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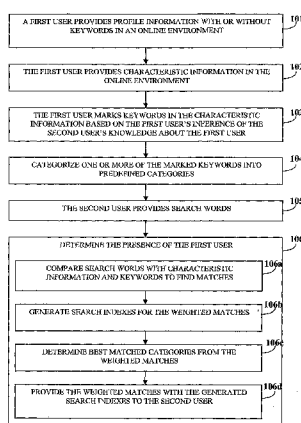


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is a computer implemented method and system for determining the presence of a first user by a second user in an online environment such as a social network. The first user provides first user's profile (101) and characteristic information (102) and marks keywords in the characteristic information based on inference of a second user's knowledge about the first user (103). The marked keywords are categorized into predefined categories (104). The second user provides search words (105) which are compared with the characteristic information and the marked keywords to find matches (106a). The matches are weighted and search indexes are generated for the weighted matches based on a predetermined criterion (106b). The weighted matches with the generated search indexes are provided to the second user. The selected profile information corresponding to the predefined categories comprising the keywords for which the weighted matches have high search indexes is then displayed to the second user (106c; 106d).



WO 2010/076804 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC ⁸ : G06F, G06Q		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EPODOC, WPI, TXTDE, TXTEN		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2008/059897 A1 (DILorenzo) 6 March 2008 (06.03.2008) <i>Abstract; Figures 1A-1C, 2-4, 6A-6C, 7, 12-15; Description of figures; Claims 9-16, 25-27;</i>	1-25
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A	US 2005/283497 A1 (NURMINEN ET AL.) 22 December 2005 (22.12.2005) <i>Abstract; Figures 1, 3; Description of figures; Claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-20, 23-24, 27, 30-38, 40-42, 47-48, 51-53, 56-63, 65-67, 73-74, 77, 80-92, 97-98, 101-102;</i>	1-25

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