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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) Data transfer devices and methods

(57) In one aspect, the present invention provides a network of game machines (506, 508, 510, 514) including a central controller (500). The central controller is useable to receive data from the game machines and also to transmit data to the game machines, for example to upload new or corrected software to the game machines. Some of the game machines may be connected to the network via radio link (512). Higher baud rates, such as 10,000 baud, are achievable with the network of the present invention.

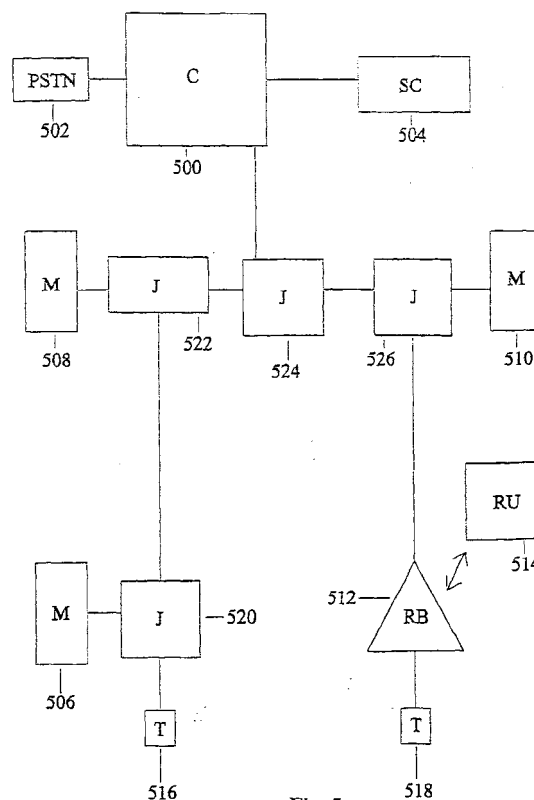


Fig. 5

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 6668

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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X	DE 197 30 002 A (NSM AG) 14 January 1999 (1999-01-14) * column 3, line 27 - column 4, line 27 * * claims 1,2 *	1-8, 18-20 9-13	
A	---		
X	US 4 335 809 A (WAIN JOHN L) 22 June 1982 (1982-06-22) * abstract * * column 2, line 57 - column 3, line 2 * * column 3, line 30 - line 35 * * column 3, line 62 - column 4, line 16 * * column 4, line 54 - column 5, line 2 * * column 6, line 44 - column 7, line 23 *	1-3, 9-13, 18-20 4-8	
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X	WO 99 00162 A (VEGAS AMUSEMENT INC) 7 January 1999 (1999-01-07) * page 27, line 1 - page 29, line 19 * * figure 7 *	21-26	
X	WO 97 15361 A (CAPPETTA LOUIS) 1 May 1997 (1997-05-01) * page 7, line 12 - page 8, line 6 * * figure 1 *	21-26	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>27 August 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Van Dop, E</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03/92 (P04C01)



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 6668

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 5 655 961 A (GINSBURG ALEC ET AL) 12 August 1997 (1997-08-12) * abstract *		
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 August 2003	Examiner Van Dop, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:  
1-13, 18-26
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-13, 18-20

1.1. Claims: 1-3

Claims 1 to 3 deal with the problem of transmitting game software to a gaming machine (p.7, 1.17-19) by providing an interface for receiving game software from outside the machine and writing it to a memory.

1.2. Claims: 4-8

Claims 4 to 8 deal with the problem of transferring a sufficient amount of data into and/or out of the game machine for allowing identification of flaws in the software (p.9, 1.11-14 and p.10, 1.14-16) by providing an interface for transferring data at a rate of at least 10,000 baud.

1.3. Claims: 9-13

Claims 9 to 13 are directed at easily integrating one or more game machines into a network (p.11, 1.20-21) by providing the game machine(s) with a radio communication device from transmitting data out of the machine(s).

1.4. Claims: 18-20

Claims 18 to 20 deal with the problem of handling a high volume of generated data reliably and economically within a network (p.19, 1.14-15) by providing a collating device with a writer interface for transferring data to a recording medium.

2. Claims: 14-17

Claims 14 to 17 aim at a simple installation of a new game machine / a network of game machines (p.17, 1.4-9) by reading configuration data from a physical recording medium.

3. Claims: 21-26

Claims 21 to 26 deal with an improved data communication (p.23, 1.1-4) by providing a network topology where each game machine is linked to at least one other game machine and only one of the machines is in turn connected to a controller.



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**  
**SHEET B**

Application Number  
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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27-08-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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