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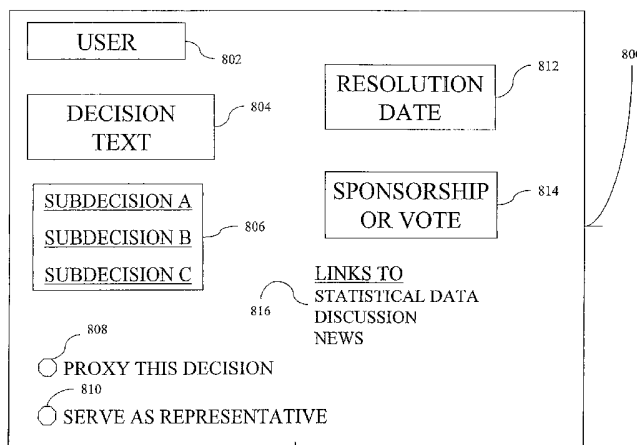
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: COLLECTIVE HIERARCHICAL DECISION MAKING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Described are systems and methods (800) for proposing and making decisions (804, 806), wherein there are multiple decision-makers and each decision-maker may grant one or more proxies (808) to one or more representatives (802) for all, or less than all, of such decision-maker's voting power (810). Systems and methods may include allocation of authority to modify decisions under consideration, techniques for participants to propose and seek support for consideration of additional decision alternatives, and for contributing or disseminating information relating to decisions that are pending (816). Resolution is facilitated using decision trees, including without limitation allocations of value, choices between language alternatives, and binary decisions. These systems and methods may also be used for un-resolving decisions, such as tracking of opinion by category of participant. The system may be used in a number of contexts including direct democracy, legislative process, public relations, customer and employee feedback, corporate governance, portfolio fund investing, collaborative projects, virtual reality governance, intelligent networks, and bidding optimization.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/09234

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16
 US CL : 709/203; 705/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 709/202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 209; 705/12; 715/512, 514; 434/306; 235/56, 386

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 practicable, search terms used)
 USPAT, EPO, IEEE
 Terms: Decision, voting, proxy voting, delegation, binary/decision tree

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,311,190 B1 (BAYER et al.) 30 OCTOBER 2001 Abstract, Column 2, Line 7 through Column 4, Line 9, Column 5, Lines 59 through Column 6, Line 46, Column 7, Lines 37-46, Column 8, Lines 20-59, Column 9, Line 65 through Column 10, Line 14, Column 13, Lines 19-47, Column 18, Lines 18-44, Column 24, Lines 10-29	1-10, 15-37, 39-45
A	US 6,081,793 A (CHALLENGER et al.) 27 JUNE 2000 Entire document	1-45

<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)	Date of mailing of the international search report 03 FEB 2004
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