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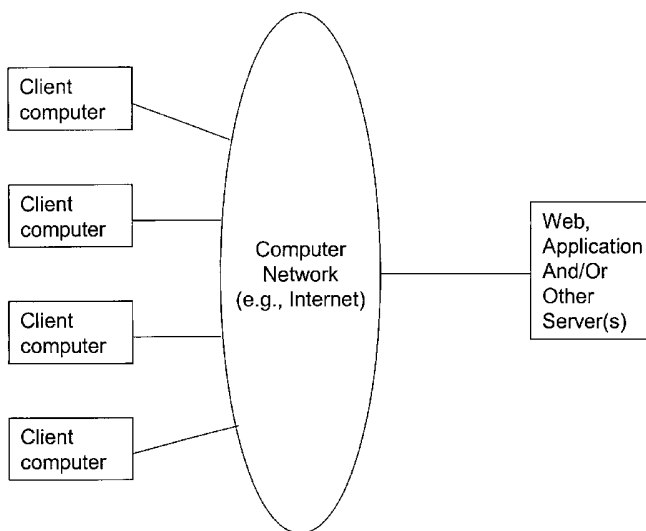
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC CARDS SYSTEMS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: A system for sending cards and/or gifts to one or more entities using a computer network (see Fig.20) is provided. The system can include a computer network (See Fig.20) with at least one client computer (see Fig.20) and at least one server (see Fig.20) connected to the network (see Fig.20). The at least one client computer (see Fig.20) can have a user interface with which a user can input an entity-centric event date. The server (see Fig.20) can receive a signal from said client computer (see Fig.20) based on the user input of the event date. The server (see Fig.20) includes a time-from-event module that determines a non-yearly event date after said event date. The client computer (see Fig.20) displays the non-yearly event date and provides means for a user to purchase cards or gifts for an entity. In most preferred embodiments, the non-yearly event date is a month-from-birth date of the individual. In some preferred embodiments, the electronic cards include combined advertisements contained within the display regions of the electronic cards.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09431

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G06Q 30/00(2006.01);G09G 5/00(2006.01)

USPC: 705/26,27;345/156

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/26,27; 345/156

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	US 2004/0032393 A1 (Brandenberg et al) 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004), abstract, page 3 para.0072, page 5 para.0186, page 6 para.0234, 0236, page 7 para.0247, page 8 para.0270, 0273, 0278; page 11 para.0333, page 24-25 para.0623, page 51 para.0980.	1-35
X	US 2002/0138363 A1 (Karas et al) 26 September, 2002 (26.09.2002), Abstract, Figure 1, page 1 para.0002-0011, 0019-0021, page 3 para.0041, page 4 para.0051.	1-11, 23-35
X	US 6,360,221 B1 (Tough et al) 19 March 2002 (19.03.2002), Figures 14,15, column 6 lines 12-39, column 7 lines 25-42	12-22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in compliance with the application but cited to understand the principles or theory underlying the invention
"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 May 2006 (11.05.2006)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/09431

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I, Claims 1-6 and 26-31, drawn to a system for signaling a client regarding an event and the purchase of cards or gifts.

Group II, Claims 7-11, 23-25, and 32-35, drawn to a system for selecting and displaying an electronic card including an advertising region.

Group III, Claims 12-22, drawn to the incorporation of a selected advertisement into an electronic communication awarding valuable consideration to the user for delivery.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The selection, purchasing, and transmitting of electronic cards or gifts is not a special technical feature. The special technical features, if present, are the event signaling, selecting and displaying a card with an advertising region, and in awarding consideration to a user for incorporating and transmitting an advertisement. These are not in common and therefore are not linking claims between the Groups.