



US006750881B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Appelman**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,750,881 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*Jun. 15, 2004**

(54) **USER DEFINABLE ON-LINE CO-USER LISTS**

(75) Inventor: **Barry Appelman**, Great Falls, VA (US)

(73) Assignee: **America Online, Inc.**, Dulles, VA (US)

(\* ) Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1185 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **08/803,692**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 24, 1997**

(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 15/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **345/733; 345/853**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 345/329, 330, 345/331, 332; 395/200.34, 200.35; 379/204, 201, 202, 913

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

5,327,486 A	7/1994	Wolff et al.	
5,483,586 A *	1/1996	Sussman	379/201
5,533,110 A	7/1996	Pinard et al.	
5,557,659 A	9/1996	Hyde-Thomson	
5,568,540 A	10/1996	Greco	
5,583,920 A	12/1996	Wheeler, Jr.	
5,608,786 A	3/1997	Gordon	
5,610,910 A	3/1997	Focsaneanu et al.	
5,742,905 A	4/1998	Pepe et al.	
5,793,365 A *	8/1998	Tang et al.	345/329
5,960,173 A *	9/1999	Tang et al.	348/15

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

WO	WO 97/14234	4/1997
WO	WO 97/46955	12/1997

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Edward Baig, How to Practice Safe Surfing, Business Week, Sep. 9, 1996, p. 120.\*

Mark Moridian, Internet Online Services: Communication, Interactive Content, v2, p. 7, Oct. 1996.\*

Xhtalk 2.9 Specification; Klaus Hartenstein; Nov. 92.

AOL 1996 Annual Report.

"Dial 1-800-Internet"; Nathan Muller; BYTE Magazine; Feb. 1996.

"Hey Baby, Call Me at My IP Address"; Peter Wayner; BYTE Magazine; Apr. 1996.

Finding Several Users, Jul. 14, 1994, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 27, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://consult.cern.ch/writeup/zephyr/subsectionstar2\_2\_3\_2.html.

Abbe Cohen et al., Inessential Zephyr, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 28, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.mit.edu/afs/sipb/project/doc/izephyr/html/izephyr.html.

(List continued on next page.)

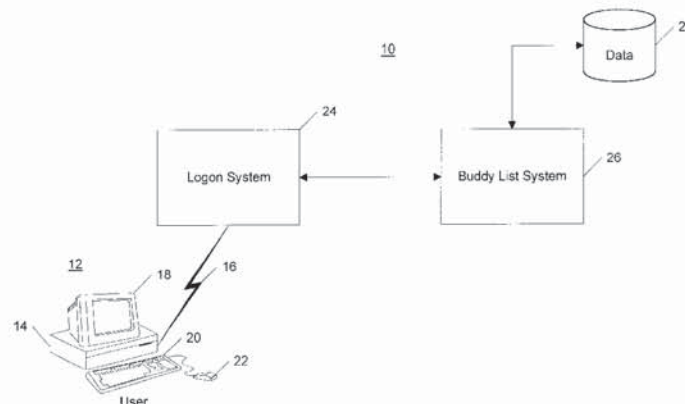
*Primary Examiner*—Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Fish & Richardson P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A real time notification system that tracks, for each user, the logon status of selected co-users of an on-line or network system and displays that information in real time to the tracking user in a unique graphical interface. The invention provides user definable on-line co-user lists, or "buddy lists", that track specific co-users in real-time automatically. A user can create many separate buddy lists of co-users, either with intersecting or disjoint lists of users, and label these buddy lists according to the user's preference. The user can update a buddy list or create new buddy lists whenever necessary. When a user logs on to a system, the user's set of buddy lists is presented to the buddy list system. The buddy list system attempts to match co-users currently logged into the system with the entries on the user's buddy list. Any matches are displayed to the user. As co-users logon and logoff, a user's buddy list is updated to reflect these changes. An indication can also be added to show that a co-user just logged on or just left the system.

**10 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sharon Belville et al., Zephyr at CERN, Jul. 15, 1993, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 27, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:<http://consult.cern.ch/writeup/zephyr/main.html>.

ZEPHYR Answers, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 27, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:<http://web.mit.edu/answers/zephyr/>.

ZEPHYR(1) Manual Page, Jul. 1, 1988, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 27, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:<http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/demos/ossc-v51a/man-htm/zephyr-man.htm>.

Zephyr on Athena (AC-34) Draft, [online], [retrieved on Jan. 27, 2003]. Retrieved from the Internet: URL:<http://web.mit.edu/olh/zephyr/TOC.html>.

C. Anthony DellaFera et al., The Zephyr Notification Service, pp. 1-9.

Robert S. French et al., The Zephyr Programmer's Manual, Protocol Version ZEPH0.2, Apr. 5, 1989, pp. 1-82.

Carla J. Fermann, Distributed Consulting in a Distributed Environment, ACM SIGUCCS XVIII 1990, pp. 117-120.

Earl M. Murman et al., Perspectives on Project Athena, ACM SIGUCCS SVIII 1990, pp. 287-296.

\* cited by examiner

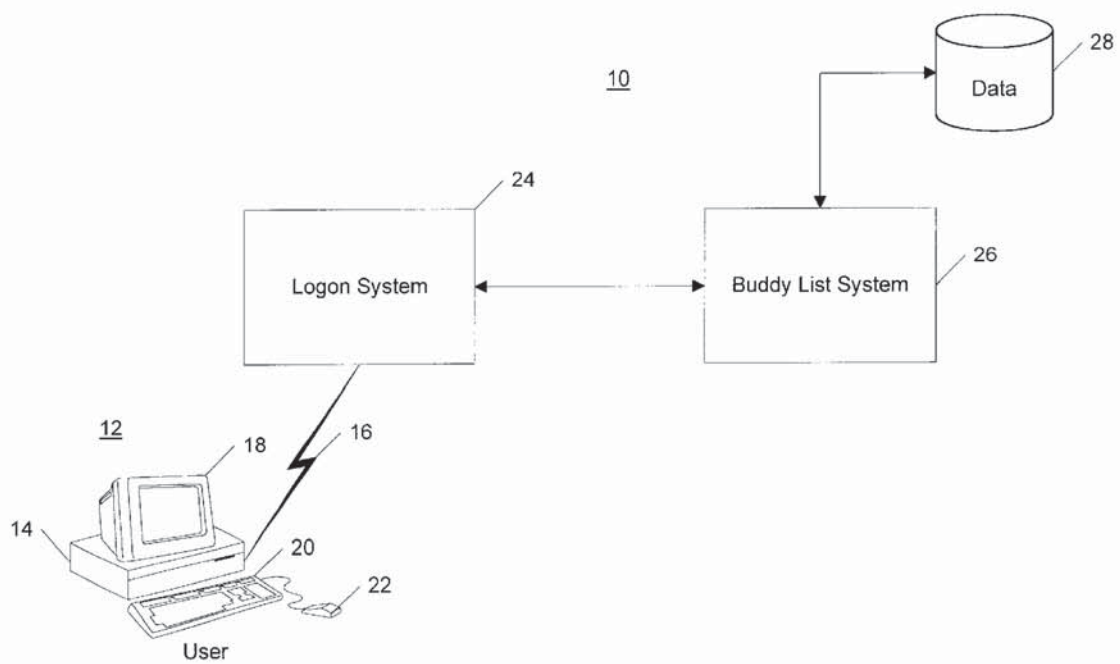


FIG. 1

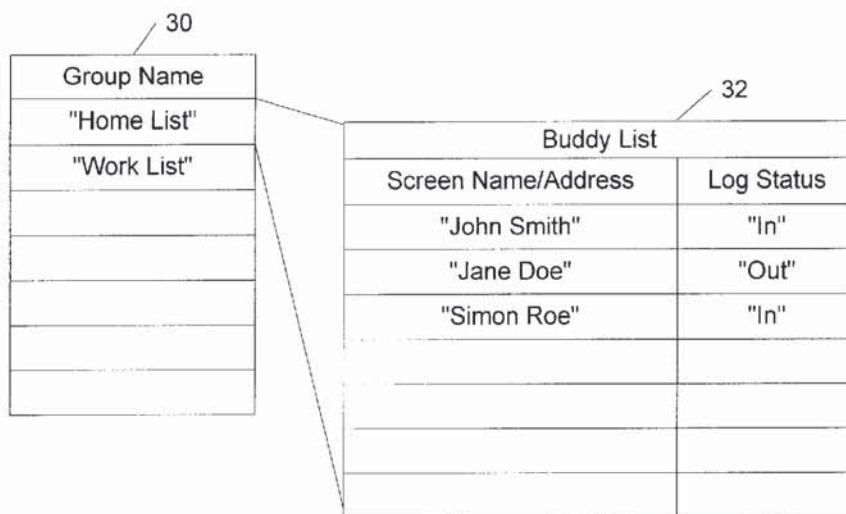


FIG. 2a

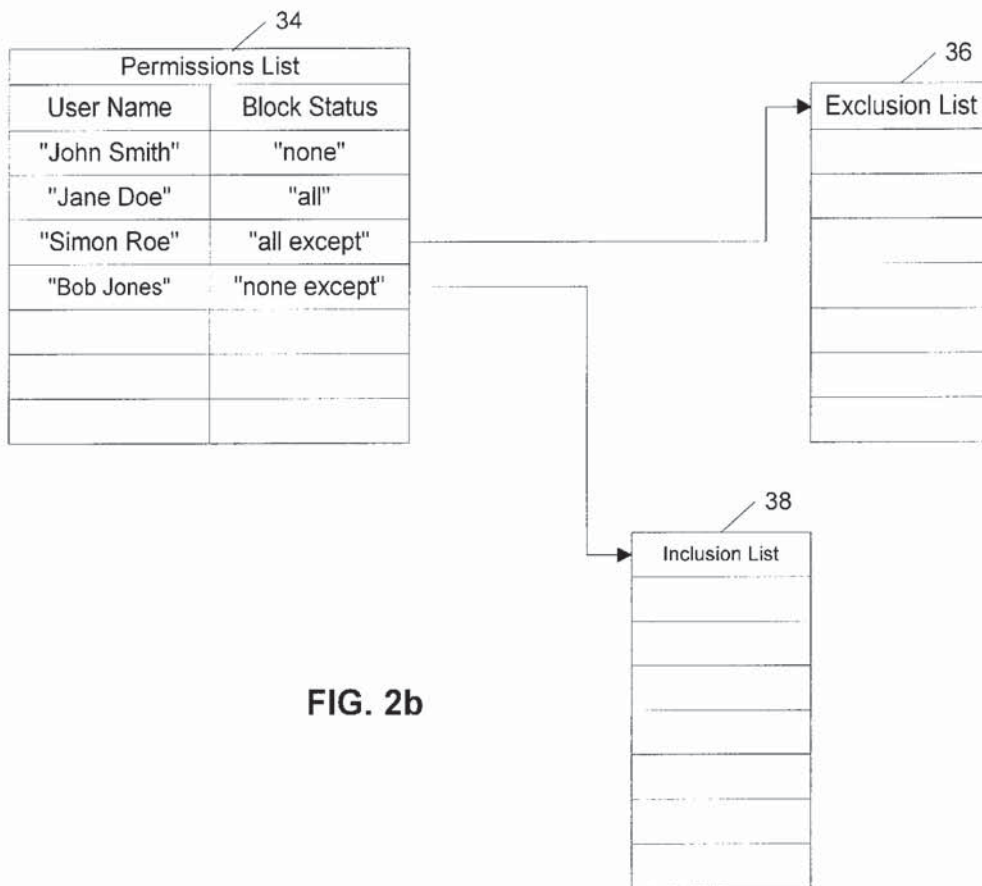


FIG. 2b

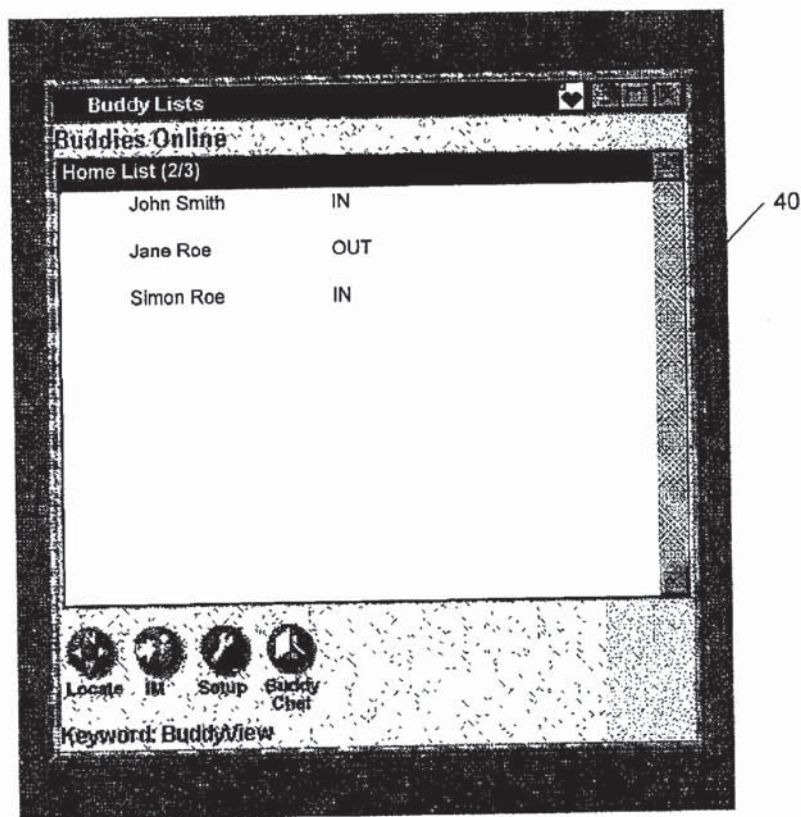


FIG. 3

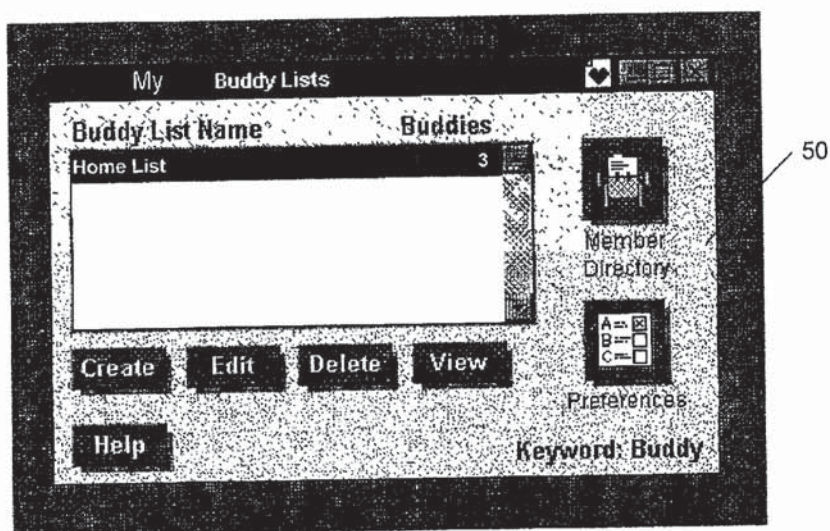


FIG. 4

# Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

## Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

## Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

## Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

## API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

## LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

## E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.