

**CERTIFICATION AND REQUEST
FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION (TRACK I)** (Page 1 of 1)

First Named Inventor:	Matthew F. KELLY, et al	Nonprovisional Application Number (if known):	NEW
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		

APPLICANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AND REQUESTS PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION (TRACK I) FOR THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION.

1. (a) The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the utility application via EFS-Web.

OR

(b) The application is an original nonprovisional plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the plant application in paper. (Note: Plant applications cannot be filed via EFS-Web.)

Note: The following are excluded from the Track I program: design applications, provisional applications, national stage applications, PCT international applications, reissue applications, and reexamination proceedings.

2. The following fees (in amounts consistent with the current fee schedule available at <http://www.uspto.gov/about/offices/cfo/finance/fees.jsp>) are filed with the application: (1) basic filing fee; (2) search fee; (3) examination fee; (4) any required excess claims fees; (5) any required application size fee; (6) publication fee; (7) processing fee (Track I) set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); and (8) prioritized examination fee (Track I) set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c).
3. An executed oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63 is filed with the application.
4. The application contains or is amended to contain no more than four independent claims and no more than thirty total claims, and no multiple dependent claims.

Signature	/Vincent J. Allen/	Date	December 9, 2011
Name (Print/Typed)	Vincent J. Allen	Practitioner Registration Number	45,514
Note: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 11.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature. If necessary, submit multiple forms for more than one signature, see below*.			
<input type="checkbox"/> *Total of <u>1</u> forms are submitted.			

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		
<p>The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76.</p> <p>This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.</p>			

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2

- ☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)

Applicant Information:

Applicant 1					Remove
Applicant Authority <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inventor		<input type="radio"/> Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117		<input type="radio"/> Party of Interest under 35 U.S.C. 118	
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	Matthew	F.	Kelly		
Residence Information (Select One) <input checked="" type="radio"/> US Residency <input type="radio"/> Non US Residency <input type="radio"/> Active US Military Service					
City	Scottsdale	State/Province	AZ	Country of Residence i	US
Citizenship under 37 CFR 1.41(b) i		US			
Mailing Address of Applicant:					
Address 1		8553 East Preserve Way			
Address 2					
City	Scottsdale	State/Province	AZ		
Postal Code	85262	Country i	US		
Applicant 2					Remove
Applicant Authority <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inventor		<input type="radio"/> Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117		<input type="radio"/> Party of Interest under 35 U.S.C. 118	
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	Bryan	M.	Kelly		
Residence Information (Select One) <input checked="" type="radio"/> US Residency <input type="radio"/> Non US Residency <input type="radio"/> Active US Military Service					
City	Alamo	State/Province	CA	Country of Residence i	US
Citizenship under 37 CFR 1.41(b) i		US			
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Address 1		24 Holiday Drive			
Address 2					
City	Alamo	State/Province	CA		
Postal Code	94507	Country i	US		
Applicant 3					Remove
Applicant Authority <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inventor		<input type="radio"/> Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117		<input type="radio"/> Party of Interest under 35 U.S.C. 118	
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	Norman	B.	Petermeier		
Residence Information (Select One) <input checked="" type="radio"/> US Residency <input type="radio"/> Non US Residency <input type="radio"/> Active US Military Service					
City	Pleasanton	State/Province	CA	Country of Residence i	US

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		

Citizenship under 37 CFR 1.41(b) i		US	
Mailing Address of Applicant:			
Address 1		1092 Piemonte Drive	
Address 2			
City	Pleasanton	State/Province	CA
Postal Code	94566	Countryⁱ	US
Applicant 4			Remove
Applicant Authority		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Inventor <input type="radio"/> Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117 <input type="radio"/> Party of Interest under 35 U.S.C. 118	
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name
	John	G.	Kroeckel
Residence Information (Select One) <input checked="" type="radio"/> US Residency <input type="radio"/> Non US Residency <input type="radio"/> Active US Military Service			
City	San Ramon	State/Province	CA
Country of Residence i		US	
Citizenship under 37 CFR 1.41(b) i		US	
Mailing Address of Applicant:			
Address 1		828 Pinehurst Place	
Address 2			
City	San Ramon	State/Province	CA
Postal Code	94583	Countryⁱ	US
Applicant 5			Remove
Applicant Authority		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Inventor <input type="radio"/> Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117 <input type="radio"/> Party of Interest under 35 U.S.C. 118	
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name
	John	E.	Link
Residence Information (Select One) <input checked="" type="radio"/> US Residency <input type="radio"/> Non US Residency <input type="radio"/> Active US Military Service			
City	Manteco	State/Province	CA
Country of Residence i		US	
Citizenship under 37 CFR 1.41(b) i		US	
Mailing Address of Applicant:			
Address 1		2247 Katherine Place	
Address 2			
City	Monteco	State/Province	CA
Postal Code	95337	Countryⁱ	US
All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.			Add

Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below. For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).	
<input type="checkbox"/> An Address is being provided for the correspondence Information of this application.	
Customer Number	22858

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		

Email Address	allen@cclaw.com	<input type="button" value="Add Email"/>	<input type="button" value="Remove Email"/>
Email Address	sanders@cclaw.com	<input type="button" value="Add Email"/>	<input type="button" value="Remove Email"/>

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		
Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108	Small Entity Status Claimed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Suggested Class (if any)		Sub Class (if any)	
Suggested Technology Center (if any)			
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)		Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	

Publication Information:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request Not to Publish. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Representative Information:

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Customer Number	22858		

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This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or CFR 1.78(a)(4), and need not otherwise be made part of the specification.			
Prior Application Status	Pending	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Continuation of	13102000	2011-05-05
Prior Application Status	Pending	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
13102000	Continuation of	11277339	2006-03-23

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		

Prior Application Status		Patented	Remove		
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
11277339	Continuation of	10751006	2003-12-31	7762885	2010-07-27
Prior Application Status		Patented	Remove		
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
10751006	Continuation of	09433523	1999-11-03	6758755	2004-07-06
Prior Application Status		Patented	Remove		
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
09433523	Continuation in part of	09040654	1998-03-17	6007426	1999-12-28
Prior Application Status		Patented	Remove		
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
09040654	Continuation of	08746755	1996-11-14	5816918	1998-10-06
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add					

Foreign Priority Information:

This section allows for the applicant to claim benefit of foreign priority and to identify any prior foreign application for which priority is not claimed. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55(a).			
			Remove
Application Number	Country ⁱ	Parent Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Priority Claimed
			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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Providing this information in the application data sheet does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of the CFR to have an assignment recorded in the Office.			
Assignee ¹			Remove
If the Assignee is an Organization check here. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Organization Name	Agincourt Gaming LLC		
Mailing Address Information:			
Address 1	2101 Cedar Springs Rd.		
Address 2	Suite 1900		
City	Dallas	State/Province	TX
Country ⁱ	US	Postal Code	75201
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		

Additional Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

Signature:

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Vincent J. Allen/		Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-09	
First Name	Vincent	Last Name	Allen	Registration Number	45514

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.76. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 23 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application data sheet form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

FOR

METHOD FOR PROVIDING A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

BY:

**MATTHEW F. KELLY
BRYAN M. KELLY
NORMAN B. PETERMEIER
JOHN G. KROECKEL
JOHN E. LINK**

Via e-filing

Enclosures:

- 1. Certification and Request for Prioritized Examination (1 pg);**
- 2. Utility Patent Application Data Sheet (6 pg);**
- 3. Patent Application Specification (27 pgs);**
- 4. Patent Application Claims (5 pgs);**
- 5. Patent Application Abstract (1 pg);**
- 6. Drawings (16 pgs); and**
- 7. Signed Declaration/Power of Attorney (3 pgs).**

METHOD FOR PROVIDING A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 13/102,000 filed May 5, 2011, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/277,339 filed March 23, 2006, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/751,006 filed December 31, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 7,762,885, issued July 27, 2010, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/433,523 filed November 3, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,758,755, issued July 6, 2004, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application No. 09/040,654, filed March 17, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,007,426, issued December 28, 1999, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/746,755, filed on November 14, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,816,918, issued October 6, 1998, which are all incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD

[0002] This invention generally relates to a network gaming system and more particularly pertains to a method for depositing and using credits of a user of the network gaming system to obtain objects available within the network gaming system.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Traditional gaming environments have conventionally been restricted to bars, arcades, homes, and other public and private establishments. Outside such gaming environments, players have been commonly restricted to playing board games, local computer games, TV-supported video games, etc. However, with the widespread use of standardized large-scale wide area networks such as the Internet and World Wide Web in recent years, players of video and computer games at home are offered an environment to access numerous games and compete with each other. A player can connect a home computer, video game console, set top box, or other device to the Internet using telephone lines, cable TV lines, or other connections to the home. The player can thus play games offered to the player from a remote server or other source. The player can also compete or otherwise interact in a game with hundreds or even thousands of other players who are also connected to the Internet.

[0004] However, although a wide array of options are available for home game players, players typically cannot play games from home to receive prizes. Players may often desire to receive a prize after playing a game or participating in a tournament, but no standardized prize redemption system is provided to home players. Any administrator of such a prize redemption system faces problems when attempting to organize ticket winnings and offer prizes at ticket costs adjusted for a desired profitability.

[0005] One problem with the network games of the prior art is that maintaining a redemption system can be very involving for an entity which maintains a web site, to the point of being burdensome. For example, operators must maintain a system of prize tracking and delivery for a large pool of users. Requiring even greater maintenance is the setting and adjustment of prize credit costs or prices of the prizes. The operator must determine how many prize credits are awarded, on average, by each game on the network and then determine the price of each prize in terms of prize credits and in view of a desired profitability level.

[0006] There is thus a need for an effective system of enabling prize redemption with games which are distributed, executed, and managed over a wide area network.

SUMMARY

[0007] This summary is provided to describe certain aspects of an embodiment of the invention. It is not intended to show the essential features of the invention nor is it intended to limit the scope of the claims.

[0008] The invention includes a method for providing a network gaming system. The method comprises receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system; depositing the credits into an account of the user; receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object. .

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] These and other advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art after reading the following descriptions and studying the various figures of the drawings.

[0010] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a wide area network which interconnects a plurality of game apparatuses for facilitating a prize redemption system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of various components used in one of the game apparatuses of FIG. 1;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a general functional diagram of the prize redemption system of FIG. 1 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 4 is a functional diagram illustrating various interfaces accessed during the course of use of the present invention in addition to underlying supporting components of such interfaces;

[0014] FIG. 4A is a functional diagram illustrating the operation of the prize database server of the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating various software components of one of the game apparatuses of the present invention and further multiple servers associated therewith;

[0016] FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating various operations associated with the present invention;

[0017] FIG. 7 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the player registration operation 602 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0018] FIG. 8 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the purchase game credits operation 604 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0019] FIG. 9 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the play games operation 608 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0020] FIG. 10 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the error handling operation 610 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0021] FIG. 11 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the awarding prizes operation 612 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0022] FIG. 11A illustrates a method of the present invention for determining payment for participating in a network gaming tournament;

[0023] FIG. 12 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the awarding prizes operation 614 of FIG. 6 is executed;

[0024] FIG. 13 is an illustration of a graphical user interface of the present invention; and

[0025] FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating the acts involved with an advertisement feedback aspect of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0026] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of the present invention which is adapted for allowing redemption of prizes won while playing games on a plurality of networked game apparatuses. As shown in FIG. 1, a wide area network 100, i.e. the Internet, interconnects a plurality of game apparatuses 102 for facilitating a prize redemption system. Such game apparatuses 102 are each adapted for displaying a user interface which in turn allows a user to play a plurality of games. Also included is a prize database server 104, adapted for connecting to the game apparatuses 102 via the wide area network 100 for communication via a protocol such as TCP/IP or IPX. As an option, the prize database server 104 may also function at least in part as a game apparatus 102.

[0027] In use, a user identification code is received by the prize database server 104 from the game apparatuses 102 that corresponds to the user. After play of a game is complete, an indication of an outcome of the game is also received by the prize database server 104. The prize database server 104 also tracks a number of prize credits awarded the user based on the outcome of the present game and/or previous games. Further, the prize database server 104 functions to allow redemption of the prize credits for a prize.

[0028] With continuing reference to FIG. 1, at least some of the game apparatuses 102 include dedicated game units 106 which are commonly used in combination with televisions or are portable in nature for the sole purpose of playing various games. Such dedicated game units 106 may include a NINTENDO, SEGA or SONY game unit or a game implemented on a personal digital assistant such as a PALM PILOT.

[0029] In one embodiment, the dedicated game units 106 each include a modem to connect with the wide area network for communication purposes. In the alternative, the dedicated game units may each include a removable cartridge 108 which may or may not contain one or more specific games, and also allow storage of information, i.e. an identification code and an indication of an outcome of the game. Such cartridges 108 may further be adapted for being releasably received in a specially-adapted port such as a DEXDRIVE connected to a computer which is in turn connectable with the wide area network 100 for communication purposes. In the case of a personal digital assistant such as a PALM PILOT, a HOTSYNC module may be used to communicate information with the computer.

[0030] In another embodiment, at least some of the game apparatuses 102 include desktop or laptop computers 110 each having a modem to connect with the wide area network 100 for communication purposes. In still yet another embodiment, at least some of the game apparatuses 102 include servers 112 for allowing communication with a plurality of computers 110 via the wide area network 100.

[0031] As an option, some of the game apparatuses may include stand-alone units capable of printing prize credits in the form of tickets, coupons, magnetically readable cards, cards with barcodes, or any other type of "smart" card which may be redeemable at the site of the game apparatus. More information on such game apparatuses may be had by reference to U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,127, by Kelly et al. which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. It should be noted that the various aforementioned game apparatuses may be used in any combination.

[0032] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of one of the aforementioned computers 110. As shown, input devices 200 may be used by a player or user to provide input to the game unit to influence game events during a game process and to achieve one or more predetermined goals or tasks for scoring points and winning prizes or other types of awards. The input devices 200 can also be used to select prizes within the redemption system of the present invention. Alternatively, separate input controls can be used for the prize functions of the game unit.

[0033] Player input typically includes game commands provided by controlling devices such as buttons, keyboard, dials, joystick controls, touch screen, track ball, mouse, gun device,

steering wheel, foot pedals, speech input through a microphone, or any other input used in playing a game and providing selections. For example, the player can move a joystick to control a graphical object displayed on a video screen. Each type of user input can provide a particular game command to the computer, and the computer interprets the commands and influences game states and game events in the game process accordingly.

[0034] With continuing reference to FIG. 2, the computer 110 receives signals and commands from the player input devices 200 and translates/interprets those signals and commands so that the game process can be updated. The computer 110 preferably includes a microprocessor 202, random access memory (RAM) 204, read-only memory (ROM) 206, and input/output (I/O) 210. Microprocessor 202 can be any processor or controller with features sufficient to control the game apparatus. For example, a suitable microprocessor 202 for many mechanical game applications is the Intel 8031 8-bit microprocessor, which includes eight data lines and sixteen address lines. Alternatively, more powerful microprocessors, such as Pentium-class/Power PC class microprocessors, or specialized graphical or digital signal processors, can be used. Microprocessor 202 executes a process, described by software instructions stored in memory, which recognizes a game command from player input devices 200. The software instructions can be stored in a "computer readable medium", which, by way of example, includes memory such as RAM and ROM, magnetic disks, magnetic tape, optically readable media such as CD ROMs, semiconductor memory such as memory chips or PCMCIA cards, etc. In each case, the medium may take the form of a portable item such as a small disk, diskette, cassette, memory module, etc., or it may take the form of a relatively larger or immobile item such as a hard disk drive.

[0035] Microprocessor 202 is coupled to RAM 204 by a data (D)/address (A)/control (C) bus 208 to permit the use of the RAM 204 for scratch-pad memory and other functions during a game process. ROM 306 is preferably an erasable, programmable read-only memory (EPROM) that contains the start-up instructions and operating system for the microprocessor 202. Methods for coupling RAM 204 and ROM 206 to the microprocessor 202 by bus 208 including data, address, and control lines are well-known to those skilled in the art.

[0036] I/O 210 includes buffers, drivers, ports, registers, and other analog and/or digital circuitry to interface inputs and outputs with the bus 208. Game output devices 212 and input devices 200 can be coupled to I/O 210. For example, a display screen can be coupled to I/O 210 so that the microprocessor or another video processor can control the display of images on the display screen, as is well known to those skilled in the art.

[0037] The computer can include plug-in interface cards such as video cards, 3-D graphics cards, sound cards, controller cards, etc. Standard peripherals can be coupled to the I/O 210 as input devices 200 and output devices 212, such as a CD-ROM drive, storage device (floppy disk drive, hard disk drive, etc.), PCMCIA card, printer, stylus and tablet, microphone for voice recognition, camera, or communication device.

[0038] FIG. 3 is a functional diagram illustrating an overview of the interaction among various users, computers, servers, business entities, etc. during the course of use of the present invention. As shown, in one embodiment, a user utilizes a game apparatus, i.e. computer, for directly or indirectly accessing a server which provides a plurality of games in operation 300. In one embodiment, the user may access the game server via any particular related or unrelated hosting web site. Next, in operation 302, the user logs on, purchases credits (optional), and plays a game provided by the server. During the course of the game, any prize credits earned are deposited in an account of the user, as indicated in operation 304.

[0039] With continuing reference to FIG. 3, the user is notified of any prize credits that may have resulted from the play of the game, as indicated in operation 306. Thereafter, in operation 308, the user may again use the game apparatus to access the prize database server which may or may not be separate from the game server. An account of the user is then checked to verify a current number of prize credits available. See operation 310. Then, in operation 312, the game database orders any prizes selected by the user from a prize vendor. The prize is then delivered to the user in operation 314. In the case where a prize credit that represents a specific prize is awarded in operation 316, the prize database server does not require any selection prior to ordering in operation 312.

[0040] Any monetary gain resulting from the method of the present invention may be distributed in various ways. For example, an owner of a hosting web site may be compensated

for providing access to the games via the hosting web site. Note operation 318. Further, a developer of the games may be compensated in operation 320. The prize vendor may also receive funds for cost of prizes, shipping, handling, etc. in operation 322.

[0041] FIG. 4 illustrates a functional diagram illustrating some of the user interfaces, supporting software, and hardware associated with an alteration of the flowchart in FIG. 3. In terms of hardware, a server 400 is shown to include software having a game settings cartridge 402, an advertising cartridge 404, and a prize redemption cartridge 406. It should be understood that any of the foregoing cartridges may be executed from separate servers.

[0042] In use, a user interface 405, i.e. web page, of a hosting web site allows access to a game interface 407 via the game settings cartridge 402 of the server 400. In contrast to operation 302 of the method of FIG. 3, the present alternate method does not require the user to log on or purchase credits. Instead, funding is afforded by advertising that is provided during the course of the game by way of the advertising cartridge 404. Upon winning a number of prize credits, the user is then forwarded to a prize redemption interface 409 governed by the prize redemption cartridge 406.

[0043] When access is gained to the prize redemption interface 409, the user is required to log on via a log-on interface 411, unless, of course, the user is already logged on. Thereafter, a confirmation interface 410 is displayed for indicating that the prize has been delivered. As an option, a "cookie" may be placed on the computer of the user in operation 412.

[0044] FIG. 4A is a general functional diagram illustrating the operation of the prize database server of the present invention. Irrespective of whether the present invention is implemented in the manner shown in FIG. 3 or FIG. 4, or any other manner, the prize database server may carry out fundamental operations. In particular, the prize database server is adapted for allowing redemption of prizes resulting from playing games on a plurality of networked game apparatuses.

[0045] To accomplish this, the prize database server is capable of connecting to the game apparatuses via a wide area network, i.e. the Internet, or any other communication system in operation 450. Upon the connection being established, the prize database server receives a user identification code from the game apparatuses that corresponds to the user in operation 452. Also

received is an indication of an outcome of a game or games upon the user playing the game(s). Note operation 454. The prize database server also tracks a number of prize credits awarded the user based on the outcome of the game in addition to allowing redemption of the prize credits for a prize, as indicated in operations 456 and 458, respectively.

[0046] FIG. 5 illustrates software that may be resident in one of the game apparatuses mentioned hereinabove. Client-side software 501 is shown to include an activator module 500, a communicator module 502, and a buffer module 504 which are adapted to interface with a game module 506, a modem 508, and internal storage 510 among other components of the game apparatus. Together, the foregoing software components constitute an application program interface (API) that may be accessed via a C++ dll for Win32 games and obfuscated Java class(es) for Java applet games.

[0047] Also shown is server-side software 512. The server-side software is shown to include a secure credit card transaction module 514, a shopping module 516, an advertising module 518, a redemption module 520, and a payment server 522 which may be interconnected with any of the game apparatuses via a web server 524 and an associated firewall 526. A plurality of supporting servers 528 may also be included per the desires of the user.

[0048] In order for the process of FIG. 3 to be effectively carried out, variables, or game settings, must be transmitted to the game apparatuses from the server and further identification codes and game outcomes must be transmitted to the server from the game apparatuses.

[0049] Examples of the game settings include a table of prize credits awarded in terms of various game outcomes possible on the game. For instance, 10 prize credits may be awarded for every 1000 points earned during play of the game. Yet another example of game settings may include the enabling or disabling of various features of the game based on the geographic location of the user as indicated by the identification code. It should be noted that the transmission of the identification codes and game outcomes to the game server is critical for tracking the prize credits awarded a user when prize redemption is desired. Further examples of game settings, identification codes, and other information that may be exchanged for various purposes will be set forth hereinafter in greater detail.

[0050] To accomplish the foregoing exchange of information, the activator module 500 is adapted to interface with the game module 506 and request information from the communicator module 502 as needed. At the time of each request, the activator module 500 identifies the game module 506 to the communicator module 502 for purposes that will soon become apparent later. As such, the activator module 500 is specifically tailored for use with the corresponding game. For security purposes, additional information relative to the game developer may be stored on the game server.

[0051] The communicator module 502 in turn make numerous calls for information from the server. Such calls are made over the modem. In order to accommodate situations where a connection can not be made with the game server or a connection is lost temporarily, various features are afforded. First, upon the receipt of information from the server resulting from a call, such information is stored in internal storage which may constitute any type of memory. As such, when a connection to the server can not be made, the game settings may be retrieved directly from the internal storage. Further, the communicator module 502 may be adapted to manually or automatically connect with the server periodically or on any other time frame for synchronization purposes.

[0052] Since the present invention may be used with many types of games and communication with the game server may some times be compromised, it is preferred that a minimum amount of calculations be performed on the game apparatus itself. Instead, information is received from the game apparatus by way of the API, calculated by the game server, and transmitted back to the game apparatus. Further, the communicator module 502 may be capable of requesting core assets from the game server for storage on the client computer. Such core assets may be used universally with any type of game and include universal graphics, playing cards, sound affects, mah-jongg tiles, sound effects, graphics, etc. The core assets would only need to be downloaded once and may be updated, deleted or supplemented as needed.

[0053] The calls that may be executed by the API in order to communicate necessary information will now be discussed. Such function may actually include a plurality of URL-based calls. The calls may correctly format the data, connect to the server, send information to the game server using secure sockets layer (SSL) and then correctly format the return code and any

data that was returned to it from the server. The communication layer is responsible for formatting parameters and for maintaining as many internal variables as possible. This shields the game module 506 from continuously having to pass the same parameters. The game module 506 is responsible, however, for appropriately handling return codes returned from the server.

[0054] Some examples of calls will now be set forth:

[0055] `getGameSettings`: This function takes a few different forms. First, if it is called from a Java applet game, then it is safe to assume the player is connected to a network, i.e. the Internet, in which case it is safe to retrieve game settings from the game server regardless if the game is being played in a demonstration (play-for-fun) mode or a pay-to-play mode. Any other kind of game requires default game settings to be used if in the demonstration mode. Any game in the pay-to play mode assumes it is safe to query the server to get game settings. The data is specific to each game and is returned in the form of name-value pairs (e.g. "PointsLevell=10"). The game apparatus is responsible for extracting the value for each known piece of data. This call is also used to validate the game version. Games are not allowed to continue if they are not the latest version. This helps to ensure reliable redemption play.

[0056] `beginGame`: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. With this call, the server is given the number of credits to be played and attempts to debit the player's account. Prior to doing so, however, the server determines whether the player has any specific business rules that prevent him from playing. When the player has been successfully validated and his account has been debited, the server adds a row to a table in a database indicating that he has started the game, and then returns the appropriate return code to the game apparatus.

[0057] `endGame`: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. The present call is sent to the prize database server to provide game data including end time and score. This data is used to update the database row that was added when the game was started. The score is fed into the points-to-prize credits conversion table to determine if any award should be given. The present call also prompts the prize credits in the player's account to be appropriately changed.

[0058] getNextInstaPrizes: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. The present call is sent to the prize database server to obtain a description and unique prize ID of the next specific prize. The redemption engine on the server generates this data. All next specific prizes are predetermined based on the previous prize and reside locally on the game apparatus. The server notes the prize ID in order to validate against the wonInstaPrize call.

[0059] wonInstaPrize: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. The present call is used when a specific prize is won at which time the prize ID of the specific prize is sent to the server for validation within the redemption cartridge. This affects at least one of three occurrences: If game credits were won, such game credits are added to the account of the player. If prize credits were won, such prize credits are added to the account of the player. If merchandise has been won, such merchandise is added to the player's shopping cart. Procurement is delayed until the player checks-out.

[0060] getAvailableCredits: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. In use, this call is used prior to each game as a way of displaying to the player a number of credits that are available.

[0061] canPlay: The present call may or may not be available in games played in the demonstration mode. This call serves as a separate function to check business rules preventing game play (parental controls, bad account, available credit, etc.)

[0062] getAdvertisements: This call may be available in the demonstration mode depending upon the game platform. The present call serves to retrieve the latest advertisements which are to be played. This may be accomplished by calling the advertisement in the form of an advertisement ID and checking to see if the appropriate advertisement has already been downloaded. If the appropriate advertisement has not already been downloaded, default advertisements are used that were downloaded previously during which downloading begins to obtain the latest advertisements while the player is playing the game or browsing a related site.

[0063] postGameStatus: The present call sets a persistent game state in the event of a failure of the game apparatus, connection loss, etc.

[0064] getStatusCode: This call gets the persistent data (see postGameStatus) from the game apparatus.

[0065] getErrors: The present call retrieves any error information that was generated during use of the game apparatus.

[0066] In terms of security, the various variables that are passed may be named in a counter-intuitive, obfuscated manner. For example, a variable relating to a personal identification code may be named "prize_credits_awarded." Further, digital signing may be employed where feasible. Even if security is breached, the present invention inherently prevents significant fraud since the value of prize credits awarded is always a fraction of the value of game credits required to play the game. In addition to the foregoing features, when requests start flooding the server from one particular location, the present invention may lock out all future requests from that location.

[0067] FIG. 6 illustrates a functional diagram showing the various aspects of the method associated with use of the present invention. The various operations shown in the functional diagram of FIG. 6 include a player registration operation 602, a purchase game credits operation 604, a select game operation 606, a play game operation 608, an error handling operation 610, an award prizes operation 612, and a prize redemption operation 614. It should be noted that the foregoing functional aspects of the present invention may be carried out in any order or not at all.

[0068] For example, in demonstration mode, the purchase game credits operation 604 is not necessary and the awarding prizes and prize redemption operations 612 and 614 are optional. Further, the player registration operation 602 is only necessary if the prize redemption operation 614 is executed. Still yet, the select games operation 606 is required only if multiple games exist and the error handling operation 610 is optional.

[0069] FIG. 7 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the player registration operation 602 of FIG. 6 is carried out. Player registration may be executed at any time by the prize database server or not at all in some embodiments where a game is being played in demonstration mode. In one embodiment, player registration is required only upon redemption of prize credits for prizes. In such embodiment, the registration process makes it clear that in the event the user does not register, the user forfeits any prize credits that have been won.

[0070] When registration is required, unregistered players are provided a registration link in operation 702. Such link affects the display of an interface such as a web page which prompts the user to create a personal user name, or user identification code, and a password. Note operation 704. Further, the registration interface requires entry of minimal necessary information such as a name and an e-mail address. Optional information such as demographics, game preferences, etc. may also be entered if desired by the user. It is then determined if the necessary information has been entered and is complete in decision 706. Upon entry of at least the necessary information, a confirmation may be sent to the user in operation 708.

[0071] At anytime, the user may update any of the foregoing profile information. As an option, the user may be precluded from altering the user identification code for security purposes. As a further option, a hint may be provided in order to facilitate remembering the user identification code and/or the password.

[0072] In one embodiment, a person registering, or a primary account holder, may establish a plurality of secondary accounts for secondary account holders. Such feature allows a parent to assume a primary account holder role and control various aspects of the secondary account holders who may include children of the parent. Examples of aspects which may be varied independently or simultaneously for each player include a duration or specific range of time a secondary account holder may play games, a dollar amount of game credits that can be purchased in a specified amount of time, and/or the types of games that may be played. The control of the type of game permitted to be played may be based on a current game industries rating system.

[0073] In addition to limiting the ability of the secondary account holders to use the present invention, the primary account holders are also given exclusive authority to modify and/or delete a current account, and transfer game credits, prize credits, and prizes to and from the various secondary accounts. This allows pooling of prize credits for obtaining desired prizes, etc. In order to add secondary accounts, a primary account holder may be required to enter at least one valid credit card number as a way to establish eligibility. It should be noted that a credit card may not be used to create two separate main accounts during use of the present invention.

Further, game credits, prize credits, and prizes may not be transferred between main account holders to inhibit fraud.

[0074] FIG. 8 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the purchase game credits operation 604 of FIG. 6 is carried out. Such game credits are used to play games in order to win prize credits. It should be noted that in some embodiments, purchase of game credits is unnecessary due to the presence of advertisements or because the game is merely being played in a demonstration mode.

[0075] The process of FIG. 8 begins by determining whether the player is registered in decision 800. If not, the player registration operation 602 (see FIG. 7) is executed. Once it is ascertained that registration is complete, the purchase of the game credits is permitted in operation 804.

[0076] Upon purchase, the game credits are automatically stored under the corresponding account in operation 806. The system may have the capability to provide a non-linear purchasing scale, giving players incentives to purchase larger quantities of credits at a lower per unit cost. For example, when purchasing credits the player might be offered 10 game credits for \$1.00, 30 game credits for \$2.50, 60 game credits for \$4.75, and 120 games for \$8.50.

[0077] While the prize database server handles all of dollar-to-game credit conversion, the conversion factors may be also dictated by managers of the game apparatuses. When a player makes a purchase request, the prize database server validates the account and check business rules to verify that the user is qualified to make the purchase. In the event that a user is either restricted by parental controls or his or her account has been flagged, the user may be notified of such with the appropriate messages on how to correct the situation, i.e. contacting support personnel.

[0078] The prize database server may also be designed to support "incentive suppliers." Entities which desire to provide free game plays to their customers may present various customers with a URL and a key code to be able to use a predetermined amount of game credits. The customer, or user, would then go to the URL, enter the key code, and receive a predetermined number of free game credits. In the present embodiment, the incentive supplier would be responsible for all costs related to the key codes that are distributed.

[0079] In operation 606 of FIG. 6, a selection of a game to be played occurs. Two optional types of games that are available include games played in exchange for payment and free games including games played in a demonstration mode. The payment games require the prior execution of operations 602 and 604 of FIG. 6. In the case of free games, however, player registration in operation 602 may be delayed until prize redemption is required.

[0080] The free games may include games supported by Java Applets, ShockWave, Flash, etc. without communication of identification codes or the like. Further free games may be created to entice users to register with the prize database server. It should be noted that free games may award only a limited amount of prize credits, if any. As an option, the free games may only simulate winning. In any case, the user may be required to register before a prize is redeemable after which future prize credits awarded to the registered use may be limited or prevented. Further, the free games may be supported by advertising.

[0081] Payment games may be supported by Java Applets, ShockWave, Flash, Windows95/98/2000, macros, etc. It is imperative that it is understood that payment games may include any type of advertising-supported game or a game that is supported by any type of compensation scheme. In one embodiment, the payment games may be played in a tournament mode. Ideally, tournament games present all tournament players with the same exact game settings so that all players have the same odds. In one type of tournament game, a duration-type game, a variable number of games are to be played in a fixed amount of time.

[0082] In each of the previous embodiments, the games may include a "game of skill" that requires a predetermined goal, task, or objective for a game to be accomplished in a skilful manner such that an outcome of the game is determined primarily by the amount of skill of the player. The greater the player's skill, the closer or more easily a desired goal in the game can be reached by the player. Points associated with the predetermined goals or objectives can be added to a game score such that a higher game score, on average, indicates a greater amount of skill by the player. In the alternative, the games may include a "game of chance" where the outcome of the game is determined primarily on chance. It should be noted that games of chance may be restricted based on an age of the user and/or a geographic location where the user resides.

[0083] FIG. 9 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the play games operation 608 of FIG. 6 is carried out. As shown, the prize database server is adapted for receiving a plurality of identification codes in operation 900. For example, a site code may be received which is representative of a web site, or game apparatus, which is supporting a game. In addition to the site identification code, a game identification code, a user identification code, a prize credit identification code, a mode identification code, or any other type of identifier may be received by the prize database server.

[0084] As an option, the prize or any other feature associated with the present invention may be determined based on any of the foregoing identification codes. Further, other aspects of the present invention may be specifically tailored for a particular profile. For example, the cost of game credits, a prize, a name, a number or value of the prize credits awarded, advertising, sounds, graphics, and/or limited access may be altered based on any of the aforementioned identifiers. In each of the foregoing cases, such tailored aspects may be handled by the game server.

[0085] One objective of the use of identifiers is to allow for partnerships, especially between the prize database server and other game servers. One game server, for example, may allow all its players to play a specific game for free thus modifying the value of credits, but only for that particular site. Accordingly, each game server may have settings specific to that site and thus when a player launches a game, the prize database server must know the originating location of the game in order to return the appropriate game settings. In addition, players will be able to register with the prize database server at partner game servers, or sites. Further, the interfaces provided by the prize database server may be modified in accordance with the interface of the partner game servers. This creates the perception that a user is still interfacing with the partner game server when actually he or she is interfacing with the prize database server. As an option, activity for all players may be maintained for each of the game servers as a way to track site traffic and thus be able to pay commissions of the game credits revenue, sale advertising, and collect advertising revenue.

[0086] In addition to facilitating partnerships, the identifiers may be used to control the experiences of particular users. As mentioned earlier, an age of the user or account status, i.e.

secondary account holder, may affect the user's ability to perform various functions of the present invention. Further, the user identification code may be used to indicate a location of the user. This may be accomplished by referencing registration information of the user or tracking an IP address by which the user has gained access to the server. Given the identity of such geographic location, the present invention may preclude access to certain games in accordance with local jurisdiction laws. This may be particularly beneficial in the case of "games of chance" as discussed hereinabove. It should be noted that alternate game settings may be changed for each particular jurisdiction.

[0087] Upon the receipt of the identification codes, it is then determined in decision 902 whether a current version of the game is present and valid. If the current version is unacceptable, an installer may be executed in operation 904. Such installer may be downloaded from the prize database server and subsequently executed on the game apparatus.

[0088] When it is verified that the current version of the game on the game apparatus is valid, advertisement software may be executed. Prior to execution, however, the advertisement software may be identified in operation 906 after which it is determined in decision 908 whether a version of the advertisement software is present and valid. If not, the advertisement is updated in operation 910 by downloading, etc. Finally, the game is executed in operation 912.

[0089] Advertising software may be executed between or during games. Such advertisements can include still shots, animation, movies, sound, etc. Advertisements sponsored by companies, prize providers, game providers, or other sources can be displayed and, in another aspect of the present invention, can be directly related to prize or game information. For example, a sponsor may have contributed to prizes available to players on the advertising game apparatus, so that the advertisement has a direct relation to prizes and can thus increase the effectiveness of such advertising. A sponsor might also supply free games for players in exchange for displaying advertisements, or may simply pay the game or prize database server for advertising time. Still yet, a player can play an advertiser-sponsored game and directly win an advertiser's prize if a task is accomplished. Thus, using the linked advertising and prize redemption system disclosed herein, multiple revenue streams from advertisers are offered to a game operator and also offer the sponsors more effective advertising.

[0090] FIG. 10 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the error handling operation 610 of FIG. 6 is carried out. Error handling is executed upon a loss of connection between the prize database server and the desktop or laptop computer, as determined by decision 1000. If a loss of connection is detected, the game parameters in the prize database server will not have had the chance to be updated at game end-time. As such, in order to compensate the user, a predetermined number of game or prize credits may be awarded to the user in operation 1006.

[0091] Since awarding game or prize credits in response to connection loss may provide an incentive for intended connection loss during game play, certain precautions are necessary. In one embodiment, a method may be implemented for tracking players who regularly 'drop' connections. The software on the game apparatus, i.e. the communicator module, may try to solve the problem when communication is re-established, but if it cannot fix the problem, the player may be given the opportunity to play the game again for free as long as they have not exceeded a predetermined maximum number of free game or prize credits. Such predetermined maximum number of free games may be established in predetermined time intervals, i.e. 10 credits/month, to limit the negative affects of fraud.

[0092] In the event that a user has exceeded the predetermined maximum number of free games in decision 1002, the user may be notified and given a customer service number to call in operation 1004. Customer service will have the ability to give the user some more credits on a discretionary basis. Once connection has been re-established, the communicator module will update the server with any data cached prior to the connection loss.

[0093] In the awarding prizes operation 612 of FIG. 6, prizes of various types may be awarded. The term "prize", as used herein, is intended to generically refer to any merchandise, souvenir, food item, game credits or other physical goods or services which can be offered to players of redemption games and which may have value other than as a medium of exchange for use in the gaming environment. A radio, stuffed animal, toy model, coupon for monetary value outside the gaming environment, gift certificate, cash, and free games to be played on game apparatus are all examples of "prizes." A prize might also be a promotional coupon or cash

prizes, which can encourage players to return to the current gaming environment more quickly in the future.

[0094] "Prize credits" differ from a "prize" since they can be used to redeem other types of prizes. In one embodiment, the prize credits that are awarded represent a type of universal currency that may be used for prize redemption purposes. In use, prizes may be made available for various amounts of the universal prize credits.

[0095] The amount of prize credits awarded to the player may be based upon a game score or other result of a game process. In addition, special or progressive goals may be achieved by the player to win an additional or specified number of universal prize credits. In the preferred embodiment of the redemption system, "prize credits" are used as a medium of conversion from game score to prize value.

[0096] As an option, specific prize credits may be awarded which may be redeemed for specific prizes awarded to the user. Specific prize credits are to be distinguished from the universal credits described above. A "specific prize" or "instant prize," as referred to herein, is a particular prize or type of prize that a player can be directly and immediately awarded and, in most cases, can immediately receive due to a particular winning result on a game apparatus. A "specific prize credit," as referred to herein, is thus an electronic voucher that can be exchanged for the specific prize only.

[0097] The prize credits, as described hereinabove, may be awarded by any one of various methods. In the case of the specific prize credit, the same may be downloaded prior to beginning play of the game. This prevents complications if a connection with the prize database server is lost during play. Further, such feature allows the player to know the prize(s) at stake prior to play for legal purposes, and also allows the specific prize credit to be immediately displayed upon being awarded without delay due to downloading. As an option, the specific prize credit may even be displayed during play prior to being awarded for enticement purposes.

[0098] In another embodiment, an ordered list of specific prize credits may be displayed during play. Ideally, such list of specific prize credits may be generated based on business rules on a periodic, i.e. 24 hours, basis. Such business rules may include a current total number of specific prize credits a current player has been rewarded in the past, a desired payout percentage,

a current average number of game credits that the current player spends per game, a current total number of specific prize credits available, and a value of game credit. It should be noted that the foregoing business rules may vary based on other factors such as a web site through which the game was accessed, a profile of the player, etc. If such information is not available for any reason, the present invention may employ default values to generate the appropriate specific prize credits. Additional information on such business rules may be had by reference to U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,127, by Kelly et al. which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0099] In yet another embodiment, a "frenzy" is afforded by listing a plurality of specific prize credits along with a current number of such specific prize credits that are remaining, or have not yet been awarded. Rules governing how the specific prize credits are awarded in the present mode are similar to those discussed previously. However, the types and number of specific prize credits awarded are predetermined. It should be noted that when the quantity of any given specific prize credits reaches zero, such specific prize credit may remain on the list but will graphically indicate that it is no longer available.

[00100] As an option, the previous embodiment may be modified by increasing the variety and/or number of specific prize credits under certain circumstances. This number may be increased based on the amount of times a particular game is played, the number of times that different games are played, or by achieving a game-related goal, thus affording a "frenzy"-type situation.

[00101] In still yet another embodiment, the prize credits may be awarded in a "progressive" manner. In such embodiment, each user contributes to a collective progressive pool. The progressive pool, for example, can be incremented with every game credit spent on any game apparatus, incremented based on an amount of advertisement impressions that are served (ideal for when advertiser is paying or supporting the progressive score), automatically incremented over time at regular or random intervals, manually incremented by an operator of the prize database server, calculated in real-time, etc. The progressive pool is accumulated from the current and previous games that have been played on any linked game apparatus. In one embodiment, the increment rate of the progressive pool can be determined independent of the number of players playing or advertisements viewed.

[00102] The first player that achieves a predetermined progressive goal on any of the linked game apparatuses wins the progressive prize credits pool, where the progressive amount of prize credits is added to that player's prize credits count. It should be noted that a progressive bonus number of prize credits may also be awarded in lieu of a bonus score, thereby avoiding the need for conversion. Once the progressive bonus score is won, the process is restarted at a default value for continued play. Progressive goals, scores, and bonus apparatuses are described in additional detail in U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,127, by Kelly et al. which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[00103] FIG. 11 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the awarding prizes operation 612 of FIG. 6 is carried out in order to contend with the possibility of losing a connection with the prize database server. Specifically, FIG. 11 illustrates the process associated with awarding a progressive score or prize credit amount.

[00104] As shown in FIG. 11, prior to the beginning of each game, information including a current progressive prize credit or score amount is retrieved along with a current predetermined increment rate from the server in operations 1100 and 1102. During use, the progressive prize credit or score amount is periodically incremented at the increment rate in operation 1104 for the duration of the game.

[00105] During the course of the game, the current prize credit or score amount may be displayed, as indicated in operation 1106. If the player achieves the high score or some other related goal, all of the current progressive prize pool or score amount is awarded the user. At the end of the game in operation 1108, information including the current prize credit or score amount is sent to a host server for redemption purposes. By downloading both an increment rate and a progressive prize credit or score amount, communication with the server need only be established once at the beginning of the game.

[00106] In one embodiment, a particular method may be used to calculate a dynamic progressive score increment rate during the course of the game. In such embodiment, a calculation is made periodically to determine the current increment rate which is, in turn, used to calculate the current progressive pool that is to be displayed. In one embodiment, such calculation may be carried out every 2 minutes. It should be noted that the increment rate reflects

the amount of time required for the progressive prize credit pool to be incremented by one prize credit, e.g., a prize credit is incremented every 1.824 seconds.

[00107] To calculate the current increment rate, a current total number of games played is first determined. The current total number of games increments each time a game is begun at a certain site on the network and in a certain mode, i.e. progressive mode, tournament, etc. Next, a previous total number of games is subtracted from the current total number which, of course, will be larger. The previous total number of games is the total number of games that was retrieved when the increment rate was last calculated. Thereafter, a difference between the current total number of games played and the previous total number of games played is multiplied by a prize credit fraction that determines a desired pay-out of the progressive game, thus rendering a prize credit increment product.

[00108] Next, an amount of time that has elapsed since the last calculation of the increment rate is determined by subtracting a last counter read time from a current time. This elapsed time is then converted into milliseconds and divided by the prize credit increment product. This renders the current increment rate.

[00109] In another embodiment, a client computer may store a time when the player achieves the high score or other related goal. Subsequently, upon reconnection with the host server, information including such time may be communicated thereto. This time may then be used in conjunction with tables on the host server that have different progressive scores based on different times and dates. For example, as time progresses from a designated start time of the progressive scoring, the amount of the awarded progressive score increases.

[00110] Further information including a cap or maximum progressive score may be retrieved from the host server prior to the game or any other time to prevent such score from exceeding a predetermined amount. In the alternative, such information may be stored and utilized on the host server. These features aid in preventing fraudulent activity.

[00111] As an option, the games may be played in a tournament-type fashion. During tournament play, various user may play against each other. To ensure fairness, various aspects of the games played may be maintained constant. For example, in the case of card games, the electronic virtual playing deck may be made to deliver similar results in the games of each of the

players. To enhance tournament play, top scores of tournament players may be tracked over a period of time for the purpose of awarding a particular prize pool or a portion thereof to the highest score, etc. More information on tournament play may be had by reference to U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,127, by Kelly et al. which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[00112] FIG. 11A illustrates a method of the present invention for determining payment for participating in a network gaming tournament. As shown, a plurality of networked game apparatuses are first provided in operation 1150 for allowing games to be played by a plurality of players in a tournament. Such game apparatuses allow the play of games in exchange for game credits, or rely on funding provided by advertisers or the like.

[00113] After the play of game(s) during a tournament, an indication of an outcome, i.e. score, of at least one game played by each of the players is then received in operation 1152. Such outcome may be manually sent by the player, or automatically sent. Based on a sum of the outcomes of the games of all of the players, a total amount of prize credits or prizes is determined in operation 1154. It should be noted that the game apparatuses are already equipped with the ability to convert between outcomes of the games and a number of appropriate prize credits or prizes. Such ability is necessary for the games to be played during non-tournament play.

[00114] Subsequently, a first portion of the total amount of prize credits or prizes is partitioned for payment for participation in the tournament, and a second portion of the total amount of prize credits or prizes is awarded to one or more winning players based on the outcome of the at least one game thereof. Note operations 1156 and 1158. As an option, a first predetermined part of the second portion may be allocated for a first winner, a second predetermined part of the second portion may be allocated for a second winner, and so on.

[00115] In one embodiment, at least one winning player may be indicated on a list accessible on a site on the network. Such list may be updated upon receiving an indication of an outcome of at least one game played by another one of the players. This process may continue until all of the outcomes are received. As an option, a notice may be sent to at least one player each time the list is updated. Such notice, i.e. e-mail, may be given only to those players whose winnings are affected, or anybody desired.

[00116] In another embodiment, the total amount of prize credits or prizes may be determined by receiving a total sum of outcomes of the games for each of the players. Such total sum may then be divided by a number of the games played by each player. Such process renders an average outcome value per game for each player. The total amount of prize credits or prizes may be then determined based on a sum of the average values of the players. For additional incentive purposes, each of the players may be awarded a predetermined number of prize credits or prizes irrespective of an outcome of the games.

[00117] It should be noted that the game experience of each of the players may be set to be the same. Further, the network gaming system may tailor the experience upon each game. In a trivia game example, the network gaming system may track each time a tournament trivia game is played. Thereafter, each consecutive time the trivia game is played, a different line of questions may be provided. In operation, all players in the tournament may be given the same set of questions depending on whether it is their first, second, third, etc. entry. After the database of questions is exhausted, the questions may be "wrapped back" around to the first set of questions.

[00118] FIG. 12 illustrates the process of the present invention by which the prize redemption operation 614 of FIG. 6 is carried out. In order to accomplish this, the prize database server is adapted for displaying at least one prize redemption interface page in operation 1200 to allow redemption of the prize credits. As an option, the user interface of the game apparatuses may include a link to the prize redemption interface page of the prize database server.

[00119] Once the prize redemption interface page, or "shopping center", has been accessed, the user is required to register in operation 602 (see FIG. 7) if it is determined that he or she is not already registered in decision 1202. After an identity of the user is verified, selection of a desired prize may be executed in operation 1204. In the case where the prize credit is a specific prize credit which corresponds with an undesired prize, the user may have the option of replacing the specific prize credit with universal prize credits. Upon selection of the desired prize, shipping information may be verified in operation 1206. Subsequently, the prize may be delivered by any capable means and the account of the user may be adjusted to reflect the current available prize credits accordingly. Note operation 1208. It should be noted that user registration may not be required for merely browsing the prize redemption interface page.

[00120] In an alternate embodiment, a user may elect for the prize database server to automatically deliver a prize corresponding to any specific prize credit awarded. In such case, the prize database server may use the player's default account settings for shipping. During the course of delivery, the users may receive emails indicating that a delivery has been confirmed and also when the prize is to be shipped. As an option, the user may be notified of a back-order.

[00121] In addition to the foregoing capabilities, the prize redemption interface page and prize database server may include a virtual shopping cart function, a checkout capability, shipping address modification module, etc. If the virtual shopping cart function is employed, any specific prize credit that is awarded may be immediately deposited therein. At any desired time, prizes depicted on the prize redemption interface page may be added and removed. Optionally, the prize redemption interface page may display advertisements, notification of specials, legal disclaimers, etc.

[00122] FIG. 13 is a graphical user interface 1300 for allowing play of a game that is "prize-enabled" in accordance with the present invention. As shown, a frame 1302 is shown to include a first display 1304 for depicting a current amount of available credits of a particular user based on the user identification code. A second display 1306 is provided for depicting a number of prize credits that are currently awarded to the user. Also positioned on the frame 1302 is a third display 1308 for indicating either a point-to-prize credit conversion table, a list of possible prizes, or a list of high scores.

[00123] The frame 1302 is also equipped with links including a select game link 1310 for allowing selection of a game to play and buy credits links 1312, 1313 for purchasing additional game credits. Upon selection of either the select game link 1310 or the buy credits links 1312, 1313, both the user identification code and the site identification code is transmitted to the prize database server for the reasons set forth earlier. Shop links 1314, 1316 are also provided for linking to the prize redemption user interface of the prize database server. Upon selection of one of the shop links 1314, 1316, a site identification code is transmitted in order to allow the prize redemption user interface to be equipped with specifically tailored insignias and other "look and feel" features.

[00124] With continuing reference to FIG. 13, a start button 1318 may be included to execute the game that is currently selected. A display bar 1320 may also be shown for advertisement, informative, or any other purposes. Further, a member link 1322 and a help link 1324 may be included for providing various miscellaneous services. Positioned in the frame is a game interface 1326 that is to be executed. Ideally, the game is configured with dynamic HTML.

[00125] FIG. 14 illustrates an optional advertisement feedback capability of the present invention. Such feature is adapted for reporting interest in an advertisement displayed during use of a network system, and in particular, a network gaming system of the present invention. This system enables a provider of the network gaming system to focus advertising towards particular users of the network system and also report the interest shown by particular users towards particular advertisers and advertisements.

[00126] As shown in FIG. 14, the advertisement feedback system of the present invention stores user profiles of a plurality of users of a network system in operation 1400. After a user logs onto the network system in operation 1402, an advertisement by a sponsor of the network system is displayed on a visual display of the particular user in operation 1404.

[00127] In response to an action by the user, the network system sends the particular user's profile to the sponsor. Note operation 1406. The user profile may contain a great deal of previously collected information. Thus, this system allows a network system provider to strategically pass on a wealth of marketing information of the users of the network system. As an option, the method by which the marketing information is delivered may be selected by the user and may include modes of communication such as electronic mail, ground mail, etc. This selection may be effected during log-on, registration, or at any other time. Also, the user may be connected to a site on the network associated with the advertisers upon a user selecting, or "clicking" on the advertisement. If the marketing information is sent by a network provider, the advertiser may be informed of the delivery of the appropriate information.

[00128] The advertisement may relate to an offered prize or a particular game capable of being played on the network gaming system. As an option in this network gaming system embodiment, the user profile of the user may be sent to the advertiser as a result of the user being awarded a prize.

[00129] In one embodiment, the user action may occur while the advertisement is being displayed. As one option for this embodiment, the user action may comprise the user actually selecting the displayed advertisement. This way, the provider has a way to identify immediate user interest in a particular advertisement. With such an embodiment, the network system provider is able to easily relay user interest in a particular sponsor at the time that the user actually experiences the sponsor's advertisement. This embodiment also provides a way for a network system provider to determine which advertisements their users are more interested in. With this information, the provider is then able to arrange and time the display of advertisements in a manner to optimize the effectiveness of the advertisements towards the users of the network system.

[00130] While various embodiments have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. Thus, the breadth and scope of a preferred embodiment should not be limited by any of the above described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system;
debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.
7. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;
responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;
receiving at the server an award selection from the user;

responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.

8. The method of claim 3 wherein the object is an award.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system.

10. The method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits.

12. A method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:
receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request;
transmitting a game client to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request;
debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user;
transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system;
receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network gaming system; and
debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object,
wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server and the step transmitting a game client is performed, at least in part, by the game server.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client during the gameplay.
15. The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system.
16. The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client for use by the game client to tailor a game environment to the user.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers.
19. The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user.
20. The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game.
21. The method of claim 12 wherein the game client comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization.

22. The method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

23. The method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers.

26. A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system;
debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising:
receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;
responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;
receiving at the server an award selection from the user;
responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and
debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.

Abstract

A method for providing a network gaming system is disclosed. The method comprises receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system; depositing the credits into an account of the user; receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.

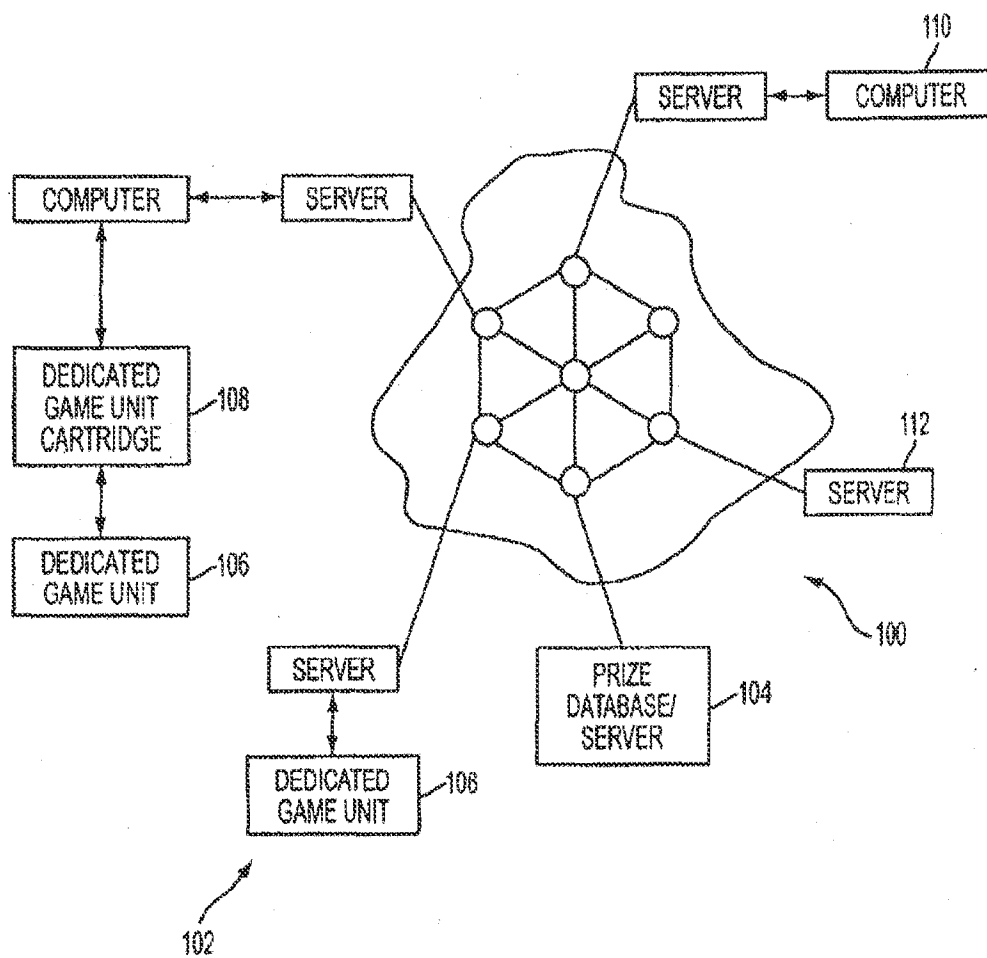


FIG. 1

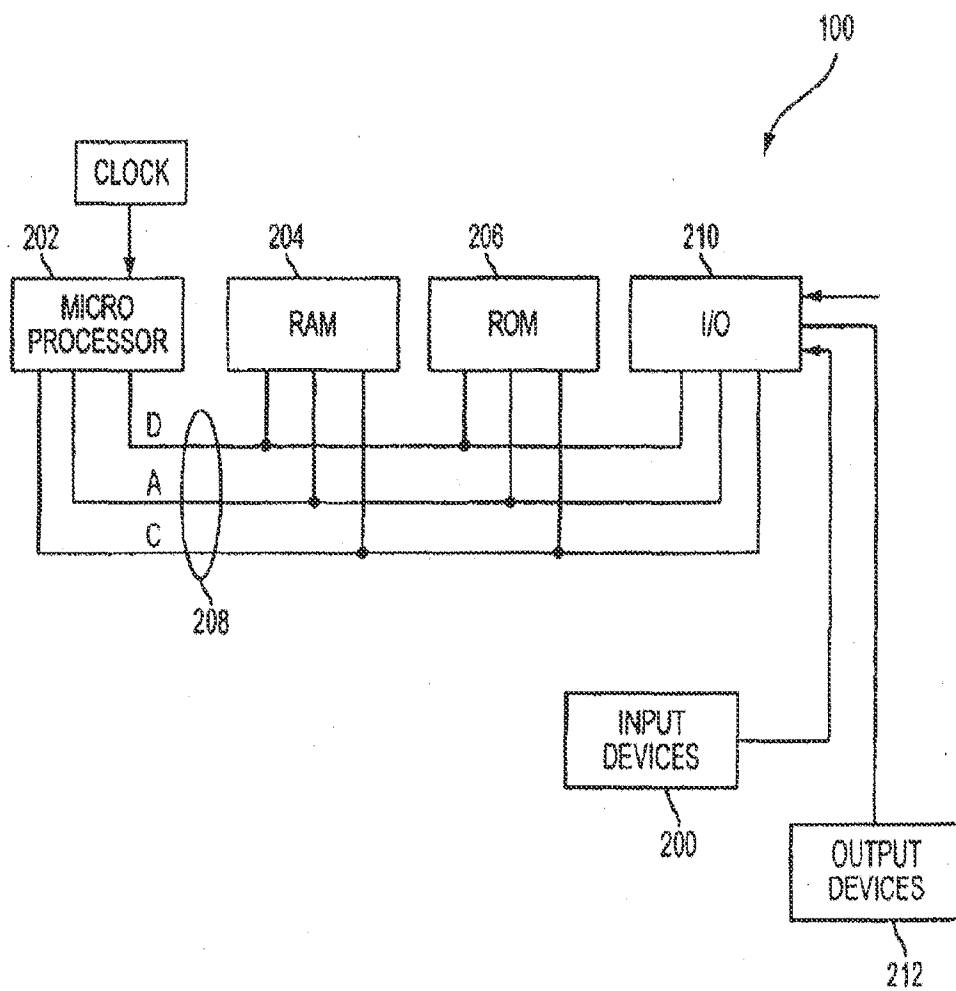


FIG. 2

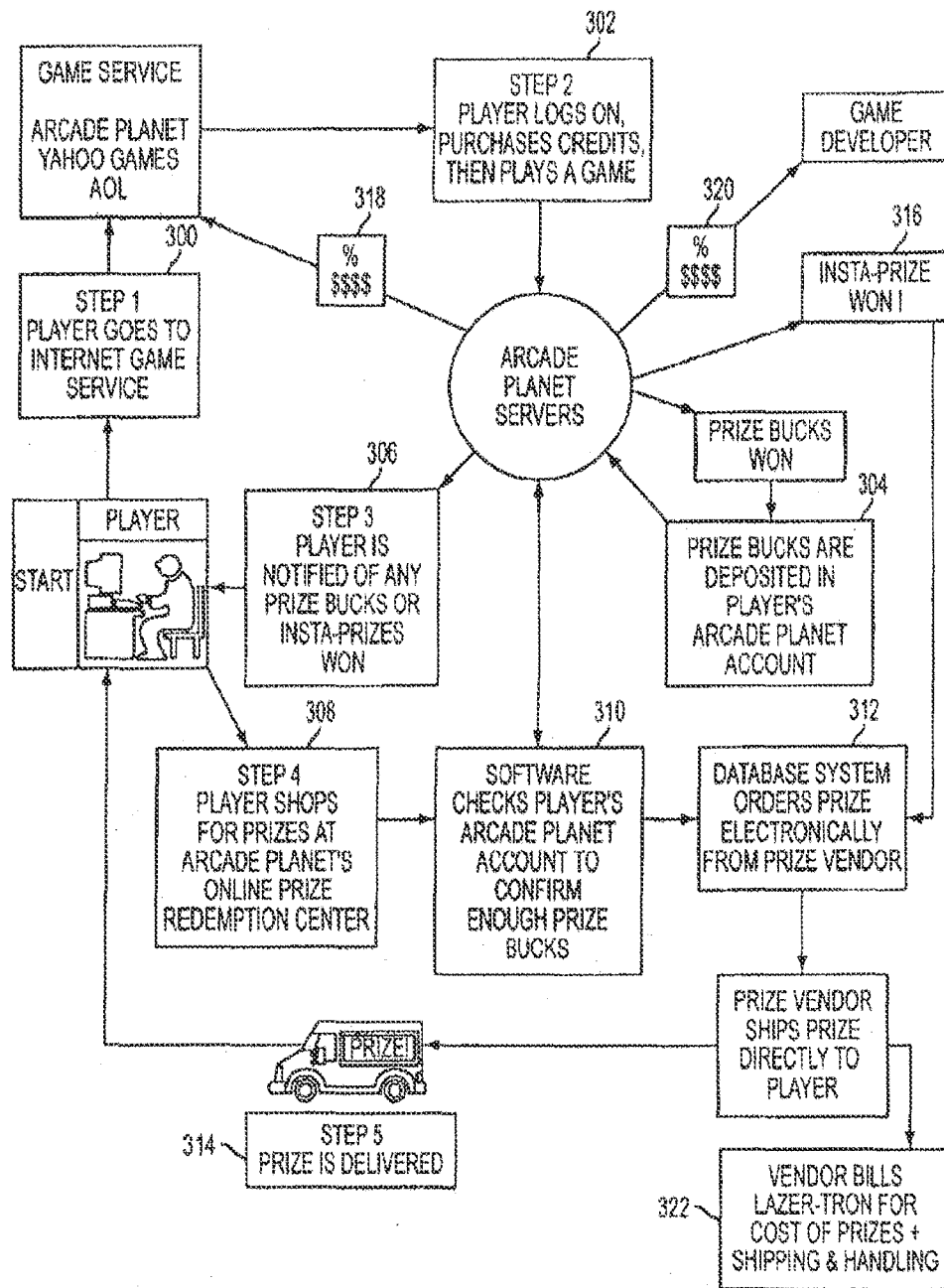


FIG. 3

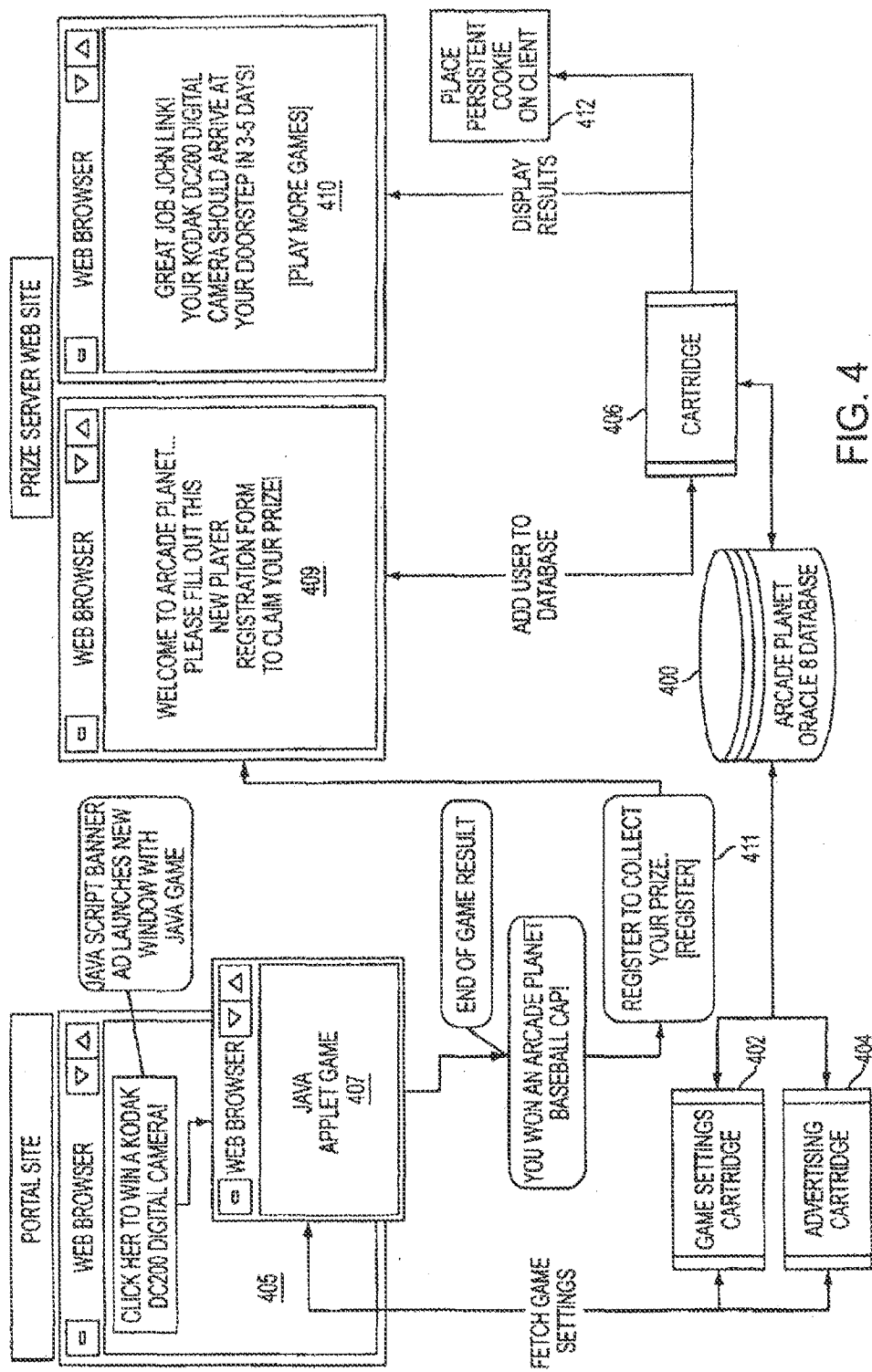


FIG. 4

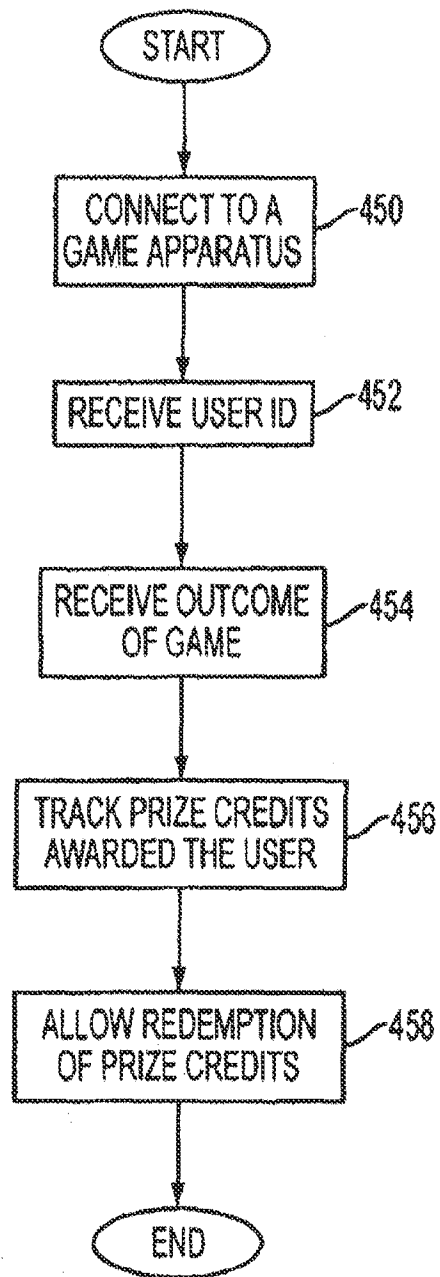


FIG. 4A

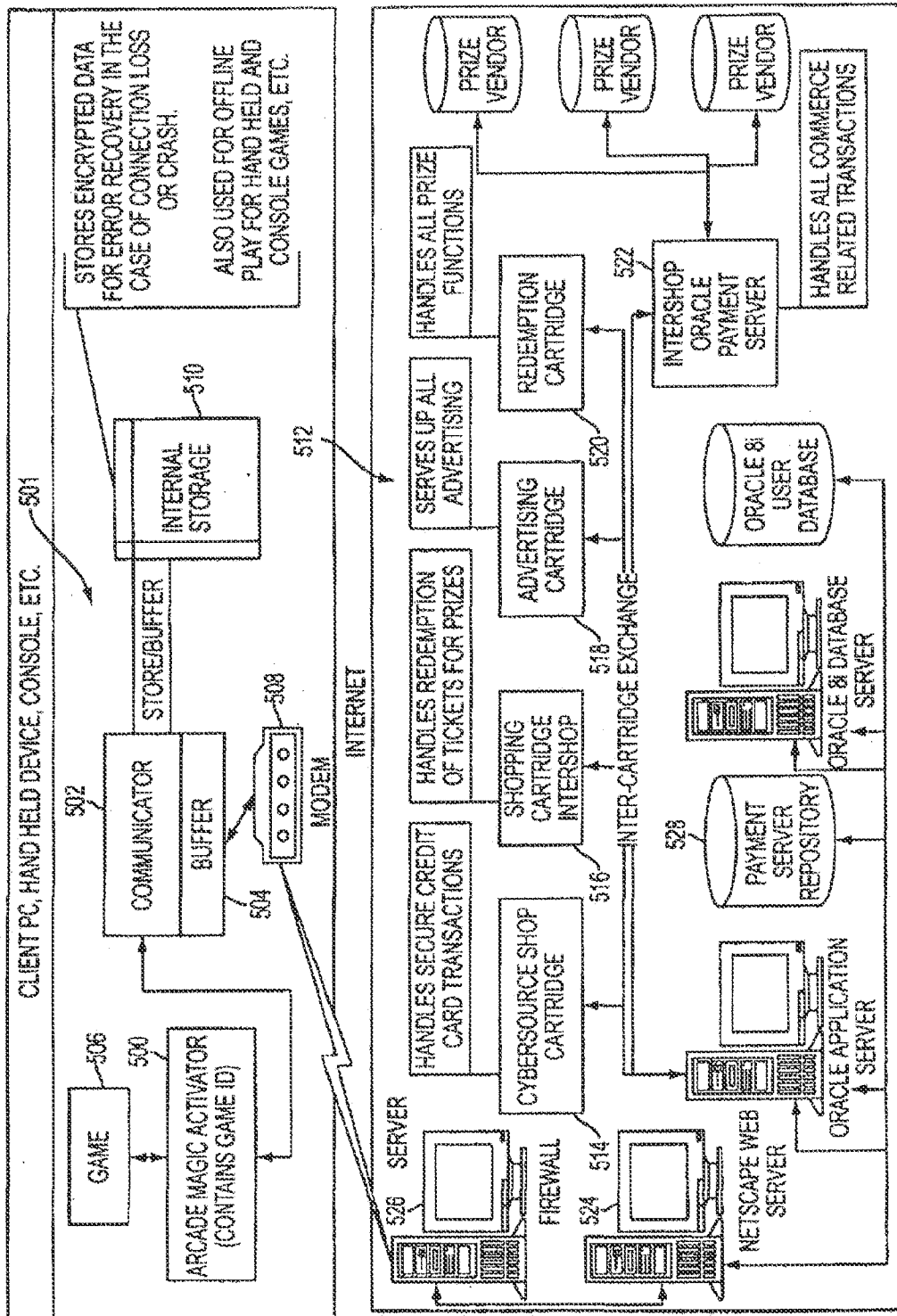


FIG. 5

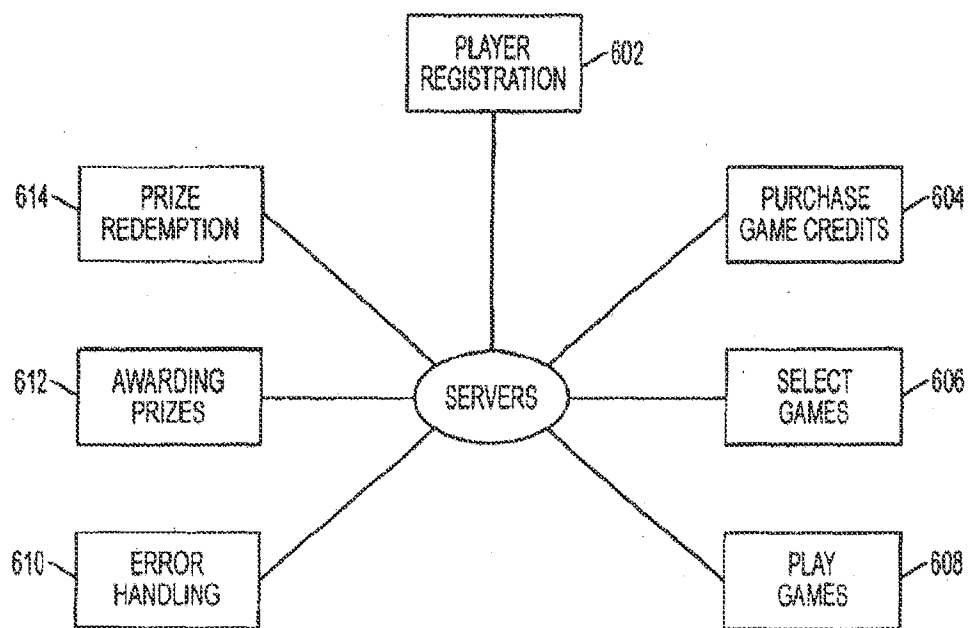


FIG. 6

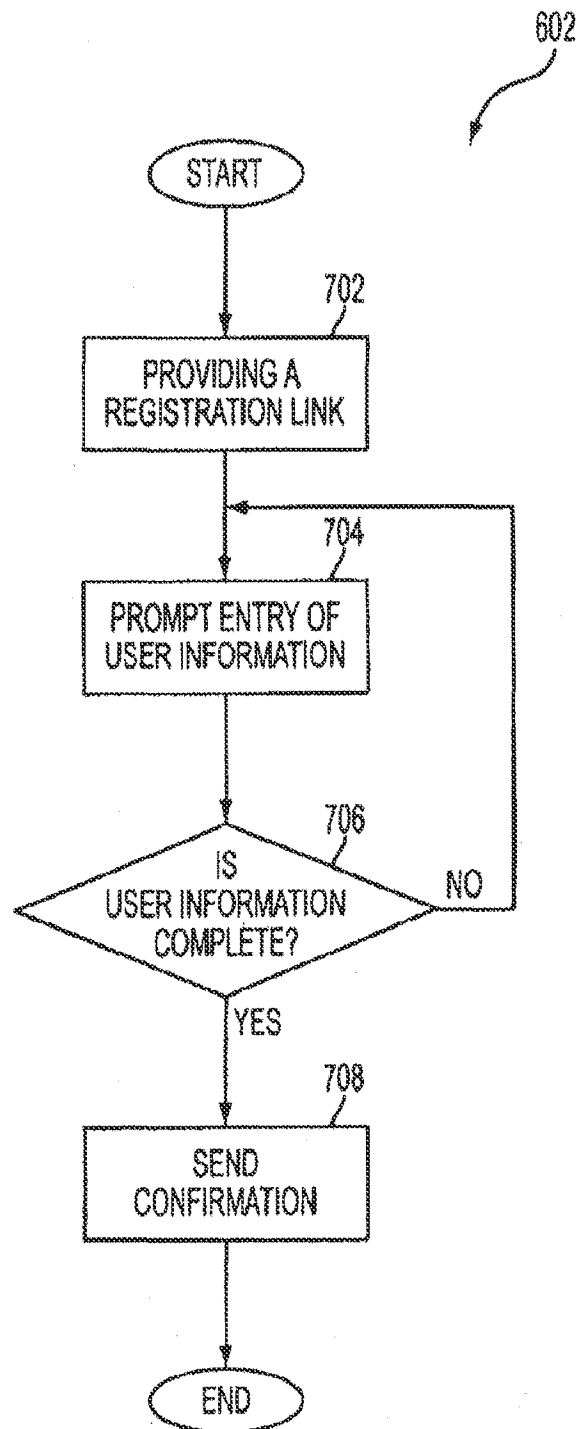


FIG. 7

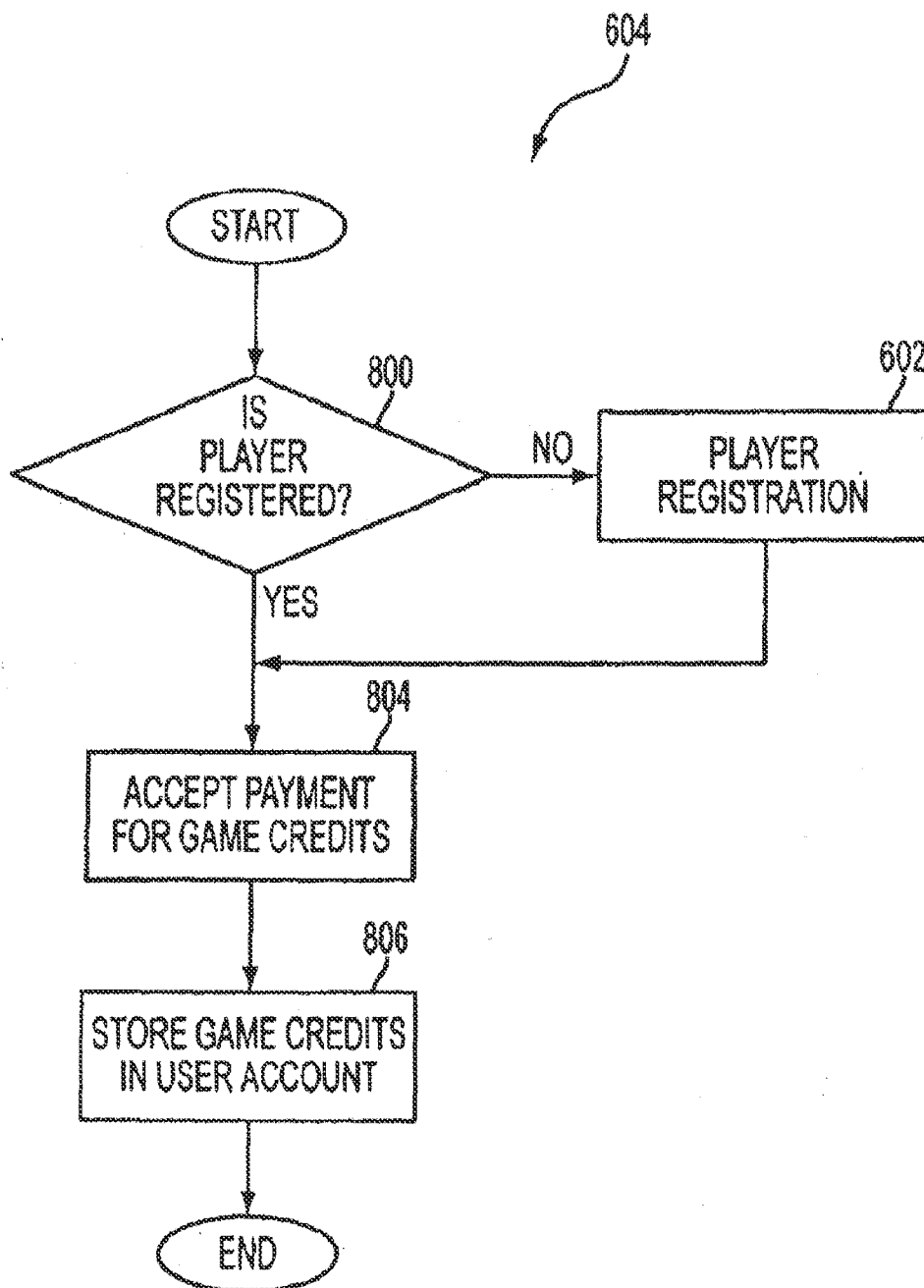


FIG. 8

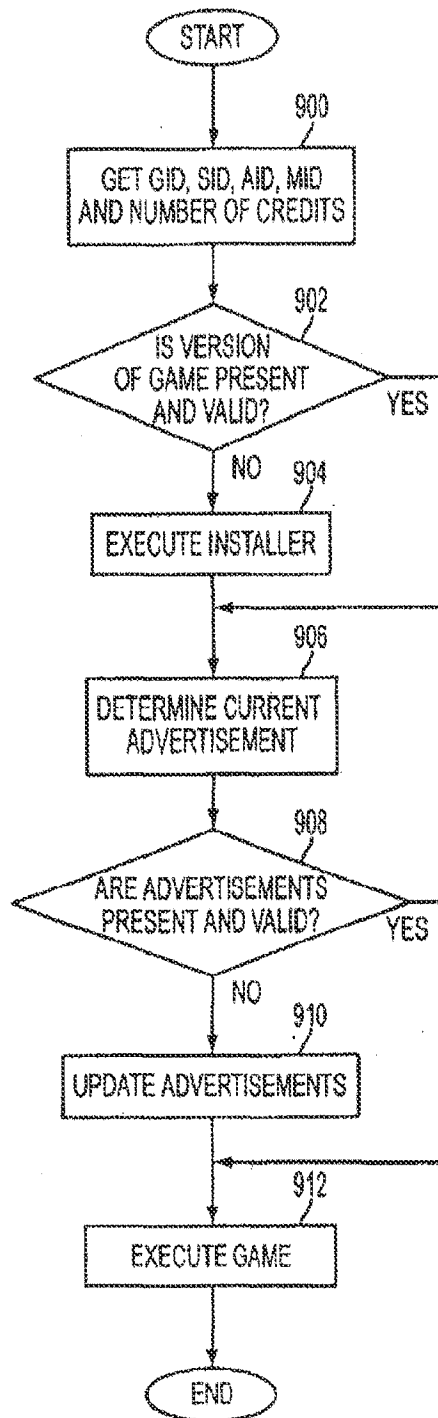


FIG. 9

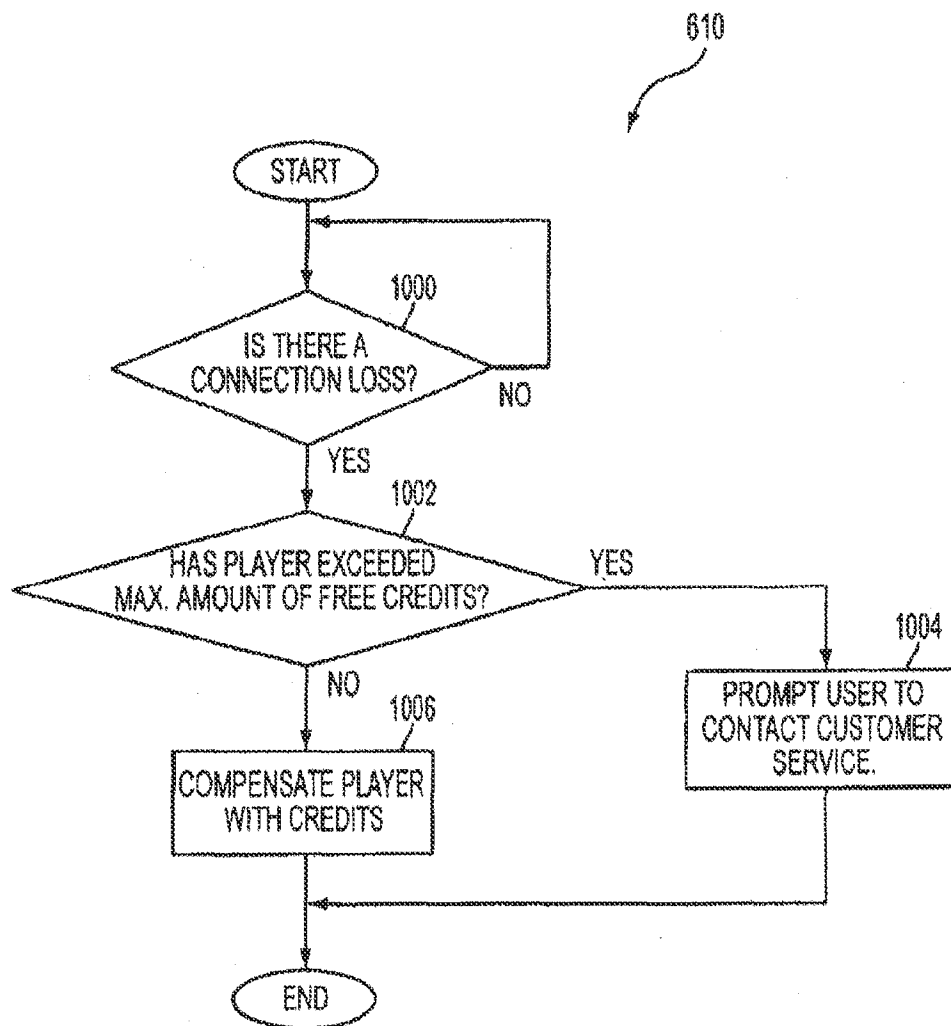


FIG. 10

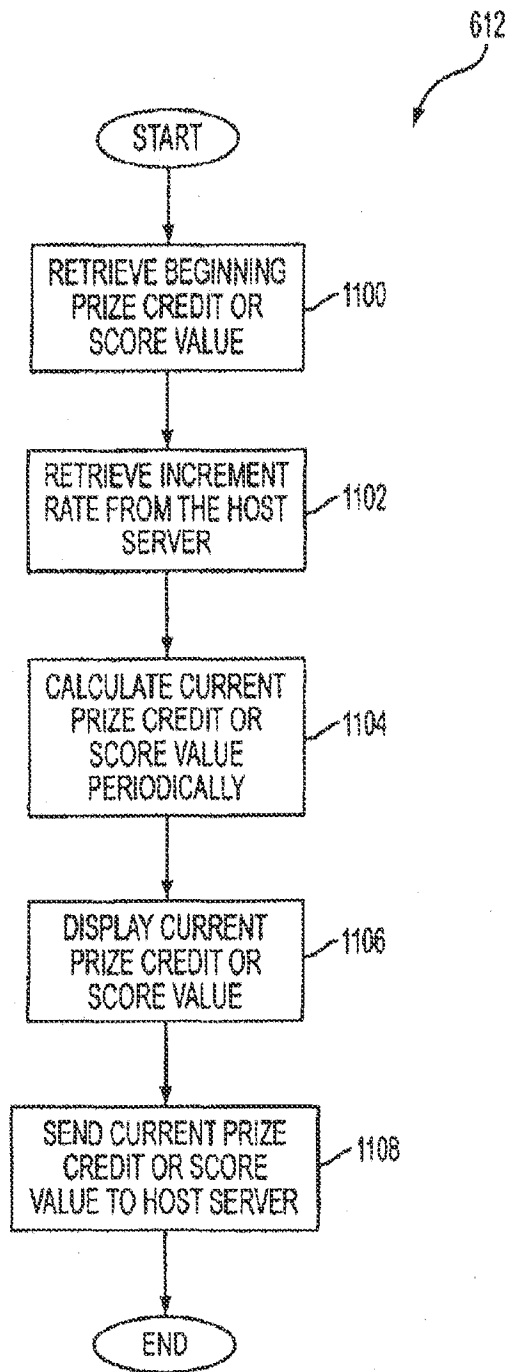


FIG. 11

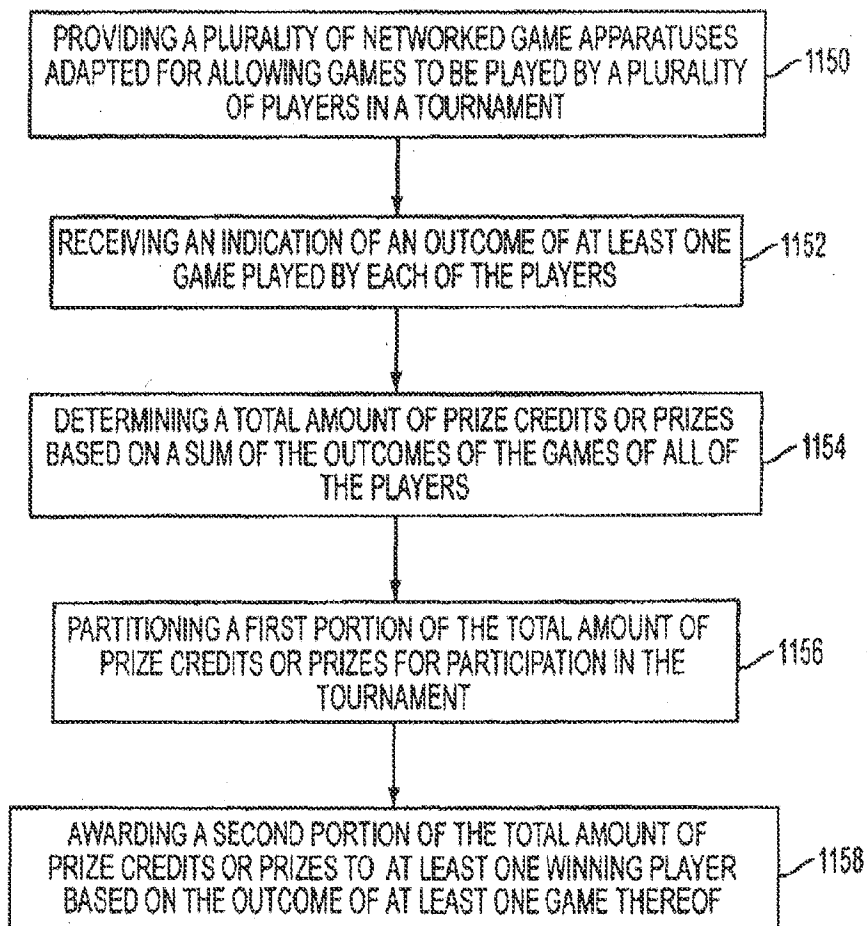


FIG. 11A

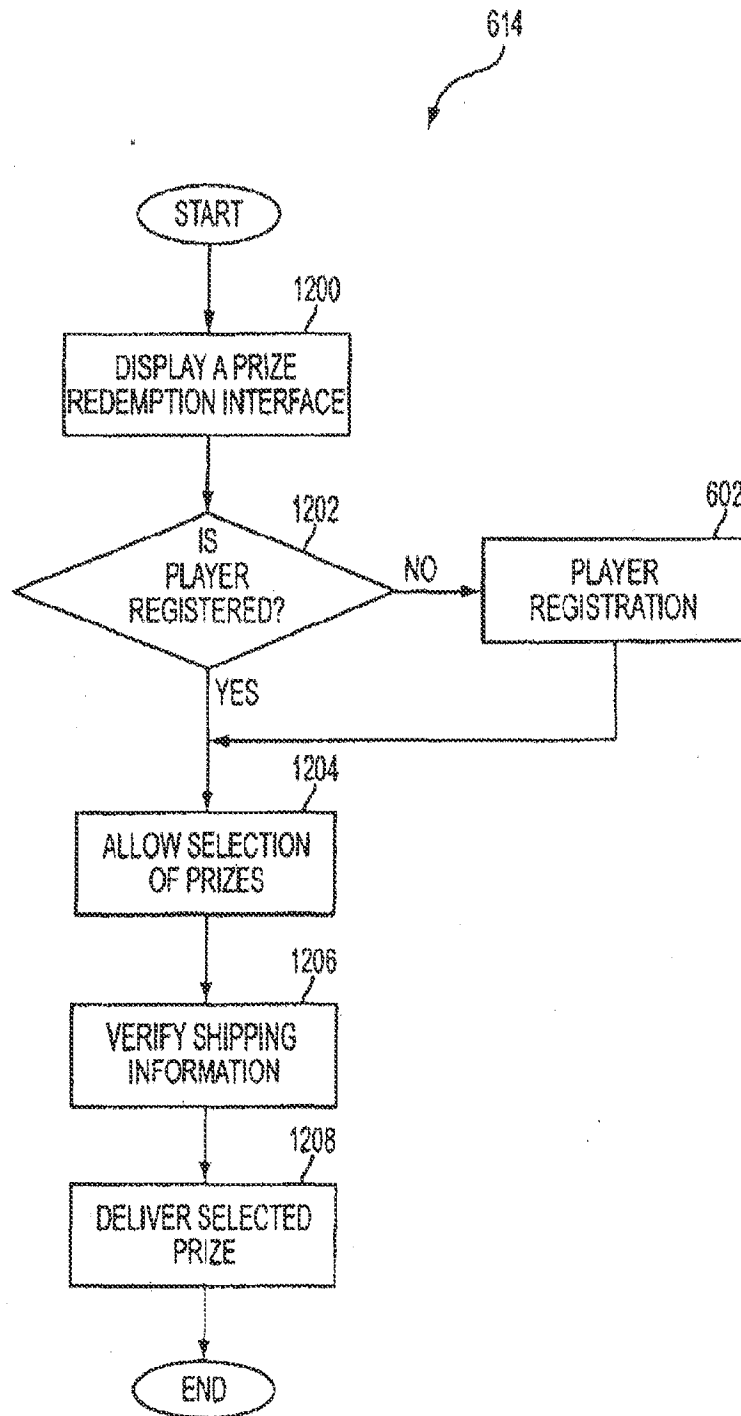


FIG. 12

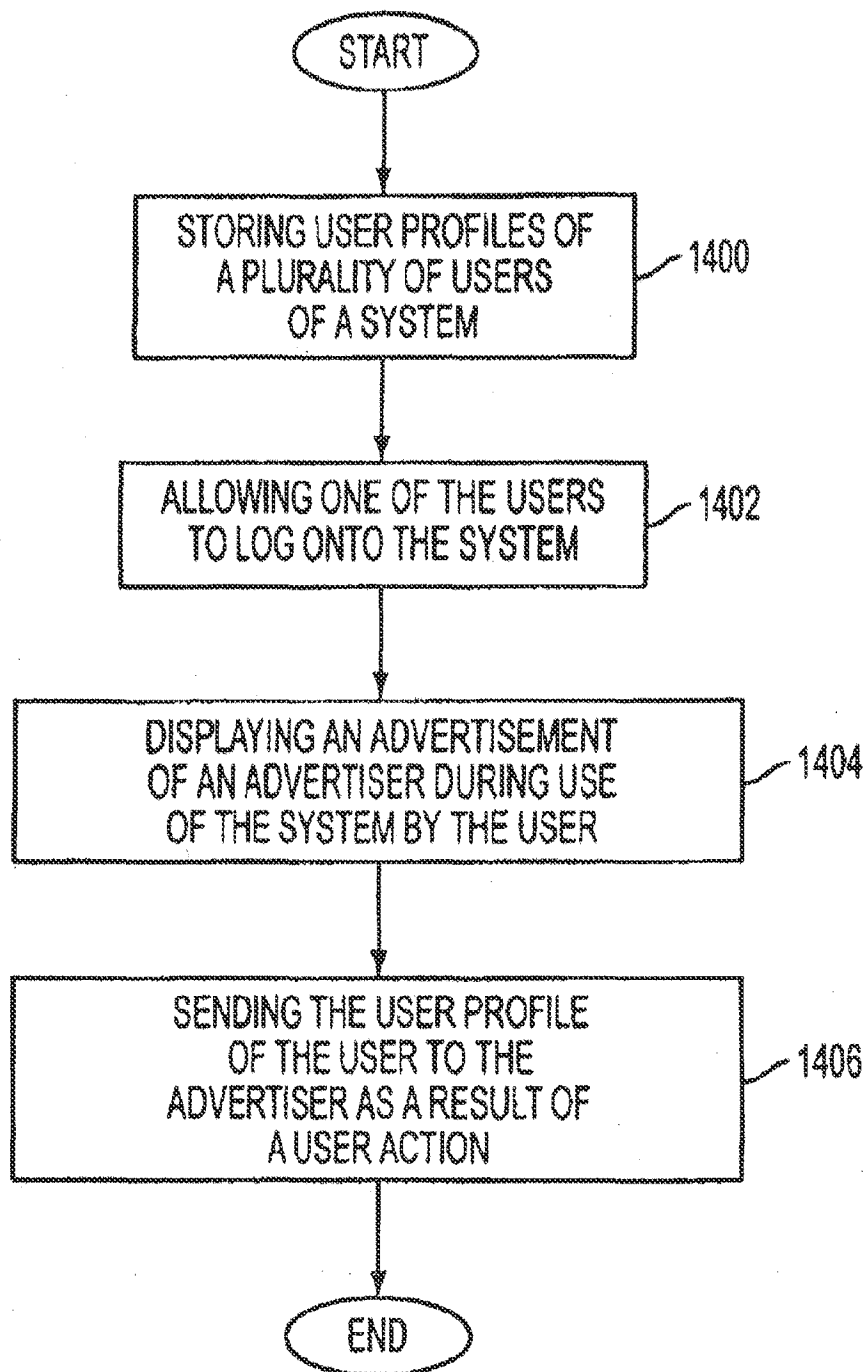


FIG. 14

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR ORIGINAL U.S. PATENT APPLICATION**

Attorney's Docket No. LAZ1P032

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: PRIZE REDEMPTION SYSTEM FOR GAMES EXECUTED OVER A WIDE AREA NETWORK, the specification of which,

(check one)

1. ☒ is attached hereto.
2. ☐ was filed on _____ as
U.S. Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____.
3. ☐ was filed on _____ as
International PCT Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Benefits Claimed?

_____ (Appl. No.)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Appl. No.)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Appl. No.)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Filing Date)

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. Application(s)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

And I hereby appoint the law firm of Hickman Stephens & Coleman, including Paul L. Hickman (Reg. No. 28,516); L. Keith Stephens (Reg. No. 32,632); Brian R. Coleman (Reg. No. 39,145); Michael E. Melton (Reg. No. 32,276); Kevin J. Zilka (Reg. No. 41,429); Dominic Kotab (Reg. No. 42,762); Raymond E. Roberts (Reg. No. 38,597); Vidya R. Bhakar (Reg. No. 42,323); Douglas E. Mackenzie (Reg. No. 38,955); Michael D. Plimier (Reg. No. 43,004); and Robert D. Hayden (Reg. No. 42,645) as my principal attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Send Correspondence To:

HICKMAN STEPHENS & COLEMAN, LLP
P.O. BOX 52037
Palo Alto, California 94303-0746

Direct Telephone Calls To:

Kevin J. Zilka at telephone number (408) 558-9950

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's signature: Matthew Kelly

Date of Signature: 10/25/99

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(State/Country) California/USA

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Inventor's signature: Bryan M. Kelly

Date of Signature: 10/25/99

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Citizenship: USA

Inventor's signature: Norman B. Petermeier

Date of Signature: 10/25/99

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(State/Country) California/USA

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Inventor's signature: [Signature]

Date of Signature: 10/25/99

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Post Office Address: 828 Pinhurst Place

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Inventor's signature: [Signature]

Date of Signature: 10/25/99

Residence: (City) TRACY

(State/Country) California/USA

Post Office Address: 763 Saddleback Court

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		METHOD FOR PROVIDING A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Matthew F. Kelly		
Filer:		Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders		
Attorney Docket Number:		GAGIN.00108		
Filed as Small Entity				
Track I Prioritized Examination - Nonprovisional Application under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Utility filing Fee (Electronic filing)	4011	1	95	95
Utility Search Fee	2111	1	310	310
Utility Examination Fee	2311	1	125	125
Request for Prioritized Examination	2817	1	2400	2400
Pages:				
Claims:				
Claims in excess of 20	2202	10	30	300
Miscellaneous-Filing:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Publ. Fee- early, voluntary, or normal	1504	1	300	300
Processing Fee, except for Provis. apps	1808	1	130	130
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				3660

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	11580881
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	09-DEC-2011
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	12:07:51
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 3660
RAM confirmation Number	9122
Deposit Account	500392
Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	TrackOne Request	GAGIN00108_Track1_Request_sb0424.pdf	134876	no	2
			5b15b9c11f194edc51329d0b912d547f4e83d507		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Application Data Sheet	ADS.pdf	965715	no	6
			bbdf671640c185a7e809d5482c542c6298cfe365		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3		Application_FINAL_.pdf	198244	yes	35
			dc60ccc4bce18a11ad32914ad82543274f8ccff1		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	29	
	Claims		30	34	
	Abstract		35	35	
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	Drawings.pdf	2835800	no	16
			c4946b9853055905dc8c2f82dfd69d3c110419b0		
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Oath or Declaration filed	POA_Dec.pdf	3251378	no	3
			528f1ab964e5e1cb92ff381fc5d1f03890c512d4		
Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	41908	no	2
			8c82c3dc791355b54d1df498c51be2f43d77e61d		
Warnings:					

Information:	
Total Files Size (in bytes):	7427921
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>	

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	11580881
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
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Receipt Date:	09-DEC-2011
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Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
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Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 3660
RAM confirmation Number	9122
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Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	TrackOne Request	GAGIN00108_Track1_Request_sb0424.pdf	134876	no	2
			5b15b9c11f194edc51329d0b912d547f4e83d507		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Application Data Sheet	ADS.pdf	965715	no	6
			bbdf671640c185a7e809d5482c542c6298cfe365		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3		Application_FINAL_.pdf	198244	yes	35
			dc60ccc4bce18a11ad32914ad82543274f8ccff1		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	29	
	Claims		30	34	
	Abstract		35	35	
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	Drawings.pdf	2835800	no	16
			c4946b9853055905dc8c2f82dfd69d3c110419b0		
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Oath or Declaration filed	POA_Dec.pdf	3251378	no	3
			528f1ab964e5e1cb92ff381fc5d1f03890c512d4		
Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	41908	no	2
			8c82c3dc791355b54d1df498c51be2f43d77e61d		
Warnings:					

Information:	
Total Files Size (in bytes):	7427921
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>	

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875						Application or Docket Number 13/315,465	
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	95		N/A	
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	310		N/A	
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	125		N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	30	minus 20 = *	10	x 30 =	300		
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	3	minus 3 = *		x 125 =	0.00		
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).				0.00		
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))					0.00		
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL	830
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x =		x =
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x =		x =
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
				TOTAL ADD'L FEE		TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x =		x =
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x =		x =
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
				TOTAL ADD'L FEE		TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.							



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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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P.O. Box 1450
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
13/315,465	12/09/2011	3714	1130	GAGIN.00108	30	3

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138

22858
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

FILING RECEIPT



Date Mailed: 12/22/2011

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Applicant(s)

Matthew F. Kelly, Scottsdale, AZ;
Bryan M. Kelly, Alamo, CA;
Norman B. Petermeier, Pleasanton, CA;
John G. Kroeckel, San Ramon, CA;
John E. Link, Manteco, CA;

Assignment For Published Patent Application

AGINCOURT GAMING LLC, Dallas, TX

Power of Attorney: None

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 13/102,000 05/05/2011
which is a CON of 11/277,339 03/23/2006
which is a CON of 10/751,006 12/31/2003 PAT 7762885
which is a CON of 09/433,523 11/03/1999 PAT 6758755
which is a CIP of 09/040,654 03/17/1998 PAT 6007426
which is a CON of 08/746,755 11/14/1996 PAT 5816918

Foreign Applications (You may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at the USPTO. Please see <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.)

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 12/20/2011

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 13/315,465**

Projected Publication Date: 03/29/2012

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: Yes

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

Preliminary Class

463

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

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NOT GRANTED

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
13/315,465	12/09/2011	Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138

IMPROPER CPOA LETTER

22858
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334



Date Mailed: 12/22/2011

NOTICE REGARDING POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 12/09/2011. The Power of Attorney in this application is not accepted for the reason(s) listed below:

- The Power of Attorney you provided did not comply with the new Power of Attorney rules that became effective on June 25, 2004. See 37 CFR 1.32.

/ebekele/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	12/09/2011	Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108	6138
22858 7590 01/31/2012 CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP P.O. Box 802334 DALLAS, TX 75380-2334			EXAMINER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/31/2012	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

***Decision Granting Request for
Prioritized Examination (Track I)***

Application No.: 13/315465

1. THE REQUEST FILED December 9, 2011 IS **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application has met the requirements for prioritized examination (Track I).

2. **The above-identified application will undergo prioritized examination.** The application will be accorded special status throughout its entire course of prosecution until one of the following occurs:
- A. filing a **petition for extension of time** to extend the time period for filing a reply;
 - B. filing an **amendment to amend the application to contain more than four independent claims, more than thirty total claims**, or a multiple dependent claim;
 - C. filing a **request for continued examination**;
 - D. filing a notice of appeal;
 - E. filing a request for suspension of action;
 - F. mailing of a notice of allowance;
 - G. mailing of a final Office action;
 - H. completion of examination as defined in 37 CFR 41.102; or
 - I. abandonment of the application.

Telephone inquiries with regard to this decision should be directed to Linda Sholl at 571-272-4391. In her absence, calls may be directed to Josie Ballato at 571-272-3567.

/Linda Sholl/
Linda Sholl
Quality Assurance Specialist
Technology Center 3700

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POWER OF ATTORNEY OR REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY WITH A NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY AND CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	Application Number	13/315,465
	Filing Date	12/09/2011
	First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.
	Title	Method or Providing A Network Gaming...
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	GASIN.00108

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the above-identified application.

<input type="checkbox"/> A Power of Attorney is submitted herewith	
OR	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) associated with the following Customer Number as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:	22858
OR	
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) named below as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:	
Practitioner(s) Name	Registration Number

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

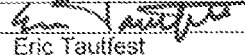
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number.	
OR	
<input type="checkbox"/> The address associated with Customer Number:	22858
OR	

<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Country			
Telephone	Email		

I am the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant/Inventor.	
OR	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.	
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (Form PTO/SB/96) submitted herewith or filed on _____	

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Signature		Date	2/1/2012
Name	Eric Tauffest	Telephone	214.744.5000
Title and Company	Member, Agincourt Gaming, LLC		

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☒ Total of 2 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: KELLY, Matthew F.

Application No./Patent No.: 13/315,465 Filed/Issue Date: 12/09/2011

Titled: Method for Providing a Network Gaming System

Agincourt Gaming LLC, a Limited Liability Company

(Name of Assignee)

(Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. ☒ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;
2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in
(The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %); or
3. ☐ the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)

the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A. ☒ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To: _____

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☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☒ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

/Vincent J. Allen/

02-08-2012

Signature

Date

Vincent J. Allen

Attorney of Record, Texas

Printed or Typed Name

Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Assignment of Patent Rights

Pursuant to the Agreement entered into on May 31, 2011, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Bally Gaming, Inc., a Nevada Corporation, having an address at 6601 S. Bermuda Road, Las Vegas, 89119-7990, United States of America, (“Assignor”), does hereby sell, assign, transfer, and convey unto Agincourt Gaming LLC, a Limited Liability Corporation, having an address at 313 S. Jupiter Rd., Suite 105, Allen, Texas 75002, United States of America (“Assignee”), or its designees, all right, title, and interest that exist today and may exist in the future in and to any and all of the following:

(a) the patent(s) and patent application(s) listed in the table below (the “*Patents*”);

<u>Patent/Application Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Title and first named inventor</u>
6,306,035	U.S.	11/03/1999	GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR PROVIDING GAMING AND PRIZE REDEMPTION CAPABILITIES KELLY, Matthew F.
6,758,755	U.S.	11/03/1999	PRIZE REDEMPTION SYSTEM FOR GAMES EXECUTED OVER A WIDE AREA NETWORK KELLY, Matthew F.
6,454,648	U.S.	11/03/1999	SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR PROVIDING A PROGRESSIVE-TYPE PRIZE AWARDING SCHEME IN AN INTERMITTENTLY ACCESSED NETWORK GAME ENVIRONMENT KELLY, Matthew F.
6,446,964	U.S.	10/23/2000	COMPUTERIZED GAME APPARATUS WITH PROGRESSIVE BONUS KELLY, Bryan M.
6,293,865	U.S.	11/03/1999	SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY IN A NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM KELLY, Matthew F.
5,409,225	U.S.	01/03/1994	ARCADE GAME KELLY, Bryan M.
13/102,000	U.S.	05/05/2011	GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR PROVIDING GAMING AND PRIZE REDEMPTION CAPABILITIES KELLY, Matthew F.

(b) all patents and patent applications: (i) to which any of the Patents directly or indirectly claims priority, (ii) for which any of the Patents directly or indirectly forms a basis for priority, and/or (iii) that were co-owned applications that incorporate by reference, or are incorporated by reference into, the Patents;

(c) all reissues, reexaminations, extensions, continuations, continuations-in-part, continuing prosecution applications, requests for continuing examinations, divisions, registrations of any item in any of the foregoing categories (a) and (b);

(d) all foreign patents, patent applications, and counterparts relating to any item in any of the foregoing categories (a) through (c), including, without limitation, certificates of invention, utility models, industrial design protection, design patent protection, and other governmental grants or issuances;

(e) all inventions, invention disclosures, and discoveries described in any of the Patents that: (i) are included in any claim in the Patents, (ii) are subject matter capable of being reduced to a patent claim in a reissue or reexamination proceedings brought on any of the Patents, and/or (iii) could have been included as a claim in any of the Patents;

(f) all rights to apply in any or all countries of the world for patents, certificates of invention, utility models, industrial design protections, design patent protections, or other governmental grants or issuances of any type related to any item in any of the foregoing categories (a) through

(e), including, without limitation, under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the International Patent Cooperation Treaty, or any other convention, treaty, agreement, or understanding;

(g) all causes of action (whether known or unknown or whether currently pending, filed, or otherwise) and other enforcement rights under, or on account of, the Patents and/or any item in any of the foregoing categories (b) through (f), including, without limitation, all causes of action and other enforcement rights for (i) damages, (ii) injunctive relief, and (iii) any other remedies of any kind for past, current, and future infringement; and

(f) all rights to collect royalties and other payments under or on account of the Patents and/or any item in any of the foregoing categories (a) through (g);

((a)-(f) collectively, the ***“Patent Rights”***).

Assignor hereby authorizes the respective patent office or governmental agency in each jurisdiction to issue any and all patents, certificates of invention, utility models or other governmental grants or issuances that may be granted upon any of the Patent Rights in the name of Assignee, as the assignee to the entire interest therein.

The terms and conditions of this Assignment of Patent Rights will inure to the benefit of Assignee, its successors, assigns, and other legal representatives and will be binding upon Assignor, its successors, assigns, and other legal representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Assignment of Patent Rights is executed at JUN 30 2011 on

ASSIGNOR:

Bally Gaming, Inc.

By: Mark Lerner

Name: Mark Lerner, Esq.

Title: Secretary

STATE OF NEVADA)

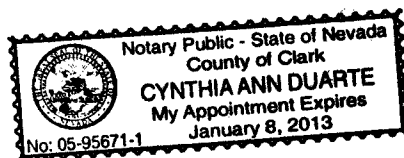
) ss.

COUNTY OF CLARK)

On June 30, 2011 before me, CYNTHIA ANN DUARTE, Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared MARK LERNER, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same in his/her authorized capacity, and that by his/her signature on the instrument the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature Cynthia Ann Duarte (Seal)



Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	12028258
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	08-FEB-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	14:20:24
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Power of Attorney	Executed_POA.pdf	773616 6604ec232d849c8f4eec67d28a7cff82f0edf026	no	1

Warnings:

Information:

2	Assignee showing of ownership per 37 CFR 3.73(b).	37CFR_Statement.pdf	72914	no	1
			45f00d49511e9b0f7c4e67b7c549b613dfd881aa		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Assignee showing of ownership per 37 CFR 3.73(b).	Assignment.pdf	136631	no	3
			7a57c09b56c5c1eb2a7f04a604ef8f40619fd37c		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			983161		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
13/315,465	12/09/2011	Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108

22858
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138
POA ACCEPTANCE LETTER



Date Mailed: 02/16/2012

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 02/08/2012.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

/agizaw/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
13/315,465	12/09/2011	Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138

22858
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

PUBLICATION NOTICE



OC000000053420562

Title:METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

Publication No.US-2012-0077575-A1

Publication Date:03/29/2012

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION

The above-identified application will be electronically published as a patent application publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.211, et seq. The patent application publication number and publication date are set forth above.

The publication may be accessed through the USPTO's publically available Searchable Databases via the Internet at www.uspto.gov. The direct link to access the publication is currently <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

The publication process established by the Office does not provide for mailing a copy of the publication to applicant. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Office upon payment of the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.19(a)(1). Orders for copies of patent application publications are handled by the USPTO's Office of Public Records. The Office of Public Records can be reached by telephone at (703) 308-9726 or (800) 972-6382, by facsimile at (703) 305-8759, by mail addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Public Records, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or via the Internet.

In addition, information on the status of the application, including the mailing date of Office actions and the dates of receipt of correspondence filed in the Office, may also be accessed via the Internet through the Patent Electronic Business Center at www.uspto.gov using the public side of the Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system. The direct link to access this status information is currently <http://pair.uspto.gov/>. Prior to publication, such status information is confidential and may only be obtained by applicant using the private side of PAIR.

Further assistance in electronically accessing the publication, or about PAIR, is available by calling the Patent Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		13315465	
	Filing Date		2011-12-09	
	First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.		
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108		

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Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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	1	05084356	JP	A	1993-04-06	Takeya, KK	English Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number		13315465
Filing Date		2011-12-09
First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.	
Art Unit		
Examiner Name		
Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108	

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	13315465
Filing Date	2011-12-09
First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	GAGIN.00108

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

☒ See attached certification statement.

☐ Fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☐ None

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Vincent J. Allen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-30
Name/Print	Vincent J. Allen	Registration Number	45514

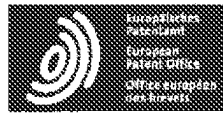
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.



Espacenet

Bibliographic data: JP5084356 (A) — 1993-04-06

PACHINKO MACHINE INSTALLATION RACK

Inventor(s): TAKEUCHI MASAHIRO; WAKANA YOSHIO; TAYUI MAKOTO; TAKEUCHI HIDEKATSU ±

Applicant(s): TAKEYA KK ±

Classification: - international: A63F7/02; (IPC1-7): A63F7/02
- European:

Application number: JP19910276739 19910927

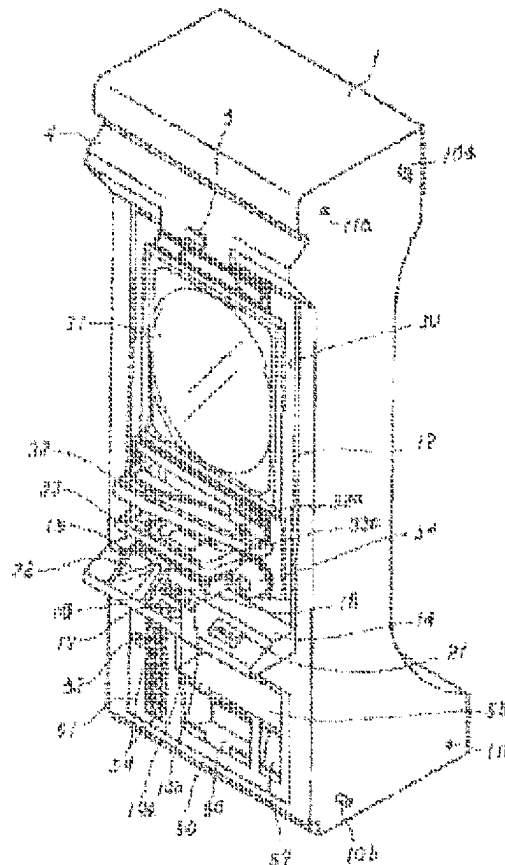
Priority number (s): JP19910276739 19910927

Also published as: JP2518480 (B2)

Abstract of JP5084356 (A)

PURPOSE: To provide a pachinko game machine installation rack adequate for installation at any place, regardless of the number of Pachinko machines installed thereon, and permitting the exchange of balls for a prize during game play.

CONSTITUTION: All component devices necessary for operating one Pachinko machine 30 are installed on a common single rack 1, including the Pachinko machine 30, a ball return device 15 for returning prize balls acquired with the machine 30, a ball transfer device for carrying balls returned through the device 15 to the top of the machine 30, and a prize exchanger 50 for exchanging acquired balls or coins for a prize. This construction can easily cope with any place by changing the number of installed machine, depending upon the size of installation space. Also, a prize needed during game play can be obtained through the prize exchanger 50 laid below the machine 30. Thus, there is no need to substantially interrupt a game.



5.12.2011 Last updated: Worldwide Database 5.7.31 93p

(19)日本国特許庁(JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開平5-84356

(43)公開日 平成5年(1993)4月6日

(51)Int.Cl. ⁹	識別記号	序内整理番号	F I	技術表示箇所
A 63 F 7/02	3 4 9	9113-2C		
	3 5 1 A	9113-2C		
	3 5 4	8804-2C		

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数1(全11頁)

(21)出願番号 特願平3-278739

(22)出願日 平成3年(1991)9月27日

(71)出願人 000150051

株式会社竹屋

愛知県名古屋市中区栄4丁目6番8号

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(72)発明者 竹内 英勝

愛知県春日井市東野町西二丁目14番地の15

(74)代理人 弁理士 今崎 一司

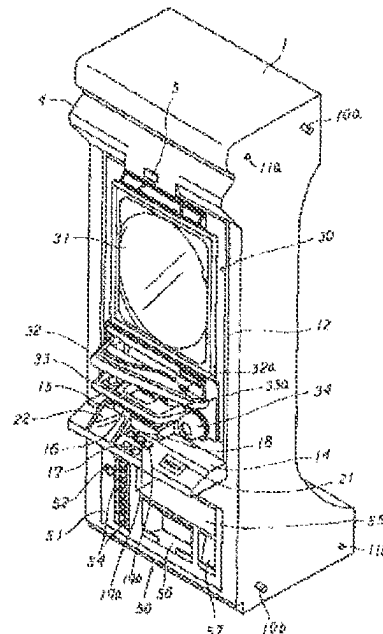
(54)【発明の名称】 パチンコ機設置台

(57)【要約】

【目的】 設置台数の大小に拘らずどのような場所でも設置することが可能であると共に遊技中に必要な賞品と交換することが可能なパチンコ機設置台を提供する。

【構成】 パチンコ機30と、該パチンコ機30で獲得した景品玉を返却する玉返却装置15と、該玉返却装置15によって返却された玉をパチンコ機30の上部に揚送する玉揚送装置と、獲得した景品玉又は硬貨と賞品とを交換する賞品交換機50、等の1台のパチンコ機30を稼働するために必要なすべての構成装置を1つの設置台1に設けた。

【効果】 場所の広狭に応じて並べる設置台数を変化させることにより、どのような場所に対しても容易に対応することができる。また、遊技中に必要とされる賞品も下部に設けられる賞品交換機50によって得ることができるので、遊技を大幅に中断する必要がない。



いて説明する。図2に示すように、パチンコ機30の裏面には、遊技盤で発生した入賞玉を処理する入賞玉処理機構と、該入賞玉処理機構によって処理された入賞玉に基づいて所定個数の景品玉を排出するための景品玉排出機構とが設けられる機構板35が取り付けられている。機構板35の背面上部には、多量の景品玉を貯留する景品玉タンク36が設けられ、該景品玉タンク36から流出する景品玉を最終的に1列に整列させる景品玉誘導機構37が景品玉タンク36の下方に傾斜状に設けられている。また、景品玉誘導機構37の末端には、入賞玉の発生に基づいて所定個数の景品玉を排出する景品玉排出装置38(図4参照)が設けられている。景品玉排出装置38から排出された景品玉は、排出部を通過して前記上部32及び下部33に導かれる。なお、図示しないが、機構板35には、発生した入賞玉を検出する入賞玉検出器43(図4の配線図に示す)が設けられ、入賞玉検出器43の入賞信号に基づいて景品玉排出装置38が駆動される。なお、本実施例において、景品玉排出装置38は、後に詳述するように景品玉を排出するだけでなく、賞玉及び副玉も排出するようになっている。

【0017】ここで、上記した景品玉排出装置38の構成について図4を参照して説明する。景品玉排出装置38は、前記景品玉誘導機構37の末端に臨むスプロケット40と、該スプロケット40と歯車機構41を介して連結され且つその回転を制御するステッピングモータ39と、前記スプロケット40を通過した玉を検出する排出玉検出器42とから構成されている。

【0018】上記した構成を有する景品玉排出装置38の作用について説明すると、景品玉誘導機構37を1列に整列して流下する玉は、スプロケット40の位置で先端の玉が停止した状態となっている。そのような状態で排出指令信号が導出されたときには、ステッピングモータ39がONしてスプロケット40の回転を許可し、玉を下方に流下させる。そして、その流下する玉は、排出玉検出器42によって検出された後、上部32に排出される。排出玉検出器42によって検出された玉数が排出指令信号の種類に応じて決められた個数となったときには、ステッピングモータ39がOFFとされてスプロケット40の回転を停止し、玉の流下を停止させる。

【0019】このように景品玉排出装置38は、排出指令信号の種類に応じて所定数の玉を排出することができるようになっているが、本実施例においては、排出指令信号が5種類導出されるようになっている。具体的に、前記入賞玉検出器43がONしたときには、景品玉排出指令信号が導出され、それによって所定個数(例えば、15個)の玉が景品玉として排出される。また、後述する玉戻ボタン19a、19bのいずれかが操作されたときには、種類の異なる戻玉排出指令信号が導出され、それによって2種類の所定個数(例えば、25個、50個)の玉が戻玉としてそれぞれ排出される。ただ

し、戻玉が排出される前提として、前記下部33の下方であって前記水平カウンタ台14に形成される玉返却装置15において、上記した所定個数の戻玉以上の戻却玉が取り込まれていることが必要である。更に、後述する硬貨投入口52に硬貨が投入された状態で玉戻ボタン19aが操作されたときには、賞玉排出指令信号が導出され、それによって所定個数(例えば、25個)の玉が賞玉として排出される。

【0020】次に、前記交換機設置開口3に設置される賞品交換機50について説明する。賞品交換機50は、全体が交換機設置開口3から前後方向に出し入れすることができるようになっており、賞品を補充するときには、賞品交換機50を手前側に引っ張り出して行うようになっている。しかし、賞品交換機50の前面には、下方両端を軸として開閉自在に軸支される前面前カバー板51が設けられ、その前面前カバー板51の表面に臨むように、硬貨投入口52、選択ボタン54、棚部55、賞品排出口56、57が設けられている。

【0021】硬貨投入口52は、硬貨検出センサ53(図示しない、ただし、図5のブロック図に示す)を有し、該硬貨検出センサ53からの検出信号により、賞玉を借り受けたり、あるいは賞品交換機50内に収納される賞品を購入したりすることができる。選択ボタン54は、該数の玉を25個、50個、54個からなり、本実施例では、3つの選択ボタン54a、54b、54cが種類の異なるタイプの賞品として選択できるように構成されており、他の2つの選択ボタン54d、54eが種類の異なるジュースを賞品として選択できるように構成されている。更に、棚部55は、遊技者の手荷物を入れる物入れとして利用され、賞品排出口56、57は、選択ボタン54a、54b、54cを操作したときに賞品が排出される場所である。

【0022】以上、玉返却装置15、景品玉排出装置38を有するパチンコ機30、及び賞品交換機50を備えた設置台1の構成について説明したが、この設置台1は、図4に示すように、玉返却装置15内に設けられるマイクロコンピュータが形成される制御回路基板60によってその動作を制御される。尚、制御回路基板60は、図5に示すように、制御回路61、演算回路62、入力回路63、出力回路64、及び自動販売機出力回路65を含んで構成される。そして、入力回路63には、玉戻ボタン19a、19b、精算ボタン18、玉計数器20(カウントセンサ1と表示)、排出玉検出器42(カウントセンサ2と表示)、入賞玉検出器43(カウントセンサ3と表示)、及び選択ボタン54a~54cが接続され、それぞれの入力信号に応じて演算回路62や制御回路61によって各種の演算及び制御が実行され、その実行結果によって出力回路64を介して玉数表示器17、プリンタ21、及びステッピングモータ39(モータと表示)が駆動制御され、自動販売機出力回路65を介して賞品交換機50が駆動制御される。

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	12437334
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	30-MAR-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	15:48:31
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Transmittal Letter	IDS_Statement.pdf	194886 ae6150cdc30498efede0579442cd6f845d7c0ee9	no	2

Warnings:

Information:

2	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)	IDS.pdf	612182 4d2d0595a37fe82a8f36c8776b6024a6cee8 ddd8	no	4
Warnings:					
Information:					
A U.S. Patent Number Citation or a U.S. Publication Number Citation is required in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) form for autoloading of data into USPTO systems. You may remove the form to add the required data in order to correct the Informational Message if you are citing U.S. References. If you chose not to include U.S. References, the image of the form will be processed and be made available within the Image File Wrapper (IFW) system. However, no data will be extracted from this form. Any additional data such as Foreign Patent Documents or Non Patent Literature will be manually reviewed and keyed into USPTO systems.					
3	Foreign Reference	JP2511480_Abstract.pdf	248171 8dd90ef42beeacc463a18a8ce74245d5e09 28de3	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			1055239		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Matthew F. Kelly, et al	§	GROUP ART UNIT:
		§	
FILED:	December 9, 2011	§	
		§	EXAMINER:
INVENTION:	Method for Providing	§	
	Network Gaming System	§	
		§	
SERIAL NO.:	13/315,465	§	ATTY FILE: GAGIN.00108

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby makes disclosure of the patents, publications, and/or other information listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A, which references are considered to be potentially material to the patentability of the invention disclosed in the above-referenced application. Copies of the non-US listed references are submitted herewith.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the undersigned to be material under the new standards of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application or before the mailing date of a first office action on the

merits. No fee is required.

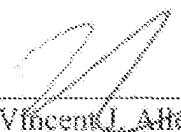
Written notification that these references have been considered in their entirety by return copy of the enclosed form, completed by the Examiner, is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0392.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2012

By:



Vincent L. Allen
Registration No. 45,514
Attorney for Applicants

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PLUS Search Results for S/N 13315465, Searched Fri Apr 06 12:25:12 EDT 2012

The Patent Linguistics Utility System (PLUS) is a USPTO automated search system for U.S. Patents from 1971 to the present PLUS is a query-by-example search system which produces a list of patents that are most closely related linguistically to the application searched. This search was prepared by the staff of the Scientific and Technical Information Center, SIRA.

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PLUS Search Results for S/N 13315465, Searched Fri Apr 06 12:25:15 EDT 2012

The Patent Linguistics Utility System (PLUS) is a USPTO automated search system for U.S. Patents from 1971 to the present PLUS is a query-by-example search system which produces a list of patents that are most closely related linguistically to the application searched. This search was prepared by the staff of the Scientific and Technical Information Center, SIRA.

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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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13/315,465

12/09/2011

Matthew F. Kelly

GAGIN.00108

6138

22858 7590 05/02/2012
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

EXAMINER

HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/02/2012

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 13/315,465	Applicant(s) KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2012.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-30 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2011 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/30/2012</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is a non-final action in reply to the communication filed on December 09, 2011.
2. Claims 1 – 30 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on March 30, 2012 was filed after the mailing date of the initial disclosure on December 09, 2011. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

Art Unit: 3714

2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. **Claims 1-9 and 11-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,779,549 to Walker et al. (hereinafter Walker) in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,870 to Storey (hereinafter Storey).**

7. **Regarding Claims 1 and 26:** Walker discloses a method for providing a network gaming system (Abstract; a method ... for a distributed electronic tournament...), comprising: *receiving a request at a server* (Col. 4:21-28, central controller) *from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system* (Col. 5:9-23. A distributed electronic tournament system with a central controller 102 connected to a number of input/output (I/O) devices 104 and 106. The central controller may be a workstation, a minicomputer, or other type of computation device, typically in the form of a server computer connected to a public or private network; and I/O devices are connected to the central controller at least when involved in the games; Col. 7:1-3 discusses storing player information; Col. 14:55-63 and Col. 15:8-14 - discloses saving the player's credit card information on file with the central controller and using the credits later); *depositing the credits into an account of the user* (Col. 7:1-3 discusses storing player's information into database 402 and 7:57-60 discusses player information stored in database 402 being available for use in subsequent tournament game which player participates; also see at least 14:55-63 and Col. 15:8-14). Walker, however, is silent with regards to receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object. In a related disclosure, Storey discloses an online frequency award program...where an enrolled user may browse through an award catalog and electronically redeem an amount of awarded points to towards an award (see Abstract). Storey discloses receiving a

second request for an object available within the network gaming system (2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; and 9:44-67); debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object (8:3-27 and (9:56-10:6).

Walker discloses an online distributed game system in which players participate in a tournament game from remote areas and in which prizes are awarded to players (see at least Abstract and 8:14-20) and that a central controller, after updating the winning player's database records to reflect that awards have been allocated to them, arranges for distribution of the prize or prizes the player may have won during the game through online or offline methods (7:61-8:5). Storey discloses the use of an online frequency award prize redemption system in which a user can redeem awards (8:3-27) from a plurality of menu items selectable by the user (3:47-4:10; and 9:44-54). Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the game system of Walker with the prize award online system as disclosed in Storey to further incentivize the player to want to play the game by being able to redeem awards or prizes won therefore increasing the player's interest.

8. **Regarding Claims 2 and 27:** Walker in view of Storey discloses wherein *the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system* (Walker, 6:43-45, players must pay an entry fee in order to participate and 14:48-64, disclosing different forms of payment).

9. **Regarding Claims 3 and 28:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 2 further comprising *debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user* (Walker, 7:1-3, 15-16, stores player information in database on central controller; which includes wins and losses; 15:7-24 - discloses deducting payments from the player's account based on game play; and 7:58-8:23 describes crediting the player's account with prizes or awards based on game play performance).

10. **Regarding Claims 4 and 29:** Walker in view of Storey discloses *wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games* (Walker, 5:33-39, 55-60 and

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8:23-53, 9:4-5, 38-42, disclosing the different types of games that can be played and 11:11-14) and *wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games* (Walker, 5:55-60 database stores tournament play data and game play data and 7:1-7, 58-60, database also stores player's information generated by the player as the tournament progresses including player performance data) .

11. **Regarding Claim 5:** Walker in view of Storey discloses *wherein the server and the database server are the same* (Walker, 5:13-15, database is associated with or resides at central controller).

12. **Regarding Claim 6:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 4 *wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network* (Walker, 5:23-39).

13. **Regarding Claims 7 and 30:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 4 further comprising: *receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system* (Storey, see at least 2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); *responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server* (Storey, see at least 2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); *receiving at the server an award selection from the user* (Storey, see at least 2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); *responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection* (Storey, see at least 2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); and *debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award* (Storey, see at least 8:3-27 and 9:56-10:6).

14. **Regarding Claim 8:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 3 wherein the object is an award (Walker, 7:61-8:22).

15. **Regarding Claim 9:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 8 *wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system* (Walker, 8:14-22).

16. **Regarding Claim 11:** Walker in view of Storey discloses the method of claim 3 *wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits* (Walker, 8:14-22).

17. **Regarding Claim 12:** Walker discloses a method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps: *receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request* (5:9-14, 5:62-6:3, 21-61, disclosing identifying a player who communicates with the central controller via an associated I/O device); *transmitting a game client to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request* (3:59-65 games are remotely distributed to participating players once they are identified; 5:21-39, gaming information is retrieved from the database over wireless communication network such as the Internet; 3:59-65 and 5:9-17 discloses games distributed remotely to participating players on associated I/O devices; 5:21-39; 12:56-61 players choose from a plurality of games in which to participate; the game would be transmitted upon the player's request); *debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user* (7:1-3, 15-16, stores player information in database on central controller; which includes wins and losses; 15:7-24 - discloses deducting payments from the player's account based on game play; and 7:58-8:23 describes crediting the player's account with prizes or awards based on game play performance); *wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network* (5:9-31). Walker however doesn't explicitly disclose *transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system; receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network gaming system and debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object*. However in a related disclosure, Storey discloses transmitting to

the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system (see at least 2:56-65); receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network gaming system (see at least 2:54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); and debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object (8:3-27 and (9:56-10:6). Walker discloses an online distributed game system in which players participate in a tournament game from remote areas and in which prizes are awarded to players (see at least Abstract and 8:14-20) and that a central controller, after updating the winning player's database records to reflect that awards have been allocated to them, arranges for distribution of the prize or prizes the player may have won during the game through online or offline methods (7:61-8:5). Storey discloses the use of an online frequency award prize redemption system in which a user can redeem awards (8:3-27) from a plurality of menu items selectable by the user (3:47-4:10; and 9:44-54). Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the game system of Walker with the prize award online system as disclosed in Storey to further incentivize the player to want to play the game by being able to redeem awards or prizes won therefore increasing the player's interest.

18. **Regarding Claim 13:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 *wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server* (5:9-49, electronic tournament system with a central controller 102, which may be in the form of a server computer connected to a public or private network and tournament databases which is associated with or resides at the central controller) and *wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server* (6:66-7:6, storing player information in the database) and the step transmitting a game client is performed, at least in part, by the game server (3:59-65 games are distributed remotely to participating players; 5:21-55 gaming information is retrieved from the database and connections may be through wired or wireless networks such as the Internet; game play information is exchanged between the central controller and the I/O device; also see at least 2:26-46 describing games can be transmitted or downloaded to be played

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on personal computers).

19. **Regarding Claim 14:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses *wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client during the gameplay* (Walker, 5:21-39, games are remotely distributed to I/O devices from a database over a wired or wireless connection such as the Internet. The Internet implements the use of fiber optics, Ethernet, routers, switches, URLs and web browsers. Web servers would need to be implemented in order to distribute games over the Internet).

20. **Regarding Claim 15:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses *receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system* (Walker, Col. 4:21-28 and (Col. 5:9-23. A distributed electronic tournament system with a central controller 102 connected to a number of input/output (I/O) devices 104 and 106. The central controller may be a workstation, a minicomputer, or other type of computation device, typically in the form of a server computer connected to a public or private network; and I/O devices are connected to the central controller at least when involved in the games; Col. 7:1-3 discusses storing player information; Col. 14:55-63 and Col. 15:8-14 - discloses saving the player's credit card information on file with the central controller and using the credits later); *depositing the credits into an account of the user* (Col. 7:1-3 discusses storing player's information into database 402 and 7:57-60 discusses player information stored in database 402 being available for use in subsequent tournament game which player participates; also see at least 14:55-63 and Col. 15:8-14) .

21. **Regarding Claim 16:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses further comprising *transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client for*

use by the game client to tailor a game environment to the user (Walker, 14:2-47).

22. **Regarding Claim 17** Walker in view of Storey also discloses *wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user (Walker, 11:11-14 and 16:4-13 disclosing promotions offered to different players based on information stored in the database about individual players).*

23. **Regarding Claim 18:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses *wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers (see at least 16:4-13 and 15:24-37).*

24. **Regarding Claim 19:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising *receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user (Walker, 12:50-61 disclosing different types of game formats and at least 5:21-60, games are distributed to participating players from a database over wireless connection; 11:11-15).*

25. **Regarding Claim 20:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising *receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game (Walker, 13:66-14:13).*

26. **Regarding Claim 21:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 *wherein the game client comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization (Walker, 5:10-31).*

27. **Regarding Claim 22:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 *wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more*

servers (Walker, see at least 12:50-61, 16:4-13 and 15:24-37).

28. **Regarding Claim 23:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or *more identifiers received by the one or more servers* (6:65—7:3, 39-60, disclosing player performance or preferences data retrieved and stored by the database on the central controller used to notify players of upcoming games or tournaments; see also at least 16: 4-12).

29. **Regarding Claim 24:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 23 *wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user* (Walker, 5:21-49, gaming information can be retrieved via the I/O device over the Internet; since the gaming information is exchanged between the server and the I/O device, there is a game interface upon which the players are able to retrieve or select one of the many games to be downloaded and played as disclosed in at least 12:50-61 and 2:26-46).

30. **Regarding Claim 25:** Walker in view of Storey also discloses the method of claim 24 *wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers* (Walker, 5:21-49).

Allowable Subject Matter

31. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and is provided in the Notice of References cited.

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHAUNA-KAY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm EST.

34. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Lewis can be reached on (571) 272-7673. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

35. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. H./

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/DAVID L LEWIS/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 13/315,465		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL		Art Unit 3714	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-5,779,549	07-1998	Walker et al.	463/42
*	B	US-5,695,400	12-1997	Fennell et al.	463/42
*	C	US-5,231,568	07-1993	Cohen et al.	463/17
*	D	US-5,774,870	06-1998	Storey, Thomas W.	705/14.27
*	E	US-5,697,844	12-1997	Von Kohorn, Henry	463/40
*	F	US-5,643,088	07-1997	Vaughn et al.	463/40
*	G	US-5,351,970	10-1994	Fioretti, Philip R.	463/19
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
East Inventor Name search for double patenting	04/06/2012	SH
East text search (keywords and similar applications/patents)	04/09,17/2012	SH
East Backward/Forward Citation search	04/09,17/2012	SH
East text search in combination with class/subclass search	04/19/2012	SH

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

/S.H./ Examiner.Art Unit 3714	
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Receipt date: 03/30/2012

Doc code: IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

13315465 - GAIL: 3714

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		13315465	
	Filing Date		2011-12-09	
	First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.		
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number		GAGIN.00108	

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	Filing Date		2011-12-09	
	First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.		
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Examiner Signature	/Shauna-kay Hall/	Date Considered	04/24/2012
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¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

Receipt date: 03/30/2012 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		13315465	13315465 - GAU: 3714
	Filing Date		2011-12-09	
	First Named Inventor	KELLY, Matthew F.		
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number		GAGIN.00108	

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

☒ See attached certification statement.

☐ Fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☐ None

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Vincent J. Allen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-30
Name/Print	Vincent J. Allen	Registration Number	45514

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
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EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S3	385	((kelly near2 matthew) OR (kelly near2 bryan) OR (petermeyer near2 norman) OR (kroeckel near2 john) OR (link near2 john)).inv.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 13:37
S4	19	("6012984").PN. OR ("6306035").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/06 14:05
S5	157	("4902020" "5009429" "5083800" "5096202" "5324035" "5351970" "5393057" "5505449" "5536016" "5569083" "5586937" "5737560" "5746656" "5816918" "5823879" "5830069").PN. OR ("6012984").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/06 14:07
S6	115	("5781245" "5790115" "5793413" "5794006" "5815194" "5818438" "5822207" "5880769" "6182109" "5785630" "5787259" "5790753" "5798770" "5805165" "5903633" "5085436" "5787156" "5810680" "5812930" "5815166" "5820459" "5826102" "5873068" "5547202" "5781734" "5794049" "5805704" "5808219" "5896557" "5914941" "5781228" "5790198" "5802274" "5809520" "5818800" "5826166" "5836817" "5845265" "5861881" "5798785" "5812937" "5822324" "5838910" "5695400" "5781246" "5782642" "5794164" "5796945" "5798921" "5838307" "5851149" "5779549" "5809251" "5822123" "5838910" "5841432" "5531440" "5586937" "5833104").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 14:26
S7	58	("5781245" "5790115" "5793413" "5794006" "5815194" "5818438" "5822207" "5880769" "6182109" "5785630" "5787259" "5790753" "5798770" "5805165" "5903633" "5085436" "5787156" "5810680" "5812930" "5815166" "5820459" "5826102" "5873068" "5547202" "5781734" "5794049" "5805704" "5808219" "5896557" "5914941" "5781228" "5790198" "5802274" "5809520" "5818800" "5826166" "5836817" "5845265" "5861881" "5798785" "5812937" "5822324" "5838910" "5695400" "5781246" "5782642" "5794164" "5796945" "5798921" "5838307" "5851149" "5779549" "5809251" "5822123"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 14:26

		"5838910" "5841432" "5531440" "5586937" "5833104").PN.				
S8	2	(prize with redemption with game with system) and @ad<="19950101"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 15:07
S9	59	(network with game with system) and @ad<="19950101"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 15:07
S10	6	(network with game with system) and @ad<="19950101" and ((credit\$ or debit\$3) with account with (prize or award))	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/06 15:08
S11	71	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4582324" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590" "4948133" "4964638" "5007649" "5016880" "5034807" "5042809" "5042810" "5048833" "5057915" "5083271" "5116055" "5118109" "5137278" "5184821" "5197094" "5227874" "5249800" "5265877" "5280909" "5286023" "5286061" "5292127" "5318298" "5324035" "5326104" "5342049" "5344144" "5351970" "5359510" "5365575" "5417424" "5429361" "5462275" "5471039" "5472196" "5475205" "5476259" "5494294" "5511794" "5551692" "5593349").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/06 15:10
S13	19	(player with track\$3 with card) and @ad<="19950101" and (prize or award)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/09 16:52
S14	1	(player with track\$3 with card) and @ad<="19950101" and (prize or award) and (redemption)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/09 16:54
S15	71	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4582324" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590" "4948133" "4964638" "5007649" "5016880" "5034807" "5042809" "5042810" "5048833" "5057915" "5083271" "5116055" "5118109" "5137278" "5184821" "5197094" "5227874" "5249800" "5265877" "5280909" "5286023" "5286061" "5292127" "5318298" "5324035" "5326104" "5342049" "5344144" "5351970" "5359510" "5365575" "5417424" "5429361" "5462275" "5471039" "5472196" "5475205" "5476259" "5494294" "5511794" "5551692" "5593349").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/09 16:56
S16	1	("5983196").PN.	US-	OR	OFF	2012/04/17

			PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR			14:11
S17	10	("5011005" "5025372" "5297026" "5362051" "5483444" "5513117" "5518253" "5537314" "5675780" "5729693").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:12
S18	71	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4582324" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590" "4948133" "4964638" "5007649" "5016880" "5034807" "5042809" "5042810" "5048833" "5057915" "5083271" "5116055" "5118109" "5137278" "5184821" "5197094" "5227874" "5249800" "5265877" "5280909" "5286023" "5286061" "5292127" "5318298" "5324035" "5326104" "5342049" "5344144" "5351970" "5359510" "5365575" "5417424" "5429361" "5462275" "5471039" "5472196" "5475205" "5476259" "5494294" "5511794" "5551692" "5593349").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:13
S19	14	(prize near2 redemption) with network with server	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:24
S20	1	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network with redemption)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:25
S21	55	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:25
S22	21	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network) and (credit\$2)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2012/04/17 14:25
S23	58	("5781245" "5790115" "5793413" "5794006" "5815194" "5818438" "5822207" "5880769" "6182109" "5785630" "5787259" "5790753" "5798770" "5805165" "5903633" "5085436" "5787156" "5810680" "5812930" "5815166" "5820459" "5826102" "5873068" "5547202" "5781734" "5794049" "5805704" "5808219" "5896557" "5914941" "5781228" "5790198" "5802274" "5809520" "5818800" "5826166" "5836817" "5845265" "5861881" "5798785" "5812937" "5822324"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/17 17:01

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S24	4	((("5816918") or ("6007426") or ("6758755") or ("7762885")).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/04/17 17:15
S25	9	("5231568" "5644727" "5697844" "5768382" "5774870" "5779549" "5983196" "6223215" "6692359").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/17 17:16
S26	1	prize with (selection or redemption) with gam\$3 with network AND @ad<= "19961114" and "463"/\$.ccls.	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/04/19 19:34
S28	37	((("5816918") or ("6007426") or ("6015344") or ("6293865") or ("6306035") or ("6454648") or ("6758755") or ("7762885") or ("7972209") or ("7976373") or ("5823879") or ("6012984") or ("5655961") or ("5569083") or ("5197094") or ("5779549") or ("5695400") or ("5547202") or ("5231568") or ("5351970") or ("5890963") or ("5855515") or ("5766076") or ("5611730") or ("4856787") or ("5324035") or ("5697844") or ("5774870") or ("8092307") or ("5737560") or ("5643088") or ("5709603") or ("5871398") or ("5857911") or ("5470079") or ("4636951") or ("5885158")).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/04/20 10:55
S29	2	("5779549" "6039648").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 11:09
S30	7	("5083271" "5259613" "5476259" "5752882" "5755621" "5779549" "5833540").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 11:09
S31	1	("6012984").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 11:12
S32	16	("4902020" "5009429" "5083800" "5096202" "5324035" "5351970" "5393057" "5505449" "5536016" "5569083" "5586937" "5737560" "5746656" "5816918" "5823879" "5830069").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 11:12
S33	73	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590" "4948133" "4964638" "5007649" "5016880" "5034807" "5042809" "5042810" "5048833" "5057915" "5083271" "5116055" "5118109"	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 11:13

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S34	1	("5823879").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/04/20 13:26
S35	29	("4339798" "4467424" "4494197" "4528643" "4531187" "4614342" "4636951" "4760527" "4856787" "4875164" "4902020" "4926327" "5009429" "5038022" "5129549" "5224706" "5257789" "5257810" "5320356" "5321241" "5326104" "5393067" "5403015" "5437462" "5559312" "5586936" "5611730" "5643088" "5707287").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/20 13:27
S36	1	("5774870").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/04/23 12:24
S37	5	("0005287" "4992940" "5025372" "5056019").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/04/23 12:24

EAST Search History (Interference)

< This search history is empty >

4/ 24/ 2012 6:25:02 PM
C:\Users\shall\Documents\EAST\Workspaces\13315465 - Network Game 1996
priority.wsp




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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.		
13/315,465	12/09/2011	463	3714	GAGIN.00108		
RULE						
APPLICANTS Matthew F. Kelly, Scottsdale, AZ; Bryan M. Kelly, Alamo, CA; Norman B. Petermeier, Pleasanton, CA; John G. Kroeckel, San Ramon, CA; John E. Link, Manteco, CA;						
** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a CON of 13/102,000 05/05/2011 which is a CON of 11/277,339 03/23/2006 PAT 8,172,683 which is a CON of 10/751,006 12/31/2003 PAT 7,762,885 which is a CON of 09/433,523 11/03/1999 PAT 6,758,755 which is a CIP of 09/040,654 03/17/1998 PAT 6,007,426 which is a CON of 08/746,755 11/14/1996 PAT 5,816,918						
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****						
** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** * SMALL ENTITY ** 12/20/2011						
Foreign Priority claimed 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met Verified and Acknowledged	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No /SHAUNA-KAY N HALL/ Examiner's Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY AZ	SHEETS DRAWINGS 16	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
ADDRESS CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP P.O. Box 802334 DALLAS, TX 75380-2334 UNITED STATES						
TITLE METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM						
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1130	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:			<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit		

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant		<input type="checkbox"/> CPA		<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.		<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47			
CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	04/24/2012							
	1	✓							
	2	✓							
	3	✓							
	4	✓							
	5	✓							
	6	✓							
	7	✓							
	8	✓							
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	29	✓							
	30	✓							

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Matthew F. Kelly, et al	Examiner:	Shauna-Kay Hall
Serial No.:	13/315,465	Art Unit:	3714
Filed:	December 9, 2011	Atty. Docket No:	GAGIN.00108
Title:	Method for Providing a Network Gaming System	Conf. No.:	6138

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 2, 2012

No fees are believed to be due. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to Carstens & Cahoon, LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392.

Amendments to the Specifications are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page ____ of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page ____ of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page ____ of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page ____ of this paper.

*Response to Office Action mailed May 2, 2012
Application Number: 13/315,465
Page 1 of 12*

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to the outcome of the game play:
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and
debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.

*Response to Office Action mailed May 2, 2012
Application Number: 13/315,465
Page 2 of 12*

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**Carstens
&
Cahoon, LLP**

13760 Noel Road
Suite 900
Dallas, Texas 75240

Main No. (972) 367-2001
Facsimile (972) 367-2002

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To:	Examiner Shauna-Kay HALL USPTO	Facsimile No.:	571-270-2419 571-273-8300
From:	Vincent J. Allen	No. of Pages Including Cover Sheet:	3
Date:	June 27, 2012		
PLEASE DELIVER TO EXAMINER SHAUNA-KAY HALL U.S. Patent Application No. 13/315,465 Our Docket No. GAGIN.00108 Dear Examiner Hall: Attached is a listing of proposed claim amendments for discussion during our interview today. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you. Regards, Vincent J. Allen 972-367-2001 (phone)			
C/M#	GAGIN.00108 5323	Logged Date:	June 27, 2012 By:

Please contact me at 972.367.2001 if you do not receive all pages indicated above or experience any difficulty in receiving this facsimile.

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 13/315,465		Filing Date 12/09/2011		<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed	
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)			
<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=		X \$	=			
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).									
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))										
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.										
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT	06/27/2012	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	MINUS	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 6	Minus	** 20	= 0	X \$30 =	0	OR	X \$	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 1	Minus	*** 3	= 0	X \$125 =	0	OR	X \$	=
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								OR		
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0	OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	MINUS	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								OR		
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
<p>* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.</p> <p>** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".</p> <p>*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".</p> <p>The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.</p>										

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/SHERRY DAVIS/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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13/315,465

12/09/2011

Matthew F. Kelly

GAGIN.00108

6138

22858 7590 07/03/2012
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

EXAMINER

HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/03/2012

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<i>Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary</i>	Application No. 13/315,465	Applicant(s) KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) SHAUNA-KAY HALL. (3) VINCENT ALLEN.

(2) DAVID LEWIS. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 27 June 2012.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference
 ☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☐ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____.

Issues Discussed ☐101 ☐112 ☐102 ☒103 ☐Others
 (For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Walker and Storey.

Substance of Interview
 (For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

Applicant discussed the prior art of Walker and Storey and how the claim is distinguishable from the prior art cited. Applicant further clarified the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art. Discussed the proposed amendment. Once a formal response has been received, Examiner will consider Applicant's arguments and perform an updated search.

Applicant recordation instructions: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview

Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

☐ Attachment

/S. H./ Examiner, Art Unit 3714	/DAVID L LEWIS/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714
------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Matthew F. Kelly, et al	Examiner:	Shauna-Kay Hall
Serial No.:	13/315,465	Art Unit:	3714
Filed:	December 9, 2011	Atty. Docket No:	GAGIN.00108
Title:	Method for Providing a Network Gaming System	Conf. No.:	6138

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 2, 2012

No fees are believed to be due. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to Carstens & Cahoon, LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Interview Summary begin on page 7 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 13 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay;
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and
debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
 - receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;
 - responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;
 - receiving at the server an award selection from the user;
 - responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and
 - debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.
8. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the object is an award.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system.
10. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user.
11. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits.
12. (Original) A method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:
 - receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request;
 - transmitting a game client to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request;
 - debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user;
 - transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system;
 - receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network

gaming system; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object,
wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server and the step transmitting a game client is performed, at least in part, by the game server.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client during the gameplay.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client for use by the game client to tailor a game environment to the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game.
21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the game client comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.
23. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers.
26. (Original) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system;
debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising debiting or crediting the account

of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;

responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;

receiving at the server an award selection from the user;

responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The undersigned and Examiners Shauna-Kay Hall and David L. Lewis conducted a telephonic interview on June 27, 2012 regarding the office action and two of the prior art references cited, Walker and Storey. Counsel for applicant pointed out how the claims are distinguishable from the prior art cited. Applicant's counsel further clarified the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art and discussed the proposed amendment. Examiners indicated they would consider Applicant's arguments once a formal response has been received and perform an updated search.

REMARKS

Claim1 has been amended. Claims 1-30 are pending. Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 11-30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker, et al (5,779,549) in view of Storey (5,774,870). Walker, et al discloses "a method and a system for a distributed electronic tournament system in which many remotely located players participate in a tournament through input/output devices connected to a central controller which manages the tournament." (Abstract.) Walker describes a system in which "players pay entry fees for the right to compete for substantial prizes in electronic tournaments." (Col. 3, ll. 66-67.) "Each player typically pays the system and entry fee before participating in a particular tournament, with payment delivered through the associated input/output device." (Col. 4, ll. 12-14.) "After each tournament is over, the system evaluates player performance, awarding prizes to those players achieving pre-established performance levels." (Col. 4, ll. 17-19.)

In order to facilitate the payment of an entry fee to gain access to a particular tournament, Walker discloses providing a number of payment options for the player before the player participates in a game session. In particular, Walker discloses that the

payment “may be communicated electronically with the online transmission of credit card number, digital cash, debit card number, or bank account information for electronic fund transfers.” (Col. 14, ll. 52-57.) Moreover, Walker discloses the ability to store the payment information: “a player, for example, could register his credit card number and a password with the central controller. From that time forward, the player would only have to present his password for payment. The central controller would look up the password to find the player’s credit card number and would bill the card for the tournament entry fee.” (Col. 14, ll. 60-65.)

So it is clear throughout the Walker specification that Walker provides a system in which the user must pay a “tournament entry fee” in order to be allowed to play the game. Moreover, the specification discloses only the use of legal tender such as by credit card payment to pay that tournament entry fee. Nowhere does Walker suggest the use of “credits” that may be purchased with legal tender and said credits later used in connection with the network gaming system.

Moreover, Walker does not disclose “depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to the outcome of the game played” as claimed in claim 1. Rather, Walker discloses only the payment of primarily monetary prizes depending on the results of a particular tournament. Consequently, Walker does not teach the elements of claims 1 and 26 as stated by Examiner.

Examiner also cites Storey for the proposition that it discloses an “online frequency award program...where an enrolled user may browse through an award catalog and electronically redeem an amount of awarded points towards an award.” The Storey disclosure is related to “frequent flyer” type programs and is not related to network

gaming. As a result, one with skill in the art would not be led to consider the Storey reference in solving the problems presented to the inventors in this case. In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection, the reference must be either in the applicant's field of endeavor or, if not, then reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, ___, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Deminski*, 796 F.2d 436, 442, 230 U.S.P.Q. 313, 315 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Examiner does not provide explicit rationale for why Storey should be combined with Walker but simply states that it would have been obvious to modify the game system of Walker with the prize award online system disclosed in Storey. Moreover, the combination of Storey with Walker is not proper because Walker teaches away from allowing the use of credits within the network gaming system by providing that prizes are awarded to a user in a competition generally based on his or her performance in a particular competition or series of competitions. Thus, there is no suggestion or incentive by Walker to allow a player to obtain objects available within the gaming system using the credits owned by the player. Rather, the prizes of Walker are simply awarded based on predetermined criteria that is determined by the provider of the Walker game system.

This is supported by numerous discussions in the Walker disclosure:

After each tournament is over, the system evaluates payer performance, awarding prizes to those players achieving pre-established performance levels.

(Col. 4, ll. 17-19.)

The process 208, as shown in Fig. 6, for awarding a player a prize include the steps of the central controller accessing 450 the tournament database to retrieve the pre-established performance levels for the awarding of prizes. The central controller reviews 452 the performance of each player relative

to the established performance requirements for the awarding of prizes.

(Col. 7, ll. 61-67.)

A database system allows for creative applications of a common prize pool, which is a set of prizes not associated with a particular tournament. If there are ten trivia tournaments, for example, there could be a prize for the longest string of consecutive correct answers. This could be the longest string within a given tournament, or it could span tournaments so that a player finishing a tournament with a string of correct answers could continue this string in the next tournament he enters. The common prize pool thus spans a number of individual tournaments. Other criteria that could be used include the greatest number of standard deviations above the mean, the greatest number of standard deviations above the lowest score, the best score by a senior citizen, the most consecutive correct answers by a player under thirty years of age, etc.

(Col. 15, ll. 47-62.)

Normally, tournament prizes are established before the tournament begins. In one preferred embodiment, however, the prizes for a game session depend on the number of players participating in the game session – the more players participating, the larger the prizes.

(Col. 16, ll. 21-25.)

The above-quoted passages illustrate that Walker does not provide a motivation for the combination with Storey suggested by Examiner, nor does Examiner offer any rationale for why they should or could be combined. An obviousness rejection based on a conclusory statement is insufficient to support a rejection for obviousness.

Under *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, the Supreme Court required that the reasons for combining the “known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue” should be made explicit. 127 S.Ct. 1727 at 1741 (2007); MPEP 2142. Further, rejections cannot be based on “mere conclusory statements.” *Id.* (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (CA Fed. 2006)). “[T]here must be some articulated reasoning with some rational

underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.” *KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007).

An invention composed of several elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was, independently, known in the prior art. *Id.* The examiner must “identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does.” *Id.* And, the Examiner must make “explicit” this rationale of “the apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed,” including a detailed explanation of “the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace” and “the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art.” *Id.* Anything less than such an explicit analysis is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Walker teaches a pay as you go system and does not teach a system that provides for depositing credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of game play as is claimed in claim 1. Walker teaches the storage of credit card information, which is not the same as “depositing credits into an account of the user” as is claimed in claims 1 and 26. Walker also teaches the awarding of pre-determined prizes based on the outcome of a game or series of games. Again, this is not the same as allowing a user to request “an object available within the network gaming system” and then “debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object” as is claimed in claims 1 and 26. Finally, there would be no motivation to combine the online frequency award program of Storey with Walker. Without explicit rationale for the reasons for combining Walker with Storey, it is improper to combine the two references. All other claims of the application depend from claims 1 and 26, and thus, they are patentable for the same reasons argued above with respect to claims 1 and 26.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the references cited by Examiner and is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request consideration of the application and allowance of the claims. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Vincent J. Allen at 972-367-2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payments that may be due for additional claims to Deposit Account 50-0392.

Date: July 30, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	13372936
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	30-JUL-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	16:04:23
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	ROA.pdf	142491 a77db10afe22d1849061fb87409cd1f396f2378a	no	14

Warnings:

Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 13/315,465		Filing Date 12/09/2011		<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed	
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)			
<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=		X \$	=			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=		X \$	=			
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).									
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))										
			TOTAL			TOTAL				
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT	07/30/2012	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 30	Minus	** 30	= 0	X \$30 =	0		X \$	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 3	Minus	*** 3	= 0	X \$125 =	0		X \$	=
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0		TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
AMENDMENT	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$	=		X \$	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$	=		X \$	=
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE			TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
<p>* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.</p> <p>** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".</p> <p>*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".</p> <p>The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.</p>										

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/ANNETTE COWAN/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PLUS Search Results for S/N 13315465, Searched Tue Oct 16 11:47:28 EDT 2012
The Patent Linguistics Utility System (PLUS) is a USPTO automated search system for U.S. Patents from 1971 to the present PLUS is a query-by-example search system which produces a list of patents that are most closely related linguistically to the application searched. This search was prepared by the staff of the Scientific and Technical Information Center, SIRA.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	12/09/2011	Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108	6138
22858	7590	11/21/2012		
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP			EXAMINER	
P.O. Box 802334			HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N	
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/21/2012	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 13/315,465	Applicant(s) KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2012.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is a non-final action in reply to the communication filed on July 30, 2012 in which claim 1 was amended. Claims 1-30 are now pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendments have been fully considered and are insufficient to overcome a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection. See new grounds of rejection necessitated by amendment below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 9 and 11-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 2nd paragraph

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12, 13, 14, 16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 12, the term “game client” is not defined by the claim and the specification is also silent as to its meaning or interpretation. Similar recitation of the term is also recited in claims 13, 14, 16 and 21. Therefore, for examining purposes, Examiner interprets game client to mean game information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. **Claims 1-6, 8-11, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,768,382 to Schneier et al. (hereinafter Schneier).**

7. Regarding **Claims 1 and 26**, (Currently Amended) Schneier discloses a method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:

receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system (Figures 1A, 2, 3; 5:29-6:38; 7:25-27 game computers 14 may communicate with central computer 12 over RF, cable TV, satellite links and the like, 38:12-19 and 45-46 all embodiments utilize an accounting module 502 that accepts payments and authorizes play...in order to enable game play, accounting module 502 must ...have sufficient credit to enable game play; 40:53-41:21 disclosing player purchasing credits...from the central computer 12..to enable game play; credit request may be made in the form of an ACRM similar to the AURM described in 39:10-35, in which a credit card is used for billing for the length of time specified (the billing information also used for buying credits); see also 41:47-50 disclosing number of credits that a player receives per dollar may also be variable; 45:17-25);

depositing the credits into an account of the user (23:9-45 discusses player information database 48 that stores registration information for a player as well as game outcomes; 40:53-41:21 disclosing credit authorization being received and sent back to game computer 14 CPU 27 to executed game program; Game computer 14 is where the player resides; 41:9-18 reads: accounting module 502 authenticates the authenticable credit authorization message ACAM with the secret key and then adds the appropriate amount of credit to the credit database. The authentication of the authenticable credit

authorization message operates to load credit into the account module 502. If the ACAM is input into a different game computer 14, the authentication protocol will fail because the incorrect key is used);

depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay (41:39-47 disclosing the number of credits available may also be incremented after achieving a certain level of performance in the game; see also 37:4-12 disclosing a game of blackjack being played and once the central computer 12 certifies the outcome, the player is paid winnings, either directly or, if a wagering account exists a credit may be made thereto);

receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system (41:23-38 disclosing extra credits can be required to complete restricted stages of a game. A player might be charged one credit to explore any of the first ten levels of a game, while any of the additional five bonus levels could be explored at a cost of one credit each; For example, while exploring a ten-level dungeon, the player could be charged an additional credit for the use of a special weapon, access to a map of the dungeon or hints on avoiding traps) (i.e. an object in the game could be another bonus level, a special weapon, etc.); and

debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object (41:23-38 disclosing extra credits can be required to complete restricted stages of a game...any additional levels could be explored at a cost of one credit each...such extra characteristics ... may be configured so as to require credits in the accounting module 502).

Although an “account of a user” in Schneier is not explicitly used, Schneier discusses a player information database 48 that is stored on central computer 12 in which players registration information is stored in order for the central computer to ensure that game software is associated with a specified player and also to store player's outcomes (Col. 22, lines 35-39 and Col. 23, lines 9-55). Thus an account of the user is inherent based on each player having to register

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via a player information database. Furthermore, including an account of the user and associating it with a player would facilitate the task of knowing which credits belong to which player as it relates to game play and player's purchasing credits.

8. Regarding **Claims 2** and **27**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system (40:53-47:21 disclosing player purchasing credits...from the central computer 12..to enable game play; credit request may be made in the form of an ACRM similar to the AURM described in 39:10-35, in which a credit card is used for billing for the length of time specified (the billing information also used for buying credits); see also 41:47-50 disclosing number of credits that a player receives per dollar may also be variable)
9. Regarding **Claims 3** and **28**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user (41:23-47).
10. Regarding **Claims 4** and **29**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games (7:50, 60-63 game computer 14 has memory 23 which contains game software 15 comprised of game program 26; 8:28-35, 62-66 and 9:12-15; see 48:37-60) and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games (see 9:16-39 disclosing different outcomes by a player of a certain game; 22:31-38 disclosing central computer may be a single unit or a network of computers and including relational databases such as player information database and outcome database and 23:45-52 disclosing outcome database 50...and storing different outcomes for players; 37:4-12; see also 42:23-43).

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11. Regarding **Claim 5**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same (22:31-39).
12. Regarding **Claim 6**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network (7:17-27 and 22:31-38; 50:12-15).
13. Regarding **Claim 8**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 3 wherein the object is an award (41:29-39 disclosing extra credits can be required to complete restricted stages of a game; a player being charged one credit to explore any of the first ten levels of a game while any of the additional five bonus levels could be explored at a cost of one credit each)
14. Regarding **Claim 9**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 8 wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system (41:30-39).
15. Regarding **Claim 10**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user (42:44-.43:52).
16. Regarding **Claim 11**, (Original) Schneier discloses the method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits (28:59-29:8; 41:23-67; 42:23-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

19. Claims 7 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,768,382 to Schneier et al. (hereinafter Schneier) in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,870 to Storrey.

20. Regarding **Claims 7 and 30**, Schneier discloses the method as claimed in claim 4, but it fails to explicitly teach the method of claim 4 further comprising: receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system; responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server; receiving at the server an award selection from the user; responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and debiting the account of the user by

an amount associated with the award.

However in another art, Storrey teaches:

receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system (see 2:8-12, 16-27, 54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67);

responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server (2:8-12, 16-27, 54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67);

receiving at the server an award selection from the user (2:8-12, 16-27, 54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67);

responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection (2:8-12, 16-27, 54-65; 3:47-4:10; 8:3-27 and 9:44-67); and

debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award (8:3-27 and 9:56-10:6).

Schneier discloses that as a result of game play, reward points may be accumulated in a manner similar to a frequent flyer reward program (42:23-24). In this connection, each game played or each unit of time played generates one or more reward points. Players may also accumulate points for achieving certain results in a game...the accounting module tracks reward points in a reward point database...to redeem reward points, a player requests a reward point redemption function...and these reward points may be subsequently utilized to purchase prizes or gifts, which purchases may be made in combination with additional payment if desired (42:25-43). Storrey discloses an online, interactive incentive program which provides an online access to product information, product purchases, using an electronic online form, award catalogs, and award redemption using an electronic redemption form and order prizes on-line and redeem awarded points on-line (1:57-64, 2:5-27). It would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention to have modified the game system of Schneier and incorporate an online redemption program as disclosed in Storrey since

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Schneier discloses that players are able to redeem points gained during game play and to also to provide the player with the immediacy effect of being able to redeem points for prizes and/or awards instantly (Storrey, 1:53-54).

21. Claims 12-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,083,271 to Thacher et al. (hereinafter Thacher).

22. Regarding **Claim 12**, (Original) Thatcher discloses a method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:

receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request (7:1-9 player enters credit cards into card readers and interface 3 is activated which in the case of being connected to local area network 4, applies a player inquiry signal with player number and local video game identification number to central computer 6; see also 2:40-65);

transmitting a game client to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request (7:17-32 central computer 6 receiving data packets from each of the interfaces containing ... player number data, searches its memory for the player codes and associated credit data...central computer sends a game start signal addressed to the video game address identified by the video game code previously sent to the central computer; see also 13:60-14:30);

debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user (7:17-32... central computer 6 receiving data packets from each of the interfaces containing ... player number data searches its memory for the player codes and associated credit data ... assuming central computer finds sufficient game credits associated with the value of the game which is to be played by a particular player, it decrements the stored credit data associated with the specific stored player identification code...);

transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system (3:67-4:3 – discloses data messages being sent from central computer to video game themselves constituting...other displays...7:39-42 central computer can also read...similar display allowing the player to select a function by pushing a key on the interface keyboard...16:29-36 central computer can download a display to be displayed on the video game display...19:3-5 disclosing that central computer can perform other important functions such as...ordering or purchasing of goods displayed on the game display);

receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network gaming system (7:39-52 central computer can also read a ... similar display allowing the player to select a function by pushing a key on the interface keyboard...this selection could be a selection of other kinds of games to be played...18:64-68; see also19:3-5 disclosing that central computer can perform other important functions such as...ordering or purchasing of goods displayed on the game display...); and

debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object (7:39-42 central computer can also read...similar display allowing the player to select a function by pushing a key on the interface keyboard...19:3-5 central computer can perform other important functions such as...ordering or purchasing of goods displayed on the game display with automatic debiting of an account...or 18:17-19...purchases or lottery payments can be deducted from the credit balance of the player...),

wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network (see figures 1, 4 central computer 6 connected to data link LAN; 5:60-6:15 discusses various data link connections between the central computer and the video game terminals) (central computer represents the server).

Although a wide area network isn't explicitly disclosed, Thacher discloses that other data links could be used for connection and the use of a wide area network for connecting various game terminals for game play is widely known in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention to have included a wide area network for connection to expand the playing locations to multiple players playing the game in different locations. (see U.S. Patent 5,695,400 as an example of a game system with a wide area network and also U.S. Patent 5,779,549).

23. Regarding **Claim 13**, (Original) Thatcher discloses the method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server (figures 1, 4; central computer 6) and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database (6:44-50; 19:5-17) and the step of transmitting a game client is performed, at least in part, by the game server (13:43-14:8).
24. Regarding **Claim 15**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system (6:17-67 disclosing players purchasing credits and being assigned a number with an encoded stripe on a credit card with the assigned number...the amount of credits can be either actual money value or game units...use can facilitate the players playing games of different playing cost values...central computer 6 stores the credits associated with the player numbers in a local memory).
25. Regarding **Claim 16**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to

the game client for use by the game client to tailor a game environment to the user (16:53-17:34 disclosing player selecting menu item to change the kind of game to be played by pushing a button on keypad 32 which is read and transmitted to central computer...central computer downloads signals to control the conversion to another game into RAM 26B; it also downloads the appropriate display signals to be displayed during the game into RAM 28 via video display generator 47...18:5-18, 64-68 disclosing the different kinds of games can be played in competition and that specialized games can also be designed).

26. Regarding **Claim 17**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user (8:22-35 and 17:59-65).

27. Regarding **Claim 18**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers (18:9-68).

28. Regarding **Claim 19**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user (16:53-17:34 disclosing player selecting menu item to change the kind of game to be played by pushing a button on keypad 32 which is read and transmitted to central computer...in this manner, the players can be given a choice of many different kinds of games...they are not restricted to the video game originally designed; see also 3:52-53 disclosing the interface facilitating the automatic changing of the kinds of games for game play).

29. Regarding **Claim 21**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 wherein the game client comprises a communicator module that is capable of

causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization (11:18-41).

30. Regarding **Claim 22**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers (7:39-52 central computer can also read a ... similar display allowing the player to select a function by pushing a key on the interface keyboard...this selection could be a selection of other kinds of games to be played...18:64-68...and 8:39-45 disclosing that since each kind of video game is identifiable by means of a code, central computer 6 can store and indicator of what each video game actually is).
31. Regarding **Claim 23**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers (16:52-17:37 disclosing different types of games that can be played by the player and 8:42-45 since each kind of video game is identifiable by a code, central computer 6 can store an indicator of what each video game actually is...and 17:29-34, 17:65-18:28) (Different games played by the player will have different features of the game).
32. Regarding **Claim 24**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user (16:52-17:34 and 18:1-28 – disclosing player being able to select the kind of game to be changed and that different games are available and can be specially designed; since the central computer is communicating with the video game via display screen there has to be a game interface upon which the players are able to select the game to be changed and played).

33. Claims 14, 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thacher in view of U.S. Patent 5,779,549 to Walker et al. (hereinafter Walker).

34. Regarding **Claim 14**, (Original) Thacher discloses the method of claim 13 but is silent regarding wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client during the gameplay. In a related invention, Walker discloses wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client during the gameplay (Walker, 5:21-39 games are distributed over a wired or wireless connection such as the Internet; the Internet implements the use of Ethernet, routers, URLs, web browsers, etc. Web servers would need to be implemented in order to allow for interaction with the game over the Internet; see also 14:36-47). Walker similarly discloses a game system in which players are able to participate in a game from various remote locations connected to a central controller (abstract) via the Internet. And Thacher discloses the capability of offering different kinds of games in different locations to a variety of players connected to central computer via a local area network or other game data links (3:55-64, 6:57-68). Thus, it would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention to have modified the game system of Thacher to include the one server with a web server as disclosed in Walker cited above, to further facilitate and expand the communication/connection within the game system offered in multiple locations to a variety of players.

35. Regarding **Claim 20**, (Original) Thacher in view of Walker discloses the method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game (Walker, 13:66-14:13).

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36. Regarding **Claim 25**, (Original) Thacher in view of Walker discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers (Walker, 5:21-49).

Conclusion

37. Claims 1 - 30 are examined above.

38. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and is provided in the Notice of References cited.

39. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHAUNA-KAY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm EST.

40. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Lewis can be reached on (571) 272-7673. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

41. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. H./

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/DAVID L LEWIS/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 13/315,465		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL		Art Unit 3714	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-5,697,844	12-1997	Von Kohorn, Henry	463/40
*	B	US-5,768,382	06-1998	Schneier et al.	380/251
*	C	US-5,083,271	01-1992	Thacher et al.	700/92
*	D	US-5,494,294	02-1996	Cappetta, Louis	273/269
*	E	US-5,737,560	04-1998	Yohanan, Steven J.	715/847
*	F	US-5,695,400	12-1997	Fennell et al.	463/42
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			


FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

<p><i>Index of Claims</i></p> 	<p>Application/Control No.</p> <p>13315465</p>	<p>Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination</p> <p>KELLY ET AL.</p>
	<p>Examiner</p> <p>SHAUNA-KAY HALL</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p>3714</p>

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant				<input type="checkbox"/> CPA				<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.				<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47			
CLAIM		DATE													
Final	Original	04/24/2012	11/02/2012												
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	24	✓	✓												
	25	✓	✓												
	26	✓	✓												
	27	✓	✓												
	28	✓	✓												
	29	✓	✓												
	30	✓	✓												

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)


Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S39	4	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and advertis\$5 and profile and (internet or network)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 09:20
S40	51	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 09:21
S41	48	((("6178510") or ("6935946") or ("7351151") or ("8113935") or ("8128495") or ("20070167221") or ("20080305856") or ("20110225610") or ("7988552") or ("7988552") or ("8123615") or ("20070228656") or ("20090149241") or ("20090209319") or ("5833540") or ("5851148") or ("6139431") or ("6270409") or ("6632140") or ("6645068") or ("7056215") or ("7169047") or ("7419428") or ("7749079") or ("8052518") or ("8052518") or ("8191121") or ("8192268") or ("20020068632") or ("20030064778") or ("20030119574") or ("20030171145") or ("20040043813") or ("20040053681") or ("20040235548") or ("20050043086") or ("20050054417") or ("20070026935") or ("20070077993") or ("20070111793") or ("20070259709") or ("20080039193") or ("20080070669") or ("20080070688") or ("20080201227") or ("20080220854") or ("20080220872") or ("20100004055") or ("20100022307") or ("20100062840")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/10/25 11:31
S42	22	S41 and (redeem redemption)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 11:32
S43	22	S42 and (prize or award or server or network)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 11:33
S44	26	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and (online or network or Internet)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 14:16
S45	5	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and (online or network or Internet) and (pool)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2012/10/25 14:16
S47	1	("6328649").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2012/11/02 12:58
S48	20	("20020065126" "20020119824" "20020143639" "20020143652" "20020160825" "20030100371" "20040009807" "20040046854"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/11/05 16:57

		"20040204246" "20050253331" "20060046854" "20060246973" "20080045288" "20080070667" "5779549" "6099408" "6174237" "6485367" "7226358").PN. OR ("7976373").URPN.				
S49	29	("4339798" "4467424" "4494197" "4528643" "4531187" "4614342" "4636951" "4760527" "4856787" "4875164" "4902020" "4926327" "5009429" "5038022" "5129549" "5224706" "5257789" "5257810" "5320356" "5321241" "5326104" "5393067" "5403015" "5437462" "5559312" "5586936" "5611730" "5643088" "5707287").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/11/06 10:52
S50	273	("5823879").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2012/11/06 10:58
S51	16	("4902020" "5009429" "5083800" "5096202" "5324035" "5351970" "5393057" "5505449" "5536016" "5569083" "5586937" "5737560" "5746656" "5816918" "5823879" "5830069").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2012/11/06 10:58

EAST Search History (I nterference)

< This search history is empty >

11/ 6/ 2012 3:39:53 PM
C:\ Users\ shall\ Documents\ EAST\ Workspaces\ 13315465 - Network Game 1996
priority.wsp

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
East Inventor Name search for double patenting	04/06/2012	SH
East text search (keywords and similar applications/patents)	04/09,17/2012	SH
East Backward/Forward Citation search	04/09,17/2012	SH
East text search in combination with class/subclass search	04/19/2012	SH
PLUS search request	10/16/2012	SH
Discussed with Frank Leiva regarding search strategies	10/24/2012	SH
Updated EAST search with keywords, related patents, applications, etc.	10/25/2012	SH

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

/S.H./ Examiner.Art Unit 3714	
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Matthew F. Kelly, et al	Examiner:	Shauna-Kay Hall
Serial No.:	13/315,465	Art Unit:	3714
Filed:	December 9, 2011	Atty. Docket No:	GAGIN.00108
Title:	Method for Providing a Network Gaming System	Conf. No.:	6138

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 21, 2012

No fees are believed to be due. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to Carstens & Cahoon, LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 16 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay;
receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and
debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object;
receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;
responsive to the third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;
receiving at the server an award selection from the user;
responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and
debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein an application programming interface is used to allow the server to perform calculations on behalf of a game apparatus associated with the user.

~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;~~

~~responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;~~

~~receiving at the server an award selection from the user;~~

~~responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and~~

~~debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~wherein the object is an award~~ 7 wherein the application programming interface comprises an activator module, a communicator module, and a buffer module adapted to interface with a game module, a modem, and an internal storage of the game apparatus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:

receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request;

transmitting a game client software to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request;

debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user;

transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system;

receiving a second request for one of the plurality of objects available within the network gaming system; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object,

wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server and the step transmitting a game client software is performed, at least in part, by the game server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client software during the gameplay.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client software for use by the game client software to tailor a game environment to the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the game client software comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization.

22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;

depositing the credits into an account of the user;

receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system;

debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object;

receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;

responsive to the third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;

receiving at the server an award selection from the user;

responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.-

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

30. (Canceled)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 21, and 26 have been amended and claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 1-29 are pending. Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112 2nd Paragraph

Examiner rejected claims 12-14, 16, and 21 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, Examiner argues that the term “game client” is not defined by the claim or the specification.

The term “client” is a term of art that refers to the commonly known client-server computer architecture. There is no requirement to define terms either in the claims or the specification to comply with 35 USC § 112. It would be apparent to one having ordinary skill in the art from reading the claims in combination with the specification that “game client” is the client side software used to interact with the server and is not “game information” as suggested by Examiner. The following excerpt from the specification describes one means of implementing the client-server architecture:

FIG. 5 illustrates software that may be resident in one of the game apparatuses mentioned hereinabove. Client-side software 501 is shown to include an activator module 500, a communicator module 502, and a buffer module 504 which are adapted to interface with a game module 506, a modem 508, and internal storage 510 among other components of the game apparatus. Together, the foregoing software components constitute an application program interface (API) that may

be accessed via a C++ dll for Win32 games and obfuscated Java class(es) for Java applet games.

Also shown is server-side software 512. The server-side software is shown to include a secure credit card transaction module 514, a shopping module 516, an advertising module 518, a redemption module 520, and a payment server 522 which may be interconnected with any of the game apparatuses via a web server 524 and an associated firewall 526. A plurality of supporting servers 528 may also be included per the desires of the user.

(Spec. ¶¶ 0046-47.) Although the meaning of the term is clear from the specification, Applicant has also amended the claims at issue to refer to “game client software” instead of simply “game client.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-11, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schneier (5,768,382). Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 7, and thus, the rejection of claims 1-6, and 8-11 are now moot. Applicant has also added the elements of claim 7 to claim 26 as well, and thus, the rejection of claims 26-29 under 35 USC 102 are now moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-11, 26-30

Examiner rejected claims 7 and 30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier (5,768,382) in view of Storey (5,774,870). Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 7, and claim 7 has been amended to further claim that “an application programming interface is used to allow the server to perform calculations on behalf of a game apparatus associated with the user.” Claim 26 has also been amended to include the elements of claims 7 and 30. Applicants point out below that Schneier does not teach the claimed elements as claimed in independent claims 1 and 26 and also that the combination of Schneier with Storey

is improper in any event.

Schneier does not teach the elements claimed.

Schneier discloses “a method for encoding a message corresponding to an outcome of a computer game and method for decoding the message to detect a fraudulent outcome.” (Abstract.) The problems that Schneier is trying to solve are primarily related to tournament games where there is a need to ensure that the results submitted by a player in the tournament are not fraudulent. (Col. 1 – Col. 2.) Schneier sums up the problem as a “need for a system whereby players of such games can register their scores with a central computer that certifies the scores and enables players to receive their ranking/rating with respect to other players on a national or even worldwide scale.” (Col. 2, ll.41-45.) Schneier goes on to identify an existing need “for a system by which players can participate in tournaments on game computers at any place and any time, without requiring complicated and costly networks or an on-line connection between the game computer and central computer while the game is being played, without the need for the players to go to a specified location, and without the need to have an officially sanctioned tournament director present where the games are being played while still ensuring the authenticity of the participants’ scores.” (Col. 3, ll. 47-56.)

Schneier discloses a “central computer” that is used to authenticate a game outcome by decoding an encoded message provided by the user. It appears that the Examiner is considering Schneier’s central computer to be a server. However, it does not appear that Schneier is actually using the central computer as a server, but instead is just using it as a centralized computer that can be contacted to authenticate game outputs. Essentially all processing related to the games/tournaments being played are taking place on the game computer itself. In fact, Schneier teaches that it is not necessary to have the game computer connected to a network to which the

central computer is attached, but instead discloses a telephone system through which the user can call to have a game output authenticated.

Even if the central computer were considered a “server,” as is claimed by the present invention, Schneier does not teach depositing credits into an account of a user after purchasing them and then “debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object” as is claimed by the present invention. Rather, Schneier teaches that a user purchases credits from the central computer, and then the credits are added to the accounting module **502**.

Schneier’s accounting module **502** is disclosed in the context of FIGS. **14A, 14B and 15** which are used to describe a “pay-per-use” game system used in the home video game environment that enables a home game computer to be turned into a video game arcade machine. (Col. 38, ll. 13-16.) The player can then pay for each game or lease the game computer for a certain length of time. The accounting module connected to the game computer has “accounting information in the form of ‘credits’ for arcade embodiments and end dates for time-lock embodiments.” (Col. 38, ll. 61-62.) When the credits run out, the user must then contact the central computer to purchase more. (Col. 40, l. 53 – Col. 41, l. 15.) The accounting module is not an “account of the user”, as is claimed by the present invention, but rather, because the user does not have an account for this purpose, the user must continually go back to the central computer to purchase more credits and have them added to the accounting module to continue playing the game.

Thus, Schneier does not teach the elements of depositing the credits into an account of the user and debiting credits from the account of the user, as is claimed by the present invention in claims 1 and 26. The Examiner acknowledges that Schneier does not explicitly disclose the

use of an “account of a user” but claims that such is inherent based on each player having to register via a player information database. However, the central computer of Schneier does not keep track of how many credits are available to any given user. It only maintains a record of prior purchases made. Thus, the central computer does not inherently maintain an account of a user for depositing credits as is claimed by the present invention and, in fact, teaches that it does not maintain such an account.

The combination of Storey and Schneier is improper.

The Examiner has rejected claim 7 based on obviousness, the elements of which are now included in claims 1 and 26. The Examiner acknowledges that Schneier does not teach the elements of previous claim 7, but argues that such elements are obvious in view of Storey.

The Examiner cites Storey for the proposition that it discloses an “online, interactive incentive program which provides online access to product information, product purchases, using an electronic online form, award catalogs, and award redemption using an electronic redemption form and order prizes on-line and redeem awarded points on-line.” The Storey disclosure is related to “frequent flyer” type award redemption programs and is not related to network gaming. As a result, one with skill in the art would not be led to consider the Storey reference in solving the problems presented to the inventors in the present application. In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection, the reference must be either in the applicant's field of endeavor or, if not, then reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1447, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Deminski*, 796 F.2d 436, 442, 230 U.S.P.Q. 313, 315 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The Examiner does not provide an explicit rationale as to why Storey should be combined with Schneier but simply states that it would have been obvious to modify the game

system of Schneier with the prize award online system disclosed in Storey. An obviousness rejection based on a conclusory statement is insufficient to support a rejection for obviousness. Under *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, the Supreme Court required that the reasons for combining the “known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue” should be made explicit. 127 S.Ct. 1727 at 1741 (2007); MPEP 2142. Further, rejections cannot be based on “mere conclusory statements.” *Id.* (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (CA Fed. 2006)). “[T]here must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.” *KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007).

An invention composed of several elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was, independently, known in the prior art. *Id.* The examiner must “identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does.” *Id.* And, the Examiner must make “explicit” this rationale of “the apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed,” including a detailed explanation of “the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace” and “the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art.” *Id.* Anything less than such an explicit analysis is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

For the reasons stated above, claims 1-11, and 26-30 are not rendered obvious in view of the prior art, and Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of these claims.

Claims 12-25

The Examiner has rejected claims 12-25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thacher (U.S. 5,083,271). Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 12-25 is based on an improper interpretation of the term “game client” by The Examiner to simply mean

game information. Applicants have amended the claims to refer to game client software instead as this is the intended meaning of the term “game client” and is the way a person having ordinary skill in the art would interpret that claim.

Interpreted properly, Applicants believe that the Examiner would not read Thacher to teach the element “transmitting a game client to a game apparatus of the user” as Thacher only teaches transmitting data and not the game client software itself. Rather, in the portion of the reference cited by the Examiner, Thacher discloses sending information to the game computer such as a start signal after determining that the user has enough credits to play the game. This is not the same as sending game client software to the game apparatus as claimed by claim 12. Moreover, like Schneier, Thacher does not appear to teach a client-server arrangement, but rather only a central computer.

With respect to claims 17 and 18, Thacher does not teach sending an advertising variable to the game client software nor does it teach determining the plurality of variables based on a profile of the user. In the portions cited by the Examiner, a discussion of displaying advertising is indicated, but there is no discussion of an advertising variable or variables based on a profile of the user. It appears that Thacher anticipates blanket announcements will be made to all users—thus variables would not be passed to the game client software as claimed by the present invention.

With respect to claim 19, there is no discussion of downloading games to the game apparatus of the user, only the download of control signals. Thus, Thacher does not teach the element claimed in claim 19.

With respect to claim 22-24, Thacher does not teach making the selection of games available, features of game play, or the game interface dependent, that is variable, depending

upon an identifier received by the one or more servers. Making a selection of games available to the user is not the same as tailoring that selection or the features of a game based on the identifier received.

With respect to claims 20 and 25, the Examiner offers one sentence for each of these rejections indicating that Thacher in combination with Walker supports the rejection. This does not create a prima facie case of obviousness as insufficient rationale is provided for making the combination. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections for that reason in addition to the reasons argued above.

For the reasons stated above, claims 12-25 are not obvious in view of the prior art, and are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner and is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Vincent J. Allen at 972-367-2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payments that may be due for to Deposit Account 50-0392.

Date: February 21, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Vincent J. Allen/
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Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	15018438
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	21-FEB-2013
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	16:43:41
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	GAGIN00108ROA_Final.pdf	151376 15c9f71cc70598a2e509067bc71c5471b6ec912f	no	16

Warnings:

Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 13/315,465		Filing Date 12/09/2011		<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed	
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)			
<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A				
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	minus 20 =	*	X \$	=	OR	X \$	=			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X \$	=		X \$	=			
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).									
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))										
			TOTAL			TOTAL				
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.										
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT	02/21/2013	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 29	Minus	** 30	=	0	OR	X \$	=	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 3	Minus	*** 3	=	0	OR	X \$	=	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))										
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR			
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0	OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE		
(Column 1)			(Column 2)			SMALL ENTITY OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	OR	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=		OR	X \$	=	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=		OR	X \$	=	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))										
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR			
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE		
<p>* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.</p> <p>** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".</p> <p>*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".</p> <p>The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.</p>										

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/DORIS ISAAC/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22858 7590 03/18/2013
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

EXAMINER

HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2013

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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13/315,465

12/09/2011

INV001Matthew F. Kelly

GAGIN.00108

6138

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$885	\$0	\$0	\$885	06/18/2013

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

22858 7590 03/18/2013
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	12/09/2011	INV001Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108	6138

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$885	\$0	\$0	\$885	06/18/2013

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N	3714	463-025000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). <input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached. <input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.	2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. <div> 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ </div>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted: <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee <input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) <input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____	4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above) <input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. <input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see form PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	12/09/2011	INV001Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108	6138

22858	7590	03/18/2013
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP		
P.O. Box 802334		
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334		

EXAMINER
HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2013

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	13/315,465	KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SHAUNA-KAY HALL	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to claims and remarks filed February 21, 2013.
2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. | |

/S. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/DAVID L LEWIS/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone conversation with Attorney Vincent J. Allen on March 7-8, 2013. Permission was granted by Attorney Allen to make the additional changes via a telephone correspondence on March 8, 2013.
3. The Examiner has amended claims 1, 12, 22, and 26 to correct grammatical errors and other issues; as per our phone conversation.

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system; depositing the credits into an account of the user;
depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay;

~~receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system; and
debiting credits from the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object,~~

receiving at the server a ~~third~~ second request to provide a selection of ~~awards~~ items available in the network gaming system;

responsive to said ~~third~~ second request, sending the selection of ~~awards~~ items to the user from the server;

receiving at the server an ~~award~~ item selection from the user;

responsive to receiving the ~~award~~ item selection, providing an ~~award~~ item to the user based on the ~~award~~ item selection; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the ~~award~~ item.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein an application programming interface is used to allow the server to perform calculations on behalf of a game apparatus associated with a user.

further comprising:

~~receiving at the server a third request to provide a selection of awards available in the network gaming system;~~

~~responsive to said third request, sending the selection of awards to the user from the server;~~

~~receiving at the server an award selection from the user;~~

~~responsive to receiving the award selection, providing an award to the user based on the award selection; and~~

~~debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the award.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~wherein the object is an award~~ 7 wherein the application programming interface comprises an activator module, a communicator module, and a buffer module adapted to interface with a game module, a modem, and internal storage of the game apparatus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the award can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user.

Art Unit: 3714

11. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:

- receiving a first request wherein said first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request;

- transmitting a game client software to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request;

- debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user;

- transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of ~~objects~~ items available to the user in the network gaming system;

- receiving a second request for one of the plurality of ~~objects~~ items available within the network gaming system; and

- debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the ~~object~~ item, wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server and the step transmitting a game client software is performed, at least in part, by the game server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client software during the gameplay.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client software for use by the game client software to tailor a game environment to the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the game client software comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization.

22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of objects available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers

received by the one or more servers.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on the website through which the user accessed the one or more servers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
 receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
 depositing the credits into an account of the user;
 ~~receiving a second request for an object available within the network gaming system;~~
 ~~debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the object;~~
 receiving at the server a ~~third~~ second request to provide a selection of ~~awards~~ items available in the network gaming system;
 responsive to said ~~third~~ second request, sending the selection of ~~awards~~ items to the user from the server;
 receiving at the server an ~~award~~ item selection from the user;
 responsive to receiving the ~~award~~ item selection, providing an ~~award~~ item to the user based on the ~~award~~ item selection; and
 debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the ~~award~~ item.

Art Unit: 3714

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

30. (Canceled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1-29 are allowed.
5. Applicant's amendments with regards to claims 12-14, 16 and 21 are sufficient to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection for indefiniteness. These rejections are hereby respectfully withdrawn.
6. The following is the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 recites the limitations, "receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system; depositing the credits into an account of the user; depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay; receiving at the server a second request to provide a selection of items available in the network gaming system; responsive to said second request, sending the selection of items to the user from the server;

Art Unit: 3714

receiving at the server an item selection from the user; responsive to receiving the item selection, providing an item to the user based on the item selection; and debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the item.

7. Upon receiving Applicant's amendments and arguments, and conducting an updated search, the closest prior art appears to be, U.S. Patents 5,779,549 to Walker, 5,774,870 to Storey, 5,768,382 to Schneier and 5,083,271 to Thacher. Walker generally teaches an online database tournament system in which players can play a game through input/output devices connected to a central controller over a wide area network such as the Internet. Players are uniquely identified by accessing player information stored in a database that is generated as the player participates in the tournament. Thacher teaches a method for tracking tournaments for electronic games in which scores are transmitted to a hierarchy of computers to determine a winner. The players insert credit cards into the gaming machines which read the player codes to verify the player's identity. Schneier teaches a gaming system with a pay per use feature in which player purchases credits to enable game play. Prior to loading the game program, the game computer checks an accounting module to determine whether or not the player has any credits remaining. Storey teaches an online frequency award system in which a user can redeem awards and prizes.
8. However Walker, Storey, Schneier or Thacher, in combination or taken alone, does not disclose the limitations as cited above. As such, for at least this reason, Examiner has found these limitations, in combination with other limitations of the claim, are neither anticipated by nor obvious over the closest prior art. Therefore, claims 1-29 are allowable as amended over the prior art. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHAUNA-KAY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm EST.
10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Lewis can be reached on (571) 272-7673. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. H./


Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/DAVID L LEWIS/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

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<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant					<input type="checkbox"/> CPA					<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.					<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47				
CLAIM		DATE																	
Final	Original	04/24/2012	11/02/2012	03/08/2013															
	1	✓	✓	=															
	2	✓	✓	=															
	3	✓	✓	=															
	4	✓	✓	=															
	5	✓	✓	=															
	6	✓	✓	=															
	7	✓	✓	=															
	8	✓	✓	=															
	9	✓	✓	=															
	10	O	✓	=															
	11	✓	✓	=															
	12	✓	✓	=															
	13	✓	✓	=															
	14	✓	✓	=															
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	27	✓	✓	=															
	28	✓	✓	=															
	29	✓	✓	=															
	30	✓	✓	-															

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S59	474	((kelly near2 matthew) OR (kelly near2 bryan) OR (petermeyer near2 norman) OR (kroeckel near2 john) OR (link near2 john)).inv.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S60	34	("6012984").PN. OR ("6306035").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
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S64	2	(prize with redemption with game with system) and @ad<="19950101"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S65	59	(network with game with system) and @ad<="19950101"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S66	6	(network with game with system) and @ad<="19950101" and ((credit\$ or debit\$3) with account with (prize or award))	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S67	71	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4582324" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590" "4948133" "4964638" "5007649" "5016880" "5034807" "5042809" "5042810" "5048833" "5057915" "5083271" "5116055" "5118109" "5137278" "5184821" "5197094" "5227874" "5249800" "5265877" "5280909" "5286023" "5286061" "5292127" "5318298" "5324035" "5326104" "5342049" "5344144" "5351970" "5359510" "5365575" "5417424" "5429361" "5462275" "5471039" "5472196" "5475205" "5476259" "5494294" "5511794" "5551692" "5593349").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S68	19	(player with track\$3 with card) and @ad<="19950101" and (prize or award)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S69	1	(player with track\$3 with card) and @ad<="19950101" and (prize or award) and (redemption)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
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S74	14	(prize near2 redemption) with network with server	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S75	1	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network with redemption)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S76	55	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S77	21	@ad<="19961114" and ((prize\$2 or award\$2) with network) and (credit\$2)	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
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S79	4	((("5816918" or ("6007426" or ("6758755" or ("7762885))).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S80	9	("5231568" "5644727" "5697844" "5768382" "5774870" "5779549" "5983196" "6223215" "6692359").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S81	1	prize with (selection or redemption) with gam\$3 with network AND @ad<="19961114" and "463"/\$.ccls.	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S82	37	((("5816918" or ("6007426" or ("6015344" or ("6293865" or ("6306035" or ("6454648" or ("6758755" or ("7762885" or ("7972209" or ("7976373" or ("5823879" or ("6012984" or ("5655961" or ("5569083" or ("5197094" or ("5779549" or ("5695400" or ("5547202" or ("5231568" or ("5351970" or ("5890963" or ("5855515" or ("5766076" or ("5611730" or ("4856787" or ("5324035" or ("5697844" or ("5774870" or ("8092307" or ("5737560" or ("5643088" or ("5709603" or ("5871398" or ("5857911" or ("5470079" or ("4636951" or ("5885158))).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S83	2	("5779549" "6039648").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S84	7	("5083271" "5259613" "5476259" "5752882" "5755621" "5779549" "5833540").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S85	1	("6012984").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S86	16	("4902020" "5009429" "5083800" "5096202" "5324035" "5351970" "5393057" "5505449" "5536016" "5569083" "5586937" "5737560" "5746656" "5816918" "5823879" "5830069").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S87	73	("0941194" "1543318" "1652071" "2043166" "2141580" "2660434" "2799500" "2926915" "3796433" "3975022" "4191376" "4240635" "4398708" "4494197" "4586707" "4636951" "4652998" "4743024" "4837728" "4842278" "4854590"	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00

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S89	29	("4339798" "4467424" "4494197" "4528643" "4531187" "4614342" "4636951" "4760527" "4856787" "4875164" "4902020" "4926327" "5009429" "5038022" "5129549" "5224706" "5257789" "5257810" "5320356" "5321241" "5326104" "5393067" "5403015" "5437462" "5559312" "5586936" "5611730" "5643088" "5707287").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S90	1	("5774870").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S91	5	("0005287" "4992940" "5025372" "5056019").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S92	5	((("5816918") or ("6007426") or ("6758755") or ("7762885") or ("8172683"))).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S93	4	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and advertis\$5 and profile and (internet or network)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S94	51	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S95	48	((("6178510") or ("6935946") or ("7351151") or ("8113935") or ("8128495") or ("20070167221") or ("20080305856") or ("20110225610") or ("7988552") or ("7988552") or ("8123615") or ("20070228656") or ("20090149241") or ("20090209319") or ("5833540") or ("5851148") or ("6139431") or ("6270409") or ("6632140") or ("6645068") or ("7056215") or ("7169047") or ("7419428") or ("7749079") or ("8052518") or ("8052518") or	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00

		("8191121") or ("8192268") or ("20020068632") or ("20030064778") or ("20030119574") or ("20030171145") or ("20040043813") or ("20040053681") or ("20040235548") or ("20050043086") or ("20050054417") or ("20070026935") or ("20070077993") or ("20070111793") or ("20070259709") or ("20080039193") or ("20080070669") or ("20080070688") or ("20080201227") or ("20080220854") or ("20080220872") or ("20100004055") or ("20100022307") or ("20100062840")).PN.				
S96	22	S95 and (redeem redemption)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S97	22	S96 and (prize or award or server or network)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S98	26	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and (online or network or Internet)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S99	5	@ad<"19961114" and game and (prize same (redeem\$3 or redemption)) and credits and (online or network or Internet) and (pool)	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S100	1	("6328649").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S101	24	("20020065126" "20020119824" "20020143639" "20020143652" "20020160825" "20030100371" "20040009807" "20040046854" "20040204246" "20050253331" "20060046854" "20060246973" "20080045288" "20080070667" "5779549" "6099408" "6174237" "6485367" "7226358").PN. OR ("7976373").URPN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
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S103	288	("5823879").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S104	16	("4902020" "5009429" "5083800" "5096202" "5324035" "5351970" "5393057" "5505449" "5536016" "5569083" "5586937" "5737560" "5746656" "5816918" "5823879" "5830069").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S105	56	((kelly near2 matthew) OR (kelly near2	US-	OR	ON	2013/03/08

		bryan)).in. AND ((first or second or third with request)	PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT			18:00
S106	0	((kelly near2 matthew) OR (kelly near2 bryan)).in. AND ((first or second or third with request) and @ad<="19961114"	US- PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S107	5	((("8172683") or ("7762885") or ("6758755") or ("6007426") or ("5816918")).PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S108	1	("5774840").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00
S109	731	"5774870"	US- PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:00
S110	1	("5774870").PN.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2013/03/08 18:00


EAST Search History (I nterference)

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L1	13395	463/ 16,23,25,29,42.ccls.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 11:32
L2	1	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 11:34
L3	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 11:58
L4	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm.	US- PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 11:59
L5	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm. and (responsive with request with sending with selection with	US- PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:00

		server).clm.				
L6	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm. and (responsive with request with sending with selection with server).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with item with selection with user).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:01
L7	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm. and (responsive with request with sending with selection with server).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with item with selection with user).clm. and (responsive with receiv\$3 with award with selection with providing with user).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:02
L8	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm. and (responsive with request with sending with selection with server).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with item with selection with user).clm. and (responsive with receiv\$3 with award with selection with providing with user).clm. and (debit\$3 with account with user with amount with associated with award).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:07
L9	0	I1 and (receiv\$3 with request with server with purchase with credits with currency).clm. and (deposit\$3 with credits with account with user).clm. and (additional with credits with gameplay with outcome).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with second with request with selection with items).clm. and (responsive with request with sending with selection with server).clm. and (receiv\$3 with server with item with selection with user).clm. and (responsive with receiv\$3 with award with selection with providing with user).clm. and (debit\$3 with account with user with amount with associated with award).clm. and (debiting or crediting with user with account with gameplay).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:10
L10	4	I1 and (first with request with information with identifying with user).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:13
L11	0	I1 and (first with request with information	US-	OR	ON	2013/03/09


		with identifying with user).clm. and (transmitting with game with client with software with game with apparatus).clm.	PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD			12:14
L12	0	I1 and (first with request with information with identifying with user).clm. and (transmitting with game with client with software with game with apparatus).clm. and (debiting with crediting with user with gameplay).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:14
L13	0	I1 and (first with request with information with identifying with user).clm. and (transmitting with game with client with software with game with apparatus).clm. and (debiting with crediting with user with gameplay).clm. and (receiving with second with request with plurality of items with network with gaming with system).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:15
L14	0	I1 and (first with request with information with identifying with user).clm. and (transmitting with game with client with software with game with apparatus).clm. and (debiting with crediting with user with gameplay).clm. and (receiving with second with request with plurality of items with network with gaming with system).clm. and (debiting with account with user with amount with equal with value with item).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/09 12:16
S112	477	((kelly near2 matthew) OR (kelly near2 bryan) OR (petermeyer near2 norman) OR (kroeckel near2 john) OR (link near2 john)).inv.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:08
S113	0	((kelly near2 matthew) AND (kelly near2 bryan) AND (petermeyer near2 norman) AND (kroeckel near2 john) AND (link near2 john)).inv.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:09
S114	1	"5816918".pn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:09
S115	1	"7762885".pn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2013/03/08 18:10

3/ 9/ 2013 12:20:58 PM
C:\Users\ shall\ Documents\ EAST\ Workspaces\ 13315465 - Network Game 1996
priority.wsp

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant <input type="checkbox"/> CPA <input type="checkbox"/> T.D. <input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47															
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	17	17												
2	2	18	18												
3	3	19	19												
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16	16														

/S.H./ Examiner.Art Unit 3714 (Assistant Examiner)	03/09/2013 (Date)	Total Claims Allowed: 29	
/DAVID L LEWIS/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 3714 (Primary Examiner)	03/11/2013 (Date)	O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
463	16,23,25,29,42	03/09/2013	SH

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
East Inventor Name search for double patenting	04/06/2012	SH
East text search (keywords and similar applications/patents)	04/09,17/2012	SH
East Backward/Forward Citation search	04/09,17/2012	SH
East text search in combination with class/subclass search	04/19/2012	SH
PLUS search request	10/16/2012	SH
Discussed with Frank Leiva regarding search strategies	10/24/2012	SH
Updated EAST search with keywords, related patents, applications, etc.	10/25/2012	SH
Updated EAST search with keywords, related patents, applications, etc.	03/08/2013	SH
Consulted Primary Omkar Deodhar regarding allowability	03/04;03/07/2013	SH

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner
	Conducted Interference search in EAST (US Pats, PG Pubs)	03/09/2013	SH

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Examiner.Art Unit 3714



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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 6138

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.		
13/315,465	12/09/2011	463	3714	GAGIN.00108		
RULE						
APPLICANTS Matthew F. Kelly, Scottsdale, AZ; Bryan M. Kelly, Alamo, CA; Norman B. Petermeier, Pleasanton, CA; John G. Kroeckel, San Ramon, CA; John E. Link, Manteco, CA;						
** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a CON of 13/102,000 05/05/2011 which is a CON of 11/277,339 03/23/2006 PAT 8,172,683 which is a CON of 10/751,006 12/31/2003 PAT 7,762,885 which is a CON of 09/433,523 11/03/1999 PAT 6,758,755 which is a CIP of 09/040,654 03/17/1998 PAT 6,007,426 which is a CON of 08/746,755 11/14/1996 PAT 5,816,918						
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****						
** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** * SMALL ENTITY ** 12/20/2011						
Foreign Priority claimed 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met Verified and Acknowledged	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No /SHAUNA-KAY N HALL/ Examiner's Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY AZ	SHEETS DRAWINGS 16	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
ADDRESS CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP P.O. Box 802334 DALLAS, TX 75380-2334 UNITED STATES						
TITLE METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM						
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1130	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:			<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit		

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Matthew F. Kelly, et al	Examiner:	Shauna-Kay Hall
Serial No.:	13/315,465	Art Unit:	3714
Filed:	December 9, 2011	Atty. Docket No:	GAGIN.00108
Title:	Method for Providing a Network Gaming System	Conf. No.:	6138

AMENDMENT AFTER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

This paper is filed after the Notice of Allowance mailed on March 18, 2013. Fees in the amount of \$680.00 are believed to be due for the 17 new claims and I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees to Carstens & Cahoon LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392. No other fees are believed to be required. If, however, any additional fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees to Carstens & Cahoon LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to Carstens & Cahoon LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-0392.

Amendments to the Claims are contained in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
depositing additional credits into the account of the user in response to an outcome of a gameplay;
receiving at the server a second request to provide a selection of items available in the network gaming system;
responsive to ~~said~~ the second request, sending the selection of items to the user from the server;
receiving at the server an item selection from the user;
responsive to receiving the item selection, providing an item to the user based on the item selection; and
debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the item.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the server and the database server are the same.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the database server is located on one or more of a plurality of game apparatuses connected to a wide area network.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein an application programming interface is used to allow the server to perform calculations on behalf of a game apparatus associated with ~~a~~the user.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the application programming interface comprises an activator module, a communicator module, and a buffer module adapted to interface with a game module, a modem, and an internal storage of the game apparatus.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the ~~award-item~~ can be used by the user in connection with playing a game within the network gaming system.
10. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising transferring a selected number of credits from the user to a second user upon receiving a request by the user.
11. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user's account comprises a plurality of types of credits.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a network gaming system comprising the following steps:

receiving a first request wherein ~~said the~~ first request contains information identifying a user that initiated the first request;

transmitting a game client software to a game apparatus of the user responsive to receiving the first request;

debiting or crediting an account of the user based on a gameplay of the user;

transmitting to the game apparatus a selection of a plurality of items available to the user in the network gaming system;

receiving a second request for one of the plurality of items available within the network gaming system; and

debiting the account of the user by an amount equal to a value assigned to the item, wherein the foregoing steps are performed by one or more servers and wherein at least one of the one or more servers is configured for connection to the game apparatus through a wide area network.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the one or more servers comprises a game server and a database server and wherein the account of the user is stored on the database server and the step transmitting a game client software is performed, at least in part, by the game server.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more servers further comprises a web server for interacting with the game client software during the gameplay.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a third request at the one or more servers for the purchase of credits in exchange for legal currency and depositing the credits into an account of the user stored on the one or more servers, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting from the one or more servers a plurality of variables to the game client software for use by the game client software to tailor a game environment to the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables comprises an advertising variable for controlling the advertisements that are displayed to the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of variables are determined by the one or more servers based on a profile of the user stored on the one or more servers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a game identifier at the one or more servers that identifies one of a plurality of games available for download by the user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a site identifier at the one or more servers that identifies a site that is supporting a game.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the game client software comprises a communicator module that is capable of causing a connection with the one or more servers periodically for synchronization.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the selection of a plurality of ~~objects-items~~ available to the user in the network gaming system is based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein a one or more features associated with the gameplay is determined based on one or more identifiers received by the one or more servers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the one or more features comprises a game interface displayed to the user.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the game interface is selected based on ~~the~~ a website through which the user accessed the one or more servers.

26. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a network gaming system, comprising:
receiving a request at a server from a user for credits, wherein the credits are usable within the network gaming system;
depositing the credits into an account of the user;
receiving at the server a second request to provide a selection of items available in the network gaming system;
responsive to the second request, sending the selection of items to the user from the server;
receiving at the server an item selection from the user;
responsive to receiving the item selection, providing an item to the user based on the item selection; and
debiting the account of the user by an amount associated with the item.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the credits represent a type of universal currency that can be used in the context of the network gaming system.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising debiting or crediting the account of the user based on a gameplay of the user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the gameplay comprises the user playing a plurality of games and wherein a database server keeps track of the credits in the account of the user based on a plurality of outcomes of the plurality of games.

30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items comprises an award.

32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items comprises a prize.
33. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items comprises prize credits.
34. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items comprises game credits.
35. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items comprises cash.
36. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of items are selected from the group consisting of an award, a prize, prize credits, cash and game credits.
37. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items comprises an award.
38. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items comprises a prize.
39. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items comprises prize credits.
40. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items comprises game credits.
41. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items comprises cash.
42. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of items are selected from the group consisting of an award, a prize, prize credits, cash and game credits.
43. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items comprises an award.
44. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items comprises a prize.
45. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items comprises prize credits.
46. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items comprises game credits.

47. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items comprises cash.

48. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the selection of items are selected from the group consisting of an award, a prize, prize credits, cash and game credits.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate Examiner's thorough examination and assistance in moving this application forward to an allowance. Claims 1-29 have been allowed pursuant to the Notice of Allowance mailed on March 18, 2013. After a telephone call, Applicant and Examiner reached an agreement regarding certain claim amendments. Upon review of the claims as amended by Examiner's Amendment, Applicant discovered some formality errors. Some of the dependent claims do not reflect the agreement that was reached and other claims have some errors of form, all of which have been corrected in the current amendment. This Amendment after Notice of Allowance is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.312 to correct these errors of formality and to add some dependent claims that could not previously be presented. These additional dependent claims do not require an additional search, more than a cursory review of the record, or materially added work on the part of the Office.

By this amendment claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 22, 23 and 25 have been amended, and new dependent claims 31-48 have been added.

Informalities

In claim 1, Applicant has inserted a paragraph return at line four after "system;" and before "depositing the credits..." and has changed "said" to "the" in line 9 for consistency. In claim 7, Applicant has corrected line three of claim 7 by changing it to "the user" instead of "a user" as the term user was previously introduced in claim 1. In claim 8, on line three, "an" has been inserted before "internal storage" as previously presented in Applicant's most recent amendment. In line one of claim 9, "item" has been substituted for "award" as Applicant and Examiner agreed to change all references in the claims to "award" to "item." In claim 12, Applicant has changed "said" to "the" in line 3 for consistency. In claim 17, Applicant has deleted "the" before "advertisements" in line 2 as the term "advertisements" was not previously introduced. In claim 22, line two, "items" has been substituted for "objects" as Applicant and Examiner agreed to change all references in the claims to "objects" to "items."

Dependent Claims

Claims 31-48 are new dependent claims that describe some of the items included in the terms "selection of items" and "plurality of items" found in the independent claims 1, 12, and 26

that have already been allowed. Support for these new dependent claims can be found in the specification at paragraphs 32, 93-96. "Where claims added by amendment under 37 CFR 1.312 are all of the form of dependent claims, some of the usual reasons for nonentry are less likely to apply although questions of new matter, sufficiency of disclosure, or undue multiplicity of claims could arise." MPEP 714.16. Because the proposed claims are dependent claims that depend from previously allowed independent claims, no additional search or examination is required. These dependent claims could not have been presented earlier because of the limitation of 30 claims for prioritized examination and because the term "selection of items" and "plurality of items," which the dependent claims further limit, were not part of the claims until the most recent Examiner's Amendment entered after agreement between Examiner and Applicant.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered to correct the informalities in the claims and to add the additional dependent claims that do not require additional search or examination.

If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Vincent J. Allen at 972-367-2001.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Vincent J. Allen/
Vincent J. Allen
Registration No. 45,514
Attorney for Applicants

Date: March 22, 2013

CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
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(972) 367-2001 Telephone
(972) 367-2002 Facsimile

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	13315465			
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2011			
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly			
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders			
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108			
Filed as Small Entity				
Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Claims in excess of 20	2202	17	40	680
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				680

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	15335583
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	22-MAR-2013
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	17:17:07
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

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Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$680
RAM confirmation Number	3992
Deposit Account	500392
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Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment after Notice of Allowance (Rule 312)	GAGIN00108_Amdmt_after_NOA.pdf	121148 210214520bc0cd6e2064e9119585127006f6bdeb	no	10

Warnings:

Information:

2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30489 d1da3387cc803ecc80acb1d5ff25a14fc5fa1589	no	2
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If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

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(Via EFS-Web)

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	12/09/2011	INV001Matthew F. Kelly	GAGIN.00108	6138

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	~\$885 890	\$0	\$0	~\$885 890	06/18/2013

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N	3714	463-025000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Carstens & Cahoon, LLP

2 Vincent J. Allen

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Agincourt Gaming, LLC

Dallas, Texas

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☒ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

☐ A check is enclosed.

☒ Payment by credit card.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see form PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature /Vincent J. Allen/

Date 04-05-2013

Typed or printed name Vincent J. Allen

Registration No. 45,514

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	13315465			
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2011			
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly			
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders			
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108			
Filed as Small Entity				
Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl Issue Fee	2501	1	890	890
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				890

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	15448877
Application Number:	13315465
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6138
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK GAMING SYSTEM
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew F. Kelly
Customer Number:	22858
Filer:	Vincent J. Allen./Jana Sanders
Filer Authorized By:	Vincent J. Allen.
Attorney Docket Number:	GAGIN.00108
Receipt Date:	05-APR-2013
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2011
Time Stamp:	17:00:33
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$890
RAM confirmation Number	4310
Deposit Account	500392
Authorized User	ALLEN, VINCENT J.

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	Issue_Fee2.pdf	2033138	no	2
			b0b6defb529099a82d3c9b74f92e9f51c698c0c4		

Warnings:

Information:

2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30412	no	2
			abd9274a5e97f27a2b42266ae96b3d91dcc8b423		

Warnings:

Information:

Total Files Size (in bytes):			2063550
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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13/315,465

12/09/2011

Matthew F. Kelly

GAGIN.00108

6138

22858 7590 04/24/2013
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

EXAMINER

HALL, SHAUNA-KAY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/24/2013

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No. 13/315,465	Applicant(s) KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 22 March 2013 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

a) ☒ entered.

b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.


Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.


/DAVID L LEWIS/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/S. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714	


<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant <input type="checkbox"/> CPA <input type="checkbox"/> T.D. <input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47															
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	17	17	32	33										
2	2	18	18	33	34										
3	3	19	19	34	35										
4	4	20	20	35	36										
5	5	21	21	36	37										
6	6	22	22	37	38										
7	7	23	23	38	39										
8	8	24	24	39	40										
9	9	25	25	40	41										
10	10	26	26	41	42										
11	11	27	27	42	43										
12	12	28	28	43	44										
13	13	29	29	44	45										
14	14		30	45	46										
15	15	30	31	46	47										
16	16	31	32	47	48										

/S.H./ Examiner.Art Unit 3714 (Assistant Examiner)	03/09/2013 (Date)	Total Claims Allowed: 47	
/DAVID L LEWIS/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 3714 (Primary Examiner)	03/11/2013 (Date)	O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant						<input type="checkbox"/> CPA		<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.		<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47	
CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	04/24/2012	11/02/2012	03/08/2013	05/06/2013						
	1	✓	✓	=	=						
	2	✓	✓	=	=						
	3	✓	✓	=	=						
	4	✓	✓	=	=						
	5	✓	✓	=	=						
	6	✓	✓	=	=						
	7	✓	✓	=	=						
	8	✓	✓	=	=						
	9	✓	✓	=	=						
	10	O	✓	=	=						
	11	✓	✓	=	=						
	12	✓	✓	=	=						
	13	✓	✓	=	=						
	14	✓	✓	=	=						
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	30	✓	✓	-	-						
	31				=						
	32				=						
	33				=						
	34				=						
	35				=						
	36				=						

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 13315465	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KELLY ET AL.
	Examiner SHAUNA-KAY HALL	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant						<input type="checkbox"/> CPA		<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.		<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47	
CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	04/24/2012	11/02/2012	03/08/2013	05/06/2013						
	37				=						
	38				=						
	39				=						
	40				=						
	41				=						
	42				=						
	43				=						
	44				=						
	45				=						
	46				=						
	47				=						
	48				=						



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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
13/315,465	06/04/2013	8454432	GAGIN.00108	6138

22858 7590 05/15/2013
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380-2334

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Matthew F. Kelly, Scottsdale, AZ;
Bryan M. Kelly, Alamo, CA;
Norman B. Petermeier, Pleasanton, CA;
John G. Kroeckel, San Ramon, CA;
John E. Link, Manteco, CA;

The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The USA offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to encourage and facilitate business investment. To learn more about why the USA is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, and grow your business, visit SelectUSA.gov.

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: <div style="text-align: center;"> Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 </div>	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court District of Delaware on the following

☐ Trademarks or ☒ Patents. (☐ the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.):

DOCKET NO.	DATE FILED 2/14/2014	U.S. DISTRICT COURT District of Delaware
PLAINTIFF Agincourt Gaming, LLC		DEFENDANT Sony Online Entertainment LLC
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 US 6,758,755 B2	7/6/2004	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
2 US 6,306,035 B1	10/23/2001	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
3 US 8,454,432 B2	6/4/2013	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pleading		
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT

CLERK	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK	DATE
-------	-------------------	------

Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
 Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
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In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court District of Delaware on the following

☐ Trademarks or ☒ Patents. (☐ the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.);

DOCKET NO.	DATE FILED 2/14/2014	U.S. DISTRICT COURT District of Delaware
PLAINTIFF Agincourt Gaming, LLC		DEFENDANT Activision Blizzard, Inc.
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 US 6,758,755 B2	7/6/2004	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
2 US 6,306,035 B1	10/23/2001	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
3 US 8,454,432 B2	6/4/2013	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pleading	
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1		
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In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT

CLERK	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK	DATE
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Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
 Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
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In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court District of Delaware on the following

☐ Trademarks or ☒ Patents. (☐ the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.):

DOCKET NO.	DATE FILED 2/14/2014	U.S. DISTRICT COURT District of Delaware
PLAINTIFF Agincourt Gaming, LLC		DEFENDANT Backflip Studios, LLC
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 US 6,758,755 B2	7/6/2004	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
2 US 6,306,035 B1	10/23/2001	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
3 US 8,454,432 B2	6/4/2013	Agincourt Gaming, LLC
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pleading		
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT		
CLERK	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK	DATE

Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy