

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
5 February 2004 (05.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/012151 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06T 13/00**,  
G06F 13/16, G10L 13/00

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2003/000393

(22) International Filing Date: 31 March 2003 (31.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2002950502 31 July 2002 (31.07.2002) AU

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **E-CLIPS  
INTELLIGENT AGENT TECHNOLOGIES PTY  
LTD** [AU/AU]; 11 Merran Court, Wheelers Hill, VIC  
3150 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **RUSSELL**,

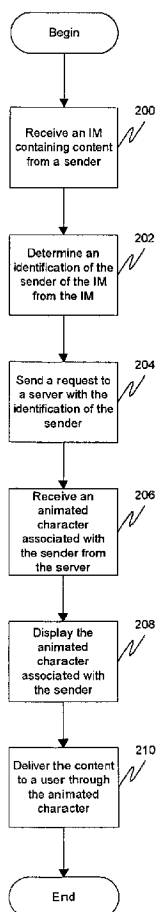
Nicholas [AU/AU]; c/- e-Clips Intelligent Agent Technologies Pty Ltd, 11 Merran Court, Wheelers Hill, VIC 3150 (AU). **FELICH, Andrew** [AU/AU]; c/- e-Clips Intelligent Agent Technologies Pty Ltd, 11 Merran Court, Wheelers Hill, VIC 3150 (AU). **JENKINS, James** [GB/GB]; 11 Wentworth Way, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4DG (GB).

(74) Agents: **EARLEY, Martin** et al.; Pipers Patent And Trade Mark Attorneys, Level 18, 500 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (AU).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ANIMATED MESSAGING



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus that allows an animated interactive talking character to appear on a user's screen when conducting an Instant Messaging (IM) session. The character which is displayed on the user's screen is determined by a profile for the sender of the message. This allows a user to pre-select which character will be displayed on the screen of recipients of the instant messages.

WO 2004/012151 A1



(84) **Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (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 patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— with international search 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.*