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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
5 August 2004 (05.08.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/066058 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/000176

(22) International Filing Date: 20 January 2004 (20.01.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/350,491 24 January 2003 (24.01.2003) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION** [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, New York 10504, US (US).

(71) Applicant *(for MG only)*: **IBM UNITED KINGDOM LIMITED** [GB/GB]; PO Box 41, North Harbour, PO6 3AU Portsmouth, Hampshire (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **FAY, Sean** [US/US]; 9 Fellows Road, Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938, US (US). **SALMON, Glen** [US/US]; 102 Fern Avenue, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913, US (US). **SMITH, Dan** [US/US]; 1640 N Skyline Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481, US (US). **WU, Lynn** [US/US]; 20958 Sherman Drive, Castro Valley, California 94552, US (US).

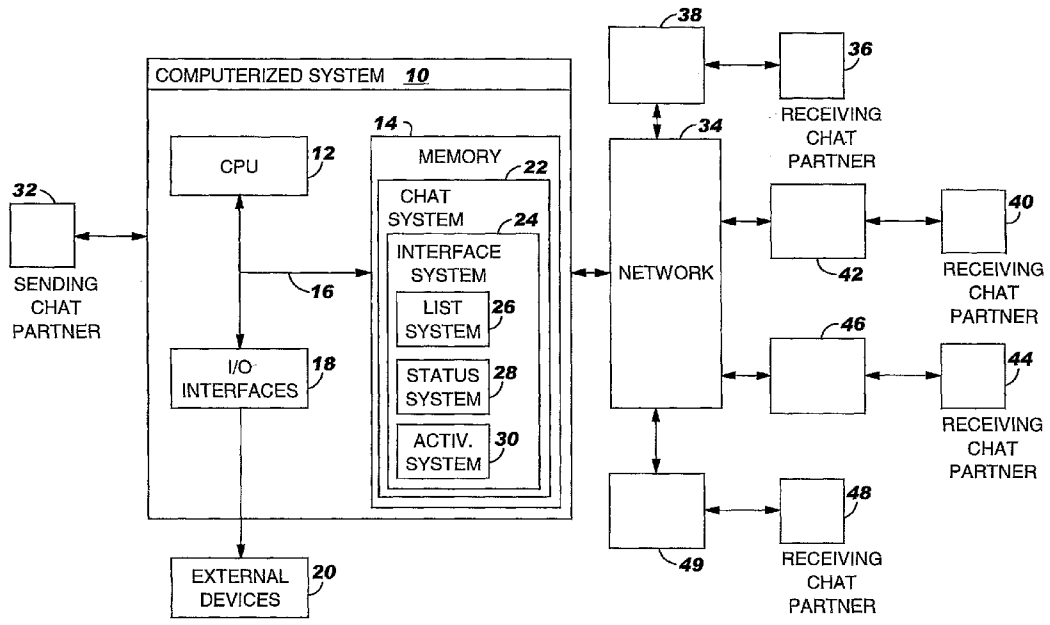
(74) Agent: **LING, Christopher, John**; IBM United Kingdom Limited, Intellectual Property Law, Hursley Park, SO21 2JN Winchester, Hampshire (GB).

(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, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, 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, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: USER INTERFACE FOR CONDUCTING CHATS OVER A NETWORK



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides, a user interface for conducting chats over a network is provided. The user interface includes a list tab for revealing a list of receiving chat partners and a status of each of the receiving chat partners, a status tab for selecting a status of a sending chat partner, and a chat tab for revealing information pertaining to a set of active chats between the sending chat partner and the receiving chat partners. In addition, indicators could be provided on the tabs to provide various functionality/information.

WO 2004/066058 A2

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, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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.