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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No.: 48278.258599

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:	THOMPSON *et al.*		
SERIAL NO.:	09/419,266	GROUP ART UNIT: 2761	
FILED:	15 October 1999	EXAMINER: COLON, C. M.	
TITLE:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING		
	SUBSTITUTE FULFILLMENT		

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Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Sir:

In reply to the outstanding Final Office Action dated 19 February 2003 Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks:

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AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 10-14, 16, 22, 23, and 25-27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, and 28 and add claims 29-32 as follows:

15. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein the server is further configured to generate a list of substitute workers and absent workers who the substitute workers will be filling in for a given organization and to transmit the generated list of substitute workers and names of the absent workers who the substitute workers will be filling in for to the given organization via the at least one communication link.

17. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 32 wherein the server is further configured to receive a message via the at least one communication link and to forward the received message to the substitute worker who agrees to fill in for the absent worker via the at least one communication link.

18. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein each worker record comprises worker identification, contact, position, qualification, and substitute selection information.

20. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein each substitute worker record comprises substitute identification, contact, qualification, and availability information.

21. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein the organizations are unaffiliated.

24. (AMENDED) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein the workers are teachers and the substitute workers are substitute teachers.

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

receiving absentee information representing an absent worker 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;

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

securing via the Internet communication link the substitute worker who selected the posted position to fill in for the absent worker.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 28 wherein the one or more absent workers are from a plurality of different organizations.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 28 wherein the posted list of one or more positions includes positions from a plurality of different organizations.

31. (NEW) 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

a server coupled to the database, the server is configured for receiving absentee information representing an absent worker via at least one communication link coupled to the server, wherein each of the at least one communication link is selected from the group consisting of a telephone communication link and an Internet communication link; and
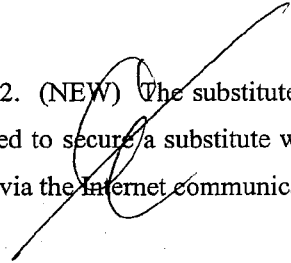
a website interface coupled to the server, the website interface posting a list of at least one position of an absent worker that needs to be filled by one or more substitute workers on a website, wherein the list of positions is generated by the server using the received absentee information and database thereby providing an opportunity for substitute workers to search for work.

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32. (NEW) The substitute fulfillment system of claim 31 wherein the server is further configured to secure a substitute worker in response to the substitute worker selecting a posted position via the Internet communication link.

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In the Claims:

Following, please find marked up versions of rewritten claims 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, and 28 showing all the changes relative to the previous version of those claims:

15. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [12] 31 wherein the server is further configured to generate a list of substitute workers and names of the absent workers who the substitute workers will be filling in for a given organization and to transmit the generated list of substitute workers and names of the absent workers who the substitute workers will be filling in for to the given organization via the at least one communication link.

17. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [12] 32 wherein the server is further configured to receive a message via the at least one communication link and to forward the received message to the substitute worker who agrees to fill in for the absent worker via the at least one communication link.

18. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [11] 31 wherein each worker record comprises worker identification, contact, position, qualification, and substitute selection information.

20. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [11] 31 wherein each substitute worker record comprises substitute identification, contact, qualification, and availability information.

21. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [11] 31 wherein the organizations are unaffiliated.

24. (Amended) The substitute fulfillment system of claim [11] 31 wherein the workers are teachers and the substitute workers are substitute teachers.

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