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7/13/2004 NGETACHE 00000057 090461 10844145

ASSIGNMENT

Whereas, I,

(1) Christopher Kent Karstens

of: City of Apex and State of North Carolina

have invented certain improvements in SYSTEM AND METHOD OF BUILDING PROVEN SEARCH PATHS

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

(1) MAY 4, 2004

And 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, I, 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 I request the Commissioner for Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in said application to IBM, its successors and assigns; and I hereby agree that IBM may apply for foreign Letters Patent on said invention and I will execute all papers necessary in connection with the United States and foreign applications when called upon to do so by IBM.

SIGNED AND SEALED:

(1) at: RTP, NC

on: MAY 4, 2004

RECORDED: 07/12/2004

Christopher Kent Karstens
MAY 4, 2004

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