

Ex 17

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/708,154	OWEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael B. Holmes	2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 21, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-12,14,16-20,22-25 and 27.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date July 03, 2003.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ^b | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – [WWW.USPTO.GOV](http://www.USPTO.GOV)

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16-20, 22-25, & 27 are allowed.
2. Claims 8, 13, 15, 21, and 26 have been canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art *Michael J. Bender & Slobodan P. Simonovic*, (hereinafter "*Becker et al.*") "A System Approach for Collaborative Decision Support in Water Resources Planning" IEEE, 1996, and *Steve Glickman*, "Interpreting Business Assessment Results" June 8, 1998, does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention.

4. Specifically, a computer-implemented method which may be utilized for implementing the four steps (framing, alternatives, analysis, connection) proposed in the Dialogue Decision Process (DDP), in different environments in a universal manner.

5. With regards to claim 1, *Bender et al.* & *Glickman*, does not disclose "...step (k) wherein an application interface provides an interface between the application and the collaborative

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*decision platform, where step (b) retrieving information front a database in accordance with the **decision logic**; step (c) receiving information from a user in accordance with the **decision logic** utilizing a user interface; and step (d) processing the information utilizing the **decision logic**; are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors”*

6. With regards to claim 14, *Bender et al. & Glickman*, does not disclose “ ... step (k) wherein an application interface provides an interface between the application and the collaborative decision platform, where computer code segments of step (b) computer code for retrieving information from a database in accordance with the **decision logic**; step (c) computer code for receiving information from a user in accordance with the **decision logic** utilizing a user interface; and step (d) **computer code for processing** the information utilizing the **decision logic**; are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors”

7. With regards to claim 27, *Bender et al. & Glickman*, does not disclose “ ... step (k) wherein an application interface provides an interface between the application and the collaborative decision platform. where logic elements of step (b) logic for retrieving information from a database in accordance with the **decision logic**; step (c) logic for receiving information from a user in accordance with the **decision logic** utilizing a user interface; and step (d) logic for processing the information utilizing the **decision logic**; are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors; wherein the collaborative decision platform communicates with the application through a standard interface protocol”

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Correspondence Information

8. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. est. If you need to contact the Examiner, regarding After Final concerns, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7240**. If you need to send a Non-Official or Draft facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the **Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed too:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, or **Hand-delivered** responses should be delivered to the **Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia.**

Michael B. Holmes
Patent Examiner
Artificial Intelligence
Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce
Patent & Trademark Office


Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,154

Applicant(s)

OWEN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on November 11, 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – www.USPTO.GOV

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. This Office Action is responsive to application **09/708,154**, filed **November 07, 2000**.
2. **Claims 1-27** have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. Applicant is respectfully remind of the ongoing Duty to disclose 37 C.F.R. 1.56 all pertinent information and material pertaining to the patentability of applicant's claimed invention, by continuing to submitting in a timely manner PTO-1449, Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with the filing of applicant's of application or thereafter.

Drawings

4. The formal drawings have been reviewed by the United States Patent & Trademark Office of Draftperson's Patent Drawings Review.

Specification

5. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is required in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Interpretation

6. Office personnel are to give claims their “**broadest reasonable interpretation**” in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969). See *also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (“During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. . . . The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed. . . . An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process.”). *see* MPEP § 2106

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. 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 negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1-27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Michael J. Bender & Slobodan P. Simonovic** (hereinafter referred to as "*Bender et al.*"), **"A System Approach for Collaborative Decision Support in Water Resources Planning"** **IEEE, 1996,**
in view of
Steve Glickman, "Interpreting Business Assessment Results" June 8, 1998.

Regarding claims 1, 14, & 27:

Bender et al. teaches,

A collaborative decision support system (*Abstract, page 357*), collecting data, inclusive of policies that form boundaries and **decision logic**, strategic decision, user importance, uncertainty relationships (*I. Introduction: A. Planning Decisions; B. Decision Processes; & II The Systems Approach: A. Theoretical Systems Framework, page 357-358*), assessing the uncertainties for analysis purpose (*II. The Systems Approach B. Modeling paradigm, page 358; III Collaborative Decision Support: A. Purpose and Scope; B. Modeling the collaborative decision support, page 359*). *Bender et al.* does not teach a tornado diagram. However, *Glickman* teaches a tornado diagram (*Tornado Diagram, page 1*) It would have been obvious at the time the invention was

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matters pertains, to combine *Bender et al.* with *Glickman* to provide a collaborative decision support and knowledge management system for collecting data and formulating strategic decision, construct policies, and employ a tornado diagram, because the need to manage and more effectively use the tremendous amounts of data available continues to demand the need for enhanced information management technologies. Moreover, in the commercial marketplace, companies strive to maintain a competitive advantage through research and development e.g., marketplace management, strategic decision and **decision logic**, for the purpose of bringing better products and services to market faster and cheaper in a fast-paced, highly mobile, world-wide marketplace. Finally, uncertainty is a derivative in the marketplace, and the purpose of the tornado diagram is to focus attention on the critical uncertainties associated with the marketplace uncertainty and project management and development.

Regarding claims 2-13 & 15-26:

Claims 2-13 & 15-26 add no novelty and are **rejected** for the same rational as the independent claim.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and (listed of form PTO-892) not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows. Applicant or applicant's representative is respectfully reminded that in process of patent prosecution i.e., amending of claims in response to a

rejection of claims set forth by the Examiner per Title 35 U.S.C. The patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and any objections made. Moreover, applicant or applicant's representative must clearly show how the amendments avoid or overcome such references and objections. *See* 37 CFR § 1.111(c).

Correspondence Information

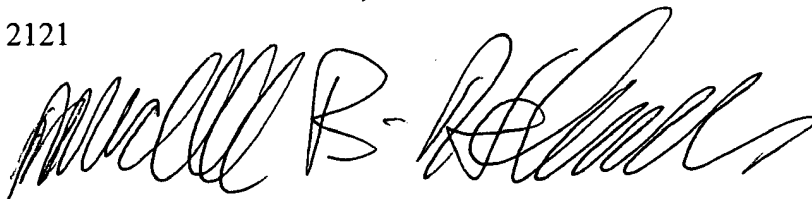
10. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding After Final issues, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**. If you would like to send a Non-Official (draft) facsimile transmission the fax is **(703) 746-7240**. If any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed too:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231. Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of **Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia**.

Art Unit: 2121

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent and the last name "Holmes" following in a similar style.

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,154

Applicant(s)

OWEN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. This action is responsive to application **09/708,154**, filed **November 07, 2000**.
2. **Claims 1-27** have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. Applicant is respectfully remind of the ongoing Duty to disclose 37 C.F.R. 1.56 all pertinent information and material pertaining to the patentability of applicant's claimed invention, by continuing to submitting in a timely manner PTO-1449, Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with the filing of applicant's of application or thereafter.

Drawings

4. The formal drawings have been reviewed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of Draftperson's Patent Drawings Review.

Specification

5. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is required in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Interpretation

6. Office personnel are to give claims their "**broadest reasonable interpretation**" in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969). See *also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. . . . The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed. . . . An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process."). *see* MPEP § 2106

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

McAndrew et al. (USPN 5,517,405), Filed: October 14, 1993, Date of Patent: May 14, 1996.

Regarding claim 1, McAndrew et al. discloses, a method for providing a collaborative decision platform adapted to run on a computer, comprising the steps of: (a) executing an application capable of performing decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (b) retrieving information from a database in accordance with the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (c) receiving information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (d) processing the information utilizing the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; and (e) wherein steps (a)-(d) are carried out by a collaborative decision platform capable of accomplishing steps (b)-(d) for different purposes by executing different applications each capable of performing different decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 2, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the collaborative decision platform communicates with the application through a standard interface protocol. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 3, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information is retrieved and received via a network. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 4, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 3, wherein the network is the Internet. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 5, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the purpose is selected from the group consisting of real estate-related, medical-related, corporate-related, and financial-related. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 6, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of collecting data from the **decision logic** for generating visual displays of a decision hierarchy and an influence diagram. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 7, McAndrew et al. discloses, 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. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 8, McAndrew et al. discloses, 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). [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 9, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 6, and further comprising the step of creating a strategy table using the data. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 10, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 8, and further comprising the step of assessing the uncertainties for analysis purposes. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 11, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of generating a tornado diagram and decision sensitivity output displays.

Regarding claim 12, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the decision logic provides potential feasible hybrid themes. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 13, McAndrew et al. discloses, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the steps (b)-(d) are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 14, McAndrew et al. discloses, a computer program product for providing a collaborative decision platform adapted to run on a computer, comprising: (a) computer code for executing an application capable of performing decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (b) computer code for retrieving information from a database in accordance with the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (c) computer code for receiving information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; (d) computer code for processing the information utilizing the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]; and (e) wherein computer code segments (a)-(d) are carried out by a collaborative decision platform capable of executing computer code segments (b)-(d) for different purposes by executing different applications each capable of performing different decision logic. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 15, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the collaborative decision platform communicates with the application through a standard interface protocol. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 16, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the information is retrieved and received via a network. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 17, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the network is the Internet. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 18, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the purpose is selected from the group consisting of real estate-related, medical-related, corporate-related, and financial-related. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 19, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, and further comprising computer code for collecting data from the **decision logic** for generating visual displays of a decision hierarchy and an influence diagram. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

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Regarding claim 20, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein the user is prompted to approve the visual displays of the decision hierarchy and the influence diagram. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 21, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 20, 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). [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 22, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 19, and further comprising computer code for creating a strategy table using the data. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29)]

Regarding claim 23, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 22, and further comprising computer code for assessing the uncertainties for analysis purposes.

Regarding claim 24, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, and further comprising computer code for generating a tornado diagram and decision sensitivity output displays.

Regarding claim 25, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the decision logic provides potential feasible hybrid themes. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 26, McAndrew et al. discloses, the computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein computer code segments (b)-(d) are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Regarding claim 27, McAndrew et al. discloses, a system for providing a collaborative decision platform adapted to run on a computer, comprising: (a) logic for executing an application capable of performing decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]; (b) logic for retrieving information from a database in accordance with the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]; (c) logic for receiving information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]; (d) logic for processing the information utilizing the decision logic [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]; and (e) wherein logic elements (a)-(d) are carried out by a collaborative decision platform capable of performing logic elements (b)-(d) for different purposes by executing different applications each capable of performing different decision logic. [(Fig. 1 & Fig. 2; (Abstract); (col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 29))]

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and (listed of form PTO-892) not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure e.g., **Amado (USPN 5,537,590 & 5,701,400)** as follows. Applicant or applicant's representative is respectfully reminded that in process of patent prosecution i.e., amending of claims in response to a rejection of claims set forth by the Examiner per Title 35 U.S.C. The patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and any objections made. Moreover, applicant or applicant's representative must clearly show how the amendments avoid or overcome such references and objections. *See 37 CFR § 1.111(c).*

Correspondence Information

10. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding After Final issues, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**. If you would like to send a Non-Official (draft) facsimile transmission the fax is **(703) 746-7240**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **John Follansbee**, may be reached at **(703) 305-8498**.

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Any response to this office action should be mailed too:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231. Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of **Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia.**

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office



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