

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
4 January 2001 (04.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/001372 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G09B 3/00**,
5/00, 7/00, 19/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/17979

(22) International Filing Date: 30 June 2000 (30.06.2000)

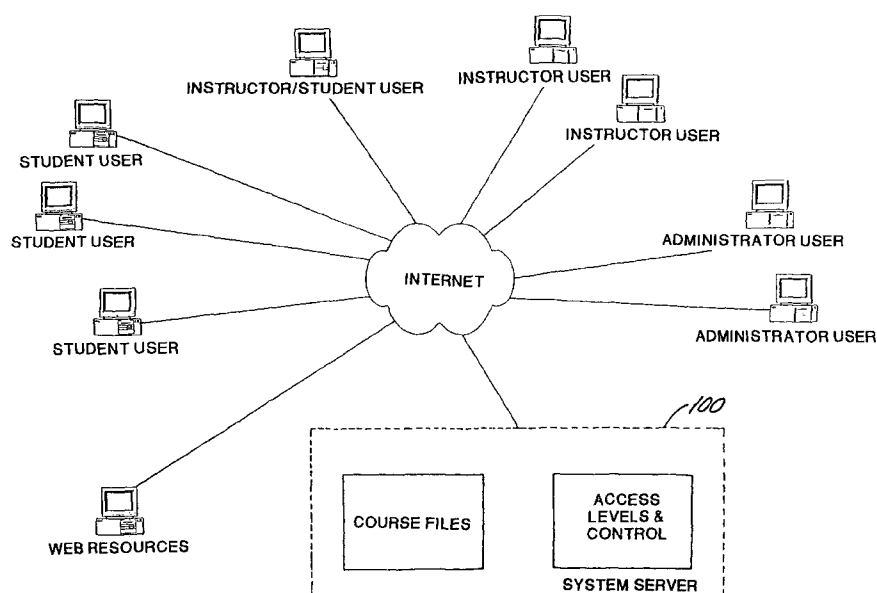
(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/141,283 30 June 1999 (30.06.1999) US
60/141,864 1 July 1999 (01.07.1999) US
60/187,890 8 March 2000 (08.03.2000) US(71) Applicant: **BLACKBOARD, INC.** [US/US]; 1899 L
Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20036 (US).(72) Inventors: **ALCORN, Robert, L.**; 4415 4th Street South,
Arlington, VA 22204 (US). **CANE, Daniel, E.**; 1734
Q Street, NW, Apt. B, Washington, DC 20009 (US).**CHASEN, Michael, L.**; 2939 Van Ness Street, NW,
Apt. 518, Washington, DC 20008 (US). **CHI, Timothy,
R.**; 3049 Saint Regents Drive, Apt. 225, Fairfax, VA
22031 (US). **GILFUS, Stephen, R.**; 12783 Cara Drive,
Woodbridge, VA 22192 (US). **PERIAN, Scott**; 3801
Connecticut Avenue NW, Apt. 207, Washington, DC
20008 (US). **PITTINSKY, Matthew, L.**; 2939 Van Ness
Street, NW, Apt. 928, Washington, DC 20008 (US).(74) Agent: **KAUFMAN, Marc, S.**; Nixon Peabody LLP, 8180
Greensboro Drive, Suite 800, McLean, VA 22012 (US).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ,
BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK,
DM, 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, NO, NZ, PL, PT,
RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INTERNET-BASED EDUCATION SUPPORT SYSTEM AND METHODS



(57) **Abstract:** A system and methods for implementing education online by providing institutions with the means for allowing the creation of courses to be taken by students online, the courses including assignments, announcements, course materials, chat and whiteboard facilities, and the like, all of which are available to the students over a network such as the Internet. Various levels of functionality are provided through a three-tiered licensing program that suits the needs of the institution offering the program (100). In addition, an open platform system is provided such that anyone with access to the Internet can create, manage, and offer a course to anyone else with access to the Internet without the need for an affiliation with an institution, thus enabling the virtual classroom to extend worldwide.

WO 01/001372 A1



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*

(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:

6 September 2002

(15) Information about Correction:

see PCT Gazette No. 36/2002 of 6 September 2002, Section II

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.