



US007840176B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Chan

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,840,176 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Nov. 23, 2010**

(54) **INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEM**

(75) Inventor: **Hark C. Chan**, Cupertino, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Email Link Corporation**, Newport Beach, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 710 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/644,492**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 22, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0107031 A1 May 10, 2007

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/322,624, filed on Dec. 19, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,181,758, which is a continuation of application No. 10/079,257, filed on Feb. 19, 2002, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 09/699,022, filed on Oct. 27, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 09/480,226, filed on Jan. 10, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,347,215, which is a continuation of application No. 08/939,368, filed on Sep. 29, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,021,307, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/644,838, filed on May 10, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/279,424, filed on Jul. 25, 1994, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04H 20/71 (2008.01)
H04N 5/445 (2006.01)
G06F 3/00 (2006.01)
G06F 13/00 (2006.01)
G06F 9/32 (2006.01)

G06F 15/16 (2006.01)
H04W 4/00 (2009.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **455/3.01**; 725/66; 725/105; 725/110; 725/38; 340/7.21; 370/338; 370/328; 709/206

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 455/3.01; 370/328, 338; 340/7.29; 709/206, 219; 725/38, 725/66, 110, 105

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,824,597 A 7/1974 Berg

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO WO 89/08299 9/1989
WO 93/09631 5/1993

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A New Playing Field: Indoor baseball like never before, and talk about artificial turf. . . ; The Seattle Times; May 29, 1994; pp. C1, C6.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner—William D Cumming

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Martin & Ferraro, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An information distribution and processing system contains a sender and a plurality of processing units. The sender delivers a set of digital data, without receiving a request signal, to the plurality of processor units. The set of digital data contains a first set of displayable data, a second set of displayable data, at least one non-displayable symbol, and at least one linking reference associated with the second set of displayable data. If desired, a user can select the second set of displayable data. The associated linking reference is sent to a database. The database contains additional information. The associated linking reference is used by the data to search for the additional information, and returns the requested information to the user.

16 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

