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Brenda Dietrich

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EXAMINER

THIAW, CATHERINE B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

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

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 11/512,782	Applicant(s) DIETRICH, BRENDA	
	Examiner CATHERINE THIAW	Art Unit 2458	

-- 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) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, 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 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 30 August 2006.
- 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) 1-21 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- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.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) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ 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 20 August 2006 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).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ 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:
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.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al., U.S Patent No. 6,725,228, hereinafter Clark, in view Gilberto et al., U.S. 20030158791, hereinafter, Gilberto.
4. As to claim 1, Clark disclose a method for tracking emails (col. 4, lines 26-32) each having a service activity date (Fig. 6, 62A) from a sender (col. 8, line 14: “user of computer 16”) to a recipient (col. 8, lines 15-16: “user of computer 18) with an email application operating via a communications network (col. 8, lines 14-16, and Fig. 1A), the method comprising:

generating at said sender an email (col. 8, lines 13-18) having a first portion including a first data (Fig. 6, label 66 and col. 12, line 63) and a second portion including a second data (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64); creating an inbox at said recipient for the

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receipt of said email (col. 8, lines 22-23);

creating at least one subfolder at said recipient (col. 4, lines 27-31, and Fig. 6, label 61)

identified by a conversion date associated with a particular set of first data (Fig. 6,

Folders 61 A: "Today", "Yesterday") said at least one subfolder in communication with

said inbox (Fig. 6, label 61, col. 8, lines 45-50 and col. 12, lines 10-13);

sending said email to said recipient over said communications network (col. 8, lines 14-21);

receiving said email at said inbox (col. 8, lines 21-23 and col. 9, lines 11-17);

searching, responsive to said receipt of said email in said inbox, said first data and said second data of said email (Fig. 7; col. 31, lines 5-15 : Search criteria field in table 56

shows that messages can be sorted according to the date or keywords, which could be performed respectively in the header 66 or the body 67 of the message); and

moving said email (col. 8, lines 23-26) to a corresponding one of said at least one subfolders identified by said first data (col. 31, lines 37-42).

5. However, Clark does not explicitly teach that the emails sent from user of computer 16 to user of computer 18 are about services orders of services activities; that the emails include a first data and second data from a service order, and that at least one subfolder is identified by first data of the service order.

6. Gilberto, in the related field of placing and tracking commercial orders via emails, teaches a mechanism for a customer to send orders to a supplier by emails (paragraph

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[0040, lines 1-7); order form in Fig. 14 allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested, and more information can be inputted in order form in Fig. 17, such as the description of the items.

7. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Clark with the teachings of Gilberto in order to implement a method for tracking services orders of services activities by inputting in the email sent from computer 16 to computer 18, as taught by Clark a requested date or description of item in a first portion (header, in subject for instance) or in the second portion of the message (body of the message). Such combination would have allowed the order recipient to immediately get all information related to the orders, such as description, when the order is requested. By combining Gilberto's service orders with Clark's techniques of email organizing, it would allow technicians of the services orders to be able to organize the emails effectively.

8. As to claim 2, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said first data of said service order are alphanumerical characters corresponding to said service activity date (col. 26, lines 30-33, from Clark and Fig. 14 from Gilberto allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested).

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9. As to claim 3, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said second data of said service order are alphanumeric characters corresponding to a descriptor of said service activity (col. 26, lines 16-19, from Clark, or Fig. 17, under “Description”: widget, widget holder, from Gilberto).

10. As to claim 4, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said receiving said email at said inbox further comprises: receiving said email from a selected sender (col. 8, lines 13-18, from Clark).

11. As to claim 5, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein first portion comprises a subject line of said email (Fig. 6, label 66: “subject”, and col. 12, line 63, from Clark).

12. As to claim 6, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said second portion comprises a body of said email (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64, from Clark).

13. As to claim 7, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said particular set of first data comprises: a select set of service activity dates associated with said conversion date (col. 14, bottom of table 56: “ftDate- which indicates that the folder includes messages selected according to a criterion relative to dates”: those dates can correspond to the date the message is sent, shown in the header, or a requested date of service, as taught by

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Gilberto, that could be entered in the subject line, and would be then in the first portion of the email).

14. As to claim 8, Clark discloses a system for tracking emails (col. 4, lines 26-32) each having a service activity date (Fig. 6, 62A) from a sender (col. 8, line 14: "user of computer 16") to a recipient (col. 8, lines 15-16: "user of computer 18) with an email application operating via a communications network (col. 8, lines 14-16, and Fig. 1A), the system comprising:

means for generating at said sender an email (col. 8, lines 13-18) having a first portion including a first data (Fig. 6, label 66 and col. 12, line 63) and a second portion including a second data (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64);

means for creating an inbox at said recipient for the receipt of said email (col. 8, lines 22-23);

means for creating at least one subfolder at said recipient (col. 4, lines 27-31, and Fig. 6, label 61) identified by a conversion date associated with a particular set of first data (Fig. 6, Folders 61 A: "Today", "Yesterday"), said at least one subfolder in communication with said inbox (Fig. 6, label 61, col. 8, lines 45-50 and col. 12, lines 10-13);

means for sending said email to said recipient over said communications network (col. 4, lines 14-21);

means for receiving said email at said inbox (col. 8, lines 21-23 and col. 9, lines 11-17);

means for searching, responsive to said receipt of said email in said inbox, said first

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data and said second data of said email (Fig. 7; col. 31, lines 5-15 : Search criteria field in table 56 shows that messages can be sorted according to the date or keywords, which could be performed respectively in the header 66 or the body 67 of the message); and means for moving said email (col. 8, lines 23-26) to a corresponding one of said at least one subfolders identified by said first data (col. 31, lines 37-42).

15. However, Clark does not explicitly teach that the emails sent from user of computer 16 to user of computer 18 are about services orders of services activities; that the emails include a first data and second data from a service order, and that at least one subfolder is identified by first data of the service order.

16. Gilberto, in the related field of placing and tracking commercial orders via emails, teaches a mechanism for a customer to send orders to a supplier by emails (paragraph [0040, lines 1-7); order form in Fig. 14 allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested, and more information can be inputted in order form in Fig. 17, such as the description of the items.

17. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Clark with the teachings of Gilberto in order to implement a system for tracking services orders of services activities by inputting in the email sent from computer 16 to computer 18, as taught by Clark a requested date or description of item in a first portion (header, in subject for instance) or in the second

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portion of the message (body of the message). Such combination would have allowed the order recipient to immediately get all information related to the orders, such as description, when the order is requested. By combining Gilberto's service orders with Clark's techniques of email organizing, it would allow technicians of the services orders to be able to organize the emails effectively.

18. As to claim 9, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein said first data of said service order are alphanumerical characters corresponding to said service activity date (col. 26, lines 30-33, from Clark and Fig. 14 from Gilberto allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested).

19. As to claim 10, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein said second data of said service order are alphanumerical characters corresponding to a descriptor of said service activity (col. 26, lines 16-19, from Clark, or Fig. 17, under "Description": widget, widget holder, from Gilberto).

20. As to claim 11, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein said means for receiving said email at said inbox further comprises: means for receiving said email from a selected sender (col. 8, lines 13-18, from Clark).

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21. As to claim 12, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein first portion comprises a subject line of said email (Fig. 6, label 66: “subject”, and col. 12, line 63, from Clark).

22. As to claim 13, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein said second portion comprises a body of said email (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64, from Clark).

23. As to claim 14, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 8 wherein said particular set of first data comprises:
a select set of service activity dates associated with said conversion date (col. 14, bottom of table 56: “ftDate- which indicates that the folder includes messages selected according to a criterion relative to dates”: those dates can correspond to the date the message is sent, shown in the header, or a requested date of service, as taught by Gilberto, that could be entered in the subject line, and would be then in the first portion of the email).

24. As to claim 15, Clark discloses a system for tracking emails (col. 4, lines 26-32) each having a service activity date (Fig. 6, 62A) from a sender (col. 8, line 14: “user of computer 16”) to a receiver (col. 8, lines 15-16: “user of computer 18) with an email application operating via a communications network (col. 8, lines 14-16, and Fig. 1A), the system comprising:

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a first computer sender for operating an email application to generate an email (col. 8, lines 14-18) having a first portion including a first data (Fig. 6, label 66 and col. 12, line 63) and a second portion including a second data (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64); a second computer located at said receiver to create an inbox for the receipt of said email (col. 8, lines 21-23);

at least one subfolder on said second computer (col. 4, lines 27-31, and Fig. 6, label 61) identified by a conversion date associated with a particular set of first data (Fig. 6, Folders 61 A: "Today", "Yesterday"), said at least one subfolder in communication with said inbox (Fig. 6, label 61, col. 8, lines 45-50 and col. 12, lines 10-13);

means for sending said email to said recipient over said communications network (col. 8, lines 14-21);

means for receiving said email at said inbox (col. 8, lines 21-23 and col. 9, lines 11-17);

alphanumeric search means, responsive to said receipt of said email in said inbox, for searching said first data and said second data of said email (Fig. 7; col. 31, lines 5-15 : Search criteria field in table 56 shows that messages can be sorted according to the date or keywords, which could be performed respectively in the header 66 or the body 67 of the message); and

means for moving said email (col. 8, lines 23-26) to a corresponding one of said at least one subfolders identified by said first data (col. 31, lines 37-42).

25. However, Clark does not explicitly teach that the emails sent from user of computer 16 to user of computer 18 are about services orders of services activities; that

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the emails include a first data and second data from a service order, and that at least one subfolder is identified by first data of the service order.

26. Gilberto, in the related field of placing and tracking commercial orders via emails, teaches a mechanism for a customer to send orders to a supplier by emails (paragraph [0040, lines 1-7); order form in Fig. 14 allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested, and more information can be inputted in order form in Fig. 17, such as the description of the items.

27. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Clark with the teachings of Gilberto in order to implement a method for tracking services orders of services activities by inputting in the email sent from computer 16 to computer 18, as taught by Clark a requested date or description of item in a first portion (header, in subject for instance) or in the second portion of the message (body of the message). Such combination would have allowed the order recipient to immediately get all information related to the orders, such as description, when the order is requested. By combining Gilberto's service orders with Clark's techniques of email organizing, it would allow technicians of the services orders to be able to organize the emails effectively.

28. As to claim 16, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein said first data of said service order are alphanumeric characters

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corresponding to said service activity date (col. 26, lines 30-33, from Clark and Fig. 14 from Gilberto allows to input information relative to sender's email, date of order, date the order is requested).

29. As to claim 17, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein said second data of said service order are alphanumerical characters corresponding to a descriptor of said service activity (col. 26, lines 16-19, from Clark, or Fig. 17, under "Description": widget, widget holder, from Gilberto).

30. As to claim 18, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein said means for receiving said email at said inbox further comprises: means for receiving said email from a selected sender (col. 8, lines 13-18, from Clark).

31. As to claim 19, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein first portion comprises a subject line of said email (Fig. 6, label 66: "subject", and col. 12, line 63, from Clark).

32. As to claim 20, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein said second portion comprises a body of said email (Fig. 6, label 67 and col. 12, line 64, from Clark).

33. As to claim 21, the combination of Clark and Gilberto discloses the system of claim 15 wherein said particular set of first data comprises:

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a select set of service activity dates associated with said conversion date (col. 14, bottom of table 56: “ftDate- which indicates that the folder includes messages selected according to a criterion relative to dates”: those dates can correspond to the date the message is sent, shown in the header, or a requested date of service, as taught by Gilberto, that could be entered in the subject line, and would be then in the first portion of the email).

Response to Arguments

34. Applicants’ arguments were received on 04/29/2009.

35. Applicants arguments are directed to the rejections of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C 103 (a).

36. Applicants argue that Clark does not teach a conversion date, and that the combination of Clark and Gilberto would not teach or suggest Applicants claimed invention. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Clark does not specify the activity associated with the date, used to sort emails in folders; Clark states “all folder which contain messages selected by date and time could be contain within a “date” sub-root folder at shown in Fig. 17” (col. 14, table 56). The names of folders “today”, “yesterday” in Fig. 17 are merely an example of organizing emails. Clark also teaches that any content located in emails header, body, attachments can be used to sort emails into

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folders (col. 10, lines 4-19); Criteria related to keywords or related to dates could also be used in sorting emails (col. 14, bottom of table 56: ftKeyword, ftDate). Dates do not exclusively mean dates emails are received or sent, Clark teaches that a message summary associated with a folder can include shortcuts to messages, the shortcuts are identified by keys, for instance, a "TriggerDateTime" key is used to implement timed shortcuts that cause an action to be executed when the TriggerDate Time is reached (col. 15, lines 36-61). The dates as taught by Clark encompass any dates included in the messages, such as a conversion date.

37. Gilberto teachings are directed to submitting orders and tracking shipments status electronically. Users submit an order form, including fields related to date, such as date ordered, date requested (Fig. 14 and paragraph [0063], lines 1-5). Gilberto teaches that orders can be chronologically sorted by order date (Fig. 11A). It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Clark and Gilberto by sorting the mail orders using the technique of Clark, and selecting the "requested date" of Gilberto as a criteria to organize the mails.

38. The examiner affirms that claims 1-21 are obvious over the teachings of Clark and Gilberto, and the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

39. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

40. Lee et al., U.S. 20060122899 discloses sorting online orders by shipping dates, purchase information ...

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CATHERINE THIAW whose telephone number is (571)270-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30--6.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Avellino can be reached on 571-272-3905. 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.

/C. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 2458

06/24/2009

/Joseph E. Avellino/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2458