Fujitsu Chat Messaging Portfolio

Patents for Sale

April 8, 2014

Offer #14-FUJ001-000016

About TAEUS International Corporation

For nearly twenty years, TAEUS International Corporation has helped market leaders around the world maximize the value of their intellectual property through comprehensive intellectual property business cycle solutions. Major organizations have turned to TAEUS to help them maximize shareholder value in mergers, acquisitions, and other corporate transactions, as well as gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace through strategic application of their unique intellectual property

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Executive Summary

TAEUS International Corporation (TAEUS) and Fujitsu Limited (Fujitsu) present a unique opportunity for your company to enhance its position in the social media/**Chat Messaging** space.

Offers will be accepted on the whole portfolio, as well as subsets.

For additional information on this offer, please contact:
Maria Hansen
IP Transactions
719-325-5017 mhansen@taeus.com

Chat messaging is a type of online chat which offers real-time text transmission over the Internet. Several of the patents within this portfolio teach methods that help route the chat messages or track the messages based on the use of keywords or symbols like hashtags. These methods are presented in US 7,426,540 and US 5,987,503.

Another common way for users to communicate with each other is through the use of chat rooms. US 6,249,806, US 6,751,656 relate to the listing of available chat rooms based on a user data set, while US 6,370,563 and US 7,313,594 teach methods of displaying multiple chat rooms side by side in single interface. US 7,260,605 utilizes a method where a user interface (UI) is used to reduce the display area while utilizing multiple chat channels.

US 6,630,944 describes a method for displaying conversations on a network for ease of viewing in accordance with user preferences based on the thread or a message-group.

The invention of US 6,704,731 discloses the use of multiple software agents to transmit and receive chat messages while utilizing a common computer language.

US 6,711,264 describes a method of using secure communications within SMS and peer-to-peer messaging.

By implementing a common dictionary shared by several terminals can reduce the user's burden of typing and creating dictionaries. The method of reusing this dictionary is taught in US 7,426,540.

Initial bids on this patent portfolio are being accepted on or before July 15, 2014.

You are encouraged to indicate interest as soon as possible so that we can keep you advised of changes to the intended closing date or any other updates. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Contents

1. Chat Messaging Portfolio Overview

Chat messaging offers real-time text transmission over the Internet and is known as Short Message Service (SMS), Instant Messaging, or simply Chat. Chat messaging was created in the 1960's and was redeveloped in the late 1980's by Commodore Computers. In the early 1990's America Online became the industry leader after creating AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), which is still available today.

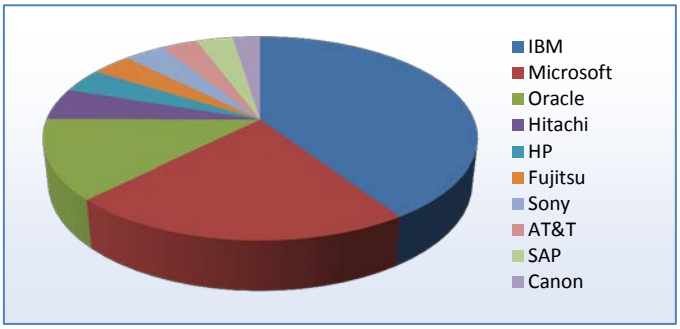


Figure 1. Top 10 Companies Patenting in the Same Technology Area as the Patents offered in the Chat Messaging Portfolio

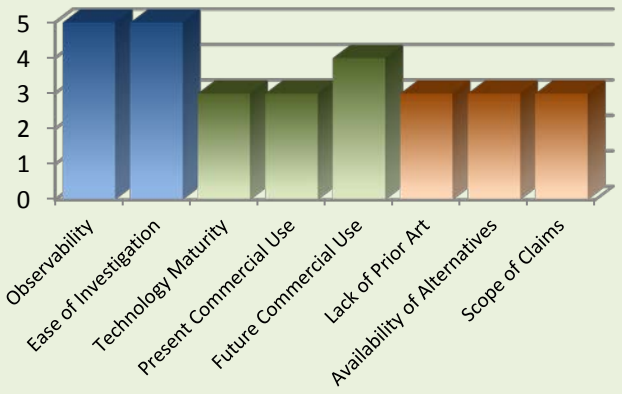
Text messaging has established itself as the simplest and easiest means of one-to-one communication and is currently the most popular messaging service. According to a report by Portio Research Ltd., "In 2011, the worldwide mobile messaging market was worth USD 202 billion.[1]"

For the last 15 years Fujitsu Limited has also been active in this industry, developing applications supporting the instant messaging craze. Several of these key patents are being offered for sale and are presented in this portfolio. Some of the technology areas include keyword detection in a chat message, two-way computer communication services, display methods, in addition to a method of sending chat messages.

To predict the patents' potential licensing strength from a technical perspective, TAEUS reviewed and evaluated US 7,313,594 and US 7,426,540 following the consistent set of TAEUSworks rules. TAEUSworks provides information on a set of qualitative parameters critical to patent licensing and litigation. This assessment yields an overall 1-5 score. Patents rating above a 3.0 indicate a strong licensing potential.

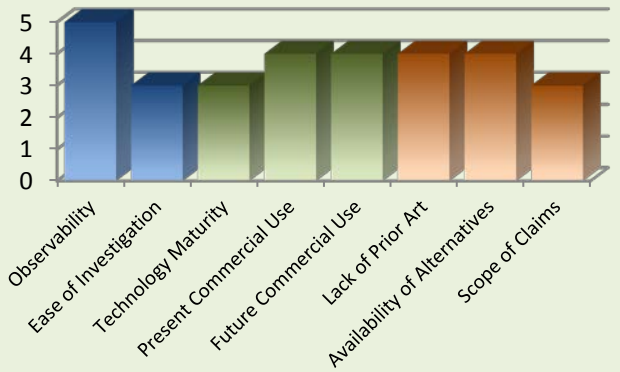
US 7,313,594

TAEUSWorks Average Score: 3.63 out of 5



US 7,426,540

TAEUSWorks Average Score: 3.75 out of 5



TAEUSworks scores are recognized in the intellectual property industry as indicators of a patent's licensing strength This assessment yields an overall 1-5 score.

TAEUSworks provides information on a set of qualitative parameters critical to patent licensing and litigation. The evaluation factors (detailed in Appendix A) include:

Patent Enforceability Factors	Observability
	Ease of Investigation
Market Impact Factors	Technology Maturity
	Present Commercial Use
	Future Commercial Use
Patent Coverage Factors	Lack of Prior Art
	Availability of Alternatives
	Scope of Claims

[1] http://www.portioresearch.com/en/market-briefings/budget-reports/mobile-messaging-futures-2012-2016.aspx

1.1. Portfolio Analysis Matrix

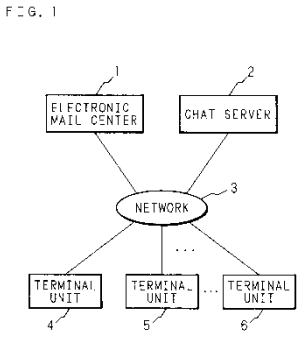
The Portfolio Analysis Matrix provides a summary of four essential licensing criteria for each patent in this portfolio. These criteria -- Observability, Ease of Investigation, Scope of Claims, and Commercial Use -- are each assessed on a 1 – 5 scale. The matrix offers a synopsis of the portfolio's relative strengths, as well as a list of keywords relevant to each patent.

Green highlight indicates presence of TAEUSworks Evaluation and Evidence of Use

Patent No.	Title	Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
US 5,987,503	System and method for displaying an electronic mail containing a keyword detected in a chat session message	4	4	3	1	Electronic mail; Email; Chat session; Detecting keywords; Searching keywords; Instant messaging; Unified messaging
US 6,249,806	Apparatus and method for providing information about two-way computer communication services	3	2	2	3	Chat session; Instant messaging; Service selection; Chat room catalog; Channel list
US 6,370,563	Chat system terminal device therefor display method of chat system and recording medium	4	3	3	1	Chat room; Chat conversations; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations
US 6,630,944	Display control method and device	5	3	3	2	Chat session; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations; Message groups
US 6,704,731	Conditional reply processing method, conditional reply giving agent system device, and program storage medium	3	2	3	1	Software agents; Agent communications; Agent language; Boolean expressions; Message search
US 6,711,264	Security improvement method and security system	2	2	2	2	Encrypted communications; Secure messaging; Cryptography; Key exchange; Key distribution
US 6,751,656	Apparatus and method for providing information about two-way computer communication services	3	2	2	3	Chat session; Instant messaging; Service selection; Chat room catalog; Channel list
US 6,795,822	Text communication method and text communication system	4	3	3	2	Text messaging; SMS messaging; Text dictionary; Text compression; Text substitution; Instant messaging; Message shortcuts
US 7,260,605	Message display method and information exchange system and storage medium	4	3	3	1	Chat session; Instant messaging; Chat client; Instant messaging user interface; Chat rooms; Threaded conversations
US 7,313,594	Chat system, terminal device therefor, display method of chat system, and recording medium	5	5	3	4	Chat room; Chat conversations; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations; Search keyword highlighting; URL highlighting; Instant messaging user interface
US 7,426,540	Chat sending method and chat system	5	3	3	4	Chat session; Instant messaging; Filtering messages; Forwarding messages; Routing messages; Chat room; Message channels; Message keywords; Message search; User groups

1.2. US 5,987,503

Title	System and method for displaying an electronic mail containing a keyword detected in a chat session message			
	Priority Date:	6/28/1996	**Filed Date:**	12/31/1996
	Publication Date:	11/16/1999	**Expiration Date:**	12/31/2016
	Inventors:	Murakami, Masahiko		
	Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
	PTO Length:	2.88 years	**Claims:**	40
	Backward Citations:	14	**Forward Citations**	60
	Abstract:	A system and method for displaying an electronic mail message related to a statement submitted in an online chat session. Statements submitted by participants in the online chat session are searched for a specified keyword. When the keyword is detected in a statement submitted by a first participant in the chat session mail boxes of the first participant and a specified second participant are searched for electronic mail messages related to the specified keyword. The related electronic mail messages are read from the respective mail boxes and displayed on a terminal unit of the second participant.		



1.2.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
4	4	3	1	Electronic mail; Email; Chat session; Detecting keywords; Searching keywords; Instant messaging; Unified messaging

1.2.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	11
Dependent Claims:	29
Total Claims:	40
Shortest Independent Claim:	#40 (101 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#27 (233 words)

1.2.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 1
G06F 15/160: Combinations of two or more digital computers each having at least an arithmetic unit, a programme unit and a register, e.g. for a simultaneous processing of several programmes

US Classifications: 1
709/204.0: COMPUTER CONFERENCING

1.2.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 14 (Fujitsu Limited: 2, Massachusetts Institute Of Technology: 2, J2 Global Communications, Inc.: 1, Htc Corporation: 1, Unisys Corporation: 1, Konica Minolta Holdings, Inc.: 1, Advanced Messaging Technologies Inc: 1, Apple Inc.: 1, Whi Spur Limited Liability Company: 1, Oracle Corporation: 1, Others: 2)

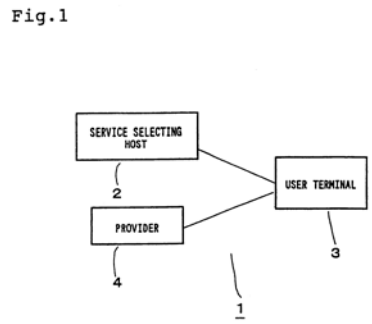
Forward Citations: 60 (Fujitsu Limited: 11, International Business Machines Corp.: 7, Intellectual Ventures Management, Llc: 6, Blackberry Limited: 5, Facebook, Inc.: 4, Immersion Corporation: 4, Yahoo! Inc.: 3, Whi Spur Limited Liability Company: 2, Panasonic Corporation: 2, Kent Ridge Digital Labs: 2, Others: 14)

1.2.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.3. US 6,249,806

Title	Apparatus and method for providing information about two-way computer communication services		



Priority Date:	4/3/1998	**Filed Date:**	10/2/1998
Publication Date:	6/19/2001	**Expiration Date:**	10/2/2018
Inventors:	Kohda, Youji; Matsui, Kazuki; Sasaki, Kenichi; Matsukura, Ryuichi; Matsumoto, Yasuhide; Otsuka, Iwao; Obata, Akihiko; Okada, Makoto; Okuyama, Satoshi		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
PTO Length:	2.72 years	**Claims:**	35
Backward Citations:	3	**Forward Citations**	33
Abstract:	A plurality of user terminals regularly accessing Internet Relay Chat (IRC) services are also in communication with a service selecting host. The service selecting host is configured to collect data from the plurality of user terminals. The collected data includes information about the users at the user terminals and information about the user terminals activity in the accessing of the IRC services. The service selecting host compiles and sorts the collected data concerning IRC services to produce information provided to the user terminals. The information provided to the user terminals allows users at the user terminals to more easily select sorted IRC services.		

1.3.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
3	2	2	3	Chat session; Instant messaging; Service selection; Chat room catalog; Channel list

1.3.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	11
Dependent Claims:	24
Total Claims:	35
Shortest Independent Claim:	#4 (88 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#6 (251 words)

1.3.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 5
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 17/300: Information retrieval, Database structures therefor
H04H 20/380: Arrangements for distribution where lower stations, e.g. receivers, interact with the broadcast
H04H 20/760: Wired systems
H04N 07/173: with two-way working, e.g. subscriber sending a programme selection signal

US Classifications: 1
709/206.0: Demand based messaging

1.3.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 3 (Hitachi, Ltd.: 1, Apple Inc.: 1, Facebook, Inc.: 1)

Forward Citations: 31 (Nazomi Communicatons Inc.: 5, Immersion Corporation: 4, Fujitsu Limited: 3, Koninklijke Philips Electronics Nv: 3, Emc Corporation: 3, Microsoft Corporation: 3, United States Postal Service: 2, Rovi Corporation: 2, Baxter Benjamin D: 2, Comcast Corporation: 1, Others: 3)

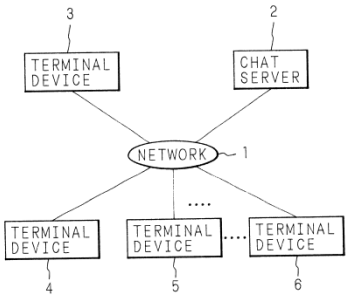
1.3.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.4. US 6,370,563

Title	Chat system terminal device therefor display method of chat system and recording medium		
Priority Date:	9/30/1996	**Filed Date:**	2/25/1997
Publication Date:	4/9/2002	**Expiration Date:**	2/25/2017
Inventors:	Murakami, Masahiko; Matsuda, Masahiro		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
PTO Length:	5.12 years	**Claims:**	7
Backward Citations:	15	**Forward Citations**	35
Abstract:	A chat system in which conversations by characters in plural channels are displayed and of these conversations a conversation in a main channel and conversations in other channels are displayed in individual regions 23 24 on a display screen and an inputted statement is displayed in an intermediate region 22 of the individual regions 23 24. The chat system hence realizes a display method having a notice function for use while working in an office and information extracting function enabled by electronic expression of conversations along with a recording medium used for execution thereof.		

FIG. 1



1.4.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
4	3	3	1	Chat room; Chat conversations; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations

1.4.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	7
Dependent Claims:	0
Total Claims:	7
Shortest Independent Claim:	#1 (108 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#6 (205 words)

1.4.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 1
H04L 12/180: for broadcast or conference

US Classifications: 1
709/205.0: Cooperative computer processing

1.4.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 15 (Unassigned: 2, Volkswagen Ag: 1, Transdermal Technologies Limited: 1, Thinkorswim Group, Inc., Nebraska: 1, Logitech International Sa : 1, Whi Spur Limited Liability Company: 1, Oracle Corporation: 1, Nextalk, Inc., Utah: 1, Earth Fx, Inc., California: 1, Akagi Co., Ltd., Japan: 1, Others: 4)

Forward Citations: 36 (Google Inc.: 7, Oracle Corporation: 6, Blackberry Limited: 6, Electric Planet Interactive, Washington: 5, International Business Machines Corp.: 4, Fujitsu Limited: 3, Sap Ag: 2, Sony Corporation: 1, Kabushiki Kaisha Eighting: 1, Intellectual Ventures Management, Llc: 1)

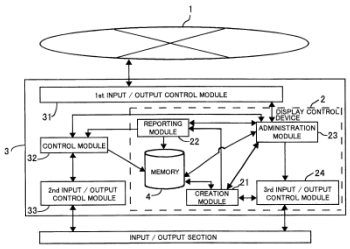
1.4.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.5. US 6,630,944

Title	Display control method and device		
Priority Date:	3/19/1999	Filed Date:	12/22/1999
Publication Date:	10/7/2003	Expiration Date:	12/22/2019
Inventors:	Kakuta, Jun; Okuyama, Satoshi; Manabe, Ai		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	Location:	US
PTO Length:	3.79 years	Claims:	20
Backward Citations:	10	Forward Citations	81
Abstract:	The disclosure is directed to methods and devices for displaying conversations on a network for ease of viewing in accordance with user preferences. Based on thread (message-group) forming instructions from users as well as on member users' instructions threads are created from member users' remarks. Instead of designating users remarks that include threads may be designated. Thread information relating to the created threads is at the same time created and stored. The thread information includes predetermined information such as thread IDs member users and authors. The created thread information is reported to other users in the network and is in common with thread information within the network. Remarks within a thread may be displayed in a thread window 307 only or displayed in both it and a conversation window 303 configurable to suit according to user instructions.		

Fig. 1



1.5.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
5	3	3	2	Chat session; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations; Message groups

1.5.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	9
Dependent Claims:	11
Total Claims:	20
Shortest Independent Claim:	#11 (76 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#2 (163 words)

1.5.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 5
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 03/048: Interaction techniques for graphical user interfaces, e.g. interaction with windows, icons or menus
G06F 17/300: Information retrieval, Database structures therefor
G06Q 10/000: Administration
H04L 12/180: for broadcast or conference

US Classifications: 1
715/758.0: Chat room

1.5.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 10 (Fujitsu Limited: 3, Oracle Corporation: 1, Windy City Innovations, Llc, Illinois: 1, Microsoft Corporation: 1, Intellectual Ventures Management, Llc: 1, Tao: 1, Interactive Tracking Systems, Inc.: 1, Facebook, Inc.: 1)

Forward Citations: 79 (Blackberry Limited: 27, Qurio Holdings Inc.: 12, International Business Machines Corp.: 8, Xerox Corporation: 6, Google Inc.: 5, Immersion Corporation: 4, Hewlett-packard Company: 4, Qualcomm, Inc.: 3, Twitter, Inc.: 2, Canon Inc.: 1, Others: 7)

1.5.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.6. US 6,704,731

Title	Conditional reply processing method, conditional reply giving agent system device, and program storage medium		
Priority Date:	9/2/1997	**Filed Date:**	3/23/1998
Publication Date:	3/9/2004	**Expiration Date:**	3/23/2018
Inventors:	Masuoka, Ryusuke; Kitajima, Hironobu; Sugasaka, Tamami; Sato, Akira		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
PTO Length:	5.97 years	**Claims:**	27
Backward Citations:	10	**Forward Citations**	2
Abstract:	If an intermediary agent device or a database agent device cannot uniquely reply to an inquiry message issued from a user agent device it generates a conditional reply message and returns the generated message to the user agent device. When receiving the conditional reply the user agent device presents the conditions required for the conditional reply or a reply to a user.		

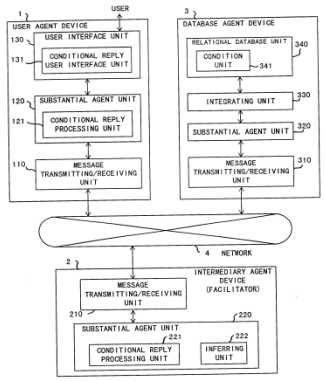


FIG. 1

1.6.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
3	2	3	1	Software agents; Agent communications; Agent language; Boolean expressions; Message search

1.6.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	21
Dependent Claims:	6
Total Claims:	27
Shortest Independent Claim:	#18 (49 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#6 (166 words)

1.6.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 2
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 17/300: Information retrieval, Database structures therefor

US Classifications: 1
370/270.0: Distribution of signal to multiple agent stations

1.6.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 10 (Intellectual Ventures Management, Llc: 2, Nec Corporation: 1, At&t Inc.: 1, International Business Machines Corp.: 1, Northrop Grumman Corporation: 1, Alcatel-lucent: 1, Cisco Systems, Inc.: 1, Adobe Systems Incorporated: 1, Google Inc.: 1)

Forward Citations: 2 (Microsoft Corporation: 2)

1.6.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.7. US 6,711,264

Title	Security improvement method and security system			
Priority Date:	10/29/1998	**Filed Date:**	10/8/1999	
Publication Date:	3/23/2004	**Expiration Date:**	10/8/2019	
Inventors:	Matsumoto, Tatsuro; Matsui, Kazuki			
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US	
PTO Length:	4.46 years	**Claims:**	22	
Backward Citations:	12	**Forward Citations**	42	
Abstract:	A security system prevents a commonly shared encryption key from being deciphered by an unwelcome party while providing easier administration of encryption keys. The security system includes a memorizer 2 an encrypter/decrypter 8 a user administrator 3 a key obtainer 4 and a key distributor 5. Once the chat client joins a channel the user administrator 3 obtains and stores user information from the chat server. The user information includes a nickname list. The key obtainer 4 selects one from other user terminals to request an encryption key therefrom. Once the key obtainer 4 receives the encryption key sent by the selected user terminal the key obtainer 4 stores the encryption key in the memorizer 2. When the user terminal receives a request for an encryption key from another user the key distributor retrieves and sends the encryption key from the memorizer 2 of the requesting user terminal. The security system 1 should have a key updater 6 which updates an encryption key whenever a predetermined trigger occurs. Thus the encryption key is less likely to be deciphered. Only user terminals with the key distribution and/or update properties can distribute and/or update an encryption key. The key distribution and update properties can be granted as part of the user information.			

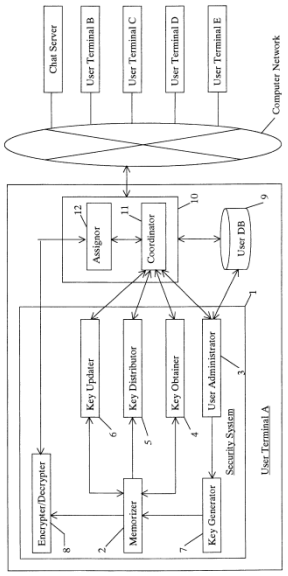


Fig. 1

1.7.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
2	2	2	2	Encrypted communications; Secure messaging; Cryptography; Key exchange; Key distribution

1.7.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	4
Dependent Claims:	18
Total Claims:	22
Shortest Independent Claim:	#22 (284 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#2 (320 words)

1.7.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 2

G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
H04L 09/080: Key distribution

US Classifications: 1

380/283.0: User-to-user key distributed over data link (i.e., no center)

1.7.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 12 (Racal-guardata Inc: 1, Colorado Foundation, The University Of, Colorado: 1, Apple Inc.: 1, At&t Inc.: 1, International Business Machines Corp.: 1, L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.: 1, Independence Holding Company: 1, Microsoft Corporation: 1, Unwired Planet Inc: 1, Ron, Benyamin: 1, Others: 2)

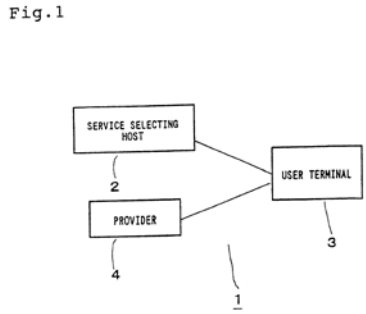
Forward Citations: 46 (Zynga Inc: 8, International Business Machines Corp.: 5, Immersion Corporation: 4, Fujitsu Limited: 3, Motorola Solutions Inc: 2, Telefonaktiebolaget Lm Ericsson: 2, Cisco Systems, Inc.: 2, Bioaxone Biosciences Inc.: 2, Verizon Communications Inc.: 2, Nec Corporation: 1, Others: 15)

1.7.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.8. US 6,751,656

Title	Apparatus and method for providing information about two-way computer communication services		
Priority Date:	4/3/1998	Filed Date:	3/19/2001
Publication Date:	6/15/2004	Expiration Date:	10/2/2018
Inventors:	Kohda, Youji; Matsui, Kazuki; Sasaki, Kenichi; Matsukura, Ryuichi; Matsumoto, Yasuhide; Otsuka, Iwao; Obata, Akihiko; Okada, Makoto; Okuyama, Satoshi		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	Location:	US
PTO Length:	3.24 years	Claims:	5
Backward Citations:	12	Forward Citations	6
Abstract:	A plurality of user terminals regularly accessing Internet Relay Chat (IRC) services are also in communication with a service selecting host. The service selecting host is configured to collect data from the plurality of user terminals. The collected data includes information about the users at the user terminals and information about the user terminals activity in the accessing of the IRC services. The service selecting host compiles and sorts the collected data concerning IRC services to produce information provided to the user terminals. The information provided to the user terminals allows users at the user terminals to more easily select sorted IRC services.		



1.8.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
3	2	2	3	Chat session; Instant messaging; Service selection; Chat room catalog; Channel list

1.8.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	2
Dependent Claims:	3
Total Claims:	5
Shortest Independent Claim:	#1 (274 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#3 (282 words)

1.8.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 5
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 17/300: Information retrieval, Database structures therefor
H04H 20/380: Arrangements for distribution where lower stations, e.g. receivers, interact with the broadcast
H04H 20/760: Wired systems
H04N 07/173: with two-way working, e.g. subscriber sending a programme selection signal

US Classifications: 1
709/219.0: Accessing a remote server

1.8.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 12 (Fujitsu Limited: 2, Hitachi, Ltd.: 1, Apple Inc.: 1, Whi Spur Limited Liability Company: 1, Two-way Media Llc: 1, Charter Communications, Inc.: 1, Ingenio: 1, Windy City Innovations, Llc, Illinois: 1, Unassigned: 1, Facebook, Inc.: 1, Others: 1)

Forward Citations: 6 (Fujitsu Limited: 1, Kabushiki Kaisha Eighting: 1, General Motors Corp: 1, Sony Corporation: 1, Aol Inc.: 1, At&t Inc.: 1)

1.8.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.9. US 6,795,822

Title	Text communication method and text communication system			
Priority Date:	12/18/1998	**Filed Date:**	10/19/1999	
Publication Date:	9/21/2004	**Expiration Date:**	10/19/2019	
Inventors:	Matsumoto, Yasuhide; Murakami, Masahiko; Okada, Sumiyo			
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US	
PTO Length:	4.93 years	**Claims:**	16	
Backward Citations:	10	**Forward Citations**	8	
Abstract:	A text communication system is that reduces user's burden of typing text messages. An acting device is provided with a dictionary containing rules regarding conversion of text messages with the dictionary corresponding to one or more communication devices or a user. A command that specifies whether the text message should be converted or not is sent from the communication device via the acting device. Text messages are converted according to the command. It is also possible to configure conversion mode in advance with the conversion mode corresponding to each communication device and convert text messages sent and received via the acting device. A user can use the same dictionary from different information devices. There is also less burden of typing text messages. It is even more preferable if the dictionary can be updated automatically according to text messages inputted at the communication terminals since the user's burden of updating dictionaries is also relieved in this way.			

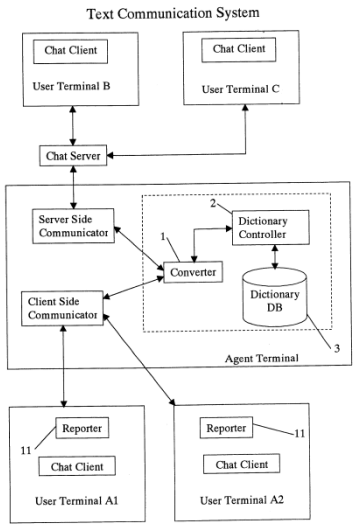


Fig. 1

1.9.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
4	3	3	2	Text messaging; SMS messaging; Text dictionary; Text compression; Text substitution; Instant messaging; Message shortcuts

1.9.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	9
Dependent Claims:	7
Total Claims:	16
Shortest Independent Claim:	#12 (168 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#15 (313 words)

1.9.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 2
H04L 29/060: characterised by a protocol
G06F 17/270: Automatic analysis, e.g. parsing, orthograph correction

US Classifications: 1
1/1.0: Not Yet Classified by the Patent Office

1.9.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 10 (Omron Corporation: 1, Emerson & Stern Associates, Inc: 1, Reed Elsevier Nv: 1, Fujitsu Limited: 1, Cocomo Id, Llc, Georgia: 1, Rakuten, Inc.: 1, Oracle Corporation: 1, Iplearn, Llc, California: 1, At&t Inc.: 1, Fuji Xerox Co Ltd: 1)

Forward Citations: 9 (International Business Machines Corp.: 3, Nuance Communications Inc.: 2, Fujitsu Limited: 1, Softbank Corp.: 1, Unassigned: 1, Google Inc.: 1)

1.9.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.10. US 7,260,605

Title	Message display method and information exchange system and storage medium		
Priority Date:	8/24/1998	**Filed Date:**	6/21/1999
Publication Date:	8/21/2007	**Expiration Date:**	6/21/2019
Inventors:	Okada, Sumiyo; Murakami, Masahiko; Matsumoto, Yasuhide; Kihara, Hideto		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
PTO Length:	8.17 years	**Claims:**	17
Backward Citations:	13	**Forward Citations**	2
Abstract:	In an information exchange system in which a user terminal is connected to a network the system is capable of transmitting and/or receiving messages via the network. A display area displaying messages transmitted and/or received can be increased with an increase in the number of networks connected thereby causing the efficiency of processes due to reduction of the display area to deteriorate when such a display area is used simultaneously with other applications. The present invention reduces the display area by centralizing messages transmitted and/or received by each network and displays these messages to an independent area on a time series basis. The system also enables transmission of messages to the network to which the relevant message is transmitted by identifying the message centralized for display. As a result manipulation efficiency of the information exchange system is improved.		

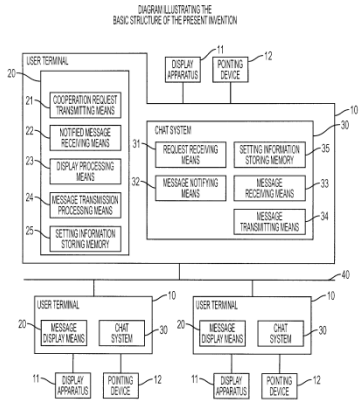


FIG. 1

1.10.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
4	3	3	1	Chat session; Instant messaging; Chat client; Instant messaging user interface; Chat rooms; Threaded conversations

1.10.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	5
Dependent Claims:	12
Total Claims:	17
Shortest Independent Claim:	#17 (104 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#1 (236 words)

1.10.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 5

G06F 15/000: Digital computers in general
G06F 03/048: Interaction techniques for graphical user interfaces, e.g. interaction with windows, icons or menus
G06F 03/000: Input arrangements for transferring data to be processed into a form capable of being handled by the computer
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 15/160: Combinations of two or more digital computers each having at least an arithmetic unit, a programme unit and a register, e.g. for a simultaneous processing of several programmes

US Classifications: 1

709/206.0: Demand based messaging

1.10.4. Citation Analysis

Backward Citations: 13 (Fujitsu Limited: 2, Microsoft Corporation: 1, Oracle Corporation: 1, Charter Communications, Inc.: 1, Intel Corporation: 1, Nextalk, Inc., Utah: 1, International Business Machines Corp.: 1, Intellectual Ventures Management, Llc: 1, Acer Incorporated: 1, Tao: 1, Others: 2)

Forward Citations: 3 (Vivendi Sa: 2, Ricoh Company,ltd.: 1)

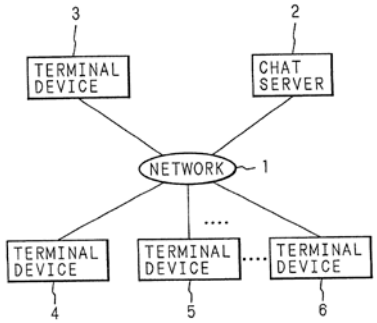
1.10.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.11. US 7,313,594

Title	Chat system, terminal device therefor, display method of chat system, and recording medium		
Priority Date:	9/30/1996	Filed Date:	2/6/2002
Publication Date:	12/25/2007	Expiration Date:	2/25/2017
Inventors:	Murakami, Masahiko; Matsuda, Masahiro		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	Location:	US
PTO Length:	5.88 years	Claims:	28
Backward Citations:	17	Forward Citations	4
Abstract:	A chat system in which conversations by characters in plural channels are displayed and of these conversations a conversation in a main channel and conversations in other channels are displayed in individual regions 23 24 on a display screen and an inputted statement is displayed in an intermediate region 22 of the individual regions 23 24. The chat system hence realizes a display method having a notice function for use while working in an office and information extracting function enabled by electronic expression of conversations along with a recording medium used for execution thereof.		

FIG. 1



1.11.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
5	5	3	4	Chat room; Chat conversations; Instant messaging; Threaded conversations; Search keyword highlighting; URL highlighting; Instant messaging user interface

1.11.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	6
Dependent Claims:	22
Total Claims:	28
Shortest Independent Claim:	#1 (75 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#26 (153 words)

1.11.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 3
G06F 15/160: Combinations of two or more digital computers each having at least an arithmetic unit, a programme unit and a register, e.g. for a simultaneous processing of several programmes
G06F 03/000: Input arrangements for transferring data to be processed into a form capable of being handled by the computer
H04L 12/180: for broadcast or conference

US Classifications: 1
709/204.0: COMPUTER CONFERENCING

1.11.4. Citation Analysis

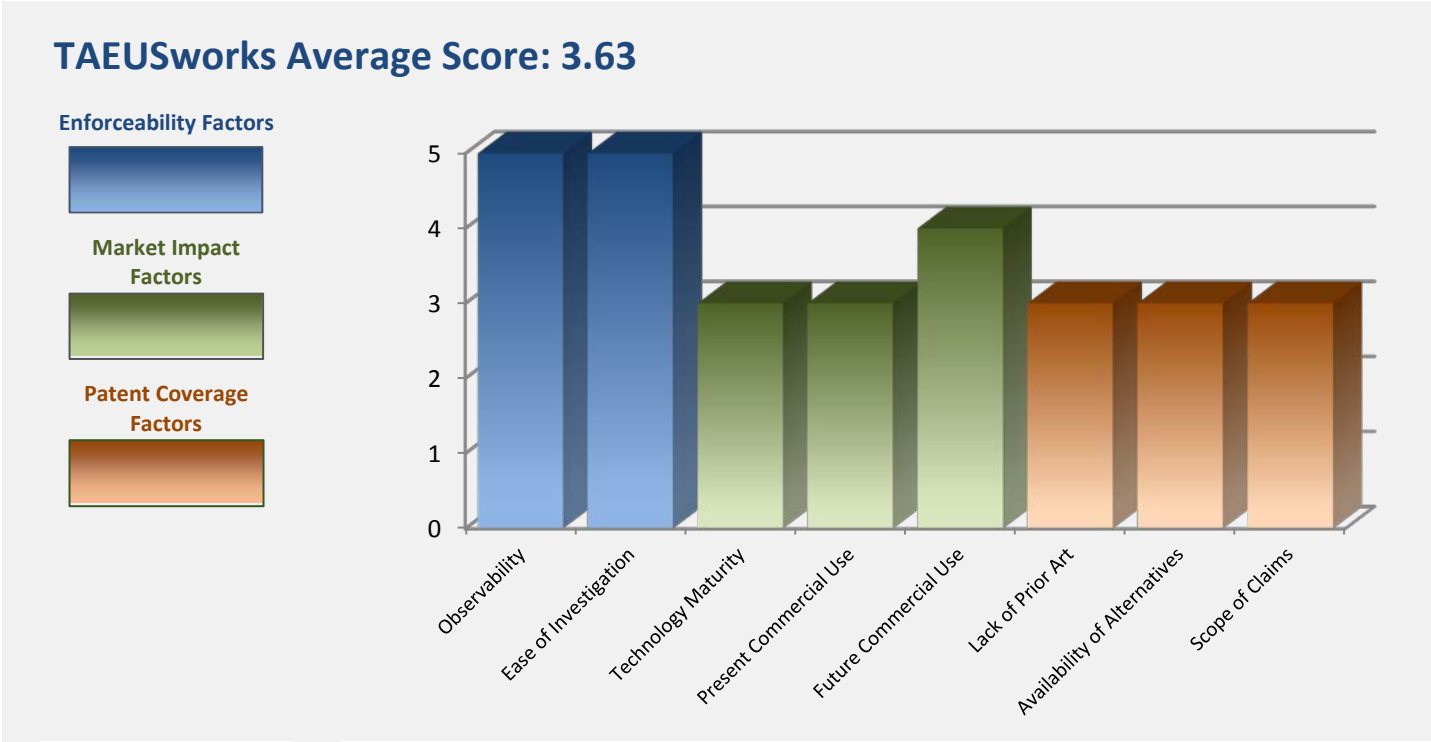
Backward Citations: 17 (Responsys, Inc., California: 1, Thinkorswim Group, Inc., Nebraska: 1, Logitech International Sa : 1, Whi Spur Limited Liability Company: 1, Oracle Corporation: 1, Apple Inc.: 1, Microsoft Corporation: 1, Nextalk, Inc., Utah: 1, Windy City Innovations, Llc, Illinois: 1, Immediata Corporation, Washington: 1, Others: 7)

Forward Citations: 4 (Zynga Inc: 3, Unassigned: 1)

1.11.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.11.6. US 7,313,594 TAEUSworks Evaluation



1.11.6.1. Factors Relating to Patent Enforceability

Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Observability	5	Because this a user interface patent, the invention can be readily observed by operating the chat software.
Ease of Investigation	5	Marketing websites, user documentation, help, and support forums can be sources to investigate the patent. Demonstration of the chat software will provide confirmation that the patented technology is being used.

1.11.6.2. Factors Relating to Market Impact

Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Technology Maturity	3	Instant messaging, online collaboration is a relatively mature space. Most chat applications provide ways to extract and highlight keywords, such as URL's, and to display the keywords in an organized way.
Present Commercial Use	3	The invention relates to organizing and extracting keywords embedded in an instant messaging session. Many chat systems provide related techniques for organizing and displaying group and private conversations.
Future Commercial Use	4	The mobile revolution has opened new and innovative ways to use instant messaging. The patent discloses a "terminal devices" on a "network" which encompasses mobile handsets and wireless platforms such as LTE, SMS, and WiFi. Continued improvements in both desktop, tablet, and mobile user interfaces are expected.

1.11.6.3. Factors Relating to the Patent Coverage

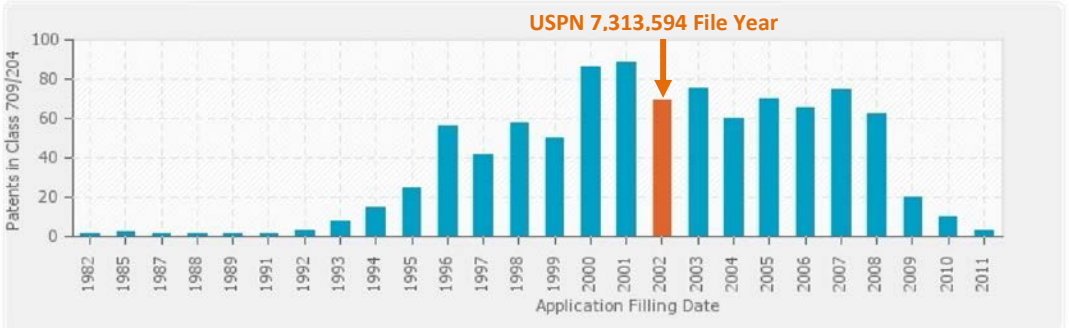
Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Lack of Prior Art	3	The priority date of the patent is 1996. This places the time of the invention near the introduction of IRC, AOL AIM, and ICQ. As a user interface patent, it is possible that old publications may disclose some of the elements of the claims. Based on a review of the class activity report, the patent was filed around the middle of the patents in the same class and children claims.
Availability of Alternatives	3	A workaround could be implemented by modifying the presentation component. For example, some of the claims disclose displaying a keyword in "bold type" or "generating a sound" which could be replaced by some other user notification feature.
Scope of Claims	3	The claims are clearly written, free of jargon, and easily accessible. The claims are relatively narrow and disclose a particular structure for extracting keywords and URL's from a chat session.

1.11.6.4. Summary and Comments

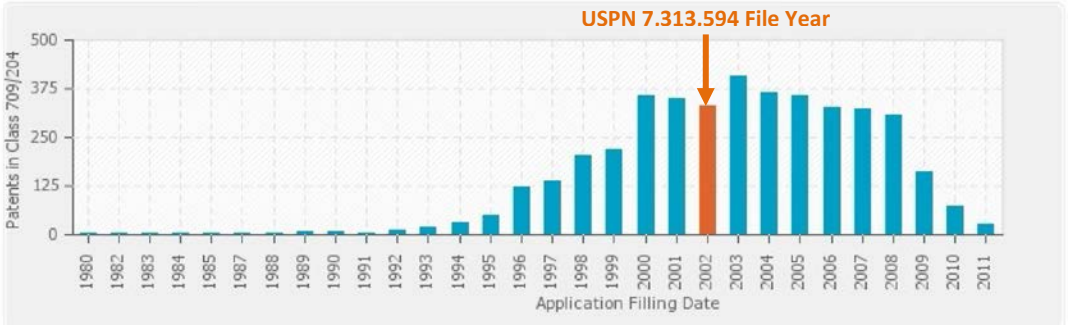
This patent applies to next-generation, business-class online collaboration, and messaging systems including Microsoft Lync, Atlassian HipChat, and Campfire. Many of these collaboration systems have features to display conversations in a "main channel" and, when keywords or URL's are detected in the conversation, display selected portions of the conversation in a secondary channel. The invention processes a conversation in real-time and extracts and displays relevant portions of the conversation in a separate region of the messaging client.

Many next-generation collaboration systems support video, files, and telephony. This patent complements multimedia collaboration by enabling textual tagging of rich content using keywords.

1.11.6.5. Class Activity



US Patents by Class 709/204

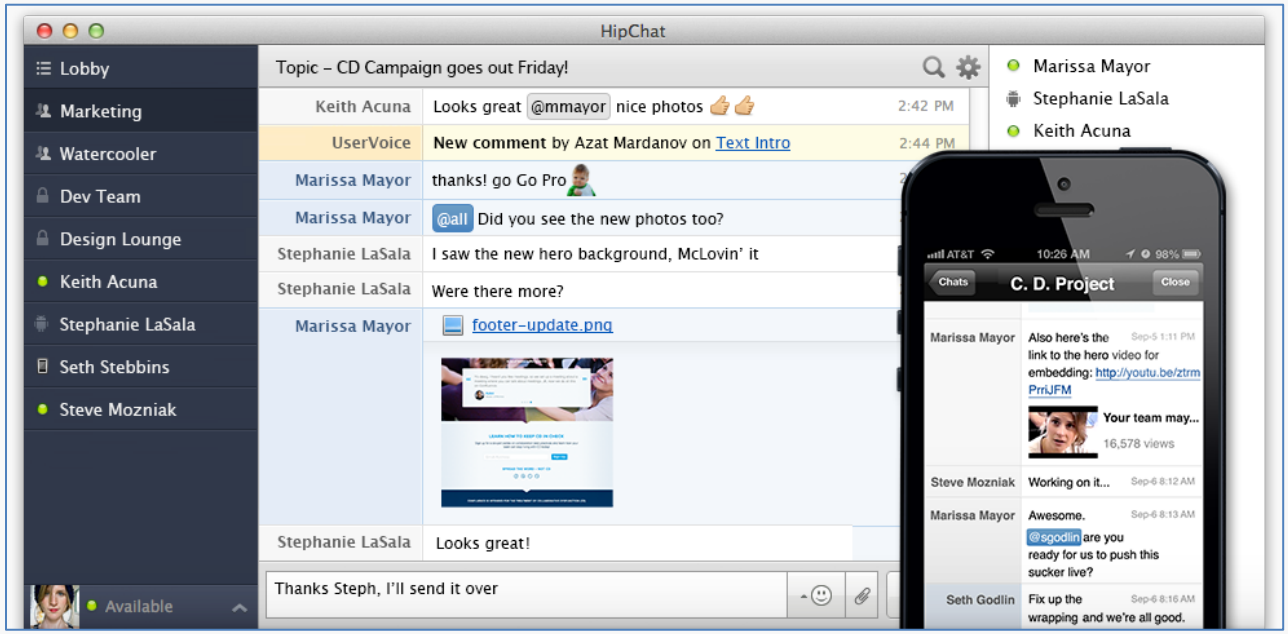


US Patents by Class 709/204 and Children Classes

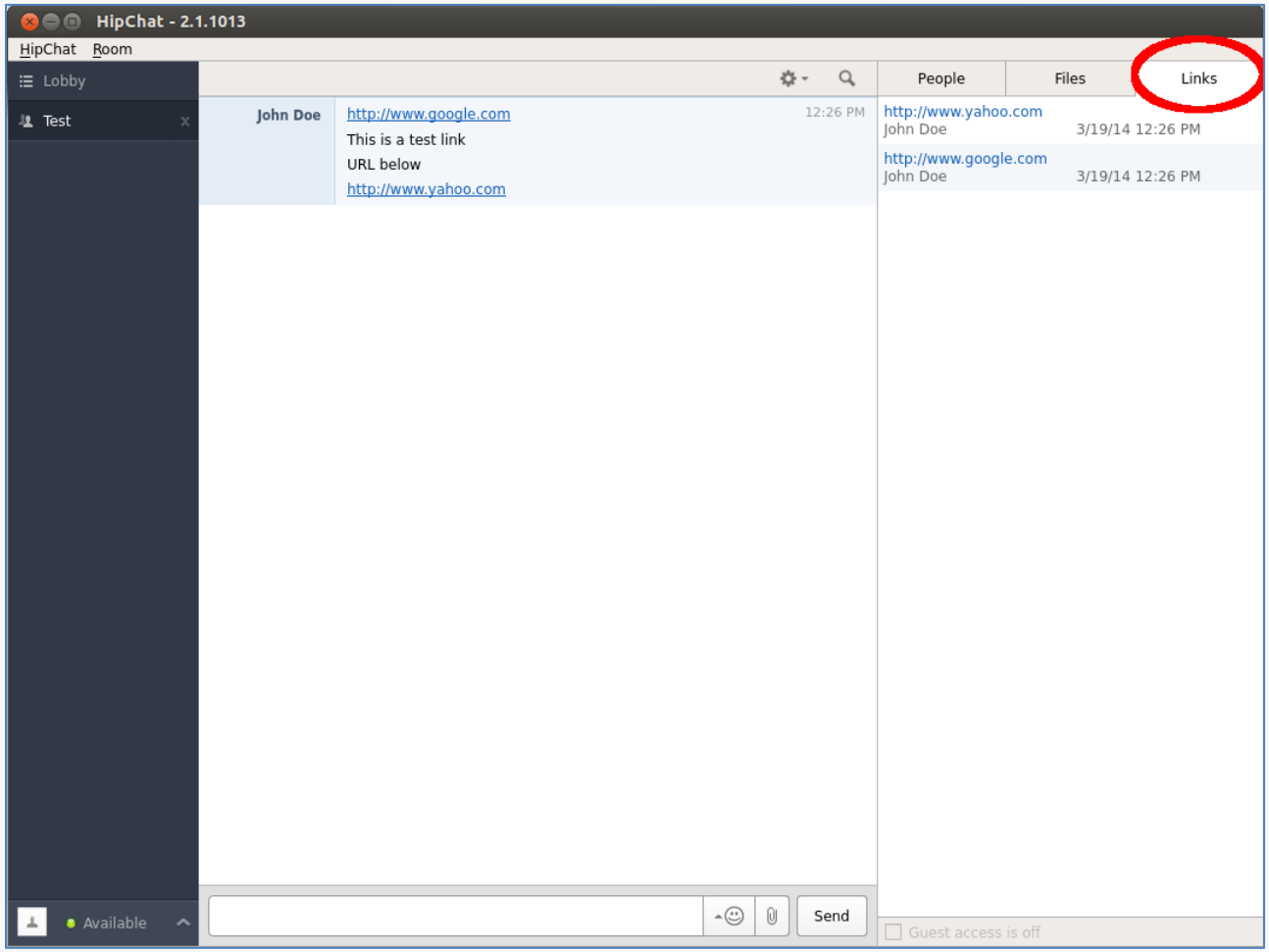
1.11.6.6. Companies in the Same Technology Field as US 7,313,594

Company	URL
AOL	http://www.aim.com/
Apple	http://www.apple.com/ios/messages/
Atlassian	https://www.hipchat.com/
Camfrog	http://www.camfrog.com/en/
Campfire	https://campfirenow.com/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/sitetour/chat.php
Google	http://www.google.com/+/learnmore/hangouts/
IBM	http://www-03.ibm.com/software/products/en/ibmsame
ICQ	http://www.icq.com/en
IMVU	http://www.imvu.com/
Live2Support	http://www.live2support.com/
LiveChat	http://www.livechatinc.com/
Mibbit	http://mibbit.com/
Microsoft	http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/lync/ , http://www.skype.com/en/
MySpace	https://myspace.com/aplaceforim
Novell	http://www.novell.com/products/vibe/features/corporate-instant-messaging.html
Olark	http://www.olark.com/
Paltalk	http://www.paltalk.com/
QQ	http://imqq.com/
RightNow (Oracle)	http://www.oracle.com/us/solutions/customer-experience/oracle-customer-experience/overview/index.html
SnapEngage	http://snapengage.com/
Teamspeak	http://www.teamspeak.com/
Trillian	https://www.trillian.im/
Twitter	https://twitter.com/
WhatsApp	http://www.whatsapp.com/
Wireclub	http://www.wireclub.com/
Yahoo	http://messenger.yahoo.com/
Zumbl	http://zumbl.com/

1.11.7. Evidence of Use

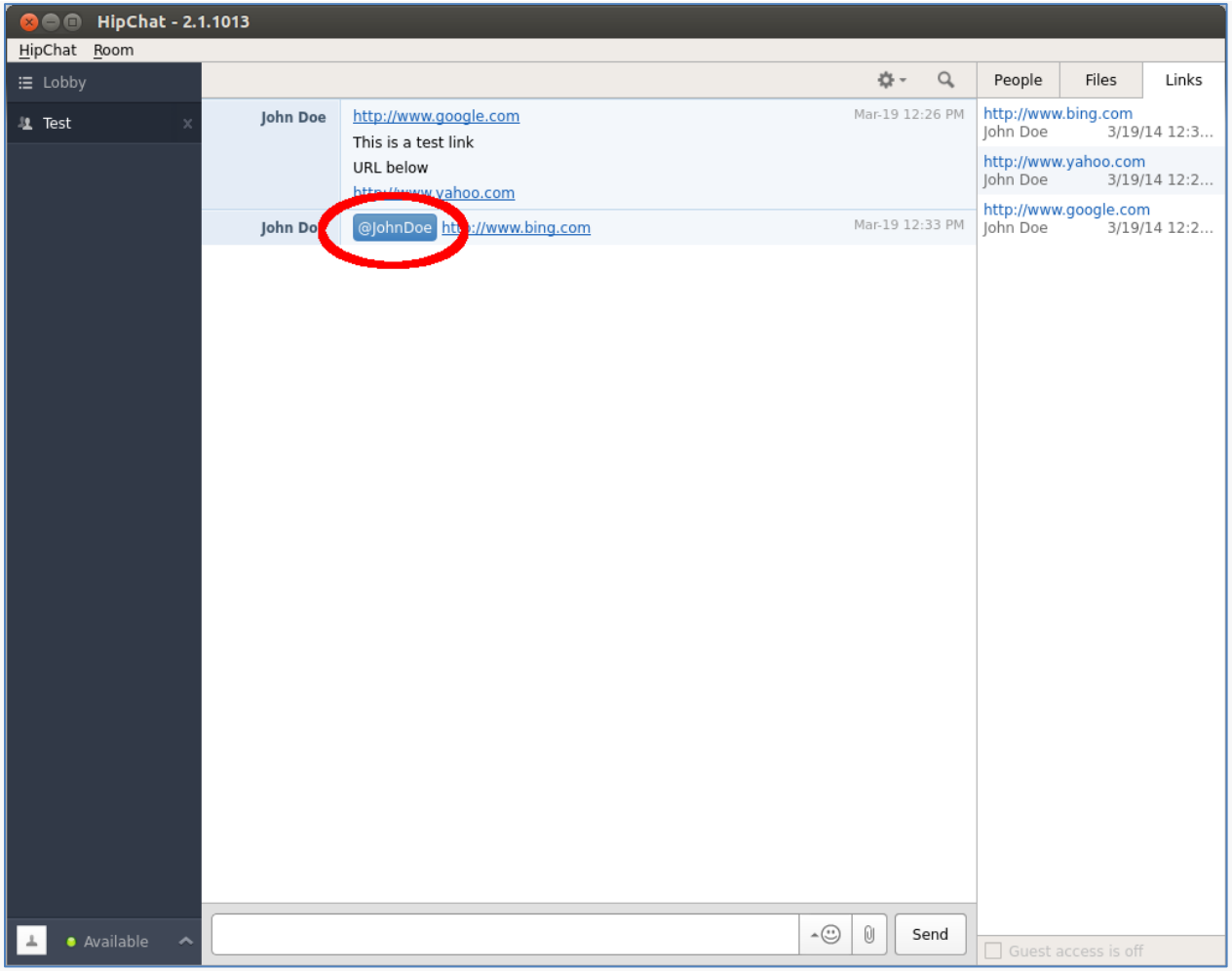
USPN 7,313,594 Claim 26 Limitations	Evidence of Use
26. A display method used in a chat system for performing conversations in the form of characters among terminal devices each having a display screen connected by a network, comprising:	HipChat from Atlassian (http://www.hipchat.com) is an advanced enterprise-grade **chat system for performing conversations**. HipChat consists of a chat client that consists of a **display screen connected by a network**. The chat client has an input area to enter conversations and to perform those conversations in **the form of characters among terminal devices**. HipChat is available as a desktop, mobile, and web-based app. According to the HipChat documentation, HipChat is a hosted private chat service for your company or team. Invite colleagues to share ideas and files in persistent group chat rooms. Get your team off AIM, Google Talk, and Skype – HipChat is built for business.[2] 

[2] https://www.atlassian.com/en/software/hipchat/overview

USPN 7,313,594 Claim 26 Limitations	Evidence of Use
dividing the display screen into a plurality of regions each of which displays a character string of a conversation of a main channel and a character string of a conversation of the other channels, and when a URL is included in the conversations in the regions of the display screen, the URL is extracted together with the character strings preceding and following the URL; and	HipChat divides the screen into **plurality of regions** consisting of a main chat area and an area where URL's are **extracted** for display. When a URL is included in a conversation, the **URL is extracted and displayed in a second region** in a "Links" tab on the right. The URL is highlighted but not normal conversation in the main area showing that the **extraction** recognizes the strings preceding and following the URL. 

USPN 7,313,594 Claim 26 Limitations	Evidence of Use
detecting an appearance of a character string indicating a name of a terminal user when a character string indicating the name of the terminal user previously specified appears, and informing the terminal of the appearance, and displaying the content of the conversations including the detected character string in the region of the screen for the main channel.	HipChat can inform **terminal users of a conversation** with the use of a HipChat feature called *@mentions*. A Mention is the **name of the terminal user**. The purpose of the mention is to **display the content of the conversation including the detected character string** which is the URL. The documentation and screen capture illustrate this claim element. How do @mentions work? @mentions are a way of getting someone's attention in a room. People can choose to be notified when mentioned, including in-app sounds, email, SMS, or iPhone/Android push notifications. How to use them 1. Type the @ symbol in the message input box and start typing someone's name 2. An auto-complete box will help you complete the person's name. Select the person you want by clicking on their name or hit the Tab key to auto-complete 3. Type the message you want them to see and send your message 4. If they're signed in, they'll be notified in the app itself (according to in-app preferences). If the user has the app focused and is displaying the chat where the @mention occurs, they will not receive any special notification. 5. If they're offline, they may receive the mention and message via email, SMS, or iPhone/Android push notification depending on their preferences.[3]

[3] http://help.hipchat.com/knowledgebase/articles/64429-how-do-mentions-work

USPN 7,313,594 Claim 26 Limitations	Evidence of Use
	

1.12. US 7,426,540

Title	Chat sending method and chat system		
Priority Date:	5/13/1999	**Filed Date:**	4/28/2000
Publication Date:	9/16/2008	**Expiration Date:**	4/28/2020
Inventors:	Matsumoto, Yasuhide; Murakami, Masahiko; Kihara, Hideto; Sasaki, Kenichi; Matsumoto, Tatsuro; Matsui, Kazuki; Ito, Hidenobu; Yamauchi, Hitoshi		
Current Assignee:	Fujitsu Limited	**Location:**	US
PTO Length:	8.39 years	**Claims:**	22
Backward Citations:	24	**Forward Citations**	28
Abstract:	To conduct conversation without confusion in a virtual space while sharing a plurality of topics send origin channel #CHOCOA destination channel #meeting and message sending conditions are correlated and given to a chat server or chat client. If for example USER1 USER3 USER4; are designated as sending conditions only messages from designated users are sent from message origin channel #CHOCOA to destination channel #meeting. Meanwhile messages from;USER1 USER3 USER4; can be displayed on message origin channel #CHOCOA or not displayed.		

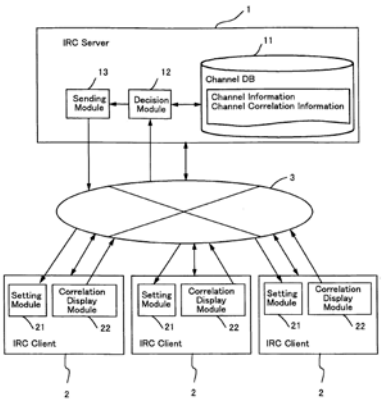


Fig. 1

1.12.1. Patent Analysis

Observability	Ease of Investigation	Scope of Claims	Commercial Use	Key Words and Phrases
5	3	3	4	Chat session; Instant messaging; Filtering messages; Forwarding messages; Routing messages; Chat room; Message channels; Message keywords; Message search; User groups

1.12.2. Claims Analysis

Independent Claims:	13
Dependent Claims:	9
Total Claims:	22
Shortest Independent Claim:	#21 (140 words)
Longest Independent Claim:	#14 (212 words)

1.12.3. Classification Analysis

IP Classifications: 3
G06F 13/000: Interconnection of, or transfer of information or other signals between, memories, input/output devices or central processing units
G06F 15/160: Combinations of two or more digital computers each having at least an arithmetic unit, a programme unit and a register, e.g. for a simultaneous processing of several programmes
H04L 12/180: for broadcast or conference

US Classifications: 1
709/206.0: Demand based messaging

1.12.4. Citation Analysis

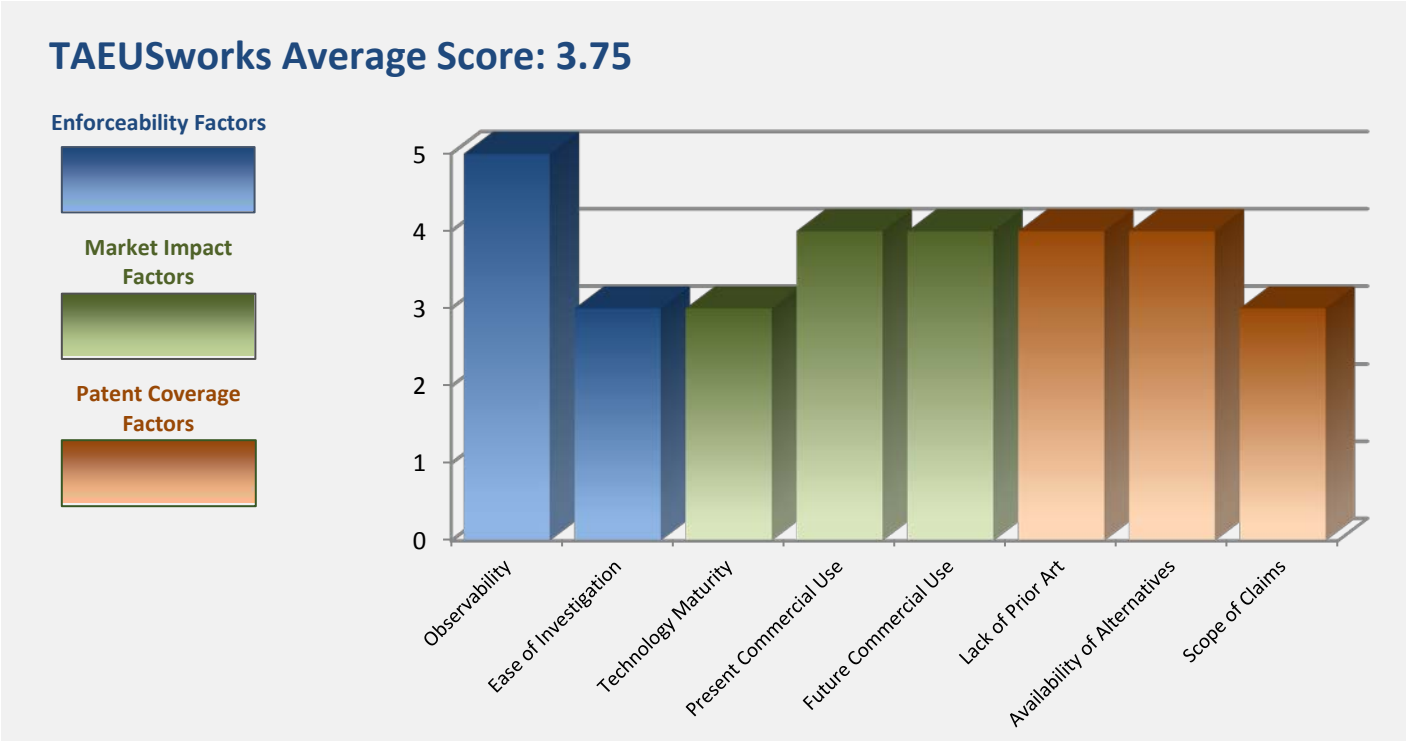
Backward Citations: 7 (Bt Group Plc: 1, Qualcomm, Inc.: 1, Pioneer Corporation: 1, Wiav Solutions L.l.c., Vienna, Va., Us: 1, Sony Corporation: 1, Fujitsu Limited: 1, Unassigned: 1)

Forward Citations: 7 (Fuji Xerox Co Ltd: 2, Fujitsu Limited: 2, Microsoft Corporation: 2, Nuance Communications Inc.: 1

1.12.5. Litigation Analysis

No litigation

1.12.6. US 7,426,540 TAEUSworks Evaluation



1.12.6.1. Factors Relating to Patent Enforceability

Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Observability	5	The patent makes it easier for chat users to route messages to two or more chat rooms or channels. The invention can be observed by simply using the chat software and demonstrating its behavior. The chat software may be a standalone instant messaging application, browser-based real-time AJAX application, or a mobile app. Seven (7) of the 21 patent figures disclose an exemplary user interface.
Ease of Investigation	3	The patent discloses a “conditions table” and “correlating and storing send conditions” used for filtering and routing messages to the appropriate chat room. The patent discloses a general mechanism for constructing the table. Since the server stores the “conditions table”, careful analysis and testing (reverse engineering) may be involved. In addition to analysis and testing, the table is simple enough that inspection of the message flow a table may be inferred.

1.12.6.2. Factors Relating to Market Impact

Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Technology Maturity	3	Most instant messaging and chat applications are single threaded, in other words, single conversations in a peer-to-peer or individual chat rooms. However, many enterprise-level chat applications (Microsoft Lync, Atlassian Hipchat) as well as consumer-oriented chat applications (Twitter, Google Hangouts) have mechanisms to route messages to multiple threads.
Present Commercial Use	4	Currently the patent is used in chat applications that support "persistent rooms". "Persistent rooms" contrast with ad-hoc, temporal chat rooms that are created during a chat session and exist only temporarily. Persistent rooms are found in enterprise-level chat applications and in some consumer-oriented chat applications labeled as "categories" (AOL AIM, Yahoo Messenger).
Future Commercial Use	4	There is a convergence of several trends in social networking that touch upon this invention. The first is the use of "hashtags" as pioneered by Twitter. "Hashtags" allow users to automatically create categories beyond the traditional persistent chat rooms setup by the chat administrator. The second trend is the ability of Internet users to "follow" or subscribe to channels of interest. These social networking channels are equivalent to the chat room in instant messaging applications. The "hashtag" is disclosed in patent Fig. 7 as "keywords". The ability to route based on "keywords" (hashtags) is claimed in the patent. Another area where message routing is important is in online live support using help desk chat that are typically integrated on a vendor website. Products include SnapEngage and RightNow Technologies. These products are typically integrated into customer relationship management (CRM) software solutions such as SalesForce and Oracle.

1.12.6.3. Factors Relating to the Patent Coverage

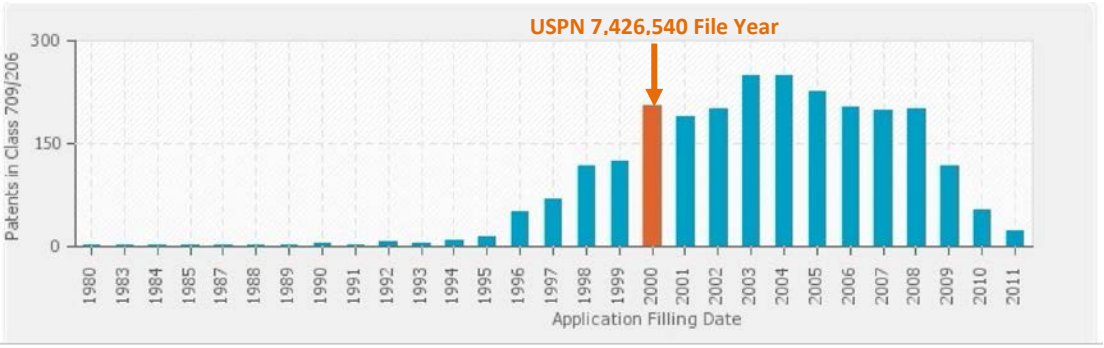
Factor	Score (1-5)	Comments
Lack of Prior Art	4	AOL AIM has been in existence since 1997 and several predecessors, such as "talk" existed on Unix for many years prior to the patent. The patent builds upon the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) protocol by adding message routing among multiple rooms using "conditions". Based on a filing date of 4/28/2000 and a review of the class activity, the patent was filed as the class activity was increasing and prior art does not appear to be a factor for this patent.
Availability of Alternatives	4	The invention relies on "send conditions" to route chat messages to the appropriate room. It is possible that a workaround could be substituted for "send conditions".
Scope of Claims	3	These are good claims in the area of multi-channel instant messaging and chat. However, the long pendency and initial review of the prosecution history indicates that the "send and forward" limitation may narrow the scope of the claims. There may be claim construction issues with claim terms for "correlating" and "deciding".

1.12.6.4. Summary and Comments

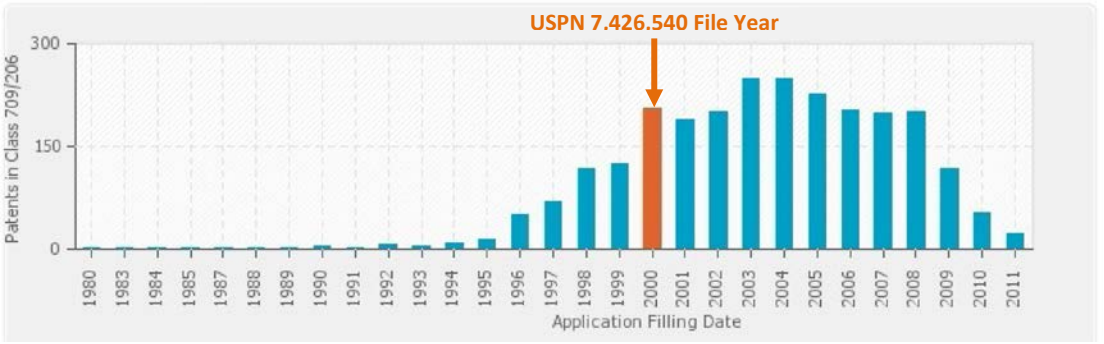
The '540 patent discloses a novel way to route and send messages to multiple messaging chat rooms. Messages can be routed based on user's choices, for example, time-based or room name based broadcasts, or based on category keywords such as hashtags. Chat has moved beyond simple consumer peer-to-peer temporal messaging and free instant messaging to becoming an integral part of enterprise-level communications, CRM support software, and mobile technology.

The flood of instant messaging traffic is pushing the need to manage the flow of messages. This need is particularly important in the enterprise space where persistent chat rooms serve as knowledge bases, workflow systems, and customer support portals. In view of unified communications, where e-mail, telephony, and instant messaging span the desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone, the technology to efficiently route messages to relevant destinations is no longer an option.

1.12.6.5. Class Activity



US Patents by Class 709/206

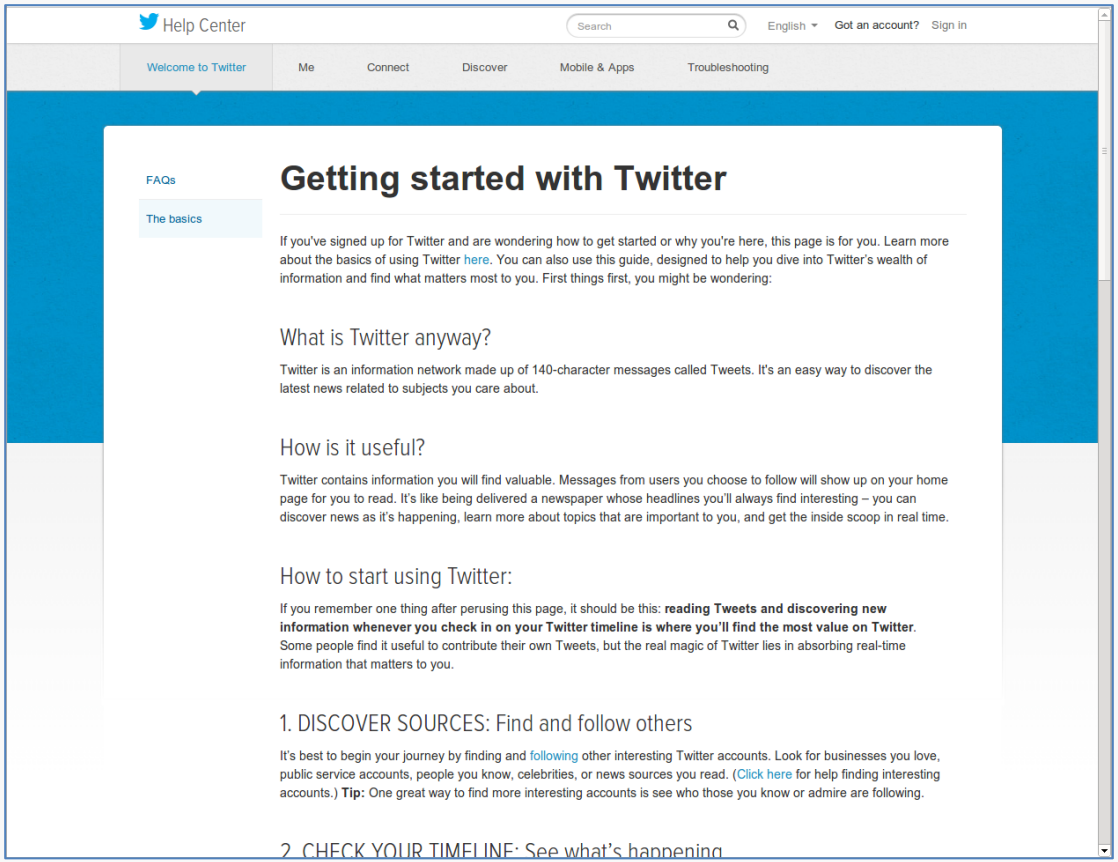


US Patents by Class 709/206 and Children Classes

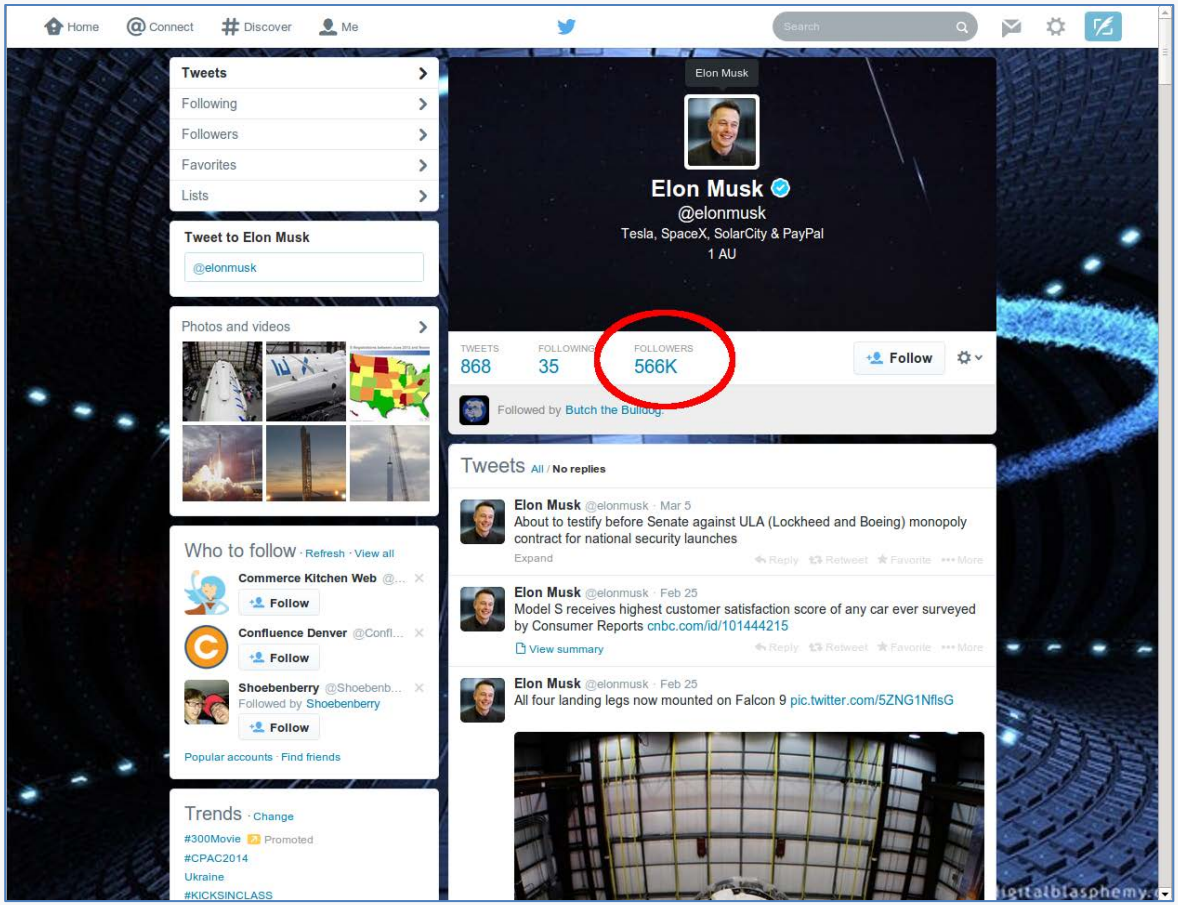
1.12.6.6. Companies in the Same Technology Field as US 7,426,540

Company	URL
AOL	http://www.aim.com/
Apple	http://www.apple.com/ios/messages/
Atlassian	https://www.hipchat.com/
Camfrog	http://www.camfrog.com/en/
Campfire	https://campfirenow.com/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/sitetour/chat.php
Google	http://www.google.com/+/learnmore/hangouts/
IBM	http://www-03.ibm.com/software/products/en/ibmsame
ICQ	http://www.icq.com/en
IMVU	http://www.imvu.com/
Live2Support	http://www.live2support.com/
LiveChat	http://www.livechatinc.com/
Mibbit	http://mibbit.com/
Microsoft	http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/lync/ http://www.skype.com/en/
MySpace	https://myspace.com/aplaceforim
Novell	http://www.novell.com/products/vibe/features/corporate-instant-messaging.html
Olark	http://www.olark.com/
Paltalk	http://www.paltalk.com/
QQ	http://imqq.com/
RightNow (Oracle)	http://www.oracle.com/us/solutions/customer-experience/oracle-customer-experience/overview/index.html
SnapEngage	http://snapengage.com/
Teamspeak	http://www.teamspeak.com/
Trillian	https://www.trillian.im/
Twitter	https://twitter.com/
WhatsApp	http://www.whatsapp.com/
Wireclub	http://www.wireclub.com/
Yahoo	http://messenger.yahoo.com/
Zumbl	http://zumbl.com/

1.12.7. US 7,426,540 Evidence of Use

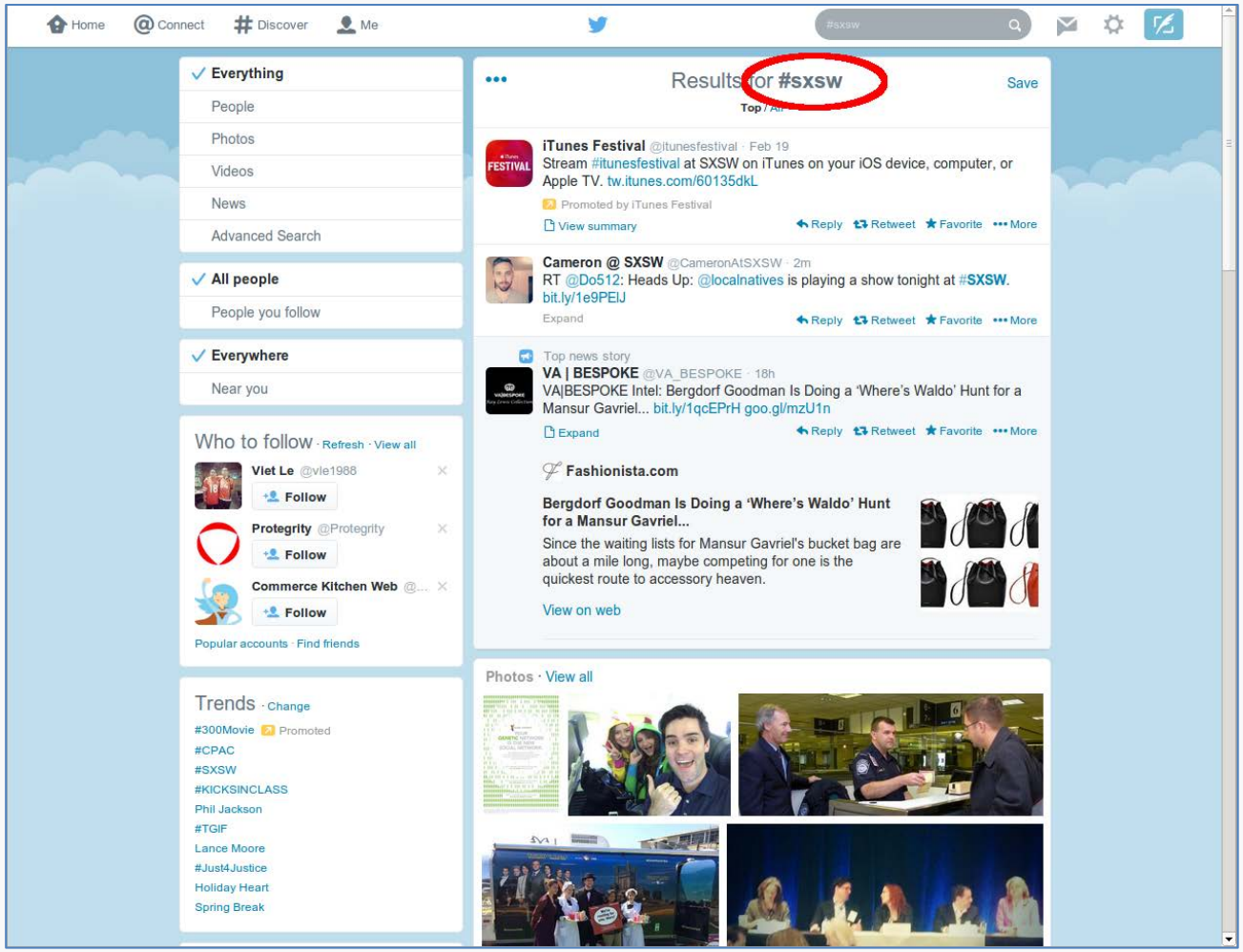
USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
1. A chat sending method employed in a chat system for enabling a conference communication between users sharing an identical network, and for content display of chat on the network, the chat sending method comprising:	Twitter is "an information network made up of 140-character messages called Tweets."[4] Users can access the system from a web page or mobile app. User can "follow" other users and receive Tweets from other users on the Internet. Twitter is a broadcast chat system whereby a user can send messages to one or more other users. Twitter is a **chat system for enabling conference communication and for content display**. 

[4] http://support.twitter.com/articles/215585#

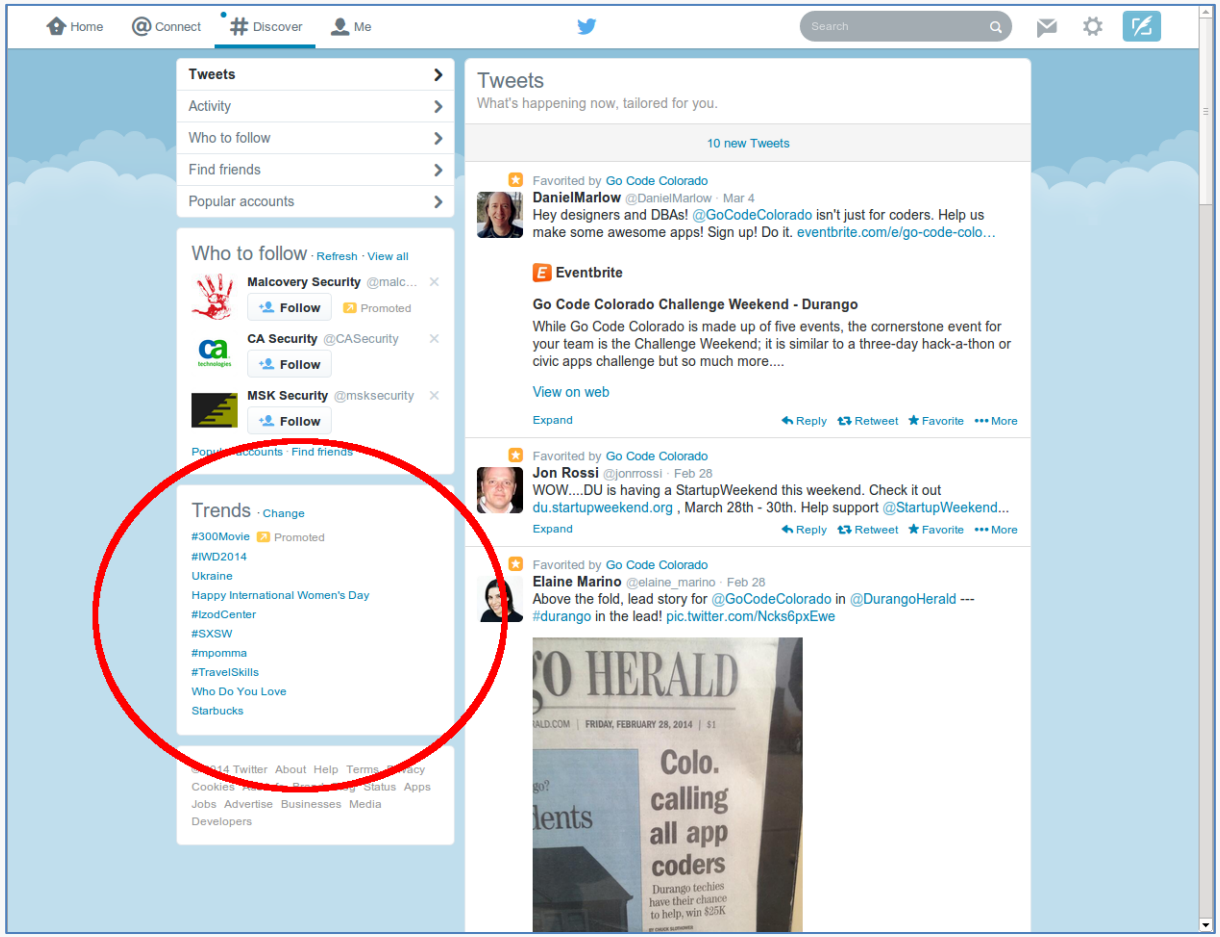
USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
correlating and storing send conditions for filtering and forwarding messages in a first virtual space shared by a first user group in the chat system to a second virtual space shared by a second user group in the chat system;	Twitter users can have many "followers." For example, the user "@elonmusk" has 566K "followers". The group of followers comprises a **first virtual space shared by a first user group**. 

USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
	When Twitter messages ("tweets") are sent to the group of "followers", the messages can be tagged into categories called "hashtags". Hashtags are used to **filter and forward messages**. Hashtags begin with the pound "#" symbol to signify that the message needs to be **filtered and forwarded** to a **second virtual space**. For example, a Twitter user called "@neimanmarcus" has 227K "followers" in the **first virtual space**. When a "tweet" is sent, it can be sent to a **second virtual space**, for example, "#sxsw". The screens below show a demonstration of the patent claim in use. 

USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
	To organize the results for "#sxsw", Twitter is shown that is **filtering and forwarding messages** from a **first virtual space** to a **second virtual space** in accordance with the system **deciding based on send conditions**.



USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
deciding based on the send conditions whether to forward a message to the second virtual space shared by the second user group after the message is received in the first virtual space shared by the first user group in the chat system; and	Hashtags are used to "categorize Tweets by keyword." Since hashtags are embedded in messages sent to "followers" in a **first virtual space** (i.e. **messages are received in the first virtual space shared by the first user group**), the message is forwarded to the "categories" in the **second virtual space**. The Twitter hashtag service is **deciding based on send conditions**.

USPN 7,426,540 Claim 1 Limitations	Evidence of Use
forwarding the message received in the first virtual space to the second virtual space in accordance with the decision; and wherein of the messages in the first virtual space, only the message matching the send conditions is forwarded and displayed as chat content of the second virtual space to enable the conference communication.	The Twitter service is **forwarding the message** with hashtags to the appropriate **second virtual space**. It can be demonstrated that the **forwarding** is more than simply a keyword search of a database of messages. If a user clicks on "#Discover", the aggregated tweets that are being followed are displayed. Next to the Twitter feeds is a "Trends" section showing a list of hashtags that are popular on Twitter. This indicates that messages are being forwarded based in **accordance with the decision**. 

2. Exhibit A: TAEUSworks Evaluation Criteria

2.1. Patent Enforceability Factors

2.1.1. Observability

Observability is the degree to which evidence of the patented technology will exist in the target product. While Observability and Ease of Investigation are often related, they are not the same. Technology that is highly observable on a product may still be quite difficult to investigate, such as requiring the fabrication of custom hardware, or the extraction and analysis of an extensive amount of circuitry from an integrated circuit. Claim limitations that are not present on the final product are not observable. Processes that are internal to a company and require access to proprietary production documents to prove are typically not observable in a product and are therefore very difficult to investigate. A low observability rating may also reflect the inherent difficulty in obtaining product/samples for investigation. The rating is based on the patent review and the reviewer's expertise and background in the art.

Rating	Description	
5	Plainly advertised or incorporated into an industry standard	The claim elements can be matched with an industry standard or part thereof. Alternatively, the manufacturer openly advertises features of the product that are infringing the patent claims.
4	Positive answer can be obtained via reverse engineering.	After obtaining a sample or applying black box testing, the results will demonstrate the use of the claim elements.
3	Negative answer can be concluded via reverse engineering or black box testing.	It is often possible to exclude infringement by black box testing. If an observed behavior cannot be the result of patented technology, the use of the technology can be excluded.
2	Reverse engineering will yield inferential evidence at best.	Reverse engineering can raise some suspicions that a given product infringes on a patent but results may be ambiguous. For example, when a specific behavior or effect is the outcome of the use of the technology, and a similar effect can be caused by alternative methods, it may be possible to infer, but not prove, that the patented technology is use by the target product.
1	Cannot be observed directly even after reverse engineering.	There is no way of proving or inferring from anything that is obtainable in the public domain that the patented technology is being used. An example could be a process patent that specifies conditions in the industry environment that cannot be demonstrated or inferred by investigating the finished product.

2.1.2. Ease of Investigation

The Ease of Investigation rating deals with the type, difficulty and expense of work required to determine if a product is using the patented technology. While Ease of Investigation and Observability are often related, they are not the same. Technology that is highly observable on a product may still be quite difficult to investigate. A low rating in Ease of Investigation will typically translate to a relatively high cost for obtaining positive evidence of possible infringement, but in certain cases this may not be true. In particular, it is sometimes much easier to obtain negative results (show that the technology is not being used) than to obtain positive results (prove that it is being used). In these cases, the cost of proving use can often be disseminated across a fairly large number of targets, so that on a per-target basis the overall cost remains relatively low. TAEUS specializes in finding the most cost effective method for investigation of specific targets, so that even a patent that would be difficult to investigate in general can often be investigated effectively through “black box” testing.

Rating	Description	
5	Technical literature review will be likely to yield a conclusion	The information is advertised or provided in data sheets, user’s manuals or service manuals by the manufacturer, or the patented technology is clearly visible without requiring reverse engineering efforts.
4	Relatively simple reverse engineering, testing, or review of technical literature and/or standards provides inferential evidence	Reverse engineering is required, but only in its simplest form. For example, a warning LED to indicate the improper insertion of expansion cards may not be visible on the outside of the equipment.
3	Standard reverse engineering or black box testing techniques required	It is possible to show the use of the claimed technology using standard reverse engineering techniques. "Standard" reverse engineering in this case could comprise functional analysis of signaling pathways via logic analyzer or oscilloscope, or a detailed mechanical analysis of a given design that requires substantial teardown of the product to be investigated.
2	Complex reverse engineering required (e.g. circuit extraction, custom test equipment, or very sophisticated analysis techniques)	Reverse engineering is still possible, but it will require nonstandard equipment or techniques that may have to be developed in order to demonstrate technical similarity. In most cases, the process is time-consuming and encompasses extensive forensic analysis of multiple aspects of the product to provide proof or inferential evidence that the technology is used.
1	Extremely complex or can only be analyzed with access to target’s proprietary data	Even though a violation of a patent may be highly observable, the difficulty of investigation makes the project almost unfeasible unless the target market is extremely large to justify high investigation costs.

2.2. Market Impact Factors

2.2.1. Technology Maturity

This factor indicates where the patented technology lies in the overall life cycle of products that are likely to use the invention. This factor can be used to target specific companies for licensing based upon your licensing strategy and knowledge of the target's product strategy. For example, early implementers are more likely to use embryonic technology, while fast followers are more likely to use growth or mature technology. Low-cost manufacturers are more likely to be using mature or aging technology. This factor reflects the changes in a patent's inherent technical value as related technology evolves. This rating often relates to patent strategy in general – a patent on technology in its early stages of development is often a strong candidate for follow-on patents in the same general area, and is more likely to be a better candidate for synergistic (carrot) licensing, while mature and aging technology is usually a better candidate for assertive (stick) licensing. This is particularly true if the patent is relatively old (i.e. will expire soon) and the rest of the world is just starting to "catch up" to the technology it discloses. The rating is based on the actual patent review and the reviewer's expertise and background in the art.

Rating	Description	
5	The technology is embryonic	The technology is unlikely to be incorporated into current applications, but future use is possible. This situation could be found in cutting edge technology development areas.
4	The technology is in the growth stage	Incorporation is possible in current and future products. Examples could be fuel cell technology, nanotechnology, biomechanical devices, and/or genotyped drug delivery systems that are just emerging.
3	The technology is mature - possible use in current applications, and may be used in the near future	Examples could be telecommunication systems, personal and handheld computers, etc.
2	The technology is aging	The technology is phasing out. It is possibly in current use, but is unlikely to be used in new products. For example, vacuum tubes in electronic devices are still available, but in low production numbers and mostly in niche products.
1	The technology is obsolete	The technology is highly unlikely to be used in current products. This would typically pertain to technology having a life cycle much shorter that the term of the patent. An example of obsolete technology is the use of punch cards instead of electronic data storage.

2.2.2. Present Commercial Use

The Present Commercial Use factor shows the reviewer's best estimate of the industry's actual current use of the technology. This rating is related to Alternatives, but the two are not synonymous. Technology with a large number of alternatives may still be used extremely widely if it provides enough advantage over those alternatives. Likewise, technology may have few alternatives, but address a relatively small market, or the cost to implement the technology in a product is prohibitive.

Rating	Description	
5	Pervasive Use	The technology is implemented in an industry standard for a broad range of products, or is otherwise widely deployed in products. Examples would include patents that pertain to the digital encoding or decoding of audio and video, cellular and wireless telecommunications and networking.
4	Fairly Common	The technology is commonly used in a variety of products, but is not necessarily fundamental to a given area of technology.
3	Very Specialized	Use of the technology is known, but distribution of products using it is confined to niche markets.
2	Possible	It is not known whether the patented technology is used in the current market place but there is a reasonable possibility that an extensive search will identify users of the technology.
1	Not Likely	The patented technology is either difficult to implement or has a wide variety of better alternatives. Although there is a chance that the patented technology may be used, more elegant and effective solutions dominate the market.

2.2.3. Future Commercial Use

The Future Commercial Use factor shows the reviewer's best estimate of the industry's potential future use of the technology. This reflects many of the same factors as the current use of the technology, and adds consideration of such factors as likely growth of this particular market as well as the rate at which alternative technologies are likely to be developed.

Rating	Description	
5	Pervasive Use	The technology will be an essential factor for future mainstream products because of its obvious advantages over earlier technologies that are phasing out. An example is LEDs used for head and taillights in autopage markups.
4	Fairly Common	The technology offers enough advantages to become a major factor in a variety of areas. One example would be the RFID tag technology used for inventory monitoring. Bar coding and other inventory control methods will continue to exist, but the technology will gain a substantial market share.
3	Likely to be Specialized	The technology will be used, but the distribution will not become widespread during the lifespan of the patent. One example is the positional monitoring of the virtual reality P5 Glove. While this technology is slowly catching on in the computer gaming world, it is not expected to reach wide distribution in the near future.
2	Possible	The patent describes a technology that may be advantageous but may require major redesign of mainstream products or acceptance of what are considered today non-standard methods by consumers. There is still a good possibility that the patented technology will be used in niche products Whether or not the technology becomes more widely used depends on many economic and demographic trends that are too complex to be considered in this evaluation.
1	Not Likely	Because of inherent limitations in the patented technology, it is very unlikely that others will use the patented approach.

2.3. Patent Coverage Factors

2.3.1. Lack of Prior Art

This factor gives the reviewer's best estimate of the likelihood of prior art based on the patent review and the reviewer's expertise and background in the art. This rating is not the result of a formal prior art search.

Rating	Description	
5	Very unlikely to have prior art	The invention is novel and unique and the priority date of the patent is early enough to precede any publication on the subject matter. This situation primarily occurs in cases where the priority date of the patent is old, the patented invention is a breakthrough technology that was never envisioned by others, and the patent pushes the technology to a higher level.
4	Unlikely to have prior art	The patent is novel and unique and appears not to be jeopardized by prior art. This usually occurs when the patent improves upon a technical system by replacing the original technology. There is still a possibility to find equivalent technology in technical publications even if the nomenclature at the time of publication was different.
3	Possible prior art	The patent is unique, but the claims are broad enough with a relatively late priority date. This makes the patent potentially vulnerable to prior art, in that somebody else might have invented the same or an equivalent technology. There may also be public knowledge of the invention based on sales anywhere in the world.
2	Strong possibility of prior art	The patented technology is main stream and the claims are overly broad. There is a very high likelihood that any extensive search will turn up equivalent technology preceding the priority date of the patent.
1	Known prior art	The reviewer is aware of potentially invalidating prior art without having to do further research. In this case, the invention is usually a simple improvement of a technical system; the patent is riding on the current technology trend and does not offer truly novel technology. Often, sales of equivalent technology precede the priority date, or the invention would be obvious to anybody based on standard publications.

2.3.2. Availability of Alternatives

This factor indicates the ability of the possible infringer to use alternative technologies to achieve the desired objective. The rating is based on the patent review and the reviewer's expertise and background in the art. This is also called the "design around" factor, that is, how difficult it would be to "design around" the patented technology to avoid infringement.

Rating	Description	
5	Alternatives are impossible	The invention covers the only possible technical solution to a problem. An example would be the transistor or other fundamental invention.
4	Alternatives are unknown	The patent covers the generally accepted solution for a technical problem. Significant R&D efforts would likely be required to provide an alternative. No other possibilities are known but there may be methods to work around the invention.
3	Possible, but very difficult to implement.	Alternatives would require substantial R&D costs, retooling costs, increased product cost, or significant compromises on product performance. For example, a heart computer tomography can be triggered by an acousto-mechanical signal that is derived from the heartbeat and monitored in the thoracic area. A work-around could use the pulse signals in the fingers, but because of the propagation delays and greater variance compared to the actual heart movements, this technology requires compensatory mechanisms and may still not be as accurate, or may be more costly to manufacture, and therefore do not provide the same level of competitive advantage to the product.
2	Possible, but moderately difficult to implement.	In this case, it may or may not be cost effective to attempt to design around the patented technology. In the case of heart computer tomography, the patent might cover the mechanical movements of the thoracic region to trigger the x-ray. A moderately difficult to implement approach could be an EKG as trigger, which is more expensive and technologically more sophisticated, but which also may yield better results. Some product redesign may be required, but this may be more cost effective than licensing the patent.
1	Alternatives are readily available.	Very little cost or effort is associated with implementing a non-infringing alternative. This occurs if the patent claims are very narrow, or if the patent is a minor improvement that offers little advantage in the marketplace. For example, a patent claiming structure having a substrate glued to its back would, from a technical perspective, be weak; it is irrelevant whether the substrate is glued to the back or to the front of the structure.

2.3.3. Scope of Claims

The Strength of Claims licensability factor is based on the language, scope, and technical merits of the claims. While the other rating factors relate primarily to the technology covered by the patent, this factor relates to the degree to which the patent claims actually provide coverage of that technology. For example, some patents are narrowed substantially during prosecution so the body of the patent discloses a number of possible implementations, but only a small number of these are actually covered by the claims. In this case, the patent itself may provide information on how to use fundamentally similar technology without infringing any claims. Evaluation of this factor takes into account the types of claims in the patent to assess the breadth of scope of the claims, and assess the technical strength of the claims from the perspective of a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Rating	Description	
5	Claims are extremely broad and fundamental to the technology	The patent claims describe what may be called the principle of operation for the new invention without going into detailed descriptions that would pose limitation on the applicability and assertion of the claims. It is likely that the patented technology will apply across a broad range of products.
4	Good claims. Broad applicability	The claim language centers on the patented technology or device but the claims are broad enough to not limit the assertability to the specific technology area or product. The claims may have limitations that narrow the breadth and scope of coverage.
3	Good claims, but may have restrictions or references that limit the scope of applicability	The claim language focuses on the invention, but the novelty aspect of the invention is the solution to a detailed problem. In this case, the claim language may be strong, but the applicability may be restricted to a specific area of technology.
2	Relatively specific/narrow claims	The claim language is complex and contains many limitations that narrow down the focus to very specific aspects of the technology.
1	Very complex, narrow, unclear, and/or specific.	Very difficult to enforce. This category encompasses a number of different possibilities characterized by overly long claims with too many and very specific elements, and/or claims that are very convoluted and ambiguous. A hypothetical example would be a wine with exact 12.5 % Vol. Ethanol content during its shelf life. Because of the continuous fermentation in the bottle, the alcohol levels will change over time and therefore the narrowness of the limitation would make a patent unenforceable.