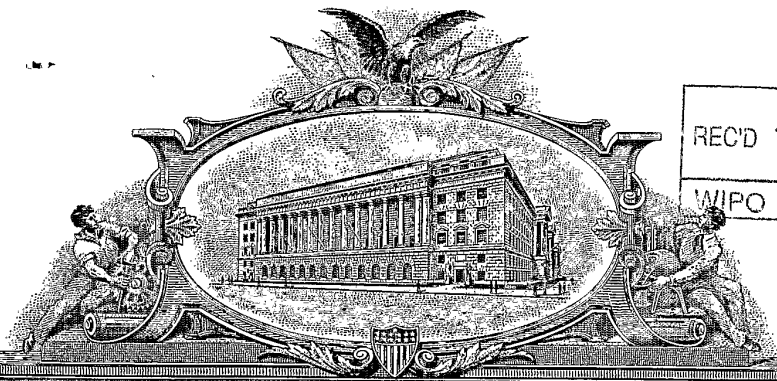P1 270151

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APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A
FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.

APPLICATION NUMBER: *60/135,385*
FILING DATE: *May 21, 1999*
PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US00/13866*

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

New Provisional Patent Application:)	
)	
Inventor(s) : **Nason et al**)	**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.:**
)	
Filed : **5/21/99**)	EL088712431US
)	
For : **PARALLEL GRAPHICAL**)	**Date of Deposit:**
USER INTERFACE)	
)	**May 21, 1999**
)	
)	

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box: **Provisional** Patent Application

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the above-noted Provisional patent application, including the following:

☒ __53__ pages Specification, Abstract, and Appendices A, B and C

☒ __31__ sheets of informal Drawings

☐ Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status

☒ Check in the amount of **$150.00**

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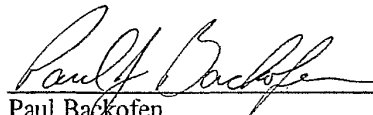The names and addresses of the inventors are:

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FEE COMPUTATION

Basic Filing Fee .... $ 150.00

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TOTAL FILING FEE .... $ 150.00

No additional fees are believed to be due. If an extension of time is required for this paper or later filed papers, please consider this a petition for the required extension of time. Please charge any required petition fees, and any other fees, except for payment of the issue fee, and charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment during the prosecution of this application to our deposit account No. 09-0946 for which purpose a duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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PARALLEL GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

Background of the Invention

5 **1. Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to computer user interfaces and more specifically to a parallel graphical user interface for a digital computer.

2. Description of the Prior Art

10 The advent of the computer age saw users struggling with text based interfaces to manage and use a computer. The introduction of graphical user interfaces simplified computer use and prompted many people to buy and use computers. Generally, a computer has a single "primary"

15 graphical user interface and all other programs run under it. As computer processor speed and complexity has increased it has become possible for computers and their displays to handle more and more tasks simultaneously as illustrated by the growth of multitasking applications.

20 There is no more reason for a computer user to be limited to a single graphical user interface for computer control and interaction.

What is needed is a parallel graphical user interface that may be used with conventional user interfaces to allow

25 a computer user to exploit the capability of conventional displays and processors with a minimal impact on the functionality of the conventional user interfaces.

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Summary of the Invention

In a first aspect, the present invention includes a parallel graphical user interface (GUI) modeled as a dial tuning metaphor. This provides an intuitive interface that

5   remains useable in spaces with high aspect ratios for convenient use in parallel with another more conventional GUI to increase the efficiency of a users computer experience.

In another aspect of the present invention, a GUI

10 according to the present invention may operate in display areas having aspect ratios of 3:1 or greater.

These and other features and advantages of this invention will become further apparent from the detailed description and accompanying figures that follow. In the

15 figures and description, numerals indicate the various features of the invention, like numerals referring to like features throughout both the drawings and the description.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a computer apparatus

20 according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a line drawing of a parallel GUI according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a simplified example of a menu tree according to the present invention.

25 Fig. 4 is a line drawing of a parallel GUI with an accessory container or cartridge according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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