



US006398556C1

(12) **EX PARTE REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE (5779th)****United States Patent****Ho et al.**(10) **Number:** **US 6,398,556 C1**(45) **Certificate Issued:** **Jun. 12, 2007**(54) **INEXPENSIVE COMPUTER-AIDED
LEARNING METHODS AND APPARATUS
FOR LEARNERS**(76) Inventors: **Chi Fai Ho**, 965 Astoria Dr.,
Sunnyvale, CA (US) 94087; **John P.
Del Favero, Jr.**, 223 O'Keefe St.,
Menlo Park, CA (US) 94025; **Peter P.
Tong**, 1807 Limetree La., Mountain
View, CA (US) 94040

5,164,897 A	11/1992	Clark et al.	
5,176,520 A	1/1993	Hamilton	
5,224,173 A	6/1993	Kuhns et al.	
5,251,294 A	10/1993	Abelow	
5,255,347 A	10/1993	Matsuba et al.	706/25
5,302,132 A	4/1994	Corder	
5,306,878 A	4/1994	Kubo	187/380
5,370,399 A	12/1994	Liverance	463/23
5,387,104 A	2/1995	Corder	
5,416,694 A	5/1995	Parish et al.	
5,458,494 A	10/1995	Krohn et al.	

Reexamination Request:

No. 90/006,915, Aug. 25, 2003

(Continued)

Reexamination Certificate for:

Patent No.: **6,398,556**
 Issued: **Jun. 4, 2002**
 Appl. No.: **09/290,770**
 Filed: **Apr. 13, 1999**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO WO 98/30965 7/1998

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

PLM (Plato Learning Management).

Navy CMI System, pp. 1-12.

Centra Announces Strategic Alliances to lead industry shift
toward comprehensive live web-based training delivery,
Centra Software, Feb. 10, 1997, pp. 1-3.

Certificate of Correction issued Nov. 12, 2002.

Related U.S. Application Data(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/110,569, filed on
Jul. 6, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,126,448, and a continuation-
in-part of application No. 09/273,392, filed on Mar. 22,
1999, now Pat. No. 6,213,780.(51) **Int. Cl.**
G09B 19/00 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **434/219; 434/118; 434/350;**
706/927; 707/104; 708/131(58) **Field of Classification Search** **434/219,**
434/323, 118, 350; 705/11

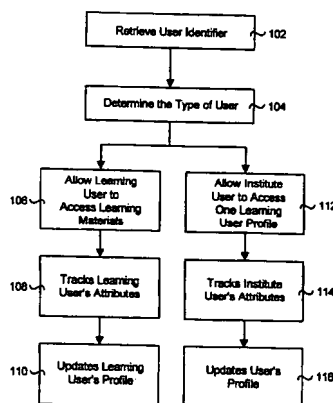
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

4,006,539 A	2/1977	Slomski	434/258
4,867,685 A *	9/1989	Brush et al.	434/234
5,002,491 A	3/1991	Abrahamson et al.	
5,029,081 A	7/1991	Kagawa	
5,099,431 A	3/1992	Natarajan	

Primary Examiner—Kathleen Mosser(57) **ABSTRACT**

A computer-aided learning method and apparatus for a learning user to learn materials inexpensively. Not only does the apparatus provide the user the freedom as to where and when to learn, and the guidance as to what to learn, the apparatus also reduces a significant hurdle to learning—Tuition. The apparatus retrieves a user identifier entered by the user, and determines whether the user is a learning user or an institute user. If the user is a learning user, the apparatus allows the user to access information regarding learning materials. If the user is an institute user, the apparatus permits the user to access information regarding at least one learning user. The institute user might be interested to use the apparatus to recruit employees to fill job openings. A learning user pays significantly less than an institute user to access information, so as to encourage the learning user to work on learning materials. The apparatus can also track and update information regarding the users.



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,506,984 A	4/1996	Miller	
5,577,919 A	11/1996	Collins et al.	434/322
5,592,375 A	1/1997	Salmon et al.	
5,618,182 A	4/1997	Thomas	
5,692,906 A	12/1997	Corder	
5,758,079 A	5/1998	Ludwig et al.	709/204
5,767,897 A	6/1998	Howell	348/15
5,788,504 A	8/1998	Rice et al.	
5,799,292 A	8/1998	Hekmatpour	
5,809,493 A	9/1998	Ahamed et al.	706/52
5,823,781 A *	10/1998	Hitchcock et al.	434/118
5,832,497 A	11/1998	Taylor	
5,867,799 A	2/1999	Lang et al.	
5,879,165 A	3/1999	Brunkow et al.	
5,896,128 A	4/1999	Boyer	715/716
5,907,831 A *	5/1999	Lotvin et al.	705/14
5,978,768 A	11/1999	McGovern et al.	
5,999,908 A	12/1999	Abelow	
6,033,226 A *	3/2000	Bullen	434/219
6,053,739 A	4/2000	Stewart et al.	434/236
6,077,085 A	6/2000	Parry et al.	434/322
6,141,529 A	10/2000	Remschel	434/350
6,186,794 B1	2/2001	Brown et al.	434/116
6,292,830 B1	9/2001	Taylor et al.	709/201
6,396,954 B1	5/2002	Kondo	382/224
6,471,521 B1	10/2002	Dornbush et al.	434/322
2001/0037376 A1	11/2001	Ullman et al.	

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Centra Software ships Symposium 1.0, Centra Software, Jul. 14, 1997, pp. 1-3.

Plaut Consulting Selects Centra's Symposium to deliver live interactive training to SAP R/3 users via the Internet, Centra Software, Aug. 12, 1997, pp. 1-3.

Centra Software announces strategic partnership with Macromedia to support open standards for enterprise learning, Centra Software, Oct. 8, 1997, pp. 1-3.

An online prescription for basic skills, by Lois S. Wilson, Training & Development Journal, Apr. 1990, pp. 36-41.

Calos: An experiment with computer-aided learning for operating systems, Murray W. Goldberg, SIGCSE, Feb. 1996, pp. 175, 177, 179.

WebCT and first year: student reaction to and use of a web-based resource in first year computer science, Murray W. Goldberg, ITICSE, 1997, pp. 127, 129.

An update on WebCT (World-Wide-Web course tools) a tool for the creation of sophisticated web-based learning environments, Goldberg et al., Proceedings of NAUWeb '97—Current Practices in Web-Base Course Development, Jun. 12-15, 1997, pp. 1-8.

Welcome! Getting started with WebCT, last modified Sep. 16, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/WebCT/Getting%20Started%20w...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-10.

Online educational delivery applications/Tools for WebCT, last updated Aug. 26, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/WebCT/>

On-Line%20Educational..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

General Overview, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/GenOver.h...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-3.

QuestWriter Features, last modified Aug. 12, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/QWfeatures.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-12.

Professor's Overview, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/ProOver.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

Student's Overview, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/StuOver.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

Programmer's Overview, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/ProgOver...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.

List of QuestWriter Files, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/file_list.htm, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-4.

Quiz Application, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/quizapp.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Class Gradebook, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/cgrade.htm>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-7.

Conditional Links, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/clink.htm>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-4.

The Registration Page, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/registration.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

Class Library, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/classlib.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

QuestWriter System Page, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/QuestWriter%20Syste...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

QuestWriter Mailing list Documentation, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Mailing%2...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.

Administrator's Overview, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/AdOver.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

QW admin Documentation, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/QW%20admin%D...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Glimpse-Http Documentation, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Glimpse-H...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-2.

List of Classes, copyright 1996, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/QuestWriter%20Clas...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

IQ mailing lists requests, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/IQ%20mai...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.

InterQuest Home Page, last modified Jul. 13, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/IQHome.htm>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Welcome to CalculusQuest, last modified Sep. 24, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/CalculusQ...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.

- CalculusQuest Technological Infrastructure, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Technological%20In...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.
- CalculusQuest Features, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Features.h...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.
- CalculusQuest Pedagogical Principles, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Pedagogic...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.
- Objectives, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/CQ-Object...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1-2.
- HyperNews Documentation, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/HyperNew...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.
- Welcome to HyperNews, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/HyperNew...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1-6.
- Overview, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/viewlog.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-7.
- Permissions, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/permisio...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1.
- QuestWriter History & Future, last modified Aug. 12, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/history.htm>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, p. 1-2.
- The Massgrade Tool, last modified Jul. 14, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/massgrade.htm>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.
- QuestWriter Installation, last modified Aug. 12, 1997, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/install.htm>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-3.
- Real Audio Documentation, <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Real%20Audio%20...>, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.
- Instructions for the Stage 7 Communication Activity, copyright 1996, 1989, [http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Example%20from%](http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Example%20from%20), downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.
- Communication Activity #5001, copyright 1996, 1989, [http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Typical%20results%](http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/Typical%20results%20), downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.
- New pedagogies and tools for web based calculus, Proceedings of the AACE WebNet96 conference, By Bogley et al., Oct. 15-19, 1996, pp. 1-8.
- Pedagogic innovation in web-based instruction, Bogley et al., <http://www.eduworks.com/victor/New%20Prior%20Art/QuestWriter/PEDOGOG...>, downloaded Feb. 15, 2005, pp. 1-5.
- Evaluating Web-based virtual courses: research results and implications, by Scott Chadwick, Distance Education: Designing for success conference—Seattle, Washington, Apr. 1997, pp. 1-4.
- Enhancing teaching using the Internet: report of the working group on the World Wide Web as an interactive teaching resource, By Hartley et al., Integrating Tech. into C.S.E., Jun. 1996, pp. 218-228.
- Adoption and use of a computer-mediated communication system by contact north site coordinators, By Sweet et al., Journal of Distance Education 1991, pp. 1-10.
- Educational MUDs, MOOs, and MUSEs, By Odvard Egil Dyrli, Technology & Learning May/Jun. 1996, p. 20.
- The tutor language, Bruce Arne Sherwood, 1977.
- ILINC Executive Briefing, Shrinking distances, improving results. Distance learning with LearnLinc I-Net, By Wilson et al. copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/LearnLinc/ILINC_Executive..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-6.
- LearnLinc LAN/WAN—the first virtual classroom, By Interactive Learning International Corporation, copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/LearnLinc/LearnLin_LAN-..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.
- LearnLinc is based on proven interactive learning methodology, By Interactive Learning International Corporation, copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/LearnLinc/LearnLink_files/..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.
- LearnLinc Pro-Net. The Internet virtual classroom with seamless videoconferencing, By Interactive Learning International Corporation, copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/LearnLinc/LearnLinc_Pro-N..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.
- Educational applications of computer conferencing, Linda Harasim, Journal of Distance Education, 1986, pp. 1-9.
- Using Computers in Human Resources: How to Select and Make the Best Use of Automated HR Systems, by Forrer et al., Jossey-Bass Publishers, San Francisco, 1991.
- OnTrack for training: About OnTrack for Training, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182100/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-ot.html> downloaded Oct. 24, 2004.
- OnTrack for training: Features and benefits, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203183824/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-ot-features.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, pp. 1-3.
- OnTrack for training: Technical Specifications, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203183837/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-ot-specs.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, pp. 1-3.
- OnTrack-ATM: About OnTrack-ATM, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182113/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-ot-atm.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, pp. 1-2.
- OnTrack-ATM.Net: About OnTrack-Net, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182011/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atmnet.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1.
- OnTrack-ATM.Net: Features and benefits, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182029/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atmnet-features...>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-2.
- OnTrack-ATM.Net: Technical Specifications, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182042/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atmnet-specs.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-2.
- OnTrack-ATM.Net: Technical Specifications—Configuration Module, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182141/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atmnet-specs-co...>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-3.

OnTrack-ATM.Net: Technical Specifications—Server Module, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182204/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atm-net-specs-se...>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, 2 pages.

OnTrack-ATM.Net: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203180950/www.dksystems.com/ps-ot-atmnet-faqs.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-7.

About Us—Our clients: DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182809/www.dksystems.com/tour-about-client.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-2.

DKSystems announces OnTrack for Training API—Allows real-time integration of CBT software with OnTrack for Training By DKSystems, Sep. 26, 1997, pp. 1-2.

Technical Support: OnTrack for Training Service Pack: SP-02/98, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203183622/www.dksystems.com/supt-technical-svc-pac...>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-4.

Technical Support: Glossary, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203182331/www.dksystems.com/supt-technical-glossar...>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, 31 pages.

Consulting: About DKConsulting services, DKSystems, <http://web.archive.org/web/19980203183527/www.dksystems.com/ps-pr-cs.html>, downloaded Oct. 24, 2004, p. 1-2.

An evaluation of computer managed instruction in navy technical training, Carson et al., Navy Personnel Research and Development Center, Jun. 1975, pp. v-x, 1-67, 70-81.

Integrated system test of the advanced instructional system, Larry M. Lintz, Air Force Human Resources Laboratory, Dec. 1979, pp. 1-103.

Computer-managed instruction in the navy: I. Research background and status, By Nick Van Matre, Navy Personnel Research and Development Center, Sep. 1980, (p. iii, v, vii, 1-12, A0-A5).

Ingenium, Skill-Driven Training Management Software, Meliora Systems, Inc., last updated Mar. 1, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/ingeniu..., downloaded Feb. 18, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Ingenium press release, Meliora Systems Inc., Dec. 20, 1996, pp. 1-4.

Ingenium Training, Meliora Systems, Inc., last updated Sep. 12, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Ingenium: A family of skill-driven training management products. 1997-1998, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-6.

Frequently asked questions about the product, Meliora Systems, Inc., last updated Sep. 10, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Technical Specifications, Meliora Systems, Inc., last updated Sep. 10, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Ingenium 3.0 Features and Functionality, Meliora Systems, Inc., last updated Sep. 5, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Announcing Ingenium Messenger! last modified Mar. 1, 1997. Meliora Systems, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/ingenium_page_A..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Ingenium client/server, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, p. 1.

New software uses latest technology popularity of the Web to take the 'trauma' out of training management, Meliora Systems, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Ingenium Web connect technical requirements, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, p. 1.

New product, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, p. 1.

Release 3.0 Pricing, Meliora Systems, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Ingenium/Ingenium_3_Oct..., downloaded Mar. 25, 2005, 2 pages.

Skill-Trak for Windows, Meliora Systems, Inc., 47 slides.

New features for Ingenium 2.0, 10 pages.

The INGENIUM Informer, Meliora Systems, The Intelligent Training Management Newsletter, vol. II, No. 2, Spring 1995.

Ingenium Conceptual Terms, Meliora Systems, Inc., 3 pages.

Ingenium Sample learning experiences, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Ingenium Student/group membership, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Ingenium Facilities & resource management, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Ingenium Skills required by group membership, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Ingenium Skills & Training required by group membership, Meliora Systems, Inc. 2 pages.

Ingenium Development plan requirements gap, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Ingenium Using rules in the development plan, Meliora Systems, Inc., 14 pages.

Ingenium Future Product Divisions, Meliora Systems, Inc., 52 pages.

Attributes Resume, Meliora Systems, Inc., 3 pages.

Attribute Gap Analysis, Meliora Systems, Inc., 4 pages.

Learning Solutions Catalog, Meliora Systems, Inc., 2 pages.

Learning Solutions Catalog Exceptions, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Attribute Inventory Aging by Coach, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Attribute Inventory Aging by Highest Percentage 0-90 Days, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Attribute Inventory Aging by Employee, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

MRP Support Doc, Meliora Systems, Inc., 4 pages.

Organization Attribute Summary, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Consistency Report by Manager, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Consistency Report All IM, Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.
Employee List (Alphabetically), Meliora Systems, Inc., 1 page.

Job/Organization Attribute Summary, Meliora Systems, Inc., 4 pages.

Sheet 1, 3 pages.

Flowchart, 1 page.

Ingenium SQL Server Testing Plan, 4 pages.

Teaching through case-based reasoning: an ITS engine applied to business communication, Papagni et al. Proceedings of AI-ED 97 World Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education, 1997, p. 111-118.

Phoenix product overview & quick reference guide, Legent, 6 pages (3rd page has copyright date 1993).

Phoenix for Windows, Pathlore Software Corp, copyright 1996, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/Pathlore_July_1997/Phoenix..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Pathlore releases Phoenix Internet and Intranet, Pathlore Software Corporation, Feb. 10, 1997.

Human resource management systems: strategies, tactics and techniques, Ceriello et al., Copyright 1991.

Automate HR Tasks, Training & Development, Oct. 1996, pp. 71-72.

The world's most advanced training management software, Syscom, Inc., copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/ts..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Quick Tour, Syscom, Inc., copyright 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/to..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Customer support, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/s..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Success Stories, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/s..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-4.

Technical Specifications, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/te..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005.

Comprehensive features, Syscom, Inc., copyright 1997 http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/fe..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Overview & Brochure, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/b..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Universal Self-Service Access, Syscom, Inc., copyright, 1997, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/T..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-2.

Training TeleServer, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/te..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.

TrainingServer [employee detail], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/self-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

TrainingServer—[Administrative Documents], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/doc-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

TrainingServer—[Employee Internal Transcripts], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/trans-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

TrainingServer—[Employee Skills], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/skil-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

TrainingServer—[Employee Job Qualifications/Gap Analysis], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/gap-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

Event Director—[Schedule of Classes], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/sch-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

Training Architect—[Course Catalog], http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/cat-scr.gif, downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

Partner Directory, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/p..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, p. 1.

Forum Business Overview, http://www.eduworks.com/victor/PICs_Final/Documentation/TrainingServer_July_1997/f..., downloaded Feb. 17, 2005, pp. 1-3.

Personal Computers for Education, Alfred Bork, Harper & Row.

Computerized adaptive testing: a primer, Howard Wainer, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers, 1990.

From computer-assisted instruction to intelligent tutoring systems, Norman Livergood, *JL of Artificial intelligence in education*, vol. 2(3) Spring 1991, pp. 39-50.

Question Mark Professional User Manual, Question Mark Computing Ltd., 1993, pp. Title page, i-vii, 1-75 (section 1 to 5.8.3), 149-277 (section 6 to 10.5), 149-183 (section 8 to 9.3), 209-240 (section 10 to 11.2.3), 264-324 (section 12 to appendix B4), 311-346 (appendix C to end of index).

Computer aided instruction for statistics: A knowledge-based systems approach, Prabhu et al., *IJCAET* vol. 5 No. 1 1995, pp. 3-14.

Cliffs StudyWare, copyright 1993.

Pathway and Pathmaker, Solis, 30 pages, pp. 1-5.

SMART Evaluation: Cognitive Diagnosis, Mastery Learning & Remediation, Valerie Shute, one page (p. 123).

MasteryPOINT Learning Systems Handbook, Applied Learning Systems, Inc., pp. Title page, table of contents, 1-5, 15, 19-28 and 12 other pages with no page numbers.

MasterPOINT Website Design Parameters, pp. 1-10, 7 pages of text and 2 pages of emails.

Scholar/Teach 3, Version 3.1, Users Guide for the IBM-PC, Boeing Computer Services, 1986. (plus 5 pages at the front). TIMS, A testing information and management system, Chris Daily, pp. 16-18.

"Computer based training—a report of a NATO study visit to America. A.P. Report 91" by Patrick, pp. 1-29, Jan. 1980.

"Improving the Selection, classification, and utilization of army enlisted personnel: Annual Report synopsis, 1984 Fiscal Year" Human Resources Research Organization, Alexandria, Va., pp. v, vii-x, and 1-40, Jul. 1985.

"Mendel: An Intelligent Computer Tutoring System For Genetics Problem-Solving, Conjecturing, and Understanding" by Streibel et al., *Machine-Mediated Learning*, vol. 2, No. 1 & 2, pp. 129-159, 1987.

"Getting Serious about SAT software" by Harvey et al., National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, pp. 440-454, Sep. 1987.

"Control for Intelligent Tutoring Systems: A Comparison of Blackboard Architectures and Discourse Management Networks" by W. Murray. Machine-Mediated Learning, vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 107-124, 1989.

"Taking a standardized test? Here's some help." by M. Bunescu, 62 Electronic Learning, pp. 62-64, Sep. 1989.

"ECAL: Bridging the gap between CAL and Intelligent tutoring systems" by Elsom-Cook et al., Computers & Education, vol. 15, No. 1-3, pp. 69-81, 1990.

"A blackboard-based dynamic instructional planner" by W. Murray, Artificial Intelligence Center, FMC Corp., ONR-6376, pp. 1-59, 72-83, 97-103, with 9 introductory pages, Feb. 1990.

Test-taking skills. School library journal, pp. 61, May 1990.

"An architecture and methodology for creating a domain-independent, plan-based intelligent tutoring system" by J. Vassileva., Educational & Training Technology International, vol. 27, #4, pp. 386-397, Nov. 1990.

"Software" by Weiser et al., Media & methods, pp. 63-64, Nov.-Dec. 1990.

"Toward the design of an intelligent courseware production system using software engineering and instructional design principles." By Chen et al. Educational Technology Systems, pp. 41-52, Dec. 1990.

"Advanced technology training program for the apparel industry. Final report." Office of vocational and adult education (ED), Washington, DC, pp. 1-9, 1991.

"An analysis of computer-assisted instruction on scholastic aptitude test performance of rural high school students." By Fine et al. Education, vol. 111, No. 3, p. 400-403, Spring/91.

"Building integrated skills—a model for action." BC Construction industry skills improvement council, 404-737 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster, British Columbia V3M 5X1, pp. 1-6, Aug. 1991.

"Computer software." By Herne et al. Journal of Reading 3517, pp. 604, Apr. 1992.

"Designing a Tool Supporting the Development of ITS in Different Domains: The Docet Experience." By Bonarini et al., Interactive Learning Environments vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 131-149, 1993.

"Databases on vocational qualifications and courses accredited" European centre for the development of vocational training, Berlin (Germany), pp. 1-11, Feb. 1993.

"An approach to developing intelligent tutors in Mathematics" by H. Nwana, Computers & Education, vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 27-43, Mar. 1993.

"CBT Wintracs," CBT Systems Ltd., pp. 3-47, 1994.

"An historical perspective and a model for evaluation of intelligent tutoring systems." By Seidel et al. J. Educational Computing Research, vol. 10(2), pp. 103-128, 1994.

"A new direction for developmental education using technology." Annual convention of the American association of community colleges (74th, Washington, DC, Apr. 6-9, 1994) pp. 1-9, Apr. 1994.

"Mathematics study skills: A must for students with LD." By P. Nolting. Intervention in school and clinic, vol. 30, #1, pp. 53-59, Sep. 1994.

"Keeping up with the SATs." By R. Schneider. Technology and learning, pp. 7-9, Sep. 1994.

"Using computer technology to monitor student progress and remediate reading problems." By C. McCullough. School psychology review, vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 426-439, 1995.

"Software and Courseware" The Technological Horizons in Education Journal vol. 22, No. 10, p. 41, May 1995.

"Gearing up for the SAT." By R. Schneider. Technology Learning, pp. 9-11, Jan. 1996.

"Basic Skills Program Helps Trainees Pass Vocational Tests" The Technological Horizons in Education Journal vol. 23, No. 8, p. 66, Mar. 1996.

"Foundations of Probability with applications," selected papers 1974-1975. pp. 149-188. By Suppes et al., Nov. 1996.

"SAT preparation through technology." By Bean et al. Media & Methods, p. 73, Nov.-Dec. 1996.

"Computers in school: A loser? Or a lost opportunity?" By Shao et al. Business Week, No. 3115, p. 108, Jul. 17, 1989.

"Is it a 'miracle'? Computer teaches piano" Consumer reports, v. 56, No. 11, p. 718, Nov. 1991.

"Kids love to learn with these PC games" By Warner et al. Business week, No. 3265, p. 116, May 11, 1992.

"Software that's fun and educational—that's 'edutainment'" By C. Miller. American marketing association, Marketing News, p. 2, Apr. 26, 1993.

"Test drive; comic relief helps navigate hallways of 'Inside the SAT'" By E. Graner. St Louis Post-Dispatch, Everyday magazine, p. 1F, Mar. 8, 1995.

"SAT fundamentals" By D. Oldenburg. The Washington Post, p. D05, Final Edition, Apr. 7, 1995.

"SAT Software: Does it work?" By R. Calem. The New York Times, Section C, p. 2, col. 1, Late Edition—Final, Apr. 27, 1995.

"Software spells out the ABC's of SAT" By R. Calem. The Tampa Tribune, Baylife, p. 1, Final edition, May 3, 1995.

"CD-ROM helps prepare for SAT" By J. Gaw. The Plain Dealer, Next, p. 1E, Final, May 8, 1995.

"Kaplan preps for CD-ROM release" HFN, vol. 69, No. 32, p. 67, Aug. 7, 1995.

"Turning SATs into a kind of video game." By M. Putzel. The Boston Globe, Economy, p. 91, City Edition, Sep. 15, 1995.

"Training the workers who operate the trains." By Butt et al. American Society for Training & Development, Inc., Technical & Skills training, vol. 6, No. 7, p. 14-19, Oct. 1995.

"Computer tutors to help you ace the SAT." By Dunkin et al. Business Week, Personal business, education, No. 3444, p. 142, Oct. 2, 1995.

"New CD-ROMs aimed at reducing SAT jitters" By W. Honan. The Houston Chronicle, section a, p. 6, 2 Star Edition, Oct. 8, 1995.

"Test-preparation software scores big." By V. Marion. Los Angeles Times, Business section, part D, p. 7, financial desk, Orange County Edition, Nov. 1, 1995.

"Multiple choice: Virtual tutors rated coaching options range from staid help to high-tech glitz", Gannett Company, Inc., USA Today, Mar. 21, 1996, Final Edition, Life Section. p. 6D, Mar. 21, 1996.

Computer-assisted instruction at Stanford, 1966-68 By Suppes et al, Academic Press, pp. v-ix and 1-533, 1972.

Control Data Plato, System Overview by Control Data Corporation, 1976.

Control Data Plato CMI Author's Guide By Control Data Corporation, 1978.

- Control Data Plato, Author Language Reference Manual By Control Data Corporation, Apr. 1978.
- CDC Philosophy By Control Data Corporation, 1978.
- A computerized model for placement and diagnostic testing in college remedial mathematics, A Florida Atlantic University Dissertation by Iraj Hirmanpour, pp. i-vii and 1-163, Dec. 1980.
- Industry Education Computer Based Training Strategy By Arthur Andersen & Co., Feb. 1988.
- Teacher's Handbook for Math Concepts and Skills Computer Curriculum Corporation By Agulnick et al., pp. 1-126, 1991.
- CBT Systems By The Training Resource, pp. i-xxiii and 1-51, 1992.
- Computer assisted diagnostic prescriptive program in reading and mathematics, by Robertson et al., US Dept of Education, Washington, DC, Jan. 1986.
- The new component design theory: instructional design for courseware authoring, by D. Merrill, Instructional Science 16: 19-34, 1987.
- Teacher's Handbook for English as a Second Language by Computer Curriculum Corporation, Feb. 1985.
- The CCC Instructional System, Jul. 1990.
- CCC Graphics Server, Preliminary Information for Proctors, Jul. 17, 1987.
- Important Information on Speech System Use for Release 12 Courses, by Barbara Tingey, Mar. 22, 1988.
- CCC Graphics Server, Product Description, May. 1987.
- Teacher's Handbook for Initial Reading by Computer Curriculum Corporation, Jul. 1988.
- Interoffice Memorandum, MAC Platform News, by D. Salvadori, Mar. 19, 1991.
- Marketing Reference Manual.
- An Overview of the CCC Instructional System on the IBM PS/2, Computer Curriculum Corporation, Jan. 1991.
- Marketing Reference Manual, System Planning.
- Marketing Reference Manual, Questions and Answers.
- The Well-Managed Classroom, by Bobby Goodson, Teaching and Computers, Nov./Dec. 1988.
- EPIE Report Summary for Computer Curriculum Corporation, Apr. 1990.
- Introducing the newest member of CCC's winning team, by Computer Curriculum Corporation.
- Intelligent Tutoring Systems—The Current State of the Art, by Riichiro Mizoguchi, The Transactions of the IEICE, vol. E 73, No. 3, Mar. 1990.
- The Intelligent Design of Computer-assisted instruction, Chapter 9, by Venezky et al., Longman, 1991.
- Computer Managed Instruction at Arthur Andersen & Company: A Status Report, by Dennis et al., Mar. 1992.
- 2.0 CMI Overview, CMI Guidelines, by AICC, Oct. 25, 1993.
- Performance Support Systems: Integrating AI, Hypermedia, and CBT to enhance user performance, by Karen McGraw, JI. Of Artificial Intelligence in Education 5(1), 3-26, 1994.
- The use of pre-test and post-test in call: A case study, by Blin et al., Computers Educ. vol. 23, No. 1/2, pp. 143-150, 1994.
- CMI Guidelines for Interoperability by AICC, Jan. 26, 1996.
- CBT Campus Tour Preview by CBT System, 1997.
- Registrar, Silton-Bookman Systems Inc., 1997.
- Silton-Bookman Systems, Registrar, Sep. 24, 1997.
- Training Multimedia, vol. 3, #1, How to Manage Benchmark Multimedia Based Training, 1997.
- DigitalThink: A classroom on the Web, by Paul Williams, New Media, May 5, 1997.
- Netting on Education, by Laura Castaneda, San Francisco Chronicle, Business, Jul. 24, 1997.
- Knowledge Inc., vol. 2, No. 8, Aug. 1997.
- Computer Managed Instruction, AICC Guidelines and Recommendations, by AICC, Oct. 9, 1997.
- Hands On: Java Tutorials, Insider Technology Training, by Ned Snell, Nov. 1997.
- Implementation Strategies for Web-based training and performance support, by International Quality & Productivity Center, Nov. 17-19, 1997.
- CMI Guidelines for Interoperability by AICC, Feb. 1998.
- Keeping Track, Inside Technology Training, by Sarah Auerbach, Jul./Aug. 1998.
- Education Uses of the Plato Computer System, Science, vol. 192, No. 4237 by Smith et al., Apr. 23, 1976.
- The Design and Implementation of a Dynamically Tailored Examination, SIGSCE Bulletin, vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 59-62 by Lawrence Whitlock, Aug. 1977.
- William C. Norris: Portrait of a Maverick, Ballinger Publishing Company by Worthy et al., 1987.
- Web-Based Training Cookbook, Wiley Computer Publishing by Brandon Hall, 1997.
- Plato Rising: Online learning for Atarians, www.atarimagazines.com/v3n3/platorising.html, by Small et al., 2003.
- Free-Body Diagrams (a Plato Lesson) by Bruce Arne Sherwood, published in the American Journal of Physics, vol. 39, Nos. 1-12, pp. 1199-1203, Oct. 1971.
- The use of computers in the teaching of Chemistry by Smith et al., published in the Journal of Chemical Education, vol. 51, No. 4, pp. 243-244, Apr. 1974.
- The Off-Line Plato System by Stanley G. Smith, published in the Journal of Chemical Education, vol. 56, No. 12, pp. 781-782, Dec. 1979.
- Network Operating Systems by CBT Systems Ltd., pp. 5 and 10-13, 1994.
- CBTCampus Administrator's Guide, Version 1.01, by CBT Systems, pp. 6-10, 25, 26, 31-34, 37, 38, 61, 62, 77-84, 87, 88 and 127-166, Mar. 1998.
- CBT Systems By The Training Resource, pp. i-xxxiv and 1-101, 1993.
- SuccessMaker Reports Guide by Computer Curriculum Corporation, pp. i-v and 1-150, 1993.
- SuccessMaker Reports Quick Reference Guide By Computer Curriculum Corporation, pp. i-iii and 1-18, 1993.
- SuccessMaker Instructional Management by Computer Curriculum Corporation, pp. 1-74+forms, 1993.
- SuccessMaker Math Concepts and Skills by Computer Curriculum Corporation, pp. i-iv and 1-167, 1993.
- User's Guide for Success Maker by Computer Curriculum Corporation, pp. 3-10, 1993.
- How to use the CBT Tracs System Administrator's Guide by CBT Systems Ltd, pp. 1-29, 1994.
- CBT Wintracs by CBT Systems Ltd, pp. 1-47, 1994.
- Full curriculum software personal selection help by EISI Software Institute, pp. 495, 500-503, 511, 517-527, 575-581, 583-585, Jan. 1994.
- CBT Systems by The Training Resource, pp. 3-256, Spring 1995.

The development of a health careers database computer program, A University of Houston Dissertation by Ava Miller, May 1995.

Knowledge Management Case Study, Knowledge Management at Microsoft, 1997 By Thomas Davenport, 1996.

Wintracs by CBT Systems Ltd, pp. 65-97, Sep. 1997.

Teltech The business of knowledge management case study By Thomas Davenport, pp. 1-9. www.bus.utexas.edu/kman/telcase.htm, Apr. 1996.

SkillView. Engineering a More Productive WorkForce by SkillView Technologies, Before 2003.

Arthur Andersen & Co. Industry Education Computer Based Training Strategy, Appendixes—Data Base Learning Model, Feb. 1988. Note, to avoid confusion, page number designations have been manually added to Appendixes E and F of this reference (e.g. E-1, E-2 . . . F-1, F-2, etc.).

SkillView: Engineering a More Productive WorkForce ("SkillView"), product brochure, Jun.-Jul. 1996 and enclosed letter and affidavit supporting publication date.

* cited by examiner

1

**EX PARTE
REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE
ISSUED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 307**

THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS
INDICATED BELOW.

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appeared in the patent, but has been deleted and is no longer a part of the patent; matter printed in italics indicates additions made to the patent.

AS A RESULT OF REEXAMINATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT:

The patentability of claims 37–52 is confirmed.

Claims 1, 3, 10, 27, 31, 55, 56 and 70 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 53, 58, 66–69, 71, 74, 80, 82 and 84 are determined to be patentable as amended.

Claims 5–7, 12, 13, 16–21, 23, 26, 30, 34–36, 54, 57, 59–65, 72, 73, 75–79, 81, 83 and 85–86, dependent on an amended claim, are determined to be patentable.

2. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:] *for a user comprising the steps of:*

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user, wherein the institute user accesses the materials to identify a learning user for filling a job position;

tracking, by the computer, materials regarding the user; and

updating, by the computer, materials regarding the user based on the tracked materials, and

wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays to access materials regarding the at least one learning user; a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated; and

wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user.

4. A computer-aided learning method as recited in claim [3] 2 wherein [the step of ascertaining] *at least a portion of the materials ascertained depends on the user's educational background, work experience and preferences.*

8. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 7] *for a user comprising the steps of:*

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

2

tracking, by the computer, materials regarding the user; and

updating, by the computer, materials regarding the user based on the tracked materials,

wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays to access materials regarding the at least one learning user; a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated;

wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;

wherein if the user is a learning user, the step of tracking includes tracking the user's learning activities; wherein the user is learning features of a product and the activities tracked include the one or more features the user worked on; and

wherein the method is implemented at a Web site.

9. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 2] *for a user comprising the steps of:*

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

tracking, by the computer, materials regarding the user; and

updating, by the computer, materials regarding the user based on the tracked materials,

wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays to access materials regarding the at least one learning user; a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated;

wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user; and

wherein a learning user may restrict institute users from accessing certain materials regarding the learning user.

11. A computer-aided learning method as recited in claim [10] 2 further comprising the step of querying materials on learning users to identify a learning user to fill the job position based on criteria set by the institute user.

14. A computer-aided learning method as recited in claim [10] 2 wherein the method is implemented at a Web site.

15. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of] *for a user comprising the steps of:*

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

3

tracking, by the computer, materials regarding the user;
 updating, by the computer, materials regarding the user
 based on the tracked materials; and
 allowing the user to advertise if the user is an institute
 user, 5
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user
 can learn about the at least one learning user in an
 area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at
 least one of the users from another computer, which is 10
 connected to the first computer through a network; and
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regard-
 ing the at least one learning user; a learning user is
 allowed to access materials to learn; and materials on 15
 at least one of the users can be tracked and updated.

22. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim
 2] for a user comprising the steps of:
 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the
 user;
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials 20
 regarding at least one learning user if the user is an
 institute user, as determined based on an identifier of
 the user;
 tracking, by the computer, materials regarding the user; 25
 and
 updating, by the computer, materials regarding the user
 based on the tracked materials,
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user
 can learn about the at least one learning user in an 30
 area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at
 least one of the users from another computer, which is
 connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regard- 35
 ing the at least one learning user; a learning user is
 allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and
 to work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least
 one of the users can be tracked and updated;
 wherein the method further comprises ascertaining mate- 40
 rials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute
 of the learning user; and
 wherein the materials to learn include materials on fea-
 tures of a product introduced by an institute user.

24. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim
 1] for a user comprising the steps of:
 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the
 user; and
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials 50
 regarding at least one learning user if the user is an
 institute user, as determined based on an identifier of
 the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user
 can learn about the at least one learning user in an 55
 area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at
 least one of the users from another computer, which is
 connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regard- 60
 ing the at least one learning user; a learning user is
 allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and
 to work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least
 one of the users can be tracked and updated;
 wherein the method further comprises ascertaining mate- 65
 rials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute
 of the learning user; and

4

wherein materials regarding the at least one learning user
 is categorized into confidential and nonconfidential
 such that confidential materials are not accessible by
 the institute user without the at least one learning user's
 express consent.

25. A computer-aided learning apparatus for a user com-
 prising:
 A retriever configured to retrieve materials related to the
 user; and
 A determinator configured to permit the user to access
 materials regarding at least one learning user if the user
 is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier
 of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user
 can learn about the at least one learning user in an area
 the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least
 one of the users from another computer, which is
 connected to the apparatus through a network; [and]
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regard-
 ing the at least one learning user; a learning user is
 allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to
 work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least one
 of the users can be tracked and updated;
 wherein the apparatus further comprises a learning mate-
 rials ascertainment configured to ascertain materials for
 a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the
 learning user; and
 wherein materials regarding the at least one learning user
 are categorized into confidential and non-confidential
 such that confidential materials are not accessible by
 the institute user without the at least one learning
 user's express consent.

28. A computer-aided learning apparatus [as recited in
 claim 27] for a user comprising:
 a retriever configured to retrieve materials related to the
 user; and
 a determinator configured to permit the user to access
 materials regarding at least one learning user if the
 user is an institute user, as determined based on an
 identifier of the user, wherein the institute user accesses
 the materials to identify a learning user for filling a job
 position;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user
 can learn about the at least one learning user in an
 area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at
 least one of the users from another computer, which is
 connected to the apparatus through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regard-
 ing the at least one learning user; a learning user is
 allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and
 to work on, to perform a task; and materials on at least
 one of the users can be tracked and updated; and
 wherein the apparatus further comprises a learning mate-
 rials ascertainment configured to ascertain materials for
 a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the
 learning user.

29. A computer-aided learning apparatus [as recited in
 claim 28 further] for a user comprising:
 a retriever configured to retrieve materials related to the
 user;
 a determinator configured to permit the user to access
 materials regarding at least one learning user if the

5

user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 a tracker configured to track materials regarding the user;
 an updater configured to update materials regarding the user based on the tracked materials;
 a learning materials ascertainment configured to ascertain materials for the user to learn if the user is a learning user; and
 an advertisement generator configured to allow the user to advertise if the user is an institute user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the apparatus through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays to access materials regarding the at least one learning user; a learning user is allowed to access materials to learn; and materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated; and
 wherein the institute user accesses the materials to identify a learning user for filling a job position.

32. A computer-aided learning method for a user comprising:

receiving, by a receiving computer, materials entered by the user; and
 presenting, by the receiving computer, materials accessed by the user;
 wherein the receiving computer is coupled to another computer through a network, and the another computer, including a Web server, retrieves materials related to the user; permits the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user; [wherein] if the user is the institute user, [the institute user can] allows the user to learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested; and allows the user to access materials on a subject to learn if the user is a learning user, who pays less than an institute user to access materials[, so as to encourage the learning user to work on materials to learn]; and
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated; the learning user allowed to access materials works for the institute user, the learning user is tested, and the learning progress of the learning user is monitored; at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an objective of the institute user; and at least a portion of the materials to learn is from the institute user.

33. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 32] for a user comprising:

receiving, by a receiving computer, materials entered by the user; and
 presenting, by the receiving computer, materials accessed by the user;
 wherein the receiving computer is coupled to another computer through a network, and the another computer retrieves materials related to the user; permits the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user; wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at

6

least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested; and allows the user to access materials to learn if the user is a learning user, who pays less than an institute user to access materials, so as to encourage the learning user to work on materials to learn; and materials on at least one of the users can be tracked and updated; and
 wherein materials accessed by a learning user include materials on a product of an institute user, with advertisement related to that institute user also presented if the materials are accessed.

53. A computer-aided learning method for a user comprising the steps of:

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;
 wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;
 wherein the method further comprises searching the materials to learn, to identify materials under a title;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated; and
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server.

58. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 53] for a user comprising the steps of:

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;
 wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server; and
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an interest of the learning user allowed to access materials.

66. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 53] for a user comprising the steps of:

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and

5 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

10 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

15 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;

wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task; wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;

20 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;

25 wherein the first computer includes a Web server; and wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn is from the institute user.

67. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 53 further comprising] for a user comprising the steps of:

30 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;

35 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user; and

identifying by the institute user a person to do a job depending on an objective of the institute user;

40 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

45 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;

wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task;

50 wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;

wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated; and

55 wherein the first computer includes a Web server.

68. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 53] for a user comprising the steps of:

60 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

65 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;

wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task;

wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;

wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;

wherein the first computer includes a Web server; and

wherein the learning user allowed to access materials is monitored, and the method further comprises identifying by the institute user that learning user to do a job based on materials regarding that learning user.

69. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 53] for a user comprising the steps of:

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user; and

permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;

wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials on a subject to learn and to work on, to perform a task;

wherein the method further comprises ascertaining materials for a learning user to learn based on an attribute of the learning user;

wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;

wherein the first computer includes a Web server; and

wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn allows the learning user to follow a scenario to solve a problem in a job.

71. A computer-aided learning method as recited in claim [70] 53 further comprising prioritizing the searched results to be presented.

74. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 73] for a user comprising the steps of:

retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;

60 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;

wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;

wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;

9

wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials to learn;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server;
 wherein the learning user allowed to access materials, works for the institute user; wherein the method further comprises testing that learning user; and wherein the learning progress of that learning user is monitored;
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an objective of the institute user, and
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn is from the institute user.
80. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 73] for a user comprising the steps of:
 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;
 wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials to learn;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server;
 wherein the learning user allowed to access materials, works for the institute user; wherein the method further comprises testing that learning user; and wherein the learning progress of that learning user is monitored;
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn is modularized as learning objects,
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn is for a customer of the institute user to learn, and
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn, depends on a job of that learning user.
82. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 73] for a user comprising the steps of:
 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;

10

wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;
 wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials to learn;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server;
 wherein the learning user allowed to access materials, works for the institute user; wherein the method further comprises testing that learning user; and wherein the learning progress of that learning user is monitored;
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an interest of that learning user, and
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on a job of that learning user.
84. A computer-aided learning method [as recited in claim 73] for a user comprising the steps of:
 retrieving, by a first computer, materials related to the user;
 permitting, by the computer, the user to access materials regarding at least one learning user if the user is an institute user, as determined based on an identifier of the user;
 wherein if the user is the institute user, the institute user can learn about the at least one learning user in an area the institute user is interested;
 wherein the materials accessed can be retrieved by at least one of the users from another computer, which is connected to the first computer through a network;
 wherein the institute user pays so that materials can be accessed;
 wherein a learning user is allowed to access materials to learn;
 wherein materials on at least one of the users can be monitored and updated;
 wherein the first computer includes a Web server;
 wherein the learning user allowed to access materials, works for the institute user; wherein the method further comprises testing that learning user; and wherein the learning progress of that learning user is monitored;
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn is for a customer of the institute user to learn,
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an interest of that learning user, and
 wherein at least a portion of the materials to learn depends on an area related to the background of that learning user.

* * * * *