

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

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(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
PESIT₀2PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/IN 2008/000875

International filing date (day/month/year)
29 December 2008 (29.12.2008)

Priority Date (day/month/year)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G06F 17/30 (2006.01)

Applicant

PES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Cont. No. I Basis of the opinion
- Cont. No. II Priority
- Cont. No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Cont. No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Cont. No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Cont. No. VI Certain documents cited
- Cont. No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Cont. No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-25	YES
	Claims ----	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims ----	YES
	Claims 1-25	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-25	YES
	Claims ----	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

The following documents are mentioned in the International Search Report; the numbering will be adhered to in the optional Examination Report, too:

- **D1:** US 2008/059897 A1 (DILorenzo) 06.03.2008 „Method and system of social networking through a cloud“
- **D2:** US 2005/283497 A1 (NURMINEN ET AL.) 22.12.2005 “System and method for search operations”

Document **D1** relates to a system and method for social networking based on a topic model wherein users can create connections and relationships according to topics of interest. **D1** is considered to represent the most relevant document. As can be seen in *figures 1A to 1C*, each user has a personal page which corresponds to a profile page that displays topics of interest and/or information that describes the user. Each profile page includes a personal cloud which displays a plurality of either content tags (*figure 1A*), biographical tags (*figure 1B*) or both (*figure 1C*). The user can provide tags for content or words or phrases which a user uses to describe himself or herself via an input box on a web page. The personal cloud constitutes a weighted display of the content or biographical tags because all tags are assigned to a particular category based on the frequency that the tag is utilized by the user. In case of the biographical tags, the weighting can be determined by the user, because a user may wish to emphasize a certain biographical information more than another one. Furthermore, the user can select only a subset of biographical tags to be displayed. The personal cloud therefore provides a snapshot of a user by including a combination of interests related to content and personal descriptors. Topic pages relating to one type of content can be composed from the content tags of

various personal pages (see *figure 3*). Tags of all kinds can be searched by a search engine. The results of a search for a particular tag are displayed on a web page (see *figure 12*): a cloudmember cloud displays users/members who have utilized the tag, a content listing displays content which has been tagged with the search term, a tag search cloud displays tags that include the search term or companion tags (for example, synonyms to the search term tag) and a member name list displays which members have utilized the search term as part of their user names. In addition, a user can also provide search criteria to locate another person of interest. The search is performed through the personal clouds on the profile pages of different users. A set of search criteria can include a set of traits that are required, whereas the search criteria can also include a set of traits that can be useful, but are not required. In other words, the search criteria can include a weight for each of the traits being searched for. For example, a first trait may be required to have a specific weight, while a second trait may be permissible to have a minimum weight (see *figure 14*). The method described in **D1** is implemented with the help of a web server, databases, a network such as the internet and user input devices (see *figure 15*). **D1** shows a majority of the features contained in claims 1 to 25 of the present international application (especially since the features included in claims 2 to 3, 7 to 10 and correspondingly, claims 16 to 17, 19 to 20 and 23, relate to notorious state of the art subject matter in conjunction with social networking and user profiles). Therefore, said claims 1 to 25 are novel, but not inventive in respect of **D1**.

US Patent Application **D2** employs a social network for providing a user with results to searches for individuals, businesses or content. As can be seen in *figure 1* of **D2**, the user can provide via a GUI various criteria regarding the search to be performed, as well as specify various characteristics, attributes, words or phrases. Said characteristics or attributes correspond to data held in profiles, which are searchable by keywords. A depth indicator is associated with the search, which serves to specify the extent of propagation of a search among other nodes or computers in the social network. For example, in the case where a depth indicator was depleted or had reached a certain threshold, propagation might proceed no further. If a matching profile to the specified search criteria is found at a node, some or all of that profile is provided to the user's node (for example, only those portions of the profile which have been specified as being "public" are provided to the user's node). **D2** shows the general state of the art for the subject matter of claims 1 to 25.

Summarizing, the subject matter of claims 1 to 25 is novel, but not inventive in respect of the cited document **D1**. **D2** relates to the general state of the art technology for the subject matter, which is not considered to be of a particular relevance. The industrial applicability is acknowledged.

Continuation No. VII:

Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
General statements in the description which imply that the scope of protection may be expanded in some vague and not precisely defined way do not comply with Article 6 PCT. In particular, objection has to be raised to any statement which refers to the extent of protection being expanded to cover the "spirit" of the invention. Therefore, the last paragraph on page 14 of the description has to be discarded from the international application.