(b) means for accepting, from the user, a choice of one of said types of computer equipment,

(c) means for displaying, to the user, a set of technical specifications relating to the equipment chosen by said user,

(d) means for receiving, from the user, a choice of at least one specification relating to the chosen equipment,

(e) means for searching for a database to locate all items of equipment belonging to the type of equipment chosen by the user and having the chosen specifications, the set of items retrieved being called a product set, and

(f) means for displaying the product set to the user, including for each item in the product set, the seller and the price of the item.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising means for accepting, from the user, an order for at least one of the members of the displayed product set.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising means for displaying a set of characteristics of a selected product, said set of characteristics being more detailed than what is displayed by the means for displaying the product set.

4. The apparatus of claim **3**, further comprising means for accepting, from the user, an order for at least one of the members of the product set.

5. The apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the database contains information on shipping charges for various weights and distances, and wherein the apparatus further comprises means for calculating the shipping charge and displaying said shipping charge to the user.

6. Apparatus for assisting a user in locating and purchasing equipment, comprising:

(a) means for accepting, from the user, an indication of the type of equipment which the user desires to purchase,

(b) means for displaying to the user, a template of specifications, said template of specifications being related to the type of equipment indicated in step (a),

(c) means for accepting, from the user, a choice of at least one of said specifications,

(d) means for searching a database to locate all items of equipment belonging to the type indicated by the user and having the chosen specifications, the searching step including the step of retrieving items belonging to the type indicated by the user and having the chosen specifications, the items retrieved by said means for searching being called a product set, and

(e) means for displaying, to the user, information about each member of the product set.

7. Apparatus of claim **6**, further comprising means for selecting a member of the product set, means for determining all suppliers which sell the selected member, and means for displaying information about each supplier of the selected member, the supplier information including price information.

8. The apparatus of claim **7**, further comprising means for displaying a set of characteristics of the selected member of the product set, said set of characteristics being more detailed than those displayed by said means for displaying information about each member of the product set.

9. The apparatus of claim **8**, further comprising means for accepting, from the user, an order for at least one displayed member of the product set.

10. The apparatus of claim **9**, wheein the database contains information on shipping charges for various weights and distances, and wherein the apparatus further comprises means for calculating the shipping charge and displaying said shipping charge to the user.

11. The apparatus of claim **7**, further comprising means for accepting, from the user, an order for at least one displayed member the product set.

12. The apparatus of claim **11**, wherein the database contains information on shipping charges for various weights and distances, and wherein the apparatus further comprises means for calculating the shipping charge and displaying said shipping charge to the user.

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