

'898 Patent - Amendment A

**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	)
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Owen et al.	) Art Unit: 2129
	)
Application No.: 11/828,115	) Examiner: Holmes, Michael B.
	)
Filed: 07/25/2007	) Atty. Docket No.:
	) SVIPGP019E
For: DECISION-MAKING SYSTEM,	)
METHOD AND COMPUTER	) Date: 10/20/2008
PROGRAM PRODUCT	)
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**AMENDMENT A**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner:

In response to the Office Action mailed 09/29/2008, please enter the following amendments believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
  - (a) executing an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;
  - (b) retrieving first information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, utilizing a network;
  - (c) receiving second information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface via the network; [[and]]
  - (d) processing the first and second information utilizing the decision logic; and
  - (e) generating a tornado diagram and decision sensitivity output displays.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein (b)-(d) are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the decision logic is carried out in real-time.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising~~ A method, comprising:  
executing an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;  
retrieving first information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, utilizing a network;  
receiving second information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface via the network;  
processing the first and second information utilizing the decision logic; and  
collecting data from the decision logic for generating visual displays of a decision hierarchy and an influence diagram.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the user is prompted to approve the visual displays of the decision hierarchy and the influence diagram.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the data includes (a) policies that form boundary conditions associated with the decision logic, (b) strategic decisions to be made, (c) values that are important to the user, (d) uncertainties that may impact the values, and a relationship between (a)-(d).
9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6, and further comprising creating a strategy table using the data.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8, and further comprising assessing the uncertainties for analysis purposes.

11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in claim 1.~~ A method comprising:  
executing an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;  
retrieving first information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, utilizing a network;  
receiving second information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface via the network; and  
processing the first and second information utilizing the decision logic;  
wherein the decision logic provides potential feasible hybrid themes.
13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein (a)-(d) are carried out by a platform capable of accomplishing (b)-(d) for different purposes by executing the different applications each capable of performing different decision logic.
14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium, comprising:  
computer code for executing an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;  
computer code for retrieving first information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, utilizing a network;

computer code for receiving second information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface via the network; and computer code for processing the first and second information utilizing the decision logic;  
wherein the decision logic provides potential feasible hybrid themes.

15. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
  - logic for executing an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;
  - logic for retrieving first information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, utilizing a network;
  - logic for receiving second information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface via the network; and
  - logic for processing the first and second information utilizing the decision logic;
  - wherein the decision logic provides potential feasible hybrid themes.
  
16. (New) A computer program product embodied on a tangible computer readable medium, comprising, comprising:
  - computer code for causing execution of an application capable of performing decision logic, the application including at least one application that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application;
  - computer code for retrieving first information from a database, per the application;
  - computer code for receiving second information from a user utilizing a user interface, per the application;

computer code for processing the first information and the second information utilizing the decision logic;

computer code for generating at least two of: a tornado diagram, a decision sensitivity display, a decision hierarchy display, an influence diagram, and a potential feasible hybrid theme.

17. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the computer code is carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules differently.
18. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic is performed in real-time.
19. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the first information is retrieved via a network.
20. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein the network is the Internet.
21. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the second information is received via a network.
22. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the network is the Internet.
23. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic is industry-independent.
24. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic is performed by a collaborative decision platform.

25. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the computer code is carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors.
26. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the business sector includes at least one of a real estate-related business sector, medical-related business sector, corporate-related business sector, and financial-related business sector.
27. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the universal modules include at least one of a framing module, an alternatives module, an analysis module, and a connection module.
28. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the universal modules include the framing module.
29. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the universal modules include the alternatives module.
30. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the universal modules include the analysis module.
31. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the universal modules include the connection module.
32. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the universal modules include a framing module, an alternatives module, an analysis module, and a connection module.

33. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic relates to which products or services are suitable for a business.
34. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic relates to customer relationship management.
35. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 34, wherein the customer includes a business.
36. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, and further comprising computer code for creating a strategy table.
37. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, and further comprising computer code for assessing uncertainties for analysis purposes.
38. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating at least three of: the tornado diagram, the decision sensitivity display, the decision hierarchy display, the influence diagram, and the potential feasible hybrid theme.
39. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating at least four of: the tornado diagram, the decision sensitivity display, the decision hierarchy display, the influence diagram, and the potential feasible hybrid theme.
40. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating at least five of: the tornado diagram, the decision sensitivity display, the decision



hierarchy display, the influence diagram, and the potential feasible hybrid theme.

41. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating the tornado diagram.
42. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the tornado diagram identifies sources of risk.
43. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating the decision sensitivity display.
44. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 43, wherein the decision sensitivity display compares a value of a first strategy with alternatives and identifies sources of value.
45. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 43, wherein the decision sensitivity display identifies sources of value.
46. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 43, wherein the decision sensitivity display identifies sources of value for each of a plurality of strategies.
47. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating the decision hierarchy display.

48. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 47, wherein the decision hierarchy display identifies decisions that are within a scope of a decision making process.
49. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating the influence diagram.
50. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 49, wherein the influence diagram includes an information directory.
51. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 49, wherein the influence diagram identifies a plurality of uncertainties.
52. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 49, wherein the influence diagram identifies a plurality of risks.
53. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 49, wherein the influence diagram identifies decisions and a plurality of values that are important to a user.
54. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating the potential feasible hybrid theme.
55. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer code for generating includes computer code for generating a plurality of the potential feasible hybrid themes.
56. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 54, wherein the feasible hybrid theme includes a hybrid strategy.

57. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 56, wherein the hybrid strategy combines a plurality alternative strategies.
58. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 57, wherein at least one of the plurality alternative strategies is pre-defined.
59. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the corporate-related application.
60. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the real estate-related application.
61. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the medical-related application.
62. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the product supply-related application.
63. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the service supply-related application.
64. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one application is the financial-related application.
65. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, and further comprising computer code for allowing a user to modify at least one of the tornado diagram, the decision sensitivity display, the decision hierarchy display, the influence diagram, and the potential feasible hybrid theme.
66. (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the decision logic is related to a business-to-business transaction.

REMARKS

Per MPEP 609.02, applicant has not re-submitted any disclosures, references, etc. cited in the parent application (U.S. Pat. No.: 7,401,059). It assumed, however, that per such MPEP section, the Examiner has considered the same in connection with the instant application. If applicant's assumption is in error or the Examiner requires re-submission of any such references, etc., applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned so that applicant can satisfy such request.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejection. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended the claims to further avoid such rejection. Specifically, applicant has amended each of the independent claims to require at least one application "that is a real estate-related application, a medical-related application, a corporate-related application, a product supply-related application, a service supply-related application, or a financial-related application," in the context claimed.

Applicant further makes note of the double patenting rejection. Such rejection is deemed overcome by virtue of the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 6, 12, and 14-15 to include the subject matter of at least one of the following dep. claims deemed allowable by the Examiner: 6, 7, 11, and 12. Still yet, Claim 16 has been added to include, at least in part, the subject matter of at least one of the following dep. claims deemed allowable by the Examiner: 6, 7, 11, and 12. See Claim 16 above, for the details. Claims 17-66 depend on Claim 16 are thus deemed allowable for similar reasons.

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims. It should be noted that no claims are intended to be construed under 35 USC 112, paragraph 6.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. SVIPGP019E).

Respectfully submitted,  
Zilka-Kotab, PC

/KEVINZILKA/

Kevin J. Zilka  
Registration No. 41,429

P.O. Box 721120  
San Jose, CA 95172-1120  
408-505-5100