

EXHIBIT A-7

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Summary of the Invention in accordance with the proposed amended claims enclosed herewith. No new matter is believed to have been added thereby.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 24, 25, 35, 37, 55, 57, 75, and 77 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Please add new claims 98, 99 and 100.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 32, 33, 34, 54, 74, and 94 as follows.

1. [currently amended] A method of navigating in a multidimensional space having three or more dimensions containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text based data encoded using a markup language, said method including the steps of:

displaying in a first display region a selected one of said predefined portion of an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, each predefined portion having at least one attribute being a coordinate of an axis of said multidimensional space, wherein logical connections among said predefined portions, and any logical connections between said predefined portions and predefined portions of any further electronic publication data in said multidimensional space, correspond to one or more axes of said multidimensional space portions in a first display region; and

displaying a point on a primary axis of said multidimensional space dependent upon an attribute of said for said displayed predefined portion;

displaying a second point on a second, viewing axis orthogonal to said first axis, said second point being derived from said first point dependent upon a logical connection between said displayed predefined portion and a predefined portion associated with said second point; and

displaying information regarding said second point of said second axis in a second display region, said first and second points being displayed in two display regions.

2. [Cancelled]

~~3. [Cancelled]~~

4. [currently amended] The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, allowing the display of any number of points, and any number of axes derived from said first point.

5. [original] The method according to claim 4, wherein points are displayed in two display regions.

6. [original] The method according to claim 4, for navigating among points, axes or both, and for returning to said first point when required.

7. [original] The method according to claim 1, wherein said first point is an anchor.

8. [currently amended] The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said second axis represents time-based versions of said selected one of said predefined portions.

9. [original] The method according to claim 1, wherein said predefined portion is a provision of legislation.

10. [currently amended] The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1; wherein said second axis represents search criteria and results corresponding to said selected one of said predefined portions.

11. [currently amended] A method of navigating in a multidimensional space having three or more dimensions, said multidimensional space containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said method including the steps of:

providing a view comprising at least two anchor sets;

displaying at least one base point and at least a first axis depending from said base point;

displaying at least one of a further point and an axis derived from said base point;

navigating a multidimensional space formed by said points and axes;

returning to said base point when required; and

adjusting the view so a current view point becomes a new base point.

12. [currently amended] An apparatus for navigating in a multidimensional space ~~having three or more dimensions containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language~~, said apparatus including:

a first display region;

means for displaying in said first display region a selected one of said predefined portion of an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, each predefined portion having at least one attribute being a coordinate of an axis of said multidimensional space, wherein logical connections among said predefined portions, and any logical connections between said predefined portions and predefined portions of any further electronic publication data in said multidimensional space, correspond to one or more axes of said multidimensional space ~~portions in said first display region; and~~

means for displaying a point on a selected axis of said multidimensional space dependent upon an attribute of said ~~for said~~ displayed predefined portion;

means for displaying a second point on a second, viewing axis orthogonal to said selected axis, said second point being derived from said first axis at said first point

dependent upon a logical connection between said displayed predefined portion and a predefined portion associated with said second point;

a second display region; and

means for displaying information regarding said second point of said second axis in said second display region, said first and second points being displayed in two display regions.

13. [Cancelled]

14. [Cancelled]

15. [currently amended] The apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 12, allowing the display of any number of points, and any number of axes derived from said first point.

16. [original] The apparatus according to claim 15, further including:

a second display region;

means for displaying said points in said first and second display regions.

17. [original] The apparatus according to claim 15, further including:

means for navigating among points, axes or both, and returning to said first point when required.

18. [original] The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first point is an anchor.

19. [currently amended] The apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 12, wherein said second axis represents time-based versions of said selected one of said predefined portions.

20. [original] The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said predefined portion is a provision of legislation.

21. [currently amended] The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 12, wherein said second axis represents search criteria and results corresponding to said selected one of said predefined portions.

22. [currently amended] An apparatus for navigating in a multidimensional space having three or more dimensions, said multidimensional space containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said apparatus including:

means for providing a view comprising at least two anchor sets;

means for displaying at least one base point and at least a first axis depending from said base point;

means for displaying at least one of a further point and an axis derived from said base point;

means for navigating a multidimensional space formed by said points and axes;

means for returning to said base point when required; and

means for adjusting the view so a current view point becomes a new base point.

23. [currently amended] A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for navigating in a multidimensional space having three or more dimensions ~~containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text based data encoded using a markup language~~, said computer program product including:

computer program code means for displaying in a first display region a selected one of said predefined portion of an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, each predefined portion having at least one attribute being a coordinate of an axis of said multidimensional space, wherein logical connections among said predefined portions, and any logical connections between said predefined portions and predefined portions of any further electronic publication data in said multidimensional space, correspond to one or more axes of said multidimensional space portions in a first display region; and

computer program code means for displaying a point on a primary axis of said multidimensional space dependent upon an attribute of said ~~for said~~ displayed predefined portion;

computer program code means for displaying a second point on a second, viewing axis orthogonal to said first axis, said second point being derived from said first point dependent upon a logical connection between said displayed predefined portion and a predefined portion associated with said second point; and

computer program code means for displaying information regarding said second point of said second axis in a second display region, said first and second points being displayed in two display regions.

24. [Cancelled]

25. [Cancelled]

26. [currently amended] The computer program product according to claim ~~24~~ 23, allowing the display of any number of points, and any number of axes derived from said first point.

27. [original] The computer program product according to claim 26, further including:

computer program code means for displaying a second display region;

computer program code means for displaying said points in said first and second display regions.

28. [original] The computer program product according to claim 26, further including:

computer program code means for navigating among points, axes or both, and for returning to said first point when required.

29. [original] The computer program product according to claim 23, wherein said first point is an anchor.

30. [currently amended] The computer program product according to claim ~~30~~ 23, wherein said second axis represents time-based versions of said selected one of said predefined portions.

31. [original] The computer program product according to claim 23, wherein said predefined portion is a provision of legislation.

32. [currently amended] The computer program product as claimed in claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein said second axis represents search criteria and results corresponding to said selected one of said predefined portions.

33. [currently amended] A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for navigating in a multidimensional space having three or more dimensions, said multidimensional space

containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said computer program product including:

computer program code means for providing a view comprising at least two anchor sets;

computer program code means for displaying at least one base point and at least a first axis depending from said base point;

computer program code means for displaying other points, axes or both derived from said base point;

computer program code means for navigating a multidimensional space formed by said points and axes;

computer program code means for returning to said base point when required; and

computer program code means for adjusting the view so a current view point becomes a new base point.

34. [currently amended] A method of publishing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said method including the steps of:

storing predefined portions in terminal nodes; and

providing one or more higher level nodes for organising said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in said electronic publication, wherein each higher level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said higher level node, and an identifier;

wherein one of said higher level nodes has a null parent identity, and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher level node relative to a sibling node.

35. [Cancelled]
36. [original] The method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of:
associating each of said predefined portions with a corresponding scope defining
the time during which each said predefined portion is valid.
-
37. [Cancelled]
38. [original] The method according to claim 34, including the further step of:
storing at least one modified portion in said terminal nodes.
39. [original] The method according to claim 34, wherein said predefined portions
correspond to a relational database represented in flat file records.
40. [original] The method according to claim 34, including the further steps of:
dividing XML data into predefined portions; and
storing said predefined portions as flat files.
41. [original] The method according to claim 40, wherein said terminal node
includes a label of said publication.
42. [original] The method according to claim 41, wherein said label is data
associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.
43. [original] The method according to claim 34, wherein each said terminal node
includes the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said terminal node,
and an identifier.
44. [original] The method according to claim 43, wherein said position indicator
indicates a position of said terminal node relative to a sibling node.
45. [original] The method according to claim 36, wherein each said terminal node is
identified by the combination of said terminal node's identifier and scope.

46. [original] The method according to claim 36, wherein the scope associated with a higher level node is dependent upon one or more scopes of one or more corresponding descendant nodes.

47. [original] The method according to claim 43, wherein said terminal node includes one of said predefined portions and said at least one modified portions.

48. [original] The method according to claim 43, wherein said terminal node includes a label of said publication.

49. [original] The method according to claim 48, wherein said label is data associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.

50. [original] The method according to claim 34, wherein said predefined portion includes text associated with a commentary.

51. [original] The method according to claim 36, wherein said scope includes a start date and an end date.

52. [original] The method according to claim 51, wherein said scope further includes an update date.

53. [original] The method according to claim 50, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date, an end date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date and earlier than said end date.

54. [currently amended] An apparatus for publishing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said apparatus including:

means for storing predefined portions in terminal nodes; and

means for providing one or more higher level nodes for organising said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in said electronic publication, wherein each higher level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said higher level node, and an identifier;

wherein one of said higher level nodes has a null parent node identity, and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher level node relative to a sibling node.

55. [Cancelled]

56. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, further including:
means for associating each of said predefined portions with a corresponding scope defining the time during which each said predefined portion is valid.

57. [Cancelled]

58. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, further including:
means for storing at least one modified portion in said terminal nodes.

59. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said predefined portions correspond to a relational database represented in flat file records.

60. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, further including:
means for dividing XML data into predefined portions; and
means for storing said predefined portions as flat files.

61. [original] The apparatus according to claim 60, wherein said terminal node includes a label of said publication.

62. [original] The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said label is data associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.

63. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein each said terminal node includes the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said terminal node, and an identifier.

64. [original] The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said position indicator indicates a position of said terminal node relative to a sibling node.

65. [original] The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein each said terminal node is identified by the combination of said terminal node's identifier and scope.

66. [original] The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the scope associated with a higher level node is dependent upon one or more scopes of one or more corresponding descendant nodes.

67. [original] The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said terminal node includes one of said predefined portions and said at least one modified portions.

68. [original] The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said terminal includes a label of said publication.

69. [original] The apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said label is data associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.

70. [original] The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said predefined portion includes text associated with a commentary.

71. [original] The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said scope includes a start date and an end date.

72. [original] The apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said scope further includes an update date.

73. [original] The apparatus according to claim 70, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date, an end date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date and earlier than said end date.

74. [currently amended] A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for publishing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said computer program product including:

computer program code means for storing predefined portions in terminal nodes;

and

computer program code means for providing one or more higher level nodes for organising said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in said electronic publication, wherein each higher level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said higher level node, and an identifier;

wherein one of said higher level nodes has a null parent identity, and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher level node relative to a sibling node.

75. [Cancelled]

76. [original] The computer program product according to claim 74, further including:

computer program code means for associating each of said predefined portions with a corresponding scope defining the time during which each said predefined portion is valid.

77. [Cancelled]

78. [original] The computer program product according to claim 74, further including:

computer program code means for storing at least one modified portion in said terminal nodes.

79. [original] The computer program product according to claim 74, wherein said predefined portions correspond to a relational database represented in flat file records.

80. [original] The computer program product according to claim 74, further including:

computer program code means for dividing XML data into predefined portions;
and

computer program code means for storing said predefined portions as flat files.

81. [original] The computer program product as claimed in claim 80, wherein said terminal node includes a label of said publication.

82. [original] The computer program product according to claim 81, wherein said label is data associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.

83. [original] The computer program product as claimed in claim 74, wherein each said terminal node includes the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said terminal level node, and an identifier.

84. [original] The computer program product according to claim 81, wherein said position indicator indicates a position of said terminal node relative to a sibling node.

85. [original] The computer program product according to claim 76, wherein each said terminal node is identified by the combination of said terminal node's identifier and scope.

86. [original] The computer program product according to claim 76, wherein the scope associated with a higher level node is dependent upon one or more scopes of one or more corresponding descendant nodes.

87. [original] The computer program product according to claim 81, wherein said terminal node includes one of said predefined portions and said at least one modified portions.

88. [original] The computer program product according to claim 81, wherein said terminal node includes a label of said publication.

89. [original] The computer program product according to claim 88, wherein said label is data associated with a higher level node of said terminal node.

90. [original] The computer program product according to claim 74, wherein said predefined portions includes text associated with a commentary.

91. [original] The computer program product according to claim 76, wherein said scope includes a start date and an end date.

92. [original] The computer program product according to claim 91, wherein said scope further includes an update date.

93. [original] The computer program product according to claim 90, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date, an end date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date and earlier than said end date.

94. [currently amended] A method of publishing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup language, said method including the steps of:

storing predefined portions in terminal nodes; and

providing one or more higher level nodes for organising said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in said electronic publication, wherein each higher level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for said higher level node, and an identifier, said predefined portion includes text associated with a commentary, and a scope including a start date, an end date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date and earlier than said end date;

further wherein one of said higher level nodes has a null parent identity, and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher level node relative to a sibling node.

95. [original] The method according to claim 50, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date.

96. [original] The apparatus according to claim 70, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date.

97. [original] The computer program product according to claim 90, wherein said predefined portion has a scope including a start date and an update date, said update date being later than said start date.

98. [New] The method according to claim 1, wherein said second axis is selected from the group of viewing axes consisting of: sequential, hierarchical, temporal, source, case law, annotations, subject, part number, category, location, and owner axes.

99. [New] The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said second axis is selected from the group of viewing axes consisting of: sequential, hierarchical, temporal, source, case law, annotations, subject, part number, category, location, and owner axes.

100. [New] The computer program product according to claim 23, wherein said second axis is selected from the group of viewing axes consisting of: sequential, hierarchical, temporal, source, case law, annotations, subject, part number, category, location, and owner axes.

REMARKS

The Applicants have reviewed the Office Action mailed July 8, 2004. Claims 1, 4 to 12, 15 to 23, 26 to 34, 36, 38 to 54, 56, 58 to 74, 76, and 78 to 100 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 23, 33, 34, 54, 74, and 94 being independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 24, 25, 35, 37, 55, 57, 75, and 77 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's remarks and the applied references and respectfully submit that the claims as amended are now patentably distinguishable over the applied references for at least the following reasons.

5. Claims 1-7, 12-18, and 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,963,208 (Dolan et al.).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment is found in Claims 2 and 3, the features of which are now recited in the amended form of Claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 is directed to providing and displaying a first point and a second point on respective first and second axes to enable navigation of a multidimensional space containing an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data. The Applicants submit that the term "*multidimensional space*" would be readily understood by a person skilled in the art to describe a space defined by a plurality of intersecting axes. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the multidimensional space has three or more dimensions, as supported at page 10, lines 5-6 of International Publication No. WO 98/34179 (PCT/AU98/00050), which is incorporated into this application by cross-reference.

The multidimensional space of claim 1 is defined by axes corresponding to logical connections among predefined portions of an electronic publication, and any logical connections that may exist between the predefined portions of the electronic publication and predefined portions of any further electronic publication data in the multidimensional space, as supported by page 1 at lines 11 to 22, and page 8, line 15 to page 9, line 2. Further support is found at page 9, lines 9-26 of International Publication No. WO

98/34179 (PCT/AU98/00050), which is incorporated into this application by cross-reference. Page 12 of the description of this application describes a multidimensional space containing an electronic publication that may be navigated in respect of a number of viewing axes. The axes are orthogonal to one another, as described in the specification at page 12, lines 16-17. The electronic publication is not restricted to being navigated in a sequential manner, as is the case with conventional paper-based publications. Claim 1 provides multi-dimensional navigation through a fixed data space defined by the predefined portions of the electronic publication.

The first and second points and information pertaining thereto are presented in first and second display regions to provide the user with the ability to navigate a document along any number of provided axes, whilst maintaining context for the portion of text currently being viewed. Importantly, the second axis is derived from the first point, ensuring that the information displayed in the second display region relating to the second point on the second axis is linked to the predefined portion currently being viewed in the first display region.

Dolan provides a seamlessly extensible two-dimensional hierarchy allowing access to arbitrary data. *Dolan* provides a portion displayed in a first display region (Figure 1, 104). A first point on a first axis is displayed in a second display region 102 to provide a user with context for the displayed portion. The hierarchical structure presented in the second display region 102 relates to a two-dimensional space. The structure provides a user with context for a currently viewed portion by presenting multiple points along a first axis. Thus, a second point may only be selected from a fixed hierarchy relating to a first axis. *Dolan* does not present and display a second point on a second orthogonal axis and information pertaining thereto to provide the user with sufficient context for the displayed portion to enable the user to navigate a multidimensional space of three or more dimensions.

Applicants submit that *Dolan* does not teach navigation of a multidimensional space defined by axes corresponding to logical connections among predefined portions of an electronic document. Further, *Dolan* fails to teach or suggest the provision of first and second display regions and the further display of first and second points, the second point

being derived from the first point, to provide a user with context for a displayed predefined portion of the electronic document. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the features of Claim 1 are neither taught nor suggested by *Dolan* and thus Claim 1 and pending dependent claims 4 to 12 are novel in light of *Dolan*.

Independent claims 12 and 23 have been amended in a similar manner to the amendments described above in relation to claim 1, by incorporating the features of Claims 13 and 14, and Claims 24 and 25, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 12 and 23 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 1.

6. Claims 34-35, 37-38, 43-44, 47, 54-55, 57-58, 63-64, 67, 74-75, 77-78, 83-84, and 87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513 (Fay).

Independent Claim 34 has been amended. Support for the amendment is found in Claims 35 and 37, the features of which are now recited in the amended form of Claim 34. Claims 35 and 37 have been cancelled. Claim 34 provides a method of publishing an electronic publication through the provision of an hierarchical structure. The electronic publication is formed from predefined portions of text-based data, which are stored in terminal nodes of the hierarchical structure. Thus, the data content of the electronic publication is contained in the terminal nodes.

Higher level nodes are provided to organise the terminal nodes in accordance with the hierarchical structure. Each higher level node contains the identity of a parent node, a position indicator for the node and an identifier. One of the higher level nodes is the apex of the hierarchical structure and contains a null parent node identity. Further, the position indicator in each higher level node indicates a position of a given node relative to a sibling node. The attributes of the higher level node distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art, as it is the resulting structure that enables the data stored in the terminal nodes to be organised in a manner to allow easy navigation through the electronic document.