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W Meredith  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : McNally et al. Group Art Unit: 2173  
 Serial No. : 09/400,413 Examiner : Cao Nguyen  
 Filed : September 21, 1999  
 For : INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITH MENU GENERATION

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 12 and 31 and add new claims 44-57 as follows:

1 (amended) An information management and synchronous communications system for generating menus comprising:

- a. a central processing unit,
- b. a data storage device connected to said central processing unit,
- c. an operating system including a graphical user interface,
- d. a first menu stored on said data storage device,
- e. application software for generating a second menu from said first menu,

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~~AI~~ wherein the application software facilitates the generation of the second menu by allowing selection of items from the first menu, addition of items to the second menu and assignment of parameters to items in the second menu using the graphical user interface of said operating system and wherein data comprising the second menu is synchronized between the data storage device connected to the central processing unit and at least one other computing device.

12. (amended) An information management and synchronous communications system for generating menus comprising:

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- a. a microprocessor,
  - b. a display device,
  - c. a data and instruction input device,
  - d. a data storage device for storing information and instructions entered through said data and instruction input means or information generated by said microprocessor,
  - e. an operating system, ~~B~~
  - f. a master menu stored on said data storage device for generating a modified menu, and
  - g. application software.

wherein said microprocessor, operating system and application software are operative to display the master menu on the display device in response to instructions programmed into said microprocessor, operating system, application software and information and instructions entered through said data input device, and wherein said microprocessor, operating system and application software are operative to create the modified menu from said master menu in response to information and instructions entered through said data and instruction input device and wherein data comprising the modified menu is synchronized between the data storage device and at least one other computing device.

31. (amended) In a computer system having an input device, a storage device, a video display, an operating system including a graphical user interface and application software, an information management and synchronous communications method comprising the steps of:

- a. outputting at least one window on the video display;
- b. outputting a first menu in a window on the video display;
- c. displaying a cursor on the video display;
- d. selecting items from the first menu with the input device or the graphical user interface;
- e. inserting the items selected from the first menu into a second menu, the second menu being output in a window;
- f. optionally adding additional items not included in the first menu to the second menu using the input device or the graphical user interface; [and]
- g. storing the second menu on the storage device; and
- h. synchronizing the data comprising the second menu between the storage device and at least one other data storage medium, wherein the other data storage medium is connected to or is part of a different computing device.

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44. (new) An information management and synchronous communications system for use with wireless handheld computing devices and hospitality computing systems comprising:

- a. a central database containing hospitality applications and data,
- b. at least one wireless handheld computing device on which hospitality applications and data are stored or displayed,
- c. an application program interface, and
- d. a communications control module

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wherein applications or data are synchronized wirelessly between the central database and at least one wireless handheld computing device and wherein the applications program interface and communications control module establish a seamless link between the data in the central database and the data on the wireless handheld computing device.

45. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 44 wherein the communications control module and the application program interface enable the automatic generation of and updating of operator menus or screens on the handheld computer based on data from the central hospitality database.

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46. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 45 wherein messaging formats are used which are in conformity with HTML or XML messaging formats.

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47. (new) An information management and synchronous communications system for use with wireless handheld computing devices and hospitality applications comprising:

- a. a central database containing hospitality applications and data,
- b. at least one wireless computing device,
- c. at least one wireless paging or beeper device,
- d. an applications program interface, and
- e. a communications control module;

wherein hospitality applications or data are synchronized between the central database, at least one wireless computing device and at least one wireless paging or beeper device and wherein messaging to the wireless paging or beeper device is enabled directly from the operator interface of the wireless computing device.

48. (new) An information management and synchronous communications system comprising:

- a. a central database containing applications and data,
- b. a first computing device associated with the central database,
- c. a second computing device associated with a second storage medium containing applications and data,
- d. an applications program interface, and
- e. a communications control module;

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wherein applications or data are synchronized between the central database and the second storage medium and wherein the applications program interface and communications control module establish a seamless link between the data in the central database and the data on the second storage medium. B

49. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 48 wherein the communications control module and the applications program interface enable the automatic generation of and updating of operator menus or screens on the second computing device based on data from the central database.

50. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 1 wherein the second menu is generated by manually selecting items from the first menu, adding items to the second menu or assigning parameters to items in the second menu.

51. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 1 wherein the data is synchronized by digital transmission between the data storage device connected to the central processing unit and at least one other computing device.

52. (new) The information management and synchronous communications system of claim 12 wherein the modified menu is generated by manually selecting items from the master

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