

16. An information processing method according to claim 14 or 15, wherein said inclusion detection control step comprises:

a selection step of selecting said other avatars;  
 a first determination step of determining whether said indicator for each said other avatars is not set, whether said information management table of said avatar shows that said other avatars are not contained in said aura of said avatar, and whether said other avatars are contained in said aura of said avatar;  
 a first update step of updating said plurality of information management tables, in accordance with said first determination step;  
 a second determination step of determining whether said indicator for said avatar is not set, whether said information management table of said avatar shows that said avatar is no longer contained in said auras of said other avatars, and whether said avatar is contained in said auras of said other avatars; and  
 a second update step of updating said plurality of information management tables, in accordance with said second determination step.

17. A computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to drive an information processing apparatus to perform an information processing method according to any one of claims 9 to 16.

18. A computer program which when executed on a computer causes the computer to perform an information processing method according to any one of claims 9 to 16.

19. An information processing apparatus for presenting a 3-dimensional virtual space allowing an avatar of a plurality of avatars in said 3-dimensional virtual space being operated to communicate with one or more other avatars of said plurality of avatars, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage element configured to store an indicator set to show whether information owned by said avatar can be communicated with said other avatars; and  
 a processor, coupled to said storage element, configured to determine whether said information owned by said avatar can be communicated with said other avatars, based on said indicator stored in said storage element, wherein said processor is further configured to process said information to be communicated with said other avatars, as determined on the basis of said indicator.

20. An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said indicator is represented by a transparency flag.

21. An information processing apparatus of claim 20, wherein:

said processor is further configured to communicate said information owned by said avatar to said other avatars when said transparency flag is true; and  
 said processor is still further configured not to communicate said information owned by said avatar to said other avatars when said transparency flag is false.

22. An information processing apparatus according to claim 20 or 21 wherein:

said transparency flag is changeable between true and false.

23. An information processing apparatus according to any one of claims 19 to 22, wherein:

said storage element is further configured to store a plurality of information management tables each indicating whether a corresponding one of said plurality of avatars has an aura containing each other of said plurality of avatars; and  
 said processor is further configured to determine whether said information owned by said avatar can be communicated with said other avatars, based on said plurality of information management tables.

24. An information processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein:

said processor is further configured to perform departure detection processing and inclusion detection processing for said plurality of avatars.

25. An information processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said processor is further configured to operate as follows during departure detection processing:

to perform first selection processing to select a first subset of said other avatars from said information management table of said avatar based on said aura of said avatar;  
 to perform first determination processing to determine whether said first subset is no longer contained in said aura of said avatar and whether said indicator for said avatar is set;  
 to perform first update processing to update one or more of said plurality of information management tables corresponding to said avatar