

ELLIS -- Appln. No.: 09/320,660

Seti@home is a project by which a PC user could loan his or her PC to be used to process radio signals received from space. A home computer's CPU cycles are borrowed by an automatic program for the processing of the radio signals. The program that runs on each client computer looks and behaves like a screen saver. It runs only when the machine is idle, at which time the computer's CPU is borrowed to process the radio signals.

The Examiner appears to have rejected claims 27-41 because of a belief that UNIX and NT servers can be run on personal computers and can be made to function temporarily as a master personal computer or as a slave personal computer, as similarly recited in claims 27-41. However, a UNIX or an NT server functions as a server, not as a master personal computer or as a slave personal computer, which require applications not found in UNIX or NT operating systems. Therefore, Applicant submits that neither Seti@home nor a UNIX or an NT server running on personal computers discloses, teaches or suggests:

at least one of at least two personal computers, when directed by a personal user, functioning temporarily as a master personal computer to initiate and control execution of a computer processing shared operation with at least one other of the at least two personal computers in a network, the shared processing operation including one of parallel processing and multi-tasking processing;

or

at least one other of the at least two personal computers, when idled by the personal user, functioning temporarily as at least one slave personal computer to participate in the execution of a shared computer processing