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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



IN RE APPLICATION OF: FRED B. HOLT *ET AL.*

APPLICATION NO.: 09/629,577

FILED: JULY 31, 2000

FOR: LEAVING A BROADCAST CHANNEL

EXAMINER: DAVID R. LAZARO

ART UNIT: 2155

CONF. NO: 4317

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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Technology Center 2100

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

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003 in the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 4.

Arguments/Remarks begin on page 8.

EXHIBIT

Ex. 1025

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,576, entitled "BROADCASTING NETWORK," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048001 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,570, entitled "JOINING A BROADCAST CHANNEL," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048002 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,577, "LEAVING A BROADCAST CHANNEL," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048003 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,575, entitled "BROADCASTING ON A BROADCAST CHANNEL," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048004 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,572, entitled "CONTACTING A BROADCAST CHANNEL," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048005 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,023, entitled "DISTRIBUTED AUCTION SYSTEM," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048006 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,043, entitled "AN INFORMATION DELIVERY SERVICE," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048007 US); U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,024, entitled "DISTRIBUTED CONFERENCING SYSTEM," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048008 US); and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,042, entitled "DISTRIBUTED GAME ENVIRONMENT," filed on July 31, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. 030048009 US), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please add the following **new** paragraph as an **Abstract**.

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A2  
A method for leaving a multicast computer network is disclosed. The method allows for the disconnection of a first computer from a second computer. When the first computer decides to disconnect from the second computer, the first computer sends a disconnect message to the second computer. Then, when the second computer receives the disconnect message from the first computer, the second computer broadcasts a connection port search message to find a third computer to which it can connect.

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-8. (Withdrawn)

<sup>A3</sup>  
C  
~~9.~~ (Currently amended) A method of disconnecting a first computer from a second computer, the first computer and the second computer being connected to a broadcast channel, said broadcast channel forming an m-regular graph where m is at least 3, the method comprising:

when the first computer decides to disconnect from the second computer, the first computer sends a disconnect message to the second computer, said disconnect message including a list of neighbors of the first computer; and

when the second computer receives the disconnect message from the first computer, the second computer broadcasts a connection port search message <sup>on the broadcast channel</sup> to find a third computer to which it can connect, <sup>in order to maintain an m-regular graph</sup> said third computer being one of the neighbors on said list of neighbors.

<sup>2</sup>  
~~10.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~9~~ wherein the second computer receives a port connection message indicating that the third computer is proposing that the third computer and the second computer connect.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~11.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~9~~ wherein the first computer disconnects from the second computer after sending the disconnect message.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~12.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~9~~ wherein the broadcast channel is implemented using the Internet.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

<sup>5</sup>  
~~15.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~15~~ wherein the first computer and second computer are connected via a TCP/IP connection.

<sup>6</sup>  
~~16.~~ (Currently amended) A method for healing a disconnection of disconnecting a first computer from a second computer, the computers being connected to a broadcast channel, said broadcast channel being an m-regular graph where m is at least 3, the method comprising:

~~connecting the first computer to a second computer;~~

attempting to send a message from the first computer to the second computer; and

when the attempt to send the message is unsuccessful, broadcasting from the first computer a connection port search message indicating that the first computer needs a connection; and

having a third computer not already connected to said first computer respond to said connection port search message in a manner as to maintain an m-regular graph.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~17.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~16~~ including:

when a third computer receives the connection port search message and the third computer also needs a connection, sending a message from the third computer to the first computer proposing that the first computer and third computer connect.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~18.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~17~~ including:

when the first computer receives the message proposing that the first computer and third computer connect, sending from the first computer to the third computer a message indicating that the first computer accepts the proposal to connect the first computer to the third computer.

<sup>9</sup>  
~~19.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~16~~ wherein each computer connected to the broadcast channel is connected to at least three other computers.

20. (Cancelled)

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