

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 January 2006 (12.01.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/004996 A3

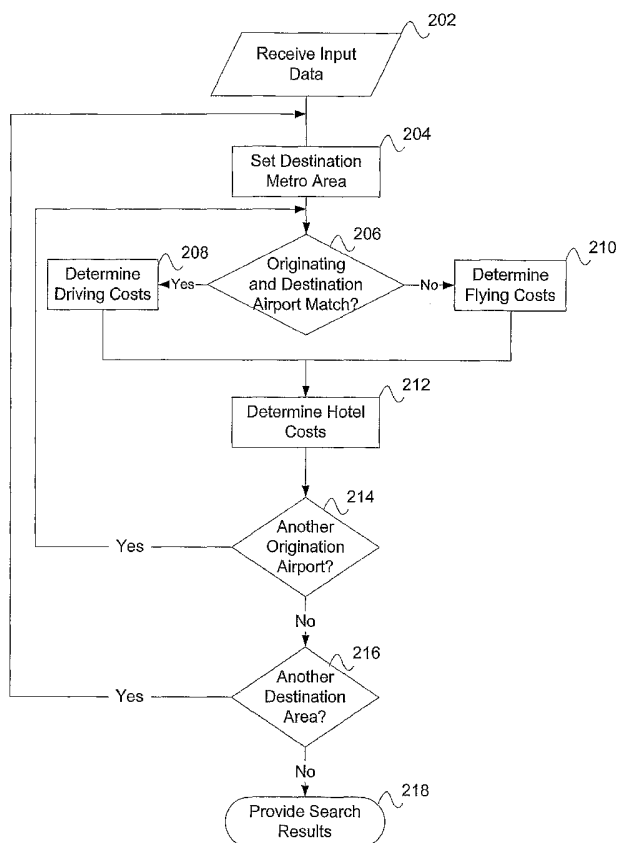
- (51) International Patent Classification : **G06F 17/60**⁷
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/023471
- (22) International Filing Date: 30 June 2005 (30.06.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/885,522 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CARLSON COMPANIES, INC.** [US/US]; P.O. Box 59159, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55459 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ROLLER, Scott** [US/US]; 701 Carlson Parkway, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305 (US). **GIBSON, Shannon** [US/US]; 701 Carlson Parkway, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305 (US).
- (74) Agents: **STEFFEY, Charles, E.** et al.; Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A., P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (US).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PLANNER FOR REDUCING TRAVEL COSTS FOR MEETINGS



(57) Abstract: Systems (102) and methods provide a meeting planner that provide information allowing a user (202) to select a meeting location (204) that provides the lowest travel (218) related cost relative to the desired qualities for the meeting location. One aspect of the systems and methods is the use of multiple airfare types (214, 216) for determining the travel cost (218) associated with the meeting. These multiple airfare types (214, 216) include historical average airfares, contract airfares, and zone airfares (260). A further aspect of the systems (102) and methods is the calculation of hotel days required (212), and the use of multiple hotel rate types (214, 216). These multiple hotel rate types (214, 216) include historical average hotel rates, contract rates and group rates.

WO 2006/004996 A3



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

6 April 2006

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/23471

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER USCL : 705/5, 400; IPC(7) : G06F 17/60 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) USCL : 705/1,5,8,400 IPC(7): G06F 17/60 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) PatentCafe ICO, Patent Full-Text and Full-Page Image Databases												
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT												
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
A	M.S. Franzin, E.C. Freuder, F. Rossi, and R. Wallace. "Multiagent Meeting Scheduling with Preferences: Efficiency, Privacy Loss, and Solution Quality". In Proc. AAAI 2002. [retrieved online on October 17, 2005 (10.17.2005)] http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/franzin02multiagent.html .	1-31										
A	Romano, N.C. & Nunamaker, J. F. (2001). "Meeting Analysis: Findings from Research and Practice. In Proceedings of the 34th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences". [retrieved online on October 17, 2005 (10.17.2005)] http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/HICSS_34/PDFs/CLUSR19.pdf .	1-31										
A	US 6,324,517 B1 (Bingham et al.) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001), See entire document.	1-31										
A, P	US 6,826,543 B1 (Harford et al.) 30 November 2004 (30.11.2004), See entire document.	1-31										
A	US 2002/0065689 A1 (Bingham et al.) 30 May 2002, See entire document (this is the USPTO published application corresponding to US 6,324,517 B1 cited above).	1-31										
A	US 2003/0040946 A1 (Spranger et al.) 27 February 2003 (27.02.2003), See entire document.	1-31										
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E" earlier application or patent but 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	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention											
"E" earlier application or patent but 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 17 October 2005 (17.10.2005)		Date of mailing of the international search report 07 FEB 2006										
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver Telephone No. 571-272-7774										