REISSUE PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Address to:

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

Attorney Docket No.	83145
First Named Inventor	Doktor
Original Patent No.	5,826,259
Original Patent Issue Date	October 20, 1998
Express Mail Label No.	EV 703404873 US

APPLICATION FOR REISSUE OF:

(Check applicable box)

_X_ Utility Patent ____ Design Patent ____ Plant Patent

APPLICATION ELEMENTS (37 CFR 1.173)

1. _X_ Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/56)
   (Submit an original and a duplication for fee processing)

2. _X_ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

3. _X_ Specification and Claims in double column copy of patent format (amended, if appropriate)

4. _X_ Drawing(s) (proposed amendments, if appropriate)

5. _X_ Reissue Oath/Declaration (original or copy) (37 CFR 1.175) (PTO/SB/51 or 52) (3 items)

6. ____ Power of Attorney

7. _X_ Original U.S. Patent currently assigned?
   _X_ Yes _____ No
   (If Yes, check applicable box(es))
   _X_ Written Consent of all Assignees (PTO/SB/53)
   _X_ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (PTO/SB/96)

8. ____ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, Computer Program (Appendix) or large table

9. ____ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence submission (if applicable, all of the following are necessary)
   a. _____ Computer Readable Form (CFR)
   b. _____ Specification Sequence Listing on:
      i. ____ CD ROM or CD-R (2 copies) or
      ii. ____ paper
   c. _____ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

10. ____ Statement of status and support for all changes to the claims. See 37 CFR 1.173(c).

11. ____ Original U.S. Patent for surrender
    ____ Ribboned Original Patent Grant
    ____ Statement of Loss (PTO/SB/55)

12. ____ Foreign Priority Claim (35 USC 119) (if applicable)
    Country:
    Application No.:
    Filing Date:
    ____ The certified copy has been filed in prior application Serial No. _____ filed on _____

13. ____ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 and Copies of IDS Citations

14. ____ English Translation of Reissue Oath/Declaration (if applicable)

15. ____ Preliminary Amendment

16. _X_ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)

17. _X_ Other: Please associate this application with Customer No. 27975

27975

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Respectfully submitted,

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REISSUE APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM	Attorney Docket No. 83145

Claims as Filed – Part 1

Claims in Patent		Number Filed in Reissue Application	(3) Number Extra	Large Entity	
				Rate	Fee
(A)	Total Claims	(B) 18-20=	0	x 18=	$***
(C)	Indep. Claims	(D) 2-3=	13	x 84=	$***
				BASIC FEE	$700.00
				TOTAL FEE	$700.00

Claims as Amended – Part 2

	(1) Claims Remaining After Amendment	(2) Highest Number Previously Paid For	(3) Number Extra	Large Entity	
				Rate	Fee
Total Claims	*	18	0	x 18=	$***
Indep. Claims	*	2	0	x 84=	$*****
			TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE		$*****

* If the entry in (D) is less than the entry in (C), Write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number of Total Claims Previously Paid For" is less than 20, Write "20" in this space.
*** After any cancellation of claims.
**** If "A" is greater than 20, use (B-A); if "A" is 20 or less, use (B-20).
***** "Highest Number of Independent Claims Previously Paid For" or Number of Independent Claims in Patent (C).

_X__ Please charge the attached credit card payment form in the amount of _$700.00_ .
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

_X__ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under
37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 01-0484.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

JUN 1 4 2005
_____
Date

_____
David L. Stewart
Reg. No. 37,578

In re Patent Application of:)	Attny. Docket No.
DOKTOR)	**83145**
)	
Serial No. **NOT YET ASSIGNED**)	
)	
Filing Date: **HEREWITH**)	
)	
For: **EASILY EXPANDABLE DATA**)	
PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD)	
_____)	

TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

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

Sir:

      Enclosed are **nineteen (19)** sheets of formal drawings filed concurrently with the above identified patent application.

      Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No. 83145

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION FOR

REISSUE OF U.S. PATENT 5,826,259 ENTITLED

EASILY EXPANDABLE DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD

****

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EASILY EXPANDABLE DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/439,207, filed May 11, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,675, 779, which is a divisional of Ser. No. [08/083,361] 08/083,861, filed Jun. 28, 1993, now [issued;] U.S. Pat. No. 5,604,899, which issued on Feb. 18, 1997, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 07/526,424, filed May 21, 1990, now abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cross Reference to Microfiche Appendix

This application includes a plurality of computer program listings (modules) in the form of a Microfiche Appendix which is being filed concurrently herewith as 1162 frames (not counting target and title frames) distributed over 20 sheets of microfiche in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.96. The disclosed computer program listings are incorporated into this specification by reference but it should be noted that the source code and/or the resultant object code of the disclosed program modules are subject to copyright protection. The copyright owner has no objection to the facsimile reproduction by anyone of the patent document (or the patent disclosure as it appears in the files or records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) for the sole purpose of studying the disclosure but otherwise reserves all other rights to the disclosed computer program modules including the right to reproduce said computer program modules in machine-executable form.

Field of Invention

The present invention relates generally to computer database management systems and more specifically to apparatus and methods for modifying and searching through large scale databases at high speed.

Description of Related Art

Modern computer systems are capable of storing voluminous amounts of information in bulk storage means such as magnetic disk banks. The volume of stored information can be many times that of the textual information stored in a conventional encyclopedia or in the telephone directory of a large city. Moreover, modern computer systems can sift through the contents of their bulk storage means at extremely high speed, accessing as many as one million bytes of information or more per second (a byte is a string of eight bits, equivalent to approximately one character of text in layman's terms). Despite this capability, it may take an undesirably long time (i.e., hours or days) to retrieve desired pieces of information. In commercial settings such as financial data storage facilities, there will be literally billions of pieces of information that could be sifted through before the right one or more pieces of information are found. Thus, even at speeds of one million examinations per second, it can take thousands of seconds (many hours) to retrieve a desired piece of information. Efficient organization of the stored information is needed in order to minimize retrieval time.

The methods by which pieces of information are organized within a computer, searched through or reorganized, often parallel techniques used by older types of manual information processing systems. A well known example of a manual system is the index card catalog found in public libraries. Such a card catalog consists of a large number of uniformly dimensioned paper cards which are serially stacked in one or more trays. The cards are physically positioned such that each card is directly adjacent to no more than two others (for each typical examination there is a preceding card, the card under examination and a following card in the stack). On the front surface of each index card a librarian enters, in left to right sequence; the last name of an author, the first name of the author, the title of a single book which the author wrote and a shelf number indicating the physical location within the library where the one book may be found. Each of these four entries may be referred to as a "column" entry. Sufficient surface area must be available on each card to contain the largest of conceivable entries.

After the entries are made, the index cards are stacked one after the next in alphabetical order, according to the author's last name and then according to the author's first name and then by title. This defines a "key-sequenced" type of database whose primary sort key is the author's name. The examination position of each card is defined relative to the contents of preceding and following cards in the stack. That is, when cards are examined, each intermediate card is examined immediately after its alphabetically preceding card and immediately before its alphabetically succeeding card. When a new book is acquired, the key-sequenced database is easily "updated" by inserting a new card between two previously created cards. Similarly, if a book is removed from the collection, its card is simply pulled from the card stack to reflect the change.

If a library user has an inquiry respecting the location of a particular book or the titles of several books written by a named author, the librarian may quickly search through the alphabetically ordered set of index cards and retrieve the requested information. However, if a library user has an inquiry which is not keyed to an author's name, the search and retrieval process can require substantially more time; the worst case scenario being that for each inquiry the librarian has to physically sift through and examine each card in the entire catalog. As an example of such a scenario, suppose that an inquiring reader asks for all books in the library where the author's first name is John and the title of the book contains the word "neighbor" or a synonym thereof. Although it is conceptually possible to answer this inquiry using the information within the catalog, the time for such a search may be impractically long, and hence, while the information is theoretically available, it is not realistically accessible.

To handle the more common types of inquiries, libraries often keep redundant sets of index cards. One set of cards is sorted according to author names and another set is sorted according to the subject matter of each book. This form of redundant storage is disadvantageous because the size of the card catalog is doubled and hence, the cost of information storage is doubled. Also, because two index cards must be generated for each new book added to the collection the cost of updating the catalog is also doubled.

The size of a library collection tends to grow over time as more and more books are acquired. During the same time, more and more index cards are added to the catalog. The resulting stack of cards, which may be viewed as a kind of "database", therefore grows both in size and in worth. The "worth" of the card-based system may be defined in part as the accumulated cost of all work that is expended in creating each new index card and in inserting the card into an appropriate spot in the stack.

As time goes by, not only does the worth and size of the database grow, but new technologies, new rules, new services, etc., begin to emerge and the information requirements placed on the system change. Some of these changes

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