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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Michael McKibben, *et al.*   Examiner: Diane Mizrahi

Serial No: 10/732,744   Art Unit: 2165

Filing Date: December 10, 2003

Title: DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRONICALLY STORED
          INFORMATION WITH ITERATIVE WORKFLOW CHANGES

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY TO A REPLY TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 5, 2006 THAT ACCOMPANIED THE RCE

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is
respectfully requested in view of the amendments and comments below.

Accompanying this document for entry in the file wrapper is a copy of the RCE
Transmittal previously filed but not of record.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented network-based system that facilitates management of data, comprising:

a computer-implemented context component of the network-based system for capturing context information associated with user-defined ~~topic~~ data created by user interaction of a user in a first context of the network-based system, the context component dynamically storing ~~associating~~ the context information in metadata associated with the user-defined data ~~via metadata, that is~~ the user-defined data and metadata stored on a storage component of the network-based system; and

a computer-implemented tracking component of the network-based system for tracking a change of the user from the first context to a second context of the network-based system and automatically updating the stored metadata based on the change ~~associating associates at least a portion of the context information with the second context in the metadata~~.

19. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 18, the context component is associated with a workspace, which is a collection of data and application functionality related to the user-defined ~~topic~~ data.

20. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, the context component is associated with a web, which web is a collection of interrelated workspaces, the web maintains a location of data of the respective interrelated workspaces when one or more of the interrelated workspaces are moved into a different workspace interrelationship.

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21. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, the context information includes a relationship between the user and at least one of an application, application data, and user environment.

22. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, the context component captures context information of the first context and context information related to at least one other context.

23. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 22, the context information of the at least one other context is at least one of stipulated by the user and suggested automatically by the system based upon search and association criteria set by the user.

24. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, wherein data created in the first context is associated with data created in the second context.

25. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 18, the context information is tagged to the user-defined data via the ~~data~~ metadata when the user-defined data is created.

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26. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented method of managing data, comprising computer-executable acts of:

creating data within a user environment of a web-based computing platform via user interaction with the user environment by a user using an application, the data in the form of at least files and documents;

dynamically associating metadata with the data, the data and metadata stored on a storage component of the web-based computing platform, the metadata includes information related to the [[a]] user of the user environment, to the data, to the application, and to the user environment;

tracking movement of the user from the user environment of the web-based computing platform to a second user environment of the web-based computing platform; and

updating associating in the stored metadata with an association of at least one of the data and the application with the second user environment such that the user employs the at least one of the application and the data from the second environment.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising capturing context information of the user.

29. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26, further comprising indexing content of the user environment such that a plurality of users can access the content from an associated plurality of user environments.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, the least one of the data and the application is associated automatically with the second user environment.

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32. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26, further comprising accessing the user environment and the second user environment using a browser.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising communicating with the user environment using a TCP/IP communication protocol.

34. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising locating the user environment from a remote location using a URL address.

35. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising accessing the user environment via a portable wireless device.

36. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented method of managing data, comprising computer-executable acts of:

    generating providing a plurality of user environments in a web-based system;

    ordering two or more of the plurality of user environments according to different arrangements of the user environments;

    providing a plurality of applications for generating and processing data in the user environments, the data of a user environment is associated with the user environment in metadata that corresponds to the data;

    storing in a storage component ordering information related to the ordering of the two or more of the plurality of user environment; and

    traversing the different arrangements of the user environments with one or more of the applications based on the ordering information to locate the data associated therewith.

37. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 36, the act step of traversing is performed using a webslice that includes traversal information for locating the data associated with a given user environment.

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38. (Original) The method of claim 37, the traversal information includes at least a collection ID, a user environment ID, and a routing path to the location of the environment data.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, the <u>different</u> arrangements, user environments, and associated data carry both hierarchical and non-hierarchical associations simultaneously within the <u>plurality of</u> applications.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium <u>for storing</u> ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for ~~performing~~ a method of managing data, the method comprising:

creating data <u>related to user interaction of a user</u> within a user workspace of a web-based computing platform using an application;

dynamically associating metadata with the data, the data and metadata stored on the web-based computing platform, the metadata includes information related to [[a]] <u>the</u> user of the user workspace, to the data, to the application and to the user workspace;

tracking movement of the user from the user workspace to a second user workspace of the web-based computing platform;

<u>dynamically</u> associating the data and the application with the second user workspace in the metadata such that the user employs the application and data from the second user workspace; and

indexing the data created in the user workspace such that a plurality of different users can access the data via the metadata from a <u>corresponding</u> plurality of different user workspaces.

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41. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented system that facilitates management of data, comprising:

computer-implemented means for creating data by interaction of a user within a user workspace of a server using an application;

computer-implemented means for associating metadata with the data, the metadata stored in association with the data on storage means of the server, the metadata includes information related to a user of the user workspace, to the data, to the application and to the user workspace;

computer-implemented means for tracking movement of the user from the user workspace to a second user workspace of the server; and

computer-implemented means for associating the data and the application with the second user workspace of the server in the metadata such that the user can employ the application and data from the second user workspace.

Claims 42-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented system that facilitates management of data, comprising:

a computer-implemented context component of a web-based server system for defining a first user workspace of the web-based server system, assigning one or more applications to the first user workspace, capturing context data associated with user interaction of a user while in the first user workspace, and for storing the context data as metadata on a storage component of the web-based server system, which metadata is dynamically associated with data created in the first user workspace; and

a computer-implemented tracking component of the web-based server system for tracking change information associated with a change in access of the user from the first user workspace to a second user workspace, and dynamically storing the change information on the storage component as part of the metadata.

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46. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the tracking component automatically creates the metadata when the user accesses the first user workspace.

47. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the context component captures relationship data associated with a relationship between the first user workspace and at least one other user workspace.

48. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein an application associated with the first user workspace is automatically accessible via the second user workspace when the user moves from the first user workspace to the second user workspace.

49. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein context data relating to an item of communication is automatically stored and used in performance of communication tasks.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the context component captures data and application functionality related to a user-defined topic of the first user workspace, and includes the data and application functionality in the metadata.

52. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 45, wherein when the data created in the first user workspace is accessed from [[a]] the second user workspace, in response to which the context component adds information to the metadata about the second user workspace.

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53. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the first user workspace is associated with a plurality of different applications, the plurality of different applications comprising telephony, unified messaging, decision support, document management, portals, chat, collaboration, search, vote, relationship management, calendar, personal information management, profiling, directory management, executive information systems, dashboards, cockpits, tasking, meeting and, web and video conferencing.

54. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 45, wherein the ~~further~~ ~~comprising~~ a storage component stores ~~system for storing~~ the data and the metadata according to at least one of a relational and an object storage methodology.

55. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 45, wherein storing of the metadata in the storage component in association with data facilitates many-to-many functionality of the data via the metadata.

56. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the first user workspace provides access to at least one communications tool, which includes e-mail, voicemail, fax, teleconferencing, instant message, chat, contacts, calendar, task, notes, news, ideas, vote, web and video conferencing, and document sharing functionality.

57. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein one or more applications includes file storage pointers that are dynamic and associated with the first user workspace.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 45, wherein the context component facilitates encryption of the data generated in the first user workspace.

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REMARKS

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during multiple interviews regarding prosecution of the subject application.

This Reply is supplemental to a Reply to a Final Rejection filed in conjunction with an RCE. Additionally, it is intended that amendments to the specification submitted in the previous Reply be entered.

Claims 18-26, 28, 29, 31-41, and 45-59 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A new listing of the claims is provided at pages 2-9 of the Reply. Claims 50 and 58 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-17, 27, 30, and 42-44 were cancelled in a previous Reply. Applicants' representative reserves the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a later application.

Claims 18, 19, 25, 26, 36-37, 39-41, 45, 52, 54 and 55 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 18, 26, 36, 40, 41, and 45 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

In conversation with the Examiner, independent claims 18, 26, 36, 40, 41, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons. The claims, as amended, produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

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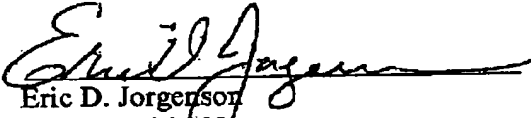10/732,744   **LEADP102USA**

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3663 (LEADP102USA). Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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