current information and increases its ability to comply with all the pertinent rules in all relevant jurisdictions.

[0004a] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-implemented method for a first entity to receive, from a second entity, ~~identifying a compliance rule and receiving~~ an update to ~~the~~ a compliance rule referenced in a compliance document of the first entity, the method comprising: analyzing the compliance document of the first entity using one or more processors in order to identify a reference to the compliance rule in the compliance document of the first entity and a section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced; creating metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced~~associated with a compliance rule in a compliance document~~; creating a transmission object by the one or more processors by incorporating the metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced without incorporating the compliance document into the transmission object~~data corresponding to only select portions of the compliance document, wherein the data incorporated into the transmission object includes the metadata associated with the compliance rule~~; sending the transmission object by the one or more processors to the second entity that uses the metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule in the compliance document to identify an update to the compliance rule and that compiles the update to the compliance rule into a notification along with the metadata from the transmission object identifying the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced; and receiving, from the second entity in response to the step of sending the transmission object, ~~a~~ the notification identifying ~~an~~ the update to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance rule in which the compliance rule is referenced.

[0004b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-based system for receiving updates to a compliance rule referenced in a company compliance ~~document~~ manual while preserving privacy with respect to company-specific compliance policies in the compliance manual, the system comprising: one or more processors; an incorporation module configured to use the one or more processors to: parse a citation to a compliance rule in the company compliance manual from company-specific compliance policies regarding the compliance rule in the company compliance manual; and create a transmission object that includes the citation to the compliance rule~~using metadata associated with key terms or phrases~~ in the company compliance ~~document~~ manual without including the company-specific compliance policies regarding the compliance rule ~~in~~ from the company compliance ~~document~~manual; a review module configured to use the one or more processors to present the

citation to the compliance rule in the transmission object~~metadata~~ to a user for approval; a communications module configured to send the transmission object to an entity responsible for receiving the transmission object, using the citation to identify updates to the compliance rule, and compiling the updates to the compliance rule into a notification; and an update module configured to use the one or more processors to receive ~~a~~ the notification from the entity in response to sending the transmission object, the notification conveying an update to the compliance rule in the company compliance ~~document~~manual.

[0004c] ~~According to a third aspect of the present invention~~As disclosed, there is provided a device comprising means for identifying a compliance rule in compliance documents pertinent to a satellite location of an entity; means for transmitting a portion of the compliance documents that includes the compliance rule to the satellite location, the portion of the compliance documents including a request for a set of information regarding whether the satellite location is adhering to the compliance rule; means for receiving the request at the satellite location; means, responsive to the request, for generating the set of information regarding whether the satellite location is adhering to the compliance rule; means for transmitting the set of information to the entity; and means for receiving the set of information at the entity.

[0004d] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-implemented method for updating a compliance document with respect to regulatory changes without exposing potentially sensitive information in the compliance document, the method comprising: analyzing a compliance document of a first entity by one or more processors within a computer system of the first entity, wherein the compliance document includes a citation to at least one compliance rule at a specific location in the compliance document and at least one policy specific to the first entity regarding its compliance with the compliance rule, and wherein analyzing the compliance document includes: parsing the at least one policy specific to the first entity in the compliance document from the citation to the compliance rule in the compliance document; and identifying the specific location of the citation in the compliance document; creating a transmission object by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity by compiling the citation to the compliance rule from the compliance document and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document into the transmission object without including the at least one policy specific to the first entity from the compliance document; sending the transmission object by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity to an operator server of a second entity, wherein the operator server of the second

entity is configured to analyze the transmission object to extract the compliance rule in the transmission object, search an operator server database to identity an update to the compliance rule, analyze the transmission object to extract the specific location of the citation in the compliance document, and compile the update and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document into a notification; receiving the notification from the operator server of the second entity by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity in response to sending the transmission object to the operator server of the second entity, the notification including the update to the compliance rule from the operator server of the second entity and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document; and updating the compliance document of the first entity by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity using the update to the at least one compliance rule and the specific location of the citation in the notification from the operator server of the second entity.

[0005] While multiple embodiments are disclosed, still other embodiments of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description, which shows and describes illustrative embodiments of the invention. Accordingly, the drawings and detailed description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature and not restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Fig. 1 illustrates an exemplary networked environment in accordance with embodiments of the present invention and in which embodiments of the present invention may operate.

[0007] Fig. 2A illustrates an exemplary computer in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

[0008] Fig. 2B illustrates an exemplary computer server in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

[0009] Fig. 3 illustrates a flow chart depicting steps for completing a template and creating a transmission object according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0010] Fig. 4 illustrates software modules that may be used to perform some of the steps illustrated in the flow chart of Fig. 3.

[0011] Fig. 5 illustrates a flow chart depicting steps for receiving a transmission object and compiling and sending a notification reflecting a rule or a change to a rule using that transmission object according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0012] Fig. 6 illustrates software modules that may be used to perform some of the steps illustrated in the flow chart of Fig. 5.

[0013] Fig. 7 illustrates a flow chart depicting steps for transmitting updated compliance documents to satellite locations according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0014] Fig. 8 illustrates a flow chart depicting steps for completing and transmitting compliance documents according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0015] While the invention is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and are described in detail below. The intention, however, is not to limit the invention to the particular embodiments described. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for a first entity to receive, from a second entity, ~~identifying a compliance rule and receiving~~ an update to ~~the~~ a compliance rule referenced in a compliance document of the first entity, the method comprising:

analyzing the compliance document of the first entity using one or more processors in order to identify a reference to the compliance rule in the compliance document of the first entity and a section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced;

creating metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced~~associated with a compliance rule in a compliance document~~;

creating a transmission object by the one or more processors by incorporating the metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced without incorporating the compliance document into the transmission object~~data corresponding to only select portions of the compliance document, wherein the data incorporated into the transmission object includes the metadata associated with the compliance rule~~;

sending the transmission object by the one or more processors to the second entity that uses the metadata identifying the reference to the compliance rule in the compliance document to identify an update to the compliance rule and that compiles the update to the compliance rule into a notification along with the metadata from the transmission object identifying the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced; and

receiving, from the second entity in response to the step of sending the transmission object, ~~a~~ the notification identifying ~~an~~ the update to the compliance rule and the section of the compliance rule in which the compliance rule is referenced.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata in the transmission object identifies a set of jurisdictions and a set of topics.

~~3. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata in the transmission object identifies a section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is located.~~

43. The method of claim 1, wherein the update to the compliance rule is a modification to the compliance rule, and wherein the method further comprises:

using the notification identifying the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced to locate that section; and

updating the compliance document by incorporating the modification into that section of the compliance document.

~~5. The method of claim 1, wherein creating metadata associated with the compliance rule in the compliance document comprises:~~

~~identifying a reference to the compliance rule; and~~

~~identifying a section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced.~~

64. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a template containing a prompt for information relating to ~~a~~ the compliance rule, wherein the information includes jurisdictions in which the first entity operates or a topic of operations for the first entity; and

using the information prompted by the template to create the compliance document for the first entity by generating the reference to the compliance rule in the section of the compliance document.

~~7~~5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating a profile that identifies an area of operations for the first entity;

transmitting the profile to the second entity; and

receiving a template from the second entity, wherein the template includes a prompt to input the reference to the compliance rule~~information relating to the compliance rule~~ into particular sections of the compliance document, and wherein the prompt is based on the area of operations identified in the profile; and

inputting the reference to the compliance rule~~information prompted by the template~~ into the particular sections of the compliance document.

~~8~~6. The method of claim ~~7~~5, wherein the compliance document includes~~further comprising inputting~~ instructions ~~into the compliance document that instructs users~~ on how the first entity responds to a violation of the compliance rule, wherein creating the transmission object by incorporating the metadata excludes those instructions from the transmission object~~to respond if an entity or a satellite location of the entity is not in compliance with the compliance rule~~.

~~9~~7. A computer-based system for receiving updates to a compliance rule referenced in a company compliance ~~document~~ manual while preserving privacy with respect to company-specific compliance policies in the compliance manual, the system comprising:

one or more processors;

an incorporation module configured to use the one or more processors to:

parse a citation to a compliance rule in the company compliance manual from company-specific compliance policies regarding the compliance rule in the company compliance manual; and

create a transmission object that includes the citation to the compliance rule~~using metadata associated with key terms or phrases~~ in the company compliance ~~document~~ manual without including the company-specific compliance policies regarding the compliance rule ~~in~~ from the company compliance ~~document~~manual;

a review module configured to use the one or more processors to present the citation to the compliance rule in the transmission object~~metadata~~ to a user for approval; ~~and~~

a communications module configured to send the transmission object to an entity responsible for receiving the transmission object, using the citation to identify updates to the compliance rule, and compiling the updates to the compliance rule into a notification; and

an update module configured to use the one or more processors to receive ~~a~~ the notification from the entity in response to sending the transmission object, the notification conveying an update to the compliance rule in the company compliance ~~document~~ manual.

~~10~~8. The computer-based system of claim ~~9~~7, further comprising:

a compliance ~~document~~ manual search module configured to search the company compliance ~~document~~ manual for ~~key terms or phrases related~~references to the compliance rule; and

a compliance ~~document~~ manual tagging module configured to create ~~the~~ metadata associated with ~~the key terms and phrases~~references identified by the compliance ~~document~~ manual search module.

~~11. A device comprising:~~

~~means for identifying a compliance rule in compliance documents pertinent to a satellite location of an entity;~~

~~means for transmitting a portion of the compliance documents that includes the compliance rule to the satellite location, the portion of the compliance documents including a~~

~~request for a set of information regarding whether the satellite location is adhering to the compliance rule;~~

~~means for receiving the request at the satellite location;~~

~~means, responsive to the request, for generating the set of information regarding whether the satellite location is adhering to the compliance rule;~~

~~means for transmitting the set of information to the entity; and~~

~~means for receiving the set of information at the entity.~~

~~12. The device of claim 11, wherein the compliance rule is a law or regulation.~~

~~13. The device of claim 11, wherein the satellite location is a first satellite location, wherein the request for a set of information is a first request for a first set of information, and wherein the device further comprises:~~

~~means for identifying a second satellite location to which the compliance rule applies;~~

~~means for transmitting a second request for a second set of information, the second set of information regarding whether the second satellite location is adhering to the compliance rule; and~~

~~means for receiving the second set of information.~~

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein the only data that are incorporated into the transmission object are the created metadata associated with the compliance rule.

10. A computer-implemented method for updating a compliance document with respect to regulatory changes without exposing potentially sensitive information in the compliance document, the method comprising:

analyzing a compliance document of a first entity by one or more processors within a computer system of the first entity, wherein the compliance document includes a citation to at least one compliance rule at a specific location in the compliance document and at least one policy specific to the first entity regarding its compliance with the compliance rule, and wherein analyzing the compliance document includes:

parsing the at least one policy specific to the first entity in the compliance document from the citation to the compliance rule in the compliance document; and

identifying the specific location of the citation in the compliance document;

creating a transmission object by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity by compiling the citation to the compliance rule from the compliance document and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document into the transmission object without including the at least one policy specific to the first entity from the compliance document;

sending the transmission object by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity to an operator server of a second entity, wherein the operator server of the second entity is configured to analyze the transmission object to extract the compliance rule in the transmission object, search an operator server database to identity an update to the compliance rule, analyze the transmission object to extract the specific location of the citation in the compliance document, and compile the update and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document into a notification;

receiving the notification from the operator server of the second entity by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity in response to sending the transmission object to the operator server of the second entity, the notification including the update to the compliance rule from the operator server of the second entity and the specific location of the citation in the compliance document; and

updating the compliance document of the first entity by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity using the update to the at least one compliance rule and the specific location of the citation in the notification from the operator server of the second entity.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the at least one policy specific to the first entity contains at least one of the following: instructions from the first entity on how to respond if the first entity is not in compliance with the compliance rule; guidelines from the first entity for ensuring compliance with the compliance rule; statements from the first entity regarding prior actions with respect to compliance with the compliance rule; and employee identification of employees of the first entity.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising:

creating a profile for the first entity that identifies areas of operations for satellite locations of the first entity;

transmitting the profile to the operator server of the second entity; and

receiving a template from the operator server of the second entity, wherein the template includes a prompt to input the citation to compliance rule into a particular section of the compliance document that corresponds to one of the satellite locations, and wherein the prompt is based on an area of operations identified in the profile for that satellite location; and

inputting the citation prompted by the template into the particular section of the compliance document.

13 The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the at least one policy regarding the compliance rule includes a first policy pertaining to a first satellite location regarding the compliance rule and a second policy pertaining to a second satellite location regarding the compliance rule, wherein the first policy and the second policy differ.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising creating a template that identifies sections of the compliance document containing keywords associated with the compliance rule, wherein analyzing the compliance document of the entity include analyzing only those sections identified in the template.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising a step of creating the compliance document by the one or more processors within the computer system of the first entity, the computer system being configured to maintain that compliance document away from external websites.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, further comprising receiving a template from the operator server of the second entity, wherein the template includes a prompt to input key words relating to an area of operations for the first entity into particular sections of the compliance document, and creating the compliance document by the one or more processors

within the computer system of the first entity includes inputting the key words relating to the area of operations for the first entity into particular sections of the compliance document.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the compliance document is a compliance manual.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the metadata identifying the section of the compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced is human-readable metadata.