

FORM PTO-1595 (Modified)  
(Rev. 03-01)  
OMB No. 0651-0027 (exp. 5/31/2002)  
POBA/REV03

12-30-2003

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To the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):  
(1) Wei Fan  
(2) Haixun Wang  
(3) Philip S. Yu  
  
Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies)  Yes  No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):  
Name: International Business Machines Corporation  
Address: New Orchard Road  
  
City: Armonk State/Prov.: NY  
Country: USA ZIP: 10504  
  
Additional name(s) & address(es)  Yes  No

031356 U.S. PTO  
10/737123

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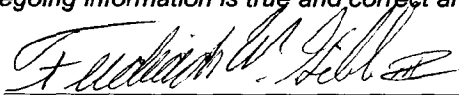
3. Nature of conveyance:  
 Assignment  Merger  
 Security Agreement  Change of Name  
 Other  
  
Execution Date: 12/01/03, 12/1/03, 12/03/03

4. Application number(s) or patent numbers(s):  
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:  
  
Patent Application No. Filing date B. Patent No.(s)  
  
101737123  
  
Additional numbers  Yes  No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:  
Name: Frederick W. Gibb, III  
Registration No. 37,629  
Address: McGinn & Gibb, PLLC  
2568-A Riva Road  
Suite 304  
City: Annapolis State/Prov.: MD  
Country: USA ZIP: 21401

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1  
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ 40.00  
 Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account  
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*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.*  
  
Frederick W. Gibb, III (301)261-8071  12/16/03  
Name of Person Signing Signature Date  
12/29/2003 DBYRNE 00000113 500510 10737123 3

## PATENT ASSIGNMENT FORM

For and in consideration of good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency thereof being hereby acknowledged, each undersigned inventor acknowledges his/her prior and ongoing obligation to sell, assign, and transfer, and agrees to sell, assign, and transfer the entire world wide right, title and interest for the United States and all foreign countries, in and to any and all inventions and improvements conceived during and within the scope of his/her employment, and further acknowledges that he/she has sold, assigned, and transferred, and hereby sells, assigns, and transfers, unto:

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION ("IBM"),  
Armonk, New York 10504**

a corporation of New York, and IBM desires to acquire all right, title, and interest, in and to the certain inventions (identified below), applications, and any United States and foreign patents to be obtained therefor relating to:

Title of Invention for **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ADAPTIVE PRUNING**  
United States Patent

as set forth in United States Patent Application executed by each undersigned inventor on the date indicated by each inventor signature below, and further identified by **Attorney Docket Number YOR920030457US1**;

(select one):  executed concurrently herewith or  Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Filed on \_\_\_\_\_

for and to said United States Patent Application including any and all divisions or continuations thereof and in and to any and all Letters Patent of the United States and foreign patents and all rights of priority to be obtained therefor which may issue on any such application or for said invention therein disclosed, including any and all reissues or extensions thereof, to be held and enjoyed by, its successors, legal representatives and assigns to the full end of the term or terms for which any and all such Letters Patent may be granted as fully and entirely as would have been held and enjoyed by the undersigned had this Assignment not been made;

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Each undersigned inventor further covenants and agrees that he/she, upon the request and at the expense of the IBM, will execute and deliver any papers, make all rightful oaths, testify in any legal proceeding relating to said inventions and improvements, communicate to the IBM all facts known to the undersigned relating to such inventions and improvements and the history thereof; and perform all other lawful acts deemed necessary or desirable by IBM, and its legal representatives, to secure, maintain, and enforce patent protection for such inventions and improvements and for vesting title to such inventions and improvements in the IBM, and in particular to perfect title to said above-identified certain inventions, and applications including divisions and continuations thereof, and any and all Letters Patent which may be granted therefor or thereon, including reissues, extensions, or counterparts;

Each undersigned inventor hereby grants the IBM and the firm of the power to insert in this Assignment any further identification which may be necessary or desirable for recordation of this Assignment.

This assignment is governed by the substantive laws of the state of New York.

Executed by Inventor 1 of 3

Signature: Wei Fan Date: 12/01/03  
Wei Fan

Executed by Inventor 2 of 3

Signature: Haixun Wang Date: 12/1/03  
Haixun Wang

Executed by Inventor 3 of 3

Signature: Philip S. Yu Date: 12/3/03  
Philip S. Yu