

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

In re PATENT application of )  
Xin WANG, et al. )  
Application No. 10/956,121 ) Group Art Unit: 3621  
Filed: October 4, 2004 ) Examiner: Thomas C. WEST  
Confirmation No. 8924 )  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ) Date: May 28, 2009  
MANAGING TRANSFER OF RIGHTS )  
USING SHARED STATE VARIABLES )

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

**Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2008, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance based on the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for transferring rights adapted to be associated with items from a rights supplier to a rights consumer, the method comprising:

obtaining a set of rights associated with an item, the set of rights including meta-rights specifying derivable rights that can be derived from the meta-rights, wherein the meta-rights are provided in digital form and are enforceable by a repository;

determining, by a repository, whether the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights; and

deriving at least one right from the derivable rights, if the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights, wherein the derived right includes at least one state variable based on the set of rights and used for determining a state of the derived right.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable inherits a state thereof for content usage or rights transfer from the set of rights.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable shares a state thereof for content usage or rights transfer with the set of rights.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable inherits a remaining state for content usage or rights transfer from the set of rights.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable is updated upon exercise of a right associated with the state variable.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising deriving a plurality of rights from the derivable rights, wherein the state variable is shared by the derived rights.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable represents a collection of states.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of state variables that determine the state of the derived right.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one state variable is unspecified in the derived right, is created during a rights transfer, and is assigned to the derived right.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable is transferred from the derivable rights to the derived right.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a license including the derived right, if the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring rights adapted to be associated with items from a rights supplier to a rights consumer, the system comprising:

means for obtaining a set of rights associated with an item, the set of rights including meta-rights specifying derivable rights that can be derived from the meta-rights, wherein the meta-rights are provided in digital form and are enforceable by a repository;

means for determining whether the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights; and

means for deriving at least one right from the derivable rights, if the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights, wherein the derived right includes at least one state variable based on the set of rights and used for determining a state of the derived right.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable inherits a state thereof for content usage or rights transfer from the set of rights.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable shares a state thereof for content usage or rights transfer with the set of rights.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable inherits a remaining state for content usage or rights transfer from the set of rights.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable is updated upon exercise of a right associated with the state variable.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising means for deriving a plurality of rights from the derivable rights, wherein the state variable is shared by the derived rights.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable represents a collection of states.

19. (Original) The system of claim 12, including a plurality of state variables that determine the state of the derived right.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one state variable is unspecified in the derived right, is created during a rights transfer, and is assigned to the derived right.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the state variable is transferred from the derivable rights to the derived right.

22. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising means for generating a license including the derived right, if the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights.

23. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the means for obtaining, the means for determining, and the means for deriving comprise at least one of computer-executable instructions, and devices of a computer system.

24. (Currently Amended) A device for transferring rights adapted to be associated with items from a rights supplier to a rights consumer, the device comprising:

means for obtaining a set of rights associated with an item, the set of rights including meta-rights specifying derivable rights that can be derived from the meta-rights, wherein the meta-rights are provided in digital form and are enforceable by a repository;

means for determining whether the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights; and

means for deriving at least one right from the derivable rights, if the rights consumer is entitled to the derivable rights specified by the meta-rights, wherein the derived right includes at least one state variable based on the set of rights and used for determining a state of the derived right.

25. (Original) The device of claim 24, wherein the state variable inherits a state thereof for content usage or rights transfer from the set of rights.

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