

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
9 October 2003 (09.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2003/083683 A3

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F 15/16

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/EP2003/002674

(22) International Filing Date: 14 March 2003 (14.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
10/112,134 29 March 2002 (29.03.2002) US

(71) Applicant: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US).

(71) Applicant (for LU only): IBM DEUTSCHLAND GMBH [DE/DE]; Pascalstrasse 100, 70569 Stuttgart (DE).

(72) Inventor: WILCOCK, Glenn, Randall; 8300 S. Via Del Barquero, Tucson, AZ 85747 (US).

(74) Agent: Dr. KAUFFMANN, Wolfgang; IBM Deutschland GmbH, Intellectual Property, 70548 Stuttgart (DE).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

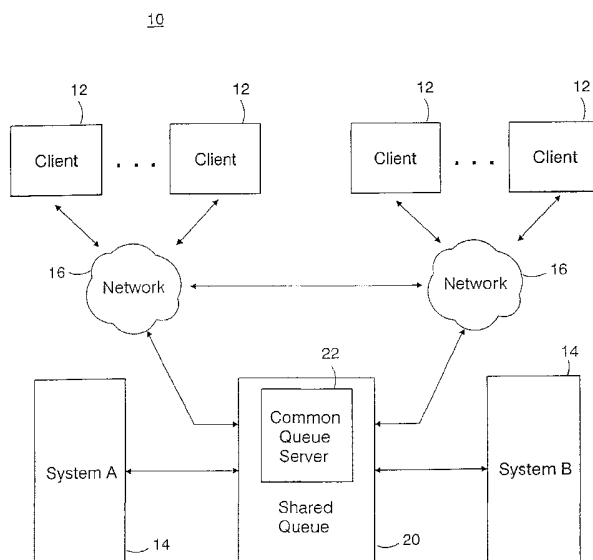
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:  
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
15 April 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MOST ELIGIBLE SERVER IN A COMMON WORK QUEUE ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: A system and method for managing servers. The system comprises a plurality of servers for processing messages, at least one client for transmitting messages to and receiving messages from the servers, and processor means for maintaining a list indicating whether at least one of the servers is eligible to process messages. Preferably, the servers are adapted to process messages of different types; and the processor means includes means to indicate on said list whether, for each of the different types of messages, at least one of the servers is eligible to process each of the different types of messages. Also, in the preferred embodiment, each of the clients includes means to read the list, before the client transmits a message of a given type to one of the servers, to determine whether at least one of the servers is eligible to process messages of the given type.

WO 2003/083683 A3



---

*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.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern	Application No.
PCT/EP 03/02674	

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC 7 G06F15/16
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06F
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, IBM-TDB, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	CA 2 282 931 A (MICROLOG CORP) 21 March 2001 (2001-03-21) abstract  figure 1	1,2,6,7, 11,12 3-5, 8-10,13, 14
X A	WO 94 20904 A (ROLM CO) 15 September 1994 (1994-09-15) abstract  figures 1,6	1,2,6,7, 11,12 3-5, 8-10,13, 14
	-/--	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.
° Special categories of cited documents :	
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search  <h3 style="text-align: center;">19 February 2004</h3>	Date of mailing of the international search report  <h3 style="text-align: center;">01/03/2004</h3>
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <h2 style="text-align: center;">Sadoune, M-M</h2>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interr I Application No  
PCT/EP 03/02674

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	US 5 887 168 A (PATTERSON BETTY J ET AL) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23) abstract  figures 1,3	1,2,6,7, 11,12 3-5, 8-10,13, 14
X A	EP 1 126 371 A (SONY CORP ; INFORMATION BROADCASTING LAB I (JP)) 22 August 2001 (2001-08-22) abstract  figures 1,7,9	1,3,4,6, 8,9,11  2,5,7, 10,12-14

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: Application No  
PCT/EP 03/02674

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CA 2282931	A	21-03-2001	CA 2282931 A1	21-03-2001
WO 9420904	A	15-09-1994	US 5844980 A	01-12-1998
			AT 166164 T	15-05-1998
			AU 687381 B2	26-02-1998
			AU 6094494 A	26-09-1994
			CA 2157504 A1	15-09-1994
			CN 1099923 A ,B	08-03-1995
			DE 69410243 D1	18-06-1998
			DE 69410243 T2	19-11-1998
			EP 0687371 A1	20-12-1995
			ES 2117253 T3	01-08-1998
			FI 954114 A	01-09-1995
			HU 71367 A2	28-11-1995
			JP 8510071 T	22-10-1996
			RU 2125767 C1	27-01-1999
			SK 105895 A3	06-11-1996
			WO 9420904 A1	15-09-1994
			ZA 9401450 A	26-09-1994
US 5887168	A	23-03-1999	US 5797005 A	18-08-1998
EP 1126371	A	22-08-2001	JP 2001229142 A	24-08-2001
			EP 1126371 A2	22-08-2001
			US 2001023441 A1	20-09-2001