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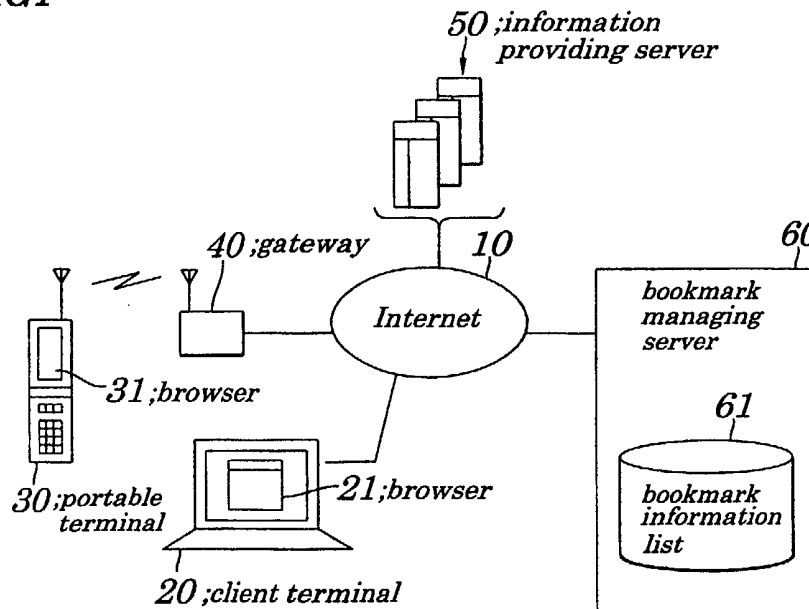
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(54) Abstract Title
Bookmark managing system and bookmark managing method

(57) A bookmark managing system is provided which is capable of effectively managing a bookmark function even when a user is using a plurality of terminals (20, 30). The bookmark managing system includes terminals (20, 30) to be used by the user, information providing server (50) which provides contents to the terminals (20, 30), an Internet (10) to connect the terminals (20, 30) to the information providing server (50), and browsers (21, 31) used to browse contents incorporated in the terminals (20, 30). It is also provided with a bookmark managing server (60) being connected to the Internet (10) and having a bookmark information list (61) providing shared bookmark information which can perform a bookmark function even when the user is using a plurality of types of the terminals (20, 30). The bookmark information has, at least, name information providing contents to be linked to and one and more URL information corresponding to the name information.

FIG1



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FIG1

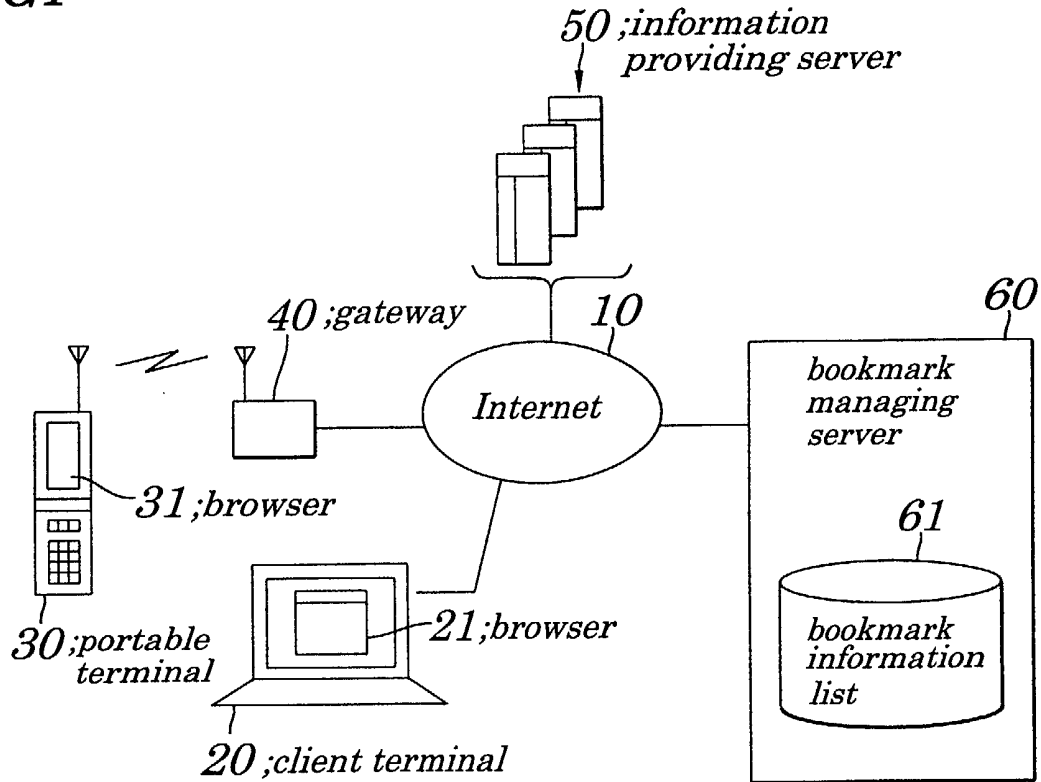


FIG2

61

611 612 613 bookmark information list 614 615 616

| <i>type</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>URL1</i> | <i>URL2</i> | <i>comment</i> | <i>disclosure</i> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>IT</i> | <i>NEC</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp/</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp/i/</i> | <i>recommended</i> | <i>ok</i> |
| <i>IT</i> | <i>Biglobe</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp/</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp/i-mode/</i> | <i>my favorite</i> | <i>ok</i> |
| <i>Finance</i> | <i>〇〇bank</i> | <i>www.oobank.co.jp/</i> | <i>mobile.oobank.co.jp/</i> | <i>GOOD!</i> | <i>ok</i> |
| <i>Finance</i> | <i>Dahoo!</i> | <i>www.dahoo.co.jp/finance/</i> | <i>Mobile.dahoo.co.jp/finance/</i> | <i>information collection</i> | <i>ok</i> |
| <i>Finance</i> | <i>Sintaku</i> | <i>www.kabu.com/login.cgi=3489</i> | <i>i.kabu.com/login.cgi=3489</i> | <i>most suitable for investment</i> | <i>no</i> |

FIG3

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| <i>IT</i> | <u><i>NEC</i></u> | <i>recommended</i> |
| | <u><i>Biglobe</i></u> | <i>my favorite</i> |
| <i>Finance</i> | <u>○○<i>bank</i></u> | <i>GOOD!</i> |
| | <u><i>Dahoo!</i></u> | <i>information collection</i> |
| | <u><i>Sintaku</i></u> | <i>most suitable for investment</i> |
| 611 | 612 | 613 |

FIG4

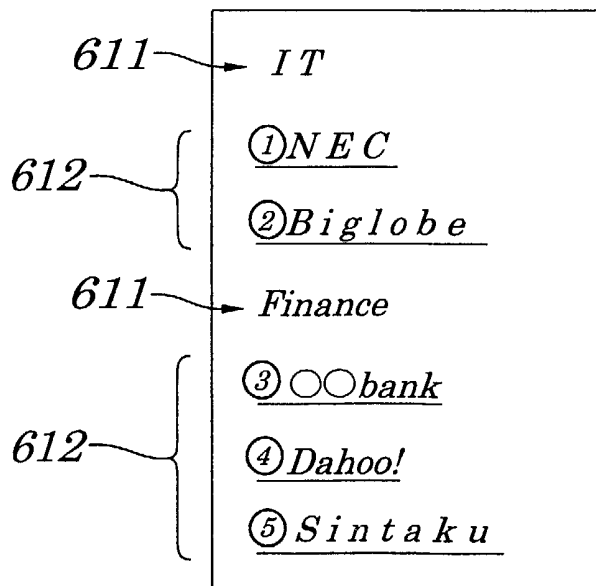


FIG5

renewing of bookmark

name of type:

present bookmark

| <i>name</i> | <i>URL1</i> | <i>URL2</i> | <i>comment</i> | <i>disclosure</i> | <i>order</i> | <i>deletion</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>NEC</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp/</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp/i/</i> | <i>recommended</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Biglobe</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp/</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp/i-mode/</i> | <i>my favorite</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

addition of bookmark

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| <i>name</i> | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>URL1</i> | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>URL2</i> | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>comment</i> | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>disclosure</i> | <input type="text"/> |

FIG6

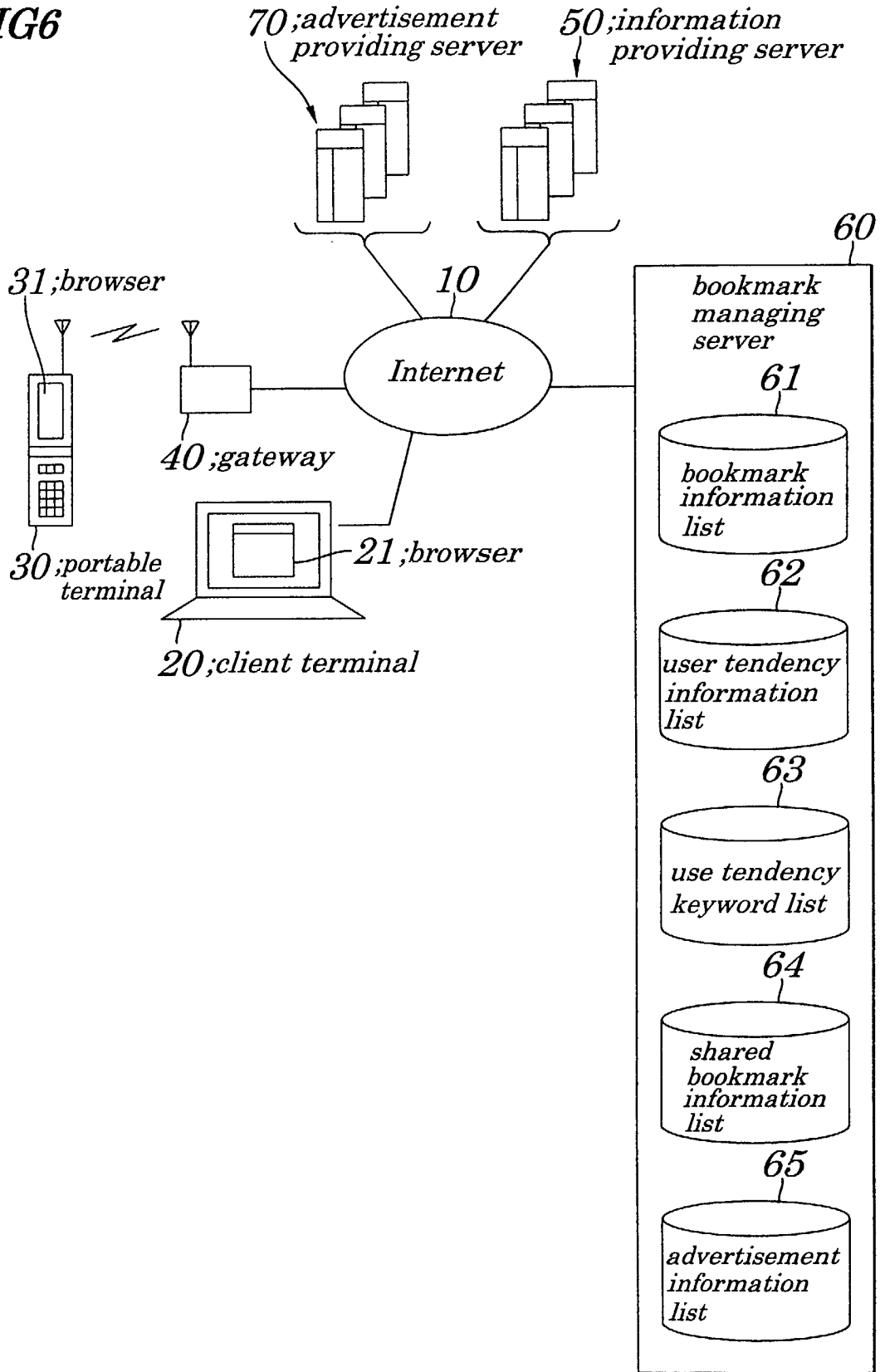


FIG7

| <i>category</i> | <i>number of contents registered</i> | <i>number of contents referred to</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>654</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>413</i> |
| <i>automobiles</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |
| <i>music</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |

FIG8

| <i>category</i> | <i>keyword</i> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>N E C</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>nippon denki</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>BIGURO-BU</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>www.oobank.co.jp</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>〇〇bank</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>www.dahoo.co.jp/finance/</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>www.kabu.com/</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>stock.com</i> |

FIG9

| <i>category</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>URL1</i> | <i>URL2</i> | <i>comment</i> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>NetBank</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>bank in "IT" age</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>Secure info</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>security caution information</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>NASDOG Watch</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>today's movement</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>NetBank</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>bank in "IT" age</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>NetSeimei</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>insurance in "IT" age</i> |

FIG10

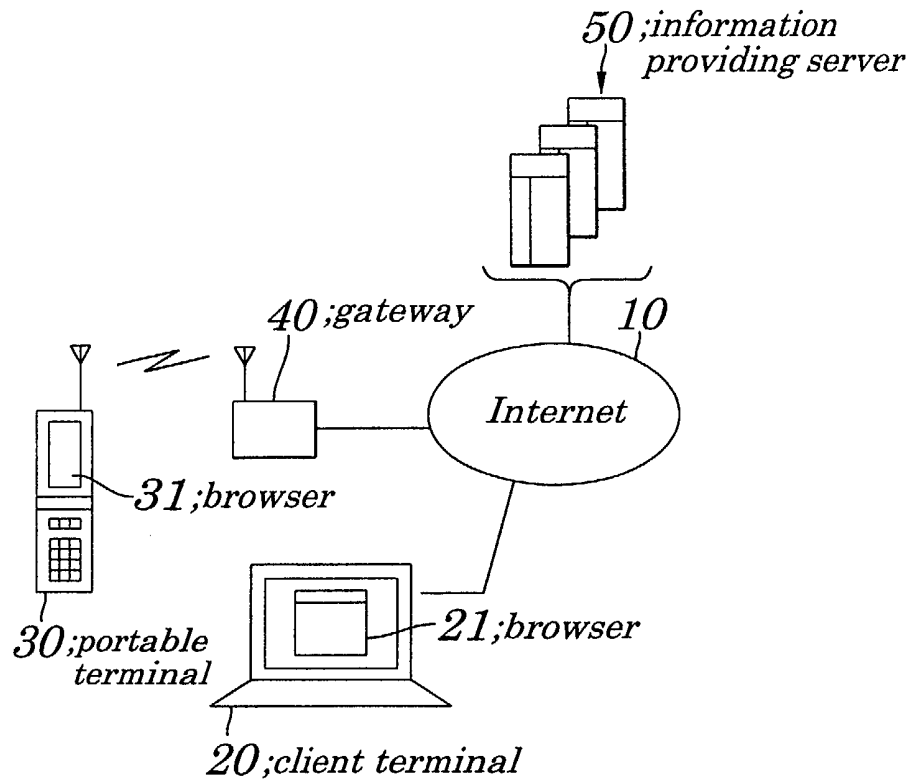
| <i>category</i> | <i>advertisement content</i> | <i>URL1</i> | <i>URL2</i> | <i>advertisement letters</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>nippon denki</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |
| <i>information industry</i> | <i>internet information bureau</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>gondo commercial company</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>〇〇bank</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |
| <i>finance and investment</i> | <i>daily investment information</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> | <i>...</i> |

FIG11

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | |
| <i>IT</i> | <u>NEC</u> | <i>recommended</i> |
| | <u>Biglobe</u> | <i>my favorite</i> |
| <i>Finance</i> | | <i>gondo commercial company</i> |
| | <u>○○bank</u> | <i>we are entirely at your service for investment and stock transaction</i> |
| | <u>Dahoo!</u> | <i>GOOD</i> |
| | <u>Sintaku</u> | <i>information collection</i> |
| <i>recommendation</i> | <u>NetBank</u> | <i>most suitable for investment</i> |
| | <u>NASDOG watch</u> | <i>bank in "IT" age</i> |
| | | <i>Tel:</i> |
| | | <i>0120-123-</i> |
| | | <i>4567</i> |

FIG12

| |
|--|
| ① <u>advertisement:gondo commercialcompany</u> |
| <i>IT</i> |
| ② <u>NEC</u> |
| ② <u>Biglobe</u> |
| <i>Finance</i> |
| ③ <u>○○bank</u> |
| ④ <u>Dahoo!</u> |
| ⑤ <u>Sintaku</u> |
| <u>recommendation</u> |
| ⑥ <u>NetBank</u> |
| ⑦ <u>NASDOG watch</u> |

FIG13 (PRIOR ART)**FIG14 (PRIOR ART)**bookmark information

| <i>name</i> | <i>URL</i> |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>NEC</i> | <i>www.nec.co.jp/</i> |
| <i>Biglobe</i> | <i>www.biglobe.ne.jp/</i> |
| <i>〇〇bank</i> | <i>www.oobank.co.jp/</i> |
| <i>Dahoo!</i> | <i>www.dahoo.co.jp/finance/</i> |
| <i>Sintaku</i> | <i>www.kabu.com/login.cgi=3489</i> |

BOOKMARK MANAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR USE WITH INTERNET TERMINALS

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to a bookmark
5 managing system and a bookmark managing method for
use with Internet terminals, and to a server and a
browser for use therein. These bookmarks are
frequently referred to by users as 'favorites'.

A bookmark of this type represents a function of storing
a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) that has been incorporated in
a WWW (WorldWideWeb) browser, that is, the function that enables
a user to pull down and select a Web page that the user finds and
wants to frequently confirm and recognize, from a menu, by
registering a desired URL, when the user wishes to again access
to the Web page next time, without re-inputting of the URL.
Therefore, the user, when wishing to access to a content, if the
URL of the content is one that has been registered on the bookmark,
can save work of again inputting the URL and can easily make an
access to the contents being frequently used.

A conventional bookmark managing system will be described

by referring to Figs. 13 and 14. Figure 13 is a diagram showing configurations of the conventional bookmark managing system. Figure 14 is a diagram showing an example of bookmark information in the conventional bookmark managing system.

5 The conventional bookmark managing system, as shown in Fig. 13, includes a client terminal 20 or a portable terminal 30 being used by the user, an information providing server 50 to provide information to the user, and the Internet 10 to connect the client terminal 20 and portable terminal 30 to the information providing
10 server 50.

 Next, configurations of each component of the conventional bookmark managing system will be described. The client terminal 20 is a terminal of a personal computer or a like which is provided internally with a browser 21 having a function of displaying WWW
15 contents or a like and which is connected to the Internet 10. When the user inputs an address such as the URL or a like from the client terminal 20, the browser 21 obtains desired WWW contents and displays them.

 The portable terminal 30 includes a portable cellular phone
20 or a like and is provided internally with a browser 31 having a function of displaying WWW contents or the like and is connected through a gateway 40 to the Internet 10. When the user inputs an address such as the URL or a like through the portable terminal 30, the browser 31 obtains desired WWW contents from the
25 information providing server 50 through the Internet 10 and displays them in the same way as done by the browser 21.

 The conventional client terminal 20 and portable terminal 30 have a bookmark function adapted to manage such bookmark information as shown in Fig. 14. That is, bookmark information

is stored in a manner that each "name" corresponds to each URL. The URL is a displaying method for indicating a place of an object on the Internet.

For example, the client terminal 20 or portable terminal
5 30 stores "URLs" such as "www. nec. co. jp/", "www. biglobe. ne. jp/", "www. oobank. co. jp/" (or a like) corresponding respectively to "NEC", "Biglobe", "OO bank". Therefore, the user, when accessing to contents, can save work of doubly inputting the URL by using such the bookmark function.

10 However, the conventional bookmark function has a problem in that, if one user is using a plurality of terminals and when a bookmark is made same among two or more terminals, bookmark information stored in each terminal has to be changed individually and synchronization for the bookmark among terminals is not easy.

15 Moreover, when WWW contents using a browser installed in a portable terminal such as a portable cellular phone or a like are referred to by the user, the portable terminal, due to its processing and/or displaying capability constraint, has no other choice but to use a URL being different from that indicating WWW
20 contents that can be displayed by the browser installed 21 in an ordinary personal computer in many cases. In this case, if the conventional bookmark function is used, only one URL can be stored to register the URL indicating one content. Therefore, there is a problem in that, since bookmark information cannot be commonly
25 possessed among terminals, when bookmark information for desired contents are registered, a plurality of pieces of the bookmark information to be used for personal computers, portable terminals or a like has to be registered, thus causing difficult and complicated work.

Also, when the conventional bookmark function is used, the bookmark information being individually possessed by the user is limited to individual use and, as a result, when the bookmark information is transferred to others, another means such as oral or mail transferring method, or a like has to be employed among individuals.

Furthermore, in recent years, though distribution of advertisement contents using the Internet is becoming widespread, when the conventional bookmark function is employed, the advertisement contents in which the user does not show an interest in are also distributed at a same time, which makes it difficult to achieve effective distribution of contents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a bookmark managing system for managing a bookmark function including:

- a terminal to be used by a user;
- an information providing server that provides contents to the terminal;
- an Internet used to connect the terminal to the information providing server;
- a browser incorporated in the terminal and used to browse the contents;
- wherein bookmark information containing an address

required for the user to access to desired contents is stored in advance and an address of desired contents is easily acquired from the bookmark information when the user needs the address, and;

wherein a bookmark managing server is provided which is
5 connected to the Internet and has a bookmark information list obtained by collecting the bookmark information of the terminal and wherein the bookmark function is able to be used when the user uses the terminal.

In the foregoing, a preferable mode is one wherein the
10 bookmark information list is made up of shared bookmark information obtained by collecting the bookmark information for each type of terminal and is constructed so that, the user, when using the terminal of a plurality of terminals, is able to employ the bookmark function depending on a type of the terminal to be
15 used the user.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the address is expressed by a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information is made up of at least name information indicating
20 contents to be linked to and one and more pieces of URL information corresponding to the name information.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information in the bookmark information list further contains type information used to identify contents to be linked to.

25 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information contains information about comments on the contents to be linked to.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information further contains information about disclosure

indicating whether the bookmark information is allowed to be made open to a third party.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein one and more pieces of URL information is made up of first URL information provided
5 by a browser of a client terminal being used by the user and of second URL information provided by a browser of a portable terminal being used by the user.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the first URL information is written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and
10 the second URL information is written in Compact HTML or WML (Wireless Markup Language).

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server has a function of editing the bookmark information.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the function of
15 editing the bookmark information includes a function of adding, deleting, or changing the bookmark information, or changing an order in which the bookmark information is displayed.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server has a function of identifying a type of the terminal and
20 of selecting, based on a result of the identification, one piece of the URL information from one and more pieces of the URL information being contained in the bookmark information.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server has a function of obtaining information about use tendency
25 of the user indicating what kind of a type of the content is registered by the user as the bookmark information and to what extent the user makes an access to the content.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server has a function of obtaining information about a shared

bookmark, from the information about use tendency of the user, indicating what kind of the information the user has an interest in or what kind of the information the user needs.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing
5 server has a function of selecting bookmark information from the shared bookmark information by using the information about use tendency of the user and of distributing the selected bookmark information to the terminal.

Furthermore, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark
10 managing server selects information about a content of an advertisement that is able to correspond to information about use tendency of a user and distributes the selected information to the terminal.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there
15 is provided a bookmark managing method for managing a bookmark function of storing in advance bookmark information containing an address used for a user to access to desired contents and of easily obtaining the address of the desired contents from the bookmark information whenever the user needs in a network of an
20 Internet including a terminal to be used by the user, an information providing server to provide contents to the terminal, the Internet to connect the terminal to the information providing server, and a browser to browse the contents stored in the terminal, the bookmark managing method including:

25 a step of constructing the network of the Internet in which a bookmark managing server having a bookmark information list made up of shared bookmark information obtained by collecting bookmark information for each type of the terminal is provided.

In the foregoing, a preferable mode is one wherein the

bookmark information list is made up of shared bookmark information obtained by collecting bookmark information by the type of the terminal which is able to use the bookmark function whenever the user uses the terminal.

5 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the address is expressed by a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).

 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information contains, at least, name information indicating contents to be linked to and one and more pieces of URL information
10 corresponding to the name information.

 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information in the bookmark information list further contains type information used to identify a type of the contents to be linked to.

15 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information further contains information about comments on the contents to be linked to.

 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark information further contains information about disclosure
20 indicating whether the bookmark information is allowed to be made open to a third party.

 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein each of the one and more pieces of the URL information is made up of a first URL information provided by a browser of a client terminal to be used
25 by the user and a second URL information provided by a browser of a portable terminal to be used by the user.

 Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the first URL information is written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and the second URL information is written in Compact HTML or WML

(Wireless Markup Language).

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to edit the bookmark information.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the edition includes
5 addition, deletion, or change of the bookmark information, or
change of an order in which the bookmark information is displayed.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to identify a type of the terminal and to select, based on a result of the identification, one piece of the URL
10 information from one and more pieces of the URL information being
contained in the bookmark information.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to obtain information about use tendency of the user indicating what kind of a type of a content is registered
15 by the user as the bookmark information and to what extent the
user makes an access to the content.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to obtain information about a shared bookmark, from the information about the use tendency of the user, indicating
20 what kind of the information the user has an interest in or what
kind of information the user needs.

Also, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to select bookmark information from the shared bookmark information by using the information about the use
25 tendency of the user and is able to distribute the selected
bookmark information to the terminal.

Furthermore, a preferable mode is one wherein the bookmark managing server is able to select information about contents of an advertisement that corresponds to the information about the

use tendency of the user and is able to distribute the selected information to the terminal.

With the above configuration, since the bookmark information is managed not on a side of a terminal but on a side
5 of the bookmark managing server, the bookmark information can be shared while one user is using a plurality of terminals.

Also, since, in the bookmark information managed by the bookmark managing server are stored one and more URLs for one bookmark and, when the bookmark information is transmitted by the
10 bookmark managing server, a URL is selected by a type of a terminal, the bookmark information can be simply shared even when the user is using a plurality of types of terminals.

Moreover, since the bookmark managing server obtains information about the use tendency of the user from the bookmark
15 information having been registered by the user, it can suitably distribute, to the user, bookmark information that can match the interests or the liking of the user.

Furthermore, since the bookmark managing server obtains information about the use tendency of the user from the bookmark
20 information having been registered by the user, it can suitably distribute, to the user, the advertisement that can match the interests or liking of the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25

The above and other objects, advantages, and features of the present invention will be more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram showing configurations of a bookmark managing system according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing an example of a display of a
5 bookmark performed by a browser function provided by a personal computer in the bookmark managing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing an example of another display of the bookmark performed by another browser function
10 incorporated in a portable cellular phone employed in the bookmark managing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an example of a bookmark information list employed in the bookmark managing system
15 according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing a screen for renewing the bookmark information list employed in the bookmark managing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a schematic block diagram showing configurations
20 of a bookmark managing system according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a list showing a use tendency information list in the bookmark managing system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing an example of another use
25 tendency information list in the bookmark managing system according to the second embodiment of the present information;

Fig. 9 is a diagram showing a list of shared bookmark information list in the bookmark managing system according to the

second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing an example of an advertisement information list in the bookmark managing system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 11 is a diagram showing an example of a display of a bookmark performed by a function of a browser included in personal computers or a like according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 12 is a diagram showing an example of another display of the bookmark performed by a function of a portable wireless terminal included in personal computers or a like according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a diagram showing configurations of a conventional bookmark managing system; and

15 Fig. 14 is a diagram for showing an example of bookmark information in the conventional bookmark managing system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 Best modes of carrying out the present invention will be described in further detail using various embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings. Moreover, in descriptions below, a term "bookmark information" represents information being stored by a bookmark function, which includes one and more URLs
25 frequently used by a user.

First Embodiment

Configurations of a bookmark managing system and a bookmark

managing method of the first embodiment are described by referring to Figs. 1 to 5. Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram showing configurations of the bookmark managing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

5 The bookmark managing system of the first embodiment, as shown in Fig. 1, includes a client terminal 20 and a portable terminal 30 both being used by a user, an Internet 10 adapted to connect the client terminal 20 and the portable terminal 30 to an information providing server 50, and a bookmark managing server
10 60. The portable terminal 30 is connected to the Internet 10 through a gateway 40. The client terminal 20 internally has a browser 21 while the portable terminal 30 internally has a browser 31. The bookmark managing server 60 has a bookmark information list 61 obtained by collecting bookmark information.

15 Next, configurations of each component of the bookmark managing system of the first embodiment will be described by referring to Fig. 1. The client terminal 20 is a personal computer or a like which incorporates the browser 21 having a function of displaying WWW (World Wide Web) contents or a like and is connected
20 to the Internet 10. The browser 21, when a user has input an address such as a URL or a like from the client terminal 20, obtains desired WWW contents through the Internet 10 from the information providing service 50 and displays it.

 The portable terminal 30 is a portable cellular phone or
25 a like which includes the browser 31 having a function of displaying WWW contents or the like and is connected to the Internet 10 through the gateway 40. The browser 31, when the user has input an address such as the URL or a like through the portable terminal 30, as in the case of the browser 21, obtains desired

WWW contents through the Internet 10 from the information providing server 50 and displays it.

The bookmark managing server 60 holds bookmark information of each user, which has the bookmark information list 61 obtained
5 by collecting bookmark information, when having received a bookmark acquisition request through the Internet 10 from browsers 21 and 31 possessed by the client terminal 20 or by the portable terminal 30, obtains bookmark information from the bookmark information list 61 and transmits display data used to
10 display bookmark information to the browsers 21 and 31 which have requested the acquisition of the bookmark. Display data is described in, for example, HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). The browsers 21 and 31 having received display data, in accordance with the received display data, displays bookmark information on
15 a display section of the client terminal 20 or portable terminal 30.

The information providing server 50 is used to provide various information to the user and, for example, gives contents corresponding to an address such as a URL input by the user from
20 its client terminal 20 or the portable terminal 30 through the Internet 10, to the client terminal 20 or the portable terminal 30.

Next, the bookmark information list 61 will be described by referring to Fig. 2. Figure 2 is a diagram showing one example
25 of the bookmark information list 61 employed in the bookmark managing system of the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 2, the bookmark information list 61 is a collection of the bookmark information. Each piece of the bookmark information includes name information 612 indicating contents

given by a URL and at least two pieces of first URL information (URL1) 613 and second URL information (URL2) 614. Moreover, the bookmark information list 61 includes type information 611 used to manage each bookmark by an arbitrary type, comment information 5 615 used to store information about each of the bookmarks, and disclosure information 616 indicating whether or not the bookmark information may be made open to a third party other than the user. The bookmark information is managed by each user. When the user makes a request for acquisition of the bookmark, user 10 authentication can be performed, based on the bookmark information, by using a user ID / password method, or an electronic certificate method, or by using a cookie. The disclosure information 616 is used to determine whether or not bookmark information may be disclosed for each bookmark information, when 15 any third party other than an authorized user makes a request for acquisition of the bookmark. URL information is made up of at least two pieces of URL information which includes first URL information (URL1) 613 and second URL information (URL2) 614. The first URL information (URL1) 613 is contained in the browser 21 of the client 20 terminal 20 and the second URL information (URL2) 614 is contained in the browser 31 of the portable terminal 30.

The URL information made up of at least two pieces of URL information including the first URL information (URL1) 613 and the second URL information (URL2) 614 can save a plurality of 25 pieces of specified bookmark information. For example, in the client terminal 20 being a computer or a like being provided with the browser 21 having sufficient processing and displaying capabilities, a URL used to indicate contents described in a general HTML can be stored in the first URL information (URL1)

613 and, in the portable terminal 30 being provided with the browser 31 having limited processing and displaying capabilities, a URL used to indicate contents described in a Compact HTML or the WML (Wireless Markup Language) can be stored in the second
5 URL information (URL2) 614.

The bookmark managing server 60, when receiving a bookmark acquisition request from the browser 21 of the client terminal 20 or from the browser 31 of the portable terminal 30, selects either of the first URL information (URL1) 613 or the second URL
10 information (URL2) 614 according to a capability of the browser 21 or 31 and then transmits display data required for displaying the bookmark information to the browser 21 or 31 that has made the request for the acquisition of a bookmark.

Next, examples of display by a browser function employed
15 in the first embodiment of the present invention will be explained by referring to Figs. 3 and 4. Figures 3 and 4 are diagrams showing examples of display performed by a browser function incorporated in the portable cellular phone employed in the bookmark managing system of the first embodiment of the present invention. Figure
20 3 is the example of display performed in the client terminal 20. Figure 4 is the example of display performed in the portable terminal 30. In Fig. 3, examples of display of the bookmark information, which is given in the bookmark information list 61, performed by the browser 21 of the client terminal 20 such as the
25 personal computer or the like are provided. In the example, on its left side is provided the type information 611 contained in the bookmark information list 61, in its center is provided the name information 612 and, on its right side is provided the comment information 615. As the type information 611, terms IT and Finance

are displayed. As the name information 612, terms NEC and Biglobe are displayed. As the comment information 615, terms Recommended and My Favorite or a like are displayed. Each of the above information is obtained from the bookmark information list 61.

5 The type information 611, name information 612, and comment information 615 shown in Fig. 3 correspond respectively to the type information 611, name information 612, and comment information 615 contained in the bookmark information list 61 shown in Fig. 2.

10 The name information 612 being underlined in Fig. 3 represents a name display that can be hyperlinked and the first URL information (URL1) 613 is described as information to be hyperlinked by the name underlined display. For example, when a user selects NEC as the name information 612, the browser 21
15 obtains contents described in a normal HTML represented by a URL <http://nec.co.jp/> from the information providing server 50 and displays them.

Fig. 4 shows an example of display of bookmark information contained in the bookmark information list 61 and provided by the
20 browser 31 of the portable terminal 30. The browser 31 employed in the example has a limited processing and displaying capability. All pieces of the information including the type information 611, name information 612, or a like are displayed in a single column as shown in Fig. 4. On a top of the display is provided IT as the
25 type information 611 and NEC and Biglobe are subsequently provided as the name information 612 and then Finance as the type information 611, OO bank, Dahoo !, and Sintaku as the name information 612. Thereafter, other type information 611 and name information 612 are sequentially displayed. Each piece of the

information is obtained from the bookmark information list 61 as in the case shown in Fig. 3. That is, the type information 611 and the name information 612 respectively correspond to the type information 611 and name information 612 contained in the bookmark
5 information list 61.

Here, the name information 612 being underlined represents a name display that can be hyperlinked and, unlike in the case shown in Fig. 3, the second URL information (URL2) 614 shown in Fig. 2 is described as information to be hyperlinked by the above
10 name underlined display. For example, when a user selects NEC as the name information 612, the browser 31 obtains, from the information providing server 50, contents described in a language represented by `http:www.nec.jp/i/`, for example, in a Compact HTML being different from an ordinary HTML and displays it. That is,
15 in the case shown in Fig. 3, though the first URL information (URL1) 613 represented by `http:www.nec.co.jp/` is used, however, in the case shown in Fig. 4, the second URL information (URL2) 614 represented by `http:www.nec.co.jp/i/` is used.

Next, a screen for renewing the bookmark information list
20 61 described above will be explained by referring to Fig. 5. Figure 5 is a diagram showing a screen for renewing the bookmark information list 61 employed in the bookmark managing system of the first embodiment of the present invention. On the screen for renewing in the embodiment are provided, as shown in Fig. 5, a
25 column for a name of a type and a column for an addition of a bookmark which enable the bookmark managing to have an editing function of adding, deleting, and changing the bookmark information list 61. In the renewed screen of the embodiment, the editing function in the bookmark information list 61 is provided

in a form of the HTML.

Each of columns of the screens for renewing will be described by referring to Fig. 5 below.

In the column for a name of type, a type is provided to which
5 information being currently edited belongs. This column is achieved by using a list box and, by selecting one type from a list contained in the list box, switching can be made so that bookmark information belonging to other type information is edited.

10 In the column for a present bookmark, a list of a bookmark being stored in the bookmark information list 61 is displayed in a table format. By selecting a check box displayed in a deletion column in the table, the bookmark can be deleted. Moreover, by selecting an arrow displayed in an order column in the table, a
15 display order can be changed up and down.

The column for the addition of a bookmark is used to newly add bookmark information, in which columns for a name of a new bookmark, first URL information (URL1) 613, second URL information (URL2) 614, comment 615, disclosure 616, or a like
20 are provided.

In a lower portion of the screen, a button for transmittance and a button for cancellation are provided. When the transmittance button is selected, contents occurred by being changed on the browser are reflected on the bookmark information list 61. When
25 the cancellation button is selected, contents occurred by being changed on the browser are discarded.

A bookmark managing system of a second embodiment will be described by referring to Fig. 6 to Fig. 10. Figure 6 is a schematic block diagram showing configurations of the bookmark managing system according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

5 The bookmark managing system of the second embodiment, as in the case of the first embodiment, includes a client terminal 20, a portable terminal 30 both being used by a user, an information providing server 50 to provide information to the user, an Internet 10 to connect the client terminal 20 and portable
10 terminal 30 to the information providing server 50, and a bookmark managing server 60. The client terminal 20 internally has a browser 21 and the portable terminal 30 internally has a browser 31. Moreover, the bookmark managing server 60 has a bookmark information list 61 obtained by collecting bookmark information.
15 The client terminal 20 is a personal computer or a like which internally has the browser 21 having a function of displaying WWW (WorldWide Web) contents or a like and is connected to the Internet 10. When the user inputs an address such as a URL or a like from the client terminal 20, the browser 21 obtains desired WWW
20 contents through the Internet 10 from the information providing server 50 and displays it on a display section of the client terminal 20.

 The bookmark managing system of the second embodiment is provided with an advertisement providing server 70 to be connected
25 to the Internet 10. Moreover, the bookmark providing server 60, in addition to the bookmark information list 61, includes a user tendency information list 62, a use tendency keyword list 63, a shared bookmark information list 64, and an advertisement information list 65.

Next, configurations of the user tendency information list 62, the use tendency keyword list 63, the shared bookmark information list 64, and the advertisement information list 65 all being provided on the bookmark managing server 60 will be explained by referring to Fig. 7 to Fig. 10.

First, Fig. 7 shows one example of the user tendency information list 62. The bookmark managing server 60 has a function of obtaining user tendency information used to create a user tendency information list 62 from the bookmark information list 61 of each user. The user tendency information list 62 is used to store information about a use tendency of the user as to what kinds of contents the user registers as the bookmark information or what degree the user makes an access to the contents registered as the bookmark information. The user tendency information list 62 of the embodiment shows a result of use tendency of the user, that is, it shows that a number of contents about information industries registered as bookmark information is two (shown for an example) and that a number of times of using the contents registered as the bookmark information is 654 (as an example). It also shows, for example, that a number of contents about finance and investment registered as bookmark information is three and a number of times of using the contents registered as the bookmark information is 413. In Fig. 7, contents about automobiles, music, or a like further follow the above two kinds of the contents.

Next, Fig. 8 shows one example of the use tendency keyword list 63. To create the user tendency information list 62 by using the bookmark information list 61, a use tendency keyword list 63 is used. The use tendency keyword list 63 is used to show

correspondence between keywords and contents, that is, the
correspondence shows what kind of a field is indicated by a content
designated by a keyword. The use tendency keyword list 63 of the
embodiment shows that, if keywords such as www.nec.co.jp, NEC,
5 or a like are contained in the bookmark information list 61, the
bookmark information are contents corresponding to information
industry. Thus, contents in the bookmark information list 61 are
compared with keywords contained in the use tendency keyword list
63. As a result, a number of times of appearance of the keyword
10 by category is reflected as a number of registration by category
in the user tendency information list 62.

Next, Fig. 9 shows an example of the shared bookmark
information list 64. The user tendency information list 62
obtained by the way described above can provide information as
15 to what kind of information the user has as an interest in and/or
as to what kind of information the user wants to obtain. The
bookmark managing server 60, by using the information providing
characteristic of the user tendency information list 62, has a
function of providing a shared bookmark so that information that
20 can meet a use tendency or needs of the user is suitably provided
and of distributing advertisement information. The function of
providing a shared bookmark can be expressed by using the shared
bookmark list 64 included in the bookmark managing server 60. The
shared bookmark information list 64 is created by abstracting
25 bookmark information from the bookmark information list 61 of
users having user tendency information being comparatively
similar among themselves, using the user tendency information
list 62 of each user. In the shared bookmark information list 64
of the embodiment, category information, names corresponding to

the category, URLs for contents, or a like are provided. The shared bookmark information list 64, when bookmark information is transmitted from the bookmark managing server 60, provides a bookmark of a corresponding category in the shared bookmark information list 64, based on a number of registered contents,
5 a number of contents referred to, or a like in the user tendency information list 62 of the user.

Next, Fig. 10 shows an example of the advertisement information list 65. The function of distributing an
10 advertisement is achieved by the advertisement information list 65 included in the bookmark managing server 60. The advertisement information list 65 of the embodiment has information about a category, about a content of an advertisement corresponding to the category information, about a URL of a content provided by
15 the advertisement providing server 70, about a sentence for an advertisement, or a like. Also, the advertisement information list 65 of the embodiment, when bookmark information is transmitted by the bookmark managing server 60, provides an advertisement corresponding to a category in the advertisement
20 information list 65 based on the number of contents registered, number of contents referred to, or a like contained in the user tendency information list 62.

Next, examples of display by a browser function of the second embodiment will be explained by referring to Figs. 11 and 12.
25 Figures 11 and 12 are diagrams showing examples of a display of bookmarks performed by functions of browsers 21, 31 according to the second embodiment of the present invention. Figure 11 is an example of display by the browser 21, 31 of the client terminal 20 and Figure 12 is an example of display by the browser of the

portable terminal 30. Examples of display in the bookmark shown in Figs. 11 and 12 include display of shared bookmark information and advertisement information to be provided by functions of providing a shared bookmark and of distributing an advertisement.

5 First, in the example of display performed by the browser 21 of the client terminal 20 shown in Fig. 11, bookmark information of the user is provided and, in a lower portion of a browser screen is displayed a word "Recommended" or a like as shared bookmark information and in a right portion of the browser screen is
10 displayed a word "Gondo Commercial Company" or a like as advertisement information.

Next, in the example of display performed by the browser 31 of the portable terminal 30 such as portable cellular phones or a like shown in Fig. 12, bookmark information of the user is
15 provided and, in an upper portion of a browser screen is displayed the word "Gondo Commercial Company" or a like as advertisement information and in a lowest portion of the browser screen is displayed the word "Recommendation" or a like as shared bookmark information.

20 It is apparent that the present invention is not limited to the above embodiments but may be changed and modified without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. For example, in the above embodiments, the browser 21, 31 obtains desired WWW contents from the information providing server 50 through the
25 Internet 10 by URLs input by the user from the client terminal 20 or portable terminal 30, however, address expression other than URLs may be used.

Also, in the above embodiment, a client terminal 20 such as personal computers or portable terminal 30 such as portable

telephones or a like are used, however, all computers accessible to the Internet and all mobile terminals may be employed.

Also, in the above embodiment, the bookmark information list 61 has information about type, name, first URL information (URL1), second URL information (URL2), Comment, and disclosure, however, the present invention is not limited to these and it may have all other effective information.

Moreover, in the above embodiment, the advertisement providing server 70 is provided, however, a server being able to provide various "guidance" including "guidance on a road", "guidance on a place of meeting", "guidance on an emergency hospital", or a like.

Also, as a modification of the above embodiments, either first URL information (URL1) or second URL information (URL2) may be used, instead of using both of first URL information (URL1) and second URL information (URL2). Also, three and more URL information may be used.

Furthermore, in the above embodiment, the bookmark managing server 60 is provided with the bookmark information list 61, user tendency information list 62, use tendency keyword list 63, shared bookmark information list 64, and advertisement information list 65, however, the present invention is not limited to these and other various lists may be provided so long as they are effective.

CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A bookmark managing system for managing a bookmark function
2 characterized by comprising:
3 a terminal (20, 30) to be used by a user;
4 an information providing server (50) that provides contents
5 to said terminal (20, 30);
6 an Internet (10) used to connect said terminal (20, 30) to
7 said information providing server (50);
8 a browser (21, 31) incorporated in said terminal (20, 30)
9 and used to browse said contents;
10 wherein bookmark information containing an address
11 required for said user to access to desired contents is stored
12 in advance and an address of said desired contents is easily
13 acquired from said bookmark information when said user needs said
14 address, and
15 wherein a bookmark managing server (60) is provided which
16 is connected to said Internet (10) and has a bookmark information
17 list (61) obtained by collecting said bookmark information of said
18 terminal (20, 30) and wherein said bookmark function is able to
19 be used when said user uses said terminal (20, 30).
- 1 2. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 1,
2 characterized in that said bookmark information list (61) is made
3 up of shared bookmark information obtained by collecting said
4 bookmark information for each type of terminal (20, 30) and is
5 constructed so that, said user, when using said terminal (20, 30)
6 of a plurality of terminals (20, 30), is able to employ said
7 bookmark function depending on a type of said terminal (20, 30)

8 to be used by said user.

1 3. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 1, wherein
2 characterized in that said address is expressed by a URL (Uniform
3 Resource Locator).

1 4. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 3,
2 characterized in that said bookmark information is made up of at
3 least name information indicating contents to be linked to and
4 one and more pieces of URL information corresponding to said name
5 information.

1 5. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 4,
2 characterized in that said bookmark information in said bookmark
3 information list (61) further contains type information used to
4 identify contents to be linked to.

1 6. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 4,
2 characterized in that said bookmark information contains
3 information about comments on said contents to be linked to.

1 7. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 4,
2 characterized in that said bookmark information further contains
3 information about disclosure indicating whether said bookmark
4 information is allowed to be made open to a third party.

1 8. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 4,
2 characterized in that said one and more pieces of URL information
3 is made up of first URL information provided by a browser (21,

4 31) of a client terminal (20) being used by said user and of second
5 URL information provided by a browser (21, 31) of a portable
6 terminal (30) being used by said user.

1 9. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 8,
2 characterized in that said first URL information is written in
3 HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and said second URL information
4 is written in Compact HTML or WML (Wireless Markup Language).

1 10. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 1,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) has a
3 function of editing said bookmark information.

1 11. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 10,
2 characterized in that said function of editing said bookmark
3 information includes a function of adding, deleting, or changing
4 said bookmark information, or changing an order in which said
5 bookmark information is displayed.

1 12. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 1,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) has a
3 function of identifying said type of said terminal (20, 30), and
4 of selecting, based on a result of the identification, one piece
5 of the URL information from one and more pieces of the URL
6 information being contained in said bookmark information.

1 13. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 1,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) has a
3 function of obtaining information about use tendency of said user

4 indicating what kind of a type of said content is registered by
5 said user as said bookmark information and to what extent said
6 user makes an access to said content.

1 14. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 13,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) has a
3 function of obtaining information about a shared bookmark, from
4 said information about use tendency of said user, indicating what
5 kind of said information said user has an interest in or what kind
6 of said information said user needs.

1 15. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 14,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) has a
3 function of selecting bookmark information from said shared
4 bookmark information by using said information about use tendency
5 of said user and of distributing said selected bookmark
6 information to said terminal (20, 30).

1 16. The bookmark managing system according to Claim 13,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) selects
3 information about a content of an advertisement that is able to
4 correspond to information about use tendency of said user and
5 distributes the selected information to said terminal (20, 30).

1 17. A bookmark managing method for managing a bookmark function
2 of storing in advance bookmark information containing an address
3 used for a user to access to desired contents and of easily
4 obtaining said address of said desired contents from said bookmark
5 information whenever said user needs in a network of an Internet

6 (10) including a terminal (20, 30) to be used by said user, an
7 information providing server (50) to provide contents to said
8 terminal (20, 30), said Internet (10) to connect said terminal
9 (20, 30) to said information providing server (50), and a browser
10 (21, 31) to browse said contents stored in said terminal (20,
11 30), said bookmark managing method characterized by comprising:
12 a step of constructing said network of said Internet (10)
13 in which a bookmark managing server (60) having a bookmark
14 information list (61) made up of shared bookmark information
15 obtained by collecting bookmark information for each type of said
16 terminal (20, 30) is provided.

1 18. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 17, wherein
2 said bookmark information list (61) is made up of shared bookmark
3 information obtained by collecting bookmark information by said
4 type of said terminal (20, 30) which is able to use said bookmark
5 function whenever said user uses said terminal (20, 30).

1 19. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 17, wherein
2 said address is expressed by a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).

1 20. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 19, wherein
2 said bookmark information contains, at least, name information
3 indicating contents to be linked to and one and more pieces of
4 URL information corresponding to said name information.

1 21. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 20, wherein
2 said bookmark information in said bookmark information list (61)
3 further contains type information used to identify a type of said

4 contents to be linked to.

1 22. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 20, wherein
2 said bookmark information further contains information about
3 comments on said contents to be linked to.

1 23. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 20, wherein
2 said bookmark information further contains information about
3 disclosure indicating whether said bookmark information is
4 allowed to be made open to a third party.

1 24. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 20, wherein
2 each of said one and more pieces of said URL information is made
3 up of a first URL information provided by a browser (21, 31) of
4 a client terminal (20) to be used by said user and a second URL
5 information provided by a browser (21, 31) of a portable terminal
6 (30) to be used by said user.

1 25. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 24, wherein
2 said first URL information is written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup
3 Language) and said second URL information is written in Compact
4 HTML or WML (Wireless Markup Language).

1 26. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 17,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able
3 to edit said bookmark information.

1 27. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 26,
2 characterized in that the edition includes addition, deletion,

3 or change of said bookmark information, or change of an order in
4 which said bookmark information is displayed.

1 28. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 17,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able
3 to identify a type of said terminal (20, 30) and to select, based
4 on a result of the identification, one piece of said URL
5 information from one and more pieces of said URL information being
6 contained in said bookmark information.

1 29. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 17,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able
3 to obtain information about use tendency of said user indicating
4 what kind of a type of a content is registered by said user as
5 said bookmark information and to what extent said user makes an
6 access to said content.

1 30. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 29,
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able
3 to obtain information about a shared bookmark, from said
4 information about said use tendency of said user, indicating what
5 kind of said information said user has an interest in or what kind
6 of said information said user needs.

1 31. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 30
2 characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able
3 to select bookmark information from said shared bookmark
4 information by using said information about said use tendency of
5 said user and is able to distribute said selected bookmark

information to said terminal (20, 30).

32. The bookmark managing method according to Claim 29, characterized in that said bookmark managing server (60) is able to select information about contents of an advertisement that corresponds to said information about said use tendency of said user and is able to distribute the selected information to said terminal (20, 30).

33. An Internet server, the Internet server being a bookmark managing server for use in the system of claim 1, the server comprising means for connection to the Internet, means for verifying a request from one of a plurality of Internet terminals, a bookmark information list associated with said terminals, and means for providing access to said bookmark information list in response to a verified request from one of said terminals.

34. A browser for use in the system of claim 1, and comprising means responsive to a user request to store a bookmark to request access to a predetermined bookmark managing server, and to store the bookmark in a bookmark information list thereon, and means responsive to a user request for a bookmark to request access to the bookmark managing server to recall a bookmark from the bookmark information list.

35. An Internet terminal device, preferably a portable device, provided with a browser in accordance with claim 34.

36. A bookmark managing system, or a bookmark managing server or a browser for use therein, substantially as either of the embodiments herein described with reference to and shown in the drawings.

37. A bookmark managing method, substantially as either of the embodiments herein described with reference to and shown in the drawings.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0220097.0
Claims searched: 1-37

34

Examiner: Ben James
Date of search: 3 March 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Relevant to claims | Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
| X | 1-5, 7, 10 and 11 | GB 2356072 A (ELLIS TIMOTHY JOHN et al.) |
| X | 1-7, 10, 11 and 13-16 | EP 1030247 A2 (NECTARIS) |
| X | 1-4 and 7 | WO 01/55909 A1 (BOOKMARK ONLINE CORP.) |
| X | 1-5, 7, 10 and 11 | WO 00/67159 A2 (XEROX CORP.) |
| X | 1-5 | WO 99/35777 A2 (BURKE ALEXANDER J) |

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The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

ON-LINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO