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Enclosed herewith for filing is a patent application, as follows:

Inventor(s): Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little
Title: Attribute Prioritized Configuration Using a Combined Configuration-Attribute Data Model
Docket No.: T00128
Customer Number: 33438

- X Return Receipt Postcard
- X This Transmittal Letter
- X Check for Filing Fees and Recordation of Assignment Fees
- 16 page(s) Specification (not including Claims)
- 5 page(s) Claims
- 1 page(s) Abstract
- 9 sheet(s) of Drawings
- 4 page(s) Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney (executed in counterpart)
- 1 page(s) Recordation Form Cover Sheet
- 1 page(s) Assignment
- 1 page(s) Nonpublication Request

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Respectfully submitted,

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ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL

Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, and Nathan E. Little

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

(1) The present invention relates in general to the field of information processing, and more specifically to a system and method for prioritizing configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

(2) Computer assisted product configuration continues to offer substantial benefits to a wide range of users and industries. Figure 1 depicts a conventional product configuration process 100 performed by a configuration engine 101. The configuration process 100 represents one embodiment of an inference procedure. In one embodiment of a conventional inference procedure, configuration query 102 is formulated based on user configuration input, a configuration engine performs the configuration query 102 using a configuration model 104, and the configuration engine provides an answer 106 to the configuration query 102 based on the configuration query 102 and the contents of the configuration model 104. The answer 106 represents a particular response to the configuration query 102.

(3) A configuration model 104 uses, for example, data, rules, and/or constraints (collectively referred to as "data") to define compatibility relationships between parts (also commonly referred to as "features") contained in a specific type of product. A part represents a single component or attribute from a larger, more complex system. Parts may be combined in different ways in accordance with rules and/or constraints to define different instances of the more complex system. For example, "V6 engine" or the exterior color "red" can be parts on a vehicle, and a specific hard disk drive can

be a part on a computer. A part group, also called a group or family, represents a collection of related parts. For example, an "Engines" group might contain the parts "V6 engine" and "4 cylinder engine". A product configuration is a set of parts that define a product. For example, a vehicle configuration containing the parts "V6 engine" and "red" represents a physical vehicle that has a red exterior and a V6 engine. A product can be a physical product such as a vehicle, computer, or any other product that consists of a number of configurable features such as an insurance product. Additionally, a product can also represent a service such as financial services, insurance services, or consulting services.

(4) An attribute represents a particular detail about a part or part group. Attributes describe details about the part or part group. A single part or part group can have many attributes. For example, the part "V6 engine" might have a price attribute of "$500", a weight attribute of "1,000 lbs" and a description attribute of "Six cylinder gas engine." Also, an attribute for a given part or part group may change depending on context (what other parts or attributes are present). For example, the price attribute for the "V6 engine" might be "$500" when the "XLT trim" part is present and the price attribute for the "V6 Engine" might be "$800" when the "XL trim" part is present.

(5) A configuration query (also referred to as a "query") is essentially a question that is asked about the parts, relationships, and attributes in a configuration model. The answer returned from a configuration query will depend on the data in the configuration model, the approach used for answering the question, and the specifics of the question itself. For example, one possible configuration query, translated to an English sentence, is the following: For the given configuration model, are the parts "red" and "V6 engine" compatible with each other? Another possible configuration query is the following: For the given configuration model, is the "V6 engine" part standard or optional when in the presence of the "XLT trim", "XL trim", "USA", and "Canada" parts, wherein "standard" and "optional" are attributes?

(6) The configuration model 104 can be used to determine, for example, which parts are compatible with other parts, and provide additional details around specific relationships. For example, a vehicle configuration model can indicate that "red" (a

part) is the standard feature from the color part group for a specific vehicle and "red" is not compatible with "V6 engine" (a part). Configuration model 104 may also contain additional information needed to support specific product related queries. Configuration models can be developed in any number of ways. U.S. Patent no. 5,825,651 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Maintaining and Configuring Systems", inventors Gupta et al., and assigned to Trilogy Development Group, Inc., describes an example configuration engine and rules based configuration model. U.S. Patent no. 5,825,651 (referred to herein as the "Gupta Patent") is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. U.S. Patent no. 5,515,524 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Configuring Systems", inventors John Lynch and David Franke, and assigned to Trilogy Development Group, Inc., describes another example configuration engine and constraint based configuration model. U.S. Patent no. 5,515, 524 (referred to herein as the "Lynch Patent") is also incorporated by reference in it entirety.

(7) Figure 2 depicts an example configuration model 200 of a product represented in a graphical, tree based form. The product can be configured to include part combinations A1, B1 or B2, C1, X1 or X2, and Y1 or configured to include part combinations A2, B2, C2, X2, and Y1 or Y2. The configuration model 200 includes rules to define these part relationships. Table 1 represents an example rule set, wherein "S" represents "standard" and "O" represents optional. Configuration model 200 represents a relatively non-complex configuration model. Actual configuration models for a single product can include hundreds of thousands or more parts, rules, and attributes.

Example Configuration Rules for a Product
A1 S ALL
A2 O ALL
B1 S A1
B2 S A2

Example Configuration Rules for a Product
B2 O A1
C1 S A1
C2 S A2
X1 S C1
X2 S C2
X2 O C1
Y1 S C1
Y1 S C2
Y2 O C2

Table 1

(8) Many configuration queries are formulated with respect to attribute values. Such processing is referred to herein as "attribute-based configuration" Attributes can (1) be used to find "preferred" answers to configuration queries (such queries are referred to herein as "attribute-prioritized queries") and (2) be an output of a configuration query (such queries are referred to herein as "attribute queries") and (3) be used in a query that is both an attribute-prioritized query and an attribute query. An example of an attribute-prioritized query is the following: "Given a set of configured parts, return the part with the lowest cost that is compatible with the given parts, according to the rules in a given configuration model". An example of an attribute query is the following: "Given a configuration model and a fully specified configuration, determine the sum of the price attributes for all of the parts in that configuration." Attribute-based configuration processing has conventionally suffered from scale and performance issues, an example of which is described below.

(9) Example: A Conventional Approach to Attribute-Prioritized Solutions

(10) When more than one answer to a configuration query is valid, the attributes of each configuration answer can be used to assign a preference weighting to the valid answers. For example, there may be many answers that satisfy the configuration query of "Add parts to the list of 'red' and 'V6 engine' until a complete vehicle is specified." However, attribute values can be used to identify preferred valid answers such as the least expensive vehicle, the most expensive vehicle, the heaviest vehicle, etc.

(11) Figure3 depicts a conventional attribute based priority configuration system 300 (also referred to as a "conventional attribute based priority configuration engine"), and Figure 4 depicts a conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 to determine an attribute based priority solution. Client systems 301(1) through 301(n) access the conventional attribute based priority solution system 300 via a network 302, such as the Internet. The system 300 and process 400 are typically implemented configured as a server computer system.

(12) Conventionally, a configuration model 304 is driven solely by configuration rules 306. Thus, in operation 402, configuration rules 306 are manipulated to form a configuration model 304 that is capable of answering configuration questions. The configuration model 304 is separated from attribute information 308 and, thus, the configuration model 304 is not used to process attribute related data. In operation 404, the conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 answers an attribute specific configuration query 310 to determine an attribute based priority solution by querying configuration model 304 for the set of valid answers 312. The valid answers 312 represent product configurations that conform to the configuration model 304. Operation 404 then interrogates the attributes to find the preferred answer from the set of valid answers. Operation 406 then applies attribute information 308 to the valid answers 312 to associate each valid answer with the attributes that apply to the valid answer. A weight can be derived from the applied attribute information 308 to generate weighted answers 314. For example, for the attributes "standard" and "optional", the weight can be the total number of standard features or the total number optional features in each answer. Operation 408 uses a preference algorithm 316, e.g. search for the valid answer with the most standard features and lowest price, to select the preferred valid answer 318 given the weighted valid answers. The particular

preference algorithm is a matter of system usage. Once a preferred answer is selected, conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 can determine answers for the next configuration query.

(13) A software application developed by Trilogy Development Group, Inc. and referred to as "MCC Config" implemented the conventional attribute based priority configuration system 300 using a modified attribute based priority solution process 400. MCC Config solved a configuration problem by taking partial configuration answers as input data and over an iterative processes providing a complete configuration output. The modified process was an iterative process that created a single, preferred complete configuration over multiple iterations, rather than providing all valid complete configurations and choosing a preferred one. For each iteration the configuration model 304 provided a set of part selections. The set of part selections formed a subset of the all of the part selections that needed to be made to generate a preferred, complete configuration. The modified process then used the attribute information 308 and the preference algorithm 316 to make the part selections provided by the configuration model 304. Part selections answers were then fed back into the configuration model 304 and added to the partial configuration answers. The partial configuration answers were then used by the configuration model 304 to generate the next set of part selections that needed to be made, and so on until the configuration was completed. For example, in an automotive configuration context, a user could initially select a engine=V6 and color=red. The configuration engine could determine that, for example, 2 different transmissions and 6 different body styles were compatible with engine=V6 and color=red. The modified process would then select a transmission and body style from the set of transmissions and body styles provided according to the preference algorithm 316. If "standard" was the controlling preference in the preference algorithm 316, the modified process would select the standard transmission and body style, if possible, from the available choices. The selected transmission and body style would then be added to the initial user selections and the process would repeat until a complete configuration was attained.

(14) Process 400 exhibits the drawback of expending effort to determine valid answers that will eventually be ignored if they are not preferred by the attribute

model. Also, the number of valid answers can be so large that calculating the full set and identifying the preferred answer is often computationally infeasible.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(15) In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries includes receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system. The method further includes processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes and providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system.

(16) In another embodiment of the present invention, a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries includes a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein. The data includes processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

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

(17) In another embodiment of the present invention, a computer storage medium includes data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries. The data includes processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

providing the valid configuration answers to the client system.

(18) In another embodiment of the present invention, a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries includes means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system. The computer system further includes means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes and means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(19) The present invention may be better understood, and its numerous objects, features and advantages made apparent to those skilled in the art by referencing the accompanying drawings. The use of the same reference number throughout the several figures designates a like or similar element.

(20) Figure 1 (prior art) depicts a conventional product configuration process.

(21) Figure 2 (prior art) depicts a configuration model in graphical, tree based form.

(22) Figure 3 (prior art) depicts a conventional attribute based priority solution system.

(23) Figure 4 (prior art) depicts a conventional attribute based priority solution process.

(24) Figure 5 depicts a combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system.

(25) Figure 6 depicts a combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process.

(26) Figure 7 depicts an example trie implementation of a configuration rules-attributes model.

(27) Figure 8 depicts a block diagram illustrating a network environment in which the system and process of Figures 5 and 6 may be practiced.

(28) Figure 9 depicts an example data processing system used in the network of Figure 8.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(29) A combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system uses an integrated configuration model to efficiently identify and attribute prioritize valid configuration answers to attribute-prioritized configuration queries. Submitting an attribute-based configuration query to the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system allows the query to be answered in a single step. The combined configuration rules and attribute information guide product configuration processing and minimize configuration processing by, for example, calculating only the valid configuration answers that are candidates for the preferred valid answer(s). Thus, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system can minimize the number of valid configuration answers to be considered for presentation to a client system or other user of the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system.

(30) Figure 5 depicts combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 communicatively coupled to client systems 501(1) through 501(n) via a network such as the Internet, wherein $n \geq 1$. The combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 can also be referred to as a configuration engine. Combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 operates in accordance with combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600. Operation 602 integrates configuration rules 502 and attribute information 504 into a configuration rules-attribute model 506. Configuration rules 502 are any type of configuration rules data such as the configuration rules described with reference to Table 1. As described above, attributes can represent any particular detail about a part or part group. Table 2 sets forth example attribute types. An attribute can also be an aggregate of other attributes. For example, a part group price may be an aggregate of prices for other parts and/or part groups.

Example Attribute Types
Standard
Optional
Price
Weight
Towing Capacity
Description
Warranty
Fuel Efficiency

Table 2

(31) The implementation of configuration rules-attributes model 506 is a matter of design choice. In one embodiment, the configuration rules-attributes model 506 is implemented as a trie, and trie operations are used to manipulate the data. Example tries and trie operations are set forth in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/404,891, entitled "Configuration Model Consistency Checking Using Flexible Rule Space Subsets", inventor Shawn A. P. Smith, filing date March 31, 2003, and assigned to Trilogy Development Group, Inc.. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/404,891 is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

(32) Figure 7 depicts an example trie implementation of configuration rules-attributes model 506. The trie implemented configuration rules-attributes model 700 includes a root node X1 and two part groups 702 and 704. Each complete branch of the model 700 represents a valid configuration. A trie-based representation can be used to represent the valid combinations in a compact and precise manner. Nodes in part group 702 contain parts A1, A2, and A3. Each of the parts A1, A2, and A3 may be annotated with one or more associated attributes such as ATTA1, ATTA2, and

ATTA3. Each of the parts B1 and B2 may include one or more attributes such as ATTB1 and ATTB2. The attributes associated with different parts may be the same or may be different. Model 700 additional includes leaf nodes 706, 708, and 710 with associated aggregate attribute values. For example, each leaf node could include the total number of standard parts in the product represented by the valid configuration branch to which the leaf node is attached and/or could include the price of the product represented by the valid configuration branch to which the leaf node is attached.

(33) In one embodiment, "release" attributes are combined with configuration rules to form the configuration rules-attributes model 506. "Release" attributes describe how a part is available within a valid configuration context. For example, release attributes could specify that the "V6 engine is the 'standard' engine" and the "V8 engine is an 'optional' engine." Thus, in one embodiment, the configuration rules-attributes model 506 not only represents which combinations of parts are valid together but also how those parts are released.

(34) Referring to Figures 5, 6, and 7, client systems 501(1) through 501(n) each access combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 to configure a product by submitting a respective configuration query 508. The particular data structure(s) used to represent configuration query 508 is a matter of design choice and depends upon, for example, configuration engine specifications, etc. In one example, the configuration query 508 results from the selection of a particular feature displayed via a web browser application executed by client system 501(i), wherein i is an element of the set {1, ... , n}. The combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 receives the configuration query 508 in operation 604. In operation 606, combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 interrogates configuration rules-attributes model 506 with configuration query 508 and an attribute based preference algorithm 510 to determine a set of one or more attribute prioritized, valid configuration answers 512. In one embodiment, combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 processes the configuration query 508 and configuration rules of configuration rules-attributes model 506 in accordance with the Gupta Patent or the Lynch Patent.

(35) The preference algorithm 510 is a matter of system usage and depends upon which preferences are anticipated to be consistent with the user preferences of client system 501(i). For example, the user of client 501(i) could select the preference(s) for valid configuration answers or some or all of the preference(s) could be predetermined by combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500. In one embodiment, a preference is for maximizing the number standard parts. Thus, only valid configurations with a maximum number of standard parts or a number of standard parts that is greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold are determined to be valid answers. In another embodiment, only valid configurations that have a towing capacity greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold are determined to be valid answers. The preference algorithm can then prioritize valid configurations based upon evaluation of more than one type of attribute. For example, only valid configuration answers with a maximum number of standard parts, a fuel efficiency greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold, and a price less than or equal to a predetermined threshold are presented to a user. The valid answers can be prioritized in accordance with one or more attribute values. For example, valid answers can be ordered based on lowest to highest price.

(36) Thus, operation 606 uses the configuration rules-attributes model 506 to process each configuration query 508 with valid answers determined in accordance with preference algorithm 510. For example, the preference algorithm could prefer valid configurations that maximize the combined number of *standard-attribute* features in the answer. For example, the configuration query 506 might be to "Find the complete configuration that contains that parts "red" and "V6" and maximizes the number of *standard-attribute* parts." There could be many possible configurations that contain "red" and "V6" but the configuration rules-attributes model 506 allows operation 606 to single out the valid answers that meet the preference algorithm. Thus, operation 606 does not spend resources calculating other "red" and "V6" configurations that do not contain the maximal number of *standard* parts.

(37) Once operation 606 determines one or more prioritized, valid configuration answers 512, operation 608 provides the attribute prioritized, valid configuration answer(s) 512 to the client system 501(i) that submitted the configuration query 508. The number of prioritized, valid configuration answers can be a predefined number or

a user selected number. For example, if "standard" and "price" are the controlling preferences, only "X" valid configuration answers 512 are provided to the user, where X is the predefined or user selected number. The combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 then returns to operation 604 to process a subsequent configuration query 508.

(38) Thus, it is often the case that a single set of configuration rules and a single set of attributes will be used to perform many configuration queries. By using a configuration rules-attributes model 506 to perform product configurations in accordance with configuration query 508, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 is able to realize several performance and complexity benefits such as:

(39) Using a combined configuration rules-attributes model 506 to process configuration queries allows the performance impact of combining multiple attributes, e.g. maximizing the number(s) of a certain attribute(s) or totaling the values of certain attributes, to be minimized by pre-processing combinations of multiple attributes of valid configurations and amortizing the preprocessed combinations over many queries. Thus, attributes and rules may be static while the configuration query 508 and preference algorithm 510 may change more quickly. If the process of combining multiple attributes (e.g. adding the number of standard attributes) is slow, the combinations of multiple attributes can be pre-calculated, stored in memory, and then used for many different configuration query/preference algorithm pairs.

(40) By processing a single query against the combined configuration rules-attributes model 506, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 does not need to evaluate non-preferred answers, which increases the performance of combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and lowers the resources necessary to process a configuration query 506.

(41) The number of preferred configuration answers provided to the user can be limited to reduce the amount of information provided to the user that has a low probability of relevancy to the user.

(42) Figure 8 is a block diagram illustrating a network environment in which a combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 may be practiced. Network 802 (e.g. a private wide area network (WAN) or the Internet) includes a number of networked server computer systems 804(1)-(N) that are accessible by client computer systems 806(1)-(N), where N is the number of server computer systems connected to the network. Communication between client computer systems 806(1)-(N) and server computer systems 804(1)-(N) typically occurs over a network, such as a public switched telephone network over asynchronous digital subscriber line (ADSL) telephone lines or high-bandwidth trunks, for example communications channels providing T1 or OC3 service. Client computer systems 806(1)-(N) typically access server computer systems 804(1)-(N) through a service provider, such as an internet service provider ("ISP") by executing application specific software, commonly referred to as a browser, on one of client computer systems 806(1)-(N).

(43) Client computer systems 806(1)-(N) and/or server computer systems 804(1)-(N) may be, for example, computer systems of any appropriate design, including a mainframe, a mini-computer, a personal computer system including notebook computers, a wireless, mobile computing device (including personal digital assistants). These computer systems are typically information handling systems, which are designed to provide computing power to one or more users, either locally or remotely. Such a computer system may also include one or a plurality of input/output ("I/O") devices coupled to the system processor to perform specialized functions. Mass storage devices such as hard disks, compact disk ("CD") drives, digital versatile disk ("DVD") drives, and magneto-optical drives may also be provided, either as an integrated or peripheral device. One such example computer system is shown in detail in Figure 9.

(44) Embodiments of combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 can be implemented on a computer system such as a general-purpose computer 900 illustrated in Figure 9. Input user device(s) 910, such as a keyboard and/or mouse, are coupled to a bi-directional system bus 918. The input user device(s) 910 are for introducing user input to the computer system and communicating that user input to

processor 913. The computer system of Figure 9 generally also includes a video memory 914, main memory 915 and mass storage 909, all coupled to bi-directional system bus 918 along with input user device(s) 910 and processor 913. The mass storage 909 may include both fixed and removable media, such as other available mass storage technology. Bus 918 may contain, for example, 32 address lines for addressing video memory 914 or main memory 915. The system bus 918 also includes, for example, an n-bit data bus for transferring DATA between and among the components, such as CPU 909, main memory 915, video memory 914 and mass storage 909, where "n" is, for example, 32 or 64. Alternatively, multiplex data/address lines may be used instead of separate data and address lines.

(45) I/O device(s) 919 may provide connections to peripheral devices, such as a printer, and may also provide a direct connection to remote server computer systems via a telephone link or to the Internet via an ISP. I/O device(s) 919 may also include a network interface device to provide a direct connection to remote server computer systems via a direct network link to the Internet via a POP (point of presence). Such connection may be made using, for example, wireless techniques, including digital cellular telephone connection, Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) connection, digital satellite data connection or the like. Examples of I/O devices include modems, sound and video devices, and specialized communication devices such as the aforementioned network interface.

(46) Computer programs and data are generally stored as instructions and data in mass storage 909 until loaded into main memory 915 for execution. Computer programs may also be in the form of electronic signals modulated in accordance with the computer program and data communication technology when transferred via a network.

(47) The processor 913, in one embodiment, is a microprocessor manufactured by Motorola Inc. of Illinois, Intel Corporation of California, or Advanced Micro Devices of California. However, any other suitable single or multiple microprocessors or microcomputers may be utilized. Main memory 915 is comprised of dynamic random access memory (DRAM). Video memory 914 is a dual-ported video random access memory. One port of the video memory 914 is coupled to video amplifier 916. The

video amplifier 916 is used to drive the display 917. Video amplifier 916 is well known in the art and may be implemented by any suitable means. This circuitry converts pixel DATA stored in video memory 914 to a raster signal suitable for use by display 917. Display 917 is a type of monitor suitable for displaying graphic images.

(48) The computer system described above is for purposes of example only. The combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 may be implemented in any type of computer system or programming or processing environment. It is contemplated that the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 might be run on a stand-alone computer system, such as the one described above. The combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 might also be run from a server computer systems system that can be accessed by a plurality of client computer systems interconnected over an intranet network. Finally, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500 and combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 may be run from a server computer system that is accessible to clients over the Internet.

(49) Many embodiments of the present invention have application to a wide range of industries and products including the following: computer hardware and software manufacturing and sales, professional services, financial services, automotive sales and manufacturing, telecommunications sales and manufacturing, medical and pharmaceutical sales and manufacturing, and construction industries.

(50) Although the present invention has been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made hereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

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

2. The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

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

7. A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

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

8. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

12. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

providing the valid configuration answers to the client system.

14. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

18. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:

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

means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system.

20. The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL

Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, and Nathan E. Little

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system uses an integrated configuration model to efficiently identify and attribute prioritize valid configuration answers. Submitting an attribute-based configuration query to the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system allows the query to be answered in a single step. The combined configuration rules and attribute data guide product configuration processing and minimize configuration processing by, for example, calculating only the valid configuration answers that are candidates for the preferred valid answer(s). Thus, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system can minimize the number of valid configuration answers to be considered for presentation to a client system or other user of the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system.

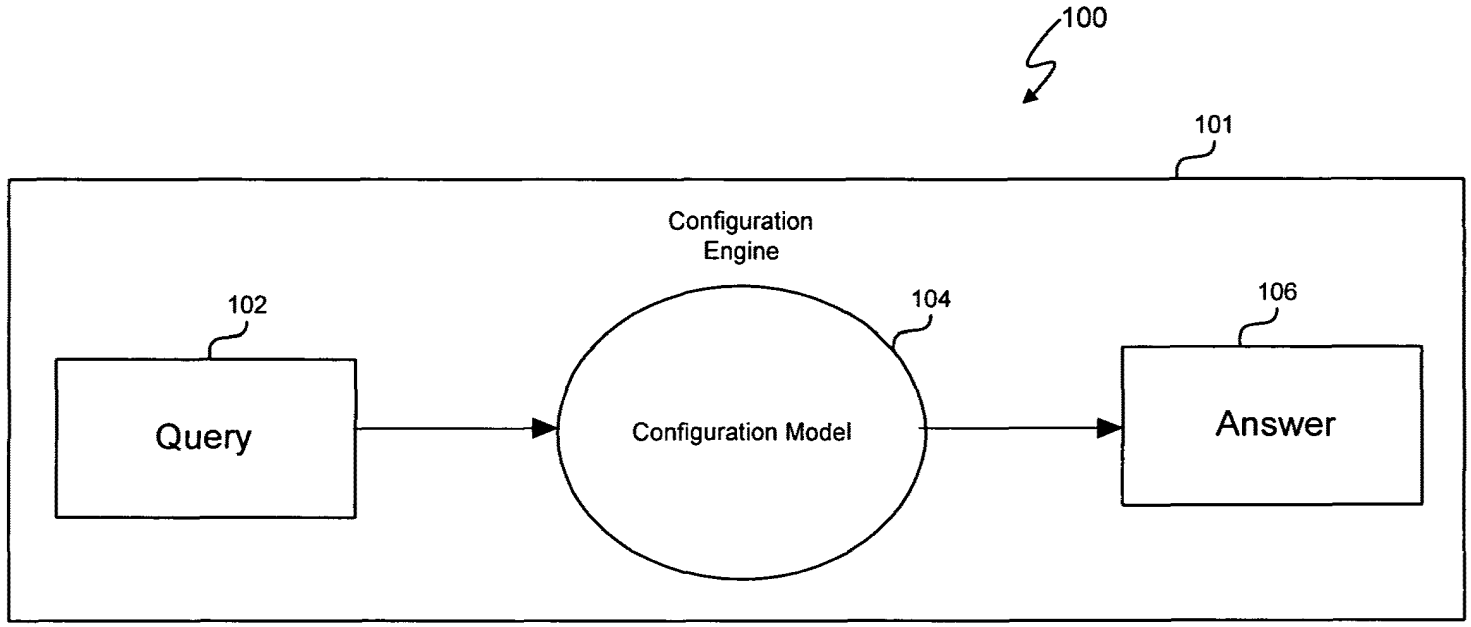


Figure 1 (prior art)

T00128

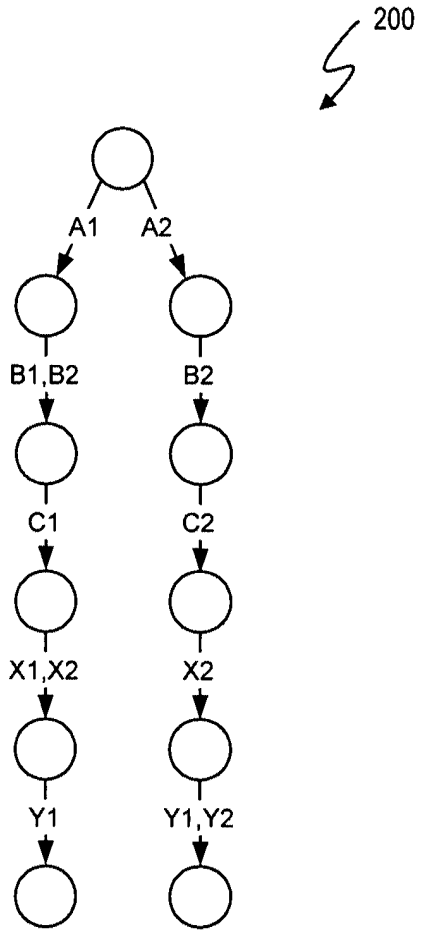


Figure 2 (prior art)

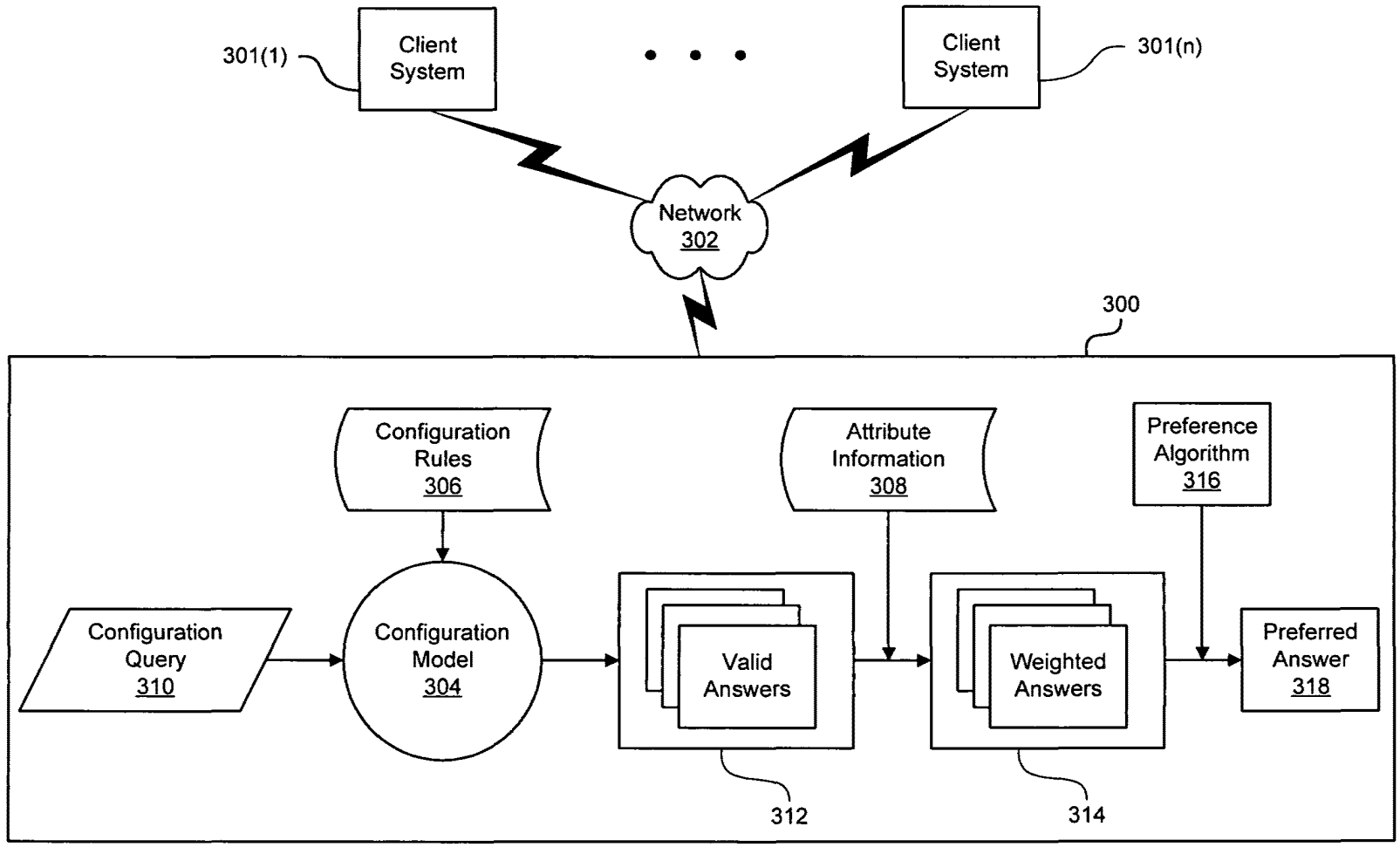


Figure 3 (prior art)

T00128

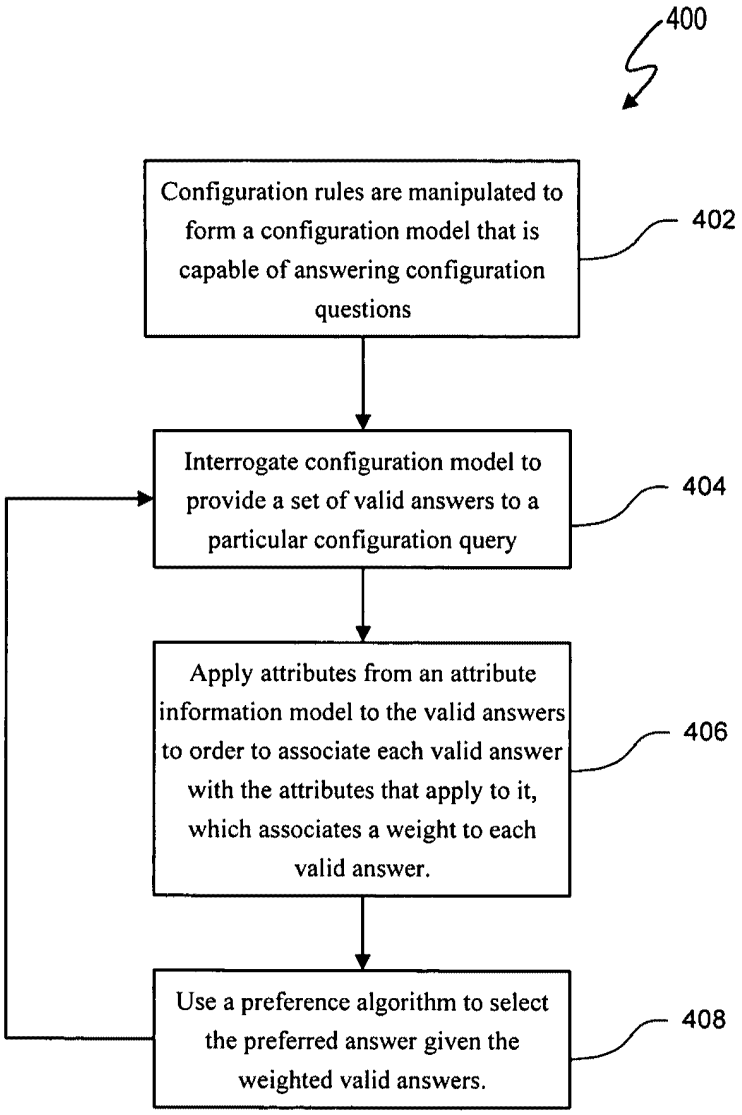


Figure 4 (prior art)

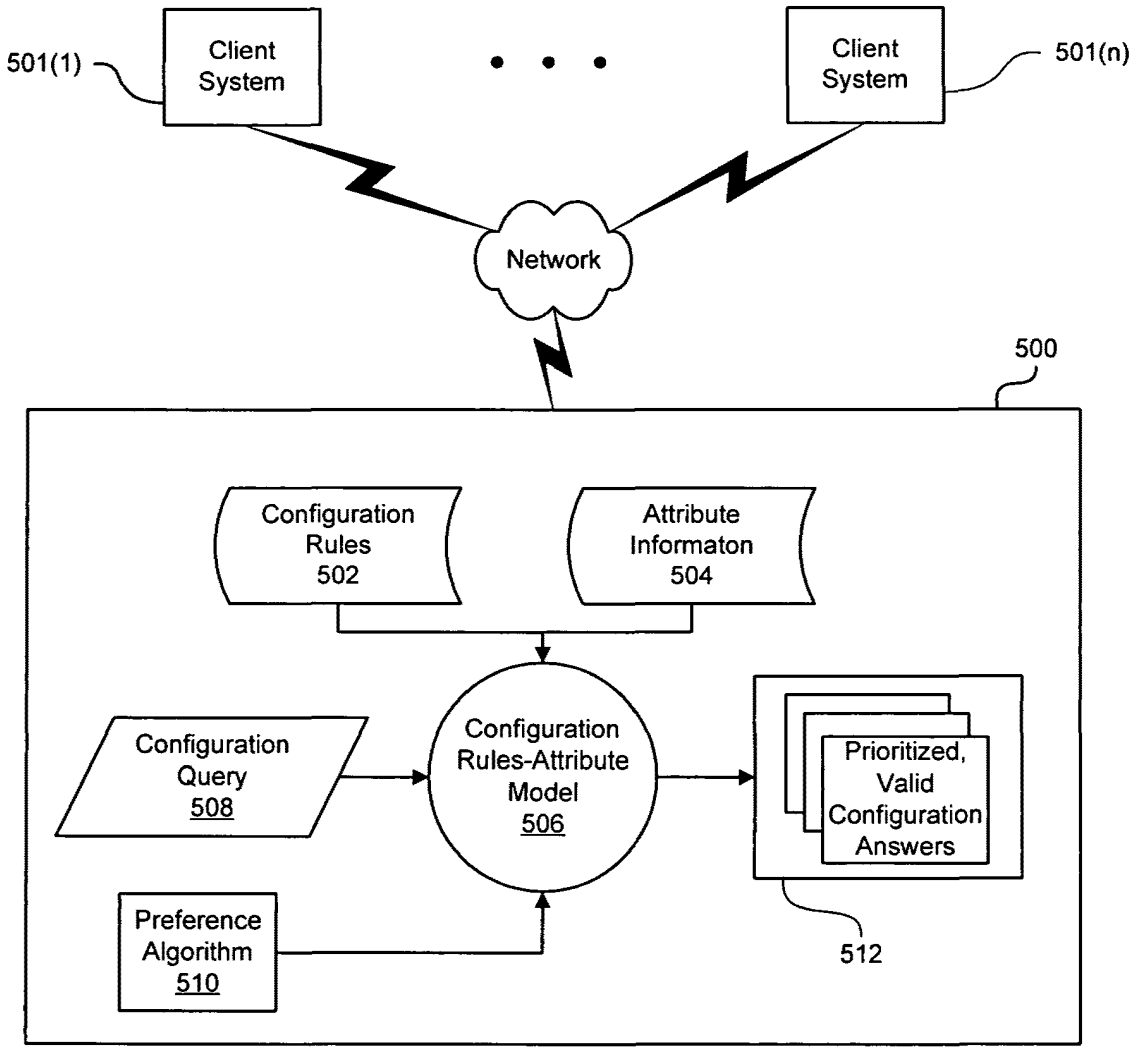


Figure 5

T00128

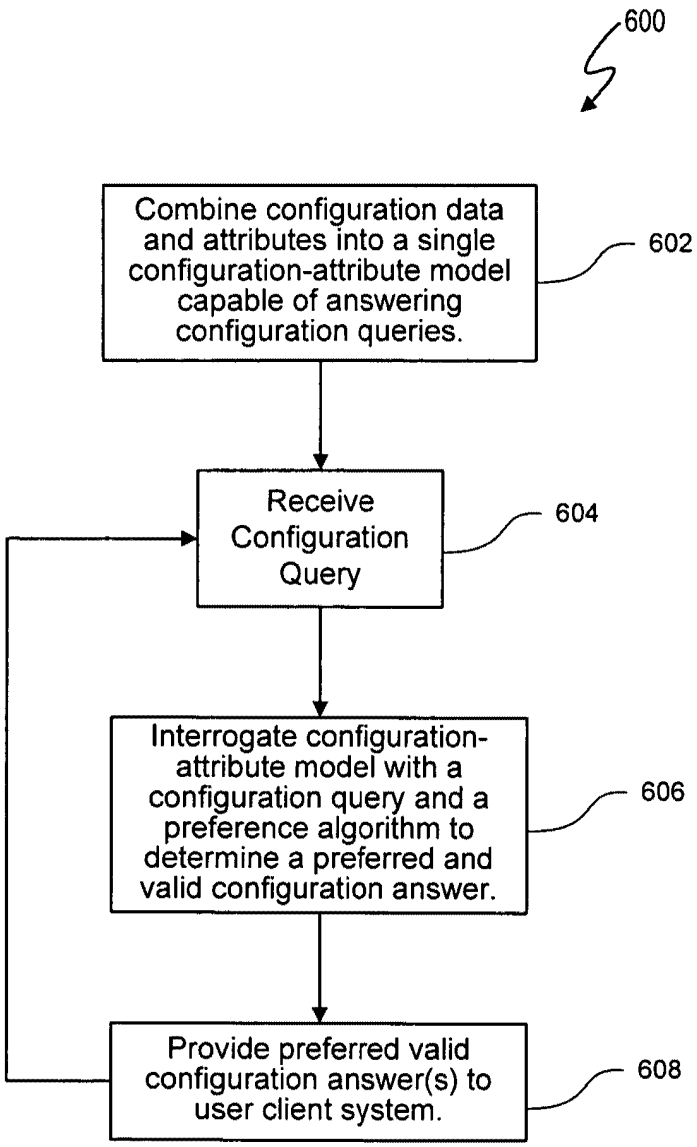
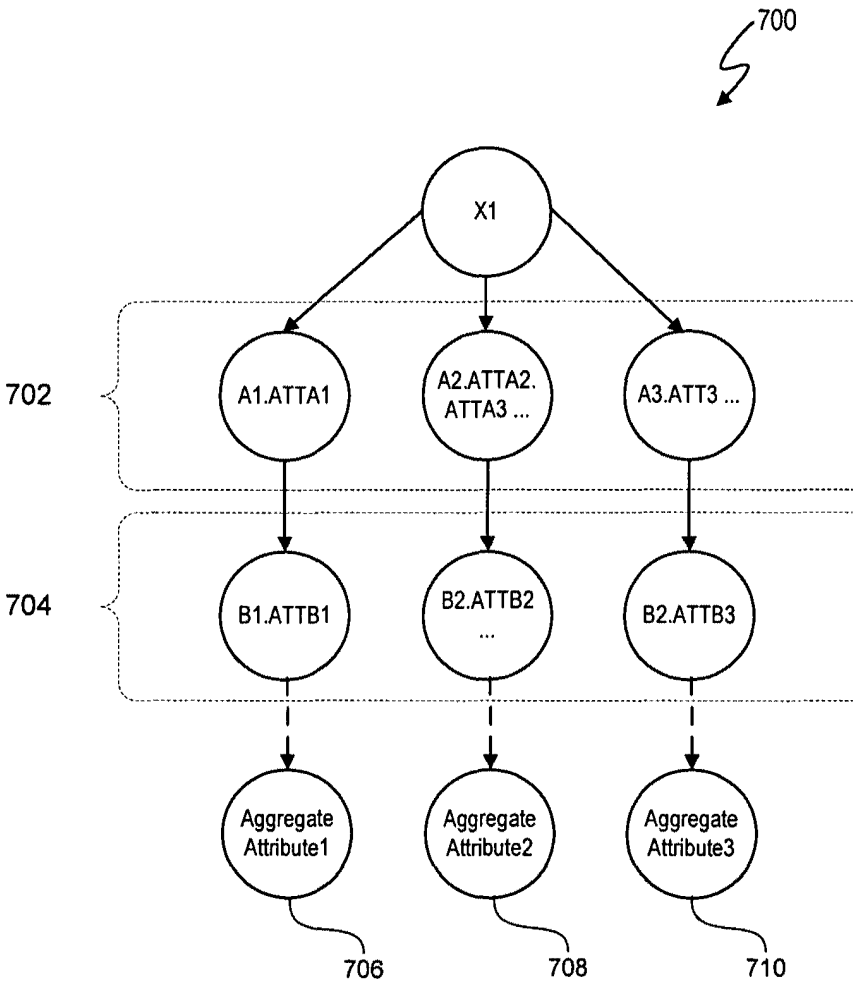

600
Combine configuration data and attributes into a single configuration-attribute model capable of answering configuration queries.
602
Receive Configuration Query
604
Interrogate configuration-attribute model with a configuration query and a preference algorithm to determine a preferred and valid configuration answer.
606
Provide preferred valid configuration answer(s) to user client system.
608

Figure 6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X1
702
A1.ATTA1
A2.ATTA2.
ATTA3 ...
A3.ATT3 ...
704
B1.ATTB1
B2.ATTB2
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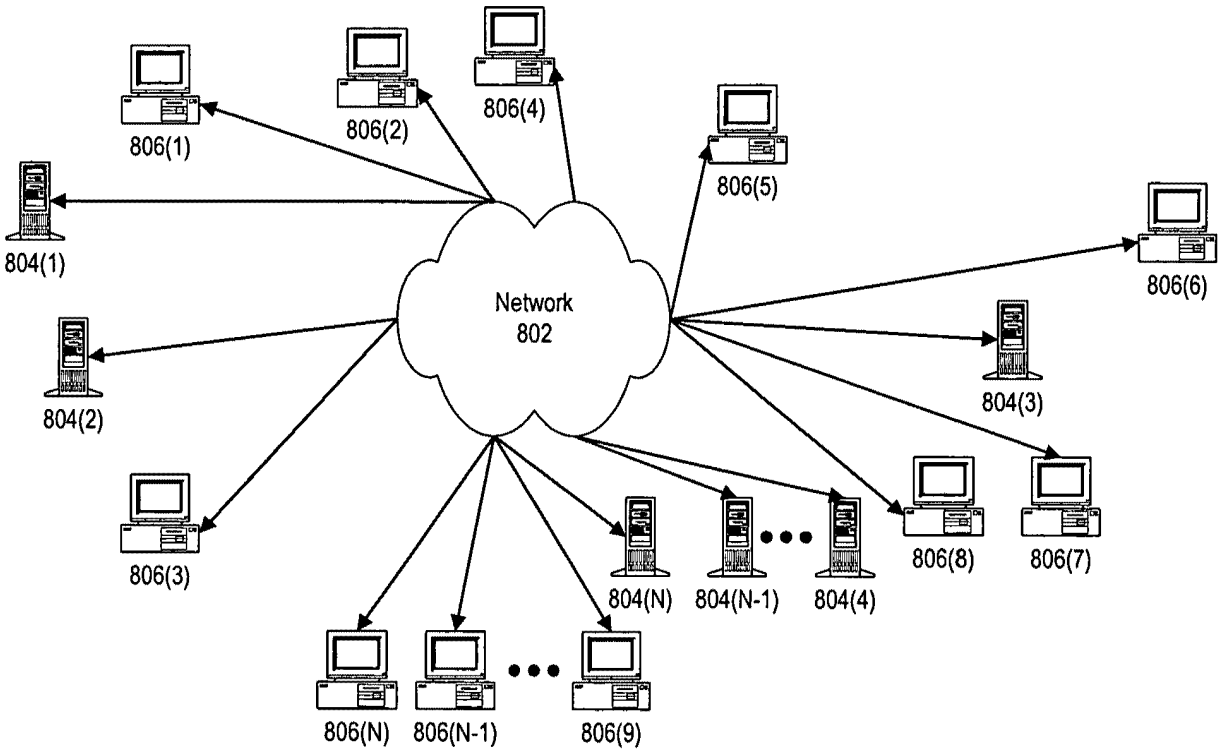
B2.ATTB3
Aggregate
Attribute1
Aggregate
Attribute2
Aggregate
Attribute3
706
708
710

Figure 7


806(1)
806(2)
806(4)
806(5)
806(6)
804(1)
Network
802
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804(3)
806(3)
806(8)
806(7)
804(N)
804(N-1)
804(4)
806(N)
806(N-1)
806(9)

Figure 8

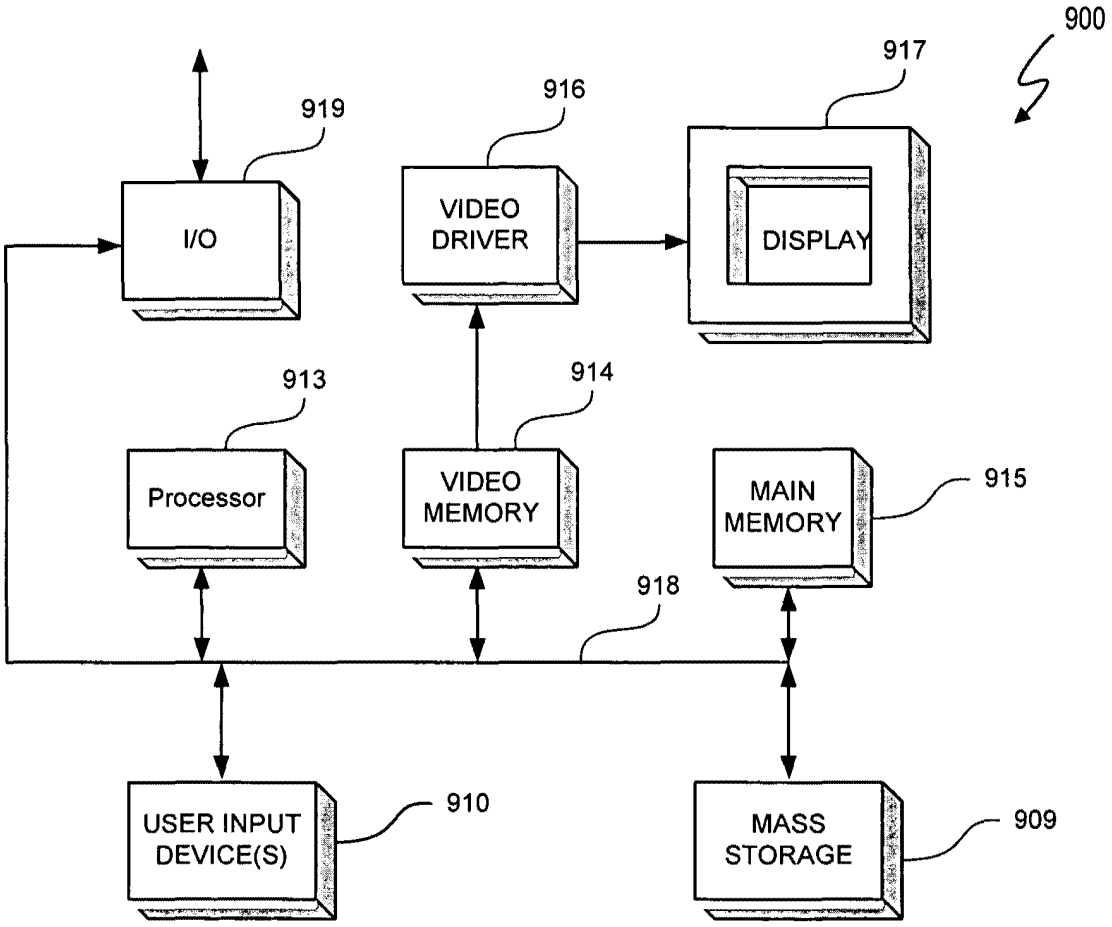
900
917
916
919
I/O
VIDEO DRIVER
DISPLAY
913
914
Processor
VIDEO MEMORY
MAIN MEMORY
915
918
USER INPUT DEVICE(S)
910
MASS STORAGE
909

Figure 9

Attorney Docket No.: T00128

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled:

ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL

which (check) ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
☐ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
N/A			☐	☐

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Attorney Docket No.: T00128

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
N/A		

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Stephen A. Terrile (32,946), Gary W. Hamilton (31,834), Rocky W. Holland (40,020), Michael Rocco Cannatti (34,791), and Kent B. Chambers (38,839).

Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

CUSTOMER NO. 33438

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and all statements made herein are made with the knowledge that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Patent and Trademark Office, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be subject to the penalties including fine or imprisonment or both as set forth under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that violations of this paragraph may jeopardize the validity of the application or this document, or the validity or enforceability of any patent, trademark registration, or certificate resulting therefrom.

Full name of first joint inventor: Brian K. Showers

Inventor's Signature: Brian K Showers Date: 1-12-2005

Residence: Cedar Park, Texas

Post Office Address: 1104 West Park Street, Cedar Park, Texas 78613 Citizenship: US

Full name of second joint inventor: Brandon M. Beck

Inventor's Signature: Brandon Beck Date: 1-12-2005

Residence: Austin, Texas

Post Office Address: 3625 Duval Road, Apt. #1226, Austin, Texas 78759 Citizenship: US

Full name of third joint inventor: Nathan E. Little

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Austin, Texas

Post Office Address: 8200 Neely Dr. #250, Austin, Texas 78759 Citizenship: US

Attorney Docket No.: T00128

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I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled:

ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL

which (check) ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
☐ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

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Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
N/A			☐	☐

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Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

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Attorney Docket No.: T00128

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
N/A		

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CUSTOMER NO. 33438

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and all statements made herein are made with the knowledge that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Patent and Trademark Office, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be subject to the penalties including fine or imprisonment or both as set forth under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that violations of this paragraph may jeopardize the validity of the application or this document, or the validity or enforceability of any patent, trademark registration, or certificate resulting therefrom.

Full name of first joint inventor: Brian K. Showers

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Cedar Park, Texas

Post Office Address: 1104 West Park Street
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Citizenship: US

Full name of second joint inventor: Brandon M. Beck

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Austin, Texas

Post Office Address: 3625 Duval Road, Apt. #1226
Austin, Texas 78759

Citizenship: US

Full name of third joint inventor: Nathan E. Little

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: 01/12/05

Residence: Austin, Texas

Post Office Address: 8200 Neely Dr. #250
Austin, Texas 78759

Citizenship: US

1,7,13,19

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Effective December 8, 2004

Application or Docket Number: 11034141

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	20	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	20 minus 20=	* 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4 minus 3 =	* 1
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☐

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY TYPE ☐ OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	150.00	OR	BASIC FEE	300.00
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	200
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL		OR	TOTAL	500

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

AMENDMENT A

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

SMALL ENTITY OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT B

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT C

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."
***If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE RECORD SHEET

01/18/2005 DTESSEM1 00000022 11034141

01	FC:1011	300.00 DP
02	FC:1111	500.00 DP
03	FC:1311	200.00 DP
04	FC:1201	200.00 DP

PTO-1556
(5/87)

*U.S. Government Printing Office 2002 — 489-267/69033

PTO/SB/35 (11-00)
Approved through use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0031
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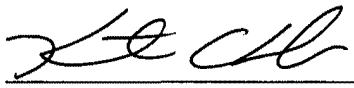
NONPUBLICATION REQUEST UNDER 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i)	First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
	Title	Attribute Prioritized Configuration Using a Combined Configuration-Attribute Data Model
	Attorney Docket Number	T00128

I hereby certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

JAN. 12, 2005
Date


Signature

Kent B. Chambers, Reg. No. 38,839
Typed or printed name

This request must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.33(b) and submitted with the application upon filing.

Applicant may rescind this nonpublication request at any time. If applicant rescinds a request that an application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b), the application will be scheduled for publication at eighteen months from the earliest claimed filing date for which a benefit is claimed.

If applicant subsequently files an application directed to the invention disclosed in the attached application in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications eighteen months after filing, the applicant must notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of such filing within forty-five (45) days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. Failure to do so will result in abandonment of this application (35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(iii)).

Burden Hour Statement: This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.213(a). The information is used by the public to request that an application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) (and the PTO to process that request). Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
L2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
L3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
L4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
L5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
L6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
L7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
L8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49
L10	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
L11	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53

EAST Search History

L12	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
L13	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$. ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
L14	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 07/02/2007
HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2166	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 January 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 January 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

01. The drawings were received on **01/12/05**. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

02. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

03. **Claims 19 – 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, function descriptive material *per se.*

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material *per se*, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory. See *Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 (noting that the claims for an algorithm in *Benson* were unpatentable as abstract ideas because "[t]he sole practical application of the algorithm was in connection with the programming of a general purpose computer.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

04. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

05. **Claims 1 – 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over **Weber et al. (US Patent 7,216,092)** hereinafter 'Weber'.

Consider **claim 1**, Weber discloses a method for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 3 – 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 7**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, comprising a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 9 – 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the

predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 13**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-

attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 15 – 16**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the

particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 19**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, means for storing the predetermined values, and means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Conclusion

06. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Schlabach, James Edward et al.	US Patent	6,810,406
b) Cansler, Leslie Dean et al.	US Patent	6,725,257
c) Te'eni, Moddy et al.	US Patent	7,104,013
d) Neri, Armando	US Patent	7,127,313
e) Pendyala, Chandra et al.	US PGPub	2006/0111878
f) Abrahams, Marc David	US Patent	7,043,464
g) Gadamsetty, Srikanth et al.	US PGPub	2005/0144090

h) Hamilton, Darin E. et al.	US PGPub	6,810,406
I) Loomans, Jeffrey	US Patent	6,549,908

07. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

08. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

June 15, 2007

KBP

KHANH B. PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2166	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-7,216,092	05-2007	Weber et al.	705/26
*	B	US-6,810,406	10-2004	Schlabach et al.	707/201
*	C	US-6,725,257	04-2004	Cansler et al.	709/219
*	D	US-7,140,013	11-2006	Te'eni et al.	717/173
*	E	US-7,127,313	10-2006	Neri, Armando	700/103
*	F	US-2006/0111878	05-2006	Pendyala et al.	703/001
*	G	US-7,043,464	05-2006	Abrahams, Marc David	706/14
*	H	US-2005/0144090	06-2005	Gadamsetty et al.	705/026
*	I	US-2004/0122807	06-2004	Hamilton et al.	707/003
*	J	US-6,549,908	04-2003	Loomans, Jeffrey	707/101
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 6655

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING OR 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005 RULE	707	2166	T00128

APPLICANTS

Brian K. Showers, Cedar Park, TX;
Brandon M. Beck, Austin, TX;
Nathan E. Little, Austin, TX;

** CONTINUING DATA **********

None C.J.R. 06-15-07

** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS **********

None C.J.R. 06-15-07

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED **

03/09/2005

Foreign Priority claimed	STATE OR COUNTRY	SHEETS DRAWING	TOTAL CLAIMS	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS
☐ yes ☒ no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ Met after Allowance Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature CJR Initials	TX	9	20	4

ADDRESS

33438

TITLE

Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model

FILING FEE RECEIVED	
1200	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:

- ☐ All Fees
- ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing)
- ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time)
- ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Credit

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007								
	1	✓								
	2	✓								
	3	✓								
	4	✓								
	5	✓								
	6	✓								
	7	✓								
	8	✓								
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	14	✓								
	15	✓								
	16	✓								
	17	✓								
	18	✓								
	19	✓								
	20	✓								

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
EAST image and keyword serach in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2166
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

Austin, Texas
January 2, 2008

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action dated July 2, 2007, having a shortened statutory period expiring October 2, 2007. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of January 2, 2007. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace paragraph (8) on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

(8) Many configuration queries are formulated with respect to attribute values. Such processing is referred to herein as "attribute-based configuration" Attributes can (1) be used to find "preferred" answers to configuration queries (such queries are referred to herein as "attribute-prioritized queries"), [[and]] (2) be an output of a configuration query (such queries are referred to herein as "attribute queries"), and (3) be used in a query that is both an attribute-prioritized query and an attribute query. An example of an attribute-prioritized query is the following: "Given a set of configured parts, return the part with the lowest cost that is compatible with the given parts, according to the rules in a given configuration model". An example of an attribute query is the following: "Given a configuration model and a fully specified configuration, determine the sum of the price attributes for all of the parts in that configuration." Attribute-based configuration processing has conventionally suffered from scale and performance issues, an example of which is described below.

Please replace paragraphs (11) - (13) on pages 5-6 with the following amended paragraphs:

(11) ~~Figure3~~ Figure 3 depicts a conventional attribute based priority configuration system 300 (also referred to as a "conventional attribute based priority configuration engine"), and Figure 4 depicts a conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 to determine an attribute based priority solution. Client systems 301(1) through 301(n) access the conventional attribute based priority solution system 300 via a network 302, such as the Internet. The system 300 and process 400 are typically implemented configured as a server computer system.

(12) Conventionally, a configuration model 304 is driven solely by configuration rules 306. Thus, in operation 402, configuration rules 306 are manipulated to form a configuration model 304 that is capable of answering configuration questions. The configuration model 304 is separated from attribute information 308 and, thus, the configuration model 304 is not used to process attribute related data. In operation 404, the conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 answers an attribute specific configuration query 310 to determine an attribute based priority solution by querying configuration model 304 for the set of valid answers 312. The valid answers 312 represent product configurations that conform to the configuration model 304. Operation 404 ~~then~~ interrogates the ~~attributes~~ configuration model 304 to find the preferred

answer from the set of valid answers. Operation 406 then applies attribute information 308 to the valid answers 312 to associate each valid answer with the attributes that apply to the valid answer. A weight can be derived from the applied attribute information 308 to generate weighted answers 314. For example, for the attributes "standard" and "optional", the weight can be the total number of standard features or the total number optional features in each answer. Operation 408 uses a preference algorithm 316, e.g. search for the valid answer with the most standard features and lowest price, to select the preferred valid answer 318 given the weighted valid answers. The particular preference algorithm is a matter of system usage. Once a preferred answer is selected, conventional attribute based priority solution process 400 can determine answers for the next configuration query.

(13) A software application developed by Trilogy Development Group, Inc. and referred to as "MCC Config" implemented the conventional attribute based priority configuration system 300 using a modified attribute based priority solution process 400. MCC Config solved a configuration problem by taking partial configuration answers as input data and, over [[an]] iterative processes, ~~providing~~ provided a complete configuration output. The modified process was an iterative process that created a single, preferred complete configuration over multiple iterations, rather than providing all valid complete configurations and choosing a preferred one. For each iteration the configuration model 304 provided a set of part selections. The set of part selections formed a subset of [[the]] all of the part selections that needed to be made to generate a preferred, complete configuration. The modified process then used the attribute information 308 and the preference algorithm 316 to make the part selections provided by the configuration model 304. Part selections answers were then fed back into the configuration model 304 and added to the partial configuration answers. The partial configuration answers were then used by the configuration model 304 to generate the next set of part selections that needed to be made, and so on until the configuration was completed. For example, in an automotive configuration context, a user could initially select: [[a]] engine=V6 and color=red. The configuration engine could determine that, for example, 2 different transmissions and 6 different body styles were compatible with engine=V6 and color=red. The modified process would then select a transmission and body style from the set of transmissions and body styles provided according to the preference algorithm 316. If "standard" was the controlling preference in the preference algorithm 316, the modified process would select the

standard transmission and body style, if possible, from the available choices. The selected transmission and body style would then be added to the initial user selections and the process would repeat until a complete configuration was attained.

Please replace paragraphs (31) – (32) on pages 10-11 with the following amended paragraphs:

(31) The implementation of configuration rules-attributes model 506 is a matter of design choice. In one embodiment, the configuration rules-attributes model 506 is implemented as a trie, and trie operations are used to manipulate the data. Example tries and trie operations are set forth in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/404,891~~ No. 7,200,582, issued April 3, 2007, entitled "Configuration Model Consistency Checking Using Flexible Rule Space Subsets", inventor Shawn A. P. Smith, filing date March 31, 2003, and assigned to Trilogy Development Group, Inc.[[.]] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/404,891~~ No. 7,200,582 is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

(32) Figure 7 depicts an example trie implementation of configuration rules-attributes model 506. The trie implemented configuration rules-attributes model 700 includes a root node X1 and two part groups 702 and 704. Each complete branch of the model 700 represents a valid configuration. A trie-based representation can be used to represent the valid combinations in a compact and precise manner. Nodes in part group 702 contain parts A1, A2, and A3. Each of the parts A1, A2, and A3 may be annotated with one or more associated attributes such as ATTA1, ATTA2, and ATTA3. Each of the parts B1 and B2 may include one or more attributes such as ATTB1 and ATTB2. The attributes associated with different parts may be the same or may be different. Model 700 ~~additional~~ additionally includes leaf nodes 706, 708, and 710 with associated aggregate attribute values. For example, each leaf node could include the total number of standard parts in the product represented by the valid configuration branch to which the leaf node is attached and/or could include the price of the product represented by the valid configuration branch to which the leaf node is attached.

Please replace paragraph (35) on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

(35) The preference algorithm 510 is a matter of system usage and depends upon which preferences are anticipated to be consistent with the user preferences of client system 501(i). For example, the user of client 501(i) could select the preference(s) for valid configuration answers or some or all of the preference(s) could be predetermined by combined configuration rules-attribute configuration system 500. In one embodiment, a preference is for maximizing the number of standard parts. Thus, only valid configurations with a maximum number of standard parts or a number of standard parts that is greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold are determined to be valid answers. In another embodiment, only valid configurations that have a towing capacity greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold are determined to be valid answers. The preference algorithm can then prioritize valid configurations based upon evaluation of more than one type of attribute. For example, only valid configuration answers with a maximum number of standard parts, a fuel efficiency greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold, and a price less than or equal to a predetermined threshold are presented to a user. The valid answers can be prioritized in accordance with one or more attribute values. For example, valid answers can be ordered based on lowest to highest price.

Please replace paragraph (38) on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

(38) Thus, it is often the case that a single set of configuration rules and a single set of attributes will be used to perform many configuration queries. By using a configuration rules-attributes model 506 to perform product configurations in accordance with configuration query 508, the combined configuration rules-attribute configuration process 600 is able to realize several performance and complexity benefits. ~~such as:~~

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system, wherein the configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers ~~prioritized~~ by one or more ~~predetermined~~ product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

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

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers ~~prioritized~~ by one or more ~~predetermined~~ product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute

prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers ~~prioritized~~ by one or more ~~predetermined~~ product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

18. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:

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

means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers ~~prioritized~~ by one or more ~~predetermined~~ product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

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

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute.

22. (New) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute.

23. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended.

Claims 21-24 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 19 recites in part "means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes." Claim 19 is a "means plus function claim" written pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, para. 6, and, in accordance with In re Donaldson, 16 F.3d 1189, 29 USPQ2d 1845 (Fed. Cir. 1994) must be interpreted in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, para. 6. Accordingly, the PTO is required by statute to look at the present specification and construe the "means" language recited in claim 19 as limited to the corresponding structure disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof.

Claim 19 recites "means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes." The present application includes "I/O device(s) 919" and "[e]xamples of I/O devices include modems, sound and video devices, and specialized communication devices such as … network interface [devices]. Present Application, para. 45. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the "means for providing" is not "merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material" but includes the corresponding structure in the Present Application, including one or more I/O devices.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,216,092 to Weber et al. ("*Weber*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Weber relates to a "system and method for facilitating the creation of personalized products." *Id.*, Abstract. *Weber* teaches that a products database contains "information on products available for personalization and further containing manufacturing capabilities for the products." *Id.*, col. 2, lines 21-23. A user indicates "selection of a product from [an] assortment" of product selections. *Id.*, lines 27-28. The user is provided a design interface that includes a design tool that "allows the user to select product configuration options and to create individualized enhancements." *Id.*, lines 33-34.

Notably, *Weber* repeats, over and over, that "The design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities." *Id.*, lines 35-37. See, for example, *Id.*, col. 2, lines 54-55 and 65-66, col. 3, lines 3-5, 28-31, 48-50, col. 4, lines 3-5 and 25-27, and col. 25, lines 7-10 ("Given these potential problems, the production of an end product that is satisfactory to the customer requires that the manufacturing limitations of the vendors be taken into account at the design stage.").

Thus, since *Weber* teaches that the user is only allowed to make product configuration option and enhancement selections that satisfy manufacturing capabilities, Applicants respectfully submit that configuration answers generated in *Weber* already take into account manufacturing capabilities. Thus, the manufacturing capabilities are constraints on generating a configuration answer and are not part of any post-configuration answer processing such as "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

As previously stated, *Weber* teaches that the "The design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities." *Weber*, lines 35-37 et al. Thus, the manufacturing capabilities "are used to limit the design components available to customers." *Id.*, col. 28, lines 60-63. Thus, all the configuration answers generated by *Weber* already account for manufacturing capabilities. Applicants respectfully submit that

Weber neither teaches nor suggests "prioritizing the valid configuration answers" by the manufacturing capabilities or any attribute in *Weber*. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers", "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model", and "providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes." Claims 1, 7, and 13. Thus, Applicants also respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers", "means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model", and "means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes." Claim 19.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests:

> receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;
>
> …
>
> prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute.
>
> Claims 21-24.

Weber teaches that the user is provided a design interface that includes a design tool that "allows the user to select product configuration options and to create individualized enhancements." *Weber*. col. 2, lines 33-34. Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to

be prioritized [and] prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute. Claims 21-24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the foregoing reasons Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-24 are allowable. Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the same reasons, claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

FILED ELECTRONICALLY
January 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2166
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

Austin, Texas
January 2, 2008

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time within which to respond to the July 2, 2007 outstanding Office Action, such extension allowing the undersigned until January 2, 2008 to respond.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502264.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED ON JANUARY 2, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Claims in excess of 20	1202	4	50	200
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1050	1050
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1250**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	2662618
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	02-JAN-2008
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	18:40:45
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1250
RAM confirmation Number	2814
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes) /Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1	Amendment - After Non-Final Rejection	T00128_ROA_10_2_07A.pdf	62719 37f7d2ef92629e828c2f887e8be018faa7de38a6	no	15
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Petition_Extension_TimeA.pdf	26064 0735da14c481555ebe1f1bf7c8fd965642a70fd4	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8323 b1958da044d9ab46b236e8bf616039940a52be99	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
			Total Files Size (in bytes):	97106	

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	01/02/2008	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 20	= 4	X $ =		OR	X $50=	200
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $210=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	200

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
Wanda M. Lawson

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 04/18/2008

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2166	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/18/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@hamiltonterrile.com
seaton@hamiltonterrile.com
tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 January 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on **01/02/08**. **Claims 1 – 24** are pending in the present application. **This action is made FINAL**, as necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

02. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

03. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over **Weber et al. (US Patent 7,216,092)** hereinafter 'Weber'.

Consider **claim 1**, Weber discloses a method for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system, wherein the

configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attribute model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 3 – 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 7**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, comprising a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 9 – 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for

personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 13**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as

processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 15 – 16**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining

values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 19**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, means for prioritizing

the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, means for storing the predetermined values, and means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by

the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a computer system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Response to Arguments

04. Applicant argues that claims 19 – 20 are written in 'means for' format, and have invoked 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph. In view of the arguments presented, Examiner feels that such claims are indeed statutory under 35 USC § 101, and has withdrawn the rejection on these claims.

Applicant argues that Weber does not disclose limitations of independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, and more specifically does not disclose "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Weber discloses, among other things, the capability of a user to search for products and customizable attributes for the product. There are several ways in which Weber discloses that such a process can be performed. However, the claims of the instant application merely allow a user to enter a query, and get search results from it, which can be prioritized. This is in fact what Weber teaches, in that a user can search for different types of objects (e.g. text, pictures), which can be added to the product in question, and also allows for extensive customization of the product and objects. In fact, it seems that the Applicant believes that since Weber teaches that such customization can be restricted to that which will "satisfy manufacturing capabilities" teaches away from the invention at hand. However, this is merely taking the invention a step further and making it narrower, in that the only customizable options that will be presented to the user are those which are possible. This is an enhancement to the system, which will provide the user with better results. It does not restrict the invention or teach away from it, as argued by the Applicant.

With respect to newly added claims 21 – 24, Applicant has argued that Weber does not disclose these features. However, specific arguments have not been presented as to why Weber does not disclose it. Also, it appears that these claims add nothing more than the capability for a user to sort through results, so as to be able to identify what is desired quicker. This is in fact taught by Weber, which discloses that the results of searching can be sorted through and any type of well known display technique can be used. Examiner acknowledges that Weber does not go into great detail about this aspect of the invention, but this is most likely because it an obvious feature, as anyone of ordinary skill in the art would understand that sorting through retrieved results to find what a user is looking for quicker is an inherent feature.

Conclusion

05. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

06. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

07. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

April 12, 2008

/K. B. P./

/Hosain T Alam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49

S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50

4/12/2008 5:32:06 PM
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Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008							
	1	✓	✓							
	2	✓	✓							
	3	✓	✓							
	4	✓	✓							
	5	✓	✓							
	6	✓	✓							
	7	✓	✓							
	8	✓	✓							
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	17	✓	✓							
	18	✓	✓							
	19	✓	✓							
	20	✓	✓							
	21		✓							
	22		✓							
	23		✓							
	24		✓							

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
EAST image and keyword serach in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

PTO/SB/30EFS (09-08)
Approved for use through 10/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11034141	Filing Date	2005-01-12	Docket Number (if applicable)	T00128	Art Unit	2166
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers			Examiner Name	Raab, Christopher J.		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☒ Other Petition for Extension of Time

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☐ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (09-08)
Approved for use through 10/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Kent B. Chambers/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2008-10-20
Name	Kent B. Chambers	Registration Number	38839

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**1920**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	4145793
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	20-OCT-2008
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	23:07:42
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1920
RAM confirmation Number	5241
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1	Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE	T00128_RCE_4_18_08.pdf	138372 8c3565b0bf93ca15262dd237b71cfcf57353 36b0	no	14
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension_10_2_08.pdf	71067 ef401fe5ab0eb13441e9f10c46bca801c52af 690	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	T00128_RCETransmittal_10_20_08.pdf	697100 dd211326978da6e69a8fdcaae4b626738ab 76d1a	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	31754 ebac5c889dfe45cedde8c40e7ed64e818dc 97a90	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	938293		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2166
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

Austin, Texas
October 20, 2008

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

37 C.F.R. § 1.114 RCE SUBMISSION

Dear Sir:

This paper is a submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, which accompanies a request for continued examination in the above referenced patent application. This paper is responsive to the Office action dated April 18, 2008, having a shortened statutory period expiring July 18, 2008. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of October 20, 2008 (October 18, 2008 being a Saturday). Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 20-24 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,216,092 to Weber et al. ("*Weber*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Weber relates to a "system and method for facilitating the creation of personalized products." *Id.*, Abstract. *Weber* teaches that:

> The present invention provides methods and systems for facilitating the design of a personalized product. In one embodiment, the method is used in a system where a user on a user computer can access at least one host merchant computer via a communication network, the host merchant computer including a web server in communication with a products database containing information on products available for personalization and further containing manufacturing capabilities for the products. The method includes providing to the user via the communication network at least one web page providing an assortment of product selections available in the products database, receiving a message from the user via the communication network indicating a selection of a product from the assortment, retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, providing to the user via the communication network a design interface, the design interface comprising at least one web page including at least one design tool that allows the user to select product configuration options and to create individualized enhancements, and wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities, and receiving from the user via the design interface a set of product configuration options and a set of individualized enhancements for the selected product. *Weber*, col. 2, lines 15-40. (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests:

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 (omitting the "means for" preface in claim 19).

The April 18, 2008 Office Action (referred to herein as the "Office Action") states on page 3 that "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities" teaches "processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers and prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model."

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to recite that "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries …, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts." As discussed in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber*, for example, does not teach "attribute-based configuration queries [and] a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Weber teaches that the "product database contain[s] information on products available for personalization and further contain[s] manufacturing capabilities for the products." *Weber*, col.

2, lines 20-23. *Weber* teaches that databases can include "product-dependent constraint information that limits" particular choices. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 1. For example, "the Typestyle database 512 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the typestyle choices that may be selected by the customer via the Typestyle interface 223", the Text Orientation database 522 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the text orientation choices that may be selected by the customer via the Text Orientation interface 224", and so on. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 13.

Weber also teaches that a:

> Template Module 590 communicates with a Template database 592. … A template is a basic design (i.e., a default set of design components) that is provided to a customer of the Personalization Palette Page 200 for use as a starting point in creating his or her own set of design components. A template may include both product configuration options and enhancements, including one or more images, text messages, selected colors, typestyles, text locations, etc. *Id.*, col. 19, lines 1-11.

Weber also teaches that "the web site 130 preferably includes ancillary textual descriptions for each product available on the site." *Id.*, col. 24, lines 21-23. "Some or all of this text may preferably be read by visitors browsing the product web pages." *Id.*, lines 23-24.

Weber further teaches that the "Product Search Module 810 identifies and prioritizes products that are relevant to the search by comparing the submitted search query to the ancillary description associated with each product." *Id.*, lines 46-49.

Thus, various databases of *Weber* include product-dependent constraint information and may contain ancillary textual descriptions for each product. Applicants respectfully submit that product-dependent constraint information and ancillary textual descriptions for each **product** fail to teach or suggest "a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the **parts**" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

The Template Module 590 taught by *Weber* may include both "product configuration options and enhancements". *Weber*, col. 19, lines 9-11. Applicants respectfully submit that

Weber also does not teach or suggest that the "product configuration options and enhancements" of the Template Module 590 include a "combined configuration rules-attributes model … , wherein a plurality of the **configuration rules** define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the **attributes** represent details about the **parts**" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

As previously noted, *Weber* also teaches "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database." *Weber*, col. 2, lines 28-30. *Weber* further teaches that the "manufacturing capabilities" related to a product are the "manufacturing capabilities for that product associated with [a] vendor." *Id.*, col. 28, lines 44-45. See, *Id.*, col. 28, line 10 - col. 29, line 11. Thus, the "manufacturing capabilities" are **not** "attributes [that] represent details about the parts" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. The "manufacturing capabilities" are characteristics of one or more vendors. Furthermore, even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" are attributes of a product (which they are not), Applicants respectfully submit that the manufacturing capabilities are not included in a "combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Also as previously noted, *Weber* teaches that "the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities." However, since the "manufacturing capabilities" are characteristics of vendors and **not** "attributes [that] represent details about the parts", Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" or "providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

With regard to the Examiner's "Response to Arguments" in the Office Action, p. 11, the Examiner states that "the claims of the instant application merely allow a user to enter a query, and get search results from it, which can be prioritized." Applicants respectfully submit that all the limitations of the claims must be considered including "using a combined configuration

rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers", prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, and "wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes." As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* fails to teach or suggest any of these limitations because, for example, *Weber* does not teach or suggest a "**combined** configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts" and "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes" since "manufacturing capabilities" are not product attributes.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 21-24, Applicants have amended claims 21-24 to recite "receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized" and "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute … wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" of the vendors are product attributes (which they are not) and the manufacturing capabilities are used to define valid configuration answers, *Weber* does not teach or suggest further "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute" because the manufacturing capabilities would have been used to determine the valid configuration answers. Claims 21-24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the foregoing reasons Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-24 are allowable. Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the same reasons, claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on October 20, 2008 this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2166
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

Austin, Texas
October 20, 2008

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time within which to respond to the April 18, 2008 outstanding Office Action, such extension allowing the undersigned until October 20, 2008 (October 18, 2008 being a Saturday) to respond.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502264.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on October 20, 2008 this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
			TOTAL			TOTAL	

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	10/20/2008	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 24	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/DALE A. HALL/

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 11/13/2008

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EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2169	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/13/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2169	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 October 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **10/20/08** has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

02. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

03. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

04. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Weber et al. (US Patent 7,216,092)** hereinafter 'Weber', in view of **Abrahams (US Patent 7,043,464)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Weber discloses a method for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system, wherein the configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attribute model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system,

wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Weber discloses a method such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based method including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection method taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 3 – 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user

selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 7**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, comprising a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Weber discloses a system such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based system including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection system taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 9 – 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 13**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Weber discloses a medium such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based medium including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection medium taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 15 – 16**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 19**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a

computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Weber discloses a system such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships

between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based system including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection system taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, means for storing the predetermined values, and means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a computer system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Response to Arguments

05. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 24 have been considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that various limitations are not met by Weber, including defining “relationships between parts of a product”, that "attributes represent details about the parts", and "product configuration options and enhancements". Examiner agrees that these such limitations are not taught by Weber, but are instead taught by Abrahams, a newly applied prior art reference. Abrahams discloses, among other things, the ability to customize attributes of parts of a product, and displaying and giving the user control over the customizability. Therefore, the combination of Abrahams with Weber discloses all features of the Applicant's claimed limitations.

Conclusion

06. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

07. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571)

270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

November 06, 2008

/K. B. P./

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49

S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50

11/7/2008 3:00:53 AM
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Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008						
	1	✓	✓	✓						
	2	✓	✓	✓						
	3	✓	✓	✓						
	4	✓	✓	✓						
	5	✓	✓	✓						
	6	✓	✓	✓						
	7	✓	✓	✓						
	8	✓	✓	✓						
	9	✓	✓	✓						
	10	✓	✓	✓						
	11	✓	✓	✓						
	12	✓	✓	✓						
	13	✓	✓	✓						
	14	✓	✓	✓						
	15	✓	✓	✓						
	16	✓	✓	✓						
	17	✓	✓	✓						
	18	✓	✓	✓						
	19	✓	✓	✓						
	20	✓	✓	✓						
	21		✓	✓						
	22		✓	✓						
	23		✓	✓						
	24		✓	✓						

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2166

SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
EAST image and keyword serach in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner.Art Unit 2169	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

May 13, 2009

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action dated November 13, 2008, having a shortened statutory period expiring February 13, 2009. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of May 13, 2009. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of [[the]] attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more ~~product~~ of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the ~~product~~ plurality of attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of [[the]] attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more ~~product~~ of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the ~~product~~ plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of [[the]] attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more ~~product~~ of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the ~~product~~ plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of [[the]] attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more ~~product~~ of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the ~~product~~ plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended for clarity to provide proper recitation and antecedent basis for "plurality of attributes". Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have also been amended so that "the valid configuration answers" that are prioritized clearly references the "at least a subset of the valid configurations answers" provided to the client system. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have not been amended for reasons of patentability.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,216,092 to Weber et al. ("*Weber*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,043,464 to Abrahams ("*Abrahams*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

I.

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection based on *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* is unclear in that the specific portions of *Abrahams* relied upon by the Examiner are unclear. 37 CFR § 1.104 (c)(2) states:

> In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified. (emphasis added).

Abrahams relates to "A computer-implemented method and system for recommending electronic component connectivity configurations and marketing information to users of certain electronic equipment based upon information received from the user." *Abrahams*, Abstract. Applicants respectfully submit that, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.104, a rejection of the present invention based upon *Abrahams* requires designation of the particular part related on in

Abrahams as nearly as practicable. The only discussion of *Abrahams* in the Office Action appears on p. 14 in the "Response to Arguments" section. Conclusory statements are made about *Abrahams* but the "particular part relied on" does not appear to be designated.

Applicants have drafted a response to the rejection of the present invention over *Weber* in view of *Abrahams*. However, if the Examiner believes that a part of *Abrahams* not discussed in this Response is the actual basis for applying *Abrahams* in the rejection of the present invention and believes that the present invention should thereby be rejected, Applicants respectfully request a non-final Office Action designating the particular part of *Abrahams* relied upon for the rejection.

II.

Weber relates to a "system and method for facilitating the creation of personalized products." *Id.*, Abstract. *Weber* teaches that:

> The present invention provides methods and systems for facilitating the design of a personalized product. In one embodiment, the method is used in a system where a user on a user computer can access at least one host merchant computer via a communication network, the host merchant computer including a web server in communication with a products database containing information on products available for personalization and further containing manufacturing capabilities for the products. The method includes providing to the user via the communication network at least one web page providing an assortment of product selections available in the products database, receiving a message from the user via the communication network indicating a selection of a product from the assortment, retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, providing to the user via the communication network a design interface, the design interface comprising at least one web page including at least one design tool that allows the user to select product configuration options and to create individualized enhancements, and wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities, and receiving from the user via the design interface a set of product configuration options and a set of individualized enhancements for the selected product. *Weber*, col. 2, lines 15-40. (emphasis added).

Abrahams relates to "A computer-implemented method and system for recommending electronic component connectivity configurations and marketing information to users of certain electronic equipment based upon information received from the user." *Abrahams*, Abstract.

Abrahams further states that:

> The method includes providing a user interface display containing data representing a group of predetermined user-selectable electronic components, receiving data representing a user-selected subset of electronic components from the group of predetermined user-selectable electronic components, retrieving from a database attributes associated with each component of the subset of electronic components, comparing the subset of electronic components with the associated attributes to determine an appropriate component configuration, and presenting data representing the electronic component configuration to the user. *Id.*

Thus, *Abrahams* teaches that attributes are associated with each user-selected component and the attributes are used "to determine an appropriate component configuration." *Id.* Thus, *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. *Abrahams* also teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine having a rules database." *Abrahams*, col. 5, lines 42-44. Thus, *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model." Claims 1, 7, 13 ,and 19.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* neither teaches nor suggests:

> processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;
>
> prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and
>
> providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 (omitting the "means for" preface in claim 19).

A.

The November 13, 2008 Office Action (referred to herein as the "Office Action") states on page 3 that "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities" teaches "processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers and prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model."

As discussed in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest, "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

As previously noted, *Weber* teaches "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database." *Weber*, col. 2, lines 28-30. *Abrahams* teaches that a database can include attributes. *Weber* further teaches that the "manufacturing capabilities" related to a product are the "manufacturing capabilities for that product associated with [a] vendor." *Id.*, col. 28, lines 44-45. See, *Id.*, col. 28, line 10 - col. 29, line 11. *Abrahams* does not mention "prioritizing". Even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" are attributes of a product (which they are not) or that the teachings of *Abrahams* includes the concepts of retrieving and using attributes, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the manufacturing capabilities nor any other attributes taught by *Weber* or *Abrahams* are included in a "combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers and "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" and "providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

B.

As discussed in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* also does not teach, for example, "attribute-based configuration queries [and] a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Weber teaches that the "product database contain[s] information on products available for personalization and further contain[s] manufacturing capabilities for the products." *Weber*, col. 2, lines 20-23. *Weber* teaches that databases can include "product-dependent constraint information that limits" particular choices. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 1. For example, "the Typestyle database 512 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the typestyle choices that may be selected by the customer via the Typestyle interface 223", the Text Orientation database 522 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the text orientation choices that may be selected by the customer via the Text Orientation interface 224", and so on. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 13.

Weber also teaches that a:

> Template Module 590 communicates with a Template database 592. … A template is a basic design (i.e., a default set of design components) that is provided to a customer of the Personalization Palette Page 200 for use as a starting point in creating his or her own set of design components. A template may include both product configuration options and enhancements, including one or more images, text messages, selected colors, typestyles, text locations, etc. *Id.*, col. 19, lines 1-11.

Weber further teaches that "the web site 130 preferably includes ancillary textual descriptions for each product available on the site." *Id.*, col. 24, lines 21-23. "Some or all of this text may preferably be read by visitors browsing the product web pages." *Id.*, lines 23-24.

Weber also teaches that the "Product Search Module 810 identifies and prioritizes products that are relevant to the search by comparing the submitted search query to the ancillary description associated with each product." *Id.*, lines 46-49.

Thus, various databases of *Weber* include product-dependent constraint information and may contain ancillary textual descriptions for each product. *Abrahams* teaches "retrieving from a database attributes associated with each component of the subset of electronic components, comparing the subset of electronic components with the associated attributes to determine an appropriate component configuration, and presenting data representing the electronic component configuration to the user". *Abrahams*, Abstract. *Abrahams* also teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine having a rules database." *Abrahams*, col. 5, lines 42-44. Applicants respectfully submit that product-dependent constraint information, ancillary textual descriptions for each **product** in combination with attributes transferred to an analysis engine having a rules database fail to teach or suggest "a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

The Template Module 590 taught by *Weber* may include both "product configuration options and enhancements". *Weber*, col. 19, lines 9-11. Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* also does not teach or suggest that the "product configuration options and enhancements" of the Template Module 590 include a "combined configuration rules-attributes model … , wherein a plurality of the **configuration rules** define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the **attributes** represent details about the **parts**" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. *Abrahams* teaches that a database includes "attributes" that can be retrieved. However, *Abrahams* specifically teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine having a rules database." Thus, *Abrahams* cannot provide the missing teaching in *Weber* of a "combined configuration rules-attributes model … , wherein a plurality of the **configuration rules** define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the **attributes** represent details about the **parts**" because neither teach or suggest a "combined configuration rules-attribute model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 21-24, claims 21-24 to recite "receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized" and "prioritizing the valid

configuration answers by each selected product attribute … wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" of the vendors are product attributes (which they are not) and the manufacturing capabilities are used to define valid configuration answers, *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest further "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute" because the manufacturing capabilities would have been used to determine the valid configuration answers. Claims 21-24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the foregoing reasons Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-24 are allowable. Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the same reasons, claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on May 13, 2009, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Serial No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2166
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

Austin, Texas
May 13, 2009

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time within which to respond to the November 13, 2008 outstanding Office Action, such extension allowing the undersigned until May 13, 2009 to respond.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502264.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on May 13, 2009, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1110**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	5331006
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	13-MAY-2009
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	18:32:48
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1110
RAM confirmation Number	6061
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	T00128_ROA_11_13_08.pdf	142317 256e742eaff202a0769c721cbdb863fcc2a6a87a	no	15
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Petition_Extension_Time_5_13_2009.pdf	81861 325ffffa9d1e9a5992f2eeb7dcb24d701df15545	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29767 704413243c98f9bd2a19dfa2518db01cbdde63d8	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
			Total Files Size (in bytes):	253945	

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 08/27/2009

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
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EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/27/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 May 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on **05/13/09**. **Claims 1 – 24** are pending in the present application. **This action is made FINAL**, as necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

02. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

03. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

04. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Weber et al. (US Patent 7,216,092)** hereinafter 'Weber', in view of **Abrahams (US Patent 7,043,464)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Weber discloses a method for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a

method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system, wherein the configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attribute model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Abrahams discloses a method such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of

rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based method including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection method taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 3 – 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the

predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 7**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, comprising a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid

configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Abrahams discloses a system such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based system including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection system taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 9 – 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 13**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer

system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more product attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Abrahams discloses a medium such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of

rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based medium including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection medium taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows only for valid configurations to be accessed and sent to the client (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 2 lines 48 – 55).

Consider **claims 15 – 16**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the number of configuration possibilities that are sent to the client can be determined by the system itself of the client (read as providing a predetermined/user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 1 lines 31 – 39, column 13 lines 59 –64, column 17 lines 4 – 14).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as predetermining

values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, storing the predetermined values, and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium that allows for the design and purchase of nearly any type of product that can be sold (read as configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products) (column 6 lines 20 – 30).

Consider **claim 19**, Weber discloses a system for allowing a user to access a host merchant computer, for aiding in the design of a personalized product (read as a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries) (column 2 lines 15 – 20) comprising:

a user sending a message to a host computer via a communication network (read as means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system) (column 2 lines 23 – 28);

retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities (read as means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, means for prioritizing

the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model) (column 2 lines 28 – 30, 35 – 40);

providing to the user, the retrieved information satisfying the user request (read as means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (column 2 lines 28 – 34).

However, Weber does not specifically disclose using a selection of one or more parts of a product, or that the attributes are details of the parts.

In the same field of endeavor, Abrahams discloses a system such that the configuration takes into account attributes associated with the parts, and that a set of rules governs which setup of components is valid (read as attribute-based, selection of one or more parts of a product, a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts) (column 2 line 58 – column 3 line 60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the attributes based system including rules for parts selection into the customizable product selection system taught by Weber for the purpose of allowing different types of proper parts selection for product selection and customization.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a system, such that the system comprises information and product selections available for personalization and product selection (read as means for predetermining values of one

or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers, means for storing the predetermined values, and means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries) (column 2 lines 19 – 23, column 4 lines 11 – 27).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Weber discloses a method such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Weber discloses a system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Weber discloses a computer storage medium such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be

prioritized, prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Weber discloses a computer system such that the user has the capability of sorting the different characteristics returned by the system, based on selection of the criteria (read as means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized, means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute) (column 10 line 37 – column 11 line 11, column 15 lines 13 – 17).

Response to Arguments

05. Applicant argues that various limitation are not met by the applied prior art references, Weber and Abrahams. The first main argument presented is that neither reference discloses "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attribute model" or "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model". It is further argued that neither Weber nor Abrahams discloses any type of prioritization. Examiner respectfully disagrees. First off, the limitation in the claims simply recites prioritizing the answers based on attributes. There is no definition as to how the prioritization is done or how it affects the end product. Therefore the concept of organizing the answers based on a prioritization could simply be an inherent feature. Take for example any type of query system or search engine; there is almost always some time of 'prioritization' done and very rarely are answers just randomly

returned. Nevertheless, Weber does indeed teach different types of prioritization. One such example can be seen in column 13 lines 4 – 30. Here it is disclosed that images, which are a configuration option for the product, can be prioritized based on descriptions stored with the images. Weber goes on to explain that a weighting algorithm can be used. This is much the same as the prioritization, as recited in the Applicant's independent claims.

Abrahams also contains similar subject matter in that answers can be prioritized. Take for example, column 13 lines 36 – 63, which explains that based on attributes of the product, rules govern what type of product features would be best suited for the product. Through using information about the product, an optimum configuration can be determined for the product based on the attributes of the product. Therefore Examiner asserts that the limitation of "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" is indeed taught by Weber and Abrahams.

Applicant argues that Weber and Abrahams does not disclose a combined configuration rules-attribute model. More specifically, it is argued that the manufacturing capabilities taught by Weber, which are described as enhancements and features for the product, are not the same as attributes of a product. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Weber discloses, among other things, the capability of a user to submit a query which is designed to locate a multitude of different types of 'manufacturing capabilities'. These are described to be anything that customizes or personalizes a product. One of the important aspects of Weber is that only such

customizations that will work for the current product are returned to the user. This allows for a user to see only those configurations and enhancements that are capable of being used. This appears to be the same thing the Applicant is claiming in that a 'combined configuration rules-attribute model' is used to determine only valid configuration answers. Abrahams also discloses similar subject matter. Abrahams discloses that a user can search for possible configurations and upgrades for electronic equipment. One of the important aspects of Abrahams is that only valid configurations and will work for the hardware are returned to the user. The system is able to understand or figure out which configurations will be compatible and only returns those options to the user. Therefore Examiner asserts that Weber and Abrahams disclose the capability of using a 'combined configuration rules-attribute model' to determine valid answers for a query.

Conclusion

06. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

07. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

08. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

July 31, 2009

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2156	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-			
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49

S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50

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Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009					
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	21		✓	✓	✓					
	22		✓	✓	✓					
	23		✓	✓	✓					
	24		✓	✓	✓					

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST image and keyword serach in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

PTO/SB/30EFS (08/08)
Approved for use through 09/30/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11034141	Filing Date	2005-01-12	Docket Number (if applicable)	T00128	Art Unit	2166
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers			Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☒ Other Petition for Extension of Time

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☐ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (08/08)
Approved for use through 09/30/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Kent B. Chambers/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-03-01
Name	Kent B. Chambers	Registration Number	38839

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

March 1, 2010

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

37 C.F.R. § 1.114 RCE SUBMISSION

Dear Sir:

This paper is a submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, which accompanies a request for continued examination in the above referenced patent application. This paper responds to the Office Action dated August 27, 2009, having a shortened statutory period expiring November 27, 2009. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of March 1, 2010 (February 27, 2010 being a Saturday). Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Response to the Examiner's Response to Arguments

The Examiner has maintained the rejection to claims 1-24 over *Weber* in view of *Abrahams*. Before addressing the specific rejections, Applicants specifically address the Examiner's Response to Arguments on pp. 13-15 of the current Office Action.

First, claim 1 recites, "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model." The Office Action states that "There is no definition as to how prioritization is done or how it affects the end product." The Examiner cites *Weber*, which teaches that "The Image Search Module 310 identifies and prioritizes images that are relevant to the search by comparing the submitted search query to the ancillary description associated with each image." *Weber*, col. 13, lines 4-7. Thus, *Weber* is prioritizing based search terms in a query and terms that appear in an ancillary description of each image. In contrast to *Weber*, the "attributes" in claim 1 are not search terms. The "attributes" "represent details about the parts [of a product]", and "relationships between [the] parts" are defined by configuration rules. Thus, although the type of prioritization in claim 1 is not specifically specified, the prioritization process of claim 1 is clearly not taught or suggested by *Weber* because the basis of prioritization, i.e. '"attributes" related to parts whose relationships are defined by configuration rules' versus descriptive terms', is clearly distinct. Thus, *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Claim 1. *Abrahams* does not remedy *Weber*'s deficiency because the *Abrahams* also neither teaches nor suggests that prioritization based on '"attributes" related to parts whose relationships are defined by configuration rules' as required by claim 1.

Additionally, the "search for the most relevant images associated with the serach query [] conducted by [the] Image Search interface" as taught by *Weber* is not a "configuration query"

because the images cannot be configured. The queries in claim 1 are "attribute-based configuration queries" that "include a selection of one or more parts of a product". As previously stated, the parts have relationships between each other that are defined by "configuration rules". *Weber* neither teaches nor suggests that the "images" have parts with relationships between each other that are defined by configuration rules. Thus, the query in *Weber* is not a configuration query as included in claim 1.

With regard to the "combined configuration rules-attributes model" of claim 1, the Examiner identifies specific outputs of *Weber* and *Abrahams*. However, the Examiner points to no teachings or suggestions of *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* that teaches that their outputs come from a "combined configuration rules-attributes model" or that a valid output of *Weber* and/or *Abrahams* inherently requires a "combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claim 1. Accordingly, any suggestion that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* teaches or suggests a "combined configuration rules-attributes model" is unsupported and, thus, not the proper basis for a rejection.

Independent claims 7, 13, and 19 contain at least similar limitations that likewise distinguish claims 7, 13, and 19 from the teachings and suggestions of *Weber* in view of *Abrahams*.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' arguments are valid and overcome the rejections based on *Weber* in view of *Abrahams*.

Applicants address specific rejections below:

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,216,092 to Weber et al. ("*Weber*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,043,464 to Abrahams ("*Abrahams*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Weber relates to a "system and method for facilitating the creation of personalized products." *Id.*, Abstract. *Weber* teaches that:

> The present invention provides methods and systems for facilitating the design of a personalized product. In one embodiment, the method is used in a system where a user on a user computer can access at least one host merchant computer via a communication network, the host merchant computer including a web server in communication with a products database containing information on products available for personalization and further containing manufacturing capabilities for the products. The method includes providing to the user via the communication network at least one web page providing an assortment of product selections available in the products database, receiving a message from the user via the communication network indicating a selection of a product from the assortment, retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, providing to the user via the communication network a design interface, the design interface comprising at least one web page including at least one design tool that allows the user to select product configuration options and to create individualized enhancements, and wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities, and receiving from the user via the design interface a set of product configuration options and a set of individualized enhancements for the selected product. *Weber*, col. 2, lines 15-40. (emphasis added).

Abrahams relates to "A computer-implemented method and system for recommending electronic component connectivity configurations and marketing information to users of certain electronic equipment based upon information received from the user." *Abrahams*, Abstract.

Abrahams further states that:

> The method includes providing a user interface display containing data representing a group of predetermined user-selectable electronic components, receiving data representing a user-selected subset of electronic components from the group of predetermined user-selectable electronic components, retrieving from a database attributes associated with each component of the subset of electronic components, comparing the subset of electronic components with the associated attributes to determine an appropriate component configuration, and presenting data representing the electronic component configuration to the user. *Id.*

Thus, *Abrahams* teaches that attributes are associated with each user-selected component and the attributes are used "to determine an appropriate component configuration." *Id.* Thus, *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. *Abrahams* also teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine

having a rules database." *Abrahams*, col. 5, lines 42-44. Thus, *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model." Claims 1, 7, 13 ,and 19.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* neither teaches nor suggests:

> processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts;
>
> prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and
>
> providing the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 (omitting the "means for" preface in claim 19).

A.

The current Office Action states on page 3 that "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database, wherein the design tool is conformed to only allow configuration options and enhancements which satisfy the manufacturing capabilities" teaches "processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers and prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model."

As discussed in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest, "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

As previously noted, *Weber* teaches "retrieving a set of manufacturing capabilities for the selected product from the products database." *Weber*, col. 2, lines 28-30. *Abrahams* teaches that a database can include attributes. *Weber* further teaches that the "manufacturing capabilities" related to a product are the "manufacturing capabilities for that product associated with [a] vendor." *Id.*, col. 28, lines 44-45. See, *Id.*, col. 28, line 10 - col. 29, line 11. *Abrahams* does not mention "prioritizing". Even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" are attributes of a product (which they are not) or that the teachings of *Abrahams* include the concepts of retrieving and using attributes, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the manufacturing capabilities nor any other attributes taught by *Weber* or *Abrahams* are included in a "combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers and "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model" and "providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the product attributes" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

B.

As discussed in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* also does not teach, for example, "attribute-based configuration queries [and] a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Weber teaches that the "product database contain[s] information on products available for personalization and further contain[s] manufacturing capabilities for the products." *Weber*, col. 2, lines 20-23. *Weber* teaches that databases can include "product-dependent constraint information that limits" particular choices. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 1. For example, "the Typestyle database 512 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the typestyle choices that may be selected by the customer via the Typestyle interface 223", the Text Orientation database 522 also includes product-dependent constraint information that limits the text orientation choices that may be selected by the customer via the Text Orientation interface 224", and so on. *Id.*, col. 17, line 67 - col. 18, line 13.

Weber also teaches that a:

> Template Module 590 communicates with a Template database 592. … A template is a basic design (i.e., a default set of design components) that is provided to a customer of the Personalization Palette Page 200 for use as a starting point in creating his or her own set of design components. A template may include both product configuration options and enhancements, including one or more images, text messages, selected colors, typestyles, text locations, etc. *Id.*, col. 19, lines 1-11.

Weber further teaches that "the web site 130 preferably includes ancillary textual descriptions for each product available on the site." *Id.*, col. 24, lines 21-23. "Some or all of this text may preferably be read by visitors browsing the product web pages." *Id.*, lines 23-24.

Weber also teaches that the "Product Search Module 810 identifies and prioritizes products that are relevant to the search by comparing the submitted search query to the ancillary description associated with each product." *Id.*, lines 46-49.

Thus, various databases of *Weber* include product-dependent constraint information and may contain ancillary textual descriptions for each product. *Abrahams* teaches "retrieving from a database attributes associated with each component of the subset of electronic components, comparing the subset of electronic components with the associated attributes to determine an appropriate component configuration, and presenting data representing the electronic component configuration to the user". *Abrahams*, Abstract. *Abrahams* also teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine having a rules database." *Abrahams*, col. 5, lines 42-44. Applicants respectfully submit that product-dependent constraint information, ancillary textual descriptions for each **product** in combination with attributes transferred to an analysis engine having a rules database fail to teach or suggest "a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the attributes represent details about the parts" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

The Template Module 590 taught by *Weber* may include both "product configuration options and enhancements". *Weber*, col. 19, lines 9-11. Applicants respectfully submit that *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* also does not teach or suggest that the "product configuration

options and enhancements" of the Template Module 590 include a "combined configuration rules-attributes model … , wherein a plurality of the **configuration rules** define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the **attributes** represent details about the **parts**" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. *Abrahams* teaches that a database includes "attributes" that can be retrieved. However, *Abrahams* specifically teaches "transferring the received data of the user-selected subset of electronic components and the associated attributes to an analysis engine having a rules database." Thus, *Abrahams* cannot provide the missing teaching in *Weber* of a "combined configuration rules-attributes model … , wherein a plurality of the **configuration rules** define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of the **attributes** represent details about the **parts**" because neither teach or suggest a "combined configuration rules-attribute model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 21-24, claims 21-24 to recite "receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized" and "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute … wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model." Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming *arguendo* that the "manufacturing capabilities" of the vendors are product attributes (which they are not) and the manufacturing capabilities are used to define valid configuration answers, *Weber* in view of *Abrahams* does not teach or suggest further "prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute" because the manufacturing capabilities would have been used to determine the valid configuration answers. Claims 21-24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the foregoing reasons Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-24 are allowable. Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the same reasons, claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on March 1, 2010, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) **FY 2009** (*Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).*)	Docket Number (Optional) T00128
Application Number 11034141	Filed 2005-01-12
For Attribute Prioritized Configuration Using A Combined Configuration-Attribute Data Model	
Art Unit 2166	Examiner Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

		Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐	One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$130	$65	$
☐	Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$490	$245	$
☑	Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1110	$555	$ 1110
☐	Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1730	$865	$
☐	Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2350	$1175	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 38,839

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

March 1, 2010 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of _____ forms are submitted.

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

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7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**1920**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	7112205
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	01-MAR-2010
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	16:07:50
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1920
RAM confirmation Number	3185
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	T00128_RCE_Transmittal_3_1_10.pdf	697198 91968247241439b47122baabe02c4c719290035b	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE	T00128_RCE_Submission_8_27_2010.pdf	144220 1dd44e52b148c6e5f41b18562c34598572908122	no	16
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension_3_1_10.pdf	413522 ccace302d54a3a742ffa4cf48c6bb17a356057be	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	31754 139e7f18b94541eeace3db8416c1095c86c0ec3e	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	1286694		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☒ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	300
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	20 minus 20 =	* 0	X $ =		OR	X $50 =	0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	4 minus 3 =	* 1	X $ =			X $200 =	200
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	500

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT 03/01/2010	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 24	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/JESSICA GAYNOR/

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 04/01/2010

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/01/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 March 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **03/01/10** has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

02. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

03. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

04. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198)**, hereinafter 'Neal' in view of **Johnston (US PGPub 20070233730)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Neal discloses a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the method comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the

valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 7**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to

determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 13**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided

valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 14 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information

(read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 16 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 19**, Neal discloses a computer system for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules

define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Response to Arguments

05. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 24 have been considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

06. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

07. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

March 25, 2010

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2156	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-6,871,198	03-2005	Neal et al.	1/1
*	B	US-2007/0233730	10-2007	Johnston, Jeffrey M.	707/104.1
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L6	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
L7	15	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07

S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49
S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53

S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S19	15	attribute-based query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16

S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50

3/25/2010 3:39:51 PM
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Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009	03/25/2010				
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
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	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	21		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	22		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	23		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	24		✓	✓	✓	✓				

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST image and keyword serach in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

October 1, 2010

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper responds to the Office Action dated April 1, 2010, having a shortened statutory period expiring July 1, 2010. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of October 1, 2010. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,198 to Neal et al. ("*Neal*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070233730 to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Neal relates to "an improvement for composing and cataloguing item configuration data." *Neal*, Abstract. In the Office Action, p. 3, the Examiner cites *Neal*, col. 1, line 65-col. 2, line 19, and Figures 3-8 as teaching the following limitation of claim 1:

> processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts. (emphasis added).

In col. 1, line 65-col. 2, line 19, *Neal* teaches:

> identifying a base item, identifying a part number for the base item, breaking the part number into sections, each section corresponding to an attribute of the base item, and determining which of the part number sections relate to configurable attributes of the base item. The embodiment further includes listing a plurality of selectable part number section values for the configurable attributes, listing descriptive information for each of the selectable part number section values, linking the descriptive information to the corresponding selectable part number section value, generating a part number formula to define the configurable sections and associate configurable sections to the corresponding list of values, and generating a description formula to define a configurable description and associate descriptive information with corresponding configurable selectable part number values.

Although *Neal* discusses attributes and configurable attributes in the foregoing section, *Neal* does not explicitly teach or suggest a "combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. However, the specification of *Neal* is illuminating. Referring to Figure 1 of *Neal*, **a Catalog 14** (also referred to in *Neal* as a "database 14") and **Rules 26** (also referred to in *Neal* as "rules store 26" are clearly **separately** indicated and **not** indicated as a "combined configuration rules-attributes model" as required by claims 1, 7, 13,

and 19. *Neal* teaches that the database 14 is "an electronic catalog of items, such as products or services." *Neal*, col. 3, lines 19-20. *Neal* teaches that Figure 3 shows an example of "some catalog records with attributes and values displayed." *Id.*, col. 6, lines 38-40. *Neal* further describes that the catalog records include the part number for the base item with part number sections relating to configurable attributes of the base item that are referred to in the portion of *Neal* cited by the Examiner in rejecting claims 1. See *Id.* e.g., col. 6, line 38-col. 12, line 25.

Neal also teaches separately that the "rules store [26] contains rules that are used to configure, modify or present data that has been requested by the user." *Neal* teaches that, "If a record is identified, then the search engine [12] can retrieve the values of the attributes for the identified records from the catalog [14]." *Id.*, col. 6, lines 38-40. Thus, not only are the attributes and rules clearly shown separately as catalog 14 and rules store 26 and **not** in a "combined configuration rules-attributes model", *Neal* describes separately processing catalog 14 and rules store 26. Accordingly, *Neal* never teaches a combined catalog 14 and rules store 26. They are separate.

Accordingly, *Neal* neither teaches nor suggests "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Johnston relates to "Methods, systems, and computer program products for combining conjoint analysis with customer relationship management software, search engine software, and auction software." *Johnston*, Abstract. *Johnston* is cited by the Examiner for disclosing "a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes." Office Action, p. 3. Since *Johnston* does not provide the missing teaching of *Neal* regarding "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, *Neal* in view of *Johnston* neither teaches nor suggests claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and claims dependent thereon.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the foregoing reasons Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-24 are allowable. Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the same reasons, claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on October 1, 2010, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) **FY 2009** (*Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).*)	Docket Number (Optional) T00128
Application Number 11/034,141	Filed January 12, 2005
For Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model	
Art Unit 6655	Examiner Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

		Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐	One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$130	$65	$
☐	Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$490	$245	$
☑	Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1110	$555	$ 1110
☐	Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1730	$865	$
☐	Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2350	$1175	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☑ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 38,839

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

October 1, 2010 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☑ Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1110**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	8548179
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Filer Authorized By:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	01-OCT-2010
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	18:23:23
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1110
RAM confirmation Number	4064
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS,KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		T00128_ROA_4_1_10.pdf	122775 d5159e212a1e0db2fa38e208ce94f9116b7325aa	yes	11
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		**Start**	**End**	
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1	1	
	Claims		2	8	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		9	11	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_EXT_3MO.pdf	52008 ba4a5b11f1483d4fe993f119e89074c0a3ba99c6	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29970 d336a5d7f0379da0b595ffc0830e61955fc080fc	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	204753		

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<u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u>
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

<u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u>
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

<u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u>
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT 10/01/2010	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 24	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/HENRIETTA DENDY/

PTO/SB/08a (01-10)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	11034141
Filing Date	2005-01-12
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
Art Unit	2156
Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab
Attorney Docket Number	T00128

U.S.PATENTS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code[1]	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5515524		1996-05-07	Lynch et al.	
	2	5825651		1998-10-20	Gupta et al.	
	3	7200582		2007-04-03	Smith	
	4	5708798		1998-01-13	Lynch et al.	
	5	6002854		1999-12-14	Lynch et al.	
	6	6405308		2002-06-11	Gupta et al.	
	7	6675294		2004-01-06	Gupta et al.	
	8	7043407		2006-05-09	Lynch et al.	

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(**Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)**

Application Number	11034141
Filing Date	2005-01-12
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
Art Unit	2156
Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab
Attorney Docket Number	T00128

U.S.PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code[1]	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1					

If you wish to add additional U.S. Published Application citation information please click the Add button.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number[3]	Country Code[2] i	Kind Code[4]	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[5]
	1							☐

If you wish to add additional Foreign Patent Document citation information please click the Add button

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[5]
	1		☐

If you wish to add additional non-patent literature document citation information please click the Add button

EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. [2] Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [3] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [4] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [5] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (**Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)**		
	Application Number	11034141
	Filing Date	2005-01-12
	First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
	Art Unit	2156
	Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab
	Attorney Docket Number	T00128

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

☐ See attached certification statement.

☒ Fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☐ None

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Kent B. Chambers/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name/Print	Kent B. Chambers	Registration Number	38,839

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Submission- Information Disclosure Stmt	1806	1	180	180
		Total in USD ($)		**180**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	8550676
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Filer Authorized By:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	04-OCT-2010
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	11:00:44
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$180
RAM confirmation Number	6975
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS,KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)	T00128_IDS_100410.pdf	34454 6f8019e7eac3e298b1a5cb40be902100764 78395	no	4
Warnings:					
Information:					
This is not an USPTO supplied IDS fillable form					
2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	30145 ec56418f386ab34391a1aab38557ed2d3c7 17231	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	64599		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 10/29/2010

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/29/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 October 2010*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/04/10*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on **10/01/10**. **Claims 1 – 24** are pending in the present application. **This action is made FINAL**, as necessitated by amendment.

Information Disclosure Statement

02. The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on **10/04/10** has been considered by the examiner and made of record in the application file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

03. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

04. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

05. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198)**, hereinafter "Neal" in view of **Johnston (US PGPub 20070233730)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Neal discloses a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the method comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the

valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 7**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to

determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 13**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided

valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 14 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information

(read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 16 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 19**, Neal discloses a computer system for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries using a combined configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules

define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Response to Arguments

06. Applicant argues that argues that not all claim limitations are disclosed by Neal and Johnston. More specifically, it is argued that Neal (nor Johnston) discloses a "combined configuration rules-attribute model". Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Applicant concedes that Neal discloses both attributes and rules, but proceeds to argue that Neal does not disclose combing them. However, Neal makes it clear that the rules are used in combination with the attributes in processing user queries. Applicant references Figure 3 of Neal which shows that the rules are not in the exact same location of the catalog (which contains the attributes). However, the rules are used in conjunction with the catalog during user interaction. When a user is configuring a product, the rules are used to provide configurable attributes for the product. The rules are used in conjunction with the product information located in the database (catalog) to present the user with the configurable information.

Furthermore, Neal makes it clear that the rules can be contained in the database. Neal explains that "the rules can be incorporated into the catalog". See, for example, Neal at column 3 line 59 – column 4 line 4. The specific alternative embodiment disclosed by Neal allows for the rules to be incorporated directly into the database. Although this embodiment is not specifically shown in the Figures, it is made clear that the rules can be stored within the database. Therefore, Neal does disclose the "combined" attribute and rules as defined by Applicant's claims.

Conclusion

07. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

08. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

09. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr
October 21, 2010

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49

S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53
S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04

S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S19	15	attribute-based query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50
S26	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01

S27	15	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01

EAST Search History (Interference)

<This search history is empty>

10/21/2010 6:10:12 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\craab\My Documents\Critical Data\OACS\Applications\11034141\11034141.wsp

PTO/SB/08a (01-10)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	11034141
Filing Date	2005-01-12
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
Art Unit	2156
Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab
Attorney Docket Number	T00128

U.S.PATENTS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code[1]	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
/CR/	1	5515524		1996-05-07	Lynch et al.	
/CR/	2	5825651		1998-10-20	Gupta et al.	
/CR/	3	7200582		2007-04-03	Smith	
/CR/	4	5708798		1998-01-13	Lynch et al.	
/CR/	5	6002854		1999-12-14	Lynch et al.	
/CR/	6	6405308		2002-06-11	Gupta et al.	
/CR/	7	6675294		2004-01-06	Gupta et al.	
/CR/	8	7043407		2006-05-09	Lynch et al.	

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(**Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)**

Application Number	11034141
Filing Date	2005-01-12
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers
Art Unit	2156
Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab
Attorney Docket Number	T00128

U.S.PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code[1]	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number[3]	Country Code[2] i	Kind Code[4]	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[5]
	1							☐

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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[5]
	1		☐

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature	/Christopher Raab/	Date Considered	10/21/2010

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. [2] Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [3] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [4] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [5] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009	03/25/2010	10/21/2010			
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
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	23		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	24		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
EAST image and keyword search in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR
Updated Search	10/21/10	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

PTO/SB/30EFS (08/08)
Approved for use through 09/30/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11034141	Filing Date	2005-01-12	Docket Number (if applicable)	T00128	Art Unit	2166
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers			Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☒ Other Petition for Extension of Time

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☐ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (08/08)
Approved for use through 09/30/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Kent B. Chambers/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-29
Name	Kent B. Chambers	Registration Number	38839

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**1920**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	9992025
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	29-APR-2011
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	18:44:32
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1920
RAM confirmation Number	5462
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS,KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE	T00128_RCE_Submission_4_29_11.pdf	124408 0c9d9ef999c07e039e301eb344824b8cd8876e75	no	12
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension_4_29_11.pdf	414040 3c918e511052d88cae2322d0473a51bbf70dccaf	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	T00128_RCE_XMTL_B.pdf	697640 9ed7b7a44309d9ba52d9f46c24f59625cc6cdb66	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	31754 012a450b6098b07cfc5d1e1d0ecbeb0d1341d1fa	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	1267842		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

<u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u>
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

<u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u>
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

<u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u>
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

April 29, 2011

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

37 C.F.R. § 1.114 RCE SUBMISSION

Dear Sir:

This paper is a submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, which accompanies a request for continued examination in the above referenced patent application. This paper responds to the Office Action dated October 29, 2010, having a shortened statutory period expiring January 29, 2011. Accompanying this submission is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of April 29, 2011. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries and configuration rules using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers further comprises:

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers

26. (New) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the processor executable code for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers is further processor executable for:

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers.

27. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 13, wherein the processor executable code for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers is further processor executable for:

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers further comprises:

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the Present Application, p. 11, ¶34. The *Gupta* Patent and *Lynch* Patent referenced on p. 11, ¶34 and incorporated by reference in ¶6 describe embodiments of configuration rules processing engines.

Claims 25-28 have been added. Exemplary support for claims 25-28 is found in ¶34.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,198 to Neal et al. ("*Neal*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070233730 to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Neal that the "rules store [26] contains rules that are used to configure, modify or present data that has been requested by the user." Thus, it appears that the rules operate on the data that has been requested by the user as opposed to being rules used to determine valid configuration answers. *Neal* indicates that the "rules" are not configuration rules used to determine valid configuration answers because *Neal* specifically teaches that, "If a record is identified, then the search engine [12] can retrieve the values of the attributes for the identified records from the catalog [14]." *Id.*, col. 6, lines 38-40. Further to this point, *Neal* identifies a "Search Engine 24", not a configuration rules processing engine. *Neal* teaches that the Search Engine 24 "follows an algorithm, for example the algorithm described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 [] to search through the catalog for any items related to the query." *Neal*, col. 5, lines 11-16. The U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 relates to searching through a database and not to determining valid configuration answers using a configuration rules processing engine.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to specifically recite "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference

algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers." Configuration rules processing engines and search engines are clearly distinguished in the art as seen in the contrast between U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 search engine incorporated by *Neal* and the exemplary configuration rules processing engines recited in the *Gupta* Patent and the *Lynch* Patent.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Neal* neither teaches nor suggests "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers."

Johnston relates to "Methods, systems, and computer program products for combining conjoint analysis with customer relationship management software, search engine software, and auction software." *Johnston*, Abstract. *Johnston* is cited by the Examiner for disclosing "a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes." Office Action, p. 3. Since *Johnston* does not provide the missing teaching of *Neal* regarding "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, *Neal* in view of *Johnston* neither teaches nor suggests claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and claims dependent thereon.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on April 29, 2011, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) **FY 2009** (*Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).*)	Docket Number (Optional) T00128
Application Number 11034141	Filed January 12, 2005
For Attribute Prioritized Configuration Using A Combined Configuration-Attribute Data Model	
Art Unit 2166	Examiner Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

		Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐	One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$130	$65	$
☐	Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$490	$245	$
☑	Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1110	$555	$ 1110
☐	Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1730	$865	$
☐	Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2350	$1175	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 38,839

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

April 29, 2011 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☑ Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
			TOTAL			TOTAL	

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT 04/29/2011	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 28	Minus	** 24	= 4	X $ =		OR	X $52=	208
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	208

AMENDMENT	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/Debra R. Wyatt/

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 07/08/2011

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/08/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 April 2011*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **04/29/11** has been entered.

Claim Objections

02. **Claims 25 – 28** are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 respectively. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). The limitations found in these dependent claims recite the exact same claim language as found in the independent base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

03. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious

> at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

04. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

05. **Claims 1 – 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198)**, hereinafter "Neal" in view of **Johnston (US PGPub 20070233730)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Neal discloses a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the method comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration

rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 7**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the

valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are

determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 13**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference

algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid

configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 14 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 16 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based

configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 19**, Neal discloses a computer system for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8);

returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers tot he client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 - column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user

selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 25**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that results are returned to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Consider **claim 26**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that results are returned to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Consider **claim 27**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that results are returned to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Consider **claim 28**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that results are returned to the user, whereby the results include the products and configurable attributes for the products (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 - 8).

Response to Arguments

06. Applicant argues that not all claim limitations are disclosed by Neal and Johnston. More specifically, it is argued that Neal does not disclose "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to determine valid configuration answers". Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The claims have been amended to include "configuration rules", "attribute based preference algorithm", and "configuration rules processing engine". However, there is no specific definition for these limitations that would further distinguish the claims over the prior art. The "configuration rules" were already included in the claims, so this does not add anything to the claims. The attribute based preference algorithm does not have a definition, nor is it explained what it does how it is utilized. The specification mentions this algorithm, and states that it allows a user to have a set of preferences for returning results. Neal teaches that a user can have preferences that are taken into consideration when the user is searching. This can be seen at column 10 lines 32 – 50. The preferences taught by Neal read on the Applicant's claimed limitation of an attribute based preference algorithm.

With respect to the configuration rules processing engine, there is again no definition as to what comprises the engine or how the invention utilizes it. Based on the specification, it appears that this engine is the same or similar to a search engine. Neal discloses that rules are used in combination with the attributes in processing user

queries. When a user is configuring a product, the rules are used to provide configurable attributes for the product. The rules are used in conjunction with the product information located in the database to present to the user the configurable information. Therefore, Neal makes it clear that a search engine is utilized that uses attributes to search for a product.

Conclusion

07. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

08. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

June 30, 2011

/John E Breene/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2162

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2154

SEARCHED

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
707	723	06/29/11	CJR

SEARCH NOTES

Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST image and keyword search in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR
Updated Search	10/21/10	CJR
Updated Search	06/29/11	CJR
Google Scholar Search: attribute configuration query	06/29/11	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2154	

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2154

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009	03/25/2010	10/21/2010	06/29/2011		
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	21		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	22		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	23		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	24		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	25							✓		
	26							✓		
	27							✓		
	28							✓		

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49

S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53
S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04

S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S19	15	attribute-based query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query $	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50
S26	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01

S27	15	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S28	443	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2011/06/29 14:38

7/2/2011 12:52:41 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\craab\My Documents\Critical Data\OACS\Applications\11034141\11034141.wsp

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

December 8, 2011

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action dated July 8, 2011, having a shortened statutory period expiring October 8, 2011. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by two (2) months, setting a new time for response of December 8, 2011. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to ~~determine~~ calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein to ~~determine~~ calculate valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to ~~determine~~ calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration

rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to ~~determine~~ calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to ~~determine~~ calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute,

and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claims 1-28 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to replace "determine" with -- calculate --. Exemplary support for the amendments is found in the Present Application, paragraph 30.

Claim Objections

Claims 25-28 are objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 respectively.

Claims 25-28 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,198 to Neal et al. ("*Neal*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070233730 to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action cites col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 19 of *Neal* as teaching "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

In the *Response to Arguments*, pp. 15-16 of the July 8, 2011 Office Action, the Examiner admits that *Neal* teaches a search engine. Applicants agree that *Neal* teaches a search engine. For the Examiner's convenience, *Neal* col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 19 follows:

> An improvement for composing and cataloging item configuration data is disclosed. One embodiment of the invention includes identifying a base item, identifying a part number for the base item, breaking the part number into sections, each section corresponding to an attribute of the base item, and determining which of the part number sections relate to configurable attributes of the base item. The embodiment further includes listing a plurality of selectable part number section values for the configurable attributes, listing

> descriptive information for each of the selectable part number section values, linking the descriptive information to the corresponding selectable part number section value, generating a part number formula to define the configurable sections and associate configurable sections to the corresponding list of values, and generating a description formula to define a configurable description and associate descriptive information with corresponding configurable selectable part number values. The embodiment further includes adding the base item part number, values list, descriptive information list, part number formula and description formula to an electronic catalog.

Thus, it appears that *Neal* teaches an association between section values of a part number and configurable attributes. The association allows a part number to be configured and link the attributes to the part number based on the section values.

Neal further teaches that the "rules store [26] contains rules that are used to configure, modify or present data that has been requested by the user." *Neal* indicates that the "rules" are not configuration rules used to calculate valid valid configuration answers because *Neal* specifically teaches that, "If a record is identified, then the search engine [12] can retrieve the values of the attributes for the identified records from the catalog [14]." *Id.*, col. 6, lines 38-40. Further to this point, *Neal* identifies a "Search Engine 24", not a configuration rules processing engine. *Neal* teaches that the Search Engine 24 "follows an algorithm, for example the algorithm described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 [] to search through the catalog for any items related to the query." *Neal*, col. 5, lines 11-16. The U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 relates to searching through a database and not to determining valid configuration answers using a configuration rules processing engine.

While supporting the position that *Neal* teaches a search engine, the Examiner nevertheless states that the "configuration rules processing engine" of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 nevertheless does not distinguish over a search engine. The Examiner specifically states, "Based on the specification, it appears that this engine is the same or similar to a search engine." Applicants respectfully disagree and have amended claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 to make the clarify the distinction.

First, from the specific language of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, the "combined configuration rules-attributes model and [the] configuration rules processing engine" are used "to calculate

valid configuration answers." Applicants respectfully submit that "calculating" is clearly not the same thing as "searching".

Second, based on the Present Application, configuration rules processing engines and search engines are clearly distinguished in the art as seen in the contrast between U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 search engine incorporated by *Neal* and the exemplary configuration rules processing engines recited in the *Gupta* Patent and the *Lynch* Patent, which are incorporated by reference in the Present Application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Neal* neither teaches nor suggests "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers."

Johnston relates to "Methods, systems, and computer program products for combining conjoint analysis with customer relationship management software, search engine software, and auction software." *Johnston*, Abstract. *Johnston* is cited by the Examiner for disclosing "a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes." Office Action, p. 3. Since *Johnston* does not provide the missing teaching of *Neal* regarding "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, *Neal* in view of *Johnston* neither teaches nor suggests claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and claims dependent thereon.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on December 8, 2011, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (09-11)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)	Docket Number (Optional) T00128
Application Number 11/034,141	Filed January 12, 2005
For Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model	
Art Unit 2154	Examiner Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

	Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐ One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$150	$75	$
☑ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$560	$280	$ 560.00
☐ Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1270	$635	$
☐ Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1980	$990	$
☐ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2690	$1345	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 38,839

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

December 8, 2011 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☑ Total of one forms are submitted.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 2 months with $0 paid	1252	1	560	560

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**560**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	11578716
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	08-DEC-2011
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	23:14:47
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$560
RAM confirmation Number	6737
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS,KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	T00128_ROA_07-08-11.pdf	126785 1b709da7861ca82f5d66bd0c6fa8981f116cb896	no	12
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension_12-8-11.pdf	286536 c7c5ddf0594e1d2bb0e5d0bc76937d7418dcf329	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	29994 6de00e1d014e2cbcc555e0c811d1e1c1fe9111c8	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	443315		

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
			TOTAL			TOTAL	

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	12/08/2011	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 28	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $60=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $250=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/DEBORAH POLLARD/

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 04/11/2012

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/11/2012	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@hamiltonterrile.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 December 2011*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on **12/08/11**. **Claims 1 – 24** are pending in the present application. **This action is made FINAL**, as necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

04. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

05. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

06. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198)**, hereinafter "Neal" in view of **Johnston (US PGPub 2007/0233730)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Neal discloses a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the method comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8);

executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and attributes (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4), such that configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user (read as wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 6 lines 18 – 55) , Figures 5, 6).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as

providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 7**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8);

executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and attributes (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4), such that configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user (read as wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 6 lines 18 – 55) , Figures 5, 6).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the

stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 13**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8);

executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and attributes (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4), such that configurable attributes are

presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user (read as wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 6 lines 18 – 55) , Figures 5, 6).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid

configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 14 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 16 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based

configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Consider **claim 19**, Neal discloses a computer system for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract), the system comprising:

receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of the product (read as receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8);

executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products and attributes (read as processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers) (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4), such that configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user (read as wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts) (column 6 lines 18 – 55) , Figures 5, 6).

Although Neal discloses that the search results are based on the attributes selected by a user, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes (read as prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model, providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes) (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers (read as processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm) (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that a certain number of search results can be displayed to the

user (read as providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that the number of results can be limited, based on user selection (read as providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user) (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309]).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system such that predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which is later used in retrieval of the information (read as predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries) column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system such that queries can be for vehicles (read attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles) (paragraph [0305]).

Response to Arguments

07. Applicant argues that not all claim limitations are disclosed by Neal and Johnston. More specifically, it is argued that Neal does not disclose that the rules are used to “calculate valid configuration answers”. Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The full limitation in question reads “processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts". As explained in the previous Office Action, many of the Applicant's claimed limitations are not explained and are not given specific definitions. Regardless, the argument presented is that the claims differ from Neal in that the claims “calculate” answers to a query, rather than "determine" answers. However, there does not appear to be a substantial difference between calculating answers and determining answers. Even if it could be argued that Neal specifically discloses determining answers and not calculated answers, it would be an obvious variation on Neal to calculate the answers for the queries.

Applicant argues that in Neal, the attributes are retrieved for identified records, as stated in column 6 lines 38 – 40. Examiner agrees that in this section Neal discloses that the attributes are returned for identified records, but Neal teaches more than just returning attributes. Neal also teaches that a user can specify attributes, which are used for searching. This can be seen in, for example, column 5 lines 25 – 39 and

column 6 lines 17 – 38). Here it is disclosed that a user can select attributes, or parts of a product, for the purpose of retrieving answers. The reason Neal discloses obtaining attributes for identified records, is that a user is not required to enter all of the attributes, and thereby when a record is identified, the (rest of the) attributes can be acquired.

Applicant argues that the claims differentiate over a search engine, because of the claimed "calculate" as opposed to "determine" limitation, as discussed above. Based on the limitations found in the claims, in view of the specification, the calculating of answers appears to be the functional equivalent of searching for and locating valid answers, as is how a configurable search engine works. If the claims could be construed as not being a search engine, then it would be unclear how configuration answers are "calculated". The claims do mention an "attribute based preference algorithm", a "combined configuration rules-attribute model", and a "configuration rules processing engine". However, it is still unclear what each of these limitations refers to, and it is unclear how their usage differentiates over searching for answers, as taught by the prior art.

As a further example, Neal teaches that a query can include configurable parts of a product, whereby only acceptable configurations can be selected by the user. This can be seen in, for example, column 12 lines 37 – 62. Here it is disclosed that an item can have configurable attributes that a user can select. As with the Applicant's claims, only valid configurations are possible, and the system determines which configurations and combinations are valid for the product. This determination step can be seen as calculating, as only valid information to calculate valid configurations is used. This

feature of Neal reads on the Applicant's claimed step to "calculate valid configuration answers".

Conclusion

08. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

09. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Huelsman et al.	US Patent	7,552,102
b) Shah et al.	US Patent	7,200,583

10. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

March 27, 2012

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2156	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-7,552,102	06-2009	Huelsman et al.	706/47
*	B	US-7,200,583	04-2007	Shah et al.	706/47
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009	03/25/2010	10/21/2010	06/29/2011	03/27/2012	
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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	22		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	23		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	24		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	25							✓	-	
	26							✓	-	
	27							✓	-	
	28							✓	-	

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

SEARCHED

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
707	723	06/29/11	CJR

SEARCH NOTES

Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST image and keyword search in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR
Updated Search	10/21/10	CJR
Updated Search	06/29/11	CJR
Google Scholar Search: attribute configuration query	06/29/11	CJR
Updated Search	03/27/12	CJR
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A Semantic Web Services **Query** Optimization Method Based on
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ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=5948838
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Ontology-Based Association **Rules** Retrieval using Protégé Tools
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
(2) **Query** on ontology semantics. Ontology semantics **query** can **query** on classes, subclasses or **attributes** of **rule** retrieval ontology, and matched **rules** are ...
ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/4063580/4063581/04063728.pdf
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The use of integrity constraints to perform **query** transformations
Aug 6, 2002 ... The use of integrity constraints to perform **query** transformations in ... **attributes** domains , **attributes rules** , computation costs , database ...
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Design of a **Rule** Based System Using Structured **Query**
Jan 15, 2010 ... A **rule** is represented as a **query** stored in database, along with associated **attributes** like **rule** name, **rule** description and **rule** priority. ` where' ...
ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=5380336
Labeled IEEE ...

Data visualization for supporting **query**-based data mining
Aug 6, 2002 ... The **query** based data mining is one of the most important tasks of ... database which has several **attributes** with numerical or nominal values is visualized ... interesting **rules** , **query** based data mining , **query** result , real world ...
ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=815671
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The hybrid technique for reference materialization in object **query**
Aug 6, 2002 ... The hybrid technique for reference materialization in object **query** processing ... **rule**-based **query** optimizer , single-valued **attributes** , speedup ...
ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=680560
Labeled IEEE ...

Fuzzy **Querying** of Incomplete, Imprecise, and Heterogeneously
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
tuples; step 2) for the comparison between selection **attributes** values of the

query and head of **rules** if the user asked for a **query** completion (as we will see in **...**
ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/91/31003/01439523.pdf?arnumber=1439523
Labeled IEEE ...

Web Query Interface Parsing for Building Web-Based Metasearch
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
employing these parsing **rules**, the proper HTML elements will be allocated into the **query** condition format. A **query** condition format is a { **query attribute**, **query ...**
ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/6036126/6036728/06040876.pdf?arnumber...
Labeled IEEE ...

Schema Extraction of Deep Web Query Interface
Dec 31, 2009 **...** Firstly, judge **query** interface region by heuristic **rules**; Then, parse the **...** deal with the **query** interface region to get logical **attributes** by visual **...**
ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/abs_all.jsp?arnumber=5369411
Labeled IEEE ...

Learning transformation rules for semantic query optimization: a
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
1 shows our proposed data-driven framework of **query**-transformation **rule** discovery and **query** processing in a database system. A set of **attributes** are selected **...**
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Search Again attribute rule query Search Tips

Results 1 - 20 of 8,828

Sort by relevance in expanded form

Result page: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 next >>

1 XML Data Management: Native XML and XML Enabled DataBase Systems
A. Chaudhri, Roberto Zicari, Awais Rashid
March 2003 XML Data Management: Native XML and XML Enabled DataBase Systems
Publisher: Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing Co., Inc.
Full text available: Safari Online Book
Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 22

From the Book:The past few years have seen a dramatic increase in the popularity and adoption of XML: the eXtensible Markup Language. This explosive growth is driven by its ability to provide a standardized, extensible means of including semantic ...

2 Xml Family of Specifications
Kenneth B. Sall
May 2002 Xml Family of Specifications
Publisher: Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing Co., Inc.
Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 4

From the Book:

XML: It's a cheese spread. No, it's a floor wax. No, it's two—two—two products in one! Or maybe it's everything but the kitchen sink? Say, did you hear the one about the XML Kitchen Sink Language? (see http://blogspace.com/xkitchensink/)

XML: ...

3 The Best Damn Firewall Book Period, 2 edition
Cherie Amon, Thomas W. Shinder, Anne Carasik-Hemmi
December 2007 The Best Damn Firewall Book Period, 2 edition
Publisher: Syngress Publishing
Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

The Second Edition of the Best Damn Firewall Book Period is completely revised and updated to include all of the most recent releases from Microsoft, Cisco, Juniper Network, SonicWALL, and Check Point.Compiled from the best of the Syngress firewall ...
Keywords: Security

4 Dr. Tom Shinder's ISA Server 2006 Migration Guide
Thomas W. Shinder, Debra Littlejohn Shinder, Adrian F. Dimcev, James Eaton-Lee, Jason Jones, Steve Moffat
December 2007 Dr. Tom Shinder's ISA Server 2006 Migration Guide
Publisher: Syngress Publishing
Full text available: PDF (15.20 MB), Safari Online Book
Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Dr. Tom Shinder's ISA Server 2006 Migration Guide provides a clear, concise, and thorough path to migrate from previous versions of ISA Server to ISA Server 2006. ISA Server 2006 is an incremental upgrade from ISA Server 2004, this book provides all ...
Keywords: Computer Science, Security, Windows

5 Web and semantic web query languages: a survey
James Bailey, François Bry, Tim Furche, Sebastian Schaffert

July 2005 Proceedings of the First international conference on Reasoning Web

Publisher: Springer-Verlag

Full text available: Publisher Site

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

A number of techniques have been developed to facilitate powerful data retrieval on the Web and Semantic Web. Three categories of Web query languages can be distinguished, according to the format of the data they can retrieve: XML, RDF and Topic Maps. ...

6 GrouPeer: Dynamic clustering of P2P databases

Verena Kantere, Dimitrios Tsoumakos, Timos Sellis, Nick Roussopoulos

March 2009 **Information Systems** , Volume 34 Issue 1

Publisher: Elsevier Science Ltd.

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 9

Sharing structured data in a P2P network is a challenging problem, especially in the absence of a mediated schema. The standard practice of answering a consecutively rewritten query along the propagation path often results in significant loss of information. ...

Keywords: Peer-to-Peer databases, Query reformulation in P2P databases, Semantics in P2P query answering, Structured data in unstructured P2P overlays

7 Computing graphical queries over XML data

Sara Comai, Ernesto Damiani, Piero Fraternali

October 2001 **Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS)** , Volume 19 Issue 4

Publisher: ACM Request Permissions

Full text available: Pdf (707.80 KB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 3, Downloads (12 Months): 26, Downloads (Overall): 1109, Citation Count: 15

The rapid evolution of XML from a mere data exchange format to a universal syntax for encoding domain-specific information raises the need for new query languages specifically conceived to address the characteristics of XML. Such languages should be ...

Keywords: Document restructuring, graphical query languages, semantics

8 Answering form-based web queries using the data-mining approach

Xiaochun Yang, Yiu-Kai Ng

February 2008 **Journal of Intelligent Information Systems** , Volume 30 Issue 1

Publisher: Kluwer Academic Publishers

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Web users often post queries through form-based interfaces on the Web to retrieve data from the Web; however, answers to these queries are mostly computed according to keywords entered into different fields specified in a query interface, and their precision ...

Keywords: Inferred rules, Query interface, Query-rewriting approach

9 A syntactic approach to twig-query matching on XML streams

Chien-Ping Chou, Kuen-Fang Jea, Heng-Hsun Liao

June 2011 **Journal of Systems and Software** , Volume 84 Issue 6

Publisher: Elsevier Science Inc.

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Query matching on XML streams is challenging work for querying efficiency when the amount of queried stream data is huge and the data can be streamed in continuously. In this paper, the method Syntactic Twig-Query Matching (STQM) is proposed to process ...

Keywords: Stream query, Syntactic pattern recognition, Twig query processing, XML

10 Integrating and querying distributed XML data via XLink

Wolfgang May, Erik Behrends, Oliver Fritzen

September 2008 **Information Systems** , Volume 33 Issue 6

Publisher: Elsevier Science Ltd.

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 3

XML instances are not necessarily self-contained but may have connections to remote XML data residing on other servers. In this paper, we show that-in spite of its minor support and use in the XML world-the XLink language provides a powerful mechanism ...

Keywords: Data Integration, Distributed Data, Querying XML, XML

11 EXACT: an extensible approach to active object-oriented databases
Oscar Díaz, Arturo Jaime
November 1997 **The VLDB Journal — The International Journal on Very Large Data Bases** , Volume 6 Issue 4
Publisher: Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.
Full text available: Pdf (149.60 KB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 2, Downloads (12 Months): 15, Downloads (Overall): 437, Citation Count: 10

Active database management systems (DBMSs) are a fast-growing area of research, mainly due to the large number of applications which can benefit from this active dimension. These applications are far from being homogeneous, requiring different kinds ...

Keywords: Active DBMS, Extensibility, Metaclasses, Object-Oriented DBMS

12 Check Point NGX R65 Security Administration
Ralph Bonnell
March 2008 Check Point NGX R65 Security Administration
Publisher: Syngress Publishing
Full text available: PDF (16.40 MB), Safari Online Book

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Check Point NGX R65 is the next major release of Check Point's flagship firewall software product, which has over 750,000 registered users. Check Point's NGX is the underlying security software platform for all of the company's enterprise firewall, VPN ...
Keywords: Operating Systems, Security

13 GMQL: A graphical multimedia query language
Zongda Wu, Guandong Xu, Yanchun Zhang, Zhongsheng Cao, Guiling Li, Zhiwen Hu
February 2012 **Knowledge-Based Systems** , Volume 26
Publisher: Elsevier Science Publishers B. V.

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

The rapid increase of multimedia data makes multimedia query more and more important. To better satisfy users' query requirements, developing a functional multimedia query language is becoming a promising and interesting task. In this paper, we propose ...
Keywords: Data model, Graphical query language, Multimedia, Query operation, Query processing

14 PRONTO: An ontology for comprehensive and consistent representation of product information
Marcela Vegetti, Horacio Leone, Gabriela Henning
December 2011 **Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence** , Volume 24 Issue 8
Publisher: Pergamon Press, Inc.

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Nowadays, it is quite common for collaborating organizations (or even different areas within a company) to develop and maintain their own product model. This situation leads to information duplication and its associated problems. Besides, traditional ...
Keywords: ConceptBase, Domain ontology, Heavyweight ontologies, Product family, Product model, Product structure, Product variant

15 Shape-based retrieval and analysis of 3D models
Thomas Funkhouser, Michael Kazhdan
August 2004 **SIGGRAPH '04:** SIGGRAPH 2004 Course Notes
Publisher: ACM Request Permissions
Full text available: Pdf (12.56 MB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 22, Downloads (12 Months): 302, Downloads (Overall): 5889, Citation Count: 4

Large repositories of 3D data are rapidly becoming available in several fields, including mechanical CAD, molecular biology, and computer graphics. As the number of 3D models grows, there is an increasing need for computer algorithms to help people find ...

16 An inductive database system based on virtual mining views

Hendrik Blockeel, Toon Calders, Élisa Fromont, Bart Goethals, Adriana Prado, Céline Robardet

January 2012 **Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery** , Volume 24 Issue 1

Publisher: Kluwer Academic Publishers

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 0

Inductive databases integrate database querying with database mining. In this article, we present an inductive database system that does not rely on a new data mining query language, but on plain SQL. We propose an intuitive and elegant framework based ...

Keywords: Inductive databases, Query languages, Query processing

17 A comparison of two privacy policy languages: EPAL and XACML

Anne Anderson

January 2005 A comparison of two privacy policy languages: EPAL and XACML

Publisher: Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Full text available: Pdf (408.37 KB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 2, Downloads (12 Months): 9, Downloads (Overall): 57, Citation Count: 3

Current regulatory requirements such as Sarbanes-Oxley, HIPAA, and the European Union Directive on Data Privacy make it increasingly important for enterprises to be able to verify and audit their compliance with privacy policies. Two platform-independent ...

18 Answering XML queries by means of data summaries

Elena Baralis, Paolo Garza, Elisa Quintarelli, Letizia Tanca

July 2007 **Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS)** , Volume 25 Issue 3

Publisher: ACM Request Permissions

Full text available: Pdf (888.29 KB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 3, Downloads (12 Months): 38, Downloads (Overall): 678, Citation Count: 3

XML is a rather verbose representation of semistructured data, which may require huge amounts of storage space. We propose a summarized representation of XML data, based on the concept of instance pattern, which can both provide succinct information ...

Keywords: Association rules, data mining, data summarization, intensional answers, itemsets, semistructured data

19 Strategies for query unnesting in XML databases

Norman May, Sven Helmer, Guido Moerkotte

September 2006 **Transactions on Database Systems (TODS)** , Volume 31 Issue 3

Publisher: ACM Request Permissions

Full text available: Pdf (488.86 KB)

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): 1, Downloads (12 Months): 29, Downloads (Overall): 900, Citation Count: 5

Queries formulated in a nested way are very common in XQuery. Unfortunately, their evaluation is usually very inefficient when done in a straightforward fashion. We present a framework for handling nested queries that is based on unnesting the queries ...

Keywords: Nested queries, XML, XQuery, query decorrelation, query optimization

20 On Multisets in Database Systems

Gianfranco Lamperti, Michele Melchiori, Marina Zanella

August 2000 **WMP '00:** Proceedings of the Workshop on Multiset Processing: Multiset Processing, Mathematical, Computer Science, and Molecular Computing Points of View

Publisher: Springer-Verlag

Bibliometrics: Downloads (6 Weeks): n/a, Downloads (12 Months): n/a, Downloads (Overall): n/a, Citation Count: 5

Database systems cope with the management of large groups of persistent data in a shared, reliable, effective, and efficient way.Within a database, a multiset (or bag) is a collection of elements of the same type that may contain duplicates. There exists ...

Result page: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 next >>

Google scholar attribute rule query parts product Search Advanced Scholar Search

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Scholar Articles and patents anytime include citations Create email alert Results **1** - **10** of about **49,500**. (**0.21** sec)

Aggregate-**query** processing in data warehousing environments [PDF] from stanford.edu
A Gupta, V Harinarayan... - 1995 - ilpubs.stanford.edu
... Thus, as a special case of **Rule** 1 we obtain the following **query** equivalence: G;H σf(G) = σf(G) G;H 1 **...** By using push-down **rule** 1 and by adding **attributes** to the original GP to get the new GP, we may cause an **attribute** to appear in multiple components of the GP. **...**
Cited by 271 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 32 versions

Configuring versioned software **products**
R Conradi... - Software Configuration Management, 1996 - Springer
... is de- scribed by version **rules** which select appropriate versions with the help of **attributes** and history **...** description is a **query** which is evaluated against a versioned database augmented with a **rule** base for **...** The configuration to be constructed is the result of evaluating the **query**. **...**
Cited by 43 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 5 versions

Rule-based optimization and **query** processing in an extensible geometric database system
L Becker... - ACM Transactions on Database Systems (TODS ..., 1992 - dl.acm.org
... to focus on **rule**-based descriptions for the varying **parts** [5, 7, 10, 23, 26, 33]. Freytag [7] and Lehman [26] suggest that the optimization problem can be decomposed into three subproblems: (1) Generation of all feasible **query ...**
Cited by 90 - Related articles - Library Search - All 5 versions

Xcerpt and visXcerpt: from pattern-based to visual querying of XML and semistructured data [PDF] from vldb.org
S Berger, F Bry, S Schaffert... - Proceedings of the 29th ..., 2003 - dl.acm.org
... The **attribute** table appears first in a box and is omitted if there are no at- tributes. **...** VLDB Jour- nal 9 (2000) 76–110 [2] Bry, F., Schaffert, S.: A Gentle Introduction into Xcerpt, a **Rule**-based **Query** and Transformation Language for XML. In: Proc. Int. **...**
Cited by 55 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 11 versions

[CITATION] An expert system for concurrent **product** and process design of mechanical **parts**
HS Abdalla... - ... Manufacture 1989-1996 (vols 203-210 ..., 1994 - Prof Eng Publishing
Cited by 33 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 4 versions

Program storage device and computer program **product** for managing an event driven management information system with **rule**-based application structure stored in ...
AR Moore, LJ Poulos... - US Patent 5,630,127, 1997 - Google Patents
Cited by 137 - Related articles - All 2 versions

Optimization of object-retrieval queries
H Korth - Advances in Object-Oriented Database Systems, 1988 - Springer
... Equality is used for zero order **attributes** and set equality for higher order **attributes**. Neither of these definitions is equivalent to a renested join of fully unnest relations. **...** Consider the database given by the following **rules**: **...** Consider the following example **query**. **...**
Cited by 13 - Related articles - All 2 versions

[PDF] Extensible/**rule** based **query** rewrite optimization in Starburst [PDF] from ntua.gr
H Pirahesh, JM Hellerstein... - Proceedings of the 1992 ..., 1992 - dbnet.ece.ntua.gr
... The **rules** themselves are presented in Section 3. Section 4 describes the **rule** engine designed for **...** The body of every box has an **attribute** called distinct which has a value of **...** SELECT q3.price FROM quotations q3 WHERE q2.partno=q3.partno); This **query** gives information **...**
Cited by 322 - Related articles - View as HTML - All 14 versions

Specifying **rule**-based **query** optimizers in a reflective framework [PDF] from psu.edu
L Fegaras, D Maier... - Deductive and Object-Oriented Databases, 1993 - Springer
... Figure 2 specifies the **rule** set for the SQL **query** optimizer. **...** where module is the name of this **rule** module and **attributes** is the name of a previously defined **attribute** module that specifies the inherited and synthesized **attributes** for these **rules**. **...**
Cited by 17 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 12 versions

The framework for an expert system to generate alternative **products** in concurrent engineering design [PDF] from tu.ac.th

S Myint... - Computers in industry, 1998 - Elsevier
... environment. All gear information is stored in a database. According to the **rules**, the request data and **attributes** are derived by using the database **query** language. The concept is implemented into a DBASE software. For **...**
Cited by 13 - Related articles - All 12 versions

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next

attribute rule query parts product

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EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49
S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52

			IBM_TDB			
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53
S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S19	15	attribute-based query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16

			IBM_TDB			
S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50
S26	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S27	15	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S28	443	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2011/06/29 14:38
S29	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2012/03/27 12:11
S30	65	(attribute WITH configur$ WITH (query OR answer)) SAME (product OR part)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:14
S31	431	configur$ WITH rule WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S32	111	configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S33	10	(configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute) NEAR5 (answer OR query OR product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S34	4	"10950815"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:18

EAST Search History (Interference)

< This search history is empty>

3/28/2012 9:08:21 AM
C:\Users\craab\Documents\Critical Data\OACS\Applications\11034141\11034141.wsp

PTO/SB/30EFS (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11/034,141	Filing Date	2005-01-12	Docket Number (if applicable)	T00128	Art Unit	2156
First Named Inventor	Brian K. Showers			Examiner Name	Christopher J. Raab		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☒ Other Petition for Extension of Time

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No 502264

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Kent B. Chambers/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-10-11
Name	Kent B. Chambers	Registration Number	38839

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

October 11, 2012

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

37 C.F.R. § 1.114 RCE SUBMISSION

Dear Sir:

This paper is a submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, which responds to the Office Action dated April 11, 2012, having a shortened statutory period expiring July 11, 2012. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of October 11, 2012. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a ~~configuration rules~~ configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein to calculate valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a ~~configuration rules~~ configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality

of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a ~~configuration rules~~ configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values; and

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a

combined configuration rules-attributes model and a ~~configuration rules~~ configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,198 to Neal et al. ("*Neal*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070233730 to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In the Office Action's *Response to Arguments*, the Examiner states that "many of the Applicant's claimed limitations are not explained and are not given specific definitions." Office Action, p. 14, ¶2. "Regardless, the argument presented is that the claims differ from Neal in that the claims "calculate" answers to a query, rather than "determine" answers." *Id.* However, there is does not appear to be a substantial difference between calculating and determining answers." *Id.*

Applicants respectfully disagree. First, as admitted by the Examiner and as clear from *Neal*, *Neal* teaches a "search" engine not a configuration engine. A "search" engine is fundamentally different than a "configuration" engine. A "search engine" searches for information in accordance with a search query. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 recite a "configuration-rules processing engine and "using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts." A search engine does not "calculate" valid configuration answers. In the context of a search engine, a search engine 'determines' an answer by searching for and locating responses to the search query. In the context of a 'configuration-rules processing engine', the configuration-rules processing engine is used "to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model."

Thus, only in the abstract can the terms "determine" and "calculate" arguably be characterized as "not substantially different". However, away from the abstract and in the context of search engines versus configuration-rules processing engines, the term "determine" in the context of a search engine is significantly different than the term "calculate" in the context of a configuration-rules processing engine.

Accordingly, when taken in context, the "configuration-rules processing engine" of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 clearly distinguishes over the search engine of *Neal*, and as set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Neal* in view of *Johnston* neither teaches nor suggests claims 1, 7, 13, or 19 or claims dependent thereon.

The Office Action cites col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 19 of *Neal* as teaching "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts." Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

In the *Response to Arguments*, pp. 15-16 of the July 8, 2011 Office Action, the Examiner admits that *Neal* teaches a search engine. Applicants agree that *Neal* teaches a search engine. For the Examiner's convenience, *Neal* col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 19 follows:

> An improvement for composing and cataloging item configuration data is disclosed. One embodiment of the invention includes identifying a base item, identifying a part number for the base item, breaking the part number into sections, each section corresponding to an attribute of the base item, and determining which of the part number sections relate to configurable attributes of the base item. The embodiment further includes listing a plurality of selectable part number section values for the configurable attributes, listing descriptive information for each of the selectable part number section values, linking the descriptive information to the corresponding selectable part number section value, generating a part number formula to define the configurable sections and associate configurable sections to the corresponding list of values, and generating a description formula to define a configurable description and associate descriptive information with corresponding configurable selectable part number values. The embodiment further includes adding the base item part number, values list, descriptive information list, part number formula and description formula to an electronic catalog.

Thus, it appears that *Neal* teaches an association between section values of a part number and configurable attributes. The association allows a part number to be configured and link the attributes to the part number based on the section values.

Neal further teaches that the "rules store [26] contains rules that are used to configure, modify or present data that has been requested by the user." *Neal* indicates that the "rules" are not configuration rules used to calculate valid configuration answers because *Neal* specifically teaches that, "If a record is identified, then the search engine [12] can retrieve the values of the attributes for the identified records from the catalog [14]." *Id.*, col. 6, lines 38-40. Further to this point, *Neal* identifies a "Search Engine 24", not a configuration-rules processing engine. *Neal* teaches that the Search Engine 24 "follows an algorithm, for example the algorithm described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 [] to search through the catalog for any items related to the query." *Neal*, col. 5, lines 11-16. The U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 relates to searching through a database and not to determining valid configuration answers using a configuration-rules processing engine.

While supporting the position that *Neal* teaches a search engine, the Examiner nevertheless states that the "configuration-rules processing engine" of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 does not distinguish over a search engine. The Examiner specifically states, "Based on the specification, it appears that this engine is the same or similar to a search engine." Applicants respectfully disagree and have amended claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 to clarify the distinction.

First, from the specific language of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, the "combined configuration rules-attributes model and [the] configuration-rules processing engine" are used "to calculate valid configuration answers." Applicants respectfully submit that "calculating" is clearly not the same thing as "searching".

Second, based on the Present Application, configuration-rules processing engines and search engines are clearly distinguished in the art as seen in the contrast between U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,145 search engine incorporated by *Neal* and the exemplary configuration-rules processing engines recited in the *Gupta* Patent and the *Lynch* Patent, which are incorporated by reference in the Present Application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Neal* neither teaches nor suggests "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers."

Johnston relates to "Methods, systems, and computer program products for combining conjoint analysis with customer relationship management software, search engine software, and auction software." *Johnston*, Abstract. *Johnston* is cited by the Examiner for disclosing "a method such that the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes." Office Action, p. 3. Since *Johnston* does not provide the missing teaching of *Neal* regarding "processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers" as required by claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, *Neal* in view of *Johnston* neither teaches nor suggests claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and claims dependent thereon.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on October 11, 2012, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (09-11)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)	Docket Number (Optional) T00128
Application Number 11/034,141	Filed January 12, 2005
For Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model	
Art Unit 2156	Examiner Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

	Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐ One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$150	$75	$
☐ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$560	$280	$
☑ Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1270	$635	$ 1270
☐ Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1980	$990	$
☐ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2690	$1345	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 38,839

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

October 11, 2012 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☑ Total of one forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1290	1290

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	930	930
		Total in USD ($)		**2220**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	13965305
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Nishi Pasarya
Filer Authorized By:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	11-OCT-2012
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Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

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Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$2220
RAM confirmation Number	4234
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS, KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	T00128_RCE-XMTL_2012-10-11.pdf	797946 f5138342a42ca96d47a4deb86962ed5c4f04673d	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		T00128_RCE_Submission_10-11-12.pdf	187639 cec2f7603c1ab4eefd84409ca4ac2f642be90578	yes	13

Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description

Document Description	Start	End
Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE	1	1
Claims	2	9
Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	10	13

Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension.pdf	286444 fabc078531b759c95264e15fd5b45258ae470f20	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	31946 85fe8616b29e329a36575af427e64e955a80269b	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	1303975		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/034,141	01/12/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT 10/11/2012	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 24	Minus	** 28	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $62=	0
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $250=	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/KELLY HARRIS/

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 05/09/2013

TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
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EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/09/2013	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

tmunoz@tcchlaw.com
npasarya@tcchlaw.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s) SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2156	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 October 2012*.

☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of the:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Interim copies:

a)☐ All b)☐ Some c)☐ None of the: Interim copies of the priority documents have been received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

3) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

4) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

01. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **10/11/12** has been entered.

Response to Arguments

02. Applicant argues that not all claimed limitations are disclosed by the prior art references, Neal and Johnston. Specifically, it is argued that Neal does not disclose calculating answer, but merely discloses determining answers. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The arguments presented by Applicant are essentially the same as those which have been addressed, the arguments are just worded differently. The Office Actions mailed on July 08, 2011 and April 11, 2012 have addressed the arguments with respect to determining answers and calculating answers. However, Examiner will again try to explain the rationale behind the rejections, and attempt to locate allowable subject matter.

The argument is that what Neal teaches is a basic search engine, whereby a user enters information and results are listed. However, this is an overly broad view of Neal, as Neal does more than just return results for a search query. Neal also teaches

that a user can specify attributes, which are used during the searching process. A user can select attributes, or parts of a product, which are then used for obtaining answers for the search. Therefore, a user does not have to list all of the attributes of a product, but can list as many as the user knows or desires to input. Based on the information input by the user, one or more products can be identified, and the attributes associated with each of the products can also be identified. This allows a user to further select certain parts or details of the product in order to further enhance the search, or to further define the product. This can be seen throughout Neal, and specifically in column 5 lines 25 – 39, column 6 lines 17 – 38, and column 12 lines 37 – 62. This makes it clear that Neal is not simply limited to a static search and retrieve type search engine, but rather includes the capability of processing attribute-based queries, which can be configured, and utilizing rules to process the searches. Therefore the Applicant's claimed invention is realized by Neal, in combination with the teachings of Johnston.

In order to try to advance prosecution, Examiner suggests the possibility of amending the claims in order to further define the invention and to overcome the prior art references. One such amendment would be to specify that values are predetermined and stored for the valid configuration answers, which are later retrieved (claim 5), in combination with allowing the user to provide multiple prioritizations of attributes (similar to claim 21). The concept of utilizing the predetermined values, in combination with multiple prioritized attributes selected by the user, would not be disclosed by the obvious combination of Neal and Johnston, and may put the claims in condition for allowance. Another suggestion would be to explain how the user interacts

with the system. An amendment that explains how the user interacts with the configuration answers after they are determined, such as allowing a user to produce a product specification, such as for the purpose of purchasing or modeling the product, would also differentiate the invention over the prior art. These are merely suggestions in order to advance prosecution and to reach allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

03. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

04. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

05. **Claims 1 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198)**, hereinafter "Neal" in view of **Johnston (US PGPub 2007/0233730)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Neal discloses a method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration

answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract, column 21 lines 48 – 61), the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8, receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of a product);

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4, executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products, attributes, and details, whereby the results are displayed);

wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts (column 6 lines 18 – 55, Figures 5, 6, configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user).

Although Neal discloses that the results are based on the attributes of the products, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a method comprising:

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes);

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], selecting a set of the results for display, which includes the results being sorted or prioritized).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method comprising:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3, the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method comprising:

providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3, a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method comprising:

providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309], the number of results can be limited, based on user selection).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Neal discloses a method comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method comprising:

the one or more attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles (paragraph [0305], queries can be for vehicles).

Consider **claim 7**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answer to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract, column 2 lines 57 – 67), the system comprising:

a processor and a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for (column 21 line 48 – column 22 line 27, a processor and a computer readable medium are utilized);

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8, receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of a product);

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4, executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products, attributes, and details, whereby the results are displayed);

wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts (column 6 lines 18 – 55, Figures 5, 6, configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user).

Although Neal discloses that the results are based on the attributes of the products, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a system comprising:

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes);

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], selecting a set of the results for display, which includes the results being sorted or prioritized).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system comprising:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3, the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system comprising:

providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3, a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system comprising:

providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309], the number of results can be limited, based on user selection).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Neal discloses a computer system comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system comprising:

the one or more attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles (paragraph [0305], queries can be for vehicles).

Consider **claim 13**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answer to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract, column 22 lines 12 – 27), wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8, receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of a product);

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4, executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products, attributes, and details, whereby the results are displayed);

wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts (column 6 lines 18 – 55, Figures 5, 6, configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user).

Although Neal discloses that the results are based on the attributes of the products, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes);

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], selecting a set of the results for display, which includes the results being sorted or prioritized).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm (column 5 lines 40 – 56, Figure 3, the results of the query are determined based on the attributes selected against the possible query answers).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (column 5 line 57 – column 6 line 6, Figure 3, a certain number of search results can be displayed to the user).

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user (paragraphs [0014], [0304], [0309], the number of results can be limited, based on user selection).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Neal discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers; storing the predetermined values; and retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

the one or more attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles (paragraph [0305], queries can be for vehicles).

Consider **claim 19**, Neal discloses a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answer to one or more attribute-based configuration queries (abstract, column 2 lines 57 – 67), the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, Figures 3 – 8, receiving a search query from a user, which can include configurable attributes of a product);

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 3 lines 18 – 37, Figures 3, 4, executing the query and returning results to the user, whereby the results include the products, attributes, and details, whereby the results are displayed);

wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts (column 6 lines 18 – 55, Figures 5, 6, configurable attributes are presented for user selection, the

attributes representing a product and details about the parts, such that only possible combination are selectable by the user).

Although Neal discloses that the results are based on the attributes of the products, Neal does not specifically disclose prioritizing the search results by a selected attribute.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnston discloses a system comprising:

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], the results from the search can be prioritized based on selected attributes);

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0255], selecting a set of the results for display, which includes the results being sorted or prioritized).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prioritizing of search results by attribute(s) taught by Johnston into the attribute based querying taught by Neal for the purpose of allowing search results to be better sorted and therefore more useful to a searcher.

Consider **claim 20**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Neal discloses a computer system comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19,

column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information);

means for storing the predetermined values (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information); and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries (column 1 line 65 – column 2 line 19, column 5 lines 11 – 56, column 9 lines 21 – 46, predetermined value pairs for attributes of the products are determined and stored, which are later used in retrieval of the information).

Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Johnston discloses a method comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0106], [0248], the entered search criteria can be prioritized);

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0025],

[0231], [0255], the results of the query can be prioritized based on the selected keywords or attributes of the search query).

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 7 above**, Johnston discloses a system comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0106], [0248], the entered search criteria can be prioritized);

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0025], [0231], [0255], the results of the query can be prioritized based on the selected keywords or attributes of the search query).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 13 above**, Johnston discloses a computer storage medium comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0106], [0248], the entered search criteria can be prioritized);

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0025], [0231], [0255], the results of the query can be prioritized based on the selected keywords or attributes of the search query).

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 19 above**, Johnston discloses a computer system comprising:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized (paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0106], [0248], the entered search criteria can be prioritized);

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model (paragraphs [0025], [0231], [0255], the results of the query can be prioritized based on the selected keywords or attributes of the search query).

Conclusion

06. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

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

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

07. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

May 02, 2013

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/15/2007	04/12/2008	11/06/2008	07/31/2009	03/25/2010	10/21/2010	06/29/2011	03/27/2012	05/02/2013
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	21		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	22		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	23		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	24		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	25							✓	-	
	26							✓	-	
	27							✓	-	
	28							✓	-	

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	0	rules-attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
L2	1702	rules attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
L3	3	rules attributes model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
L4	4	configuration rules attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
L5	149	(search OR query) WITH attribute WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:40
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07

			IBM_TDB			
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S8	37	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:49
S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR "705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53
S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04

			IBM_TDB			
S19	15	attribute-based query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50
S26	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S27	15	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S28	443	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2011/06/29 14:38
S29	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2012/03/27 12:11
S30	65	(attribute WITH configur$ WITH (query OR answer)) SAME (product OR part)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:14

			IBM_TDB			
S31	431	configur$ WITH rule WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S32	111	configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S33	10	(configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute) NEAR5 (answer OR query OR product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S34	4	"10950815"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:18
S35	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2013/05/02 15:14

5/2/2013 5:40:47 PM
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Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
707	723	06/29/11	CJR

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST image and keyword search in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR
Updated Search	10/21/10	CJR
Updated Search	06/29/11	CJR
Google Scholar Search: attribute configuration query	06/29/11	CJR
Updated Search	03/27/12	CJR
NPL Search: ACM, IEEE, Google Scholar	03/27/12	CJR
Updated Search	05/02/13	CJR

INTERFERENCE SEARCH

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian K. Showers, Brandon M. Beck, Nathan E. Little		
Assignee:	Versata Development Group, Inc.		
Title:	ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL		
Application No.:	11/034,141	Filed:	January 12, 2005
Confirmation No.:	6655		
Examiner:	Christopher J. Raab	Group Art Unit:	2169
Docket No.:	T00128	Customer No.:	33438

November 11, 2013

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action dated May 9, 2013, having a shortened statutory period expiring August 9, 2013. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extension of time by three (3) months, setting a new time for response of November 12, 2013, November 9, 2013 being a Saturday and November 11, 2013 being a Federal holiday. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein to calculate valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

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

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

5. Canceled.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using

a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further

comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

11. Canceled.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor executable code for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

14. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:

processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference algorithm.

15. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

16. (Original) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

17. Canceled.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more attribute-based configuration queries comprise attribute-based configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

means for receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

means for processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values;

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

means for storing the predetermined values; and

means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1: ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;~~

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 7: ~~the data further comprises processor executable code for:~~

~~receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and~~

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of claim 13: ~~wherein the data further comprises processor executable code for:~~

~~receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and~~

wherein prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more product attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model further comprises prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, and wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein the system further comprises:

means for receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized; and

means for prioritizing the valid configuration answers by each selected product attribute, wherein the valid configuration answers represent configurations of the product that conform to the combined configuration rules-attributes model.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 21-23 have been amended.

Claims 5, 11, 17, and 25-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,198 to Neal et al. ("*Neal*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070233730 to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Per the Examiner's comments on page 3 of the Office Action, the independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to include the relevant features of claims 5 and 21 that are identified by the Examiner as neither taught nor suggested by *Neal* in view of *Johnston*.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and claims dependent thereon.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on November 11, 2013, this correspondence is being transmitted via the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's electronic filing system.

/Kent B. Chambers/

Respectfully submitted,

/Kent B. Chambers/

Kent B. Chambers
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,839

PTO/SB/22 (03-13)
Approved for use through 3/31/2013. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)

Docket Number (Optional): T00128

Application Number: 11/034,141

Filed: January 12, 2005

For: ATTRIBUTE PRIORITIZED CONFIGURATION USING A COMBINED CONFIGURATION-ATTRIBUTE DATA MODEL

Art Unit: 2169

Examiner: Christopher J. Raab

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

	Fee	Small Entity Fee	Micro Entity Fee	
☐ One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$200	$100	$50	$
☐ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$600	$300	$150	$
☑ Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1,400	$700	$350	$ 1400
☐ Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$2,200	$1,100	$550	$
☐ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$3,000	$1,500	$750	$

☐ Applicant asserts small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ Applicant certifies micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29.
Form PTO/SB/15A or B or equivalent must either be enclosed or have been submitted previously.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264.

☑ Payment made via EFS-Web.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. 37 CFR 3.73(b) statement is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☐ attorney or agent of record. Registration number _____.

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number _____.

/Kent B. Chambers/ — Signature

November 11, 2013 — Date

Kent B. Chambers — Typed or printed name

512-338-9100 — Telephone Number

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☑ * Total of 1 forms are submitted.

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with $0 paid	1253	1	1400	1400

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1400**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	17371150
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	12-NOV-2013
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	00:30:48
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1400
RAM confirmation Number	18028
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS, KENT B

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	T00128_ROA_5-9-13.pdf	175229 8b91c68791b4152f80112a0e395ccf36d5be2af2	no	11
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	T00128_Extension.pdf	186566 9a4b06534f32455d0e6422656effced584057ed4	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	29838 588bc2fb46130a5aa45fca57eb4d7affed3759c9	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	391633		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (09-11)
Approved for use through 1/31/2014. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875	Application or Docket Number 11/034,141	Filing Date 01/12/2005	☐ To be Mailed

ENTITY: ☒ LARGE ☐ SMALL ☐ MICRO

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	RATE ($)	FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $310 ($155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).			
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))				
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	11/12/2013	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 21	Minus	** 28	= 0	X $80 =	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $420 =	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

LIE
/LINDA HUMES/

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

33438 7590 04/10/2014

TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2014

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

TITLE OF INVENTION: Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$960	$0	$0	$960	07/10/2014

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

33438 7590 04/10/2014
TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

TITLE OF INVENTION: Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$960	$0	$0	$960	07/10/2014

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	2156	707-723000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
- ❑ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ❑ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ❑ Individual ❑ Corporation or other private group entity ❑ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
- ❑ Issue Fee
- ❑ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ❑ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**
- ❑ A check is enclosed.
- ❑ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ❑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)
- ❑ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
  NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.
- ❑ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
  NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.
- ❑ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.
  NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

33438 7590 04/10/2014

TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER	
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2156	

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2014

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Christopher J. Raab*. (3)_____.

(2) *Kent B. Chambers (Applicant's Representative)*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *31 March 2014*.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Issues Discussed ☒101 ☐112 ☐102 ☐103 ☒Others
(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: *1-28*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198), Johnston (US PGPub 2007/0233730)*.

Substance of Interview
(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

Examiner contacted Applicant's Representative to discuss and fix some issues with the claims in order to reach allowable subject matter. Specifically, Examiner suggested clarifying the subject matter in the independent claims in order to alleviate any 35 USC 101 issues. Claims 7 was discussed to ensure that the processor is a physical hardware processor and Applicant's Representative noted that paragraph 47 of the specification explains that a processor is generally a microprocessor, which is statutory. Claim 13 was discussed as the computer storage medium does not appear to be a statutory embodiment under 35 USC 101, as it may include transitory embodiments. Applicant's Representative agreed to amend the claim to recite that the medium is non-transitory..

Applicant recordation instructions: It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of interview.

Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

☐ Attachment

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner, Art Unit 2156	/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 11/034,141	Applicant(s) SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher J. Raab	Art Unit 2156	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *11/12/13*.
   ☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on_____.
2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-4,6-10,12-16,18,19 and 21-24*. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov .
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   Certified copies:

   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some *c) ☐ None of the:
   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
4. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *03/31/14* .
5. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
7. ☐ Other _____.

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner, Art Unit 2156	/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

DETAILED ACTION

01. The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

Examiner's Amendment

02. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kent B. Chambers on March 31, 2014 (see the attached Interview Summary).

By way of Examiner's Amendment, claim 20 has been cancelled, and the instant claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the method comprising:

performing by a computer system programmed with code stored in a memory and executable by a processor of the computer system to configure the computer system into a machine for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system, wherein the attribute-based configuration queries include a selection of one or more parts of a product;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium**, coupled to the processor,** having data encoded therein, the data comprising ~~**processor executable**~~ code **executable by the processor to configure the computer system into a machine** for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the

configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system, wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A **non-transitory** computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more attribute-based configuration queries, wherein the data comprises **code that is executable by a**

processor **of the computer system to configure the computer system into a machine** for:

receiving one or more attribute-based configuration queries from a client system;

processing the one or more attribute-based configuration queries, configuration rules, and attribute based preference algorithm using a combined configuration rules-attributes model and a configuration-rules processing engine to calculate valid configuration answers in accordance with the combined configuration rules-attributes model, wherein a plurality of the configuration rules define relationships between parts of the product and a plurality of attributes represent details about the parts;

predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated with respective configuration answers;

storing the predetermined values;

retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer to one or more of the attribute-based configuration queries;

receiving a selection of at least one of the one or more product attributes to be prioritized;

prioritizing the valid configuration answers by one or more of the plurality of attributes in the combined configuration rules-attributes model; and

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

wherein the provided valid configuration answers are prioritized by one or more of the plurality of attributes.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

Reasons For Allowance

03. Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 10, 12 – 16, 18, 19, and 21 – 24 have been considered and deemed allowable. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

It is the examiner's opinion that the art of record considered as a whole, alone or in combination, neither anticipates nor rendered obvious the specific query answer generation through prioritizing attributes as taught by the Applicant. The Examiner finds no single prior art reference teaching of processing an attribute-based configuration query in accordance with a rule-attribute model to determine valid configuration answers, and prioritizing the answers by the attributes, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. A thorough search of the prior art reveals the primary references Neal (US Patent 6,871,198) and (Johnston (US PGPub 2007/0233730), which were previously used to reject the claims. Neal discloses a similar method in that attribute-based configuration queries are received and processed, which can be for parts of a product. However, Neal does not disclose prioritizing the results, or predetermining values of combinations of attributes associated with configuration answers. Johnston discloses a similar method in that valid configuration answers can be prioritized.

However, Johnston does not disclose predetermined values for particular valid configuration answers. Therefore the Examiner believes that the independent claims, as amended, stand in condition for allowance over the cited prior art. Dependent claims 2 – 4, 6, 8 – 10, 12, 14 – 16, 18, and 21 – 24 are also believed to be in condition for allowance over the cited prior art for at least the reason listed above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

04. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christopher Raab whose telephone number is (571) 270-1090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Sherief Badawi can be reached on (571) 272-9782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Christopher Raab
C.R./cr

March 31, 2014

/SHERIEF BADAWI/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/034,141	SHOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher J. Raab	2156	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Christopher J. Raab*. (3)_____.

(2) *Kent B. Chambers (Applicant's Representative)*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *31 March 2014*.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Issues Discussed ☒101 ☐112 ☐102 ☐103 ☒Others
(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: *1-28*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *Neal et al. (US Patent 6,871,198), Johnston (US PGPub 2007/0233730)*.

Substance of Interview
(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

Examiner contacted Applicant's Representative to discuss and fix some issues with the claims in order to reach allowable subject matter. Specifically, Examiner suggested clarifying the subject matter in the independent claims in order to alleviate any 35 USC 101 issues. Claims 7 was discussed to ensure that the processor is a physical hardware processor and Applicant's Representative noted that paragraph 47 of the specification explains that a processor is generally a microprocessor, which is statutory. Claim 13 was discussed as the computer storage medium does not appear to be a statutory embodiment under 35 USC 101, as it may include transitory embodiments. Applicant's Representative agreed to amend the claim to recite that the medium is non-transitory..

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Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

☐ Attachment

/Christopher J Raab/ Examiner, Art Unit 2156	/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	CHRISTOPHER J RAAB	2156

CPC		
Symbol	**Type**	**Version**

CPC Combination Sets				
Symbol	**Type**	**Set**	**Ranking**	**Version**

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/01/2014	**Total Claims Allowed:**	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	20	
/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/04/2014	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	5

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No. 20140224

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	CHRISTOPHER J RAAB	2156

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION		INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION												
CLASS	SUBCLASS	CLAIMED					NON-CLAIMED							
707	723	G	0	6	F	7 / 00 (2006.01.01)								
CROSS REFERENCE(S)														
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)													
705	26.5													

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/01/2014	**Total Claims Allowed:**	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	20	
/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/04/2014	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	5

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	CHRISTOPHER J RAAB	2156

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	17	21												
2	2	18	22												
3	3	19	23												
4	4	20	24												
5	6														
6	7														
7	8														
8	9														
9	10														
10	12														
11	13														
12	14														
13	15														
14	16														
15	18														
16	19														

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/01/2014	**Total Claims Allowed:**	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	20	
/SHERIEF BADAWI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 2156	04/04/2014	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	5

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No. 20140224

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	**Date**	**Examiner**
G06F17/3053, with keywords	03/31/14	CJR
G06F17/5095, with keywords	03/31/14	CJR
G06F17/30864, with keywords	03/31/14	CJR

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	**Date**	**Examiner**

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**
707	723	06/29/11	CJR
705	26.5	03/31/14	CJR

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
EAST image and keyword search in USPAT, US-PGPub, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDB (see attached search strategy)	06/15/07	CJR
Consulted with Khanh Pham	06/15/07	CJR
Inventor Name Search	06/15/07	CJR
Updated Search	04/12/08	CJR
Updated Search	11/06/08	CJR
Updated Search	07/31/09	CJR
Updated Search	03/25/10	CJR
Updated Search	10/21/10	CJR
Updated Search	06/29/11	CJR
Google Scholar Search: attribute configuration query	06/29/11	CJR
Updated Search	03/27/12	CJR
NPL Search: ACM, IEEE, Google Scholar	03/27/12	CJR
Updated Search	05/02/13	CJR
Updated Search	03/31/14	CJR

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	**US Subclass / CPC Group**	**Date**	**Examiner**
	EAST keyword interference search	03/31/14	CJR
707	723	03/31/14	CJR

/CHRISTOPHER J RAAB/ Examiner.Art Unit 2156	

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11034141	SHOWERS ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Raab, Christopher J	2156

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	04/01/2014								
1	1	=								
2	2	=								
3	3	=								
4	4	=								
	5	-								
5	6	=								
6	7	=								
7	8	=								
8	9	=								
9	10	=								
	11	-								
10	12	=								
11	13	=								
12	14	=								
13	15	=								
14	16	=								
	17	-								
15	18	=								
16	19	=								
	20	-								
17	21	=								
18	22	=								
19	23	=								
20	24	=								
	25	-								
	26	-								
	27	-								
	28	-								

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	177	(search OR query) WITH attribute WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:10
L2	112	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:15
L3	19	attribute-based query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:15
L4	49	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:17
L5	671	priorit$ WITH attribute WITH rule	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:19
L6	225	(query WITH attribute WITH ranking)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2014/04/01 09:21
L7	737	(query WITH rules WITH attributes)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:22
L8	2432	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:22
L9	1226	priorit$ WITH configuration WITH (rule OR attribute)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:27
L11	9141	G06F17/30864.CPC.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:30

L12	1030	G06F17/5095.CPC.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:30
L14	1032	G06F17/3053.CPC.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:31
L15	0	L11 AND rules-attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:31
L16	1134	L11 AND (query WITH (rules OR attribute))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:31
L17	137	L11 AND (query WITH (rules OR attribute) WITH (prioritiz$ OR rank$))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:31
L18	0	L12 AND (query WITH (rules OR attribute) WITH (prioritiz$ OR rank$))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:32
L19	47	L14 AND (query WITH (rules OR attribute) WITH (prioritiz$ OR rank$))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:32
L20	6	L11 AND (parts WITH product WITH detail)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:32
L21	5	L12 AND (parts WITH product WITH detail)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:32
L22	344	L11 AND (attribute NEAR3 query)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:33
L23	4	L12 AND (attribute NEAR3 query)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:33
L24	63	L14 AND (attribute NEAR3 query)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:33

L25	8	L11 AND (attribute NEAR3 query NEAR3 (part OR product OR detail))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:34
L28	8	(prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results)) WITH attribute).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:35
L44	1160	705/26.5.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 10:01
L45	335	L44 AND ((part OR product) WITH (attribute OR detail))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 10:02
L46	3	L44 AND (attribute WITH configuration WITH query)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 10:02
S1	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 16:51
S2	2	("configuration query") AND ("configuration answer")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S3	0	attribute prioritized configuration	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:52
S4	7	("4796194" | "5019961" | "5019992" | "5355317" | "5357440" | "5586052" | "5659478").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 16:55
S5	39	("5825651").URPN.	USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:05
S6	7	(("6493677") or ("6384934") or ("6125391")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2007/06/15 17:07
S7	1377	(configuration WITH (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR computer OR financial) WITH product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:48
S9	1	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)) AND ("707"/$.ccls. OR	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:50

		"705"/$.ccls OR "709"/$.ccls.)	IBM_TDB			
S10	230	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S11	0	rules-attribute model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:52
S12	4	attribute WITH configuration WITH (query or answer) AND ("705"/$.ccls. OR "707"/$.ccls)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 17:53
S13	1	Showers.INV. AND Brian.INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2007/06/15 18:50
S14	446	query WITH part WITH product	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:53
S15	147	query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S16	7	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)) SAME attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 12:54
S17	1905	(attribute-based OR configuration) NEAR2 query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S18	0	attribute-based configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S20	377	configuration query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:04
S21	0	configuration query$ SAME priorit$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05
S22	6	configuration query$ SAME sort$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:05

			IBM_TDB			
S23	1356	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S24	3	(attribute$ OR configuration) WITH (part NEAR3 product) WITH query$	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/23 13:16
S25	4	(("6871198") or ("5877966")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2010/03/23 13:50
S26	825	prioritiz$ NEAR2 (search OR query ADJ (results))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2010/03/25 15:01
S28	443	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2011/06/29 14:38
S29	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	OFF	2012/03/27 12:11
S30	65	(attribute WITH configur$ WITH (query OR answer)) SAME (product OR part)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:14
S31	431	configur$ WITH rule WITH attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S32	111	configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S33	10	(configur$ NEAR5 rule NEAR5 attribute) NEAR5 (answer OR query OR product)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:15
S34	4	"10950815"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	OFF	2012/03/27 13:18
S35	4	(("5825651") or ("5515524")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	OR	OFF	2013/05/02 15:14

			IBM_TDB			
S36	0	rules-attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
S37	1702	rules attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
S38	3	rules attributes model	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
S39	4	configuration rules attributes	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2013/05/02 17:39
S42	4	priorit$ WITH attribute WITH rule WITH answer	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/02/24 10:45
S44	1	priorit$ WITH configuration WITH (rule OR attribute) SAME answer	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	ADJ	ON	2014/02/24 10:46

EAST Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L26	2	(attribute-based query$).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:34
L27	4	(configuration NEAR2 (answer OR query)) AND ((vehicle OR financial) NEAR3 (product OR solution OR answer)).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:35
L29	36	(query$ WITH (part NEAR3 product)).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:35
L30	251	(query WITH part WITH product).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:35
L31	32	((attribute WITH configur$ WITH (query OR answer)) SAME (product OR part)).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	OFF	2014/04/01 09:35
L32	0	(valid configuration answer).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:36
L33	0	(valid NEAR3 configuration NEAR3 answer).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:37
L34	202	(rules WITH attributes WITH model).CLM.	US-	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01

			PGPUB; USPAT			09:37
L35	5	(rules WITH attributes WITH model WITH query).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:37
L36	0	707/723.ccls. (rules WITH attributes WITH model).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:47
L37	1739	707/723.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:49
L38	0	L37 (query WITH (configuration OR product))	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:49
L39	0	L37 (query WITH (parts OR answer OR attribute))	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:50
L40	749	707/723.ccls. AND (query WITH (configuration OR product OR parts OR answer OR attribute))	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:50
L41	347	707/723.ccls. AND (query WITH (configuration OR product OR parts OR answer OR attribute)).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:50
L42	0	L37 (query WITH (parts OR answer OR attribute)).CLM.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2014/04/01 09:51

4/1/2014 10:18:11 AM
C:\Users\craab\Documents\Critical Data\OACS\Applications\11034141\11034141.wsp

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

33438 7590 04/10/2014
TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	01/12/2005	Brian K. Showers	T00128	6655

TITLE OF INVENTION: Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$960	$0	$0	$960	07/10/2014

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
RAAB, CHRISTOPHER J	2156	707-723000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Terrile, Cannatti, Chambers & Holland, LLP
2 Kent B. Chambers
3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE: Versata Development Group, Inc.

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY): 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2650, Austin, TX 78701

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
- ☒ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

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- ☐ A check is enclosed.
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- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 502264 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)
- ☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
- ☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
- ☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature /Kent B. Chambers/ Date July 8, 2014

Typed or printed name Kent B. Chambers Registration No. 38,839

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11034141
Filing Date:	12-Jan-2005
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Heather Hammock
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl Issue Fee	1501	1	960	960
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**960**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	19515790
Application Number:	11034141
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6655
Title of Invention:	Attribute prioritized configuration using a combined configuration-attribute data model
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Brian K. Showers
Customer Number:	33438
Filer:	Kent Bryan Chambers/Heather Hammock
Filer Authorized By:	Kent Bryan Chambers
Attorney Docket Number:	T00128
Receipt Date:	08-JUL-2014
Filing Date:	12-JAN-2005
Time Stamp:	12:33:56
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$960
RAM confirmation Number	11124
Deposit Account	502264
Authorized User	CHAMBERS, KENT B

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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	T00128_Issue_Fee.pdf	89317 6e6793a63b25c8b408ad97d88f79a6e1e0bf1c80	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30247 486a993feb9bd7e17894b2de21d1cdfff75b41ac	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	119564		

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/034,141	08/12/2014	8805825	T00128	6655

33438 7590 07/23/2014

TERRILE, CANNATTI, CHAMBERS & HOLLAND, LLP
P.O. BOX 203518
AUSTIN, TX 78720

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 80 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site http://pair.uspto.gov for additional applicants):

Brian K. Showers, Cedar Park, TX;
Brandon M. Beck, Austin, TX;
Nathan E. Little, Austin, TX;