

CLAIMS APPENDIX: U.S. PAT. NO. 9,172,765

[1.1] An improved method for the dissemination of an alert message to a plurality of personal computers using a network communications protocol,

[1.2] said computers comprising clients, each said clients subscribing to a central server, said server comprising an alert message cache, said server adapted to receive and store alert messages, and

[1.3] said server adapted to generate and store alert ID numbers, said method comprising,

[1.4] a first triggering step comprises the use of a HTTP packet comprising a request for a Boolean value relating to whether there are new alert messages and said packet comprises approximately 20 bytes,

[1.5] a second step wherein said client contacts the central server and requests the value of said alert ID number in said memory, said value reflecting the number of alert messages received by said central server,

[1.6] a third step wherein said server transmits said value to said client,

[1.7] a fourth step wherein said client compares a stored value at the client with the value of the transmitted alert ID number, and

[1.8] if said transmitted value exceeds said stored value, a fifth step wherein said client transmits a second message to said server and requests for the server to

transmit all unread alert messages in a GetUnreadAlerts request from said server that are specific to said client, and

[1.9] if there are unread alert messages specific to said client in said server, a sixth step wherein said server sends to client all unread alert messages specific to the client, and,

[1.10] a further step wherein said client updates the stored value in its memory to reflect the number of additional unread alert messages transmitted from said server to said client in response to said second message, and

[1.11] wherein, upon the reception of said unread alert messages in said sixth step, said alert messages are in instant message format and said client opens a window on a display panel to display said alert messages,

[1.12] wherein said communications protocol comprises protocols for the transmission of messages over the internet.

[2.0] The method recited in claim 1 wherein said client will contact said server at predetermined polling frequencies.

[3.0] The method recited in claim 1 wherein said communications between said clients and said servers uses a SOAP protocol.

[4.0] The method recited in claim 1 wherein said first communications between said clients and said servers uses a HTTP protocol and said second message from said client requesting unread alerts uses a SOAP protocol.

[5.0] The method recited in claim 4 wherein said first communications between said clients and said servers uses a HTTP GET protocol and said second message from said client requesting unread alerts uses a SOAP protocol.

[6.0] The method recited in claim 1 wherein said communication proceeds according to an RPC protocol.

[7.0] The method recited in claim 6 further comprises a RPC/UDP protocol.

[8.0] The method recited in claim 6 further comprises a RPC/TCP protocol.

[9.0] The method of claim 1, wherein said alert message comprises: the date the message was received by said server, a time the message was received by said server, a date the message was sent to said client, a time the message was sent to said client, content of the message and combinations thereof.

[10.1] A system for providing alert messages to a plurality of clients using a polling-based network, said system comprising a plurality of clients,

[10.2] at least one server in communication with said clients using a network connection,

[10.3] said central server provided with input devices to receive alert messages, and a database, said database for storing said alert messages,

[10.4] and said processor having programming instructions to create and store an alert ID value corresponding to alert messages stored in said database, and

[10.5] said clients adapted to communicate with said server using an RPC communications protocol

[10.6] wherein said protocol further comprises a first triggering step comprises the use of a HTTP packet comprising a request for a Boolean value relating to whether there are new alert messages and said packet comprises approximately 20 bytes, and

[10.7] further communication from said client to said server requesting a Get Alert Messages using a SOAP communications protocol and

[10.8] wherein said client is transmitted an Alert ID message value from said server to said client, and

[10.9] if said Alert ID message value matches a stored message value, the client will further request from said server any alert messages to which it

subscribes, and in response to said requests, said server transmits any unread alert messages and

[10.10] said unread alert message are in instant message format and upon the client's reception of said unread alert messages said client opens a window on a display panel at said client, and

[10.11] wherein said communications protocol comprises protocols for the transmission of messages over the internet.

[11.0] The system of claim 10, wherein said server further comprising an application programming interface controls the administrator interface and provides at least one instruction to the administrator interface for creating said alert messages and transmitting said alert messages to the user contact devices.

[12.0] The system of claim 10, further comprising display devices at said clients and at said server wherein said client displays, display said alter messages.

[13.0] The system of claim 10, wherein said database is an SQL™ database, MySQL™ database, an Oracle™ database, another industry standard database, or combinations thereof.