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-based system for receiving information regarding an entity and automatically forwarding a compliance rule pertinent to the entity, the computer-based system comprising one or more processors; a transmission object receiver configured to receive a transmission object using the one or more processors, ~~wherein~~ the transmission object ~~includes~~ including only a subset of information ~~regarding~~ from a compliance document of an entity, the subset of information including compliance rule information from the compliance document of the entity and location information that identifies at least one section of the compliance document of the entity in which the compliance rule information is located, the transmission object receiver being configured to parse the compliance rule information from the location information; a compliance rules database containing data regarding a set of compliance rules; a compare module configured to identify a compliance rule applicable to the entity using the data in the compliance rules database and the compliance rule information ~~in~~ from the transmission object, wherein the compare module is configured to receive the compliance rule information from the transmission object receiver; a notification compilation module configured to compile ~~a~~ an electronic notification indicative of the identified compliance rule and to compile the location information from the transmission object into the electronic notification, wherein the notification compilation module is configured to receive the location information from the transmission object receiver; and a transmitter configured to transmit the electronic notification to the entity.

[0004b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-implemented method for informing an entity of an update associated with a compliance rule, the method comprising creating a template using one or more processors that prompts the entity to incorporate at least one key term into a particular section of a compliance document, the at least one key term associated with one of the following: a compliance rule pertinent to the entity's operation, a topic pertinent to the entity's operations, and a jurisdiction pertinent to the entity's operations; receiving a transmission object that includes only a subset of information from the compliance document, the subset of information including location information identifying the particular section of the compliance document and the at least one key term; parsing the compliance rule information from the location information~~identifying information in the transmission object corresponding to at least one of the following: a compliance rule associated with an entity's operations, a topic associated with the entity's operations, and a jurisdiction associated with the entity's operations~~; identifying the at least one key term in the

transmission object using the one or more processors; searching a compliance rules database containing updates to a set of compliance rules using the one or more processors to identify an update that is pertinent to the compliance rule, the topic, or the jurisdiction associated with the at least one key term in the transmission object ; creating a notification using the one or more processors, the notification ~~that includes~~including the update and the location information from the transmission object identifying the particular section of the compliance document ; and sending the notification.

[0004c] ~~According to a third aspect of the present invention~~Preferably, there is ~~provided~~ disclosed a computer-readable medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to perform the following: create a template; send the template; receive a transmission object created by an entity using the template; analyze the transmission object to identify data related to a compliance rule in a compliance document; analyze data in a compliance rules database to identify an update to the compliance rule using the identified data in the transmission object; and incorporate the update to the compliance rule into a notification along with at least some data from the transmission object.

[0004d] According to a ~~fourth~~ third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for updating a compliance document, the system comprising means for receiving a transmission object, the transmission object identifying a topic pertinent to a compliance rule and including metadata identifying a section of a compliance document that references the compliance rule without transmitting confidential information, the means for receiving being configured to parse the compliance rule information from the location information ; means for maintaining a compliance rules database that includes metadata identifying topics pertinent to a set of updated compliance rules; means for identifying an updated compliance rule in the set of updated compliance rules using the transmission object; means for creating and transmitting a notification incorporating the updated compliance rule using the metadata from the transmission object that identifies the section of the compliance document that references the compliance rule .

[0004d] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable, non-transitory, tangible medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to perform the following: create a template that prompts an entity to incorporate key terms into particular sections of a compliance document, the particular sections forming only a subset of the compliance document; send the template to the entity; receive a transmission object created by the entity that includes information from only those particular sections of the compliance document; analyze the information from only those particular sections

of the compliance document in the transmission object to identify compliance rules associated with the entity's operations; analyze data in a compliance rules database to identify updates to the compliance rules; and incorporate the updates to the compliance rules into an electronic notification along with at least some of the information from those particular sections of the compliance document from the transmission object.

[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-based system for receiving information regarding an entity and automatically forwarding a compliance rule pertinent to the entity, the computer-based system comprising:

one or more processors;

a transmission object receiver configured to receive a transmission object using the one or more processors, ~~wherein~~ the transmission object ~~includes~~ including only a subset of information ~~regarding~~ from a compliance document of an entity, the subset of information including compliance rule information from the compliance document of the entity and location information that identifies at least one section of the compliance document of the entity in which the compliance rule information is located, the transmission object receiver being configured to parse the compliance rule information from the location information;

a compliance rules database containing data regarding a set of compliance rules;

a compare module configured to identify a compliance rule applicable to the entity using the data in the compliance rules database and the compliance rule information ~~in~~ from the transmission object, wherein the compare module is configured to receive the compliance rule information from the transmission object receiver;

a notification compilation module configured to compile ~~a~~ an electronic notification indicative of the identified compliance rule and to compile the location information from the transmission object into the electronic notification, wherein the notification compilation module is configured to receive the location information from the transmission object receiver; and

a transmitter configured to transmit the electronic notification to the entity.

~~2. The system of claim 1, wherein the notification compilation module is further configured to compile information from the transmission object into the notification, and wherein the information from the transmission object that is incorporated into the notification includes a reference to a location in a compliance document pertinent to the compliance rule.~~

~~3~~2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a database tag module configured to analyze the data in the compliance rules database and create:

a) data in the compliance rules database identifying a plurality of jurisdictions associated with the set of compliance rules; and

b) data in the compliance rules database identifying a plurality of topics associated with the set of compliance rules.

43. The system of claim 32, wherein the compliance rule information in the transmission object identifies a jurisdiction and a topic associated with the entity's operations, and wherein the compare module is configured to search the compliance rules database to determine compliance rules pertinent to the entity by locating compliance rules associated with the jurisdiction and the topic identified in the transmission object.

54. The system of claim 1, further comprising an update search module configured to receive updates to the set of compliance rules and to store the updates in the compliance rules database.

65. The system of claim 54, wherein the update search module is configured to search for updates to the set of compliance rules.

76. The system of claim 54, wherein the update search module is configured to search external databases for an update to the compliance rule using the compliance rule information in the transmission object.

87. The system of claim 1, wherein the compare module is further configured to identify an update to the compliance rule using the data in the compliance rules database, and wherein the notification compilation module is further configured to compile a notification indicative of the identified update to the compliance rule.

98. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmission object is a first transmission object, the entity is a first entity, the compliance rule information in the first transmission object is a first set of compliance rule information, the compliance document is a first compliance document, and the compliance rule is a first compliance rule, and:

wherein the transmission object receiver is further configured to receive a second transmission object, the second transmission object including a second set of compliance rule information associated with a second compliance document of a second entity;

wherein the compare module is further configured to identify a second compliance rule using the data in the compliance rules database and the second set of compliance rule information in the second transmission object;

wherein the electronic notification is a first electronic notification, and wherein the notification compilation module is further configured to compile a second electronic notification using the identified second compliance rule; and

wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit the second electronic notification.

~~109~~. The system of claim 1, further comprising a template generator and a profile receiver, wherein the profile receiver is configured to receive a profile, and wherein the template generator is configured to create a template using the received profile.

~~11. The system of claim 10, wherein the received profile includes key terms and wherein the compare module is further configured to use the key terms in the received profile to identify the compliance rule.~~

~~12~~10. A computer-implemented method for informing an entity of an update associated with a compliance rule, the method comprising:

creating a template using one or more processors that prompts the entity to incorporate at least one key term into a particular section of a compliance document, the at least one key term associated with one of the following: a compliance rule pertinent to the entity's operation, a topic pertinent to the entity's operations, and a jurisdiction pertinent to the entity's operations;

receiving a transmission object that includes only a subset of information from the compliance document, the subset of information including location information identifying the particular section of the compliance document and the at least one key term;

parsing the compliance rule information from the location information;

~~identifying information in the transmission object corresponding to at least one of the following: a compliance rule associated with an entity's operations, a topic associated with the entity's operations, and a jurisdiction associated with the entity's operations;~~

identifying the at least one key term in the transmission object using the one or more processors;

searching a compliance rules database containing updates to a set of compliance rules using the one or more processors to identify an update that is pertinent to the compliance rule, the topic, or the jurisdiction associated with the at least one key term in the transmission object;

creating a notification using the one or more processors, the notification ~~that includes~~including the update and the location information from the transmission object identifying the particular section of the compliance document; and

sending the notification.

~~13~~11. The computer-implemented method of claim ~~12~~10, further comprising receiving updates to the set of compliance rules and storing the updates in the compliance rules database, wherein receiving the updates occurs before receiving the transmission object.

~~14~~12. The computer-implemented method of claim ~~12~~10, further comprising searching for updates to the set of rules using the identified ~~information~~ at least one key term in the received transmission object.

~~15. The computer-implemented method of claim 12, further comprising creating a template that prompts the entity to incorporate a key term into a particular section of a compliance document.~~

~~16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the transmission object includes the key term, and wherein searching the compliance rules database includes identifying an update that is pertinent to the key term.~~

~~17. The computer-implemented method of claim 12, wherein the transmission object identifies a section of a compliance document in which the compliance rule is referenced, in which the topic is referenced, or in which the jurisdiction is referenced, and wherein creating the notification~~

~~comprises incorporating the update and an indication of the section of the compliance document into the notification.~~

~~18~~13. The computer-implemented method of claim ~~12~~10, wherein identifying ~~information~~ the at least one key term in the transmission object includes identifying the jurisdiction ~~associated with~~pertinent to the entity's operations and the topic ~~associated with~~pertinent to the entity's operations, and wherein searching the compliance rules database to identify the update includes searching for data in the compliance rules database that matches the jurisdiction and the topic ~~associated with~~pertinent to the entity's operations.

~~19~~14. The computer-implemented method of claim ~~12~~10, further comprising maintaining the compliance rules database.

~~20~~15. The computer-implemented method of claim ~~19~~14, wherein maintaining the compliance rules database includes tagging an update to associate that update with a jurisdiction and a topic.

~~21. The computer-implemented method of claim 12, wherein the update comprises a secondary source discussing the compliance rule, the topic, or the jurisdiction, and wherein creating the notification that includes the update comprises incorporating a copy of the secondary source into the notification.~~

~~22. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to perform the following:~~

~~create a template;~~

~~send the template;~~

~~receive a transmission object created by an entity using the template;~~

~~analyze the transmission object to identify data related to a compliance rule in a compliance document;~~

~~analyze data in a compliance rules database to identify an update to the compliance rule using the identified data in the transmission object; and~~

~~incorporate the update to the compliance rule into a notification along with at least some data from the transmission object.~~

~~23~~16. A system for updating a compliance document, the system comprising:

means for receiving a transmission object, the transmission object identifying a topic pertinent to a compliance rule and including metadata identifying a section of a compliance document that references the compliance rule without transmitting confidential information, the means for receiving being configured to parse the compliance rule information from the location information;

means for maintaining a compliance rules database that includes metadata identifying topics pertinent to a set of updated compliance rules;

means for identifying an updated compliance rule in the set of updated compliance rules using the transmission object;

means for creating and transmitting a notification incorporating the updated compliance rule using the metadata from the transmission object that identifies the section of the compliance document that references the compliance rule.

~~24. The system of claim 23, wherein the transmission object includes metadata identifying a section of a compliance document that references the compliance rule, and wherein the notification identifies the section of the compliance document that references the compliance rule.~~

~~25~~17. The system of claim ~~23~~16, further comprising means for updating a compliance rule in a compliance document using the notification.

18. The system of claim 9, wherein the received profile includes key terms and wherein the compare module is further configured to use the key terms in the received profile to identify the compliance rule.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the update comprises a secondary source discussing the compliance rule, the topic, or the jurisdiction, and wherein creating the notification that includes the update comprises incorporating a copy of the secondary source into the notification.

20. A computer-readable, non-transitory, tangible medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to perform the following:

create a template that prompts an entity to incorporate key terms into particular sections of a compliance document, the particular sections forming only a subset of the compliance document;

send the template to the entity;

receive a transmission object created by the entity that includes information from only those particular sections of the compliance document;

analyze the information from only those particular sections of the compliance document in the transmission object to identify compliance rules associated with the entity's operations;

analyze data in a compliance rules database to identify updates to the compliance rules; and

incorporate the updates to the compliance rules into an electronic notification along with at least some of the information from those particular sections of the compliance document from the transmission object.

21. The computer-readable, non-transitory, tangible medium of claim 20, wherein the computer-readable, non-transitory, tangible medium is partially incorporated into a first processor-based system and partially incorporated into a second processor-based system, and contains further instructions for:

receiving the template; and

creating the transmission object that includes information from only those particular sections of the compliance document.

22. The computer-readable, non-transitory, tangible medium of claim 21, wherein the transmission object does not include company-specific compliance policies or employee identification.

23. The computer-based system of claim 1, wherein the transmission object does not include company-specific compliance policies or employee identification.

24. The computer-based system of claim 1, further comprising:

an incorporation module configured to use one or more processors to create the transmission object using metadata associated with key terms or phrases in the compliance document without including confidential information from the compliance document;

a communications module configured to compile the metadata into the transmission object and send the transmission object to the transmission object receiver.

25. The computer-based system of claim 24, further comprising:

an update module configured to receive the electronic notification and to present the identified compliance rule and the location information from the electronic notification.