

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roland THOMPSON et al.
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING
SUBSTITUTE FULFILLMENT INFORMATION
COMPILATION AND NOTIFICATION
Appl. No.: 90/008,803
Patent No.: 6,675,151
Examiner: Fred Ferris
Art Unit: 3992
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RESPONSE

MAIL STOP Ex Parte Reexam
Commissioner for Patents
Central Reexamination Unit
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 18, 2008, rejecting the claims. The undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-55 are currently amended. Pursuant to 37 CFR §530(f), deletions are [bracketed], and additions are indicated by an underline font. Claims 14-55 are newly added.

1. (ORIGINAL) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein said organizations comprise one or more of schools, school districts, retail banks, branch offices of banks, convenience stores, manufacturing facilities, fire departments, police departments, hospitals, transportation departments, airlines and temporary worker agencies;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each

local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to the data changes on the local database;

at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the substitute workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to substitute workers via the telephone communication link or an Internet communication link and secures one or more substitute workers via the telephone communication link or the Internet link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

2. (ORIGINAL) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing floating workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to the data changes on the local database;

at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the floating workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to floating workers via the telephone communication link or an Internet communication link and secures one or more substitute workers via the telephone communication link or the Internet link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

3. (AMENDED) A method for performing substitute fulfillment for a plurality of different organizations comprising:

receiving absentee information representing an absent worker that will be or is physically absent from an organization worksite via at least one communication link;

generating and posting by one or more computers a list of one or more positions of one or more absent workers that need to be filled by one or more substitute workers on a website and providing, for one or more of the positions, information indicating directly or indirectly an organization worksite location for the respective position;

receiving a response comprising an acceptance, by one or more computers, from ~~by~~ a substitute worker selecting a posted position on the website via an Internet communication link; and

securing, in response to receiving the acceptance from the substitute worker, via the Internet communication link and one or more computers, the posted position for the substitute worker who selected the posted position to fill in for the absent worker, the securing comprising

substantially immediately halting any current parallel processing for fulfillment of the same position.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 wherein the one or more absent workers are from a plurality of different organizations.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 wherein the posted list of one or more positions includes positions from a plurality of different organizations.

6. (AMENDED) A substitute fulfillment system that secures one or more substitute workers for a plurality of organizations comprising:

a database comprising worker records, said worker records having information associated with workers for each of the organizations, and substitute records, said substitute records having information associated with at least one substitute worker; and

one or more computers comprising a server connected to the database, the server configured for:

receiving absentee information representing an absent worker that will be or is physically absent from an organization worksite via at least one communication link;

generating and posting a list of one or more positions of one or more absent workers that need to be filled by one or more substitute workers on a website and providing, for one or more of the positions, information indicating directly or indirectly an organization worksite location for the respective position;

receiving a response comprising an acceptance from by a substitute worker selecting a posted position on the website via an Internet communication link; and

securing, in response to receiving the acceptance from the substitute worker, via the Internet communication link and the one or more computers, the posted position for the substitute worker who selected the posted position to fill in for the absent worker, the securing comprising substantially immediately halting any current parallel processing for fulfillment of the same position.

7. (ORIGINAL) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 6 wherein the server is further

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