(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2001 (22.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/20445 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 7/20, 17/60, 7/00, G07G 1/12, B42D 15/02

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/25462

(22) International Filing Date:
15 September 2000 (15.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/154,087 15 September 1999 (15.09.1999) US
09/495,819 2 February 2000 (02.02.2000) US

(71) Applicants and
(72) Inventors: **DEVLIN, Edward, A.** [US/US]; 302 Tanglewood Terrace, Downingtown, PA 19335 (US). **QUINLAN, Chris** [US/US]; 8 Quail Run, Greenville, DE 19807 (US).

(74) Agents: **DONNELLY, Rex, A., IV** et al.; Ratner & Prestia, P.O. Box 7228, Wilmington, DE 19803 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

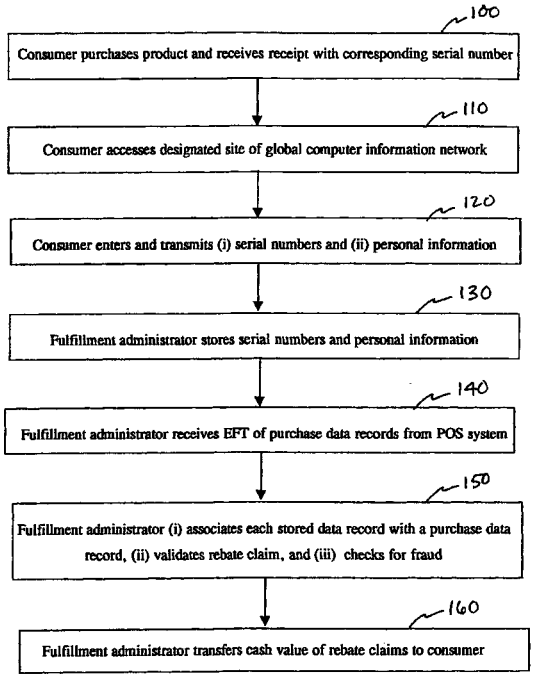
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *with amended claims*

Date of publication of the amended claims: 19 July 2001

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.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDEEMING PRODUCT MARKETING REBATES



(57) Abstract: A system and method for processing product marketing rebate claims submitted by a consumer in satisfaction of a rebate offer, the consumer having purchased designated products in a qualified transaction recorded by a point-of-sale data processing and storage system that issues a receipt containing a corresponding transaction serial number (100). The method comprises providing a designated site of a computer information network (110) and accesible by the consumer, and receiving a rebate claim on the designated site. The rebate claim comprises (i) the transaction serial number corresponding to the qualified transaction, and (ii) identifying information corresponding to the consumer. The transaction serial number and the identifying information is stored as a stored data record (130). An electronic file transfer is received from the point-of-sale data processing and storage system comprising purchase data records, each record comprising the list of products purchased and the transaction serial number for a qualified transaction in which at least one designated product was purchased (140). Each stored data record is associated with a purchase data record having an identical serial number, and the records are processed to validate the rebate claim (150). Finally, the value of the rebate offer is transferred to the consumer (160). Consumer access by the designated site may be via the global computer information network or by telephone, and may also optionally integrate paper-based and smart/credit/debit-card-based rebate claims. A system for performing the above method is also claimed, as is a method for making a rebate claim prior to or simultaneously with a purchase.

WO 01/20445 A1