EXHIBIT A-8

Fay is directed towards the control of different versions of a document, particularly with respect to locking out portions of data and multi-user editing. Fay stresses data check out, locking and universal "shadow" metadata, which is in stark contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a structure to enable user friendly navigation through a complex multidimensional data space.

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Fay provides a hierarchical structure in which a document, for example, is divided into different nodes of the hierarchical structure. Each node may contain content. Various parts of the hierarchical structure are then "locked out" to enable a user to edit the content of a node, whilst preventing multiple access from other users. Other users are, however, able to view such a "locked out" node. In contrast, the hierarchical structure of Claim 34 of the present application is directed to navigation (viewing) of a multidimensional space of a structured data space.

Fay presents an hierarchical structure in which each node, or subtree, contains information, such as the content of a chapter or sections within a chapter. Conversely, Claim 34 defines a structure in which only the terminal nodes contain content. The higher level nodes do not contain content themselves, rather the higher level nodes contain information relating to a parent node, a position indicator indicating a position relative to a sibling node, and an identifier. Further, the position indicator in each higher level node indicates a position of the respective higher level node relative to a sibling node in the hierarchical structure of the electronic publication. The information in the higher level nodes is utilised to organise the terminal nodes in accordance with the structure of the electronic publication under consideration.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure of Fay. Applicants submit that the claims that depend from Claim 34 are novel over Fay for at least the reasons stated above in respect of Claim 34.

Further, in respect of the objection to dependent claim 38, Fay is concerned with the process of modifying a given dataset. A user "locks out" a portion of a document, edits the portion and then stores the "modified portion" in place of the original portion in the same node of the hierarchical structure. Claim 38 uses the expression "storing a modified portion" to relate to the capability of storing multiple versions of nominal data within an overall structure of a published electronic document. Thus, two versions of a

provision of legislation might be stored, for example, in two different terminal nodes as distinct predefined portions. Publishing the electronic document in the manner of the invention allows the two different versions to be stored in the hierarchical structure defined, by using higher level nodes to determine appropriate locations within the structure for those terminal nodes containing the respective versions.

Independent claims 54 and 74 have been amended in a manner similar to that proposed above in respect of Claim 34, by incorporating the features of Claims 55 and 57, and Claims 75 and 77, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 74 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over Fay for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 34.

Claims 9, 20, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,208 (Dolan et al.).

Claim 9 depends from independent claim 1, Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 12, and Claim 31 depends from independent Claim 23.

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.

Claim 9 restricts the predefined portion to a provision of legislation.

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, or even alluded to, by *Dolan* and thus Claim 1 and pending dependent claims 4 to 12, including Claim 9, are novel and non-obvious 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 are non-obvious in light of *Dolan* and for at least that reason, dependent Claims 20 and 31 are also non-obvious in light of *Dolan*.

10. Claims 8, 10-11, 19, 21-22, 30, and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,208 (Dolan et al.) as applied to claim 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962 (Weinberg et al.).

Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 are novel and nonobvious in light of *Dolan* and further in view of *Weinberg*.

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. 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 <u>derived</u> 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.

Claim 8 restricts the second axis to time-based versions of the selected one of the predefined portions. Thus, the second axis is a temporal axis in the multidimensional space along which a user can navigate various versions of the selected predefined portion, as those versions existed through time.

Claim 10 restricts the second axis to representing search criteria and results corresponding to the selected predefined portion displayed in the first display region.

Thus, a user is provided with search results criteria and results to provide further context for the displayed predefined portion.

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.

Weinberg provides a graphical view of dynamically changing web site links. This is in contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a non-graphical view of a fixed pre-prepared multidimensional dataset. There does not appear to be any disclosure or suggestion in Weinberg of the presentation of time-based data as in the present application.

Further, Dolan and Weinberg, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the provision of time-based versions of portions, as provided by Claim 8, or search criteria and results, as provided by Claim 10, to provide a user with further context for a displayed predefined portion. Defining the type of the second axis provides further context for both the second point that is displayed, and the information relating to the second point that is displayed in the second display region.

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 for the above reasons, the features of Claim 1 are neither taught nor suggested, or even alluded to, by *Dolan* and *Weinberg*, and thus independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 are considered novel and non-obvious in light of *Dolan* and *Weinberg*. Thus, dependent Claims 8, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 32, 33 are considered non-obvious by virtue of dependence on respective independent Claims 1, 12 and 23.

11. Claims 36, 45, 50-53, 56, 65, 70-73, 76, 85, and 90-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513 (Fay) as applied to claim 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,576 (McIntosh).

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.

Fay is directed towards the control of different versions of a document, particularly with respect to locking out portions of data and multi-user editing. Fay stresses data check out, locking and universal "shadow" metadata, which is in stark contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a structure to enable user friendly navigation through a complex multidimensional data space.

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Fay provides a hierarchical structure in which a document, for example, is divided into different nodes of the hierarchical structure. Each node may contain content. Various parts of the hierarchical structure are then "locked out" to enable a user to edit the content of a node, whilst preventing multiple access from other users. Other users are, however, able to view such a "locked out" node. In contrast, the hierarchical structure of Claim 34 of the present application is directed to navigation (viewing) of a multidimensional space of a structured data space.

Fay presents an hierarchical structure in which each node, or subtree, contains information, such as the content of a chapter or sections within a chapter. Conversely, Claim 34 defines a structure in which only the terminal nodes contain content. The higher level nodes do not contain content themselves, rather the higher level nodes contain information relating to a parent node, a position indicator indicating a position relative to a sibling node, and an identifier. Further, the position indicator in each higher level node indicates a position of the respective higher level node relative to a sibling node in the hierarchical structure of the electronic publication. The information in the higher level nodes is utilised to organise the terminal nodes in accordance with the structure of the electronic publication under consideration.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure of Fay. Applicants submit that as Claims depend from Claim 34, Applicants submit that these claims are novel over Fay for at least the reasons stated above in respect of Claim 34.

Independent claims 54 and 74 have been amended in a manner similar to that proposed above in respect of Claim 34, by incorporating the features of Claims 55 and 57, and Claims 75 and 77, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 74 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over *Fay* for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 34.

McIntosh discloses time-stamping and the disclosure thereof, alone or in combination, is insufficient to anticipate or suggest the temporal navigation facilities of the claimed invention. The time-stamping provided by McIntosh does not allow for the location of a provision within a given piece of legislation to change from a first version of the provision to a later version of the provision. However, such capability is provided in

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the claimed invention and allows, for example, Chapter 2B, Section 81(i) of a piece of legislation to become, by amendment, Chapter 3, Section 227 whilst retaining its essential identity. Further, the claimed invention provides non-terminal nodes that cannot have an associated scope of their own.

Independent Claim 34 provides a hierarchical structure in which predefined portions are stored in terminal nodes. Different versions of a predefined portion are stored in different terminal nodes, with the higher level nodes and their respective associated attributes organising the terminal nodes into a navigable structure. The combination of Fay and McIntosh fails to teach or suggest the claimed arrangement of storing predefined portions in terminal nodes and the related organisational structure associated therewith. Thus, Applicants submit that independent Claims 34, 54 and 74 and the claims that depend therefrom are non-obvious in light of Fay and Weinberg.

12. Claims 39-40, 59-60, and 79-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513 (Fay) as applied to claim 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133484 (Chau et al.).

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.

Fay is directed towards the control of different versions of a document, particularly with respect to locking out portions of data and multi-user editing. Fay stresses data check out, locking and universal "shadow" metadata, which is in stark contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a structure to enable user friendly navigation through a complex multidimensional data space.

Fay provides a hierarchical structure in which a document, for example, is divided into different nodes of the hierarchical structure. Each node may contain content. Various parts of the hierarchical structure are then "locked out" to enable a user to edit the content of a node, whilst preventing multiple access from other users. Other users are, however, able to view such a "locked out" node. In contrast, the hierarchical structure of Claim 34 of the present application is directed to navigation (viewing) of a multidimensional space of a structured data space.

Fay presents an hierarchical structure in which each node, or subtree, contains information, such as the content of a chapter or sections within a chapter. Conversely, Claim 34 defines a structure in which only the terminal nodes contain content. The higher level nodes do not contain content themselves, rather the higher level nodes contain information relating to a parent node, a position indicator indicating a position relative to a sibling node, and an identifier. Further, the position indicator in each higher level node indicates a position of the respective higher level node relative to a sibling node in the hierarchical structure of the electronic publication. The information in the higher level nodes is utilised to organise the terminal nodes in accordance with the structure of the electronic publication under consideration.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure of Fay. Applicants submit that the claims that depend from Claim 34 are novel over Fay for at least the reasons stated above in respect of Claim 34.

Independent claims 54 and 74 have been amended in a manner similar to that proposed above in respect of Claim 34, by incorporating the features of Claims 55 and 57, and Claims 75 and 77, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 74 and the

claims that depend therefrom are allowable over Fay for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 34.

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Chau describes a technique for storing XML data in a relational database and retrieving such stored data. The claimed invention is equally applicable to documents stored in relational databases or other flat files using methods distinct from those provided in Chau. The parent node of the hierarchical MALT structure cannot contain substantive data of its own. This is a distinguishing feature of the claimed invention that is neither taught nor suggested by either Fay or Chau. Further, as described above, only terminal nodes can contain predefined portions of text-based data, and it is the higher level nodes and their respective attributes that organise the terminal nodes that facilitate navigation of the electronic document. Providing an apex node, higher level nodes containing attributes to define a hierarchical structure, but no content, and terminal nodes containing content, as provided in each of independent claims 34, 54 and 74, is neither, taught, suggested or even alluded to by Fay or Chau, either together or in combination. Thus, Applicants submit that each of Claims 34, 54 and 74, and each of the claims that depends therefrom, is non-obvious in light of the combination of Fay and Chau.

13. Claims 41-42, 48-49, 61-62, 68-69, 81-82, and 88-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513 (Fay) as applied to claim 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133484 (Chau et al.) as applied to claims 40 and 43, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,963,208 (Dolan et al.).

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.

Fay is directed towards the control of different versions of a document, particularly with respect to locking out portions of data and multi-user editing. Fay stresses data check out, locking and universal "shadow" metadata, which is in stark contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a structure to enable user friendly navigation through a complex multidimensional data space.

Fay provides a hierarchical structure in which a document, for example, is divided into different nodes of the hierarchical structure. Each node may contain content. Various parts of the hierarchical structure are then "locked out" to enable a user to edit the content of a node, whilst preventing multiple access from other users. Other users are, however, able to view such a "locked out" node. In contrast, the hierarchical structure of Claim 34 of the present application is directed to navigation (viewing) of a multidimensional space of a structured data space.

Fay presents an hierarchical structure in which each node, or subtree, contains information, such as the content of a chapter or sections within a chapter. Conversely, Claim 34 defines a structure in which only the terminal nodes contain content. The higher level nodes do not contain content themselves, rather the higher level nodes contain information relating to a parent node, a position indicator indicating a position relative to a sibling node, and an identifier. Further, the position indicator in each higher level node indicates a position of the respective higher level node relative to a sibling node in the hierarchical structure of the electronic publication. The information in the higher level nodes is utilised to organise the terminal nodes in accordance with the structure of the electronic publication under consideration.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure of Fay. Applicants submits that the claims that depend from Claim 34 are novel over Fay for at least the reasons stated above in respect of Claim 34.

Independent claims 54 and 74 have been amended in a manner similar to that proposed above in respect of Claim 34, by incorporating the features of Claims 55 and 57, and Claims 75 and 77, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 74 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over Fay for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 34.

Chau describes a technique for storing XML data in a relational database and retrieving such stored data. The claimed invention is equally applicable to documents stored in relational databases or other flat files using methods distinct from those provided in Chau. The parent node of the hierarchical MALT structure cannot contain substantive data of its own. This is a distinguishing feature of the claimed invention that is neither taught nor suggested by either Fay or Chau. Further, as described above, only terminal nodes can contain predefined portions of text-based data, and it is the higher level nodes and their respective attributes that organise the terminal nodes that facilitate navigation of the electronic document. Providing an apex node, higher level nodes containing attributes to define a hierarchical structure, but no content, and terminal nodes containing content, as provided in each of independent claims 34, 54 and 74, is neither, taught, suggested or even alluded to by Fay or Chau, either together or in combination. Thus, Applicants submit that each of Claims 34, 54 and 74, and each of the claims that depends therefrom, is non-obvious in light of the combination of Fay and Chau.

Examiner contends that *Dolan* discloses a terminal node including a label of a publication associated with a higher node (Fig. 7 of Dolan). Claim 34 provides that the predefined portions of text-based data of an electronic publication are stored in the terminal nodes. Thus, the label of the publication referred to in Claims 41,42, 48, 49, 61, 62, 68, 69, 81, 82, 88, 89, each of which depends from Claim 34, does not refer to a label of a publication from a higher node, as the higher nodes do not contain any content, said higher level nodes existing to organise the content-carrying terminal nodes. Applicants submit that the structure claimed in Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by Fay,

Chau or Dolan, alone or in combination, and thus Claim 34, and the claims that depend therefrom, are non-obvious in light of these citations.

14. Claims 46, 66, and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513 (Fay) as applied to claim 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,576 (McIntosh) as applied to claim 36, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962 (Weinberg).

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.

Fay is directed towards the control of different versions of a document, particularly with respect to locking out portions of data and multi-user editing. Fay stresses data check out, locking and universal "shadow" metadata, which is in stark contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a structure to enable user friendly navigation through a complex multidimensional data space.

Fay provides a hierarchical structure in which a document, for example, is divided into different nodes of the hierarchical structure. Each node may contain content.

Various parts of the hierarchical structure are then "locked out" to enable a user to edit the content of a node, whilst preventing multiple access from other users. Other users are, however, able to view such a "locked out" node. In contrast, the hierarchical structure of Claim 34 of the present application is directed to navigation (viewing) of a multidimensional space of a structured data space.

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Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure of Fay. Applicants submit that the claims that depend from Claim 34 are novel over Fay for at least the reasons stated above in respect of Claim 34.

Independent claims 54 and 74 have been amended in a manner similar to that proposed above in respect of Claim 34, by incorporating the features of Claims 55 and 57, and Claims 75 and 77, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 74 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over Fay for the reasons presented above in respect of Claim 34.

McIntosh discloses time-stamping and the disclosure thereof, alone or in combination, is insufficient to anticipate or suggest the temporal navigation facilities of the claimed invention. The time-stamping provided by McIntosh does not allow for the location of a provision within a given piece of legislation to change from a first version of the provision to a later version of the provision. However, such capability is provided in the claimed invention and allows, for example, Chapter 2B, Section 81(i) of a piece of legislation to become, by amendment, Chapter 3, Section 227 whilst retaining its

essential identity. Further, the claimed invention provides non-terminal nodes that cannot have an associated scope of their own.

Weinberg provides a graphical view of dynamically changing web site links. This is in contrast to the claimed invention, which provides a non-graphical view of a fixed pre-prepared multidimensional dataset.

Applicants submit that Fay, McIntosh and Weinberg, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the hierarchical structure defined by independent claims 34, 54 and 94. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 34, 54 and 94, and the claims that depend therefrom, are non-obvious in light of the cited documents.

Independent claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 23, 33, 34, 54, 74, and 94 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 23, 33, 34, 54, 74, and 94 are respectfully requested.

The other rejected claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the present invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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