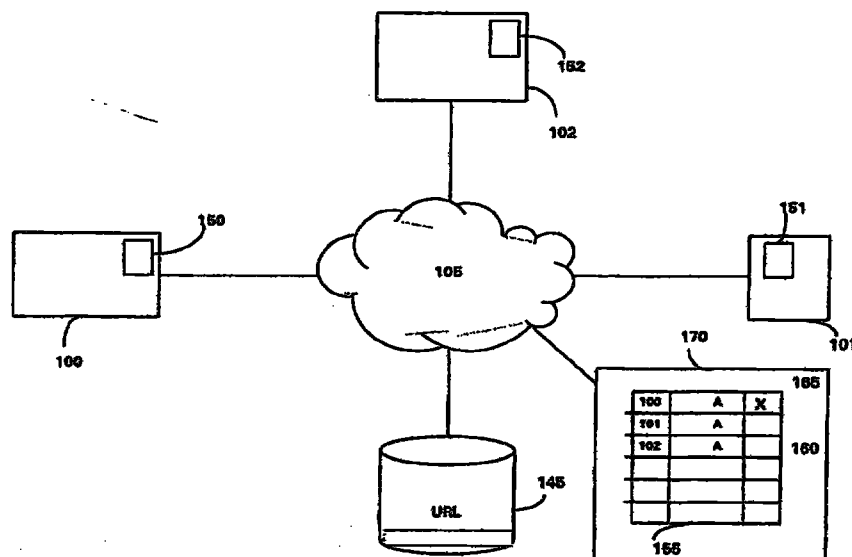




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : H04M 3/50, 3/56, H04L 29/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/14926 (43) International Publication Date: 25 March 1999 (25.03.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/02544 (22) International Filing Date: 24 August 1998 (24.08.98) (30) Priority Data: 97307245.7 18 September 1997 (18.09.97) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): FINLAYSON, Neil [GB/GB]; 1 Adabrock Ness, Isle of Lewis HS2 0TW (GB). (74) Agent: LIDBETTER, Timothy, Guy, Edwin; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., Holborn Centre, 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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.

(54) Title: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM**(57) Abstract**

In order to allow several users (100, 101, 102) involved in a telecommunications conference call arranged through the Internet (105) to access and discuss the same item of data from a database (145), provision is made for one user (100) to control the Web browsers of the others (101, 102) by means of a server (170). The controlling user interface (100) transmits a signal containing a retrieval command to the server (170), which passes retrieval command signals to the other users (101, 102), causing them to transmit a retrieval command to the information database (145) to retrieve a specified item of data. This system allows users to synchronise their access to the data, ensuring that all users are inspecting the same version and requiring only one user to know the necessary access code (url) for the data to be accessed.