



New York University School of Medicine
Office of Industrial Liaison/Technology Transfer

ThinkSheet

Data Management—*Network*

Principal Inventor:

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Description of the Technology:

ThinkSheet is a tool to help people read, organize and understand complex documents like contracts, strategies, technical specifications, and web sites. Like a human expert, ThinkSheet links its questions together, asking only for answers that logically follow from the user's prior response. The final data or conclusion is summarized in plain English. As easy to set up as a spreadsheet, ThinkSheet is a powerful tool to help users acquire exactly the information they need from complex documents.

Features and Benefits:

ThinkSheet can be used in a Creator/Author mode and a Browser/Reader mode. Interface developers use ThinkSheet in the creator mode to organize access to the material through questions asked to the user. The developers link questions so only questions associated with answers will be asked based on the user's prior response. It is as easy to set up a ThinkSheet-based access as to program a spreadsheet. Information seekers then use the ThinkSheet-based access in the Browser mode to navigate through information by answering questions that lead to the material they are interested in. ThinkSheet is a powerful tool to create interfaces to complex information to allow the user to easily find the material they seek.

Applications:

ThinkSheet is a tool to help knowledge workers organize and read complex text and multimedia documents such as plans and strategies, laws, and technical information. For example, we have created ThinkSheets that rewrite social security law so that it is tailored to the individual asking about it. We are currently developing a prototype for a help desk. Smart forms are also a good application.

Patent Status:

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