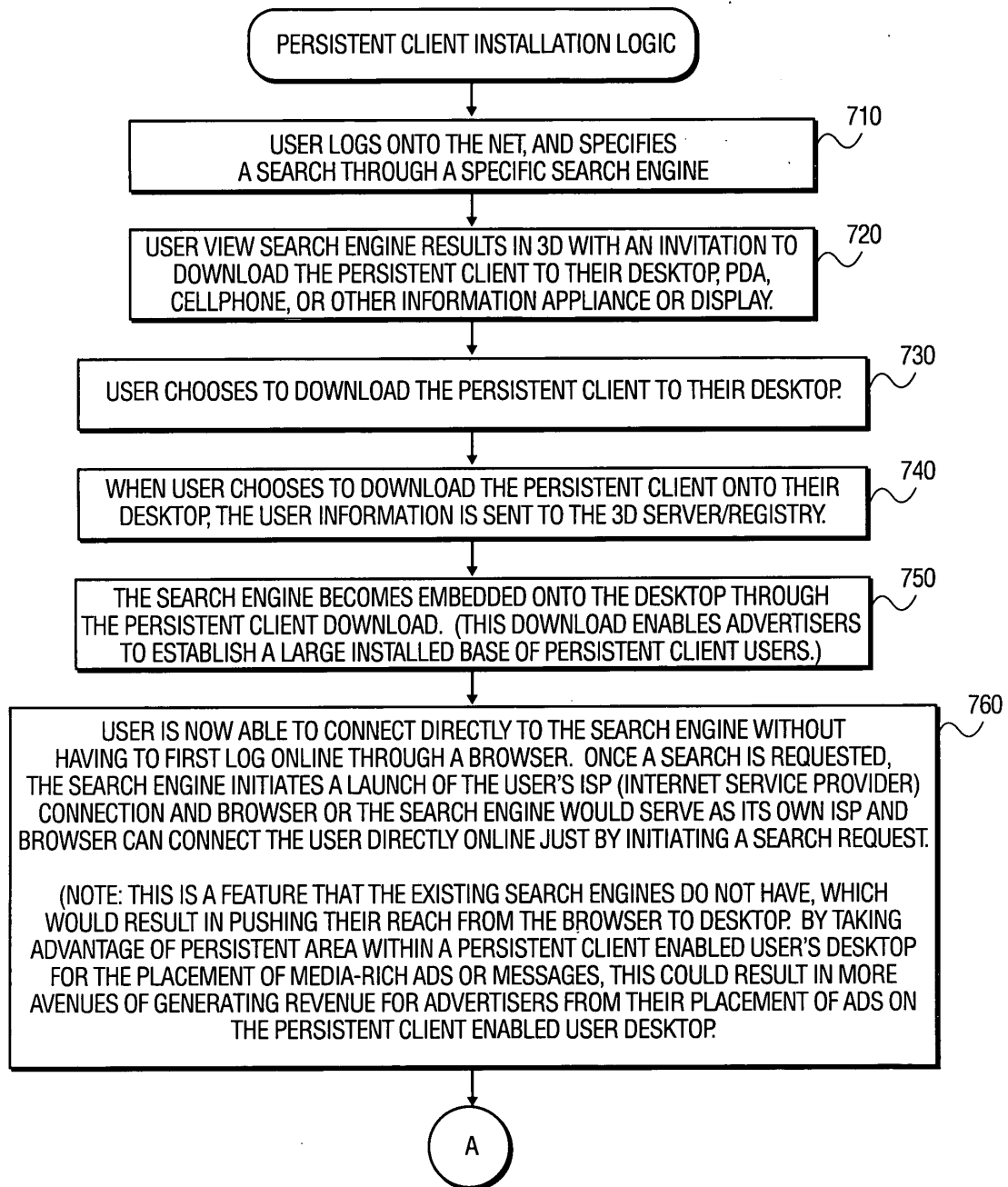


FIG. 7

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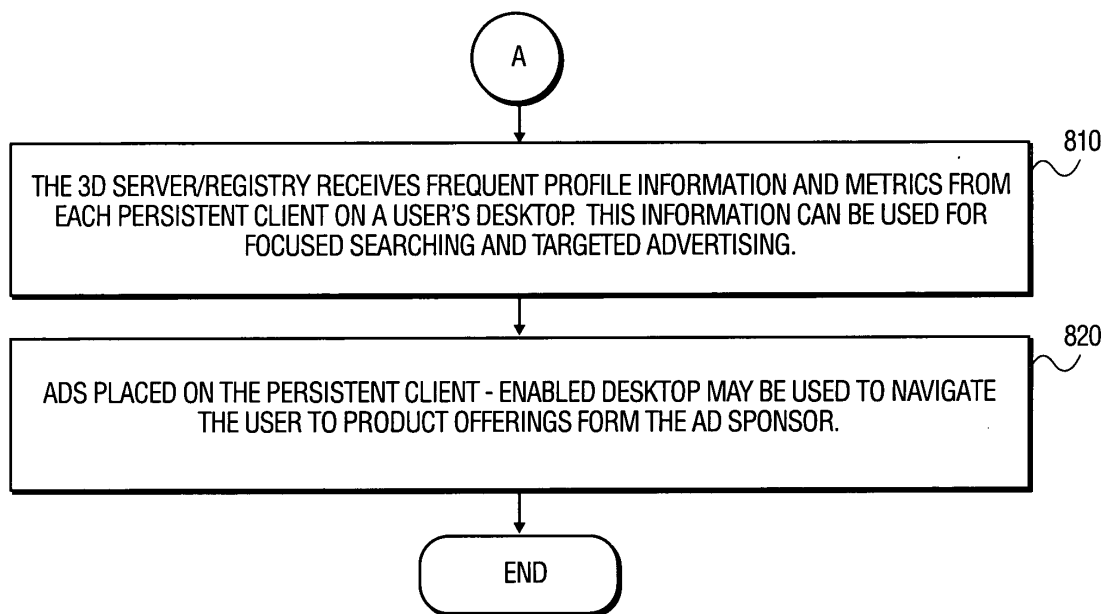


FIG. 8

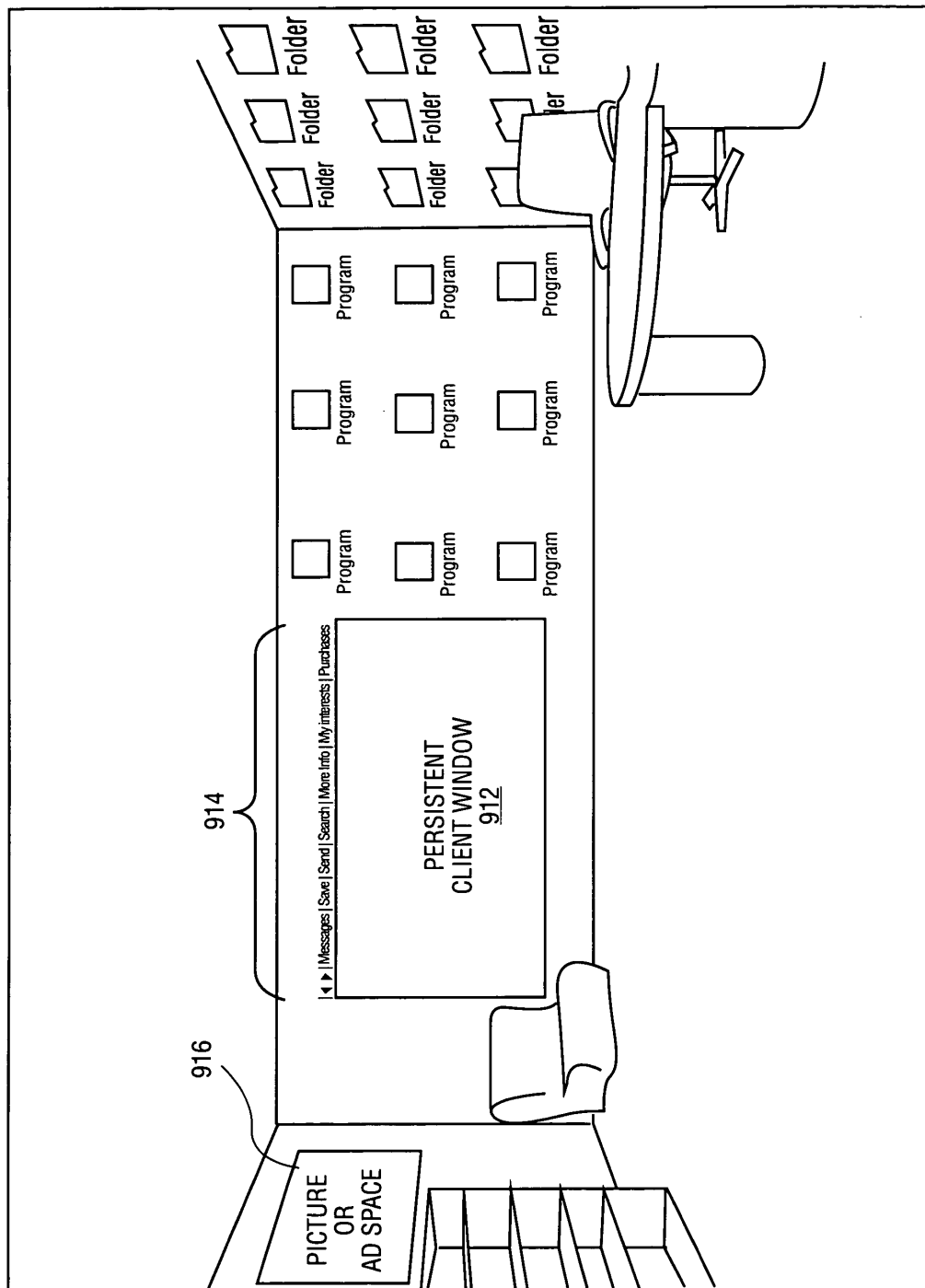


FIG. 9

9/2



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
09/745,257	12/20/2000	Jack D. Robinson	4957P001X

CONFIRMATION NO. 8338

008791

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

FORMALITIES LETTER



OC00000005794818

Date Mailed: 02/23/2001

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is unsigned.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.
- The balance due by applicant is \$ 130.

The application is informal since it does not comply with the regulations for the reason(s) indicated below. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to correct the informalities indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- Substitute drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 because:
 - drawing sheets do not have the appropriate margin(s) (see 37 CFR 1.84(g)). Each sheet must include a top margin of at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a left side margin of at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a right side margin of at least 1.5 cm. (5/8 inch), and a bottom margin of at least 1.0 cm. (3/8 inch);

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

S. Scharf

Customer Service Center
Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202
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PTO/SB/05 (11-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 4957P001X No. of Pages 5, including Fee Transmittal
(maximum 12 characters)
First Named Inventor Jack D. Robinson
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-
DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT
Express Mail Label No. EL 62753 4067 US

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D. C. 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. X **Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)**
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. **Applicant Claims Small Entity Status. (37 CFR 1.27)**
3. X **Specification (Total Pages 39, including cover page)**
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference sequence listing, a table,
or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. X **Drawings(s) (35 USC 113) (Total Sheets 9 sheets of 10 figures)**
5. X **Oath or Declaration (Total Pages 5)**
 - a. Newly Executed (Original or Copy)
 - b. Copy from a Prior Application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for Continuation/Divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - i. **DELETIONS OF INVENTOR(S)** Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2)
and 1.33(b).
 - c. X Unsigned.
6. **Application Data Sheet. (37 CFR 1.76)**
7. CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. paper
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

11/28/00

- 1 -

[illegible]

- 18A. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:**

(which is a ____ continuation/ ____ divisional/ ____ CIP of prior application no. _____,
which is a ____ continuation/ ____ divisional/ ____ CIP of prior application no. _____) (List entire chain of priority)

18B. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) for continuing application:

19. Correspondence Address

- Country
- U.S.A.
- TELEPHONE
- (408) 720-8300
- FAX
- (408) 720-9397

- 2 -

FEE TRANSMITTAL FOR FY 2000									
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)								910.00	
Complete if Known:									
Application No.		Unassigned							
Filing Date		December 20, 2000							
First Named Inventor		Jack D. Robinson							
Group Art Unit		Unassigned							
Examiner Name		Unassigned							
Attorney Docket No.		4957P001X							
METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)									
1. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:									
Deposit Account Number _____									
Deposit Account Name _____									
☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, charge any deficiencies, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account Number 02-2666									
☐ Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.131(b)									
2. ☒ Payment Enclosed									
☒ Two checks in the amounts of \$710.00 and \$160.00									
_____ Money Order									
_____ Other									
FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 10/01/00)									
1. <u>FILING FEE</u>									
<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>							
Fee	Fee	Fee	Fee						
Code	(\$)	Code	(\$)	<u>Fee Description</u>				<u>Fee Paid</u>	
101	710	201	355	Utility application filing fee				<u>710.00</u>	
106	320	206	160	Design application filing fee				_____	
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee				_____	
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee				_____	
114	150	214	75	Provisional application filing fee				_____	
SUBTOTAL (1)								\$	<u>710.00</u>
2. <u>CLAIMS</u>									
				<u>Extra</u>		<u>Fee from below</u>		<u>Fee Paid</u>	
Total Claims		<u>5</u>	- 20 =	<u>0</u>	X	<u>0</u>	=	<u>0</u>	
Independent Claims		<u>5</u>	- 3 =	<u>2</u>	X	<u>80</u>	=	<u>160</u>	
Multiple Dependent Claims				<u>0</u>	X	<u>0</u>	=	<u>0</u>	
<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>							
Fee	Fee	Fee	Fee						
Code	(\$)	Code	(\$)	<u>Fee Description</u>				<u>Fee Paid</u>	
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of twenty				_____	
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3				<u>160.00</u>	
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim				_____	
109	80	209	40	Reissue independent claims over original patent				_____	
110	18	210	9	Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent				_____	
SUBTOTAL (2)								\$	<u>160.00</u>

0945267 122000

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for response within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for response within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for response within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for response within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246	355	For filing a submission after final rejection	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other:					
				SUBTOTAL (3)	\$ 0

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBMITTED BY:

Typed or Printed Name: James H. Salter

Signature

Date

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Reg. Number

35,668

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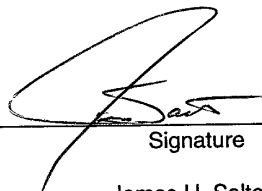
11/08/00

2

REQUEST AND CERTIFICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i)First Named Inventor Jack D. RobinsonTitle SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-
DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTAttorney Docket No. 4957P001X

I hereby certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not be** the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

12/26/00
Date


Signature

James H. Salter
Typed or Printed Name

35.668
Registration No.

This request must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.33(b) and submitted with the application **upon filing**.

Applicant may rescind this nonpublication request at any time. If applicant rescinds a request that an application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b), the application will be scheduled for publication at eighteen months after the earliest claimed filing date for which a benefit is claimed.

If applicant subsequently files an application directed to the invention disclosed in the attached application in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications eighteen months after filing, the applicant **must** notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of such filing within forty-five (45) days after the date of filing of such foreign or international application. **Failure to do so will result in abandonment of this application (35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(iii)).**

Send to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

for

**SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A
NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT**

Inventors:

Jack D. Robinson

Linda R. James

Thomas Alonzo Cardaci, II

Kristin Blandford

prepared by:

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026-1026
(408) 720-8300

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Barbara Skliba

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Barbara Skliba

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

12/20/00

(Date signed)

SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

5

PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a continuation-in-part patent application claiming priority to parent application serial no. 09/686,206, filed October 10, 2000.

10

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention relates to computer interfaces, networking, e-commerce, and configurable websites. More particularly, the field of the invention relates to an improved system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments.

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000237-1554250

15

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20

The computer networks such as the Internet and particularly the World Wide Web (WWW) have developed into a convenient medium by which businesses and consumers alike can sell and purchase goods and services. To facilitate such commercial activity or “electronic commerce”, businesses provide virtual or electronic environments or stores online utilizing web, application and file servers which a customer can then access using a web browser client application. Today, customers can purchase a wide variety of products by interacting with online environments via such web browsers.

25

“Being in” a computing environment is more intuitive and user-friendly than merely “looking into” it. It is far more intuitive, easier and “brain friendly” to comprehend large amounts of data in the form of “visual objects”, particularly three-dimensional (3D) objects.

Accordingly, there is a need for an improved system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments.

[illegible]

[illegible]

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which

5 Figure 1 illustrates a conventional communications network topology in which the present invention may be implemented.

Figure 2a illustrates a conventional data processing system useable with the present invention.

10 Figure 2b illustrates a prior art architecture of the data processing system depicted in Figure 2a.

Figure 3 illustrates a system diagram of the architecture of the 3D computing environment of the present invention.

Figure 4 illustrates the use of the present invention in an e-commerce setting.

Figure 5 illustrates the use of the present invention in an e-community database setting.

15 Figure 6 illustrates the use of the present invention to establish search engine presence on desktop or other information display.

Figures 7-8 are flowcharts illustrating processing logic employed by the present invention.

20 Figure 9 is an example of a user desktop illustrating the presence of the Persistent Client Window.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A computer network-based system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed. In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that these specific details need not be used to practice the present invention. In other circumstances, well-known structures, materials, circuits, processes and interfaces have not been shown or described in detail in order not to unnecessarily obscure the present invention.

Referring now to Figure 1, a diagram illustrates various network topologies to which the present invention may be applied. In conventional network architectures, a server computer system 100 is coupled to a network 110. Using conventional network protocols, server 100 may communicate through network 110 to client computer systems 150 connected through networks 110 and 116 in various ways. For example, client 140 is connected directly to network 110 through direct or dial up telephone or other network transmission line. In an alternative topology, clients 130 may be connected through network 110 using a modem pool 114. A conventional modem pool 114 allows a plurality of client systems to connect with a smaller set of modems in modem pool 114 for connection through network 110. In another alternative network topology, network 110 is connected to a gateway computer 112. Gateway computer 112 is used to route data to clients 120 through network 116. In this manner, clients 120, which may be coupled to network 116 by any of the various practices described above, can communicate with each other through network 116 or with server 100 through gateway 112 and network 110.

Networks 110 and 116 may each be organized as either a wide area network (WAN) covering a large geographic area or a local area network (LAN) which encompasses, by

comparison, a smaller physical region. Wide area networks may include conventional network backbones, long-haul telephone lines, Internet service providers, various levels of network routers, and other conventional means for routing data between computers. Each network 110 and 116 may be private, for use by members of a particular company or organization, in which case the network is described as an intranet, or public, as for example, a portion of the Internet. Complete isolation from other networks or users is not required for a network to be considered an intranet. For example, users within an intranet may be given access to the public Internet through firewall servers that have the ability to screen incoming and outgoing messages so that network security is maintained. Similarly, a portion of an intranet may be made accessible to customers, partners, suppliers or others outside of a company or organization with the resulting network being described as an extranet. In one embodiment, communications network 116 is a wide area network which includes the Internet, or other proprietary networks including America Online™, Compuserve™, Microsoft Network™, and Prodigy™ and communications network 110 is a extranet local area network.

Using one of a variety of network connection means, server computer 100 can communicate with client computers 150 using conventional means. In a particular implementation of this network configuration, a server computer 100 may operate as a web server if the World-Wide Web (WWW) portion of the Internet is used for network 116. Using the HTTP protocol and the HTML or XML coding language across network 116, web server 100 may communicate across the World-Wide Web with clients 120. In this configuration, clients 120 use a client application program known as a web browser such as the Netscape™ Navigator™ formerly published by Netscape Corporation of Mountain View, CA, the Internet Explorer™ published by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington, the user interface of

America Online™, or the web browser or HTML/XML translator of any other well-known supplier. Using such conventional browsers and the World-Wide Web, clients 120 may access image, graphical, audio, and textual data provided by web server 100 or run Web application software. Conventional means exist by which clients 120 may supply information to web server 100 through the World- Wide Web 116 and the web server 100 may return processed data to clients 120.

Having briefly described one embodiment of the network environment in which the present invention operates, Figure 2a illustrates an example of a data processing system 200 illustrating an exemplary client or server computer system in which the features of the present invention may be implemented. As illustrated, data processing or computer system 200 is comprised of a system unit 202, output devices such as display device 204 and printer 210, and input devices such as keyboard 208, and mouse 206. Data processing system 200 receives data for processing by the manipulation of input devices 208 and 206 or directly from fixed or removable media storage devices such as disk 212 and network connection interfaces (not illustrated). Data processing system 200 then processes data and presents resulting output data via output devices such as display device 204, printer 210, fixed or removable media storage devices like disk 212 or network connection interfaces.

Referring now to Figure 2b, there is depicted a high-level block diagram of the components of a data processing system 200 such as that illustrated by Figure 2a. In a conventional computer system, system unit 202 includes a processing device such as processor 220 in communication with main memory 222 which may include various types of cache, random access memory (RAM), or other high-speed dynamic storage devices via a local or system bus 214 or other communication means for communicating data between such devices.

Main memory 222 is capable of storing data as well as instructions to be executed by processor 220 and may be used to store temporary variables or other intermediate information during execution of instructions by processor 220. Computer system 200 also comprises a read only memory (ROM) and /or other static storage device 224 coupled to local bus 214 for storing static information and instructions for processor 220. System unit 202 of data processing system 200 also features an expansion bus 216 providing communication between various devices and devices attached to the system bus 214 via bus bridge 218. A data storage device 228, such as a magnetic disk 212 or optical disk such as a CD-ROM and its corresponding drive may be coupled to data processing system 200 for storing information and instructions via expansion bus 216. Computer system 200 can also be coupled via expansion bus 216 to a display device 204, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT) or a liquid crystal display (LCD), for displaying information to a computer user. For example, image, textual, audio, or graphical depictions of product data and other types of image, graphical, audio, or textual information may be presented to the user on display device 204. Typically, an alphanumeric input device 208, including alphanumeric and other keys, is coupled to bus 216 for communicating information and/or command selections to processor 220. Another type of user input device is cursor control device 206, such as a conventional mouse, trackball, or other type of cursor direction keys for communicating direction information and command selection to processor 220 and for controlling cursor movement on display 204.

Alternatively, the client 150 can be implemented as a network computer or thin client device, such as the WebTV NetworksTM Internet terminal or the OracleTM NC. Client 150 may also be a laptop or palm-top computing device, such as the Palm PilotTM. Client 150 could also be implemented in a robust wireless telephone, where such devices are currently being used with

Internet micro-browsers. Such a network computer or thin client device does not necessarily include all of the devices and features of the above-described exemplary computer system; however, the functionality of the present invention or a subset thereof may nevertheless be implemented with such devices.

5 A communication device 226 is also coupled to bus 216 for accessing remote computers or servers, such as web server 100, or other servers via the Internet, for example. The communication device 226 may include a modem, a network interface card, or other well-known interface devices, such as those used for interfacing with Ethernet, Token-ring, or other types of networks. In any event, in this manner, the computer system 200 may be coupled to a number of
10 servers 100 via a network infrastructure such that illustrated in Figure 1 and described above.

15 The system of the present invention includes software, information processing hardware, and various processing steps, which will be described below. The features and process steps of the present invention may be embodied in machine or computer executable instructions embodied within media such as disk 212. The instructions can be used to cause a general purpose or special purpose processor, which is programmed with the instructions to perform the steps of the present invention. Alternatively, the features or steps of the present invention may be performed by specific hardware components that contain hard-wired logic for performing the steps, or by any combination of programmed computer components and custom hardware components. While embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the
20 World-Wide Web, the method and apparatus described herein is equally applicable to other network infrastructures or other data communications systems.

 The present invention is a system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments. An introduction to the concept of the present

invention is presented below followed by a detailed description of the architecture and processes of the present invention.

When a conventional computer user turns his or her computer on, he or she sees a flat desktop computing environment with icons on the glass surface of the monitor; currently, no one “owns” the computer desktop or has done much with the desktop other than simple screen savers. The present invention improves this desktop computing environment by creating a 3D visual interface for computing environments. With the interface of the present invention, a user turns his or her computer on and the monitor immediately displays the computer desktop as a 360°, 3-Dimensional room “inside” of the monitor – a 3D computing environment. Looking at a 3D-enabled computer, the user will be looking into a computing “room” – a room with depth and dimensions, not a flat glass surface. Standard computer icons, that would normally reside only on the 2D flat glass surface of the monitor, can be spatially placed anywhere in the 3D environment.

For example, the user may want to place the desktop icons on the left wall of his or her 3D computing room (the 3D desktop) and by merely moving the cursor or computer mouse the user can quickly navigate to those icons as easily as he or she can navigate around any physical room. There can be pictures on the walls of the 3D environment computing room displaying family members, advertisements, or other messages. The user can configure his 3D environment to have a desk, file cabinets, fax machine, telephone, calendar and other standard “office room” objects inside his 3D computing environment. Teenagers may want their 3D computing environment to look like a living room or a bedroom; and, as an extension of Instant Messaging and chat, they may want to invite their friends to enter into their 3D environment computing room to chat, or listen to the same music together. Companies may want to use a 3D

environment as a tool their customers can download for product updates, sales and marketing, etc. Schools may want to use a 3D environment for remote learning – turn on the computer and use the 3D environment of the desktop as a representation of the classroom, the library, or the school bookstore.

5 In our physical world, we are accustomed to entering into “rooms” (whether it be the office, the living room, the store, the bedroom, etc.). The present invention makes the computer a more user-friendly and intuitive environment by turning the computer desktop into a “room” that its users can enter.

10 The 3D Desktop of the present invention can replace the boring, one or two-dimensional computer desktop with a web enabled, customizable, media rich environment. This environment can take the appearance of a room, a neighborhood, city or landscape. It can play music, video and animation as well as supporting real three-dimensional objects. New items can be added to the desktop via a simple drag and drop interface. Users can change colors and materials in the scene via the same drag and drop interface. The desktop supports all web functions including email and buddy list interactivity.

15 In order to illustrate the advantages of the present invention, several scenarios are presented below. These scenarios illustrate the application of the present invention to real-world situations.

Scenario One

20 A company employs the present invention on their corporate intranet. Each employee now has, via the 3D interface, an office with direct links to the employee manual, standard forms, a 3D campus map locator system, company news, etc. An associate two buildings over can make a virtual visit by asking for entry to another employee's room. This can also be a

mechanism for limited file sharing. Company meetings and presentations can be held, on the desktop, in a virtual 3D Conference Room. The special virtual telephone dialing pad allows users to make free Internet calls.

5 Scenario Two

 A furniture company employs the present invention on their website. They provide the 3D computing environment of the present invention free to their clients via their web site. Their version allows users to re-configure the shape and height of their rooms as well as to manipulate colors of walls, ceilings, floors etc. A special utility allows users to add their own photos to window frames to simulate the view from their window. The furniture company makes their entire furniture line available to drag and drop into the scene so that prospective purchasers can see how the furniture works in their own home. When invited, a 3D environment character visits the users room to offer advise on assembly of the new furniture and introduces a video tutorial, which streams video assembly instructions into the space. In this scenario, the furniture company is not only branding users, but they are also building client satisfaction and reducing their customer support expenses. When the user has added furniture into the room to their satisfaction, they could then purchase the selected furniture. This makes the room similar to an e-commerce shopping cart. User interactions within the room can also be tracked including how long they visited the space, what they looked at and for how long. This data can then be used for profiling user preferences and in focused marketing.

Scenario Three

25 A toy company employs the present invention on their website. They are using it as a free, downloadable doll house on the toy company's web site. Little girls can have their home

computer look like a doll house. They can navigate from room to room. They can add furniture and re-arrange it as they choose. They can modify the color of the walls as well as the sofa. The latest doll or action figure and its accessories are also in the house. The toy company's music channel is playing on the tiny radio. A toy TV displays the latest in the toy company's doll fashions. Of course, the toy company has its logo branding and advertisements within the doll house. Friends, sales people and customer service representatives can visit and interact with the user in the space. An object moved by one person is seen by all.

Net-Based Architecture of the Present Invention

The 3D computing environment concept of the present invention employing a three-dimensional user interface allows for extrapolation into the possibilities of networked "rooms." The initial architecture described below reflects one possible embodiment for introducing linked "rooms", using the Internet as the network of choice.

The Internet-based architecture of the 3D computing environment of the present invention (hereafter referred to as "network-enabled 3D computing environment") consists of a number of conceptual objects: the user, the Internet, the server, the search engine, and the registry. Referring to Figure 3, each of these objects are described in more detail below.

The user object 310 contains everything that happens at a single computer, manned by a human who connects to the Internet. The Internet object 320 contains everything that is served to the user by the server. The server object 330 contains everything needed to serve up webpages and/or applications to the network-enabled 3D computing environment-enabled user.

The search engine 340 is a special case of the standard search engine: it is a search engine enabled for the network-enabled 3D computing environment. The registry object 350 is a database that distributes and tracks the network-enabled 3D computing environment visual

objects, stores objects to be downloaded to the user object 310 and the network-enabled 3D computing environment, and contains software updates for the network-enabled 3D computing environment's structured software developer's kits (SDKs) 312.

5 **User Object**

The user object contains four components in one embodiment of the present invention:

3D Desktop: The 3D desktop 314 is the 3D interface of the present invention. It is a three-dimensional user interface, allowing the user to navigate their computer's contents with ease. The network-enabled 3D computing environment extends this 3D paradigm, to allow the user to connect to the Internet, and view it as a series of three-dimensional objects, some of which will be represented as two-dimensional (or "flat") interfaces. The present invention's 3D Desktop includes a quick-to-download software file that converts the user's conventional 2D desktop into a 3D "room" environment. The present invention's 3D desktop is easy to configure, and allows the user to place standard icons within a 360° spatial environment.

Repository: The repository 316 is a database containing all the graphical objects used for three-dimensional representation to the 3D desktop. It includes objects downloaded from the Internet 320, updates from the registry 350, and user-defined objects.

SDK: The SDK 312 allows the user to create 3D-enabled applications, as well as new graphical objects for the user's 3D interface. Once again, the network-enabled 3D computing environment becomes an add-on to the standard user SDK 312.

Interpreter: The interpreter 318 is a utility that is specific to the network-enabled 3D computing environment. It allows the 3D desktop 314 to interpret incoming data from the Internet 320, for presentation to the desktop 314. This includes: applications 326 and webpages

324 specifically enabled for the 3D environment, applications 328 and webpages 322 not enabled for the 3D environment, and standard industry plug-ins (such as RealAudio, Flash, etc.). It is assumed that the interpreter will have increasing functionality for handling plug-ins in a fashion that makes sense in the 3D paradigm. The interpreter 318 can also be used to sort through 3D-specific functionality in the plug-ins produced by various major players in the plug-in industry.

Internet Object

The Internet object 320 contains four components in one embodiment of the present invention:

Flat Webpages: The standard webpage 322 currently only possesses functionality to be perceived in a flat context. The interpreter can convert these webpages 322, on the fly, to three-dimensional functionality.

Flat Applications: Most network-aware applications 328, whether they exist on a webpage or off, are not currently enabled for 3D functionality. This includes Macromedia Director, Microsoft Outlook, etc.

3D Webpages: In one embodiment of the present invention, the 3D computing environment uses an XML-based markup language, easily embedded in XHTML or XML webpages, that allows a webpage to be simultaneously delivered as a flat webpage to standard browsers, or as a three-dimensional webpage to interpreters 318 of the present invention. This extended markup language allows users to develop 3D webpages 324 free from any additional authoring tools, although such authoring tools could be included in the SDK 312 for ease of use.

3D-Enabled Applications: Applications 328 built by other corporations can also use the extended markup language of the present invention to make their tools 3D-enabled. By hosting

standard markup language libraries at the registry 350, corporations could add to the markup language in an extensible, standardized fashion. In this fashion, corporations can deliver their tools to both a three-dimensional audience and a flat audience.

5 **Server Object**

The network-enabled 3D computing environment server contains two components in one embodiment of the present invention:

The network-enabled 3D computing environment Server: Since regular web servers may or may not handle all the protocols needed to deliver 3D desktop objects, a 3D net-enabled webserver add-on 334 is required. Add-ons can be easily written for Apache, Frontpage, and other servers. This additional utility would allow the server to recognize and handle the network-enabled 3D computing environment.

The Server Maintenance System and Database: Any network-enabled 3D computing environment server should include a system to communicate with the registry 350, allowing for periodic updates to the network-enabled 3D computing environment-based protocols, as well as increasing the library of graphical objects that could be stored on the server 330. By storing the objects on the server 330, the SDK 312 could be used by users to automatically generate 3D-enabled webpages without having the SDK on their desktop.

20 **Search Engine**

Searching the World Wide Web is currently accomplished by flat interfaces. This limits the three-dimensional experience of the 3D computing environment, especially because searching is one of the primary activities of online “surfing”. To this end, the present invention

includes a three-dimensional search interface. Alternately, the present invention can modify existing search engines to use the extended markup language to produce their own 3D-enabled pages.

5 **Registry**

10 The registry 350 can act as both a community focus for the network-enabled 3D computing environment and a net-based repository for 3D graphical objects and extensions to the conventional markup language. From this registry 350, new objects can be served to the desktop 314 for specific users, updates to the 3D desktop software can be passed to the user, advertising hits can be tallied, etc. The possibilities for enabling the 3D desktop 314 to communicate with the registry 350 are numerous.

15 **E-Commerce System**

20 The present invention's e-commerce system 360 takes advantage of key areas of a user's 3D computing desktop environment that are reserved for placing messages and advertisements from commercial clients. When used with the infrastructure of e-commerce systems and the present invention's registry 350, the present invention's always-present availability on a user's desktop 314 can enable additional opportunities for e-commerce.

25 **Financial Services System**

30 The Financial Services system 370 of the present invention applies more advanced features, such as: (1) for use in Corporate Intranets; (2) as a tool for Retail Financial Planners and Institutional Financial Services users to more efficiently process data and make more

informed decisions; and (3) to conduct additional transactions in less time. This gives retail customers a more intuitive tool to interact with the data they receive from financial institutions, and to conduct banking and other financial transactions online.

5 **Extensions of the Present Invention**

10 The network-enabled 3D computing environment of the present invention has several extensions, including: the introduction of real-time *avatars*. Avatars are virtual representations of users, allowing them to interact with other users across a network. The ability to create an interactive online community is very powerful. Such a utility would allow for intra- and inter-company meetings, the extension of the online communities which exist today, virtual concerts, online games, etc. Other uses of avatars with the present invention are described herein in a subsequent section.

15 Companies such as id Software (the makers of Quake), Blizzard North (the makers of Diablo), and others have explored limited avatar use with startling results. The Diablo server had, at one point, over 320,000 simultaneous connections. The present invention can be used with this conventional technology to create a population of network-enabled 3D computing systems, with people interacting in virtual cafés, offices, showrooms, etc. The network-enabled 3D computing environment allows for the creation of a cyberspace experience previously only available in science fiction.

20 Referring now to Figures 4 and 5, the structure and processes provided and enabled by the present invention are illustrated. In Figure 4, the present invention provides a structure and process for enabling existing two-dimensional e-commerce engines to employ the three-dimensional computing environment in an e-commerce setting. In Figure 5, the present

invention provides a structure and process for enabling existing two-dimensional e-community databases to employ the three-dimensional computing environment in an e-community database setting.

Referring to Figure 4, the use of the present invention in an e-commerce setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 4, a user 410 accesses a public network such as the Internet and logs onto a business website to order software. Such business websites are common on the Internet (Example: Macromedia). It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many e-commerce websites exist on the Internet through which software may be ordered and purchased. The user 410 access to a networked e-commerce website 420 is illustrated in Figure 4 with an arrow 411. In this example of the present invention in an e-commerce context, the webpage accessed by user 410 appears as any typical webpage provided by the particular e-commerce provider 420. However, by previous agreement between a provider of the present invention and the e-commerce provider 420, the user 410 access and request for purchase to e-commerce client 420 causes the e-commerce client 420 software to make an access to a 3D engine and e-commerce front end store front 430 on e-commerce client website 420. This access 421 to the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 is not apparent to user 410. However, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 drive the e-commerce transaction with user 410. Thus, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 processes the user 410 order and downloads the requested or purchased software to the user's client machine 460. Because 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 controls the order processing and download transaction with user 410, the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 may append a persistent 3D environment client kernel 465 to the software requested or purchased by user 410. Thus, the user 410 requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment persistent kernel 465 is downloaded to client

machine 460 as shown in Figure 4 by arrows 431 and 442. When user 410 installs the downloaded software on client machine 460, the persistent 3D kernel is automatically installed on the user's desktop environment at client machine 460. Following the downloading of the requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment Persistent Client kernel 465, e-commerce engine component 440 automatically notifies the 3D environment server 450 via interface 441. In this manner, the 3D environment server is now aware of the identity and/or location of a client machine 460 to which the persistent 3D kernel 465 has been downloaded. Upon automatic installation of the 3D Persistent Client kernel 465, the user is given a demonstration of the 3D environment software and given the choice to activate a full three-dimensional computing environment on the user's desktop at client machine 460. If the user 410 chooses not to activate the 3D computing environment, the 3D environment Persistent Client 465 nevertheless remains active in an unobtrusive two-dimensional persistent window on the user's desktop for the delivery of advertisement or messages to the user's desktop. As such, the present invention provides a persistent presence on the user's desktop for the placement of advertising, messages, or the gathering of information about the user for the benefit of the e-commerce engine 440 with which the present invention has been connected. Because the three-dimensional environment server 450 was advised by component 440 of the download of the persistent kernel 465 to client system 460, the 3D server 450 may keep a registry of such downloads along with corresponding user profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. This registry and associated user information can be made accessible to the e-commerce client 420 via interface 451 with 3D server 450. In this manner, the e-commerce supplier 420 can thereby obtain information about users of the e-commerce site via 3D server and registry 450. Because the present invention through 3D server 450 can provide e-commerce client 420 with a wealth of information about

particular users, the e-commerce client 420 may generate targeted advertising or product offerings for particular client machines 460. In this manner, the present invention becomes a valuable information link between Internet e-commerce suppliers and e-commerce consumers.

Referring to Figure 5, the use of the present invention in an e-community database setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 5, a user 510 may access the public network, such as the Internet, and log into a conventional e-community database 520 (such as e-groups.com). Once the user has accessed the e-community database, the user typically navigates to a particular selected area of interest, as provided by the conventional e-community database technology. For example, the user 510 may navigate to a special interest area related to, for example, photography. By prior agreement between the e-community database provider and the provider of the technology of the present invention, the e-community database website can be augmented to include a user interface for the selection and activation of a three-dimensional version of the e-community database. Using this interface, user 510 may activate a 3D version of the e-community database 520. As a result of this activation, the e-community database website communicates with a three-dimensional environment spatial shell component 530. Three-dimensional shell component 530 includes a three-dimensional spatial representation of the two-dimensional environment previously provided by e-community database 520. Instead of viewing email text, photos, or objects in a flat two-dimensional environment, the user can now move through the e-community database 520 in a three-dimensional computing environment, interacting with others, and viewing the content of the e-community database 520 in a compelling three-dimensional environment. In this environment, visual real estate is created and the user experiences a sensation of sharing a physical three-dimensional space with other users. In this three-dimensional spatial environment, advertising and other paid messages can be placed

and directed specifically to those interest area users. At block 540 in Figure 5, the user may navigate through the three-dimensional spatial e-community worlds and link to other sites and/or perform software downloads via interface 542 to the client machine 560. Once in the three-dimensional computing environment enabled e-community database, user 510 has an option to download the three-dimensional environment software to the desktop of his or her client machine 560. As a result of this download, the three-dimensional environment server 550 is notified of the client download via interface 541. In this manner, the three-dimensional server 550 and the registry contained therein is informed of the three-dimensional software download to a client machine 560 and may keep track of the location and/or identity of the user who has downloaded and installed the three-dimensional computing environment software. Email or software downloads from the e-community database 520 to its users will include a link to initiate the downloading of a three-dimensional environment Persistent Client kernel 565 to the desktop on the client machine 560. In this manner, the e-community database provider 520 retains a persistent presence for a three-dimensional computing environment on client computer 560. Again, as described above, this Persistent Client kernel 565 may be used to obtain client information such as profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. which can be retained in the registry of 3D server 550. This user information retained in the registry of 3D server 550 may be accessed and used by the e-community database provider 520 via interface 551. In this manner, e-community database provider 520 may employ targeted advertising, targeted information publications, links, or other information particularly relevant to individual client machines 560.

Referring to Figures 6-8, the present invention is used to install a Persistent Client on a user desktop and to embed a particular desired search engine on the desktop. As shown in Figure 6, the user 610 interacts with a search engine 620 to obtain search engine results 630 which are

rendered in the 3D environment of the present invention described above. In a manner described in more detail in Figures 7 and 8, the user downloads the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client of the present invention to the user desktop.

Referring to Figures 7 and 8, the Persistent Client and search engine installation logic of the present invention is illustrated. In a first step, a user logs onto a network and specifies a search through a specific search engine using conventional technology. (Block 710). Next, the user views the search engine results through a three-dimensional rendering interface. Additionally, the user receives an invitation from the present invention to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client of the present invention to their user desktop, personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone, or other information appliance or display device. (Block 720). Next, user may choose to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client to their user desktop. (Block 730). When the user chooses to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client onto their desktop, the user information is sent to the 3D server/registry 550. (Block 740). As a result of the user choosing to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client, the previously specified search engine becomes embedded onto the user's desktop through the download of the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client (i.e., the search engine has been pushed from the internet portal to the user's desktop). The name of the particular search engine (For Links there to) is placed within a toolbar of the Persistent Client window or in a separate area on the user's desktop, which can be accessed prior to being connected to a browser or portal. This download enables advertisers to establish a large installed base of Persistent Client users. (Block 750). Once the search engine, three dimensional environment and Persistent Client are installed on the user's desktop, the user is now able to connect directly to the search engine without

having to first log on through a browser. Once a search is requested, the search engine initiates a launch of the user's Internet service provider (ISP) connection and browser or the search engine can serve as its own ISP and browser and initiate a connection for the user directly online just by initiating a search request. This feature of the present invention enables advertisers to take advantage of the Persistent Client on the user's desktop for the placement of advertising or messages. (Block 760).

Referring to Figure 8, in a next step, the 3D server/registry 550 receives frequent profile information and metrics from each Persistent Client 565 on a user's desktop. This information can be used for focused searching and targeted advertising specific for a particular user. (Block 810). Subsequent advertising placed on the Persistent Client-enabled desktop may be used to enable a user to navigate to product offerings offered from the advertisement sponsor. (Block 820).

When the user turns his computer on, the present invention displays a spatial 3D environment that can be navigated 360 degrees from left to right. When the user logs onto an intranet or internet system, the present invention will go to a server that contains advertisements or messages that can be downloaded and buffered onto the user's computer. The computer will periodically display a different advertisement or message within the Persistent Client Window per a predefined cycling period for rotating the advertisements or messages that are being displayed. When the computer system detects that the user does not have an application window open that covers the user's viewing of the Persistent Client Window or that only the user's computer desktop is being displayed, it will continue to display advertisements or messages within the Persistent Client Window that are being cycled from its buffer. In this way, when the user first turns the computer on, the computer will automatically display an advertisement or

message in the Persistent Client Window and it will periodically display other advertisements or messages to the user as long as the Persistent Client Window can be displayed or while the enter desktop is being displayed. When the user opens an application program that overlaps and covers the display of the Persistent Client Window, the advertisement or message that is currently being displayed will remain in the Persistent Client Window until the user closes the application software and returns back to the desktop (or reduces the display of the application software so that the Persistent Client Window can be viewed) and at that time a new advertisement or message will appear in the Persistent Client Window to be viewed by the user. In this manner, while the user is offline, the present invention will allow for the display of many different advertisements or messages in the Persistent Client Window that are retrieved from its buffer and rotated one after the other over a predefined cycling period, as long as the Persistent Client Window can be fully viewed. The user also has the ability to advance forward or backward in retrieving and viewing these advertisements or messages that are stored in buffer by use of the "previous" or "next" icons that located on the toolbar of the Persistent Client Window.

When the user logs online, the present invention retrieves additional advertisements and messages from a server and stores them in buffer for the present and future cycling or display of those advertisements or messages in the Persistent Client Window to the user.

If, while the user is offline and not connected to the internet, the user clicks onto an advertisement or message within the Persistent Client Window, the present invention will launch a program to log the user online for connection to the internet, if additional information is to be retrieved by the present invention from a remote server.

Features of the Persistent Client Window of the Present Invention

Figure 9 illustrates one example of a user desktop 910 with a Persistent Client Window 912.

The Persistent Client Window 912 includes a toolbar 914 at the top, which lists features that the user can use to interact with or through the Persistent Client 565. Clicking on these items enable the features such as those that are described below:

MESSAGES:

The ability to send and receive

audio/text/graphic/video/photographic/facsimile messages to/from other users of the Persistent Client Window system.

SAVE/BOOKMARK:

The ability to bookmark and save favorite advertisements or messages that are being displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912 for future retrieval.

← →

The ability to scroll to previous or next advertisements or messages to appear within the Persistent Client Window 912.

20 **SEND:**

The ability to send the information being displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912 to another viewer's Persistent Client Window by sending an e-mail:

(1) By clicking onto the “send” button, an e-mail window would appear and the user can insert the e-mail address of the recipient. Once the recipient retrieves and opens the e-mail, the advertisement or message would be shown as a link that when clicked on will be retrieved from a central server and simultaneously displayed in the recipient’s Persistent Client Window 912, as well as in the viewer’s standard e-mail display or desktop.

(2) The information can also be sent directly from the Persistent Client Window 912 user to the Persistent Client Window system address of the recipient and would appear in the Persistent Client Window message box of the recipient. This means of messaging is internal to the users of the Persistent Client Window system.

SEARCH:

The ability to define general areas of interest or specific information that can be searched directly from a local server or from other servers on a network for advertisements, messages, etc., that have been previously displayed or formatted to be displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

MORE INFO:

The ability to send a message back to the source of the advertisement/message/host that you want more information to be sent to you on what is being shown in the Persistent Client Window 912 or that you want someone to contact you with more information. Your contact details (e-mail, telephone numbers, etc.) will be forwarded back to the source or host of the advertisement/message.

YOUR INTEREST:

The ability to define and select the types of advertisements, messages or other information that the user wants to see displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

PURCHASE:

The ability to initiate purchase of whatever is being displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

Advertisements, messages, pictures, video and other information or data contained within the Persistent Client Window 912 can be moved to the desktop and vice versa through conventional drag-and-drop procedures.

The present invention includes functionality to place 2D or "3D/spatial" advertisements, promotions, or messages in the Persistent Client Window 912 that, when clicked on by a user/viewer, will activate full or partial-screen interactive 3D virtual reality environment advertisements that can also be equipped with e-commerce capabilities, such as links to product/service ordering websites. As shown in Figure 9, a portion 916 of the persistent client desktop environment 910 is allocated for the positioning of 2D or 3D advertisements,

10 pictures, promotions, or messages. In a configuration mode, a user can use conventional drag
& drop user interface techniques to position a desired advertisement in region 916.
Subsequently, a user/viewer can view the advertisement in region 916 and select a portion of
the advertisement or a related link by clicking on a portion of region 916 using a
5 conventional mouse. Upon selection of the region 916, an expanded view of the
advertisement is presented. Upon activation of a related link provided within region 916, the
user is taken to a related website where an e-commerce transaction corresponding to the
advertisement may be initiated.

10 The present invention provides this virtual reality (VR) environment for a client, who
can use the "drag and drop", easy-to-configure nature of the environment provided by the
present invention to allow users on their website to customize a spatial environment with a
new line of products they had created for the environment. Further, the present invention can
be used to embed a similar VR/spatial environment behind a static or dynamic two
dimensional (2D) advertisement that is placed in the Persistent Client window 912. For
15 example, a 3D or 2D advertisement may be positioned in the Persistent Client window 912.
When this advertisement is selected by a user/viewer clicking on it, the advertisement
enlarges into a partial or full-screen VR/spatial environment that the user can move through
spatially and take advantage of the media-enriched features of the advertisement.

20 As an example of this functionality of the present invention, refer again to Figure 9. As
shown in Figure 9, the Persistent Client Window 912 is shown. An advertisement may be placed
in the Persistent Client Window 912. When a user clicks on the advertisement, the
advertisement increases in size to partially or completely fill the screen of the computer monitor.
The advertisement may be rendered as a 2D or 3D image. If the advertisement is a 3D VR

environment, the user can click onto an avatar section of the advertisement and choose a virtual body (avatar) that will be the identification or representation of the user's presence in the 3D advertisement VR environment. The user can then virtually walk around that advertisement, meet other virtual users who have entered into the collaborative VR advertisement in the same way from their own computer desktops. The virtual users can converse with each other about the content of the advertisement. This virtual conversation can be implemented by capturing conversational input typed or spoken into the computer system of each participating user in the virtual space. The conversation is rendered to other participating users via conventional displayed text blocks or spoken audio played through a computer audio system. A typical conversation between virtual users may proceed as follows. ("Have you tried this product that's being advertised?" "Yes, I have ... it's great. I bought it at ..." "What have you used it for?" "I've used it for doing, but I was talking with another person in this advertisement and she was telling me that she uses it for, I think I'll give that a try." "Thanks for the advice. I think I'll buy this product and give that a try too. By the way, does the manufacturer have other products like this?")

The sponsor of the advertisement can have virtual representatives (corporate avatars) within those VR advertisement environments to meet users (their targeted audience members that are now inside of their VR advertisement), to lead one-on-one or group discussions, answer any questions, share any additional information or promotional input, etc.

Using the present invention, it is also possible to develop e-communities around VR advertisement environments, in much the same way as e-communities have developed around corporate stock information sites (like www.ragingbull.com) where individuals can interact with others that share their same interests. In the example of the stock information sites, the interest

would be that particular stock or anything that has an affect on that stock's price. In our VR advertisement environments, the interest area would be in whatever the advertisement is promoting.

Advertisers strive to achieve maximum stickiness to their advertisement placements on the Internet. Advertisement placement on TV and radio lasts just a few seconds, but the sponsors hope that viewers will remember the advertisement message long afterwards. A VR advertisement as described herein can be used to create a community of viewers that stay within the advertisement environment for a significantly longer period (i.e., achieve a higher level of stickiness) than can be achieved by TV, radio or print advertisements. In this way, the present invention can provide advertisers a means to extend their "stickiness" and branding. The present invention can also provide users a means to participate in a community of other users with the same interests.

The present invention includes the ability for users to leave the "communal" nature of an interactive multi-user VR advertisement environment to customize a "private" or "user-customized" version of the VR advertisement environment on their own desktop. For example, the advertisement sponsor may have objects, textures or colors in a toolbar or other section of the advertisement that the user can drag and drop to customize that VR advertisement environment. The user can jump back into the "communal" VR advertisement environment to interact with others, wherein any customization of that communal environment is controlled by the advertisement sponsor or its representatives. Somewhere within that "communal" advertisement environment, the present invention provides a section showing e-mailed text communications between the users in that environment. A user can also invite others to leave that "communal" environment and come into his/her own "individually-customized" version of the VR

advertisement environment and that user can control who can enter that personal/individually-customized environment. Communication between these virtual users can be with graphics, text, voice, pictures, video or other data. The multi-user VR advertisement environments described herein can also be applied to advertisement areas in websites, portals, search engines results and other pages displayed on intranet and internet environments.

Use of Avatars in the 3D User Interface Environment

The present invention can be used to add a whole new level to the "focused marketing" approach of advertisers and e-tailers. As commonly known, advertising on the net has become ubiquitous through the use of banner advertisements, pop up windows, etc. The present invention enables a next generation in online/desktop interfaces. The 3D user interface of the present invention can be augmented to use specially designed avatars as a vehicle for advertisement delivery. As a user navigates through the virtual 3D landscape, certain use patterns or information from the 3D server/registry database triggers a targeted message to be delivered through the use of a 3D character (avatar). The Persistent Client module on the user's database can be used to capture the user's use pattern and other information, which is sent to and retained by the 3D server/registry. The avatar can engage the user in chat to deliver the advertiser's message, perhaps acquire more data through questions that could be asked of the user, and then present the user with interactive options to engage them further, if they are interested. This approach enables one to capitalize on the use of recognizable characters (i.e. corporate mascots) to 1) enrich the user's experience and 2) reinforce the message of the advertiser through further branding. In some instances, something as simple as the clothing style

of the avatar can be used to make a connection with the user. Some examples of how this can be implemented follow.

Scenario A

A sports fan exits a "room" where he/she has previously been engaged in a multi user chat with other sports fans on the topic of their favorite basketball team, the Golden State Warriors. Through the 3D interface of the present invention, the users have been swapping their favorite images of team members using conventional peer-to-peer file transfer functionality. The database of the present invention recognizes this exchange that has taken place and, because Golden State has signed on with the provider of the present invention, sends out a 3D representation (e.g. avatar) of the Warrior's mascot to greet the user as he/she continues on their virtual "walk". The avatar offers the user \$5 off on game tickets in exchange for joining their mailing list, filling out a survey, etc., and then informs the user about the Warrior's Persistent Client-enabled virtual locker room where they can chat with certain players during scheduled special events.

Scenario B

A college student orders a new computer online via their Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop. The 3D server/registry recognizes this event and responds by sending an avatar by to greet the user and inform them of the large line of peripherals available from Company A that are compatible with the system they are purchasing. The avatar wishes the user well with their new computer and leaves them with a virtual coupon for 15% off their first purchase with Company A. The user is informed of hardware options they had not previously been aware of and heads off to Company A's Persistent Client-enabled web site to make another purchase.

Scenario C

A user that frequently downloads hip hop music is exploring the automatically generated landscape via their Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop. They soon cross paths with an avatar
5 styled out in baggy jeans, ball cap, tennis shoes and headphones. The avatar approaches the user and offers him the opportunity to check out the new track he's listening to on his portable mp3 player. The avatar tells the user that the track is authored by a new artist on Solid Player records, an affiliate of the provider of the present invention. The user is intrigued so he clicks on the avatar's headphones and the mp3 begins to stream through to his machine, thus turning him on to
10 a track he may otherwise have never heard. The avatar then offers the user a direct link to Solid Players Persistent Client-enabled site where he can purchase a license for the album and download it in its entirety.

Scenario D

A young woman has been using her Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop to gather
15 information on a specific model Toyota she was interested in purchasing. The 3D server/registry recognizes the numerous search queries run on that specific vehicle and responds by dispatching an avatar. While Toyota has not yet partnered with the provider of the present invention, their competition, Mazda, has. As the user steps outside of her virtual "room" to explore, a 3D representation of a 2001 Mazda Protege pulls up and the avatar steps out to greet her. The avatar
20 informs her of how the Mazda is a far superior vehicle for the money compared to the Toyota. The avatar then offers to show her the features of the car online as well as set up an appointment to see test drive the car in person at her nearest dealer. Thus, the woman is interested and Mazda has used the present invention to gain market share away from their competition.

Thus, the variations on the use of the present invention are endless. Using the present invention, the advertisement moves from being a flat texture map on a flat surface to an engaging, interactive, media rich experience that goes hand in hand with the whole 3D concept of the present invention. In the process, the advertisement weary consumer barely recognizes or even minds the fact that they have just received targeted advertising. By implementing this novel concept, the present invention provides more effective marketing strategies to their clients as well as avoiding the trap of simply adapting the tired banner advertisement concept to a 3D environment.

Thus, a computer network-based system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed. Although the present invention is described herein with reference to a specific preferred embodiment, many modifications and variations therein will readily occur to those with ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, all such variations and modifications are included within the intended scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
providing a three-dimensional computing environment;
receiving a two-dimensional web page;
converting the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional
5 computing environment; and
presenting the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page
contained therein to a user.
2. A data processing system-readable medium having a plurality of instructions executable
by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said instructions when executed cause
said data processing system to:
provide a three-dimensional computing environment;
5 receive a two-dimensional web page;
convert the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional
computing environment; and
present the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page
contained therein to a user.
3. A method comprising:

- providing a three-dimensional computing environment;
- receiving a two-dimensional application program;
- converting the two-dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-
- 5 dimensional computing environment; and
- presenting the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted application program contained therein to a user.

4. A data processing system-readable medium having a plurality of instructions executable by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said instructions when executed cause said data processing system to:

- provide a three-dimensional computing environment;
- 5 receive a two-dimensional application program;
- convert the two-dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-dimensional computing environment; and
- present the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted application program contained therein to a user.

5. A method comprising:
- accessing a website;
- automatically accessing a 3D environment server in response to the access to the website;
- generating a 3D environment on the website; and
- 5 retaining information related to the website access in a repository.

ABSTRACT

three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed.

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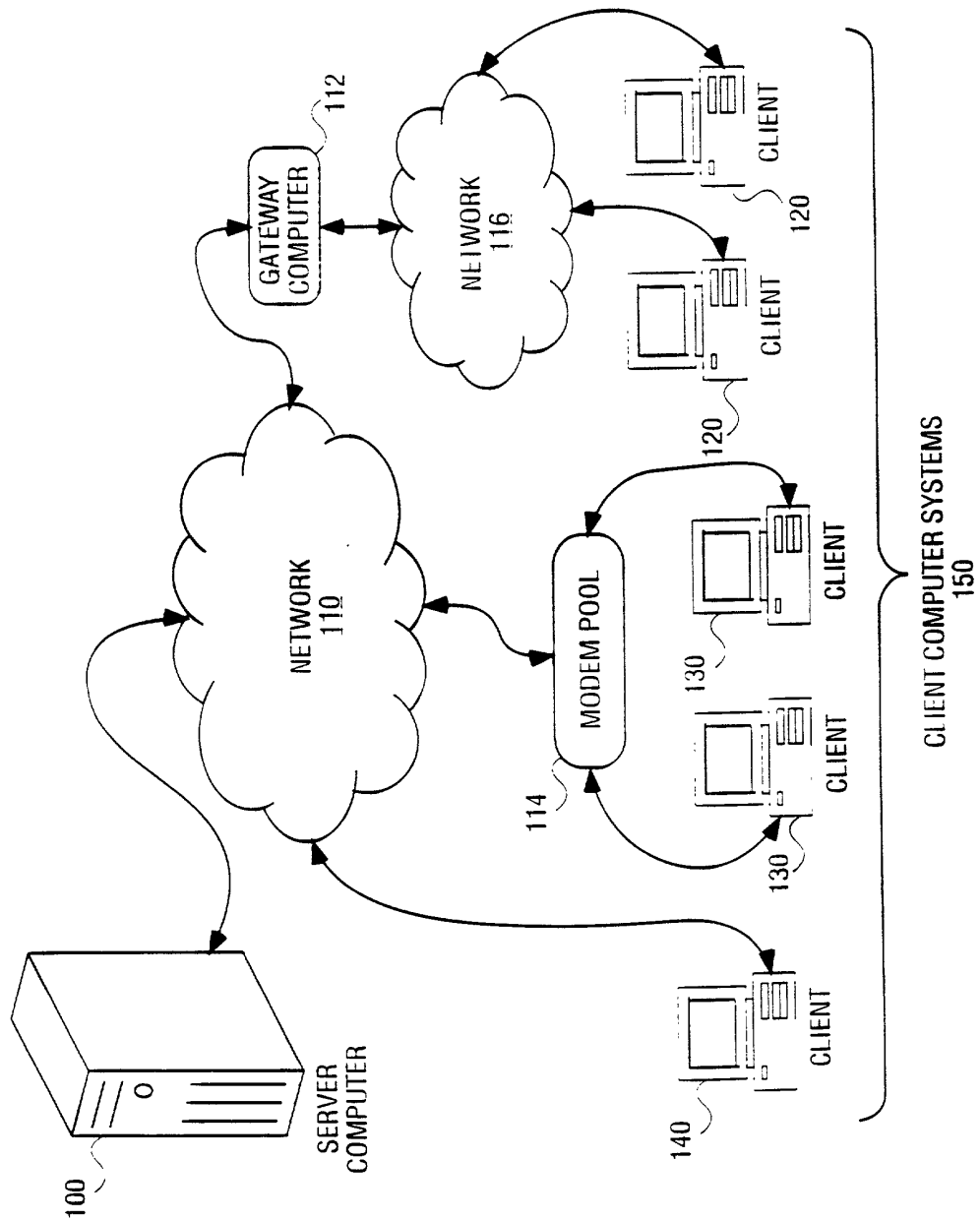


FIG. 1

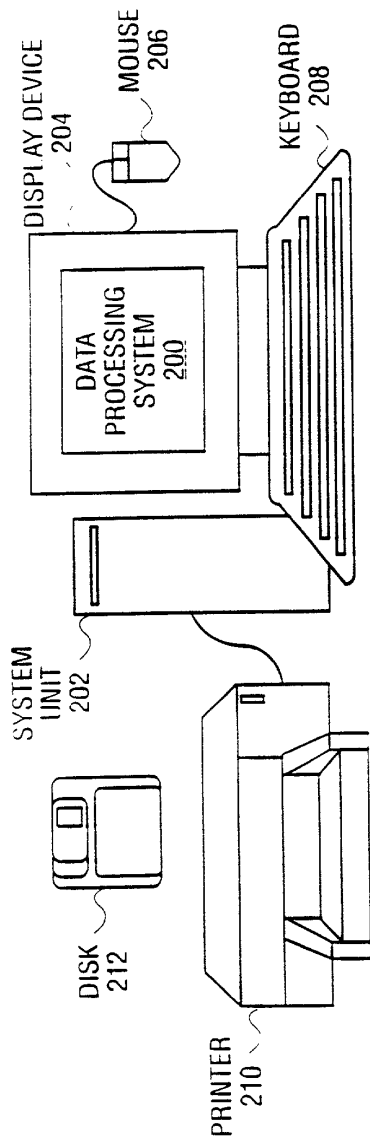


FIG. 2A

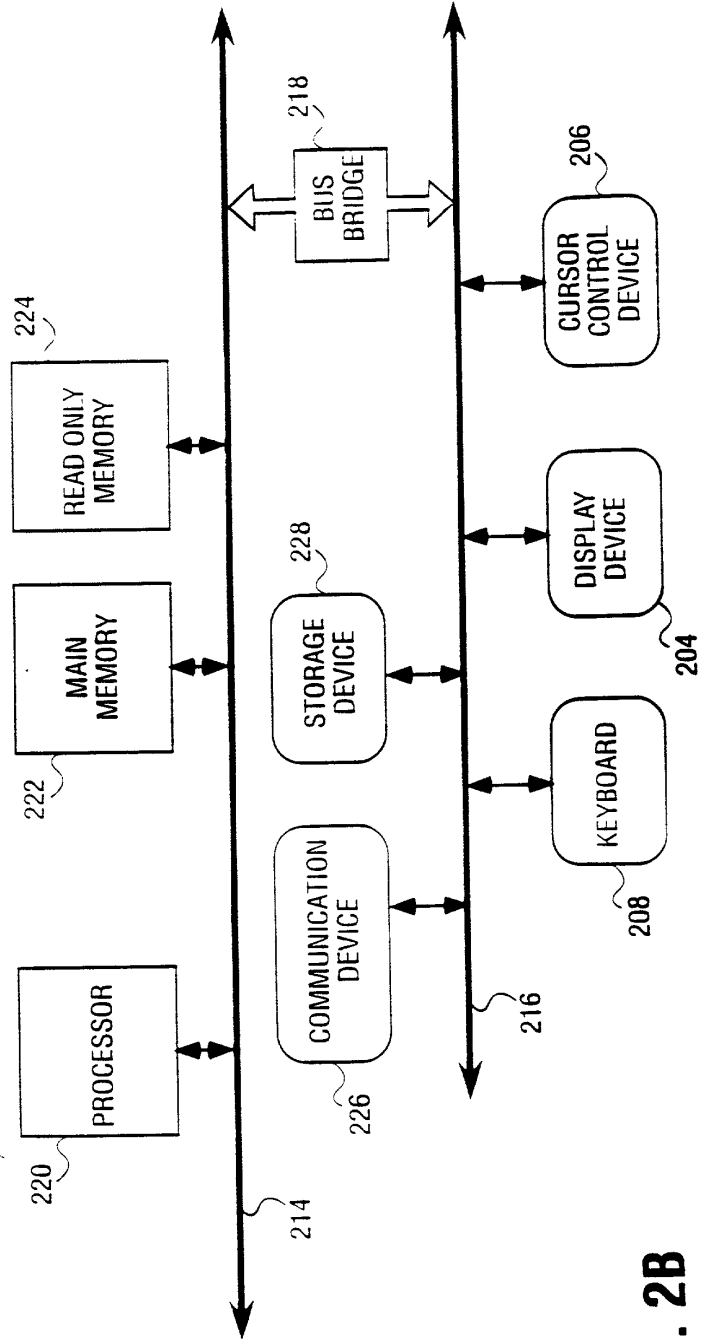
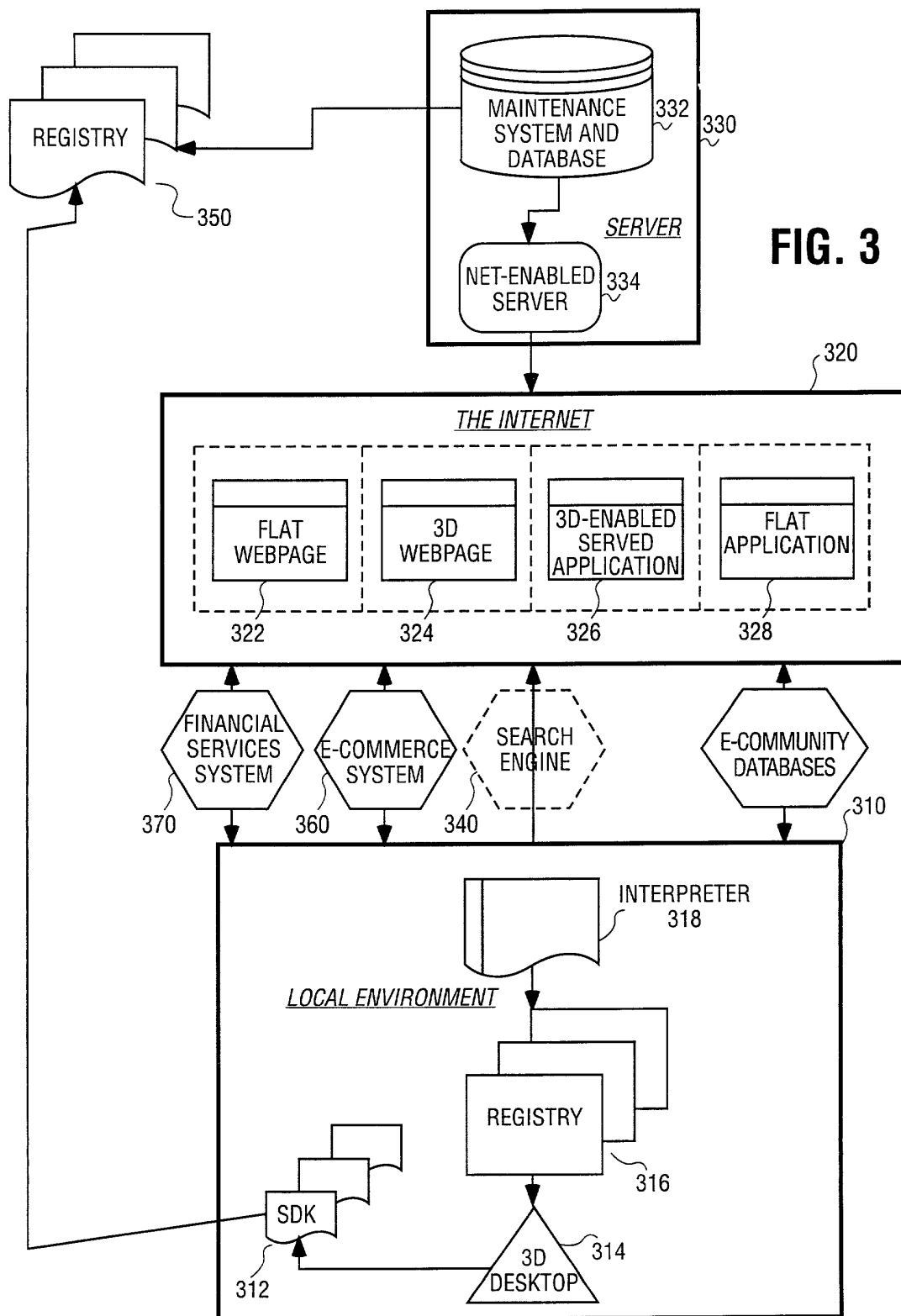


FIG. 2B



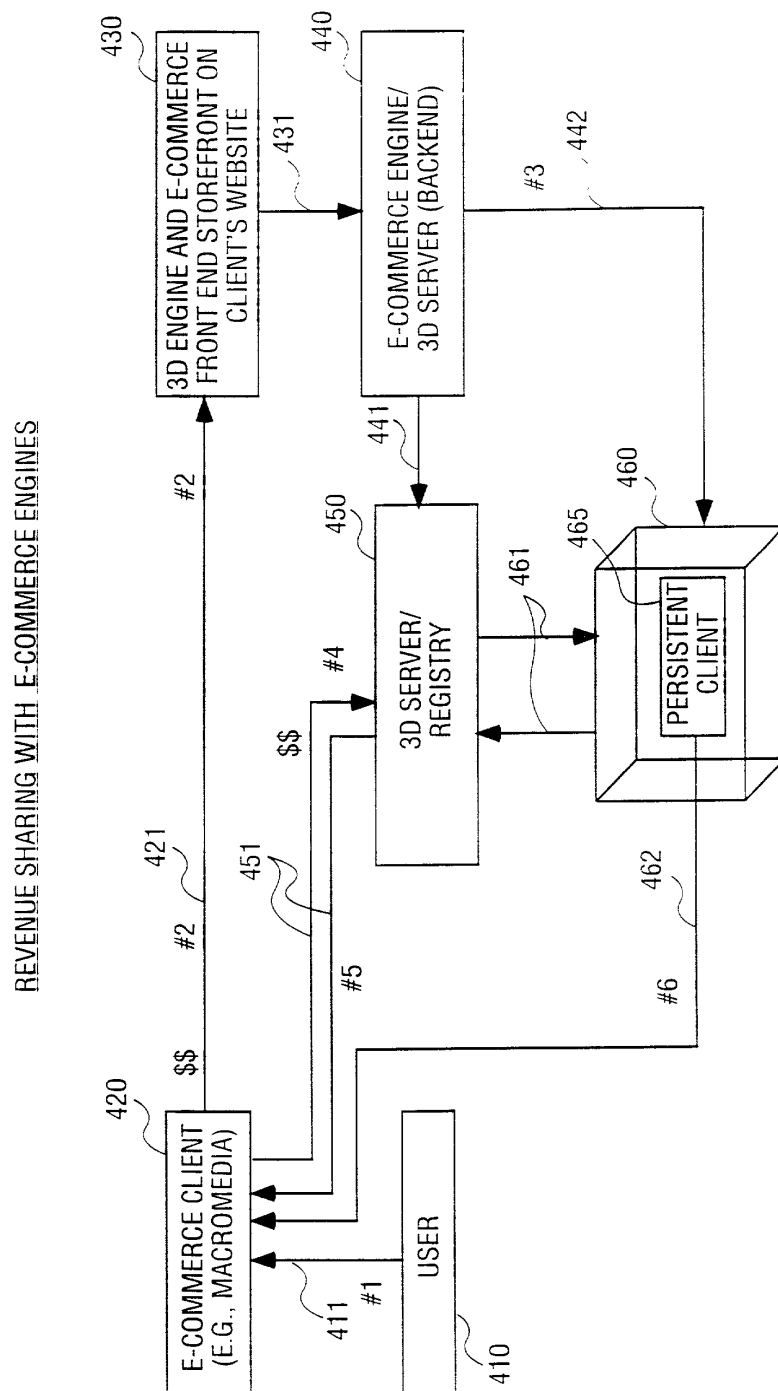


FIG. 4

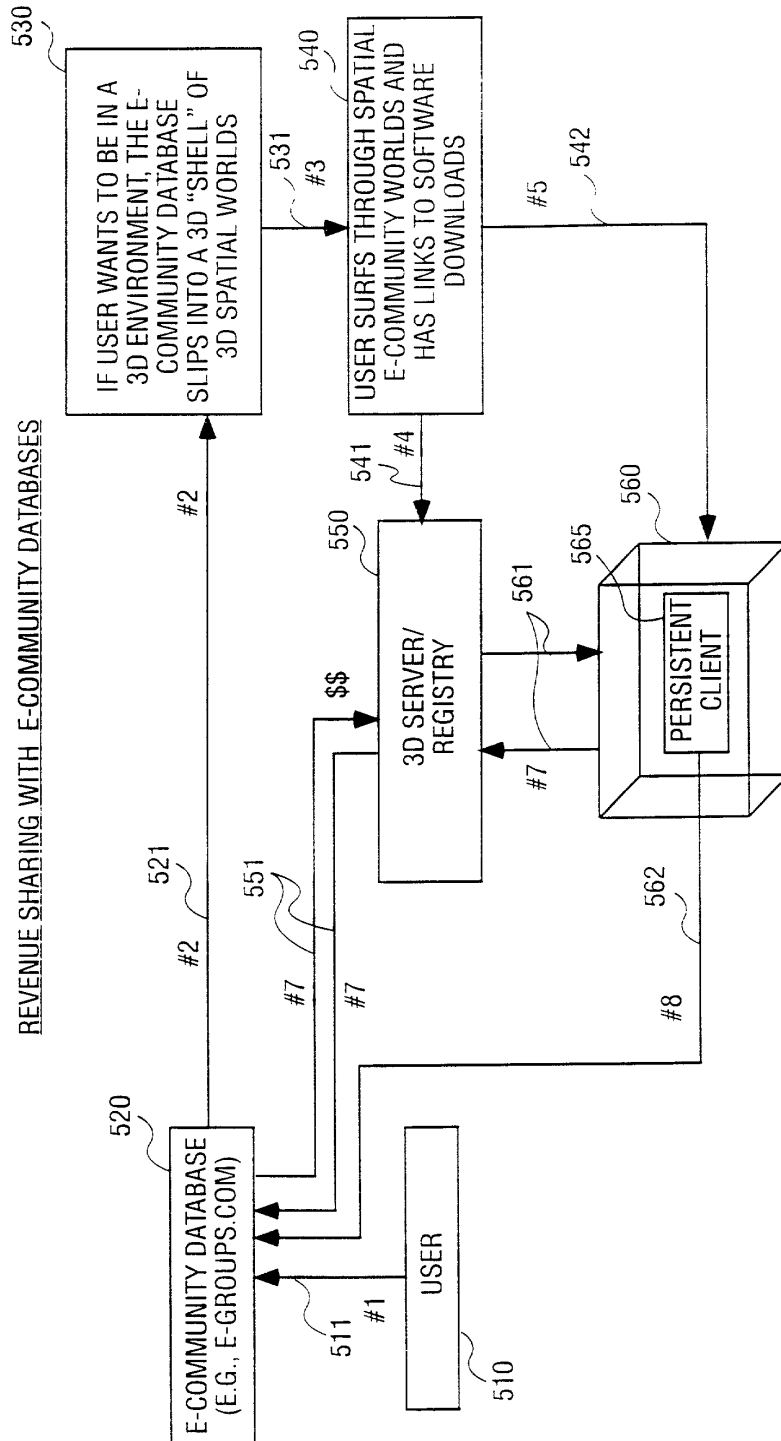


FIG. 5

ESTABLISH PERSISTENT SEARCH ENGINE PRESENCE ON USER DESKTOPS OR OTHER INFORMATION DISPLAY

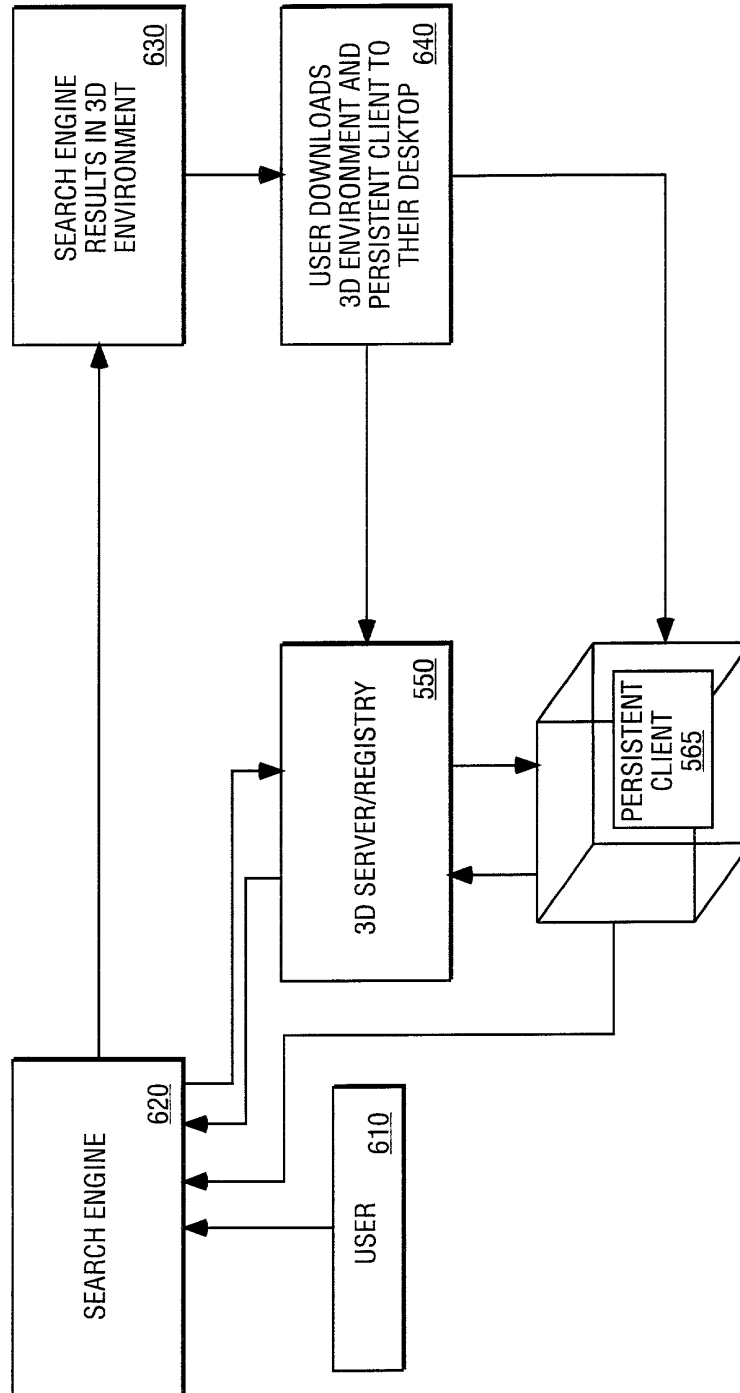


FIG. 6

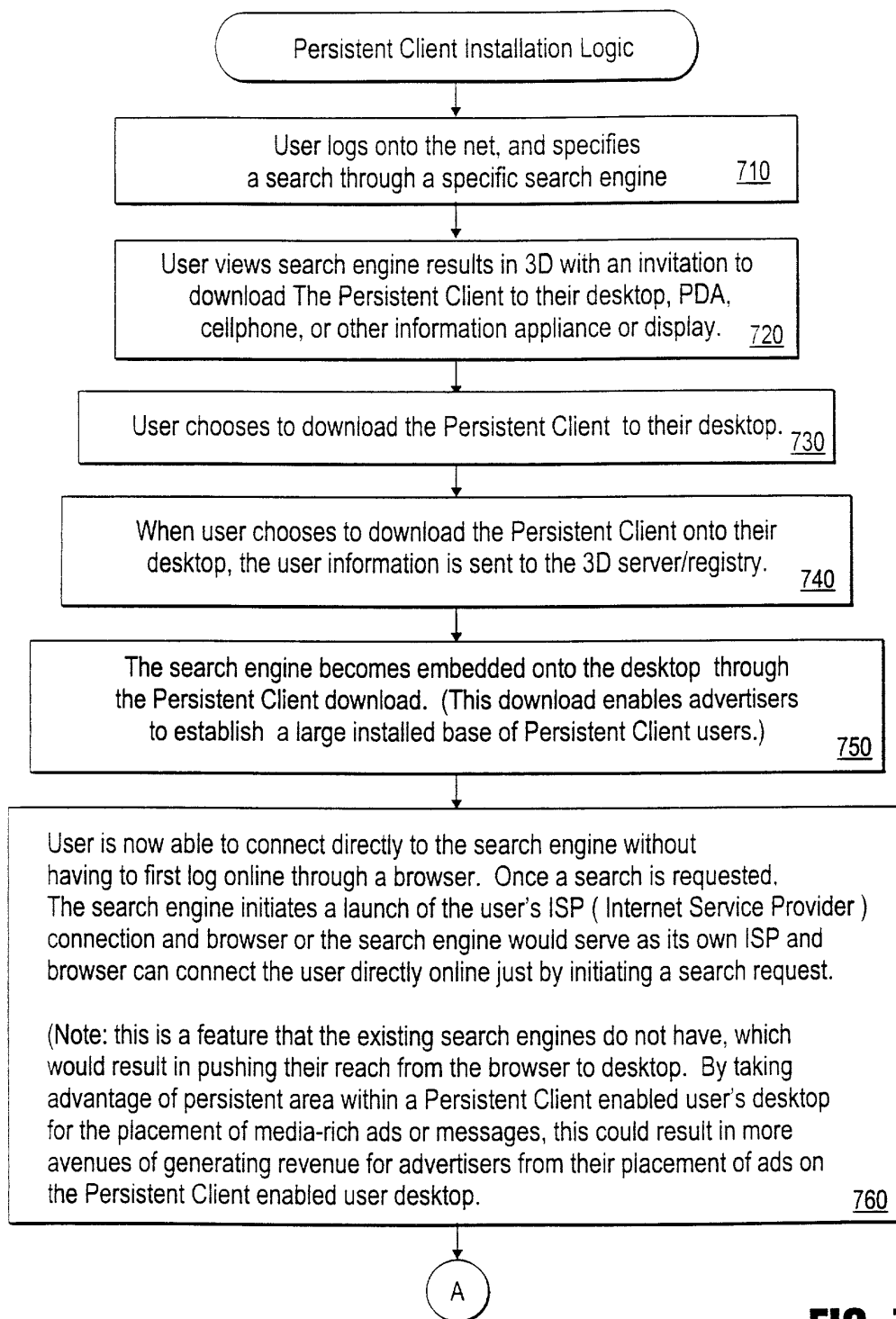


FIG. 7

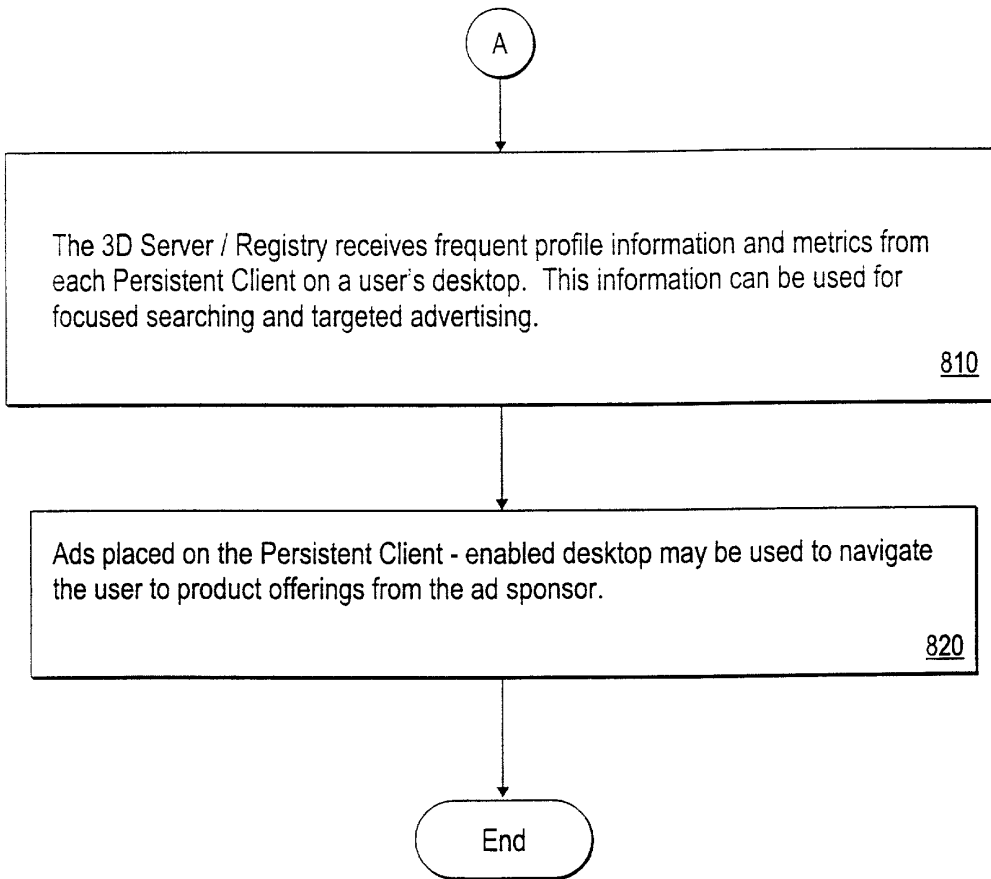
[illegible]

FIG. 8

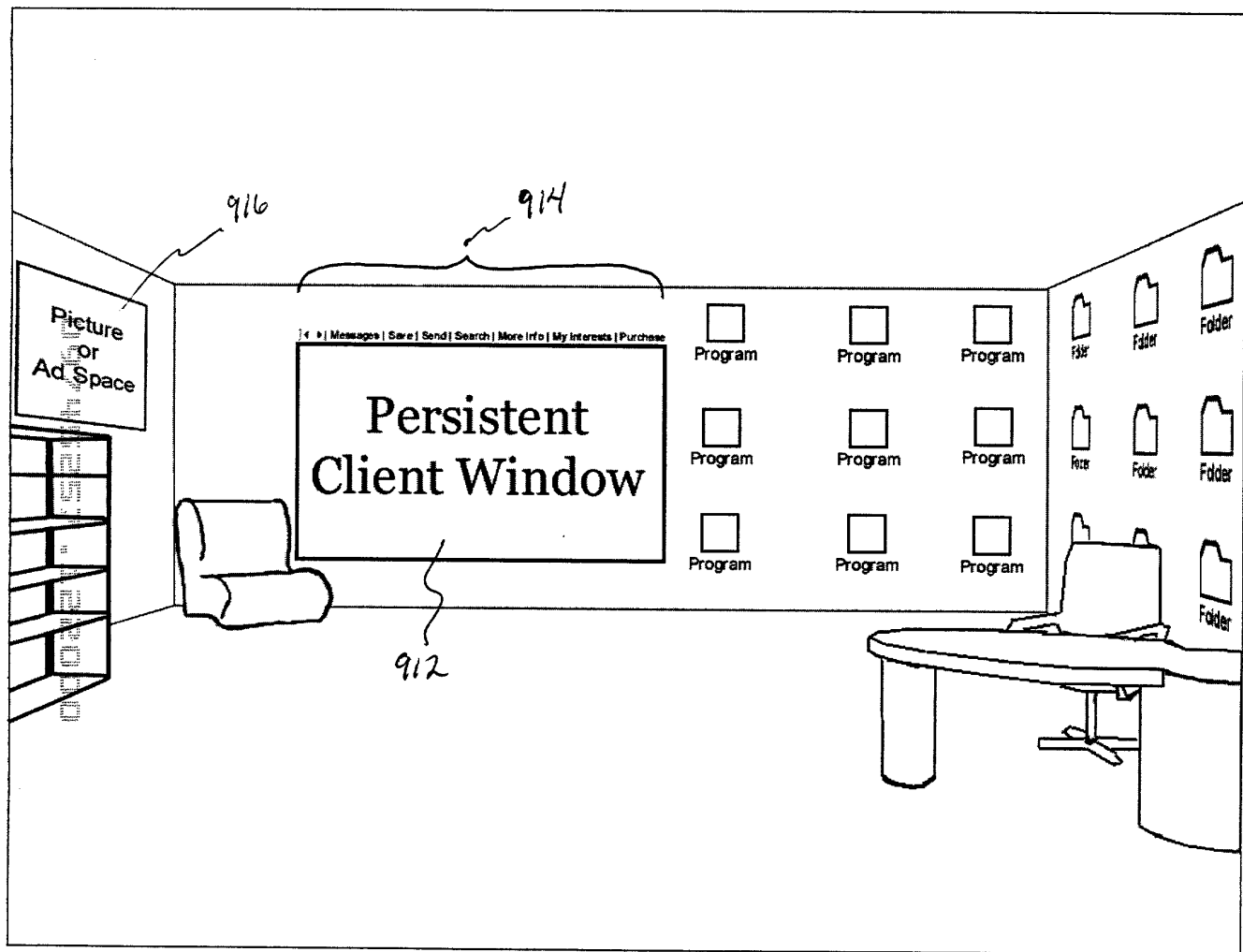


FIGURE 9

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Number) (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

(Application Number) (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Number) 09/686,206 10/10/00 Pending
(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY) (Status -- patented,
pending, abandoned)

(Application Number) (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY) (Status -- patented,
pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to James H. Salter, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR &
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and

direct telephone calls to James H. Salter, (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	Mean (SD)
Male	55.2 (10.5)
Female	56.8 (11.2)
Marital status	
Married	78.5%
Single	21.5%
Education level	
High school or above	65.2%
Below high school	34.8%
Occupation	
White collar	45.1%
Blue collar	54.9%
Income (USD/month)	
< 1000	12.3%
1000-2000	35.7%
2000-3000	28.9%
> 3000	23.1%
Health insurance	
Yes	89.4%
No	10.6%
Comorbidities	
Hypertension	42.1%
Diabetes	18.5%
Cholesterol	31.2%
Smoking status	
Current smoker	15.3%
Former smoker	22.7%
Non-smoker	62.0%
Alcohol consumption	
Regular	8.9%
Occasional	25.4%
Never	65.7%

-3-

APPENDIX A

William E. Alford, Reg. No. 37,764; Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261; William Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591; Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. 41,600; Jordan Michael Becker, Reg. No. 39,602; Lisa N. Benado, Reg. No. 39,995; Bradley J. Bereznak, Reg. No. 33,474; Michael A. Bernadicou, Reg. No. 35,934; Roger W. Blakely, Jr., Reg. No. 25,831; R. Alan Burnett, Reg. No. 46,149; Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926; Andrew C. Chen, Reg. No. 43,544; Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637; Donna Jo Coningsby, Reg. No. 41,684; Florin Corie, Reg. No. 46,244; Dennis M. deGuzman, Reg. No. 41,702; Stephen M. De Klerk, Reg. No. 46,503; Michael Anthony DeSanctis, Reg. No. 39,957; Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813; Sanjeet Dutta, Reg. No. 46,145; Matthew C. Fagan, Reg. No. 37,542; Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402; George Fountain, Reg. No. 37,374; James Y. Go, Reg. No. 40,621; James A. Henry, Reg. No. 41,064; Libby N. Ho, Reg. No. 46,774; Willmore F. Holbrow III, Reg. No. 41,845; Sheryl Sue Holloway, Reg. No. 37,850; George W. Hoover II, Reg. No. 32,992; Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139; William W. Kidd, Reg. No. 31,772; Sang Hui Kim, Reg. No. 40,450; Walter T. Kim, Reg. No. 42,731; Eric T. King, Reg. No. 44,188; George Brian Leavell, Reg. No. 45,436; Kurt P. Leyendecker, Reg. No. 42,799; Gordon R. Lindeen III, Reg. No. 33,192; Jan Carol Little, Reg. No. 41,181; Robert G. Litts, Reg. No. 46,876; Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765; Michael J. Mallie, Reg. No. 36,591; Andre L. Marais, under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b); Paul A. Mendonsa, Reg. No. 42,879; Clive D. Menezes, Reg. No. 45,493; Chun M. Ng, Reg. No. 36,878; Thien T. Nguyen, Reg. No. 43,835; Thinh V. Nguyen, Reg. No. 42,034; Dennis A. Nicholls, Reg. No. 42,036; Robert B. O'Rourke, Reg. No. 46,972; Daniel E. Ovanezian, Reg. No. 41,236; Kenneth B. Paley, Reg. No. 38,989; Gregg A. Peacock, Reg. No. 45,001; Marina Portnova, Reg. No. 45,750; William F. Ryann, Reg. No. 44,313; James H. Salter, Reg. No. 35,668; William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018; James C. Scheller, Reg. No. 31,195; Jeffrey Sam Smith, Reg. No. 39,377; Maria McCormack Sobrino, Reg. No. 31,639; Stanley W. Sokoloff, Reg. No. 25,128; Judith A. Szepesi, Reg. No. 39,393; Vincent P. Tassinari, Reg. No. 42,179; Edwin H. Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129; John F. Travis, Reg. No. 43,203; Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191; Tom Van Zandt, Reg. No. 43,219; Lester J. Vincent, Reg. No. 31,460; Glenn E. Von Tersch, Reg. No. 41,364; John Patrick Ward, Reg. No. 40,216; Mark L. Watson, Reg. No. 46,322; Thomas C. Webster, Reg. No. 46,154; and Norman Zafman, Reg. No. 26,250; my patent attorneys, and Firasat Ali, Reg. No. 45,715; Justin M. Dillon, Reg. No. 42,486; Thomas S. Ferrill, Reg. No. 42,532; and Raul Martinez, Reg. No. 46,904, my patent agents, of BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, with offices located at 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025, telephone (310) 207-3800, and James R. Thein, Reg. No. 31,710, my patent attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

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APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56
Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made or record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

7/5	848
Class	Subclass

ISSUE CLASSIFICATION

PATENT NUMBER

U.S. UTILITY Patent Application

~~ABANDONED~~

 O.I.P.E.	PATENT DATE
SCANNED  Q.A.	

APPLICATION NO. 09/745257	CONT/PRIOR D	CLASS <u>715</u> ~~718~~ <u>310</u>	SUBCLASS <u>01</u>	ART UNIT <u>2183</u>	EXAMINER <u>Sax</u>
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APPLICANTS

Jack Robinson
Linda James
Thomas Cardaci
Kristin Blandford

TITLE

System and method to configure and provide a network-enabled three-dimensional computing environment

PTO-2040
12/99[illegible]

☐ TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	DRAWINGS Sheets Drwg. <u>9</u> Figs. Drwg. <u>10</u> Print Fig. <u>9</u>			CLAIMS ALLOWED Total Claims <u>20</u> Print Claim for O.G. <u>1</u>	
	☐ The term of this patent subsequent to _____ (date) has been disclaimed. ☐ The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent. No. _____ ☐ The terminal _____ months of this patent have been disclaimed.			NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED <u>9-18-06</u> ISSUE FEE Amount Due <u>\$ 1700.00</u> Date Paid _____ ISSUE BATCH NUMBER	
WARNING: The information disclosed herein may be restricted. Unauthorized disclosure may be prohibited by the United States Code Title 35, Sections 122, 181 and 368. Possession outside the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office is restricted to authorized employees and contractors only.			_____ (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) <u>STEVEN SAX</u> <u>PRIMARY EXAMINER</u> _____ (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) <u>9-18-06</u> _____ (Legal Instruments Examiner) _____ (Date)		

Form PTO-436A
(Rev. 6/99)

FILED WITH: ☐ DISK (CRF) ☐ FICHE ☐ CD-ROM
(Attached in pocket on right inside flap)

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SEARCHED			
Class	Sub.	Date	Exmr.
345 ↓	848- 852 748-749 760 757 836	7/13 ↓	ll ↓
715 ↓	848-852 757 836 748-749 760 746 762-763 772	9/06 ↓	ll ↓
345 ↓	411, 427 423 652 663 678 6	↓	↓

SEARCH NOTES (INCLUDING SEARCH STRATEGY)		
Expr (attached)	Date	Exmr.
East update (attached)	7/03	sh
NPL 1) ACM (attached) (attached) 2) Google (attached)	8/06 9/06	sh ↓
update	9/06	sh

<u>INTERFERENCE SEARCHED</u>			
Class	Sub.	Date	Exmr.
P6	pub Interference Search (Cathode)		9/06 S.S.

(RIGHT OUTSIDE)

ISSUE SLIP, STAPLE AREA (for additional cross references)

POSITION	INITIALS	ID NO.	DATE
FEE DETERMINATION			
O.I.P.E. CLASSIFIER			
FORMALITY REVIEW	SS	5087	02-23-01
RESPONSE FORMALITY REVIEW	R.B.	1076	04/27/01

INDEX OF CLAIMS

✓ Rejected N Non-elected
 = ... Allowed I Interference
 - (Through numeral) ... Canceled A Appeal
 + ... Restricted O Objected

Claim	Date
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PTO/SB/05 (11-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 4957P001X

No. of Pages 5, including Fee Transmittal

(maximum 12 characters)

First Named Inventor Jack D. Robinson

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

Express Mail Label No. EL 62753 4067 US

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D. C. 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ **Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)**
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ **Applicant Claims Small Entity Status. (37 CFR 1.27)**
3. ☒ **Specification (Total Pages 39, including cover page)**
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference sequence listing, a table,
or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ **Drawings(s) (35 USC 113) (Total Sheets 9 sheets of 10 figures)**
5. ☒ **Oath or Declaration (Total Pages 5)**
 - a. ☐ Newly Executed (Original or Copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a Prior Application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for Continuation/Divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - i. ☐ DELETIONS OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
 - c. ☒ Unsigned.
6. ☐ **Application Data Sheet. (37 CFR 1.76)**
7. ☐ **CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)**
8. ☐ **Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission**
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. ☐ Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

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09745257
12/20/00

11/28/00

- 1 -

000227 4525460

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. _____ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents(s))
10. _____ a. Separate 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (where there is an assignee)
_____ b. Power of Attorney
11. _____ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. _____ a. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
_____ b. Copies of IDS Citations
13. _____ Preliminary Amendment
14. X Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. _____ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. X Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. X Other: Two checks in the amounts of \$710.00 and \$160.00

18A. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

_____ Continuation _____ Divisional _____ Continuation-in-part (CIP)
Of Prior Application No.: _____ Examiner _____ Group Art Unit _____

(which is a _____ continuation/ _____ divisional/ _____ CIP of prior application no. _____,
which is a _____ continuation/ _____ divisional/ _____ CIP of prior application no. _____) (List entire chain of priority)

For CONTINUATION AND DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18B. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) for continuing application:

The undersigned states that _____ (name of assignee) is
the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in the accompanying patent application by virtue of an
assignment recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel. No. _____ Frame No. _____
(or a copy of which is attached).

19. Correspondence Address

X Customer Number or Bar Code Label 008791
or (Insert Customer No. or Attach Bar Code Label here)
X Correspondence Address Below

NAME James H. Salter
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

ADDRESS 12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor

CITY Los Angeles STATE California ZIP CODE 90025-1026

Country U.S.A. TELEPHONE (408) 720-8300 FAX (408) 720-9397

Name (PRINT/TYPE): James H. Salter Registration No.: 35,668
Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/24/00

11/28/00

- 2 -

09745267 122000

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

<u>Large Entity</u>		<u>Small Entity</u>		<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Fee Paid</u>
<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>		
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for response within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for response within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for response within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for response within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246	355	For filing a submission after final rejection	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other: _____					
				SUBTOTAL (3)	\$ 0

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBMITTED BY:

Typed or Printed Name: James H. Salter

Signature

Date 12/20/00

Reg. Number 35,668

Customer Number 008791

(complete if applicable)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Barbara Skliba

Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

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Date Signed 12/20/00

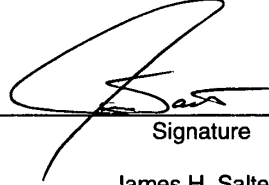
11/08/00

2

REQUEST AND CERTIFICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i)First Named Inventor Jack D. RobinsonTitle SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-
DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTAttorney Docket No. 4957P001X

I hereby certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not be** the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

12/26/00
Date


Signature

James H. Salter
Typed or Printed Name

35,668
Registration No.

This request must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.33(b) and submitted with the application **upon filing**.

Applicant may rescind this nonpublication request at any time. If applicant rescinds a request that an application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b), the application will be scheduled for publication at eighteen months after the earliest claimed filing date for which a benefit is claimed.

If applicant subsequently files an application directed to the invention disclosed in the attached application in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications eighteen months after filing, the applicant **must** notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of such filing within forty-five (45) days after the date of filing of such foreign or international application.

Failure to do so will result in abandonment of this application (35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(iii)).

Send to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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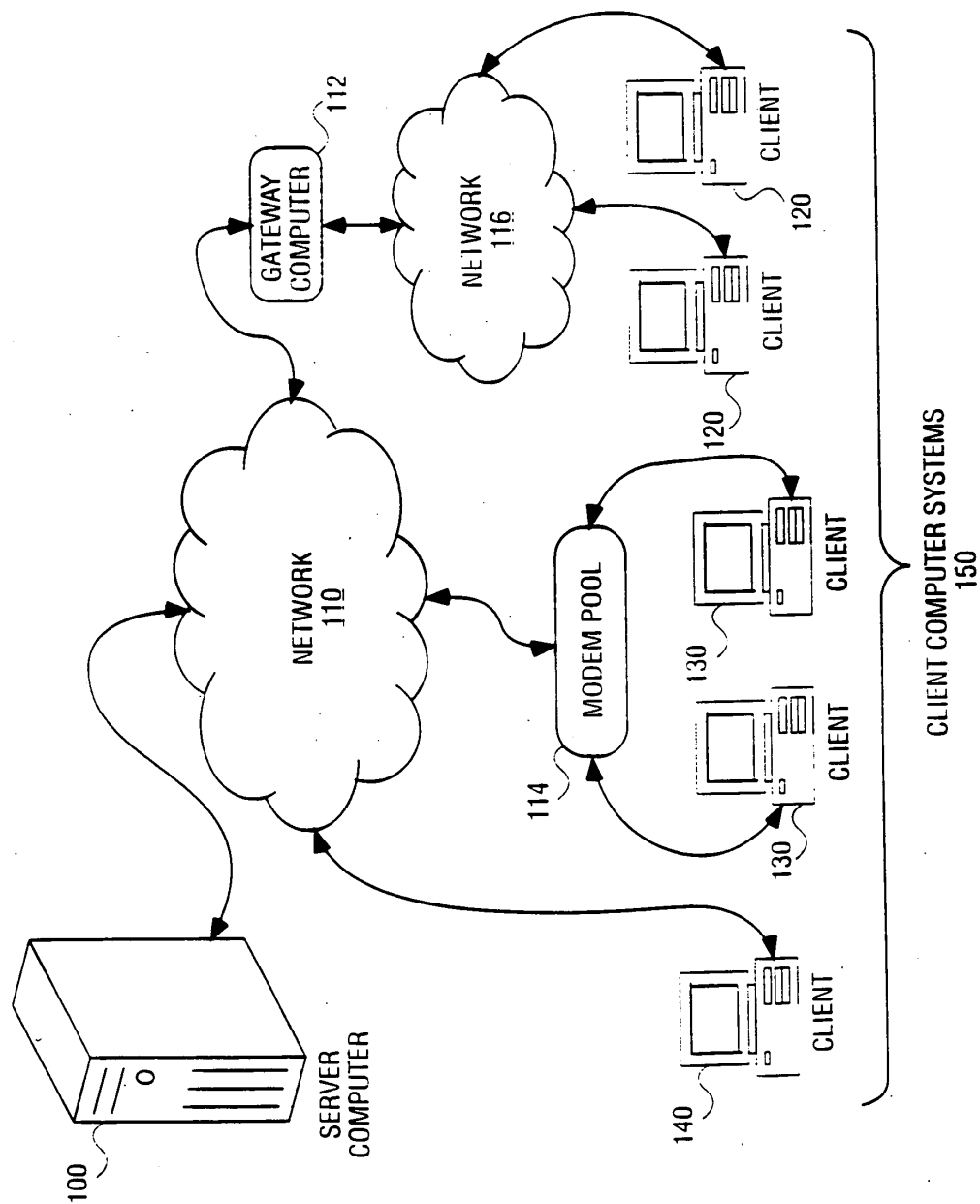


FIG. 1

000227-4524460

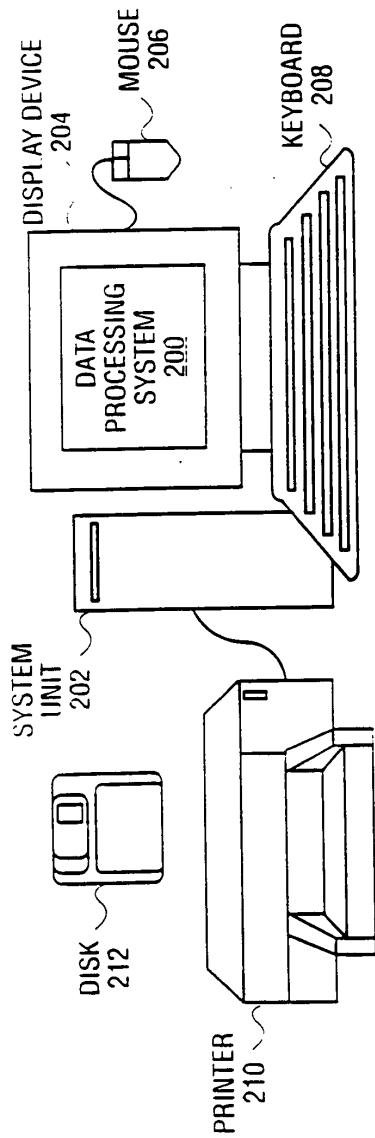


FIG. 2A

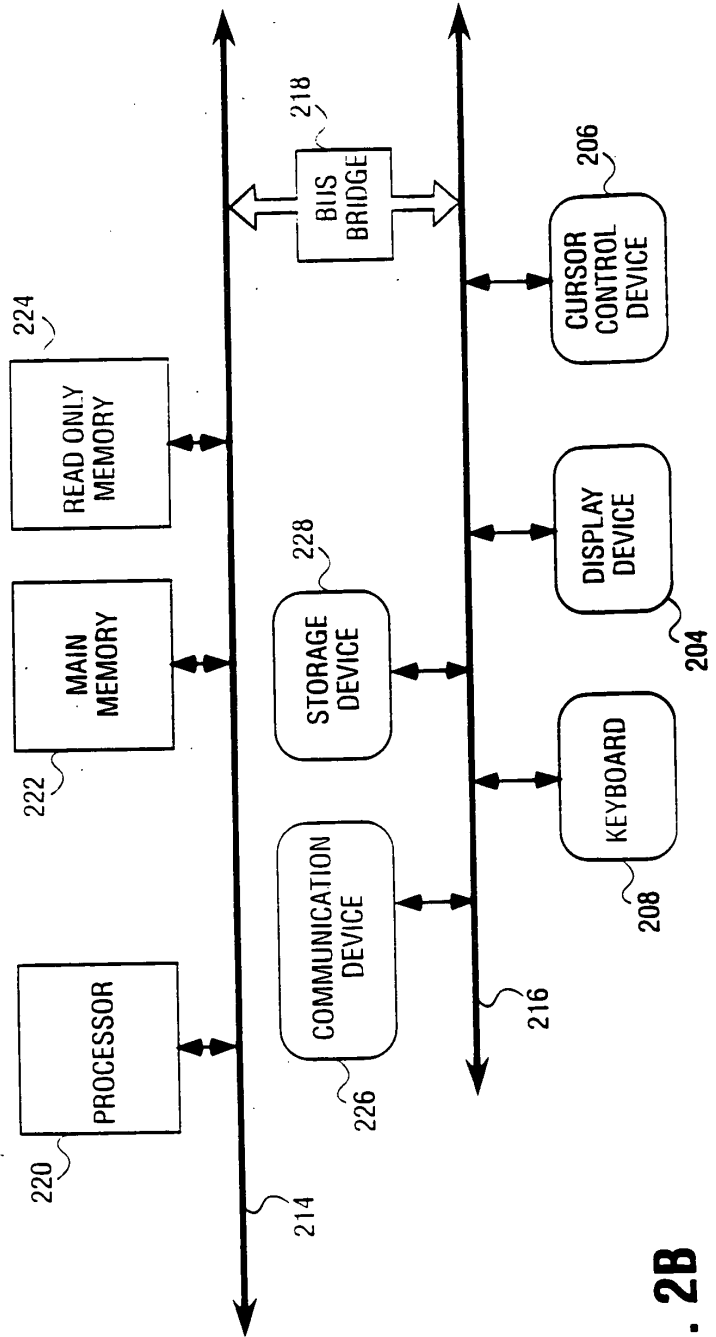
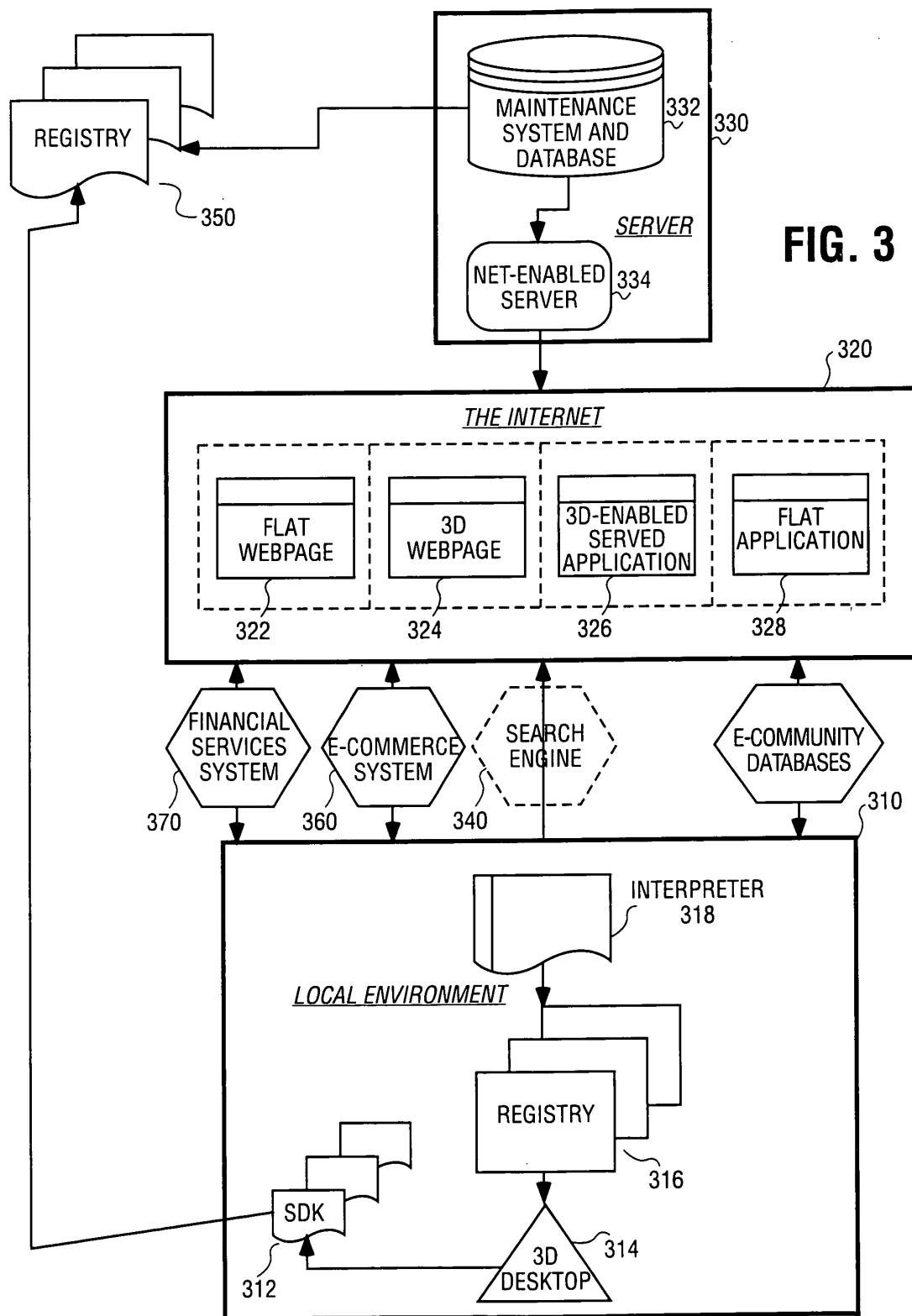


FIG. 2B

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REVENUE SHARING WITH E-COMMERCE ENGINES

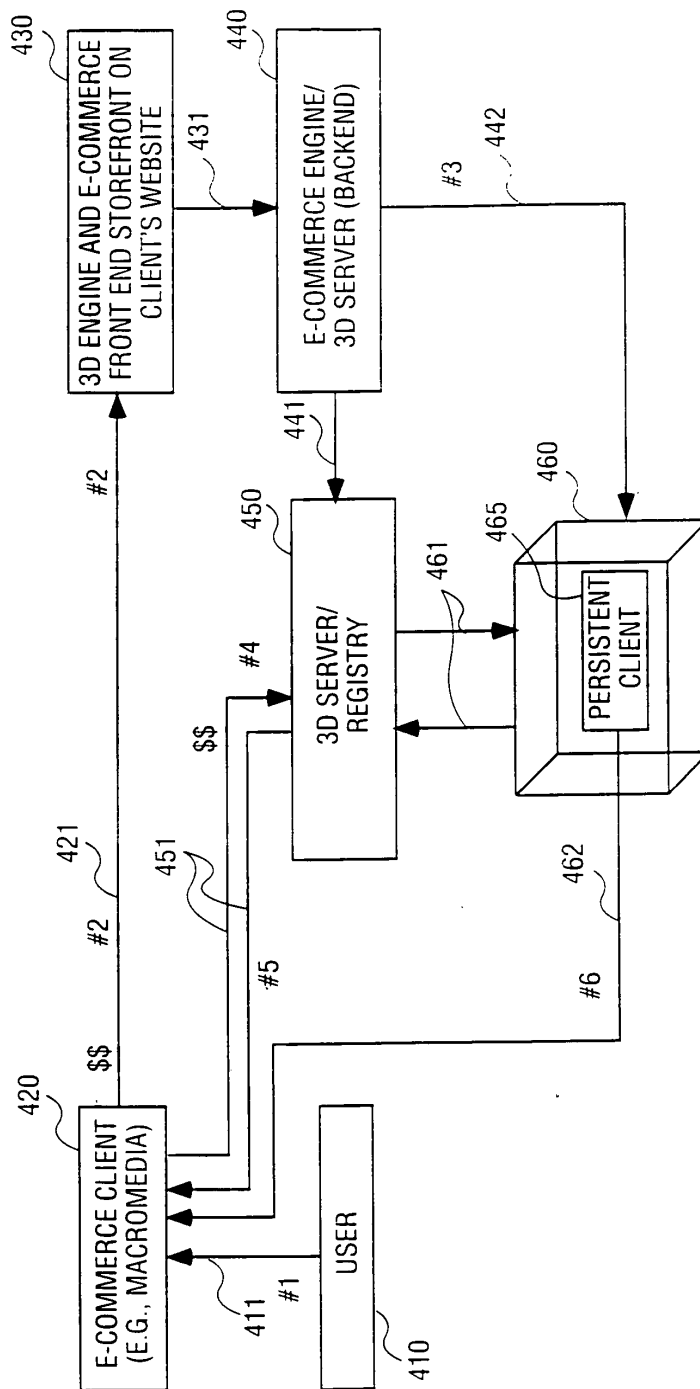


FIG. 4

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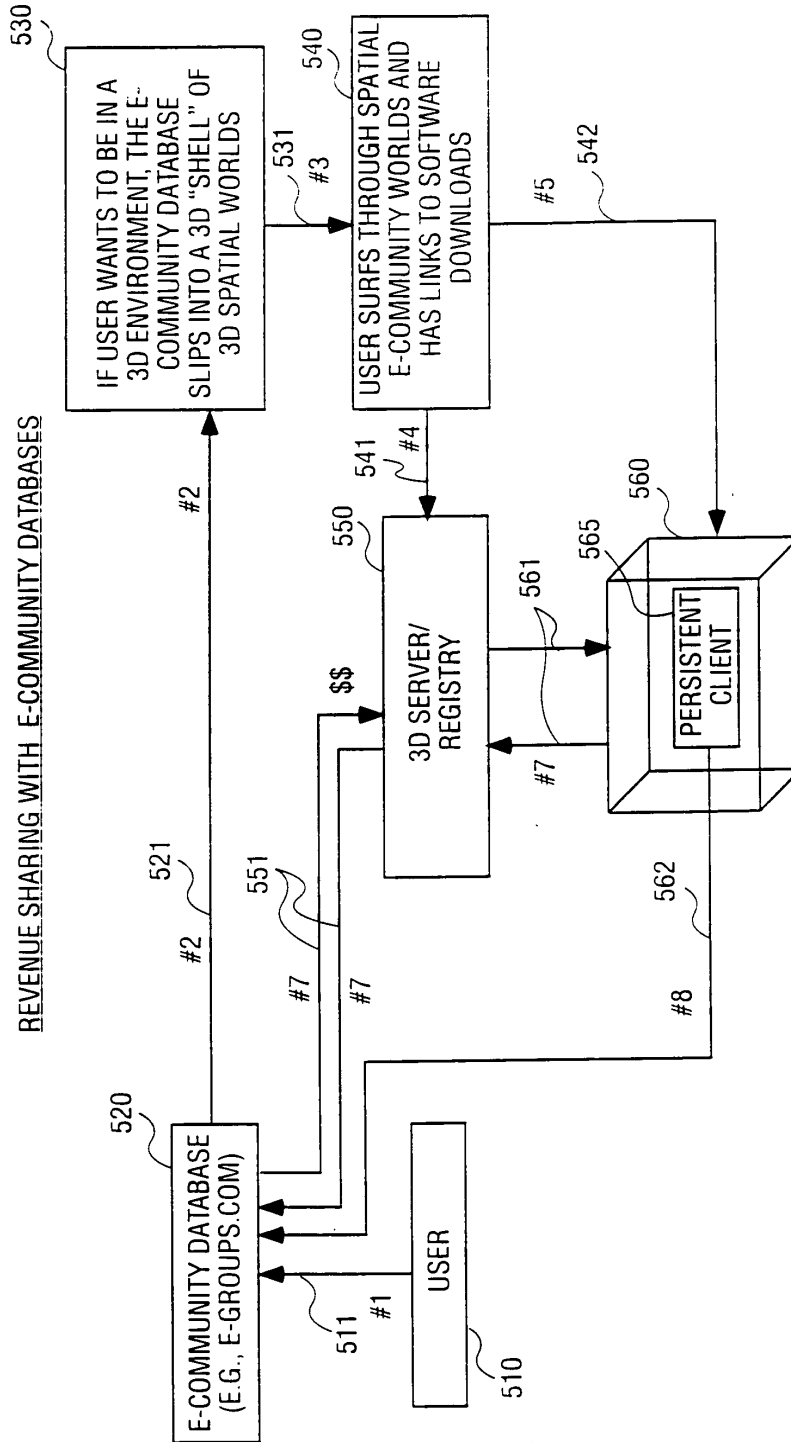


FIG. 5

ESTABLISH PERSISTENT SEARCH ENGINE PRESENCE ON USER DESKTOPS OR OTHER INFORMATION DISPLAY

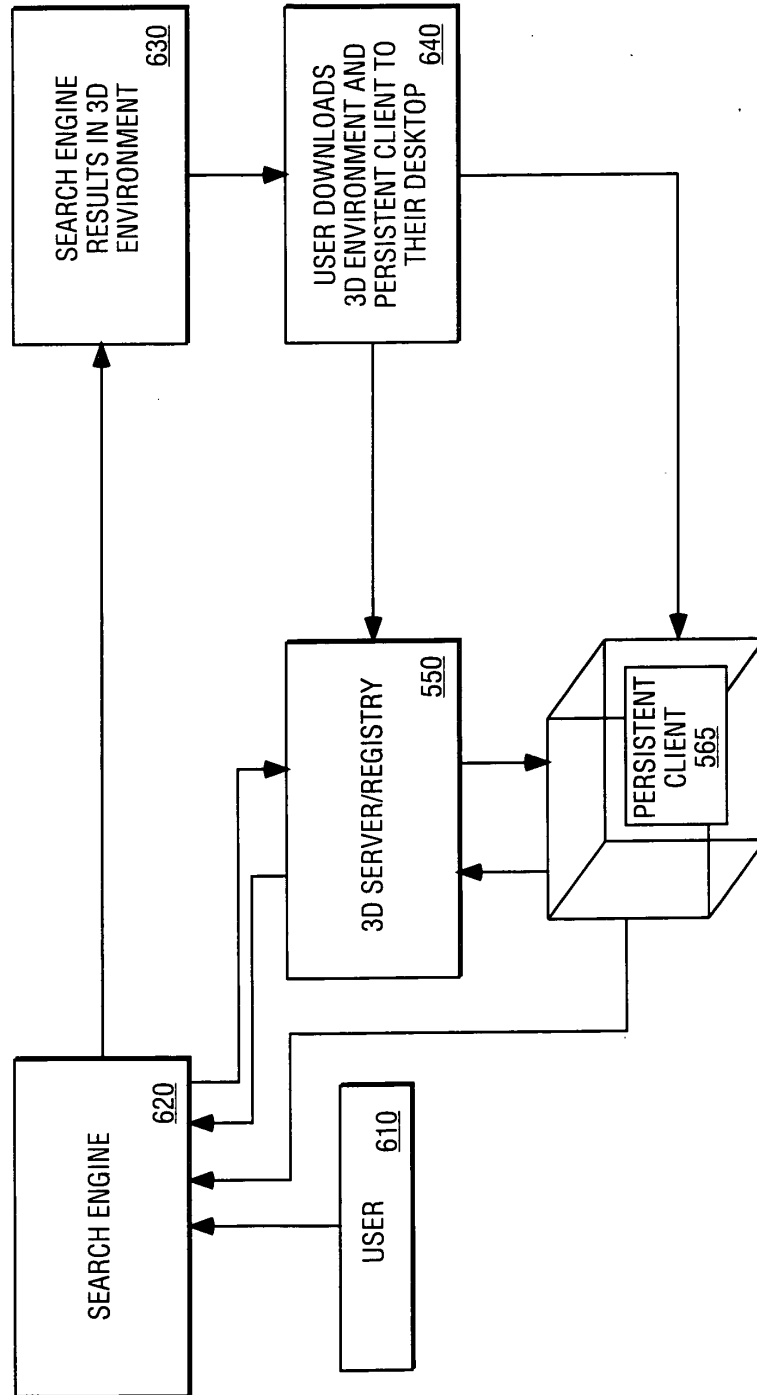


FIG. 6

Persistent Client Installation Logic

User logs onto the net, and specifies a search through a specific search engine	710
---	-----

User views search engine results in 3D with an invitation to download The Persistent Client to their desktop, PDA, cellphone, or other information appliance or display. 720

User chooses to download the Persistent Client to their desktop. 730

When user chooses to download the Persistent Client onto their desktop, the user information is sent to the 3D server/registry. 740

The search engine becomes embedded onto the desktop through the Persistent Client download. (This download enables advertisers to establish a large installed base of Persistent Client users.)

User is now able to connect directly to the search engine without having to first log online through a browser. Once a search is requested, The search engine initiates a launch of the user's ISP (Internet Service Provider) connection and browser or the search engine would serve as its own ISP and browser can connect the user directly online just by initiating a search request.

(Note: this is a feature that the existing search engines do not have, which would result in pushing their reach from the browser to desktop. By taking advantage of persistent area within a Persistent Client enabled user's desktop for the placement of media-rich ads or messages, this could result in more avenues of generating revenue for advertisers from their placement of ads on the Persistent Client enabled user desktop.

760

A circle with a point labeled 'A' inside it.

FIG. 7

```
graph TD; A((A)) --> B[The 3D Server / Registry receives frequent profile information and metrics from each Persistent Client on a user's desktop. This information can be used for focused searching and targeted advertising. 810]; B --> C[Ads placed on the Persistent Client - enabled desktop may be used to navigate the user to product offerings from the ad sponsor. 820]; C --> D((End))
```

The flowchart 800 illustrates the process of receiving profile information and metrics from a Persistent Client. It begins with a start node 'A' leading to a process box 810. Box 810 describes that the 3D Server / Registry receives frequent profile information and metrics from each Persistent Client on a user's desktop, which can be used for focused searching and targeted advertising. This leads to a second process box 820, which states that ads placed on the Persistent Client - enabled desktop may be used to navigate the user to product offerings from the ad sponsor. The process concludes at an 'End' node.

FIG. 8

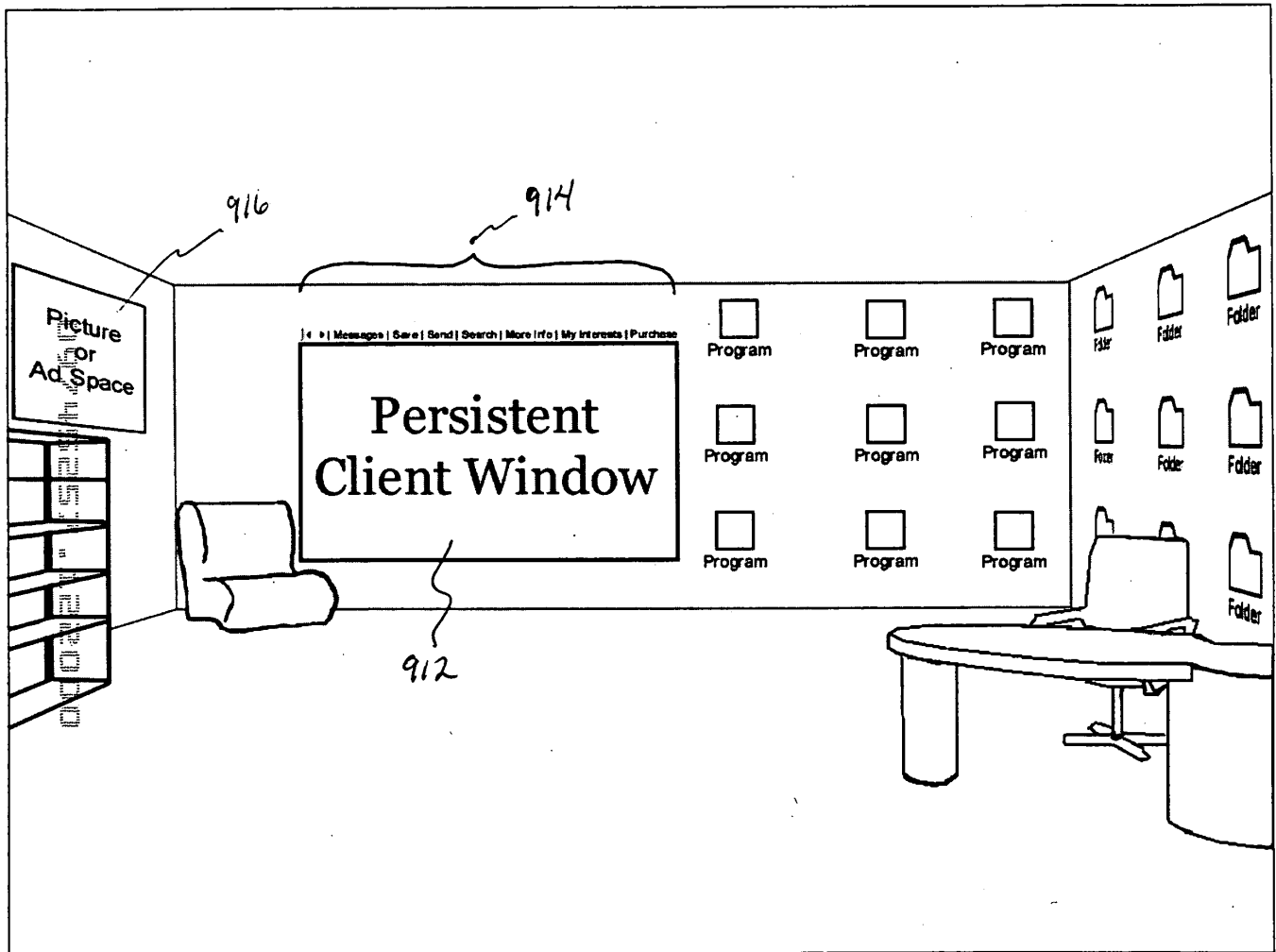


FIGURE 9

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

for

**SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A
NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT**

Inventors:

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Linda R. James

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prepared by:

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Los Angeles, CA 90026-1026
(408) 720-8300

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL 62753 4067 USDate of Deposit: December 20, 2000

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Barbara Skliba

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Barbara Skliba

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

12/20/00

(Date signed)

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**SYSTEM AND METHOD TO CONFIGURE AND PROVIDE A
NETWORK-ENABLED THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT**

5

PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a continuation-in-part patent application claiming priority to parent application serial no. 09/686,206, filed October 10, 2000.

10

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention relates to computer interfaces, networking, e-commerce, and configurable websites. More particularly, the field of the invention relates to an improved system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments.

09/45257-122000
15**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The computer networks such as the Internet and particularly the World Wide Web (WWW) have developed into a convenient medium by which businesses and consumers alike can sell and purchase goods and services. To facilitate such commercial activity or “electronic commerce”, businesses provide virtual or electronic environments or stores online utilizing web, application and file servers which a customer can then access using a web browser client application. Today, customers can purchase a wide variety of products by interacting with online environments via such web browsers.

“Being in” a computing environment is more intuitive and user-friendly than merely “looking into” it. It is far more intuitive, easier and “brain friendly” to comprehend large amounts of data in the form of “visual objects”, particularly three-dimensional (3D) objects.

In the beginning, users interfaced with their computers via one-dimensional (1D) strings of text code, a slow and difficult process that only a few people could master. Next, Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) enabled users to address computers with 2D icons representing those strings of code, a dramatic simplification and step forward. However, the 2D space can stifle
5 accessibility to functionality in a computing or e-commerce environment.

Accordingly, there is a need for an improved system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments. The presently disclosed technology enables users to interact fully, intuitively and far more easily “in” a spatial 3D environment. This technology enables each user to create an intuitive 3D desktop environment tailored to their specific needs. When turned on, the user’s computer screen displays a 3D room or scene, which can be customized with virtual objects. The user can “enter” the space, rather than merely “view it”, operate intuitively within it (360° in every direction), and invite others to enter, participate and interact in that space. This novel technology offers an enjoyable, interactive environment as a welcome alternative to the current predominantly 2D, text-based Internet experience.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which

5 Figure 1 illustrates a conventional communications network topology in which the present invention may be implemented.

Figure 2a illustrates a conventional data processing system useable with the present invention.

10 Figure 2b illustrates a prior art architecture of the data processing system depicted in Figure 2a.

Figure 3 illustrates a system diagram of the architecture of the 3D computing environment of the present invention.

Figure 4 illustrates the use of the present invention in an e-commerce setting.

Figure 5 illustrates the use of the present invention in an e-community database setting.

15 Figure 6 illustrates the use of the present invention to establish search engine presence on desktop or other information display.

Figures 7-8 are flowcharts illustrating processing logic employed by the present invention.

20 Figure 9 is an example of a user desktop illustrating the presence of the Persistent Client Window.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A computer network-based system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed. In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that these specific details need not be used to practice the present invention. In other circumstances, well-known structures, materials, circuits, processes and interfaces have not been shown or described in detail in order not to unnecessarily obscure the present invention.

Referring now to Figure 1, a diagram illustrates various network topologies to which the present invention may be applied. In conventional network architectures, a server computer system 100 is coupled to a network 110. Using conventional network protocols, server 100 may communicate through network 110 to client computer systems 150 connected through networks 110 and 116 in various ways. For example, client 140 is connected directly to network 110 through direct or dial up telephone or other network transmission line. In an alternative topology, clients 130 may be connected through network 110 using a modem pool 114. A conventional modem pool 114 allows a plurality of client systems to connect with a smaller set of modems in modem pool 114 for connection through network 110. In another alternative network topology, network 110 is connected to a gateway computer 112. Gateway computer 112 is used to route data to clients 120 through network 116. In this manner, clients 120, which may be coupled to network 116 by any of the various practices described above, can communicate with each other through network 116 or with server 100 through gateway 112 and network 110.

Networks 110 and 116 may each be organized as either a wide area network (WAN) covering a large geographic area or a local area network (LAN) which encompasses, by

comparison, a smaller physical region. Wide area networks may include conventional network backbones, long-haul telephone lines, Internet service providers, various levels of network routers, and other conventional means for routing data between computers. Each network 110 and 116 may be private, for use by members of a particular company or organization, in which case the network is described as an intranet, or public, as for example, a portion of the Internet. Complete isolation from other networks or users is not required for a network to be considered an intranet. For example, users within an intranet may be given access to the public Internet through firewall servers that have the ability to screen incoming and outgoing messages so that network security is maintained. Similarly, a portion of an intranet may be made accessible to customers, partners, suppliers or others outside of a company or organization with the resulting network being described as an extranet. In one embodiment, communications network 116 is a wide area network which includes the Internet, or other proprietary networks including America Online™, Compuserve™, Microsoft Network™, and Prodigy™ and communications network 110 is a extranet local area network.

Using one of a variety of network connection means, server computer 100 can communicate with client computers 150 using conventional means. In a particular implementation of this network configuration, a server computer 100 may operate as a web server if the World-Wide Web (WWW) portion of the Internet is used for network 116. Using the HTTP protocol and the HTML or XML coding language across network 116, web server 100 may communicate across the World-Wide Web with clients 120. In this configuration, clients 120 use a client application program known as a web browser such as the Netscape™ Navigator™ formerly published by Netscape Corporation of Mountain View, CA, the Internet Explorer™ published by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington, the user interface of

America Online™, or the web browser or HTML/XML translator of any other well-known supplier. Using such conventional browsers and the World-Wide Web, clients 120 may access image, graphical, audio, and textual data provided by web server 100 or run Web application software. Conventional means exist by which clients 120 may supply information to web server 100 through the World- Wide Web 116 and the web server 100 may return processed data to clients 120.

Having briefly described one embodiment of the network environment in which the present invention operates, Figure 2a illustrates an example of a data processing system 200 illustrating an exemplary client or server computer system in which the features of the present invention may be implemented. As illustrated, data processing or computer system 200 is comprised of a system unit 202, output devices such as display device 204 and printer 210, and input devices such as keyboard 208, and mouse 206. Data processing system 200 receives data for processing by the manipulation of input devices 208 and 206 or directly from fixed or removable media storage devices such as disk 212 and network connection interfaces (not illustrated). Data processing system 200 then processes data and presents resulting output data via output devices such as display device 204, printer 210, fixed or removable media storage devices like disk 212 or network connection interfaces.

Referring now to Figure 2b, there is depicted a high-level block diagram of the components of a data processing system 200 such as that illustrated by Figure 2a. In a conventional computer system, system unit 202 includes a processing device such as processor 220 in communication with main memory 222 which may include various types of cache, random access memory (RAM), or other high-speed dynamic storage devices via a local or system bus 214 or other communication means for communicating data between such devices.

Main memory 222 is capable of storing data as well as instructions to be executed by processor 220 and may be used to store temporary variables or other intermediate information during execution of instructions by processor 220. Computer system 200 also comprises a read only memory (ROM) and /or other static storage device 224 coupled to local bus 214 for storing static information and instructions for processor 220. System unit 202 of data processing system 200 also features an expansion bus 216 providing communication between various devices and devices attached to the system bus 214 via bus bridge 218. A data storage device 228, such as a magnetic disk 212 or optical disk such as a CD-ROM and its corresponding drive may be coupled to data processing system 200 for storing information and instructions via expansion bus 216. Computer system 200 can also be coupled via expansion bus 216 to a display device 204, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT) or a liquid crystal display (LCD), for displaying information to a computer user. For example, image, textual, audio, or graphical depictions of product data and other types of image, graphical, audio, or textual information may be presented to the user on display device 204. Typically, an alphanumeric input device 208, including alphanumeric and other keys, is coupled to bus 216 for communicating information and/or command selections to processor 220. Another type of user input device is cursor control device 206, such as a conventional mouse, trackball, or other type of cursor direction keys for communicating direction information and command selection to processor 220 and for controlling cursor movement on display 204.

Alternatively, the client 150 can be implemented as a network computer or thin client device, such as the WebTV Networks™ Internet terminal or the Oracle™ NC. Client 150 may also be a laptop or palm-top computing device, such as the Palm Pilot™. Client 150 could also be implemented in a robust wireless telephone, where such devices are currently being used with

Internet micro-browsers. Such a network computer or thin client device does not necessarily include all of the devices and features of the above-described exemplary computer system; however, the functionality of the present invention or a subset thereof may nevertheless be implemented with such devices.

5 A communication device 226 is also coupled to bus 216 for accessing remote computers or servers, such as web server 100, or other servers via the Internet, for example. The communication device 226 may include a modem, a network interface card, or other well-known interface devices, such as those used for interfacing with Ethernet, Token-ring, or other types of networks. In any event, in this manner, the computer system 200 may be coupled to a number of
10 servers 100 via a network infrastructure such that illustrated in Figure 1 and described above.

 The system of the present invention includes software, information processing hardware, and various processing steps, which will be described below. The features and process steps of the present invention may be embodied in machine or computer executable instructions embodied within media such as disk 212. The instructions can be used to cause a general
15 purpose or special purpose processor, which is programmed with the instructions to perform the steps of the present invention. Alternatively, the features or steps of the present invention may be performed by specific hardware components that contain hard-wired logic for performing the steps, or by any combination of programmed computer components and custom hardware components. While embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the
20 World-Wide Web, the method and apparatus described herein is equally applicable to other network infrastructures or other data communications systems.

 The present invention is a system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments. An introduction to the concept of the present

invention is presented below followed by a detailed description of the architecture and processes of the present invention.

When a conventional computer user turns his or her computer on, he or she sees a flat desktop computing environment with icons on the glass surface of the monitor; currently, no one
5 “owns” the computer desktop or has done much with the desktop other than simple screen savers. The present invention improves this desktop computing environment by creating a 3D visual interface for computing environments. With the interface of the present invention, a user turns his or her computer on and the monitor immediately displays the computer desktop as a 360°, 3-Dimensional room “inside” of the monitor – a 3D computing environment. Looking at a
10 3D-enabled computer, the user will be looking into a computing “room” – a room with depth and dimensions, not a flat glass surface. Standard computer icons, that would normally reside only on the 2D flat glass surface of the monitor, can be spatially placed anywhere in the 3D environment.

For example, the user may want to place the desktop icons on the left wall of his or her
15 3D computing room (the 3D desktop) and by merely moving the cursor or computer mouse the user can quickly navigate to those icons as easily as he or she can navigate around any physical room. There can be pictures on the walls of the 3D environment computing room displaying family members, advertisements, or other messages. The user can configure his 3D environment to have a desk, file cabinets, fax machine, telephone, calendar and other standard “office room”
20 objects inside his 3D computing environment. Teenagers may want their 3D computing environment to look like a living room or a bedroom; and, as an extension of Instant Messaging and chat, they may want to invite their friends to enter into their 3D environment computing room to chat, or listen to the same music together. Companies may want to use a 3D

environment as a tool their customers can download for product updates, sales and marketing, etc. Schools may want to use a 3D environment for remote learning – turn on the computer and use the 3D environment of the desktop as a representation of the classroom, the library, or the school bookstore.

5 In our physical world, we are accustomed to entering into “rooms” (whether it be the office, the living room, the store, the bedroom, etc.). The present invention makes the computer a more user-friendly and intuitive environment by turning the computer desktop into a “room” that its users can enter.

10 The 3D Desktop of the present invention can replace the boring, one or two-dimensional computer desktop with a web enabled, customizable, media rich environment. This environment can take the appearance of a room, a neighborhood, city or landscape. It can play music, video and animation as well as supporting real three-dimensional objects. New items can be added to the desktop via a simple drag and drop interface. Users can change colors and materials in the scene via the same drag and drop interface. The desktop supports all web functions including email and buddy list interactivity.

15 In order to illustrate the advantages of the present invention, several scenarios are presented below. These scenarios illustrate the application of the present invention to real-world situations.

Scenario One

20 A company employs the present invention on their corporate intranet. Each employee now has, via the 3D interface, an office with direct links to the employee manual, standard forms, a 3D campus map locator system, company news, etc. An associate two buildings over can make a virtual visit by asking for entry to another employee's room. This can also be a

mechanism for limited file sharing. Company meetings and presentations can be held, on the desktop, in a virtual 3D Conference Room. The special virtual telephone dialing pad allows users to make free Internet calls.

5 Scenario Two

 A furniture company employs the present invention on their website. They provide the 3D computing environment of the present invention free to their clients via their web site. Their version allows users to re-configure the shape and height of their rooms as well as to manipulate colors of walls, ceilings, floors etc. A special utility allows users to add their own photos to window frames to simulate the view from their window. The furniture company makes their entire furniture line available to drag and drop into the scene so that prospective purchasers can see how the furniture works in their own home. When invited, a 3D environment character visits the users room to offer advise on assembly of the new furniture and introduces a video tutorial, which streams video assembly instructions into the space. In this scenario, the furniture company is not only branding users, but they are also building client satisfaction and reducing their customer support expenses. When the user has added furniture into the room to their satisfaction, they could then purchase the selected furniture. This makes the room similar to an e-commerce shopping cart. User interactions within the room can also be tracked including how long they visited the space, what they looked at and for how long. This data can then be used for profiling user preferences and in focused marketing.

Scenario Three

25 A toy company employs the present invention on their website. They are using it as a free, downloadable doll house on the toy company's web site. Little girls can have their home

computer look like a doll house. They can navigate from room to room. They can add furniture and re-arrange it as they choose. They can modify the color of the walls as well as the sofa. The latest doll or action figure and its accessories are also in the house. The toy company's music channel is playing on the tiny radio. A toy TV displays the latest in the toy company's doll fashions. Of course, the toy company has its logo branding and advertisements within the doll house. Friends, sales people and customer service representatives can visit and interact with the user in the space. An object moved by one person is seen by all.

Net-Based Architecture of the Present Invention

The 3D computing environment concept of the present invention employing a three-dimensional user interface allows for extrapolation into the possibilities of networked "rooms." The initial architecture described below reflects one possible embodiment for introducing linked "rooms", using the Internet as the network of choice.

The Internet-based architecture of the 3D computing environment of the present invention (hereafter referred to as "network-enabled 3D computing environment") consists of a number of conceptual objects: the user, the Internet, the server, the search engine, and the registry. Referring to Figure 3, each of these objects are described in more detail below.

The user object 310 contains everything that happens at a single computer, manned by a human who connects to the Internet. The Internet object 320 contains everything that is served to the user by the server. The server object 330 contains everything needed to serve up webpages and/or applications to the network-enabled 3D computing environment-enabled user.

The search engine 340 is a special case of the standard search engine: it is a search engine enabled for the network-enabled 3D computing environment. The registry object 350 is a database that distributes and tracks the network-enabled 3D computing environment visual

objects, stores objects to be downloaded to the user object 310 and the network-enabled 3D computing environment, and contains software updates for the network-enabled 3D computing environment's structured software developer's kits (SDKs) 312.

5 **User Object**

The user object contains four components in one embodiment of the present invention:

3D Desktop: The 3D desktop 314 is the 3D interface of the present invention. It is a three-dimensional user interface, allowing the user to navigate their computer's contents with ease. The network-enabled 3D computing environment extends this 3D paradigm, to allow the user to connect to the Internet, and view it as a series of three-dimensional objects, some of which will be represented as two-dimensional (or "flat") interfaces. The present invention's 3D Desktop includes a quick-to-download software file that converts the user's conventional 2D desktop into a 3D "room" environment. The present invention's 3D desktop is easy to configure, and allows the user to place standard icons within a 360° spatial environment.

Repository: The repository 316 is a database containing all the graphical objects used for three-dimensional representation to the 3D desktop. It includes objects downloaded from the Internet 320, updates from the registry 350, and user-defined objects.

SDK: The SDK 312 allows the user to create 3D-enabled applications, as well as new graphical objects for the user's 3D interface. Once again, the network-enabled 3D computing environment becomes an add-on to the standard user SDK 312.

Interpreter: The interpreter 318 is a utility that is specific to the network-enabled 3D computing environment. It allows the 3D desktop 314 to interpret incoming data from the Internet 320, for presentation to the desktop 314. This includes: applications 326 and webpages

324 specifically enabled for the 3D environment, applications 328 and webpages 322 not enabled for the 3D environment, and standard industry plug-ins (such as RealAudio, Flash, etc.). It is assumed that the interpreter will have increasing functionality for handling plug-ins in a fashion that makes sense in the 3D paradigm. The interpreter 318 can also be used to sort through 3D-specific functionality in the plug-ins produced by various major players in the plug-in industry.

Internet Object

The Internet object 320 contains four components in one embodiment of the present invention:

Flat Webpages: The standard webpage 322 currently only possesses functionality to be perceived in a flat context. The interpreter can convert these webpages 322, on the fly, to three-dimensional functionality.

Flat Applications: Most network-aware applications 328, whether they exist on a webpage or off, are not currently enabled for 3D functionality. This includes Macromedia Director, Microsoft Outlook, etc.

3D Webpages: In one embodiment of the present invention, the 3D computing environment uses an XML-based markup language, easily embedded in XHTML or XML webpages, that allows a webpage to be simultaneously delivered as a flat webpage to standard browsers, or as a three-dimensional webpage to interpreters 318 of the present invention. This extended markup language allows users to develop 3D webpages 324 free from any additional authoring tools, although such authoring tools could be included in the SDK 312 for ease of use.

3D-Enabled Applications: Applications 328 built by other corporations can also use the extended markup language of the present invention to make their tools 3D-enabled. By hosting

standard markup language libraries at the registry 350, corporations could add to the markup language in an extensible, standardized fashion. In this fashion, corporations can deliver their tools to both a three-dimensional audience and a flat audience.

5 **Server Object**

The network-enabled 3D computing environment server contains two components in one embodiment of the present invention:

The network-enabled 3D computing environment Server: Since regular web servers may or may not handle all the protocols needed to deliver 3D desktop objects, a 3D net-enabled webserver add-on 334 is required. Add-ons can be easily written for Apache, Frontpage, and other servers. This additional utility would allow the server to recognize and handle the network-enabled 3D computing environment.

The Server Maintenance System and Database: Any network-enabled 3D computing environment server should include a system to communicate with the registry 350, allowing for periodic updates to the network-enabled 3D computing environment-based protocols, as well as increasing the library of graphical objects that could be stored on the server 330. By storing the objects on the server 330, the SDK 312 could be used by users to automatically generate 3D-enabled webpages without having the SDK on their desktop.

20 **Search Engine**

Searching the World Wide Web is currently accomplished by flat interfaces. This limits the three-dimensional experience of the 3D computing environment, especially because searching is one of the primary activities of online "surfing". To this end, the present invention

includes a three-dimensional search interface. Alternately, the present invention can modify existing search engines to use the extended markup language to produce their own 3D-enabled pages.

5 **Registry**

 The registry 350 can act as both a community focus for the network-enabled 3D computing environment and a net-based repository for 3D graphical objects and extensions to the conventional markup language. From this registry 350, new objects can be served to the desktop 314 for specific users, updates to the 3D desktop software can be passed to the user, advertising hits can be tallied, etc. The possibilities for enabling the 3D desktop 314 to communicate with the registry 350 are numerous.

10 **E-Commerce System**

 The present invention's e-commerce system 360 takes advantage of key areas of a user's 3D computing desktop environment that are reserved for placing messages and advertisements from commercial clients. When used with the infrastructure of e-commerce systems and the present invention's registry 350, the present invention's always-present availability on a user's desktop 314 can enable additional opportunities for e-commerce.

15 **Financial Services System**

 The Financial Services system 370 of the present invention applies more advanced features, such as: (1) for use in Corporate Intranets; (2) as a tool for Retail Financial Planners and Institutional Financial Services users to more efficiently process data and make more

informed decisions; and (3) to conduct additional transactions in less time. This gives retail customers a more intuitive tool to interact with the data they receive from financial institutions, and to conduct banking and other financial transactions online.

5 **Extensions of the Present Invention**

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The network-enabled 3D computing environment of the present invention has several extensions, including: the introduction of real-time *avatars*. Avatars are virtual representations of users, allowing them to interact with other users across a network. The ability to create an interactive online community is very powerful. Such a utility would allow for intra- and inter-company meetings, the extension of the online communities which exist today, virtual concerts, online games, etc. Other uses of avatars with the present invention are described herein in a subsequent section.

Companies such as id Software (the makers of Quake), Blizzard North (the makers of Diablo), and others have explored limited avatar use with startling results. The Diablo server had, at one point, over 320,000 simultaneous connections. The present invention can be used with this conventional technology to create a population of network-enabled 3D computing systems, with people interacting in virtual cafés, offices, showrooms, etc. The network-enabled 3D computing environment allows for the creation of a cyberspace experience previously only available in science fiction.

20 Referring now to Figures 4 and 5, the structure and processes provided and enabled by the present invention are illustrated. In Figure 4, the present invention provides a structure and process for enabling existing two-dimensional e-commerce engines to employ the three-dimensional computing environment in an e-commerce setting. In Figure 5, the present

invention provides a structure and process for enabling existing two-dimensional e-community databases to employ the three-dimensional computing environment in an e-community database setting.

Referring to Figure 4, the use of the present invention in an e-commerce setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 4, a user 410 accesses a public network such as the Internet and logs onto a business website to order software. Such business websites are common on the Internet (Example: Macromedia). It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many e-commerce websites exist on the Internet through which software may be ordered and purchased. The user 410 access to a networked e-commerce website 420 is illustrated in Figure 4 with an arrow 411. In this example of the present invention in an e-commerce context, the webpage accessed by user 410 appears as any typical webpage provided by the particular e-commerce provider 420. However, by previous agreement between a provider of the present invention and the e-commerce provider 420, the user 410 access and request for purchase to e-commerce client 420 causes the e-commerce client 420 software to make an access to a 3D engine and e-commerce front end store front 430 on e-commerce client website 420. This access 421 to the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 is not apparent to user 410. However, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 drive the e-commerce transaction with user 410. Thus, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 processes the user 410 order and downloads the requested or purchased software to the user's client machine 460. Because 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 controls the order processing and download transaction with user 410, the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 may append a persistent 3D environment client kernel 465 to the software requested or purchased by user 410. Thus, the user 410 requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment persistent kernel 465 is downloaded to client

machine 460 as shown in Figure 4 by arrows 431 and 442. When user 410 installs the downloaded software on client machine 460, the persistent 3D kernel is automatically installed on the user's desktop environment at client machine 460. Following the downloading of the requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment Persistent Client kernel 465, e-commerce engine component 440 automatically notifies the 3D environment server 450 via interface 441. In this manner, the 3D environment server is now aware of the identity and/or location of a client machine 460 to which the persistent 3D kernel 465 has been downloaded. Upon automatic installation of the 3D Persistent Client kernel 465, the user is given a demonstration of the 3D environment software and given the choice to activate a full three-dimensional computing environment on the user's desktop at client machine 460. If the user 410 chooses not to activate the 3D computing environment, the 3D environment Persistent Client 465 nevertheless remains active in an unobtrusive two-dimensional persistent window on the user's desktop for the delivery of advertisement or messages to the user's desktop. As such, the present invention provides a persistent presence on the user's desktop for the placement of advertising, messages, or the gathering of information about the user for the benefit of the e-commerce engine 440 with which the present invention has been connected. Because the three-dimensional environment server 450 was advised by component 440 of the download of the persistent kernel 465 to client system 460, the 3D server 450 may keep a registry of such downloads along with corresponding user profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. This registry and associated user information can be made accessible to the e-commerce client 420 via interface 451 with 3D server 450. In this manner, the e-commerce supplier 420 can thereby obtain information about users of the e-commerce site via 3D server and registry 450. Because the present invention through 3D server 450 can provide e-commerce client 420 with a wealth of information about

particular users, the e-commerce client 420 may generate targeted advertising or product offerings for particular client machines 460. In this manner, the present invention becomes a valuable information link between Internet e-commerce suppliers and e-commerce consumers.

Referring to Figure 5, the use of the present invention in an e-community database setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 5, a user 510 may access the public network, such as the Internet, and log into a conventional e-community database 520 (such as e-groups.com). Once the user has accessed the e-community database, the user typically navigates to a particular selected area of interest, as provided by the conventional e-community database technology. For example, the user 510 may navigate to a special interest area related to, for example, photography. By prior agreement between the e-community database provider and the provider of the technology of the present invention, the e-community database website can be augmented to include a user interface for the selection and activation of a three-dimensional version of the e-community database. Using this interface, user 510 may activate a 3D version of the e-community database 520. As a result of this activation, the e-community database website communicates with a three-dimensional environment spatial shell component 530. Three-dimensional shell component 530 includes a three-dimensional spatial representation of the two-dimensional environment previously provided by e-community database 520. Instead of viewing email text, photos, or objects in a flat two-dimensional environment, the user can now move through the e-community database 520 in a three-dimensional computing environment, interacting with others, and viewing the content of the e-community database 520 in a compelling three-dimensional environment. In this environment, visual real estate is created and the user experiences a sensation of sharing a physical three-dimensional space with other users. In this three-dimensional spatial environment, advertising and other paid messages can be placed

and directed specifically to those interest area users. At block 540 in Figure 5, the user may navigate through the three-dimensional spatial e-community worlds and link to other sites and/or perform software downloads via interface 542 to the client machine 560. Once in the three-dimensional computing environment enabled e-community database, user 510 has an option to download the three-dimensional environment software to the desktop of his or her client machine 560. As a result of this download, the three-dimensional environment server 550 is notified of the client download via interface 541. In this manner, the three-dimensional server 550 and the registry contained therein is informed of the three-dimensional software download to a client machine 560 and may keep track of the location and/or identity of the user who has downloaded and installed the three-dimensional computing environment software. Email or software downloads from the e-community database 520 to its users will include a link to initiate the downloading of a three-dimensional environment Persistent Client kernel 565 to the desktop on the client machine 560. In this manner, the e-community database provider 520 retains a persistent presence for a three-dimensional computing environment on client computer 560. Again, as described above, this Persistent Client kernel 565 may be used to obtain client information such as profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. which can be retained in the registry of 3D server 550. This user information retained in the registry of 3D server 550 may be accessed and used by the e-community database provider 520 via interface 551. In this manner, e-community database provider 520 may employ targeted advertising, targeted information publications, links, or other information particularly relevant to individual client machines 560.

Referring to Figures 6-8, the present invention is used to install a Persistent Client on a user desktop and to embed a particular desired search engine on the desktop. As shown in Figure 6, the user 610 interacts with a search engine 620 to obtain search engine results 630 which are

rendered in the 3D environment of the present invention described above. In a manner described in more detail in Figures 7 and 8, the user downloads the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client of the present invention to the user desktop.

Referring to Figures 7 and 8, the Persistent Client and search engine installation logic of the present invention is illustrated. In a first step, a user logs onto a network and specifies a search through a specific search engine using conventional technology. (Block 710). Next, the user views the search engine results through a three-dimensional rendering interface. Additionally, the user receives an invitation from the present invention to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client of the present invention to their user desktop, personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone, or other information appliance or display device. (Block 720). Next, user may choose to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client to their user desktop. (Block 730). When the user chooses to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client onto their desktop, the user information is sent to the 3D server/registry 550. (Block 740). As a result of the user choosing to download the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client, the previously specified search engine becomes embedded onto the user's desktop through the download of the three dimensional environment and the Persistent Client (i.e., the search engine has been pushed from the internet portal to the user's desktop). The name of the particular search engine (For Links there to) is placed within a toolbar of the Persistent Client window or in a separate area on the user's desktop, which can be accessed prior to being connected to a browser or portal. This download enables advertisers to establish a large installed base of Persistent Client users. (Block 750). Once the search engine, three dimensional environment and Persistent Client are installed on the user's desktop, the user is now able to connect directly to the search engine without

having to first log on through a browser. Once a search is requested, the search engine initiates a launch of the user's Internet service provider (ISP) connection and browser or the search engine can serve as its own ISP and browser and initiate a connection for the user directly online just by initiating a search request. This feature of the present invention enables advertisers to take
5 advantage of the Persistent Client on the user's desktop for the placement of advertising or messages. (Block 760).

Referring to Figure 8, in a next step, the 3D server/registry 550 receives frequent profile information and metrics from each Persistent Client 565 on a user's desktop. This information can be used for focused searching and targeted advertising specific for a particular user. (Block
10 810). Subsequent advertising placed on the Persistent Client-enabled desktop may be used to enable a user to navigate to product offerings offered from the advertisement sponsor. (Block 820).

When the user turns his computer on, the present invention displays a spatial 3D environment that can be navigated 360 degrees from left to right. When the user logs onto an intranet or internet system, the present invention will go to a server that contains advertisements or messages that can be downloaded and buffered onto the user's computer. The computer will
15 periodically display a different advertisement or message within the Persistent Client Window per a predefined cycling period for rotating the advertisements or messages that are being displayed. When the computer system detects that the user does not have an application window
20 open that covers the user's viewing of the Persistent Client Window or that only the user's computer desktop is being displayed, it will continue to display advertisements or messages within the Persistent Client Window that are being cycled from its buffer. In this way, when the user first turns the computer on, the computer will automatically display an advertisement or

message in the Persistent Client Window and it will periodically display other advertisements or messages to the user as long as the Persistent Client Window can be displayed or while the enter desktop is being displayed. When the user opens an application program that overlaps and covers the display of the Persistent Client Window, the advertisement or message that is currently being displayed will remain in the Persistent Client Window until the user closes the application software and returns back to the desktop (or reduces the display of the application software so that the Persistent Client Window can be viewed) and at that time a new advertisement or message will appear in the Persistent Client Window to be viewed by the user. In this manner, while the user is offline, the present invention will allow for the display of many different advertisements or messages in the Persistent Client Window that are retrieved from its buffer and rotated one after the other over a predefined cycling period, as long as the Persistent Client Window can be fully viewed. The user also has the ability to advance forward or backward in retrieving and viewing these advertisements or messages that are stored in buffer by use of the "previous" or "next" icons that located on the toolbar of the Persistent Client Window.

When the user logs online, the present invention retrieves additional advertisements and messages from a server and stores them in buffer for the present and future cycling or display of those advertisements or messages in the Persistent Client Window to the user.

If, while the user is offline and not connected to the internet, the user clicks onto an advertisement or message within the Persistent Client Window, the present invention will launch a program to log the user online for connection to the internet, if additional information is to be retrieved by the present invention from a remote server.

Features of the Persistent Client Window of the Present Invention

Figure 9 illustrates one example of a user desktop 910 with a Persistent Client Window 912.

- 5 The Persistent Client Window 912 includes a toolbar 914 at the top, which lists features that the user can use to interact with or through the Persistent Client 565. Clicking on these items enable the features such as those that are described below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10
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000221"/5254/60 | <p>MESSAGES: The ability to send and receive
audio/text/graphic/video/photographic/facsimile messages to/from
other users of the Persistent Client Window system.</p> <p>SAVE/BOOKMARK: The ability to bookmark and save favorite advertisements or
messages that are being displayed in the Persistent Client Window
912 for future retrieval.</p> <p>← → The ability to scroll to previous or next advertisements or messages
to appear within the Persistent Client Window 912.</p> <p>20 SEND: The ability to send the information being displayed in the
Persistent Client Window 912 to another viewer's Persistent Client
Window by sending an e-mail:</p> |
|---|--|

(1) By clicking onto the "send" button, an e-mail window would appear and the user can insert the e-mail address of the recipient. Once the recipient retrieves and opens the e-mail, the advertisement or message would be shown as a link that when clicked on will be retrieved from a central server and simultaneously displayed in the recipient's Persistent Client Window 912, as well as in the viewer's standard e-mail display or desktop.

(2) The information can also be sent directly from the Persistent Client Window 912 user to the Persistent Client Window system address of the recipient and would appear in the Persistent Client Window message box of the recipient. This means of messaging is internal to the users of the Persistent Client Window system.

SEARCH:

The ability to define general areas of interest or specific information that can be searched directly from a local server or from other servers on a network for advertisements, messages, etc., that have been previously displayed or formatted to be displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

MORE INFO:

The ability to send a message back to the source of the advertisement/message/host that you want more information to be sent to you on what is being shown in the Persistent Client Window 912 or that you want someone to contact you with more information. Your contact details (e-mail, telephone numbers, etc.) will be forwarded back to the source or host of the advertisement/message.

YOUR INTEREST:

The ability to define and select the types of advertisements, messages or other information that the user wants to see displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

PURCHASE:

The ability to initiate purchase of whatever is being displayed in the Persistent Client Window 912.

Advertisements, messages, pictures, video and other information or data contained within the Persistent Client Window 912 can be moved to the desktop and vice versa through conventional drag-and-drop procedures.

The present invention includes functionality to place 2D or "3D/spatial" advertisements, promotions, or messages in the Persistent Client Window 912 that, when clicked on by a user/viewer, will activate full or partial-screen interactive 3D virtual reality environment advertisements that can also be equipped with e-commerce capabilities, such as links to product/service ordering websites. As shown in Figure 9, a portion 916 of the persistent client desktop environment 910 is allocated for the positioning of 2D or 3D advertisements,

pictures, promotions, or messages. In a configuration mode, a user can use conventional drag & drop user interface techniques to position a desired advertisement in region 916. Subsequently, a user/viewer can view the advertisement in region 916 and select a portion of the advertisement or a related link by clicking on a portion of region 916 using a conventional mouse. Upon selection of the region 916, an expanded view of the advertisement is presented. Upon activation of a related link provided within region 916, the user is taken to a related website where an e-commerce transaction corresponding to the advertisement may be initiated.

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The present invention provides this virtual reality (VR) environment for a client, who can use the "drag and drop", easy-to-configure nature of the environment provided by the present invention to allow users on their website to customize a spatial environment with a new line of products they had created for the environment. Further, the present invention can be used to embed a similar VR/spatial environment behind a static or dynamic two dimensional (2D) advertisement that is placed in the Persistent Client window 912. For example, a 3D or 2D advertisement may be positioned in the Persistent Client window 912. When this advertisement is selected by a user/viewer clicking on it, the advertisement enlarges into a partial or full-screen VR/spatial environment that the user can move through spatially and take advantage of the media-enriched features of the advertisement.

As an example of this functionality of the present invention, refer again to Figure 9. As shown in Figure 9, the Persistent Client Window 912 is shown. An advertisement may be placed in the Persistent Client Window 912. When a user clicks on the advertisement, the advertisement increases in size to partially or completely fill the screen of the computer monitor. The advertisement may be rendered as a 2D or 3D image. If the advertisement is a 3D VR

environment, the user can click onto an avatar section of the advertisement and choose a virtual body (avatar) that will be the identification or representation of the user's presence in the 3D advertisement VR environment. The user can then virtually walk around that advertisement, meet other virtual users who have entered into the collaborative VR advertisement in the same way from their own computer desktops. The virtual users can converse with each other about the content of the advertisement. This virtual conversation can be implemented by capturing conversational input typed or spoken into the computer system of each participating user in the virtual space. The conversation is rendered to other participating users via conventional displayed text blocks or spoken audio played through a computer audio system. A typical conversation between virtual users may proceed as follows. ("Have you tried this product that's being advertised?" "Yes, I have ... it's great. I bought it at ..." "What have you used it for?" "I've used it for doing, but I was talking with another person in this advertisement and she was telling me that she uses it for, I think I'll give that a try." "Thanks for the advice. I think I'll buy this product and give that a try too. By the way, does the manufacturer have other products like this?")

The sponsor of the advertisement can have virtual representatives (corporate avatars) within those VR advertisement environments to meet users (their targeted audience members that are now inside of their VR advertisement), to lead one-on-one or group discussions, answer any questions, share any additional information or promotional input, etc.

Using the present invention, it is also possible to develop e-communities around VR advertisement environments, in much the same way as e-communities have developed around corporate stock information sites (like www.ragingbull.com) where individuals can interact with others that share their same interests. In the example of the stock information sites, the interest

would be that particular stock or anything that has an affect on that stock's price. In our VR advertisement environments, the interest area would be in whatever the advertisement is promoting.

Advertisers strive to achieve maximum stickiness to their advertisement placements on the Internet. Advertisement placement on TV and radio lasts just a few seconds, but the sponsors hope that viewers will remember the advertisement message long afterwards. A VR advertisement as described herein can be used to create a community of viewers that stay within the advertisement environment for a significantly longer period (i.e., achieve a higher level of stickiness) than can be achieved by TV, radio or print advertisements. In this way, the present invention can provide advertisers a means to extend their "stickiness" and branding. The present invention can also provide users a means to participate in a community of other users with the same interests.

The present invention includes the ability for users to leave the "communal" nature of an interactive multi-user VR advertisement environment to customize a "private" or "user-customized" version of the VR advertisement environment on their own desktop. For example, the advertisement sponsor may have objects, textures or colors in a toolbar or other section of the advertisement that the user can drag and drop to customize that VR advertisement environment. The user can jump back into the "communal" VR advertisement environment to interact with others, wherein any customization of that communal environment is controlled by the advertisement sponsor or its representatives. Somewhere within that "communal" advertisement environment, the present invention provides a section showing e-mailed text communications between the users in that environment. A user can also invite others to leave that "communal" environment and come into his/her own "individually-customized" version of the VR

advertisement environment and that user can control who can enter that personal/individually-customized environment. Communication between these virtual users can be with graphics, text, voice, pictures, video or other data. The multi-user VR advertisement environments described herein can also be applied to advertisement areas in websites, portals, search engines results and other pages displayed on intranet and internet environments.

Use of Avatars in the 3D User Interface Environment

The present invention can be used to add a whole new level to the "focused marketing" approach of advertisers and e-tailers. As commonly known, advertising on the net has become ubiquitous through the use of banner advertisements, pop up windows, etc. The present invention enables a next generation in online/desktop interfaces. The 3D user interface of the present invention can be augmented to use specially designed avatars as a vehicle for advertisement delivery. As a user navigates through the virtual 3D landscape, certain use patterns or information from the 3D server/registry database triggers a targeted message to be delivered through the use of a 3D character (avatar). The Persistent Client module on the user's database can be used to capture the user's use pattern and other information, which is sent to and retained by the 3D server/registry. The avatar can engage the user in chat to deliver the advertiser's message, perhaps acquire more data through questions that could be asked of the user, and then present the user with interactive options to engage them further, if they are interested. This approach enables one to capitalize on the use of recognizable characters (i.e. corporate mascots) to 1) enrich the user's experience and 2) reinforce the message of the advertiser through further branding. In some instances, something as simple as the clothing style

of the avatar can be used to make a connection with the user. Some examples of how this can be implemented follow.

Scenario A

A sports fan exits a "room" where he/she has previously been engaged in a multi user chat with other sports fans on the topic of their favorite basketball team, the Golden State Warriors. Through the 3D interface of the present invention, the users have been swapping their favorite images of team members using conventional peer-to-peer file transfer functionality. The database of the present invention recognizes this exchange that has taken place and, because Golden State has signed on with the provider of the present invention, sends out a 3D representation (e.g. avatar) of the Warrior's mascot to greet the user as he/she continues on their virtual "walk". The avatar offers the user \$5 off on game tickets in exchange for joining their mailing list, filling out a survey, etc., and then informs the user about the Warrior's Persistent Client-enabled virtual locker room where they can chat with certain players during scheduled special events.

Scenario B

A college student orders a new computer online via their Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop. The 3D server/registry recognizes this event and responds by sending an avatar by to greet the user and inform them of the large line of peripherals available from Company A that are compatible with the system they are purchasing. The avatar wishes the user well with their new computer and leaves them with a virtual coupon for 15% off their first purchase with Company A. The user is informed of hardware options they had not previously been aware of and heads off to Company A's Persistent Client-enabled web site to make another purchase.

Scenario C

A user that frequently downloads hip hop music is exploring the automatically generated landscape via their Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop. They soon cross paths with an avatar styled out in baggy jeans, ball cap, tennis shoes and headphones. The avatar approaches the user and offers him the opportunity to check out the new track he's listening to on his portable mp3 player. The avatar tells the user that the track is authored by a new artist on Solid Player records, an affiliate of the provider of the present invention. The user is intrigued so he clicks on the avatar's headphones and the mp3 begins to stream through to his machine, thus turning him on to a track he may otherwise have never heard. The avatar then offers the user a direct link to Solid Players Persistent Client-enabled site where he can purchase a license for the album and download it in its entirety.

Scenario D

A young woman has been using her Persistent Client-enabled 3D desktop to gather information on a specific model Toyota she was interested in purchasing. The 3D server/registry recognizes the numerous search queries run on that specific vehicle and responds by dispatching an avatar. While Toyota has not yet partnered with the provider of the present invention, their competition, Mazda, has. As the user steps outside of her virtual "room" to explore, a 3D representation of a 2001 Mazda Protege pulls up and the avatar steps out to greet her. The avatar informs her of how the Mazda is a far superior vehicle for the money compared to the Toyota. The avatar then offers to show her the features of the car online as well as set up an appointment to see test drive the car in person at her nearest dealer. Thus, the woman is interested and Mazda has used the present invention to gain market share away from their competition.

Thus, the variations on the use of the present invention are endless. Using the present invention, the advertisement moves from being a flat texture map on a flat surface to an engaging, interactive, media rich experience that goes hand in hand with the whole 3D concept of the present invention. In the process, the advertisement weary consumer barely recognizes or even minds the fact that they have just received targeted advertising. By implementing this novel concept, the present invention provides more effective marketing strategies to their clients as well as avoiding the trap of simply adapting the tired banner advertisement concept to a 3D environment.

Thus, a computer network-based system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed. Although the present invention is described herein with reference to a specific preferred embodiment, many modifications and variations therein will readily occur to those with ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, all such variations and modifications are included within the intended scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
- providing a three-dimensional computing environment;
- receiving a two-dimensional web page;
- converting the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional
- 5 computing environment; and
- presenting the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page contained therein to a user.
2. A data processing system-readable medium having a plurality of instructions executable by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said instructions when executed cause said data processing system to:
- provide a three-dimensional computing environment;
- 5 receive a two-dimensional web page;
- convert the two-dimensional web page to a form useable in the three-dimensional computing environment; and
- present the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted web page contained therein to a user.
3. A method comprising:

- providing a three-dimensional computing environment;
receiving a two-dimensional application program;
converting the two-dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-
5 dimensional computing environment; and
presenting the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted application
program contained therein to a user.

- A₂
4. A data processing system-readable medium having a plurality of instructions executable
by a data processing system embodied therein, wherein said instructions when executed cause
said data processing system to:

- provide a three-dimensional computing environment;
5 receive a two-dimensional application program;
convert the two-dimensional application program to a form useable in the three-
dimensional computing environment; and
present the three-dimensional computing environment with the converted application
program contained therein to a user.

5. A method comprising:
accessing a website;
automatically accessing a 3D environment server in response to the access to the website;
generating a 3D environment on the website; and
5 retaining information related to the website access in a repository.

ABSTRACT

A computer network-based system and method to configure and provide network-enabled three-dimensional computing environments is disclosed.

THE

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

the specification of which

[illegible]

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u>			<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Number) (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

(Application Number) (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

09/686,206	10/10/00	Pending
(Application Number)	(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)	(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)	_____ (Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to James H. Salter, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR &
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and

direct telephone calls to James H. Salter, (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

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 or any patent issued thereon.

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APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56
Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made or record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
- (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov



Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 8338

SERIAL NUMBER 09/745,257	FILING DATE 12/20/2000 RULE	CLASS 712 715	GROUP ART UNIT 2183 2174	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 4957P001X
APPLICANTS Jack D. Robinson, San Francisco, CA; Linda R. James, Castro Valley, CA; Thomas Alonzo Cardaci II, San Francisco, CA; Kristin Blandford, San Francisco, CA;				
** CONTINUING DATA ***** THIS APPLICATION IS A CIP OF 09/686,206 10/10/2000 M. RINEHART <i>yes, R</i>				
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** <i>no, R</i>				
IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 02/23/2001				
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ yes ☒ no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ Met after Allowance Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> Initials: <i>[Initials]</i>	STATE OR COUNTRY CA	SHEETS DRAWING 9	TOTAL CLAIMS 20	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
ADDRESS 008791				
TITLE System and method to configure and provide a network-enabled three-dimensional computing environment				
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1000	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:			
		☐ All Fees ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing) ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Credit		

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE RECORD SHEET

12/28/2000 HLE333 00000044 09745257

01 FC:101	710.00 OP
02 FC:102	160.00 OP

PTO-1556
(5/87)

*U.S. GPO: 2000-468-987/39595

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Effective October 1, 2000

Application or Docket Number

09745237

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS		
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	5 minus 20=	* 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	5 minus 3=	* 2
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☐

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT A	0-26-0	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR
Total	* 20	Minus	** 20 =
Independent	* 6	Minus	*** 5 = 1
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM			☐

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT B		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR
Total	*	Minus	** =
Independent	*	Minus	*** =
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM			☐

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT C		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR
Total	*	Minus	** =
Independent	*	Minus	*** =
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM			☐

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

SMALL ENTITY TYPE ☐ OR

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	355.00
X\$ 9=	
X40=	
+135=	
TOTAL	

RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	710.00
X\$18=	
X80=	160
+270=	
TOTAL	870

SMALL ENTITY OR

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X40=	
+135=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X80=	200
+270=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	200

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X40=	
+135=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X80=	
+270=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X40=	
+135=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X80=	
+270=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

* MAY BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL CLAIMS OR ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS ONLY		APPLICANT(S)	
SERIAL NO.	FILED DATE		
1		AS FILED	IND. DEF.
2		AFTER 1st AMENDMENT	IND. DEF.
3		AFTER 2nd AMENDMENT	IND. DEF.
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TOTAL IND.			
TOTAL DEF.			
TOTAL CLAIMS			