IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

FARBER et al.

Appln. No. 09/283,160

Filed: April 1, 1999

For: **IDENTIFYING DATA BASED ON CONTENTS OF DATA IN NETWORK** (As Amended)

Group Art Unit: 2776

Examiner: Homere, Jean R.

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January 11, 2001
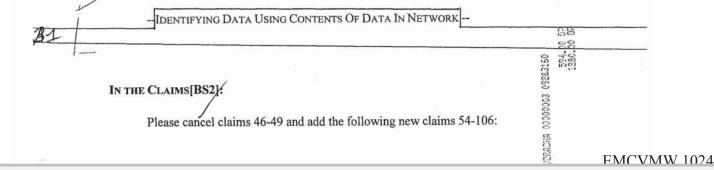
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
 and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on its merits, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please replace the title in its entirety with the following:

--IDENTIFYING DATA USING CONTENTS OF DATA IN NETWORK--

IN THE CLAIMS[BS2]:

Please cancel claims 46-49 and add the following new claims 54-106:

SUB CL

B1

--54. (New) In a system in which a set of data items are distributed across a network of servers, at least some of the data items being cached versions of data items from a source server, a content delivery method comprising:

determining a data identifier for a particular data item, the data identifier being determined using a given function of the data comprising the particular data item; and

responsive to a request for the particular data item, the request including at least the data identifier of the particular data item, providing the particular data item from a given one of the servers of the network of servers.

55. (New) In a system in which a set of data items are distributed across a network of servers, some of the data items being cached from a source server, a content delivery method comprising:

determining a data identifier for a particular data item, the data identifier being determined using a given function of the data comprising the particular data item; and

responsive to a request for the particular data item, the request including at least the data identifier of the particular data item, causing a copy of the particular data item to be provided from a given one of the servers of the network of servers.

56. (New) A content delivery method, comprising:

distributing a set of data items across a network of servers;

determining a data identifier for a particular data item, the data identifier being determined using a given function of the data comprising the particular data item; and

in response to a request for the particular data item, the request including at least the data identifier of the particular data item, providing the particular data item from a given one of the servers of the network of servers.

57. (New)   A method as in claim 56 further comprising:

determining whether the data identifier corresponds to a data identifier of any data item present on the given server.

58. (New)   A method as in claim 57 further comprising:

based on said determining, if the data identifier does not correspond to a data item present on the given server, locating the particular data item from another server.

59. (New)   A method as in claim 58 further comprising:

obtaining, on the given server, a local copy of the particular data item, from the other server.

60. (New)   A method as in claim 56 wherein at least some of the data items distributed across the network of servers are cached versions of data items from another server.

61. (New)   A method as in claim 56 further comprising:

resolving the request for the particular data item based on a measure of availability of at least one of the servers.

62. (New)   A method as in claim 61 wherein the measure of availability comprises one or more of:

(a)   a measurement of bandwidth to the server;

(b)   a measurement of a cost of a connection to the server, and

(c)   a measurement of a reliability of a connection to the server.

63. (New)   A method as in claim 56 wherein the data item is a compound data item made up of various component data items, the method further comprising:

for each component data item of at least some of the component data items:

(a)   determining a data identifier for the component data item, the data identifier determined using the given function of the data comprising the component data item; and

(b)   providing the component data item from a given one of the servers of the network of servers.

64. (New)   A content delivery method, comprising:

distributing a set of data items across a network of servers;

for a particular data item having a particular name specifying a location in the network at which the data item may be located, determining another name for the particular data item, the other name including a data identifier determined using a given function of the data comprising the particular data item; and

in response to a request for the particular data item, the request including the other name of the particular data item, providing the particular data item from a given one of the servers of the network of servers.

65. (New)   A method as in claim 64 wherein at least some of the data items are cached versions of data items from another server.

66. (New)   A method as in claim 64 further comprising:

resolving the request for the particular data item based on a measure of availability of at least one of the servers.

67. (New)   A method as in claim 66 wherein the measure of availability comprises one or more of:

(a)   a measurement of bandwidth to the server;

(b)   a measurement of a cost of a connection to the server, and

(c)   a measurement of a reliability of a connection to the server.

68. (New) A method as in claim 64 wherein the particular data item is a compound data item comprising various component data items, the method further comprising:

for at least one component data item:

(a)   determining a data identifier for the component data item, the data identifier determined using a given function of the data comprising the component data item; and

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