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PATENTS

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## 1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Rabindranath Dutta  
Janani Janakiraman

## 2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

International Business  
Machines Corporation  
New Orchard Road  
Armonk, New York 10504

## 3. Nature of conveyance:

X Assignment

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Execution Date: *March 21, 2001; March 21, 2001*

## 4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is *March 21, 2001; March 21, 2001.*

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

## 5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

*Leslie A. Van Leeuwen*  
IBM Corporation  
Intellectual Property Law  
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Austin, TX 78758

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 17. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00

X Authorized to be charged to deposit account

(512) 823- *6746*

## 8. Deposit account number:

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## 9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

*Leslie A. Van Leeuwen* *Leslie A. Van Leeuwen* *3/23/01*  
Name of Person Signing Signature Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet: 2

## A S S I G N M E N T

Whereas, we,

(1) Rabindranath Dutta,                      of Austin,  
County of Travis,                      and State of Texas,  
and

(2) Janani Janakiraman,                      of Austin,  
County of Travis,                      and State of Texas,

have invented certain improvements in

THIRD PARTY MERCHANDISE RETURN SYSTEM

and executed, respectively, a United States patent application therefor on

(Dates Inventors Signed Declaration) (1) 03/21, 2001, and

(2) 03/21, 2001

Whereas, *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION*, a corporation of New York, having a place of business at Armonk, New York 10504, (hereinafter called IBM), desires to acquire the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention, and to any United States and foreign patents to be obtained therefor;

Now therefore, for a valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we, the above named, hereby sell, assign, and transfer to IBM, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention therein disclosed for the United States and foreign countries, and all rights of priority resulting from the filing of said United States application, and we request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in said application to IBM, its successors and assigns; and we hereby agree that IBM may apply for foreign Letters Patent on said invention and we will execute all papers necessary in connection with the United States and foreign applications when called upon to do so by IBM.

(1) Signed at Austin on 3/21, 2001

Rabindranath Dutta

Rabindranath Dutta

(2) Signed at Austin on 03/21, 2001.

Janani Janakiraman  
Janani Janakiraman