AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration
2   ~~technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or~~
3   more configuration queries, the method comprising:
4   receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system, <u>wherein the</u>
5   <u>configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of</u> <mark>a product;</mark>
6   processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration
7   rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers<u>;</u>
8   <u>prioritizing the valid configuration answers</u> ~~prioritized~~ by one or more
9   ~~predetermined~~ product attributes <u>in the combined configuration rules-</u>
10   <u>attributes model</u>; and
11   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system<u>,</u>
12   <u>wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of</u>
13   <u>the product attributes</u>.

1   2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid
2   configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:
3   processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference
4   algorithm.

1   3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least a subset
2   of the valid configuration answers to the client system comprises providing a
3   predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

1   4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least a subset
2   of the valid configuration answers to the client system comprises providing a user
3   selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

1   5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with
3   respective configuration answers;
4   storing the predetermined values; and
5   retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid
6   configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to
7   one or more of the configuration queries.

1   6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more
2   configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the
3   products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   7.   (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more
2   attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the
3   system comprising:
4   a processor; and
5   a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor
6   executable code for:
7   receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;
8   processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined
9   configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid
10   configuration answers;
11   prioritizing the valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more
12   predetermined product attributes in the combined configuration
13   rules-attributes model; and
14   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client
15   system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by
16   one or more of the product attributes.

1   8.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further

2   comprises processor executable code for:

3   processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference

4   algorithm.

1   9.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for

2   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further

3   comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid

4   configuration answers to a user.

1   10.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for

2   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further

3   comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid

4   configuration answers to a user.

1   11.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further

2   comprises processor executable code for:

3   predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with

4   respective configuration answers;

5   storing the predetermined values; and

6   retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid

7   configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to

8   one or more of the configuration queries.

1   12.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more

2   configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the

3   products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   13.   (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data

2   embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute

3   prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data

4   comprises processor executable code for:

5   receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

6   processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration

7   rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers;

8   prioritizing the valid configuration answers ~~prioritized~~ by one or more

9   ~~predetermined~~ product attributes in the combined configuration rules-

10   attributes model; and

11   providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid

12   configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product

13   attributes.

1   14.   (Original)   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data

2   further comprises processor executable code for:

3   processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference

4   algorithm.

1   15.   (Original)   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

2   code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system

3   further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized

4   valid configuration answers to a user.

1   16.   (Original)   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

2   code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system

3   further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid

4   configuration answers to a user.

1   17.   (Original)   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data

2   further comprises processor executable code for:

3   predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with

4   respective configuration answers;

5   storing the predetermined values; and

6   retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid

7   configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to

8   one or more of the configuration queries.

1   18.   (Original)   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one

2 or more configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of

3 the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more

2 attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the

3 system comprising:

4   means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

5   means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined

6   configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration

7   answers;

8   means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more

9   predetermined product attributes in the combined configuration rules-

10   attributes model; and

11   means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the

12   client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by

13   one or more of the product attributes.

1   20.   (Original)   The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

2   means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated

3   with respective configuration answers;

4   means for storing the predetermined values; and

5   means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular

6   valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to

7   one or more of the configuration queries.

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