

EXHIBIT 3-B

1 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP
Harold A. Barza (Bar No. 80888)
2 halbarza@quinnemanuel.com
Christopher A. Mathews (Bar No. 144021)
3 chrismathews@quinnemanuel.com
Scott A. Florance (Bar No. 227512)
4 scottflorance@quinnemanuel.com
865 S. Figueroa Street
5 Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (213) 443-3000
6 Facsimile: (213) 443-3100

7 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP
Linda J. Brewer (Bar No. 217730)
8 lindabrewer@quinnemanuel.com
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
9 50 California Street, 22nd Floor
San Francisco, California 94111
10 Telephone: (415) 875-6600
Facsimile: (415) 875-6700

11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs MEKIKI CO., LTD. and
12 MEKIKI CREATES CO., LTD.

13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **SAN JOSE DIVISION**

16 MEKIKI CO., LTD and MEKIKI CREATES
CO., LTD.,

17 Plaintiffs and
18 Counter-Defendants,

19 v.

20 FACEBOOK, INC.,

21 Defendant and
22 Counterclaimant.

Case No. 5:10-cv-2721-LHK (HRL)

**MEKIKI'S DISCLOSURE OF
ASSERTED CLAIMS AND
INFRINGEMENT CONTENTIONS**

[PATENT L.R. 3-1, 3-2]

1 Pursuant to Patent Local Rule 3-1, Plaintiffs and Counterclaim Defendants Mekiki Co.,
2 Ltd. and Mekiki Creates Co., Ltd. (collectively “Mekiki”), through its attorneys, provides its
3 Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions against Defendant and
4 Counterclaimant Facebook, Inc. (“Facebook”).

5 Mekiki’s preliminary infringement contentions, including the attached claim charts and
6 exhibits, disclose the currently asserted claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,879,985 (“the ‘985 patent”),
7 7,493,342 (“the ‘342 Patent”), and 7,496,603 (“the ‘603 Patent”) (collectively “the Asserted
8 Patents”) and the corresponding accused systems and methods.

9 Mekiki’s statements are based on publicly available materials and Mekiki’s current good
10 faith beliefs regarding the accused systems and methods. Discovery has just begun and Mekiki
11 continues to investigate the facts relevant to this action. Mekiki reserves the right to amend or
12 supplement these disclosures and contentions, consistent with the Court’s orders, the Local Rules
13 of this Court and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and based on additional or different
14 information it learns during further investigation or discovery in this action. To date, the parties
15 have only exchanged limited information pursuant to this Court’s Local Rules. In particular,
16 Facebook has not yet produced any documents or information regarding the accused Facebook
17 systems and methods, and the parties have not yet taken any depositions.

18
19 **DISCLOSURE OF ASSERTED CLAIMS AND INFRINGEMENT CONTENTIONS**

20 A. In accordance with N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-1(a), Mekiki contends that, based on
21 currently known information, Facebook infringes claims 1 and 7 of the '985 patent, claims 4, 5, 12
22 and 13 of the '342 patent, and claims 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, and 31 of the '603 patent (collectively “the
23 Asserted Claims”).

24 B. In accordance with N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-1(b), based on currently known
25 information, Mekiki identifies the Accused Instrumentality as the systems and methods that
26 comprise the social networking website operated by Facebook that is accessible via the Internet at
27 www.facebook.com. The nature of these systems and methods are explained in more detail in the
28 charts and screenshots that are attached as exhibits.

1 C. In accordance with N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-1(c), Mekiki submits claim charts
2 attached as Exhibit A and screenshots of the Accused Instrumentality attached as Exhibits 1
3 through 15. These charts and screenshots identify specifically where each limitation of each
4 asserted claim is found within the Accused Instrumentality. The first column of each chart recites
5 the limitations of an asserted claim verbatim. The second column describes, based on currently
6 known information, where a corresponding element is found in the Accused Instrumentality.

7 D. In accordance with N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-1(e), Mekiki contends that each
8 limitation of each claim is literally present in the Accused Instrumentality. To the extent
9 necessary, and based on additional or different information it learns during further investigation or
10 discovery in this action, Mekiki will show that certain limitations of the asserted claim is present
11 in the Accused Instrumentality pursuant to the Doctrine of Equivalents. These limitations are
12 specifically identified in Exhibit A.

13 E. In accordance with N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-1(f), Mekiki asserts that each of the
14 Asserted Claims is entitled to at least the priority date of October 17, 2000, the filing date of
15 Japanese patent application No. 2000-316496. Mekiki further asserts that each of the Asserted
16 Claims is also entitled to priority from Japanese patent application No. 2001-311529, filed on
17 October 9, 2001. Mekiki reserves the right to assert an earlier date based on invention before the
18 filing of either of the Japanese patent applications.

19

20 **DOCUMENT PRODUCTION ACCOMPANYING DISCLOSURE**

21 Mekiki has conducted a reasonable investigation for relevant non-privileged documents in
22 its possession, custody and control, as required by N.D. Cal. Patent L.R. 3-2.

23 After its reasonable search and inquiry, Mekiki has not identified any documents that are
24 responsive to Patent L.R. 3-2(a). Pursuant to Patent L.R. 3-2(b), Mekiki is producing documents
25 bates-labeled MEK0001290 – MEK0001310. Pursuant to Patent L.R. 3-2(c), Mekiki is producing
26 copies of the file histories of the Asserted Patents, bates-labeled MEK0000001 – MEK0001282.
27 Pursuant to Patent L.R. 3-2(d), Mekiki is producing documents evidencing ownership of the
28 Asserted Patents by Mekiki, bates-labeled MEK0001283 – MEK0001289. Mekiki reserves the

1 right to identify and produce additional documents pursuant to Patent L.R. 3-2 based on further
2 investigation and discovery, consistent with the Court's orders, the Local Rules of this Court and
3 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

4

5 DATED: November 19, 2010

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART
& SULLIVAN, LLP

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By /s/

8

Harold A. Barza (Bar No. 80888)

halbarza@quinnemanuel.com

9

Christopher A. Mathews (Bar No. 144021)

chrismathews@quinnemanuel.com

10

Linda J. Brewer (Bar No. 217730)

lindabrewer@quinnemanuel.com

11

Scott A. Florance (Bar No. 227512)

scottflorance@quinnemanuel.com

12

13

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Counter Defendants
MEKIKI CO., LTD. and MEKIKI CREATES CO.,
LTD.

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1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I am employed at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP in the County of San
3 Francisco, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within
4 action; my business address is 50 California Street, 22nd Floor, San Francisco, California 94111.

5 On November 19, 2010, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as:

6 **MEKIKI'S DISCLOSURE OF ASSERTED CLAIMS AND INFRINGEMENT
7 CONTENTIONS**

8 on the interested parties in this action as follows:

9 HEIDI KEEFE
10 ADAM PIVOVAR
11 MARK WEINSTEIN
12 REUBEN CHEN
13 COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP
14 3000 EL CAMINO REAL
15 FIVE PALO ALTO SQUARE,
16 4TH FLOOR
17 PALO ALTO, CA 94306
18 T: (650) 843-5000
19 F: (650) 857-0663
20 www.cooley.com

21 **BY HAND DELIVERY:** I enclosed true and correct copies of said documents in an envelope,
22 and consigned it for hand delivery via messenger on November 19, 2010.

23 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
24 true and correct.

25 Executed on November 19, 2010, at San Francisco, California.


26 
27 _____
28 Monita Jones

Exhibit A

EXHIBIT A – INFRINGEMENT CONTENTIONS
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Claim 1 of the '985 Patent

<p>1. A server connected to terminals used by members via a network, the server being configured to establish and update relationships between the members, the server comprising:</p>	<p>Facebook operates one or more servers accessible via the Internet through browser software installed on terminals to provide a social networking website (referred to herein, along with the hardware and software that constitutes the backend of the website, as the “Facebook Social Network”) to hundreds of millions of Facebook members. Facebook’s servers are configured to establish and update relationships between the members of the Facebook Social Network.</p>
<p>a database configured to store personal attributes of each member, the personal attributes including an identification code, a name, a specialized field, and relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between each member and other members;</p>	<p>The Facebook Social Network receives personal attributes of each Facebook member, and stores the received personal attributes in that member’s profile in one or more Facebook databases, including (1) an identification code (assigned by the system (<i>See</i> Exhibit 1 – Screenshot of a URL containing an ID code assigned by the Facebook Social Network) or selected by the member (<i>See</i> Exhibit 2 – Screenshot of a URL containing an ID code selected by a member)), (2) a name, and (3) one or more specialized fields (<i>e.g.</i>, college “concentrations” and degrees; interests; activities; employer; position; job description; etc.).</p>
	<p>The Facebook Social Network establishes and updates relationships between members by storing relationship coefficient data in one or more Facebook databases. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network stores this relationship coefficient data for each member, allowing the Facebook Social Network to determine for a particular member the subset of Facebook members that are the particular member’s direct friends (members that are directly connected to the particular member). For example, using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network can display to a first member a list of a second member’s direct friends, providing this list when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request asking to display all the “Friends” (<i>i.e.</i>, direct relationships) of the second member. (<i>See</i> Exhibit 3 – Screenshot of the “Friends” listing for a second member, displayed by the Facebook Social Network once it receives from a first Facebook member a pre-formatted URL request containing the second member’s identification code or name link).</p> <p>On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network also stores relationship coefficient data that permits it to display to a first Facebook member a list of those Facebook members that the first Facebook member shares as a direct friend with a second Facebook member. Using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network identifies and displays other</p>

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<p>a message communicator configured to communicate a first message from one member to another member and configured to communicate a respective response to the first message from the another member to the one member, the response establishing a relationship between the one member and the another</p>	<p>Facebook members that are mutual friends of the first and second members, meaning that the displayed members are other Facebook members that are directly connected to both the first and second members. For example, using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network can display to the first member a list of its mutual friends with a second member when it receives a “See All” URL request asking the Facebook Social Network to display all of the “Mutual Friends” between two Facebook members. (See Exhibit 4 – Screenshot of “Mutual Friends” listing for a second member, displayed by the Facebook Social Network once it receives from a first Facebook member a pre-formatted URL request containing the second member’s identification code or name link).</p> <p>On information and belief, based on stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network displays to a first Facebook member those Facebook members that have an indirect relationship with the first Facebook member. For example, the Facebook Social Network identifies and displays to a first Facebook member other Facebook members that are directly related to a direct friend of the first member (<i>i.e.</i>, a “second member”), but are not directly related to the first member. The Facebook Social Network generates and displays to a first member a list of the second member’s direct friends, when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request to display the “Friends” of the second member. The resulting list of members fall into two categories: (1) the mutual friends of the first and second members; and (2) the friends of the second member that are not friends with the first member. For Facebook members within category (2), the Facebook Social Network displays an “Add As Friend” button next to those members’ names. Mutual friends falling within category (1) do not have such a button displayed next to their names.</p>
<p>a message communicator configured to communicate a first message from one member to another member and configured to communicate a respective response to the first message from the another member to the one member, the response establishing a relationship between the one member and the another</p>	<p>The Facebook Social Network allows Facebook members to establish authorized direct friend relationships with other Facebook members.</p> <p>The Facebook Social Network accepts requests from a Facebook member to request a direct relationship with a third member (<i>i.e.</i>, the “another member”) that is not currently the first member’s friend. (See Exhibit 5 – Screenshot of “Add as Friend” link that the Facebook Social Network displays next to the another member’s profile photo and name). The Facebook Social Network also accepts a requesting member’s personal messages that are made part of the friend request. (See Exhibit 6 – Screenshot of the pop-up box that the Facebook Social Network</p>

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member;

displays after the first member clicks on the “Add as Friend” link, including a space to add a personal message. Clicking on the “Send Request” link sends a pre-formatted URL request to the Facebook Social Network that notifies the Facebook system that the first member wishes to have the system take steps to establish a new relationship with the another Facebook member).

Based on the received friend request, the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator communicates a first message to the another Facebook member in two ways. First, when displaying the another member’s Facebook home page, the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator communicates multiple messages to its members by providing notifications of any friend (“direct relationship”) requests in multiple places on a member’s page. (See Exhibit 7 – Screenshot of various alerts of a friend request that the Facebook Social Network displays on a Facebook member’s home page). The Facebook Social Network accepts a URL request indicating the another member’s decision to either confirm or ignore a friend request. (See Exhibit 8 – Screenshot of a “Friend requests” box that the Facebook Social Network displays including a “Confirm” link that sends a URL request when clicked). Second, the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator also communicates an email and/or text message to the another member communicating that the requesting member “wants to be friends with you on Facebook.” See Exhibit 9 – Screenshot of email communicated by the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator to another Facebook member in response to receiving a member’s friend request).

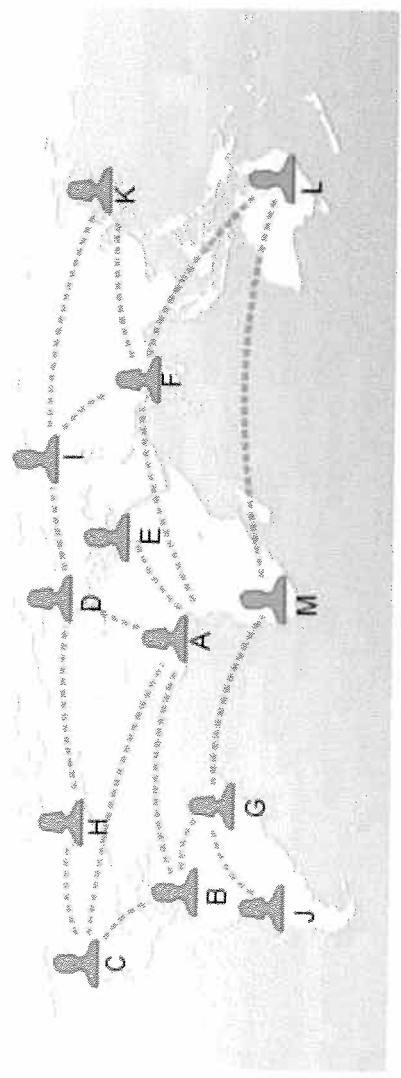
The Facebook Social Network stores a direct relationship, thereby establishing within the Facebook Social Network system a relationship between the two members (so that each member is directly related to the other member), once the Facebook Social Network receives a URL request (pre-formatted by including an HTML link in the body of the email or text) indicating that the another member has chosen to confirm the friend request. (See Exhibit 9A – Screenshot showing a communication from the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator to the another member indicating that it has received the confirmation of the friend request from that member). The Facebook Social Network’s message communicator is configured to communicate the another member’s confirmation to the requesting first member in two ways: (1) by communicating a message by providing a notification on its display of the first member’s Facebook home page, indicating that the another member has accepted the friend request (See

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<p>a database update unit configured to update, when the relationship is established between the one member and the another member, the relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between (1) the one member and the another member, (2) the one member and members having relationships with the another member, and (3) the another member and members having relationships with the one member; and</p>	<p>Exhibit 10 – Screenshot showing a communication from the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator indicating that the system has established a relationship between the two members), and (2) by communicating an email and/or text message to the first member indicating that the another member has “confirmed you as a friend on Facebook.” (See Exhibit 11 – Screenshot showing an email communication from the Facebook Social Network’s message communicator indicating that the system has established a relationship between the two members).</p>
<p>On information and belief, a database update unit within the Facebook Social Network updates relationship data between members stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example, once the Facebook Social Network has established a friend relationship between a first Facebook member and another Facebook member, the database update unit within the Facebook Social Network updates the stored relationship coefficient data for these two Facebook members to reflect that these two members now have a direct relationship. On information and belief, the database update unit within the Facebook Social Network also updates relationship coefficient data between Facebook members that have indirect relationships stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example:</p> <p>(1) for the first Facebook member: the database update unit updates the degree of connection between the first member and all of the another member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the first member now has a second degree relationship with the another member’s friends), the degree of connection between the first member and the friends of the another member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the first member now has a third degree relationship with the friends of the another member’s friends), and so on; and</p> <p>(2) for the another Facebook member: the database update unit updates the degree of connection between the another member and all of the member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the another member now has a second degree relationship with the first member’s friends), the degree of connection between the another member and the friends of the first member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the another member now has a third degree relationship with the friends of the first member’s friends), and so on.</p> <p>This annotated graphic of an image taken from the Facebook Social Network’s Internet home</p>	<p>On information and belief, a database update unit within the Facebook Social Network updates relationship data between members stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example, once the Facebook Social Network has established a friend relationship between a first Facebook member and another Facebook member, the database update unit within the Facebook Social Network updates the stored relationship coefficient data for these two Facebook members to reflect that these two members now have a direct relationship. On information and belief, the database update unit within the Facebook Social Network also updates relationship coefficient data between Facebook members that have indirect relationships stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example:</p> <p>(1) for the first Facebook member: the database update unit updates the degree of connection between the first member and all of the another member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the first member now has a second degree relationship with the another member’s friends), the degree of connection between the first member and the friends of the another member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the first member now has a third degree relationship with the friends of the another member’s friends), and so on; and</p> <p>(2) for the another Facebook member: the database update unit updates the degree of connection between the another member and all of the member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the another member now has a second degree relationship with the first member’s friends), the degree of connection between the another member and the friends of the first member’s friends (e.g., to reflect that the another member now has a third degree relationship with the friends of the first member’s friends), and so on.</p> <p>This annotated graphic of an image taken from the Facebook Social Network’s Internet home</p>

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page depicts a human relationship diagram, based on human relationship data stored within the Facebook Social Network, that illustrates a network of direct and indirect relationships, as just described. In this diagram, Facebook member A has direct relationships (*i.e.*, first degree relationships) with Facebook members B through F, and indirect relationships (*e.g.*, second or third degree relationships) with Facebook members G through M.



a data retriever configured to identify target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria, the key words including at least a relationship coefficient data value indicating the degree of relationship between the target members and a particular member;

There are currently at least four independent ways that the Facebook Social Network data retriever identifies target members satisfying this claim element:

First instance – Identify “Friends” Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network data retriever identifies target members that satisfy search criteria with at least one key word being a relationship coefficient data value between the Facebook member’s friend (*i.e.*, the particular member) and the target members indicating a first degree relationship between the target members and the particular member. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request containing the particular Facebook member’s identification code or name link (generated by either clicking on

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(1) a member's name or photo; or (2) the "See All" link in the Friends section of a member's Facebook profile page), the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least a relationship coefficient data value as a key word.

In response to the search criteria, the Facebook Social Network identifies the particular member's friends (*i.e.*, the "target members"). In doing so, the Facebook Social Network's data retriever identifies those target members having personal attributes satisfying, among other things, the search criteria's relationship coefficient data value with respect to the particular member, *i.e.*, the particular member's first degree relationships. (See Exhibit 3 – Screenshot showing a particular member's profile page including an identification of at least a subset of the particular member's friends in the left column and a box that pops up upon clicking the "See All" link that displays the identities of all of that member's friends).

Second instance – Identify "Mutual Friends" Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network data retriever also identifies target members that are mutual friends of a Facebook member and the particular Facebook member. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request, containing the particular Facebook member's identification code or name link (generated by either clicking on (1) a member's name or photo; or (2) the "See All" link in the Mutual Friends section of a member's Facebook profile page), the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least a relationship coefficient data value as a key word.

In response to the search criteria, the Facebook Social Network identifies the first Facebook member's and particular member's mutual friends (*i.e.*, the "target members"). (See Exhibit 4 – Screenshot showing a member's profile page including an identification of at least a subset of the mutual friends in the left column and a box that pops up upon clicking the "See All" link that displays the identities of all of mutual friends). In doing so, the Facebook Social Network's data retriever identifies those target members having personal attributes satisfying, among other things, the search criteria's relationship coefficient data value with respect to both the first Facebook member and the particular Facebook members, *i.e.*, the set of Facebook members that have first degree relationships with both of these members.

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On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever also identifies target members that are mutual friends of a Facebook member and the particular Facebook member when the data retriever receives an AJAX request containing the particular member’s identification code upon a cursor being hovered over the particular member’s name. Upon receiving this request, the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least the relationship coefficient data value as a key word and the data retriever identifies the first Facebook member’s and particular member’s mutual friends (*i.e.*, the “target members.”) (See Exhibit 4A - Screenshot showing a hoverbox that includes the Facebook Social Network’s identification of at least a subset of the mutual friends).

Third Instance – “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” data retriever utilities are able to identify target Facebook members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria. For example, under the heading “Suggestions,” the Facebook Social Network generates and displays to a Facebook member the profile photos, names and identification codes of existing Facebook members that share or have related personal attributes with that member. On information and belief, these Facebook Social Network utilities rely on one or more algorithms that use, among other things, relationship coefficient data values to identify Facebook members potentially known to a Facebook member, but not currently directly related to the Facebook member within the Facebook Social Network.

As described by Facebook, “Suggestions is a feature that helps you connect with people and Pages you are likely to know, as well as engage with your confirmed friends on Facebook. Facebook calculates Suggestions based on the networks you are a part of, mutual friends, work and education information, contacts imported using the Friend Finder, and many other factors.” In particular, “Facebook uses an algorithm to determine which people and Pages show up in the Suggestions section on your home page.”

(See Exhibits 12 and 13 – Screenshots containing the above-quoted language).

When the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request from a Facebook member containing an HTML indicator for that member’s “Find Friends” or “Friend Finder”

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page, on information and belief the Facebook Social Network System’s data retriever identifies target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a relationship coefficient data value as a key word. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” utilities incorporate the relationship coefficient data value into their algorithms to identify target members having personal attributes satisfying key words of a search criteria; for example, those target members that have a relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a second degree relationship relative to a Facebook member, indicating a second degree relationship between the identified target members and the Facebook member.

(See Exhibit 14 – Screenshot of one instance of the Facebook Social Network’s “People You May Know” results).

Fourth instance – “Search” Box Functionality:

Through use of a “Search” box provided at the top of each Facebook Social Network webpage, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever identifies target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria generated, in part, using key words entered into the “Search” box by a Facebook member (*i.e.*, the “particular member”). On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network generates a search criteria taking into account both the key words entered by the particular member as well as other key words including the relationship coefficient value indicating the degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever identifies target members to the particular member satisfying the generated search criteria, and the Facebook Social Network displays a partial list of the identified target members. The closer the degree of relationship between the particular member and the identified target member, the higher that target member appears on the list of identified target members provided by the Facebook Social Network.

(See Exhibit 15 – Screenshot of “Search” Box).

Doctrine of Equivalents:

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	<p>In the event that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim element “one or more key words of a search criteria,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that element under the doctrine of equivalents because a search initiated by receipt of a pre-formatted URL or AJAX request has the same function (to search a computer database storing data about the members of the Facebook Social Network to locate members satisfying search criteria), same way (by comparing search criteria generated by the Facebook Social Network with the member data stored in the database) and the same result (to identify those members that are associated with data that satisfies the search criteria) as the claimed limitation.</p> <p>In the event that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim element “relationship coefficient data value,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that element under the doctrine of equivalents because the degrees of relationship between Facebook members is taking into account in a search for target members within the Facebook member database. Mekiki will supplement this contention once it receives information from Facebook sufficient to understand the internal architecture and operation of the Facebook Social Network’s searching functionality. Such information is not currently publicly available.</p>
<p>wherein the key words include a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value indicating a maximum or minimum degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member.</p>	<p>First instance – Identify “Friends” Functionality:</p> <p>On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request from a first Facebook member containing a second Facebook member’s identification code or name link, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever returns the results of a key word search that includes a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value relative to the second member (<i>i.e.</i>, the “particular member”), indicating the minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) between the identified target members and the particular member. As a result, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever identifies at least a subset of the particular member’s direct friends (<i>i.e.</i>, the “target members”). The Facebook Social Network identifies to a first Facebook member a list of all of the particular member’s direct friends when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request to display the “Friends” of the particular member.</p> <p>Second instance – Identify “Mutual Friends” Functionality:</p>

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The Facebook Social Network data retriever also identifies the mutual friends of two members. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request (generated by either clicking on (1) a member's name or photo; or (2) the "See All" link in the Mutual Friends section of a member's Facebook profile page⁴⁴) or an AJAX request (generated by hovering the cursor over a member's name), containing a particular Facebook member's identification code or name link, the Facebook Social Network's data retriever returns the results of a key word search that includes a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value relative to both a first member and the particular member, indicating the minimum degree of relationship (a "direct" relationship) between the identified target members and both the member and the particular member. As a result, the Facebook Social Network's data retriever identifies at least a subset of the mutual friends (*i.e.*, the "target members") between the first member and the particular member. The Facebook Social Network identifies to the Facebook member a list of all of the mutual friends it shares with the particular member when the Facebook Social Network receives a "See All" URL request to display the "Mutual Friends" of the particular member.

Third instance – "Suggestions" and "People You May Know" Functionality:

On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network's "Suggestions" and "People You May Know" utilities utilize data retrievers that identify Facebook members (*i.e.*, target members) not currently sharing a direct relationship with each other, and having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a relationship coefficient data value as a key word. In particular, Facebook states that it calculates its "Suggestions" for potential friend candidates using an algorithm that considers mutual friends of Facebook members, among other factors.

As described above, the Facebook Social Network data retriever identifies mutual friends having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value as a key word, identifying those Facebook members having a minimum degree of relationship (a "direct" relationship) with any two Facebook members that are not already directly related to each other. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network's "Suggestions" tool uses search

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criteria including this minimum/maximum relationship coefficient data value to identify for a Facebook member other Facebook members that may be otherwise known to the member (for example, known outside of the Facebook Social Network and not currently directly related to the Facebook member). For example, if a third and fourth member (*i.e.*, the “particular members”) are both direct friends with a first member, each would have a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to the minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) with the first member. Similarly, if these same particular members are also direct friends with a second member (*i.e.*, a “target member”), they would each have a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a minimum degree of relationship *e* relative to the second member. Thus, if the first and second members are not already direct Facebook friends with each other, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” tool may identify the second member to the first member as a suggested potential friend because the members share within the Facebook Social Network system two existing direct friends in common (*i.e.*, the third and fourth members). The Facebook Social Network data retriever does this by identifying target members that have a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a minimum degree of relationship relative to a first member’s friends (*i.e.*, the “particular members”), but not relative to the first member itself.

Fourth instance – “Search” Box Functionality:

When the Facebook Social Network receives key words of a search criteria that are generated, in part, using key words entered into the “Search” box by a first Facebook member (*i.e.*, the “particular member”), the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever identifies and prioritizes target members having personal attributes satisfying the minimum or maximum relationship coefficient values relative to the particular member. In particular, the data retriever organizes the identified target members by placing those target members having a relationship coefficient data value indicating a minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) with the particular member at the top of the list of identified target members.

Doctrine of Equivalents:

In the event that that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim element “relationship coefficient data value,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that

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	<p>element under the doctrine of equivalents because the degrees of relationship between Facebook members is taking into account in a search for target members within the Facebook member database. Mekiki will supplement this contention once it receives information from Facebook sufficient to understand the internal architecture and operation of the Facebook Social Network’s searching functionality. Such information is not currently publicly available.</p>
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Claim 7 of the ‘985 Patent

<p>7. A method of establishing and updating relationships between members using terminals connected to a server, the method comprising:</p>	<p>Facebook operates one or more servers accessible via the Internet through browser software installed on terminals to provide a social networking website (referred to herein, along with the hardware and software that constitutes the backend of the website, as the “Facebook Social Network”) to hundreds of millions of Facebook members. Facebook’s servers are configured to establish and update relationships between the members of the Facebook Social Network.</p>
<p>storing personal attributes of each member, the personal attributes including an identification code, a name, a specialized field, and relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between each member and other members;</p>	<p>The Facebook Social Network receives personal attributes of each Facebook member, and stores the received personal attributes in that member’s profile in one or more Facebook databases, including (1) an identification code (assigned by the system (See Exhibit 1 – Screenshot of a URL containing an ID code assigned by the Facebook Social Network) or selected by the member (See Exhibit 2 – Screenshot of a URL containing an ID code selected by a member)), (2) a name, and (3) one or more specialized fields (e.g., college “concentrations” and degrees; interests; activities; employer; position; job description; etc.).</p> <p>The Facebook Social Network establishes and updates relationships between members by storing relationship coefficient data in one or more Facebook databases. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network stores this relationship coefficient data for each member, allowing the Facebook Social Network to determine for a particular member the subset of Facebook members that are the particular member’s direct friends (members that are directly connected to the particular member). For example, using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network can display to a first member a list of a second member’s direct friends, providing this list when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request asking to display all the “Friends” (i.e., direct relationships) of the second member. (See Exhibit 3 – Screenshot of the “Friends” listing for a second member, displayed by the Facebook Social</p>

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Network once it receives from a first Facebook member a pre-formatted URL request containing the second member's identification code or name link).

On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network also stores relationship coefficient data that permits it to display to a first Facebook member a list of those Facebook members that the first Facebook member shares as a direct friend with a second Facebook member. Using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network identifies and displays other Facebook members that are mutual friends of the first and second members, meaning that the displayed members are other Facebook members that are directly connected to both the first and second members. For example, using the stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network can display to the first member a list of its mutual friends with a second member when it receives a "See All" URL request asking the Facebook Social Network to display all of the "Mutual Friends" between two Facebook members. (See Exhibit 4 – Screenshot of "Mutual Friends" listing for a second member, displayed by the Facebook Social Network once it receives from a first Facebook member a pre-formatted URL request containing the second member's identification code or name link).

On information and belief, based on stored relationship coefficient data, the Facebook Social Network displays to a first Facebook member those Facebook members that have an indirect relationship with the first Facebook member. For example, the Facebook Social Network identifies and displays to a first Facebook member other Facebook members that are directly related to a direct friend of the first member ("second member"), but are not directly related to the first member. The Facebook Social Network generates and displays to a first member a list of the second member's direct friends, when the Facebook Social Network receives a "See All" URL request to display the "Friends" of the second member. The resulting list of members fall into two categories: (1) the mutual friends of the first and second members; and (2) the friends of the second member that are not friends with the first member. For Facebook members within category (2), the Facebook Social Network displays an "Add As Friend" button next to those members' names. Mutual friends falling within category (1) do not have such a button displayed next to their names because the first member already has a direct relationship with the category (1) members.

communicating a first message from one
 The Facebook Social Network allows Facebook members to establish authorized direct friend

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<p>member to another;</p>	<p>relationships with other Facebook members.</p> <p>The Facebook Social Network accepts requests from a Facebook member to request a direct relationship with a third member (<i>i.e.</i>, the “another member”) that is not currently the first member’s friend. (See Exhibit 5 – Screenshot of “Add as Friend” link that the Facebook Social Network displays next to the another member’s profile photo and name). The Facebook Social Network also accepts a requesting member’s personal messages that are made part of the friend request. (See Exhibit 6 – Screenshot of the pop-up box that the Facebook Social Network displays after the first member clicks on the “Add as Friend” link, including a space to add a personal message. Clicking on the “Send Request” link sends a pre-formatted URL request to the Facebook Social Network that notifies the Facebook system that the first member wishes to have the system take steps to establish a new relationship with the another Facebook member).</p> <p>Based on the received friend request, the Facebook Social Network communicates a first message to the another Facebook member in two ways. First, when displaying the another member’s Facebook home page, the Facebook Social Network communicates multiple messages to its members by providing notifications of any friend requests in multiple places on a member’s page. (See Exhibit 7 – Screenshot of various alerts of a friend request that the Facebook Social Network displays on a Facebook member’s home page). The Facebook Social Network accepts a URL request indicating the another member’s decision to either confirm or ignore a friend request. (See Exhibit 8 – Screenshot of a “Friend requests” box that the Facebook Social Network displays including a “Confirm” link that sends the URL request when clicked). Second, the Facebook Social Network also communicates an email and/or text message to the another member communicating that the requesting member “wants to be friends with you on Facebook.” (See Exhibit 9 – Screenshot of email communicated by the Facebook Social Network to another Facebook member in response to receiving a member’s friend request)</p>
<p>communicating a respective response to the first message from the another member to the one member, the response establishing a relationship</p>	<p>The Facebook Social Network stores a direct relationship, thereby establishing within the Facebook Social Network system a relationship between the two members (so that each member is directly related to the other member), once the Facebook Social Network receives a URL request (pre-formatted by including an HTML link in the body of the email or text) indicating</p>

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<p>between the one member and the another member;</p>	<p>that the another member has chosen to confirm the friend request. (See Exhibit 9A – Screenshot showing a communication from the Facebook Social Network to the another member indicating that it has received the confirmation of the friend request from that member). The Facebook Social Network communicates the other member’s confirmation to the requesting first member in two ways: (1) by communicating a message by providing a notification on its display of the first member’s Facebook home page, indicating that the another member has accepted the friend request (See Exhibit 10 – Screenshot showing a communication from the Facebook Social Network indicating that the system has established a relationship between the two members), and (2) by communicating an email and/or text message to the first member indicating that the another member has “confirmed you as a friend on Facebook.” (See Exhibit 11 – Screenshot showing an email communication from the Facebook Social Network indicating that the system has established a relationship between the two members in response to a friendship confirmation).</p>
<p>updating, when the relationship is established between the one member and the another member, the relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between (1) the one member and the another member, (2) the one member and members having relationships with the another member, and (3) the another member and members having relationships with the one member; and</p>	<p>On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network updates relationship data between members stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example, once the Facebook Social Network has established a friend relationship between a first Facebook member and another Facebook member, the Facebook Social Network updates the stored relationship coefficient data for these two Facebook members to reflect that these two members now have a direct relationship. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network also updates relationship coefficient data between Facebook members that have indirect relationships stored in one or more Facebook databases. For example:</p> <p>(1) for the first Facebook member: the Facebook Social Network updates the degree of connection between the first member and all of the another member’s friends (<i>e.g.</i>, to reflect that the first member now has a second degree relationship with the another member’s friends), the degree of connection between the first member and the friends of the another member’s friends (<i>e.g.</i>, to reflect that the first member now has a third degree relationship with the friends of the another member’s friends), and so on; and</p> <p>(2) for the another Facebook member: the Facebook Social Network updates the degree of connection between the another member and all of the member’s friends (<i>e.g.</i>, to reflect that</p>

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(*i.e.*, the particular member) and the target members indicating a first degree relationship between the target members and the particular member. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request containing the particular Facebook member’s identification code or name link (generated by either clicking on (1) a member’s name or photo; or (2) the “See All” link in the Friends section of a member’s Facebook profile page), the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least a relationship coefficient data value as a key word.

In response to the search criteria, the Facebook Social Network identifies the particular member’s friends (*i.e.*, the “target members”). In doing so, the Facebook Social Network identifies those target members having personal attributes satisfying, among other things, the search criteria’s relationship coefficient data value with respect to the particular member, *i.e.*, the particular member’s first degree relationships. (See Exhibit 3 – Screenshot showing a particular member’s profile page including an identification of at least a subset of the particular member’s friends in the left column and a box that pops up upon clicking the “See All” link that displays the identities of all of that member’s friends).

Second instance – Identify “Mutual Friends” Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network also identifies target members that are mutual friends of a Facebook member and the particular Facebook member. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request, containing the particular Facebook member’s identification code or name link (generated by either clicking on (1) a member’s name or photo; or (2) the “See All” link in the Mutual Friends section of a member’s Facebook profile page), the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least a relationship coefficient data value as a key word.

In response to the search criteria, the Facebook Social Network identifies the first Facebook member’s and particular member’s mutual friends (*i.e.*, the “target members”). In doing so, the Facebook Social Network identifies those target members having personal attributes satisfying, among other things, the search criteria’s relationship coefficient data value with respect to both the first Facebook member and the particular Facebook members, *i.e.*, the set of Facebook

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members that have first degree relationships with both of these members.

On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network also identifies target members that are mutual friends of a Facebook member and the particular Facebook member when the it receives an AJAX request containing the particular member’s identification code upon a cursor being hovered over the particular member’s name. Upon receiving this request, the Facebook Social Network generates search criteria with at least the relationship coefficient data value as a key word and the data retriever identifies the first Facebook member’s and particular member’s mutual friends (*i.e.*, the “target members.”) (See Exhibit 4A- Screenshot showing a hoverbox that includes the Facebook Social Network’s identification of at least a subset of the mutual friends).

Third Instance – “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” utilities are able to identify target Facebook members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria. For example, under the heading “Suggestions,” the Facebook Social Network generates and displays to a Facebook member the profile photos, names and identification codes of existing Facebook members that share or have related personal attributes with that member. On information and belief, these Facebook Social Network utilities rely on one or more algorithms that use, among other things, relationship coefficient data values to identify Facebook members potentially known to a Facebook member, but not currently directly related to the Facebook member within the Facebook Social Network.

As described by Facebook, “Suggestions is a feature that helps you connect with people and Pages you are likely to know, as well as engage with your confirmed friends on Facebook. Facebook calculates Suggestions based on the networks you are a part of, mutual friends, work and education information, contacts imported using the Friend Finder, and many other factors.” In particular, “Facebook uses an algorithm to determine which people and Pages show up in the Suggestions section on your home page.”

(See Exhibits 12 and 13 – Screenshots containing the above-quoted language).

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When the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request from a Facebook member containing an HTML indicator for that member’s “Find Friends” or “Friend Finder” page, on information and belief the Facebook Social Network System identifies target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a relationship coefficient data value as a key word. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” utilities incorporate the relationship coefficient data value into their algorithms to identify target members having personal attributes satisfying key words of a search criteria; for example, those target members that have a relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a second degree relationship relative to a Facebook member, indicating a second degree relationship between the identified target members and the Facebook member.

(See Exhibit 14 – Screenshot of one instance of the Facebook Social Network’s “People You May Know” results).

Fourth instance – “Search” Box Functionality:

Through use of a “Search” box provided at the top of each Facebook Social Network webpage, the Facebook Social Network identifies target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria generated, in part, using key words entered into the “Search” box by a Facebook member (*i.e.*, the “particular member”). On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network generates a search criteria taking into account both the key words entered by the particular member as well as other key words including the relationship coefficient value indicating the degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member. On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network identifies target members to the particular member satisfying the generated search criteria, and the Facebook Social Network displays a partial list of the identified target members. The closer the degree of relationship between the particular member and the identified target member, the higher that target member appears on the list of identified target members provided by the Facebook Social Network.

(See Exhibit 15 – Screenshot of “Search” Box).

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	<p>Doctrine of Equivalents:</p> <p>In the event that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim element “one or more key words of a search criteria,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that element under the doctrine of equivalents because a search initiated by receipt of a pre-formatted URL request has the same function (to search a computer database storing data about the members of the Facebook Social Network to locate members satisfying search criteria), same way (by comparing search criteria generated by the Facebook Social Network with the member data stored in the database) and the same result (to identify those members that are associated with data that satisfies the search criteria) as the claimed limitation.</p> <p>In the event that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim element “relationship coefficient data value,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that element under the doctrine of equivalents because the degrees of relationship between Facebook members is taking into account in a search for target members within the Facebook member database. Mekiki will supplement this contention once it receives information from Facebook sufficient to understand the internal architecture and operation of the Facebook Social Network’s searching functionality. Such information is not currently publicly available.</p>
<p>wherein the key words include a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value indicating a maximum or minimum degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member.</p>	<p>First instance – Identify “Friends” Functionality:</p> <p>On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request from a first Facebook member containing a second Facebook member’s identification code or name link, the Facebook Social Network’s data retriever returns the results of a key word search that includes a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value relative to the second member (<i>i.e.</i>, the “particular member”), indicating the minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) between the identified target members and the particular member. As a result, the Facebook Social Network identifies at least a subset of the particular member’s direct friends (<i>i.e.</i>, the “target members”). The Facebook Social Network identifies to a first Facebook member a list of all of the particular member’s direct friends when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request to display the “Friends” of the particular member.</p>

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Second instance – Identify “Mutual Friends” Functionality:

The Facebook Social Network also identifies the mutual friends of two members. On information and belief, when the Facebook Social Network receives a pre-formatted URL request (generated by either clicking on (1) a member’s name or photo; or (2) the “See All” link in the Mutual Friends section of a member’s Facebook profile page) or an AJAX request (generated by hovering the cursor over a member’s name), containing a particular Facebook member’s identification code or name link, the Facebook Social Network returns the results of a key word search that includes a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value relative to both a first member and the particular member, indicating the minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) between the identified target members and both the member and the particular member. As a result, the Facebook Social Network identifies at least a subset of the mutual friends (*i.e.*, the “target members”) between the first member and the particular member. The Facebook Social Network identifies to the Facebook member a list of all of the mutual friends it shares with the particular member when the Facebook Social Network receives a “See All” URL request to display the “Mutual Friends” of the particular member.

Third instance – “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” Functionality:

On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” and “People You May Know” utilities identify Facebook members (*i.e.*, target members) not currently sharing a direct relationship with each other, and having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a relationship coefficient data value as a key word. In particular, Facebook states that it calculates its “Suggestions” for potential friend candidates using an algorithm that considers mutual friends of Facebook members, among other factors.

As described above, the Facebook Social Network identifies mutual friends having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of an internally generated search criteria that includes, in part, a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value as a key word, identifying those Facebook members having a minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) with any two Facebook members that are not already directly related to each other.

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On information and belief, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” tool uses search criteria including this minimum/maximum relationship coefficient data value to identify for a Facebook member other Facebook members that may be otherwise known to the member (for example, known outside of the Facebook Social Network and not currently directly related to the Facebook member). For example, if a third and fourth member (*i.e.*, the “particular members”) are both direct friends with a first member, each would have a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to the minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) with the first member. Similarly, if these same particular members are also direct friends with a second member (*i.e.*, a “target member”), they would each have a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a minimum degree of relationship relative to the second member. Thus, if the first and second members are not already direct Facebook friends with each other, the Facebook Social Network’s “Suggestions” tool may identify the second member to the first member as a suggested potential friend because the members share two existing direct friends in common (*i.e.*, the third and fourth members). The Facebook Social Network does this by identifying target members that have a maximum relationship coefficient data value corresponding to a minimum degree of relationship relative to a first member’s friends (*i.e.*, the “particular members”), but not relative to the first member itself.

Fourth instance – “Search” Box Functionality:

When the Facebook Social Network receives key words of a search criteria that are generated, in part, using key words entered into the “Search” box by a first Facebook member (*i.e.*, the “particular member”), the Facebook Social Network identifies and prioritizes target members having personal attributes satisfying the minimum or maximum relationship coefficient values relative to the particular member. In particular, the Facebook Social Network organizes the identified target members by placing those target members having a relationship coefficient data value indicating a minimum degree of relationship (a “direct” relationship) with the particular member at the top of the list of identified target members.

Doctrine of Equivalents:

In the event that that the Facebook Social Network is found not to literally satisfy the claim

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element “relationship coefficient data value,” the Facebook Social Network still infringes that element under the doctrine of equivalents because the degrees of relationship between Facebook members is taking into account in a search for target members within the Facebook member database. Mekiki will supplement this contention once it receives information from Facebook sufficient to understand the internal architecture and operation of the Facebook Social Network’s searching functionality. Such information is not currently publicly available.

Exhibit 1

ID Code assigned by Facebook



Edit My Profile

Your progress:



Write something about yourself.

Information

Birthday: January 1, 1980

Friends

0 friends

Find people you know

Photos

1 of 2 albums

See All



Wall Photos Created about 5 months ago

Create a Profile Badge

Jane Book

Wall Info Photos +

What's on your mind?

Attach: [Icons for photo, video, calendar, link]



Jane Book



May 11 at 11:17am · Comment · Like · Share



Jane Book



May 11 at 11:15am · Comment · Like · Share

Exhibit 2

Jimmy Book

Wall Info Photos +

What's on your mind?

Attach:

Options

Share

ID Code selected by member

RECENT ACTIVITY

- Jimmy updated his current city to San Jose, California. Comment Like
- Jimmy added Stanford University to his schools. Comment Like
- Jimmy added Intel Corporation to his employers. Comment Like
- Jimmy changed his Work Info. Comment Like
- Jimmy added Reading and 2 other pages to his activities. Comment Like
- Jimmy and Betty Book are now friends.
- Jimmy activated Facebook Mobile.
- Jimmy and Jimmy Book are now friends. Comment Like
- Jimmy changed his Work Info. Comment Like
- Jimmy added Concord High School to his schools. Comment Like
- Jimmy and Bobby Book are now friends. Comment Like

Information

Write something about yourself.

Your progress:

Birth day: January 1, 1980
 Current City: San Jose, CA

Friends
 3 friends [See All](#)

Find people you know

- Betty Book Bobby Book Jimmy Book

Likes
 3 likes

- Ping Pong Cricket Reading

Create an Ad

Cadillac

Get the latest Cadillac news, video, and images, learn about upcoming events, and join the discussion with other Cadillac fans.

Like

\$50 off Your 1st Bonobos

bonobos.com

Click through to redeem \$50 off your first purchase of Bonobos stylish men's apparel. Eradicating Khalid-Diaper-Butt today.

Follow Dritz into Danger

vinzar-us.com

Ancient, Deadly secrets await Dritz DoLuden in the 1st book in the new Nevenwinter trilogy by NYT Best-Selling Author R.A.

Exhibit 3

Jimmy Book

Wall Info Photos +

Friends of Jimmy Book

Everyone Browse



Betty Book



Bobby Book



Jenny Book



Edit My Profile

Your progress:

Write something about yourself.

Information

Birthday: January 1, 1980
Current City: San Jose, CA

Friends

3 friends

Find people you know



Jenny Book



Betty Book



Bobby Book

See All

Likes

3 likes



Reading



Cricket



Ping Pong

Close

Q

Create an Ad

Duke Engineering Distance
distance.memph.duke.edu



Duke offers its Master of Engineering Management Program via a low residency distance option for working professionals. Apply now.

70% Off Restaurants in LA
blisspot.com



Exclusive savings on top dining destinations in Los Angeles.

Play College Town!



Play the new game from ESPN for free

FREE NFL Game!



Chat (1)

Exhibit 4



Jenny Book

Wall Info Photos

Friends of Jenny Book

Everyone Mutual Friends Browse



Betty Book

Send Jenny a Message
Poke Jenny
Subscribe via SMS

Suggest Friends

Jenny's progress:

Information

Birthdays:
January 1, 1980

Mutual Friends

1 friend in common



Betty Book

See All

Friends

2 friends



Jenny Book Betty Book

See All

Photos

1 of 2 albums

See All

Close

Q

Create an Ad

Madden NFL Superstars



PLAY Madden NFL for FREE on Facebook!

Master of Engineering

meng.pratt.duke.edu



Duke's Master of Engineering will deepen your understanding of technology & help you develop business skills. Offered in 7 disciplines.

70% Off Fine Dining in LA

bloomsopol.com



Exclusive savings on fine dining restaurants in Los Angeles.

Return to a Mighty Age

warriors.com

Chat (0)

"See All" link in Mutual Friends box

Exhibit 4 *a*

Jenny Book
Edit My Profile



Welcome

News Feed

Messages

Events

Friends

5

Create Group...

More ▾

Friends on Chat

News Feed

Top News • Most Recent 1

What's on your mind?



Jimmy Book likes Google Chrome.



day's web. Get it for
HTF

Edit Options

People You May Know

Bobbi
2 mutual friends

Jane
Jimmy

Bobbi

Sponsored

Google's fast w



3,112,233 people

Like

Requests

5 friends

Get Connected

Who's on Facebook
Find your friends

Who's not on Facebook
Invite them

Who's here
Track your location

Connect on other apps
Try Facebook

Exhibit 5



Send Betty a Message
Poke Betty

Betty Book

+ Add as Friend

Wall Info Photos

People who aren't friends with Betty see only some of her profile information. If you know Betty personally, send her a message or add her as a friend.

About Me

Basic Info Sex: Female
Birthday: January 1, 1980

Information

Birthday:
January 1, 1980

Mutual Friends

1 friend in common See All



Jenny Book

Friends

1 friend See All



Jenny Book

Photos

1 of 2 albums See All

Wall Photos

Created about 5 months ago



Report/Block this Person

Share

Exhibit 6



Betty Book

+1 Add as Friend

Wall

Info

Photos

Send Betty a Message

Poke Betty

Information

Birthday:
January 1, 1980

Mutual Friends

1 friend in common See All



Jenny Book

Friends

1 friend See All



Jenny Book

Photos

1 of 2 albums See All



Wall Photos
Created about 5 months ago

Report/Block this Person

Share

Add Betty Book as a friend?



Betty will have to confirm that you are friends.

Subscribe via SMS

Betty's posts will be sent to your phone via SMS.

Message:

Message input field with a red arrow pointing to it

Send Request

Cancel

Exhibit 7

Search

News Feed Top News · Most Recent 2

What's on your mind?

There are no more posts to show right now.

1

1

Jane Book Edit My Profile

- Welcome
- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Friends
- More

People You May Know See All

- Jenny Book Add as friend
- Betty Book Add as friend
- Bobby Book Add as friend
- Erin Tracy Add as friend

Requests See All

1 friend request

Alerts

Get Connected

- Who's on Facebook? Find your friends
- Who's not on Facebook? Invite them now
- Who's here because of you? Track your invites
- Connect on the go Try Facebook Mobile

Exhibit 8

Find Your Friends

Jimmy Book



Confirm

Not Now

See All Friends

Top News - Most Recent 2

People You May Know



Betty Book

Add as friend

See All



Vincent Waldron

Add as friend



Myrene Badal Aviles

Add as friend



Bobby Book

Add as friend

Requests

1 friend request

See All

Get Connected

Who's on Facebook?

Find your friends

Who's not on Facebook?

Invite them now

Who's here because of you?

Track your invites

Connect on the go

Try Facebook Mobile

Exhibit 9

Jimmy Book wants to be friends on Facebook. Inbox | X

Facebook to me

[show details](#) 9:28 PM (27 minutes ago) Reply

facebook

Hi Betty,

Jimmy Book wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Jimmy Book



Respond now.

[Confirm Friend](#)

Thanks.
The Facebook Team

To confirm (or quietly ignore) this request, go to:

http://www.facebook.com/freqs.php&fcode=eb72f5f89&f=100001068104063&mid=3147c7365a135001e631029108602&hcode=51z1E&n_nm=facebook4835%40gmail.com

This message was intended for facebook4835@gmail.com. If you do not wish to receive this type of email from Facebook in the future, please follow the link below to unsubscribe. <http://www.facebook.com/info.php?fbid=100001068104063&mid=3147c7365a135001e631029108602> Facebook, Inc. P.O. Box 10005, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Exhibit 9 *a*



Search



Jane B
Edit My



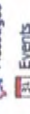
Welcome



News Feed



Messages



Events



Friends

More

Find Your Friends



Jimmy Book

Friend request accepted
Write on Wall

Add to List

See All Friends

Top News - Most Recent

Edit Options

People You May Know



Betty Book

Add as friend

See All

X



Vincent Waldron

Add as friend

X



Myrene Badal Aviles

Add as friend

X



Bobby Book

Add as friend

X

Requests



1 friend request

See All

Get Connected



Who's on Facebook?
Find your friends



Who's not on Facebook?
Invite them now



Who's here because of you?
Track your invites



Connect on the go
Try Facebook Mobile

Exhibit 10

Jimmy Book
Edit My Profile



See More

Friends Online
No one is online.

Notifications



Betty Book accepted your friend request.
about a minute ago

See All Notifications

Top News · Most Recent 2



Edit Options

People You May Know

See All



Elmedina Halitti
Add as friend



Amra Rexhepi
Add as friend



Sylvie Sophie
Add as friend

Sponsored

Create an Ad

Meet the new MinoHD

X



Sleek, shareable and totally designable. Now with image stabilization. Become a fan and get \$15 off a Flip Video Camera!

272,526 people like Flip Video.



Get Connected

Who's on Facebook?
Find your friends

Who's not on Facebook?
Invite them now

Who's here because of you?
Track your invites

Connect on the go
Try Facebook Mobile

Exhibit 11

Betty Book confirmed you as a friend on Facebook... Inbox | X

Facebook to me

[show details](#) 9:56 PM (7 minutes ago) [Reply](#)

facebook

Hi Jimmy,

Betty confirmed you as a friend on Facebook.



Betty Book

To suggest people that Betty knows, follow this link:

http://www.facebook.com/h7/profile.php?id=100001065854513&suggestfriends&ref=email_friend_confirmed&id=314830765a135024397f62949b901b&n_m=facebook4831%40gmail.com

To view Betty's profile.

[Login](#)

Thanks,
The Facebook Team

To view Betty's profile or write on her Wall, follow this link:

http://www.facebook.com/h7/profile.php?id=100001065854513&mid=314830765a135024397f62949b901b&n_m=facebook4831%40gmail.com

This message was intended for facebook4831@gmail.com. If you do not wish to receive this type of email from Facebook in the future, please follow the link below to unsubscribe: <https://www.facebook.com/info.php?id=97698&u=100001068104083&mid=314830765a135024397f62949b901b> Facebook, Inc. P.O. Box 10005, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Exhibit 12

▼ What are Suggestions?
Suggestions is a feature that helps you connect with people and Pages you are likely to know, as well as engage with your confirmed friends on Facebook. Facebook calculates Suggestions based on the networks you are a part of, mutual friends, work and education information, contacts imported using the Friend Finder, and many other factors.

Since this feature is automatic, it occasionally identifies people that you do not know or do not want to be friends with. Please keep in mind that Facebook will never send friend requests to the users that show up in this list.

Was this answer helpful?
Yes No

Exhibit 13

Help Center
What can we help you with?
Example: What is the Like button?
Friends > Friends: Displaying friends

Like 3,589,642 people like this. Be the first of your friends.
Search

I do not see the Suggestions section on my homepage. Facebook uses an algorithm to determine which people and Pages show up in the Suggestions section on your home page. If we do not find enough people or Pages that you are likely to know, then this box will not appear in the space. You can still utilize this feature from the "Find Friends" option in the Friends drop-down menu. Just scroll down to the Suggestions section in the middle of the page.

Was this answer helpful?
Yes **No**

- Using Facebook
- Games and Apps
- Help Discussions
- Top Contributor
- Getting Started
- Safety

Exhibit 14

Jimmy Book
Edit My Profile

- Welcome
- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Friends

Recently Updated
Status Updates

See More

Friends Online
No one is online.

Friends

We'd like to help you find your friends

Your friends on Facebook are the same friends, acquaintances and family members that you communicate with in the real world. You can use any of the tools on this page to find more friends.

Find People You Email

Searching your email account is the fastest way to find your friends on Facebook.

Your Email: facebook4831@gmail.com



Facebook will not store your password. Learn More.

Upload Contact File

+ Create a List

People You May Know

Shérif Rosco de Nancy x
Add as friend

Alexandra Roubeaud Beranger x
Add as friend

Sponsored

Need An NYC Apartment? x
residnyc.com

The Symphony House has luxury west side rentals with spectacular views from \$2,300 a month.

Build An Army

 x

Build a civilization and attack your friends' empires in this 5 star game on facebook. Play City of Wonder Now!

Hate your puffy shirt?

 x

Try a 5th & Lamar super slim fit dress shirt and say goodbye to your muffin top. Order online today!

Give Feedback to Facebook

 x

Take a brief survey about your experience using Facebook.

People You May Know

Add people you know as friends and connect with public profiles you like.

	Francy Clifton Add as friend		Alexandra Roubeaud Beranger Add as friend		Le Père Marley Add as friend
	Elise Martin Add as friend		Shérif Rosco de Nancy Add as friend		Alicia Minolta Add as friend
	Valentin Santos Add as friend		Romain Perez Add as friend		Karboe Shop II (Karboe Shop II) Add as friend

More

Search for People

Enter a name or email



- Find classmates from Concord High School 1998
- Find classmates from Villanova 2002
- Find current or past coworkers

Find People You IM

Turn your instant messenger buddies into Facebook friends.

Import contacts from:

- AOL Instant Messenger
- ICQ Chat
- Windows Live Messenger
- Skype
- Yahoo! Messenger
- NateOn

Exhibit 15

Jimmy Book
Edit My Profile

- Welcome
- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Friends
- Create Group...

More ▾

Friends on Chat

be

Q

Betty Book

Angelee Robinson Beatty
Concord, MI

Trina Bean

Beyoncé
On 5,122,380 people like this.

The Beatles
8,784,679 people like this.

David Beckham
4,543,422 people like this.

Bejeweled Blitz
Game
11,036,437 people like this.

Be Naughty!
Application
6,377,388 people like this.

See more results for be ▾
Displaying top 6 results

Top News • Most Recent

Featured

Jimmy, Use Friend Finder With AIM X

Find friends the easy way using Facebook's automatic friend finder.



Screen Name

AIM Password

Find Friends

Facebook won't store your password.

Get Connected

- Who's on Facebook? Find your friends
- Who's not on Facebook? Invite them now
- Who's here because of you? Track your invites
- Connect on the go Try Facebook Mobile

Edit Options

Patent 2000-316496

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File Number: ZAK00006

To: Commissioner, Patent Office

Inventor:

Address or residence: 2-6-14 Seijoh, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo

Name: Ken-ichi Ninomiya

Inventor:

Address or residence: 4-34-18, Hamada Yama, Suginami-Ku, Tokyo

Name: Hikaru Deguchi

Patent applicant:

Address or residence: 9th Fl, Fukuden Bldg, 2-1-12, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo

Name or appellation: Mekiki Co. Ltd.

Representative: Hikaru Deguchi

Attorney:

ID number: 100107272

Registered patent attorney;

Name or appellation: Keijiro Tamura

Appointed attorney:

ID Number: 100109140

Registered patent attorney:

Name or appellation: Ken-ichi Kobayashi

Indication of Fees

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Name of submission: Abstract (One)

Proof(s) required: Yes

Patent 2000-316496

Document Title: SPECIFICATION OF THE INVENTION

Appellation of invention: HUMAN NETWORK REGISTRATION SYSTEM, METHOD OF REGISTERING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, AND METHOD TO USE DATA FOR HUMAN NETWORK

Content of Claim:

Claim 1: A human network registration system comprising:

(a) the first information processor containing data input component; and
(b) the second processor to register and record each individual name and personal data entered at said input component,
providing registration of a new member based on the confirmation by a registered member at said inputting device, while connection between the newly registered members and registered members is recorded as basic data of the human network at the second processor.

Claim 2: A human network registration system comprising:

(a) the first information processor connected to an Internet communication line; and
(b) the second processor to register and record individual names and each personal data input at the input component,
providing registration of a new member based on the confirmation by the registered member via the communication line, while the connection between the new member and the registered member is recorded as part of the basic data in the human network at the second processor.

Claim 3: A human network registration system as defined in Claim 1 or 2, comprising a function to record specific data related to the professions and/or specialist work fields of the newly registered members at the time of registration.

Claim 4: A human network registration system as defined in Claims 1, 2 or 3, comprising a function to record the relative frequency that signifies the degree of relationship between a new member and the associated member who has been already registered.

Claim 5: A human network registration system as defined in Claim 4, comprising updatable relative frequency in Claim 4.

Claim 6: A human network registration system as defined in one of the Claims 1 to 5, comprising a display component at the first information processor to display the search result by the second information processor, based on the search input data searched with keywords for human network information at said input component.

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Claim 7: A human network registration system as defined in one of Claims 1 to 6, comprising the human network data including all members' connections to the specified member displayed on the screen of the first information processor, as part of the data of said specified member entered at said input component.

Claim 8: A human network registration system as defined in one of Claims 1 to 7, comprising the limited display of the human network data on the first information processor by the relative frequency that demonstrates the degree of relationship with the registered members in accordance with the personal data content.

Claim 9: A human network registration method comprising:
(a) the first information processing step to input data by connecting to an Internet communication line; and
(b) the second information processing step to register the individual name entered at said first information processing step via said communication line, to record each personal data, providing registration of a new member, whose data was entered at the first information processing step via a communication line, based on the confirmation by the registered member, while the connection between the new member and the registered is recorded as part of the basic data showing the association at the second processing step.

Claim 10: A human network registration method defined in Claim 9, further comprising:
(a) a step to create said data of human network from the basic data of connected registered individuals; and
(b) another step to display said registered and each individual data, providing display of data of said human network.

Claim 11: A human network registration method comprising a display of the human network information at said display step, together with the registered member who has been specified at the first information processing step, and every other member associated with said registered member on the display.

Claim 12: A human network registration method defined in Claim 9, 10 or 11, comprising controlled accessibility to said registered member and each personal data, when their registration was confirmed with the ID Number and password attached to the member registered and entered at the first information-input step.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[0001]

[TECHNOLOGY FIELD THAT THE INVENTION BELONGS TO]

This invention relates to human network registration system, human network registration method and the method to use the data registered by the human network registration method.

[0002]

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[Conventional Technologies]

Until now, there has never been any system or methods to effectively find experts in various specialized fields of professions in order to acquire specialized information or data.

[0003]

[The subjects that this invention intends to resolve]

This invention aims to offer a human network registration system, human network registration method and the method to utilize the data registered by the human network registration method, with which human network data is simply and effectively available to provide data of human network when information of specialists in various specific fields of professions is required to find specialized information or data.

[0004]

[Methods to solve the problem]

To achieve said purpose, the human network registration system in this invention having the first information processor comprising input component and the second information processor to register the individual names input from said input component and to record each personal data, providing registration based on confirmations of the new members by registered members at said input component, while the newly registered members are connected with said members registered and recorded as part of the basic data on the second information processor.

[0005]

By the human network registration system, the credibility of human networks can be maintained without uncontrolled registrations as new member registration requires confirmation by members registered, providing recording connections with the registered members and enabling to create simplified information on human network between registered members for easy understanding by other members.

[0006]

Another human network registration system by this invention, connected to an Internet communication line, enables to connect with the first information processor which has input component via the Internet communication lines, comprising the second information processor to register and record the individual names and personal data entered at the input component, providing the registration process based on confirmation by the registered members via the communication line, while recording the data of newly registered members connected with the registered members as part of the basic data for human networks at the second information processor.

[0007]

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With the human network registration system that connects the first information processor and the second information processor installed in remote places via the Internet lines, a great number of people can access and register from wherever they are, proving this to be a convenient system.

[0008]

Preferably the profession related information of a newly registered member is recorded at the time of registration so that the specialized information and data can be conveniently acquired to find the specialists in the specified profession fields, providing data of human networks as a useful tool for business operation.

[0009]

In addition, it is preferred that the relative frequency signifying the relationship between the newly registered and the registered member is recorded at the time of registration, by which the degree of the relationships between the registered members can be defined. By doing so, the relative frequency can be objectively displayed. In this case, each member should preferably be registered under designated degrees of relationships with all the rest of registered members.

[0010]

Also with updatable relation frequency, any new listings after registration as well as changes in the degree of relationship can be detected.

[0011]

In addition, the required information about human networks can be easily displayed by entering keyword(s) for searching said data of human network at the input component to display the search result acquired at the second information processor, based on the input data by the first information processor. In this case, the data of human network are preferably displayed on the screen together with the specified registered member as well as the connected registered member. The relative frequency between the searching member and the specified registered member is also preferred to be displayed.

[0012]

In addition, the data of human network displayed on the display component on the first information processor is preferably structured to be controlled by the relative frequency that signifies the degree of relationship with the connected members registered in accordance with the content of the personal data. Thus personal data is under control from the relative frequency in accordance with the content, which limits the access to the registered members who have higher relative frequency than a set value, depending on the content, contributing to secure personal data which cannot be disclosed to a registered member with less contacts.

[0013]

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In addition, the human network registration method by this invention comprises the first information processing step to connect to Internet communication lines to input information, and the second information processing step to register and record each name and personal data input at the first information processing step via the Internet communication lines, providing registration process based on confirmation by registered members when registering new member input at the first information processing step via the communication lines at the second information input step, while recording the new registered members connected with the registered members as important part of the basic data for human network data.

[0014]

The aforesaid human network registration method is supported by the human network registration system which uses internet communication lines as mentioned above and can be run from the said system, achieving the same level of effectiveness as the aforesaid method using the Internet communication lines.

[0015]

In this case, it is preferable that the new registration is processed based on the verification of the new member. Additionally, it is preferred to record the profession and specialized field of the newly registered member as well as the relative frequency signifying the degree of the relationship with registered members connected with the newly registered member.

[0016]

In addition, as a method of using the data of human network registered as above, it is preferred to further comprise the step to create data on the human network from the basic data connecting the new and registered members as well as the display step to disclose names and each personal data of the aforesaid members, providing a display of the said data on the human network on the said display step. In doing so, it is preferable to designate a specific registered member at the first information processing step and display the connected registered members to the specific member as well as the data on the human network at the display step.

[0017]

In addition, in the use of human network data recorded by said human network registration method, members are allowed to access every other member and the person's data only when confirmed to be the registered members by the ID Number, entered at the first information input step and recorded into the registered members' data at the time of registration. With this accessibility setting, uncontrolled flow of information on each and every registration and individual can be prevented to protect personal information.

[0018]

In addition, as another way of using the human network data, a profession and/or specialized field of the registered members can be specified to display the members connected with the specified particular

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professions and/or specialized fields, thus providing a display of the searched members of specified profession and/or specialized fields from the human network data, proving to be a convenient search tool for a member of specified profession or specialized field.

[0019]

In addition, another way to use the data of human network is, how to use data of members and each personal data recorded by the human network registration method where the relative frequency between the members has been recorded, for which it is preferred to display the data of human networks disclosing the specified registered member together with the members connected to the specified member at the display step, as well as disclosing the relative frequency between the specified member and the connected member. By doing so, the relationship between the registered members and the degree of relationship can be easily detected and displayed. For an example, therefore, the searched registered members of specified professions or specialized fields can be displayed together with the other registered members connected to the registered member.

[0020]

[Embodiment of the invention]

The following figures explain the embodiment of the human network registration system by this invention. Figure 1 is a conceptual figure, showing a model plan of a human network registration system built by a generally widespread Internet communication.

[0021]

As shown in figure 1, the PC devices 2 and 3 which are owned by multiple registered members can be connected to Server 1, the second information processor via the Internet 4. The 'PC device' as well as 'Server' is a concept containing personal computer body, input component such as keyboard and mouse, display component, RAM memory and hard disc. Additionally, required data can be printed for display when connected to a printing device.

[0022]

Server 1 offers a Web site to build a human network registration system, registers multiple individual names, record them as registered members together with each personal data, comprising database functions to search each and every registered member and the personal data required. The Web site for building a human network registration system, presented at Server 1, has a website address on the Internet.

[0023]

On the other hand, the PCs 2 and 3 owned by each registered member contains a browser to connect to the Internet within the hard disc memory device and provides the connection with the websites of human network registration systems presented at Server 1 when the browser is started and the website address is specified.

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[0024]

Via the Internet 4, registration data can be entered at the input components, while required registration information can be searched at Server 1 by entering keywords. Such registration information can be displayed on the display monitor of PC devices 2 and 3.

[0025]

Next, let us explain about the use of human network system at Figure 1 in relation to Figures 1 to 7:

Figure 2 shows a conceptual human network map consisting of the information on human networks created by the human network registration system;

Figure 3 shows an example view of the Website homepage of human network registration system offered by the server at Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows an example view of the Webpage registering a new member at the human network registration system;

Figure 5 shows an example view of Webpage confirming by the registered member who introduced the new member at the registration;

Figure 6 shows an example view of the Webpage searching using the human network registration system;

Figure 7 shows an example view of the Webpage displaying the search result from Figure 6;

Figure 8 shows an example view of the Webpage displaying registered members connected with a specified member; and

Figure 9 shows an example view of Webpage accessing personal data of a specified registered member.

[0026]

First, let us explain about new registration using the human network registration system of Figure 1, from Figures 3 and 4. For the sake of convenience here, A: the owner of PC device 2 at Figure 1 is a registered member; while B: the owner of PC device 3 is the new member who is introduced by owner A on this human network registration system.

[0027]

For the new registration, the owner B registers himself taking the following steps:

- (a) starting the browser of PC device 3,
- (b) specifying the Website address for the human network registration system,
- (c) connecting to the Server 1 via the Internet 4,
- (d) displaying a homepage view 21 of human network registration shown in Figure 3 receiving the signals from server 1 on the display of PC device 3,
- (e) clicking on the new registration switch 25 on the view 21 to send the signals to Server 1, and
- (f) the new registration page view 31 is shown as in Figure 4, by receiving the signals from Server 1.

[0028]

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Follow the example of view 31 of Figure 4, and enter the following to each responding field; name 32, introducer 33, profession 34, address 35, phone number 36, email address 37, specialized field 38, and password 40. On confirming the input data, click on the OK 39 at Figure 4 to send each input data to the Server 1 via the Internet 4 at the Figure 1.

[0029]

Next, an email message is sent as shown in Figure 5 from the Server 1 to PC device 2 owned by A, the introducer. The screen view 41 in the Figure 5 shows columns of names (42), profession (43), specialized field (44) for verification, requiring the owner A to confirm the data on the PC device 2 by clicking on the confirmation column 45 on the screen view 41, sending the confirmation signals to Server 1. On receiving the confirmation signals on the Server 1, personal data and the password of the newly registered B shown in Figure 4 are connected with the introducer (already a registered member) and sent to Server 1 to be recorded. The Figure 4 is a simple example view of personal data input, which can be modified with added fields such as age, academic history, and obtained qualifications etc. In cases where editing is required, new data can be entered into the Server 1 for updated registration.

[0030]

It is also useful to set that A the introducer (already a member) can register the new member B in the same way as above, following steps including:

- (a) the introducer (already a member) A enters required data as shown in Figure 4 on the PC device 2 and send to Server 1;
- (b) the data is emailed to PC device 3 of newly registered member B from Server 1;
- (c) the newly registered member B confirms the data and sends the confirmation signals to Server 1.

[0031]

Thus by registering new members the connections between registered members and newly registered members are recorded and the connections can be effectively used as basic data to create data of a human network and a human relationship map as explained later. In addition, each registered member is given an ID number on the registration.

[0032]

At the same time, relative frequency between registered members (for examples A and B from Figure 1) is registered at Server 1, being defined as a barometer for the degree of relationship among registered members, signifying the larger the frequency, the larger the degree of relationship. By the relative frequency the degree of relationship can be objectively defined. Every registered member must have relative frequency recorded for the degree of relationship with every other members of the system.

[0033]

Next, let us explain about the use of the human network registration system created as above. The Figure 1 shows human network registration system as well as a model usage system of the human network.

[0034]

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Server 1 provides registration data as the basic data recorded when connecting said registered members, to create a diagram of human network as human network data, as shown in Figure 2, and send to PC device 3 for a display. Each number from 11 to 20 shown in Figure 2 signifies registered members; signifying connection in solid lines a relationship between an introducer and the introduced (new member), and other types of relationships that may have arisen after registration. Using this human network diagram clearly shows human network between members. The relative frequency of the members connected with solid lines in Figure 2 can be added to the human network diagrams.

[0035]

In this case, mutual relative frequency between two registered members is regularly updated at a set time, so that latest frequency is updated and registered at the Server 1. By doing so it contributes to the convenience so that most updated relationship can be found even if the relationship changed after registration.

[0036]

The human network/network diagram in Figure 2 can show multiple registered members 11, 14, 15, 16, and 18, who are connected with the registered member 13, further displaying respectively connected registered members 12, 17, 19 and 20 together with the registered members. Further, all the members who have a higher relative frequency than a set level, can be displayed. Also, each member's profession or specialized field can be displayed.

[0037]

Next, more detailed usage examples are explained from Figures 3, 6 to 9. For example, Figure 1 shows a registered member B starts a browser in PC device 3 and connects to Server 1 via Internet 4. Then the homepage view 21 is displayed as in Figure 3, and the ID Number is entered at Column 22 and password 23 on the Column 23 at the input component of PC device 3, and click on OK 24. When the input data is sent to Server 1 and ID Number and Password are verified, Server 1 transmits them to PC device 3, to display Webpage search screen view 57 as in Figure 6.

[0038]

If the member B wants to search specialists in a certain specialized field, B will enter relative keywords in the search columns 52 to 55 and click on the Search Column 56 in the search screen view 57 of Figure 6. Then the search result is displayed on the screen 80 of the Webpage as in Figure 7, with names of the specialist members in the specialized fields on the columns 81 to 83 on the screen view 80, together with respective relative frequencies between each member on display and the searching member B in Column 84. Thus, the searching member B can have information of the degree of relationship with each specialist from the relative frequency.

[0039]

For example, if the registered member shown on Column 81 in Figure 7 is member 13 in Figure 2, and information on the member 13's human network is wanted. Clicking on the respective human network column 85 (Figure 7) will bring up a screen view 61 (Figure 8) on the PC device 3. On the screen view 61 on Figure 8, the title says the human network of member 13 (Column 62). Members linked to member 13 are listed as 11, 15, 18, 12, 17... in columns from 63 to 67 on the screen view 61, with their respective professions on Column 70 and relative frequencies on Column 71. Thus members who frequently associate member 13 can be found.

[0040]

On entering specified members on the columns 52 to 55 on the search screen view 57 (Figure 6) at the input component of PC device 3 (Figure 1), a click on search Column 56 will bring up the display view 61 (Figure 8). There, on the same screen view (Figure 8), the displayed members are limited to those above a certain relative frequency level. In addition, the screen view 61 (Figure 7) can show specialized fields and so on.

[0041]

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In case the PC owner B wants to have information on personal data of member 13, one of the search results shown in the screen view 80 (Figure 7), double clicking on Column 81 (Figure 7) will bring up the Web page view 90 (Figure 9). On the view 90 listed are columns for profession (91), address (92), telephone number (93), email address (94), specialized field (95), hobbies (96), family structure and so on, and a single click on the column of required information will bring up the personal data on PC device 3. Depending on the relative frequency level between the searching member B and the searched member 13, however, personal data can or cannot be displayed, thus preventing uncontrolled overflow of personal data to members with low relative frequency and less association.

[0042]

As above, by displaying the professions of the registered members as well as the human network map, specialists in various fields can be found, making it useful when technical and specialized information and data is needed in business. Thus, the human network map can be used as an effective tool for business operations.

[0043]

Also, the relative frequency between registered members on display can help getting acquainted with a certain member who are on your relationship map but not connected to you directly, by finding an intermediary member who can introduce you to the specialist member.

[0044]

This invention is not limited to the embodiment explained as above, but has many potential variations within the range of technical ideas. For example, PC device and server are connected via the Internet in the embodiment above, but connection can be made via dedicated communication circuit such as LAN connecting server and multiple PC devices. Also note that respective screen views of homepages or Web pages are only examples here and there are many other display forms.

[0045]

This invention offers a human network registration system, a human network registration method and usage of data of human network, providing information of the required human network and its easy and effective access when professional specialists of various fields and/or technical information or data are needed.

[Simplified Explanation of Figures and Diagrams]

[Figure 1]

A conceptual diagram signifying the model of human network registration system embodied and structured by general communication circuits (Internet) by this invention.

[Figure 2]

A conceptual diagram showing human network created from the human network registration system by this invention in embodiment.

[Figure 3]

A figure showing an example of screen view of the Website homepage of human network registration system offered by the server in Figure 1

[Figure 4]

A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view of new registration by using human network registration system

[Figure 5]

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A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view when an introducer verifies a new member at the time of registration

[Figure 6]

A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view when searching members using the human network registration system

[Figure 7]

A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view when showing the search result from Figure 6

[Figure 8]

A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view when specific member's network information was searched by the human network registration system

[Figure 9]

A figure showing an example of Webpage screen view when displaying personal data of a specified member.

[symbols explained]

- 2, 3 PC devices as the first information processor
- 1 Server as the second information processor
- 4 Internet
- 11~20 Registered members
- A member already registered, introducer
- B new member to be registered

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[name of document] Diagram

[Figure 1]

Owner: B

Owner: A

[Figure 2]

[Figure 3]

Homepage of Human Network Registration

Enter ID Number and Password and click OK

ID Number 22

Password 23

Click "New registration" if you want to be registered.

"New Registration" 25

[Figure 4]

New Registration Page

Name 32

Introducer 33

Profession 34

Address 35

Telephone No. 36

Email 37

Specialized field 38

Password 40

[Figure 5]

To : _=====

_____ wishes to be registered as a new member being introduced by =====.

Please click on Confirmation if you know _____.

New member (_____)

Name: 42

Profession: 43

Specialized field; 44

Confirmation 45

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[Figure 6]

Search page for human network data
Please enter keywords. 52 - 55
Search 56

[Figure 7]

Search Result
Human Network
Human Network
Human Network

[Figure 8]

_____ 's network information

70 Profession

71 Relative frequency

68 Return to Search Page

Next page 69

[Figure 9]

(13) _____ 's personal data

Profession 91

Address 92

Telephone number 93

Email 94

Specialized Field 95

Hobbies 96

Family Structure 97

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[Name of document] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Aim] This invention offers human network registration system, human network registration method and usage of data of human network, providing information of the required human network and its easy and effective access when professional specialists of specialized fields and/or technical information or data are needed.

[Solution] This human network registration system comprises the first information processor 2, 3, containing input component, and the second processor 1 to register and record individual names and each personal data input at the input component, both of which can be connected on the Internet 4. Registration of a new member is operated based on the confirmation by the registered member while the connection between the newly registered member and the registered member is recorded as part of the basic data in the human network at the second processor.

[Chosen diagram] Figure 1

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Name: Mekiki Co., Ltd.

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【発明者】

【住所又は居所】 東京都世田谷区成城2-6-14

【氏名】 二宮 健一

【発明者】

【住所又は居所】 東京都杉並区浜田山4-34-18

【氏名】 出口 光

【特許出願人】

【住所又は居所】 東京都渋谷区渋谷2-1-12 ふくでんビル9F

【氏名又は名称】 株式会社メキキ

【代表者】 出口 光

【代理人】

【識別番号】 100107272

【弁理士】

【氏名又は名称】 田村 敬二郎

【選任した代理人】

【識別番号】 100109140

【弁理士】

【氏名又は名称】 小林 研一

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【プルーフの要否】 要

【書類名】 明細書

【発明の名称】 人脈関係登録システム、人脈関係登録方法及び人脈関係情報の使用方法

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 入力部を有する第1の情報処理装置と、前記入力部から入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報記憶する第2の情報処理装置と、を具備し、

前記入力部から新規登録者を入力し登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録が行われるとともに、その新規登録者が前記既登録者と関連付けられて前記第2の情報処理装置に人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶されることを特徴とする人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項2】 インターネット通信回線に接続され、入力部を有する第1の情報処理装置と、

前記インターネット通信回線を介して前記第1の情報処理装置と接続可能であり、前記入力部から入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報記憶する第2の情報処理装置と、を具備し、

前記通信回線を介して前記第1の情報処理装置の前記入力部で入力した新規登録者を登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録が行われるとともに、その新規登録者が前記既登録者と関連付けられて前記第2の情報処理装置に人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶されることを特徴とする人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項3】 前記新規登録者の登録の際にその新規登録者の職業及び/または専門分野に関する情報を記憶することを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項4】 前記新規登録者の登録の際にその新規登録者と前記関連付けられた既登録者との関係の程度を表す関係度数を記憶することを特徴とする請求項1、2または3に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項5】 前記関係度数は更新可能であることを特徴とする請求項4に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項6】 前記入力部から前記人脈関係情報の検索のためのキーワード

を入力し、この検索入力情報に基づいて前記第 2 の情報処理装置で検索された結果を前記第 1 の情報処理装置の表示部に表示することを特徴とする請求項 1 ～ 5 のいずれか 1 項に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項 7】 前記入力部で特定の登録者を指定し、その指定された特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者を前記特定の登録者ととも前記第 1 の情報処理装置の表示部に前記人脈関係情報として表示することを特徴とする請求項 1 ～ 6 のいずれか 1 項に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項 8】 前記第 1 の情報処理装置の表示部に表示される人脈関係情報は、その個人情報の内容に応じて前記関連付けられた既登録者との関係の程度を表す関係度数により制限されることを特徴とする請求項 1 ～ 7 のいずれか 1 項に記載の人脈関係登録システム。

【請求項 9】 インターネット通信回線に接続し、情報入力を行う第 1 の情報処理ステップと、前記通信回線を介して、前記第 1 の情報処理ステップで入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報を記憶する第 2 の情報処理ステップと、を含み、

前記第 2 の情報入力ステップにおいて、前記インターネット通信回線を介して前記第 1 の情報処理ステップで入力した新規登録者を登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録を行うとともに、その新規登録者を前記既登録者と関連付けて人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶することを特徴とする人脈関係登録方法。

【請求項 10】 前記複数の登録者同士を関連付けた基礎データから前記人脈関係情報を作成するステップと、前記複数の登録者及び前記各個人情報を表示する表示ステップと、を更に含み、前記表示ステップで前記人脈関係の情報を表示することを特徴とする請求項 9 に記載の人脈関係登録方法。

【請求項 11】 前記第 1 の情報処理ステップで特定の登録者を指定し、その指定された特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者を前記特定の登録者ととも前記表示ステップで前記人脈関係情報を表示することを特徴とする請求項 10 に記載の人脈関係登録方法。

【請求項 12】 請求項 9、10 または 11 に記載の人脈関係登録方法により登録された人脈関係情報を使用する方法であって、

前記登録の際に登録者に付与した識別コード及び所定のパスワードを前記第1の情報入力ステップで入力し、この入力した識別コードとパスワードの一致により登録者であることが確認されたときに前記登録者及び各個人情報にアクセスすることを許可することを特徴とする人脈関係情報の使用方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、人脈関係登録システム、人脈関係登録方法及び人脈関係登録方法により登録された人脈関係情報の使用方法に関するものである。

【0002】

【従来技術】

従来、職業等に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知り、専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に、効率的に知ることのできるシステム・方法はなかった。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

本発明は、職業等に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知り、専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に、人脈関係情報を作成し簡単かつ効率的に知ることのできるような人脈関係登録システム、人脈関係登録方法及び人脈関係登録方法により登録された人脈関係情報を使用する方法を提供することを目的とする。

【0004】

【課題を解決するための手段】

上記目的を達成するために、本発明による人脈関係登録システムは、入力部を有する第1の情報処理装置と、前記入力部から入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報を記憶する第2の情報処理装置とを具備し、前記入力部から新規登録者を入力し登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録が行われるとともに、その新規登録者が前記既登録者と関連付けられて前記第2の情報処理装置に人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶されることを特徴とする。

【0005】

この人脈関係登録システムによれば、新規に登録する者は、既登録者の確認が

必要なため無制限に登録が行われずに人脈関係の信頼性を維持できるとともに、その既登録者と関連付けられて記憶され、登録者同士の関係が他の登録者に分かり易くなる人脈関係情報を作成することができる。各情報処理装置として、パーソナルコンピュータ（パソコン装置）、サーバコンピュータ（サーバ）を使用することにより、多数の登録者による人脈関係情報を簡単に作成することができる。

【0006】

また、本発明による別の人脈関係登録システムは、インターネット通信回線に接続され、入力部を有する第1の情報処理装置と、前記インターネット通信回線を介して前記第1の情報処理装置と接続可能であり、前記入力部から入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報記憶する第2の情報処理装置とを具備し、前記通信回線を介して前記第1の情報処理装置の前記入力部で入力した新規登録者を登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録が行われるとともに、その新規登録者が前記既登録者と関連付けられて前記第2の情報処理装置に人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶されることを特徴とする。

【0007】

この人脈関係登録システムによれば、第1の情報処理装置と第2の情報処理装置とを離れた場所に設置し、インターネット通信回線で接続するから、多数の人がどんな地域からでもアクセスしまた登録を行うことができ、使用上極めて便利システムとなる。

【0008】

また、前記新規登録者の登録の際にその新規登録者の職業に関する情報を記憶することが好ましく、これにより、職業に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知り、専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に便利であり、人脈関係情報をビジネス遂行上の有効な一手段にできる。

【0009】

また、前記新規登録者の登録の際にその新規登録者と前記関連付けられた既登録者との関係の程度を表す関係度数を記憶することが好ましく、この関係度数により、登録者同士の関係の程度を知ることができる。これにより、登録者同士の

関係の程度を客観的に知ることができる。この場合、全ての登録者が他の全ての登録者との関係度数が決められて登録されることが好ましい。

【 0 0 1 0 】

また、前記関係度数は更新可能であることが好ましく、これにより、登録後に登録者同士の関係の程度が変化しても、その変化した最新の関係の程度を知ることができ、また、登録後に登録者間で新たな関係が発生した場合にもその関係の程度を知ることができる。

【 0 0 1 1 】

また、前記入力部から前記人脈関係情報の検索のためのキーワードを入力し、この検索入力情報に基づいて前記第 2 の情報処理装置で検索された結果を前記第 1 の情報処理装置の表示部に表示することにより、多数の基礎データから簡単に必要な人脈関係情報を表示できる。この場合、前記第 1 の情報処理装置の前記入力部で特定の登録者を指定し、その指定された特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者を前記特定の登録者ととも前記表示部に前記人脈関係情報を表示することが好ましい。この場合、検索した者と特定の登録者との関係度数を表示することが好ましい。

【 0 0 1 2 】

また、前記第 1 の情報処理装置の表示部に表示される人脈関係情報は、その個人情報内容に応じて前記関連付けられた既登録者との関係の程度を表す関係度数により制限されるように構成することが好ましい。これにより、個人情報がその内容に応じて関係度数により開示制限を受けるから、個人情報内容によっては関係が一定以上の登録者しか個人情報を得ることができず、秘密保持の必要な個人情報が関係の希薄な登録者には開示されず、個人情報のセキュリティを図ることができる。

【 0 0 1 3 】

また、本発明による人脈関係登録方法は、インターネット通信回線に接続し、情報入力を行う第 1 の情報処理ステップと、前記インターネット通信回線を介して、前記第 1 の情報処理ステップで入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報記憶する第 2 の情報処理ステップとを含み、前記第 2 の情報入力ステップ

において、前記通信回線を介して前記第1の情報処理ステップで入力した新規登録者を登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録を行うとともに、その新規登録者を前記既登録者と関連付けて人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶することを特徴とする。

【0014】

上記人脈関係登録方法は、上述したインターネット通信回線を利用した人脈関係登録システムに対応し、このシステムより実行でき、インターネット通信回線により使用が便利となる上述と同様の効果を得ることができる。

【0015】

この場合、前記新規登録者の登録の際に、更にその新規登録者の確認に基づいて登録を行うことが好ましい。また、その新規登録者の職業や専門分野に関する情報を記憶することが好ましく、また、その新規登録者と前記関連付けられた既登録者との関係の程度を表す関係度数を記憶することが好ましい。そして、前記関係度数は一定の関係式に基づいて決定され、また前記関係度数は更新可能であることが好ましい。

【0016】

また、上述のように登録された人脈関係情報を使用する方法として、前記複数の登録者同士を関連付けた基礎データから前記人脈関係情報を作成するステップと、前記複数の登録者及び前記各個人情報を表示する表示ステップと、を更に含み、前記表示ステップで前記人脈関係情報を表示することが好ましい。この場合、前記第1の情報処理ステップで特定の登録者を指定し、その指定された特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者を前記特定の登録者とともに前記表示ステップで前記人脈関係情報を表示することが好ましい。

【0017】

また、上述の人脈関係登録方法により登録された人脈関係情報の使用方法は、前記登録の際に登録者に付与した識別コードを前記第1の情報入力ステップで入力し、この入力した識別コードにより登録者であることが確認されたときに前記登録者及び各個人情報にアクセスすることを許可することを特徴とする。これにより、各登録情報及び各個人情報の無制限な流出を防止でき、各情報を保護可能

となる。

【0018】

また、別の人脈関係情報の使用方法として、上述のように登録された前記特定の職業及び／または専門分野を指定し、その指定された特定の職業及び／または専門分野と関連する登録者を表示することができ、これにより、特定の職業または専門分野の登録者を人脈関係情報から検索し、表示させることができるので、特定の職業または専門分野の人を捜すのに便利である。

【0019】

また、別の人脈関係情報の使用方法は、上述のように登録者同士の関係度を記憶させた場合における、人脈関係登録方法により登録された登録者及び記憶された各個人情報を使用する方法であって、前記第1の情報処理ステップで特定の登録者を指定し、その指定された特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者を前記特定の登録者ととともに前記表示ステップで前記人脈関係情報を表示するとともに、前記特定の登録者と前記関連付けられた登録者との間の前記関係度を表示することが好ましい。これによれば、登録者同士の関係が簡単に分かり、また、登録者同士の関係の程度を簡単に知ることができる。そして、例えば、上述のように検索した特定の職業や専門分野の登録者を、その登録者と関係する他の登録者とともに表示することができる。この場合、前記特定の登録者と関連付けられた登録者のうち前記関係度が一定以上の登録者を表示することにより、特定の登録者に関する一定関係以上の登録者を簡単に知ることができる。

【0020】

【発明の実施の形態】

以下、本発明による実施の形態の人脈関係登録システムについて図面を用いて説明する。図1は、人脈関係登録システムを一般回線であるインターネット通信回線により構築した例を示す概念図である。

【0021】

図1に示すように、複数の登録者がそれぞれ保有する第1の情報処理装置であるパソコン装置2、3は、第2の情報処理装置であるサーバ1とインターネット4を介して接続可能である。なお、パソコン装置とは、パソコン本体、キーボー

ドやマウス等の入力部、表示部としてのディスプレイ、RAM等のメモリ及びハードディスク等を含んだ概念であり、サーバについても同様である。また、プリンタ装置と接続されて必要な情報を印刷し表示することができる。

【0022】

サーバ1は、人脈関係登録システムを構築するためのWebサイトを提供し、多数の個人名を登録し登録者として記憶しかつその登録者の個人情報を記憶するとともに、各登録者及びその個人情報を検索するためのデータベース機能を備える。サーバ1が提供する人脈関係登録システムを構築するためのWebサイトはインターネット上のアドレスを持っている。

【0023】

一方、各登録者が所有するパソコン装置2、3は、そのハードディスク等の記憶装置にインターネットと接続するためにブラウザを格納しており、このブラウザを起動しアドレスを指定することにより、サーバ1が提供する人脈関係登録システムのWebサイトと接続可能となる。

【0024】

インターネット4を介してサーバ1にパソコン装置2、3の入力部から登録情報を入力することができ、また、必要な登録情報のキーワード等を入力し、サーバ1において検索することができる。これらの登録情報はパソコン装置2、3のディスプレイに表示することができる。

【0025】

次に、図1の人脈関係登録システムの使用について図1～図7を参照して説明する。図2はこの人脈関係登録システムにより作成できる人脈関係情報としての人脈関係図を概念的に示す図であり、図3は図1のサーバが提供する人脈関係登録システムのWebサイトのホームページ画面の例を示す図、図4は人脈関係登録システムで新規登録する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図であり、図5は新規登録時に紹介者がその新規登録者を確認する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図であり、図6は人脈関係登録システムで検索する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図であり、図7は図6で検索した検索結果を表示するWebページ画面の例を示す図であり、図8は特定の登録者の人脈関係にある登録者を表示した

Webページ画面の例を示す図であり、図9は特定の登録者の個人情報にアクセスする場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【0026】

最初に、図1の人脈関係登録システムにおいて新規に登録者を登録する場合について図3及び図4により説明する。ここで、説明の便宜上、この人脈関係登録システムにおいて図1のパソコン装置2の所有者Aが既登録者であり、パソコン装置3の所有者Bが所有者Aにより紹介されて新たに登録する新規登録者とする。

【0027】

新規登録者の所有者Bが、自ら登録する場合には、パソコン装置3のブラウザを起動し、人脈関係登録システムのWebサイトのアドレスを指定し、インターネット4を介してサーバ1に接続すると、サーバ1からの受信により図3のような人脈関係登録のホームページの画面21がパソコン装置3のディスプレイに表示される。そして、この画面21の新規登録ボタン25をクリックすると、その信号がサーバ1に送信され、次にサーバ1からの受信により図4のような新規登録のWebページの画面31が表示される。

【0028】

図4の画面31に従って新規登録者Bの名前32、紹介者33、職業34、住所35、電話番号36、電子メールアドレス37、専門分野38、及びパスワード40をそれぞれの欄内に入力する。各入力データを確認してから、図4のOKボタン39をクリックすると、各入力データが図1のインターネット4を介してサーバ1に送信される。

【0029】

次に、サーバ1から紹介者の所有者Aのパソコン装置2に対し図5のような電子メールが送信される。図5の確認用の画面41には新規登録者の名前42、職業43、専門分野44等が各欄に表示されており、所有者Aはパソコン装置2でこれらのデータを確認して画面41の確認ボタン45をクリックすると、その確認信号がサーバ1に送られる。サーバ1でこの確認信号を受信すると、新規登録者Bに関する図4の個人情報及びパスワードが紹介者（既登録者）Aと関連付け

られてサーバ1に登録され記憶される。なお、入力する各個人情報の図4の例は、一例であって、更に、年齢、学歴、職歴、保有資格、趣味、嗜好、家族構成等の情報を加えてもよいし、また登録後に変更が生じた場合には、新たなデータを入力してサーバ1に更新登録するようにできる。

【0030】

また、紹介者（既登録者）Aが新規登録者Bの登録を行うようにしてもよく、紹介者（既登録者）Aがパソコン装置2で図4のような各データを入力してからサーバ1に送信し、その後、そのデータが電子メールでサーバ1から新規登録者Bのパソコン装置3に送信され、新規登録者Bがこのデータを確認し、確認信号をサーバ1に送ることにより、上述と同様に新規登録者Bの登録が行われるようにしてもよい。

【0031】

以上のようにして、新規登録者の登録が行われることにより、新規登録者と紹介者（既登録者）とが関連付けられて記憶されるので、この関係を基礎データとして後述のように人脈関係情報、人脈関係図を作成することができる。なお、この登録の際に各登録者毎に識別コード（ID No.）が付与される。

【0032】

また、登録者同士（図1の例では既登録者Aと新規登録者Bとの間）の関係度数がサーバ1に登録されるが、この関係度数とは、登録者相互間の関係の程度を表すものであって、例えば数値が大きいほど関係の程度が大きい、とすることができる。この関係度数により登録者同士間の関係の程度を客観的に知ることができる。また、全ての登録者は他の全ての登録者との関係度数が登録されるようになっている。

【0033】

次に、上述のようにして作成された人脈関係登録システムの使用について説明する。図1のような人脈関係登録システムは、作成された人脈関係図の使用システムを兼ねている。

【0034】

サーバ1では、上述のような登録者同士を関連付けて登録した登録情報を基礎

データとし、図2のような人脈関係図を人脈関係情報として作成し、パソコン装置3に送信し、表示させることができる。図2に示す11～20の各符号は、登録者を表し、実線で結ばれている登録者同士が、新規登録時に紹介者と被紹介者（新規登録者）との関係にあたり、または登録後に関係が発生したりすることにより、互いに関連付けられている。このような人脈関係図により、登録者同士の関係を知ることができる。なお、図2において実線で結ばれている登録者同士の相互間の関係度数を併せてその人脈関係図に表示してもよい。

【0035】

この場合、登録者同士の相互間の関係度数は、一定期間毎に更新され、サーバ1に最新のものが更新登録されるようにできる。これにより、登録者同士の関係が登録後に変化した場合でも最新の関係を知ることができ、便利である。

【0036】

図2の人脈関係図において、登録者13と関連付けられた複数の登録者11、14、15、16、18を表示し、これらの登録者とそれぞれ更に関連付けられた登録者12、17、19、20を表示するようにできる。また、この表示の際、一定の関係度数以上の登録者をすべて表示するようにしてもよい。また、各登録者の職業や専門分野を表示するようにしてもよい。

【0037】

次に、より具体的な使用について図3、図6～図9により説明する。例えば、図1において登録者Bがパソコン装置3のブラウザを起動し、インターネット4を介してサーバ1と接続する。そして、図3のホームページ画面21を表示し、パソコン装置3の入力部から自分の識別コード（ID No.）を欄22に、及びパスワード23を欄23に入力し、OKボタン24をクリックすると、この入力情報がサーバ1に送信され、識別コード（ID No.）とパスワードとの一致を確認したら、サーバ1はパソコン装置3に送信し、図6のようなWebページの検索画面57を表示する。

【0038】

図6の検索画面57で、登録者Bが例えば特定の専門分野の専門家を知りたい場合には、その専門分野に関するキーワードを検索欄52、53、54、55に

入力し、検索ボタン56をクリックすると、サーバ1で検索し、その検索結果が図7のようなWebページの画面80に表示され、画面80の複数の欄81、82、83に検索されたその専門分野の登録者が表示され、更にその検索をした登録者Bとその表示された登録者との関係度数が各関係度数欄84に表示される。これにより、検索した登録者Bは各登録者との関係度数からその関係の程度を知ることができる。

【0039】

次に、例えば図7の欄81に検索されて表示された登録者を図2の特定の登録者13とし、その登録者13の人脈関係を知りたい場合には、図7の各人脈ボタン85をクリックすると、図8のような画面61がパソコン装置3に表示される。画面61には、欄62に表示された特定の登録者13の人脈として、各欄63、64、65、66、67に登録者11、15、18、12、17、・・・が表示され、各欄70にその職業が、各欄71に登録者13との関係度数がそれぞれ表示される。これにより、登録者13と関係が深い登録者を知ることができる。

【0040】

なお、特定の登録者をパソコン装置3の入力部から検索画面57の欄52～55に入力し、検索ボタン56をクリックした場合、図8の画面61を直接に表示するように構成できる。また、図8の画面において、関係度数が一定以上の登録者だけを表示するようにしてもよい。また、図7の画面61には専門分野等を表示するようにしてもよい。

【0041】

また、登録者Bが図7の画面80で検索された登録者13の個人情報を得たい場合には、図7の登録者13が表示された欄81をダブルクリックすると、図9のようなWebページの画面90が表示される。この画面90には、職業91、住所92、電話93、電子メールアドレス94、専門分野95、趣味96、家族構成97、・・・と表示されるので、必要な情報のボタンをクリックすることにより、パソコン装置3にその個人情報を表示することができる。この場合、検索した登録者Bと被検索者の登録者Bとの関係度数により個人情報の表示・非表示なされるようになっている。これにより、関係度数が低く関係の希薄な登録者に

無制限に個人情報が流出することを防止できる。この場合、この人脈関係登録システム全体で個人情報の内容に応じて表示可能となる関係度数を予め設定しておくことができる。

【0042】

以上のように、人脈関係図とともに登録者の職業や専門分野を表示することにより、職業に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知ることができたため、ビジネス上必要な専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に便利である。このように人脈関係図をビジネス遂行上の有効な一手段にできる。

【0043】

また、登録者同士の関係度数を表示することにより、例えば人脈関係図には載っているが、ある登録者と直接に関係が形成されていない場合に、その登録者に対して関係の深い適切な紹介者（別の登録者）を知ることができる。

【0044】

以上のように本発明を実施の形態により説明したが、本発明はこれらに限定されるものではなく、本発明の技術的思想の範囲内で各種の変形が可能である。例えば、本実施の形態ではパソコン装置とサーバとをインターネットを介して接続するようにしたが、サーバと複数のパソコン装置とをLAN等の専用回線で接続するようにしてもよい。また、図示したホームページ、Webページの各画面は、一例であって、他の別な表示形態があることは勿論である。

【0045】

【発明の効果】

本発明によれば、職業等に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知り、専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に、人脈関係情報を作成し簡単かつ効率的に知ることができる人脈関係登録システム、人脈関係登録方法及び人脈関係情報の使用方法を提供できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】

本発明による実施の形態の人脈関係登録システムを一般回線（インターネット）により構築した例を示す概念図である。

【図2】

本発明による実施の形態の人脈関係登録システムにより作成できる人脈関係情報としての人脈関係図を概念的に示す図である。

【図3】

図1のサーバが提供する人脈関係登録システムのWebサイトのホームページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図4】

人脈関係登録システムで新規登録する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図5】

新規登録時に紹介者がその新規登録者を確認する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図6】

人脈関係登録システムで検索する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図7】

図6で検索した検索結果を表示するWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図8】

人脈関係登録システムで検索した特定の登録者の人脈関係情報を表示したWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【図9】

特定の登録者の個人情報を表示する場合のWebページ画面の例を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

- | | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 2, 3 | 第1の情報処理装置であるパソコン装置 |
| 1 | 第2の情報処理装置であるサーバ |
| 4 | インターネット |
| 11~20 | 登録者 |
| A | 既登録者、紹介者 |

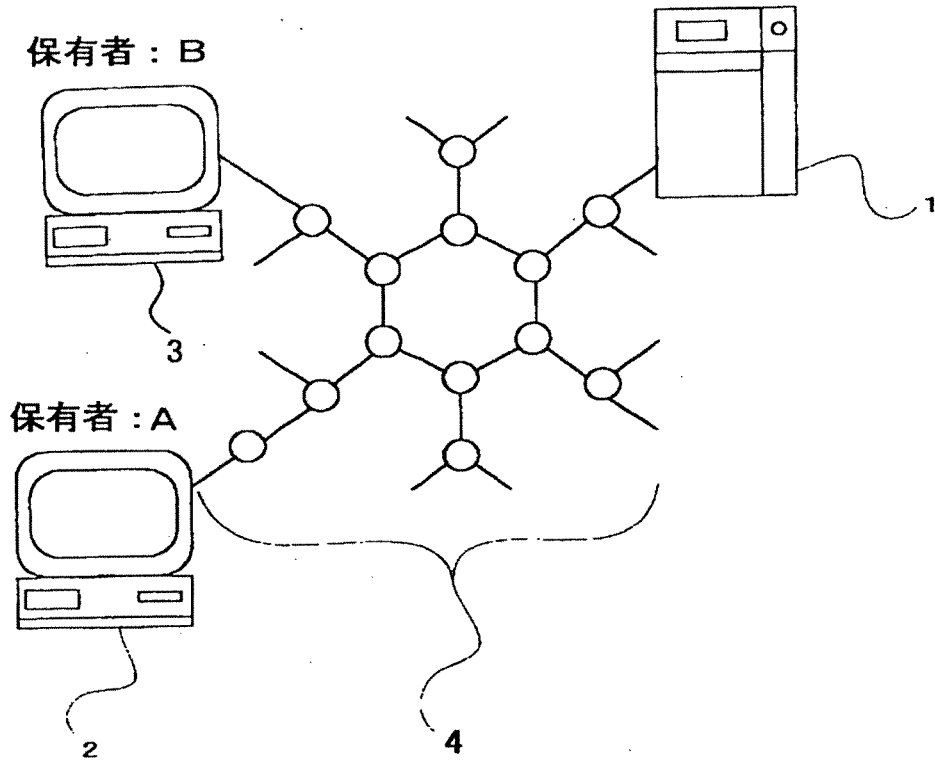
特2000-316496

B

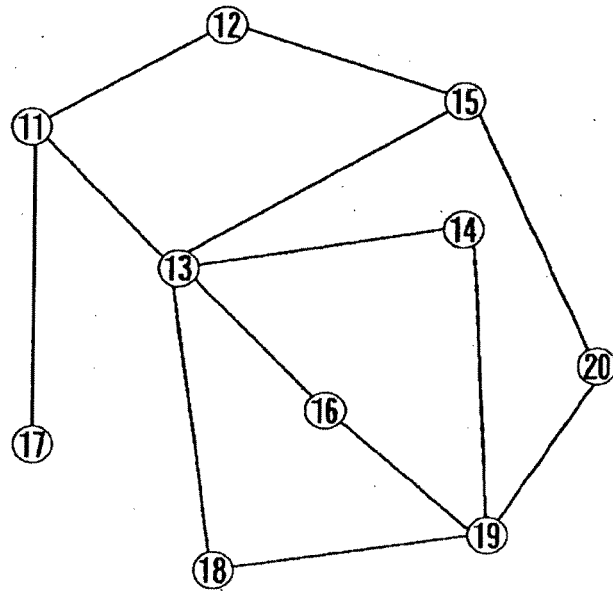
新規登録者

【書類名】 図面

【図1】



【图2】



【図3】

人脈関係登録のホームページ

ID番号とパスワードを入力して
OKをクリックして下さい

IDNO. 22

パスワード 23

OK 24

新規登録をご希望の方は新規登録を
クリックして下さい。

新規登録 25

21

【図4】

新規登録のページ

名前	<input type="text"/>	32
紹介者	<input type="text"/>	33
職業	<input type="text"/>	34
住所	<input type="text"/>	35
電話	<input type="text"/>	36
Email	<input type="text"/>	37
専門分野	<input type="text"/>	38
	パスワード <input type="text"/>	40
<input type="button" value="OK"/>		39

31

【図5】

〇×〇×さんへ

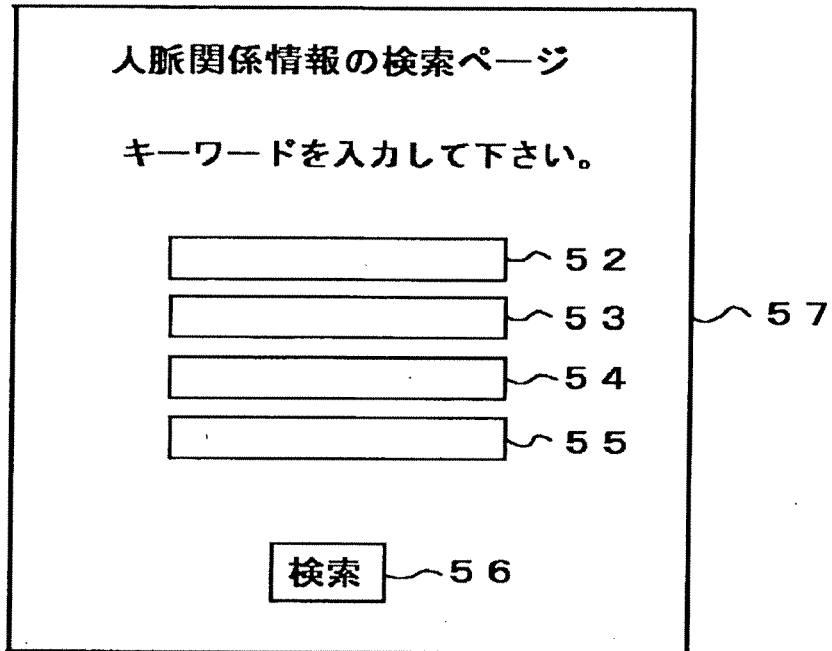
〇〇〇〇さんが〇×〇×さんのご紹介で登録を希望していますのでご確認の上、確認ボタンをクリックして下さい。

新規登録者 (〇〇〇〇)

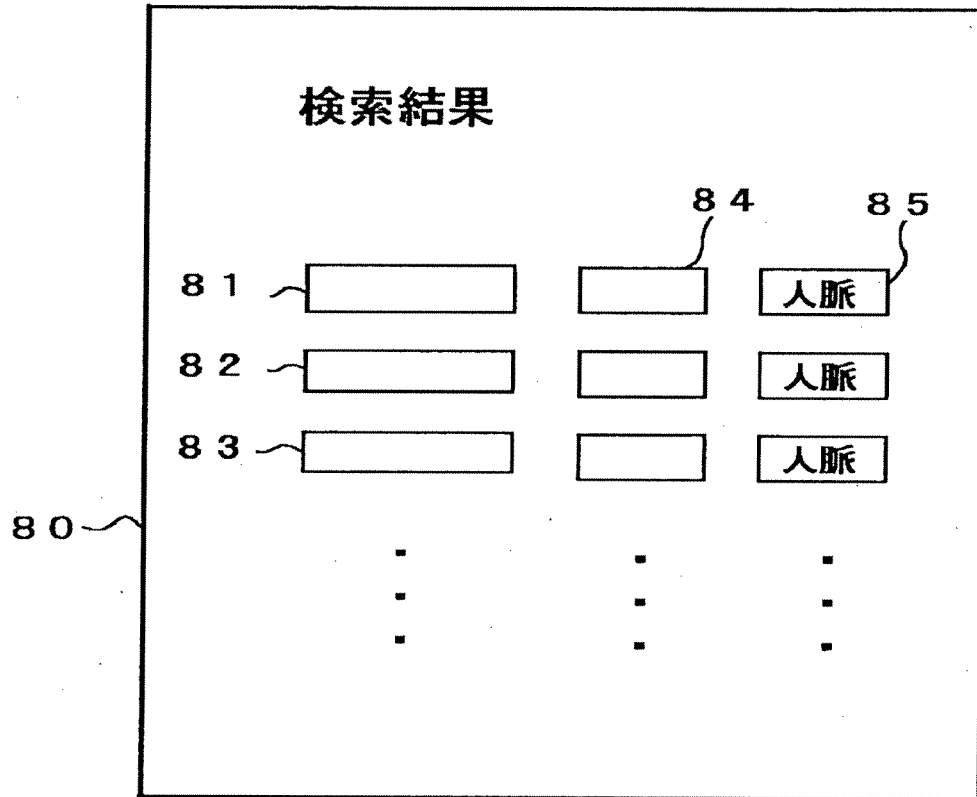
名前	<input type="text"/>	4 2	4 1
職業	<input type="text"/>	4 3	
専門分野	<input type="text"/>	4 4	

4 5

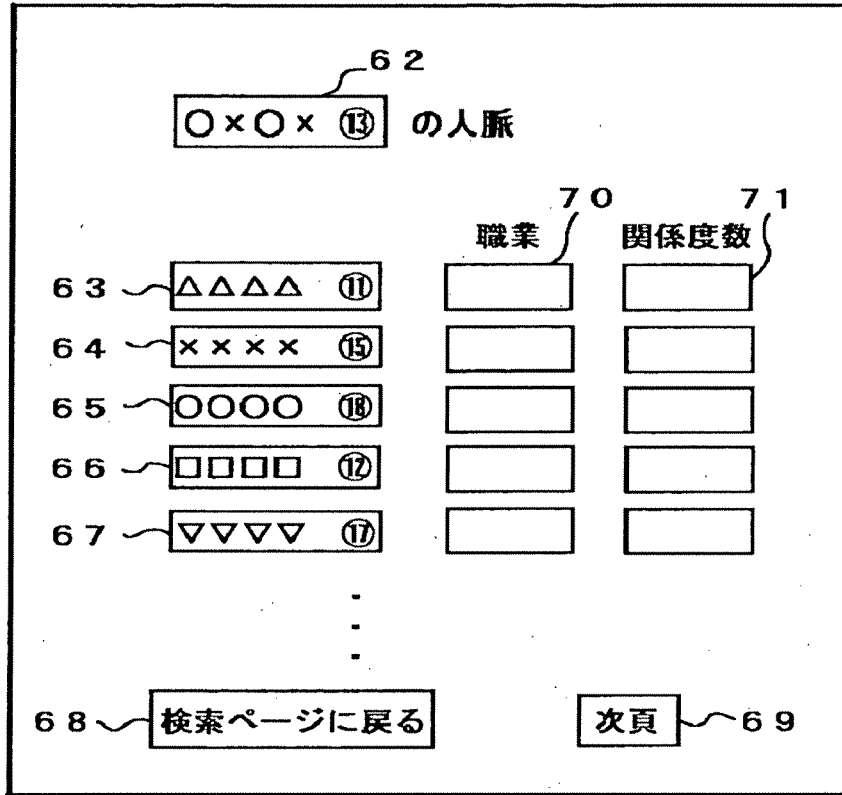
【図6】



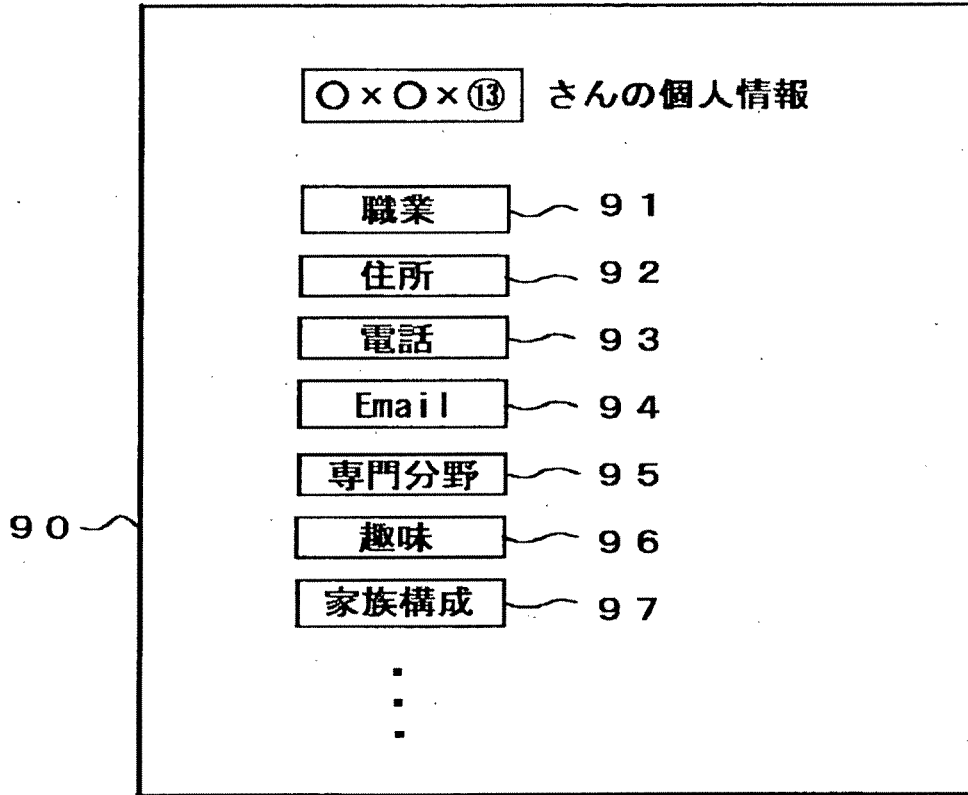
【図7】



【図8】



【図9】



【書類名】 要約書

【要約】

【課題】 職業等に関する様々な特定分野の専門家を知り、専門的知識や情報を得ようとする場合に、人脈関係図を作成し簡単かつ効率的に知ることのできるような人脈関係登録システム、人脈関係登録方法及び人脈関係情報の使用方法を提供する。

【解決手段】 この人脈関係登録システムは、入力部を有する第1の情報処理装置2、3と、入力部から入力された複数の個人名を登録しその各個人情報記憶する第2の情報処理装置1とを具備し、互いにインターネット4で接続可能である。入力部から新規登録者を入力し登録する際に既登録者の確認に基づいて登録が行われるとともに、その新規登録者が既登録者と関連付けられて第2の情報処理装置に人脈関係情報の基礎データとして記憶される。

【選択図】 図1

特2000-316496

認定 - 付加情報

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次頁無

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出願人履歴情報

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2000年10月17日

[変更理由]

新規登録

住所

東京都渋谷区渋谷2-1-12 ふくでんビル9F

氏名

株式会社メキキ

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	9393667
Application Number:	95001538
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6918
Title of Invention:	HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS REGISTERING SYSTEM, METHOD AND DEVICE FOR REGISTERING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, PROGRAM FOR REGISTERING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, AND MEDIUM STORING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS REGISTERING PROGRAM AND READABLE BY COMPUTER
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Hikaru Deguchi
Customer Number:	58249
Filer:	Heidi L. Keefe/Patty Russell
Filer Authorized By:	Heidi L. Keefe
Attorney Docket Number:	309101.211-1
Receipt Date:	07-FEB-2011
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	20:22:33
Application Type:	inter partes reexam

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Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$8800
RAM confirmation Number	6233
Deposit Account	501283
Authorized User	

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Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Receipt of Original Inter Partes Reexam Request	985-InterPartesReexamination-1.pdf	416226 65460b615a753f7e417ba7d7156dc0e9bbe fb789	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		985-Request-1.pdf	1509266 21f82feb055d0c9c2284a204e4f05e2d022 b631	yes	59
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Receipt of Original Inter Partes Reexam Request		1	58	
	Reexam Certificate of Service		59	59	
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3	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitA.pdf	142485 58d2beb2ad58e1bfeb4d793e647cb58dace 91947	no	16
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitB.pdf	263800 a6e7109d8bac14d5c8d7a0ad2da358bc0ca 8458f	no	26
Warnings:					
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5	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitC.pdf	494214 9857d19d4f71d38019a810e3ff66bcfe6042 5c7c	no	35
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6	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitD.pdf	1131480 9805db6e3df0cdf6c54c967f046537281b17 1f57	no	26
Warnings:					
Information:					
7	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitE.pdf	917059 adabc2cfbcb4526ea84e19c06f64df33035a 6b1	no	21

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8	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitF.pdf	515491 0d662c89c172bc890d5583e9f50aa0258b11969c	no	48
Warnings:					
Information:					
9	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitG.pdf	3791450 db6c2511bbabdb5c2df84eb6c322e4149704e3e0	no	63
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10	Reexam - Affidavit/Decl/Exhibit Filed by 3rd Party	ExhibitH.pdf	1230440 5b8d83faa220d305864174dbf5f5366846a99ed2	no	48
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11	Copy of patent for which reexamination is requested	985-Patent-1.pdf	653978 f1b16044a65159da5709b168492585ff360c4eed	no	16
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12	Reexam - Info Disclosure Statement Filed by 3rd Party	985-IDSForm-1.pdf	100617 256a0042be857e5457bccd341ceccf7d0cda9d08	no	3
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13	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	30043 23ec384d474dcf4250b72df58c9d3388df390d50	no	2
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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.