EXHIBIT A

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U.S. UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION

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(LABEL AREA)

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SYSTEM, METHOD AND MEDIUM FOR MANAGING MACHINE CONFIGURATION INFORMATION

Inventors:

Dan B. Bar Dov Oded Ben Hayim Roy Lauer Amotz Maimon Michael Palatnik

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system, method and medium for configuring an item such as a machine, where the item can have a multitude of optional components. With reference to embodiments envisioning configuring a machine, the present invention allows a user to choose from various "options" (representative of machine components) so that the necessary aspects (e.g., software) for operating the desired machine can be implemented. In the course of choosing options, the present invention can guide the user to determine which additional options (and thus which other corresponding machine components) may, e.g., also be required to properly configure the machine in view of those options specifically chosen by the user. It is envisioned that properties of these options are determined by a user prior to choosing the options for configuring the machine.

II. RELATED ART

Software is increasingly found in various types of electrical and electromechanical devices. For example, over the past few years, devices such as

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of: |) |
|---|---------------------------|
| BAR DOV, et al. |) |
| Serial No.: To Be Assigned |) Group Art Unit: Unknown |
| Filed: Concurrently Herewith |) Examiner: Unknown) |
| For: SYSTEM, METHOD AND MEDIUM FOR MANAGING MACHINE CONFIGURATION INFORMATION |))) |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of the listed reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This IDS should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made. Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied as references and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be prior art and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

HALE AND DORR LLP

Date: 3/30/98

By:

Scott M. Alter

Registration No. 32,879

1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20004 (202) 942-8428/Telephone (202) 942-8484/Facsimile

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UNITED STATES \ ARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR 2139/PDC/JB \mathbf{B} 09/049,910 03/30/98 DOV EXAMINER LM02/0118 OMAR, O JOSEPH BACH APPLIED MATERIALS ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER PO BOX 450A 2787 SANTA CLARA CA 95052 DATE MAILED: 01/18/00

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

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

1. File Copy

PTO-90C (Rev. 2/95)

U.S. G.P.O. 1999 460-593

| | Application No. 09/049,910 | Applicant(s) | Bar Do | ov · |
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| Office Action Summary | Examiner Omar Oma | r | Group Art Unit 2787 | |
| 🛚 Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Mar 30, 1998</u> | | | | |
| This action is FINAL. | | | | Ì |
| ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance excep in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quay#8 | | • | ion as to the m | erits is closed |
| A shortened statutory period for response to this action is selonger, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Exte 37 CFR 1.136(a). | to respond within the | period for | response will ca | use the |
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| received in this national stage application from *Certified copies not received: | | | | |
| Certified copies not received: Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic p | | | | |
| Attachment(s) ☑ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 ☑ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Par ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413 ☑ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PT ☐ Notice of informal Patent Application, PTO-152 | | | | |
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| J. S. Patent and Trademark Office PTO-326 (Rev. 9-95) Office | Action Summary | | Part | of Paper No 5 |

: 09/049,910

Art Unit: 2787

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-26 are pending. The rejection cited as stated below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch et al.
 U.S.Patent No. 6,002,854 in view of Duff et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,644,487.

As per claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 18, and 22, Lynch et al. teaches a computer-implemented method for configuring an item, wherein item comprises two or more optional components, comprising (see col.8 lines 17-41) the steps of: (1) creating two or more options, wherein two or more options correspond to two or more optional components (see col.7 lines 3-8 and col.8 lines 42-48); (3) creating, from two or more options, a hierarchical option tree (see col.9 line 61 through col.10 line 3, and col.10 lines 40-51); (4) selecting one or more options from option tree (see col.10 lines 22-38 and col.12 lines 11-27); and (5) implementing, responsive to step (4), at least one attribute corresponding to one or more selected options (see col. 10 lines 39-50); associating

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Page 2

Art Unit: 2787

Page 3

an option constraint with a first option of two or more options, wherein option constraint implements a relation between first option and a second option (see col.27 lines 30-41).

Lynch et al. does not teach associating attributes with each of two or more options, wherein attributes relate to characteristics of two or more components.

However, Duff et al. teaches the use of such limitation (see col.2 line 58 through col.3 line 4 and col.4 lines 27-46).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ Duff's teachings within the system of Lynch, because as Duff stated in his Fig.4, if the "fill operation" 38 is currently active, the "heat operation" step 39 will become active, and the "fill operation" step 38 will become inactive. When the transition condition 50 associated with the transition 42 below step "fill operation" 38 evaluate to a true result. In this way, the chart evolves from step to step.

As per claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 14-16 and 23-26, Lynch et al. teaches the computer-implemented method, wherein step (2) comprises the step of associating a designated option of two or more options with an option class, wherein option class contains inheritable attributes, and wherein at least some attributes of designated option are thereby inherited from option class (see col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 26 and col.15 lines 37-65). The computer-implemented method, wherein step (2) comprises the step of associating a designated option of two or more options with an option class (see col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 26), wherein said option class contains

Page 4

Art Unit: 2787

inheritable constraints, and wherein at least some constraints of said designated option are thereby inherited from said option class (see col.11 line 29 through col.12 line 9), Col. 16 line 66 - Col. 17 line 5).

As per claims 5, 10, 11, 17, 20 and 26, Lynch et al. teaches the computer-implemented method, wherein the relation between first option and second option is chosen from one of the following group: a) first option deselects second option; b) first option requires second option; C) first option forces second option (see col.24 lines 14-29). The computer-implemented method, wherein the properties of all options chosen using configuration selector are stored together in a database, for use in operating the machine (see col.9 line 55 through col.10 line 31).

As per claims 12, 13, 19, and 21 Lynch et al. teaches a system for configuring an item, wherein item comprises two or more optional components, comprising: two or more options, wherein two or more options corresponding to two or more optional components (see col.8 lines 17-41); wherein each of two or more options contains attributes relating to two or more optional components (see col.10 lines 4-51 and col.15 lines 37-65); an option tree, wherein two or more options are associated within a hierarchy (see col.10 lines 22-38); a configuration selector, for allowing the selection of one or more options from option tree (see col.3 lines 20-32); and a configuration generator, responsive to configuration selector, for implementing at least one attribute corresponding to one or more selected options (see col.3 lines 7-19). The system, further comprising an editor for creating attributes and for associating attributes with two or more options (see col.23 line 63 through col.24 line 54).

Art Unit: 2787

Page 5

Conclusion

- 4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- a) Duff et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,644,487. Oct.19, 1993. Monitoring and control system and method.
- b) Hinsberg, III et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,826,065. Jan.13, 1997. Software irchitecture for stochastic simulation of non-homogeneous systems.
- c) Landis et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,588,148. Sep. 6, 1994. Method for managing data transfer between computing devices.
 - d) Gaddis U.S.Patent No. 5,956,337. Nov.22, 1995. ATM switch interface.
 - e) Gorin et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,020,059. Mar.31, 1989. Reconfigurable signal processor.
- f) Curtis et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,774,689. Sep.22, 1995. Network configuration management system for digital communication networks.
- g) Branson U.S.Patent No. 5,877,819. Apr. 21, 1998. Managing information in an endoscopy system.
- h) Lynch et al. U.S.Patent NO. 6,002,854. Mar. 10, 1997. Method and apparatus for configuring systems.
- 5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar A. Omar whose telephone number is (703) 305-3869. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

Page 6

Art Unit: 2787

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Palys, can be reached at (703) 305-9685. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 306-5404.

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Examiner

Omar A. Omar

Art Unit 2787

Jan. 13, 2000

JOSEPH E. PALYS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700

| | | | | Application No. 09/049,910 | | plicant(s) Bar I | Dov | |
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| - | C | 5,826,065 | Oct.20,98 | | erg, III et e | al. | 395 | 500 |
| - | | 5,588,148 | Dec.24,96 | La | ndis et al. | <u> </u> | 395 | 601 |
| | E | 5,956,337 | Sep.21,99 | | Gaddis | | 370 | 395 |
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Notice of References Cited

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Part of Paper No. ____5

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PATENT Attorney Docket No. 2139/PDC/LE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

BAR DOV et al.

Serial No.: 09/049,910

Filed: 30 March 1998

SYSTEM, METHOD AND MEDIUM FOR MANAGING MACHINE

Group Art Unit: 2787 Examiner: Omar, 6

CONFIGURATION INFORMATION

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed January 18, 2000, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. No extension of time or other fees are believed to be due except as may be indicated in the attached papers; however, any additional fee necessary for consideration of this paper is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 08-0219.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

(Amended) A computer-implemented method for configuring an item, wherein said item comprises two or more optional components, comprising the steps of:

- (1) creating two or more options, wherein said two or more options correspond to said two or more optional components;
- (2) associating attributes with each of said two or more options, wherein said attributes relate to characteristics of said two or more components;
 - (3) creating, from said two or more options, a hierarchical option tree;
 - (4) selecting one or more options from said option tree; [and]
- (5) implementing, responsive to said step (4), at least one attribute corresponding to said one or more selected options, and placing said at least one attribute into an instance creation file; and

(6) accessing and utilizing said instance creation file during the operation of said item.

- 6. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for configuring [a machine] an item, wherein said item comprises two or more optional machine components, comprising the steps of:
- (1) creating two or more options, wherein said two or more options correspond to said two or more optional machine components;
- (2) associating attributes with each of said two or more options, wherein said attributes relate to characteristics of said two or more machine components;
 - (3) creating, from said two or more options, a hierarchical option tree; [and]

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(4) associating an option constraint with a first option of said two or more options, wherein said option constraint implements a relation between said first option and a second option,

wherein said relation is based upon a relationship between those of said optional machine components corresponding to said first option and said second option;

(5) selecting one or more options from said option tree;

(6) implementing, responsive to said step (5), at least one attribute corresponding to said one or more selected options, and placing said at least one attribute into an instance creation file; and

(7) accessing and utilizing said instance creation file during the operation of said item.

12. (Amended) A system for configuring an item, wherein said item comprises two or more optional components, comprising:

two or more options, wherein said two or more options corresponding to said two or more optional components;

wherein each of said two or more options contains attributes relating to said two or more optional components;

an option tree, wherein said two or more options are associated within a hierarchy;

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a configuration selector, for allowing the selection of one or more options from said option tree; and

a configuration generator, responsive to said configuration selector, for implementing at least one attribute corresponding to said one or more selected options, and placing said at least one attribute into an instance creation file,

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wherein said item accesses and utilizes said instance creation file during the operation of said item.

18. (Amended) A system for configuring a machine, wherein said machine comprises two or more optional components, comprising:
two or more options, wherein said two or more options corresponding to said two or more optional machine components;

wherein each of said two or more options contains attributes for affecting said two or more optional machine components;

an option tree, wherein said two or more options are associated within a hierarchy; and an option constraint, associated with a first option of said two or more options, wherein said option constraint implements a relation between said first option and a second option,

wherein said relation is based upon a relationship between those of said optional machine components corresponding to said first option and said second option;

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an option selector, wherein said option selector selects one or more options from said option tree; and

an implementor, wherein said implementor implements at least one attribute

corresponding to said one or more selected options, and wherein said implementor places said at

least one attribute into an instance creation file.

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wherein said machine accesses and utilizes said instance creation file during the operation of said machine.

- 22. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for configuring an item, wherein said item comprises two or more optional components, by performing the steps of:
- (1) creating two or more options, wherein said two or more options correspond to said two or more optional components;
- (2) associating attributes with each of said two or more options, wherein said attributes relate to characteristics of said two or more components;
 - (3) creating, from said two or more options, a hierarchical option tree;
 - (4) selecting one or more options from said option tree; [and]
- (5) implementing, responsive to said step (4), at least one attribute corresponding to said one or more selected options, and placing said at least one attribute into an instance creation file; and
 - (6) accessing and utilizing said instance creation file during the operation of said item.

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REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of January 18, 2000. Claims 1-26 remain pending in the application.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lynch et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,854) in view of *Duff et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,644,487). This rejection is respectfully traversed on the ground that the independent claims of the application, as amended, are neither taught nor suggested by the combination of these references.

Specifically, independent claims1, as amended, recites the feature of "placing said at least one attribute into an instance creation file; and [] accessing and utilizing said instance creation file during the operation of said item." While Lynch, e.g., "provides the ability to configure a system using the functional, structural hierarchical model" (see col. 7, lines 16-17), it does not disclose creating and utilizing such a file during operation as recited in the claim. Duff et al. also does not disclose this feature.

Independent claims 6, 12, 18 and 22 each recite the same or similar feature to that of claim 1, and the remaining pending claims depend from the aforementioned independent claims.

Consequently, reconsideration of claims 1-26 is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all pending objections and rejections, and that he withdraw them. Allowance of claims 1-26 and passage of this application to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully asserts that this application is now in condition for allowance.



The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if such a call would facilitate the prosecution of this application in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott M. Alter

Registration No. 32,879

Date: 7/14/00 Hale and Dorr LLP 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004 (202) 942-8428/Telephone (202) 942-8484/Facsimile

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

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| Notice of Allowability | Exeminer Omar Omar | Group Art Unit 2787 | |
| All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE ME herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance a in due course. | RITS IS (OR REMAINS) CL nd Issue Fee Due or other a | OSED in this application ppropriate communication | i. If not included on will be mailed |
| This communication is responsive to <u>amendment fi</u> | led on July 14, 2000 | | |
| X The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26 | | | |
| The drawings filed on are | acceptable. | | 1 |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign price | | a)-(d). | |
| ☐ All ☐Some* ☐None of the CERTIFIED copi | | | |
| received. | | | |
| received in Application No. (Series Code/Series | ai Number) | | |
| received in this national stage application from | n the International Bureau (P | PCT Rule 17.2(a)). | |
| *Certifled copies not received: | | | |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic p | riority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 | 9(e). | { |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONS THREE MONTHSROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Offi ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time | ce action. Failure to timely o | comply will result in | |
| Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or Note the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE | OTICE OF INFORMAL APPL OATH OR DECLARATION I | LICATION, PTO-152, wh S REQUIRED. | ich discloses that |
| Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS | • | | |
| because the originally filed drawings were declar | ed by applicant to be inform | al. | ļ |
| including changes required by the Notice of Draft Paper No5. | | | j |
| including changes required by the proposed draw approved by the examiner. | ving correction filed on | ,\ | vhich has been |
| including changes required by the attached Exam | niner's Amendment/Commer | nt. | |
| Identifying indicia such as the application numb the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a Draftsperson. | er (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) sho separate paper with a tran | ould be written on the r nsmittal lettter address | everse side of ed to the Official |
| ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding R | EQUIREMENT FOR THE D | EPOSIT OF BIOLOGICA | L MATERIAL. |
| Any response to this letter should include, in the upper CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a land DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also | Notice of Allowance and Issu | le Fee Due, the 1550E t | SATCH NOMBER |
| Attachment(s) | | \) home | , de 1 |
| ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 | | [] [-1,-1 | |
| ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, | | V THOMAS O. | LEE |
| ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review | , MIO-948 | SUPERVISORY PARTS | IT EXAMINER |
| ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 | | @HOW# 27 | eu. |
| ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413 | | | |
| Examiner's Amendment/Comment Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for | or Deposit of Biological Mate | rial | |
| ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |) | | |
| | | | |
| J. S. Patent and Trademark Office PTO-37 (Rev. 9-95) | otice of Allowability | Part | of Paper No8 |

Application No.

Applicant(s)