Attorney Docket No: S96-213/PROV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

pplication No.:

60/035,205

Filed:

10 Jan 97

Title:

Improved Text Searching in Hypertext Systems

Applicant(s):

Lawrence Page

Examiner:

mot yet assigned

Art Unit:

not yet assigned

TRANSMITTAL OF MISSING PARTS

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL ON THE DATE OF DEPOSIT INDICATED BELOW AND IS ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231. DATE OF DEPOSIT 3/28 (97

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THOMAS J. MCFARLANE REG. No. 39,299

Transmitted herewith in the Provisional patent application identified above are:

Small Entity Declaration; and [X]

[X] A check in the amount of \$25 for the surcharge

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/28/97

Thomas (, Westerland

Thomas J. McFarlane Reg. No. 39,299 426 Lowell Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94301 (415) 321-6630

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 20230 Appendix



PTO/SB/16(6-95)

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION COVER SHEET

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Attorney Docket No: S96-213

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, DC 20231

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	Sir:		
	Transn	nitted herewith for fi	ling is the provisional patent application of
	Invente	or(s): Lawrence	Page
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			Respectfully submitted,
17			Thomas 1. mulaulane
	Dated:	1/10/97	Thomas J. McFarlane
			Reg. No. 39,299
म्			426 Lowell Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94301

(415) 321-6630



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Provisional Patent Application of

Lawrence Page

for

Improved Text Searching in Hypertext Systems

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to techniques for database searching. More particularly, it relates to improved techniques for hypertext database searching.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

15

The following appendix, attached hereto, provides a detailed description of the invention.

Appendix A: 24 pages;

TOTAL appended pages:

24

(description and drawings).

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APPENDIX A

Improved Text Searching in Hypertext Systems

There is a demonstration system, called BackRub, usually available at http://zam.stanford.edu:1972/ from within Stanford. Or, contact me, page@cs.stanford.edu to arrange for a demo.

Introduction and Summary

Existing search engines on the web produce very poor results when the query matches large numbers of documents. Yet, these simple queries are very frequently issued by users. Described here is a system which yields radically improved results for these queries using the additional information available from a large database of web links. This database of web citations is used to determine a citation importance ranking for every web page, which is then used to sort the query results. This system has been implemented, and yields excellent results, even on a relatively small database of four million web pages. Not only does the system yield better results, but it does so at significantly reduced computational cost, which can be a very large expense for web search engines¹. Demonstrating the improvement is as easy as picking a general query, for example "weather", and comparing the results to the results from a traditional web search engine, like AltaVista (the results section shows some sample queries).

Motivation and Discussion of System

Only recently with the advent of the web, have large numbers of people started to frequently search huge databases. The indexable part of the web is currently at least 60 million documents totaling around 480 gigabytes². AltaVista currently services 23 million user queries per weekday³. Many of these queries do not give people reasonable results, and improving this situation is a very important problem, especially as the web is growing very quickly⁴. The web search engines are the busiest sites on the entire web.

Many of the queries users perform in existing web search engines are simple one word queries which typicially return tens of thousands of documents that match the query. This problem is only going to get worse as the web grows. Since people are only able to examine a handful of documents, only the highest ranked documents

⁴Some researches have claimed that the web has been doubling in size every 6 months or so.



¹AltaVista is run on several large computers that each cost around a million dollars. And, every time they add another machine, the demand increases instantly to fully utilize the new equipment. ²I recently downloaded 30 million web pages, and estimated this figure.

³From http://altavista.digital.com/.

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