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## *E-commerce and patent protection*

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| <p>19 A computer program element comprising computer program code means to make the computer execute:<br/>(a) a first function,<br/>(b) a second function,<br/>(c) etc.</p> <p>20 The Open System Interconnection model defines a framework for implementing protocols in seven hierarchically-arranged layers, namely (from top to bottom) the application, presentation, session, transport,</p> | <p>network, data link (MAC) layer and physical layers.</p> <p>21 U.S. Patent No. 5,794,210.</p> <p>22 U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207.</p> <p>23 Travis, Jeffrey 'Journey Through The Amazon': An exploration of §103 relative to software-related patents.</p> <p>24 Aharonian, Gregory 'Does the Patent Office Respect the Software Community?' <i>Internet Patent News Service</i> 15 May 1999.</p> | <p>25 Sachs, R. 'Software Patents and Internet Business Methods in the Wake of State Street Bank' <i>Fenwick &amp; West's firm newsletter</i>, Fall 1998. Reproduced in <i>Internet Patent News Service</i> 2 February 1999.</p> <p>26 Allison, John R. &amp; Tiller, Emerson H., Note 13.</p> <p>27 TechEncyclopedia.</p> |
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## International News

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### ICANN implements new domain name transfer policy

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On 12 November 2004, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**) announced that its new inter-registrar domain name transfer policy (**Policy**) had come into effect. The Policy is intended to standardise the process of domain name transfer between registrars, and consequently encourage greater

consumer and business choice. It is also designed to guard against unauthorised transfers.

The Policy, which was initially released on 12 July 2004, was approved unanimously by the ICANN Generic Names Supporting Organisation and board of directors. Under the Policy, registrars must

employ a standardised form of authorisation that requires the express consent of the domain name registrant before any transfer can occur. The Policy also allows registrants to transfer their domain names without the need for 'double confirmation' of the transfer, and establishes a dispute resolution process in the event of a dispute between registrars.

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### EU adopts communication on long-term information society strategy

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On 19 November 2004, the European Commission (**Commission**) announced that it had adopted a Communication (**Communication**) on the issues that must be addressed in the European Information Society strategy up until 2010. The Communication represents the first stage in the development of a new strategy, which will be implemented in 2005.

The Communication emphasises the

need for a strategy that will facilitate the use of information and communication technologies (**ICT**) to advance broader European Union (**EU**) policy objectives. It also notes the importance of ICT in boosting productivity and competitiveness across the EU, and briefly examines these improvements within the broader context of global ICT growth. In addition, it argues that an information society strategy must address issues of accessibility and

inclusiveness to ensure that EU citizens benefit equally from advancements in ICT, and that ICT solutions are tailored to the needs and expectations of end users.

The Commission will consult with the public and other stakeholders, including the eEurope Advisory Group, over the following year to develop a policy agenda.