PCT WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

Extra copy

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 17/30 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/23265

(43) International Publication Date: 1 August 1996 (01.08.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/00132

(22) International Filing Date: 23 January 1996 (23.01.96)

(30) Priority Data:
95300420.7 23 January 1995 (23.01.95) EP
(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al.

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A (GB).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: DAVIES, Nicholas, John [GB/GB]; 10 Spindle Wood, Colchester, Essex CO4 4SX (GB). WEEKS, Richard [GB/GB]; 44 Glemsford Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 8UG (GB).

(74) Agent: DUTTON, Erica, Lindley, Graham; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: METHODS AND/OR SYSTEMS FOR ACCESSING INFORMATION

(57) Abstract

A system for accessing information stored in a distributed information database provides a community of intelligent software agents (105). Each agent (105) can be built as an extendion of a known viewer (400) for a distributed information system such as the Internet WorldWide Web (W3). The agent (105) is effectively integrated with the viewer (400) and can extract pages by means of the viewer (400) for storage in an intelligent page store. The text from the information system is abstracted and is stored with additional information, optionally selected by the user. The agent-based access system uses keyword sets to locate information of interest to a user, together with user profiles such that pages being stored by one user can be notified to another whose profile indicates potential interest. The keyword sets can be extended by use of a thesaurus.

