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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION WORKSPACE**

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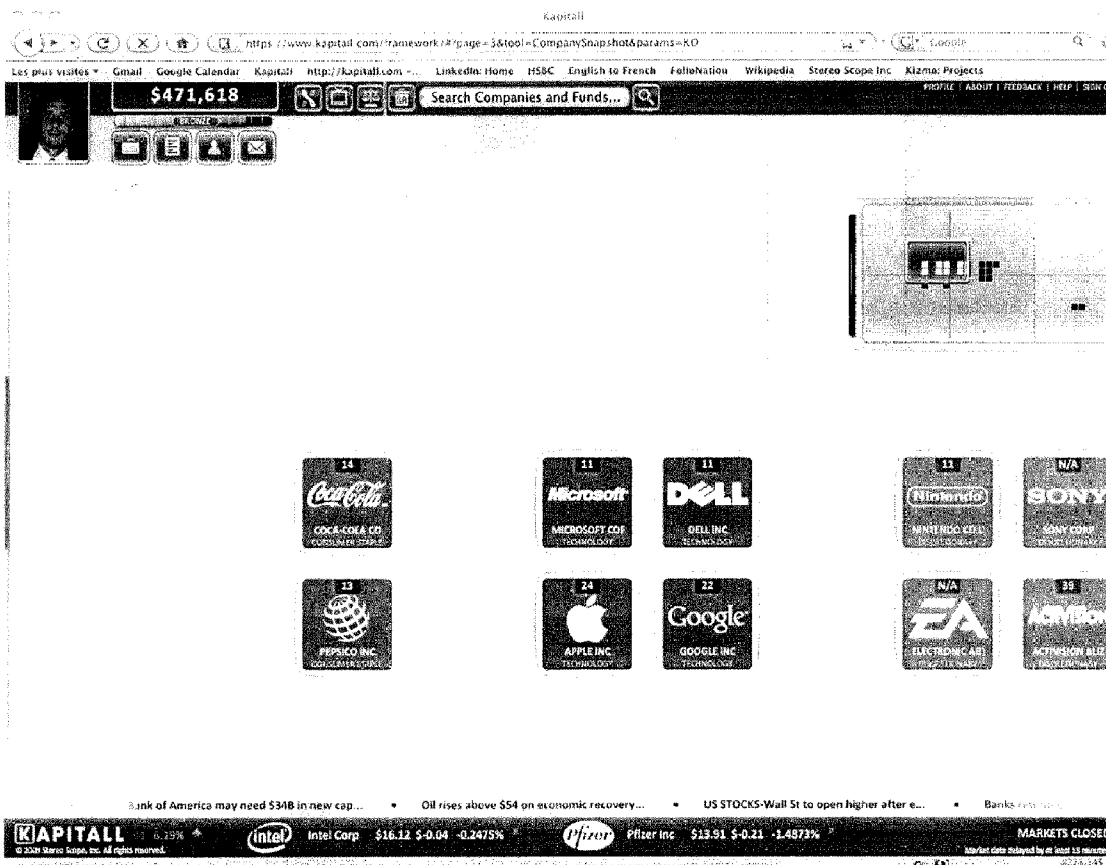
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, computer readable medium and system for providing an interactive desktop and/or browser-based information workspace (or "playground") includes obtaining at a workspace management processing system a selection of one or more condensed information objects and one or more of application tools. A customized interactive workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format is provided to the computing system from the workspace management processing system based on a default interactive workspace populated with the selected one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools. The customized interactive workspace is configured to enable at least one of the one or more application tools to act upon, affect or interact with at least one of the one or more condensed information objects from within the customized interactive workspace and the customized interactive workspace.



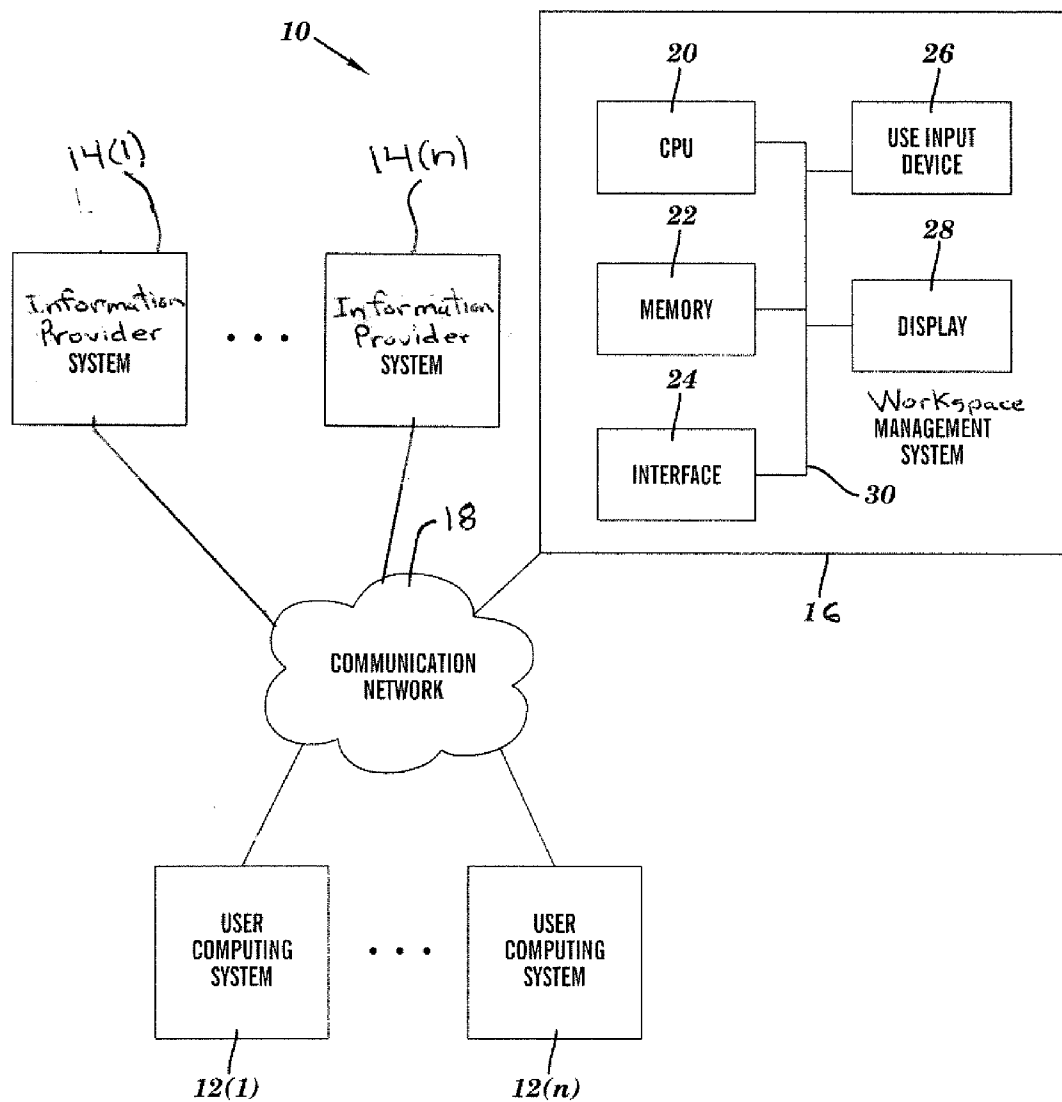


FIG. 1

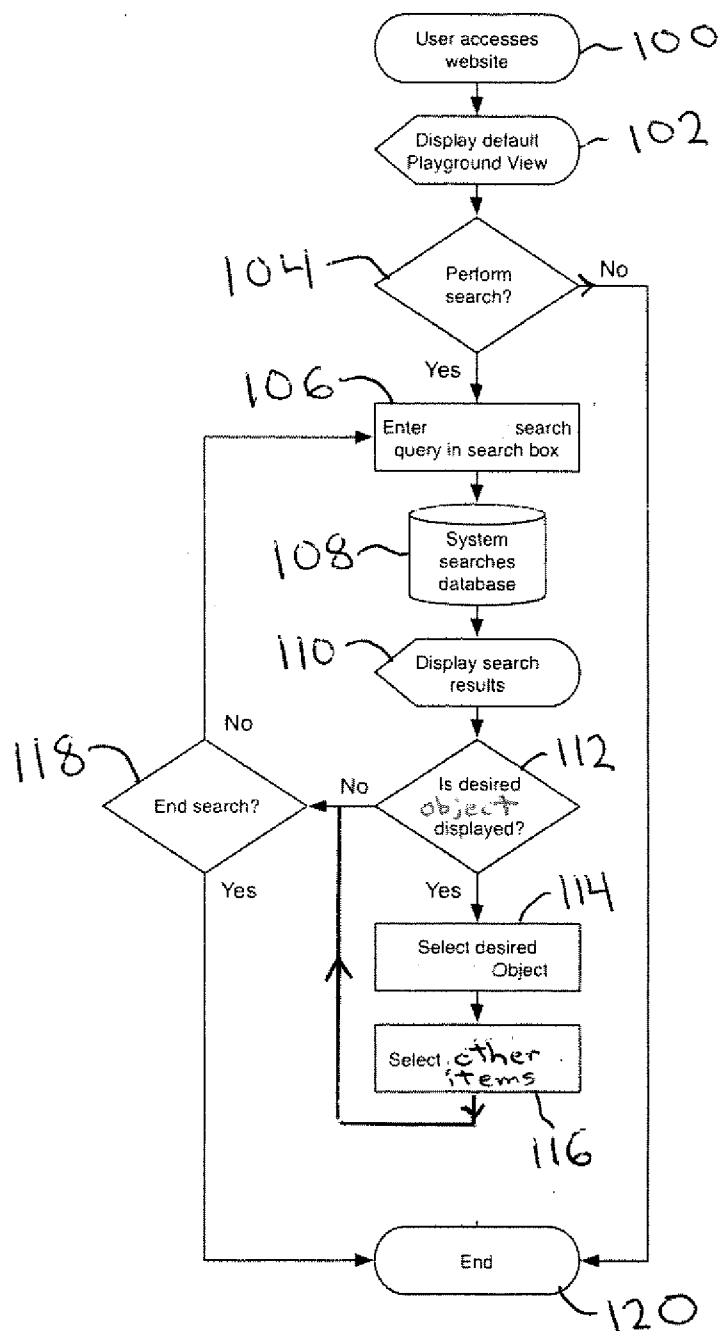
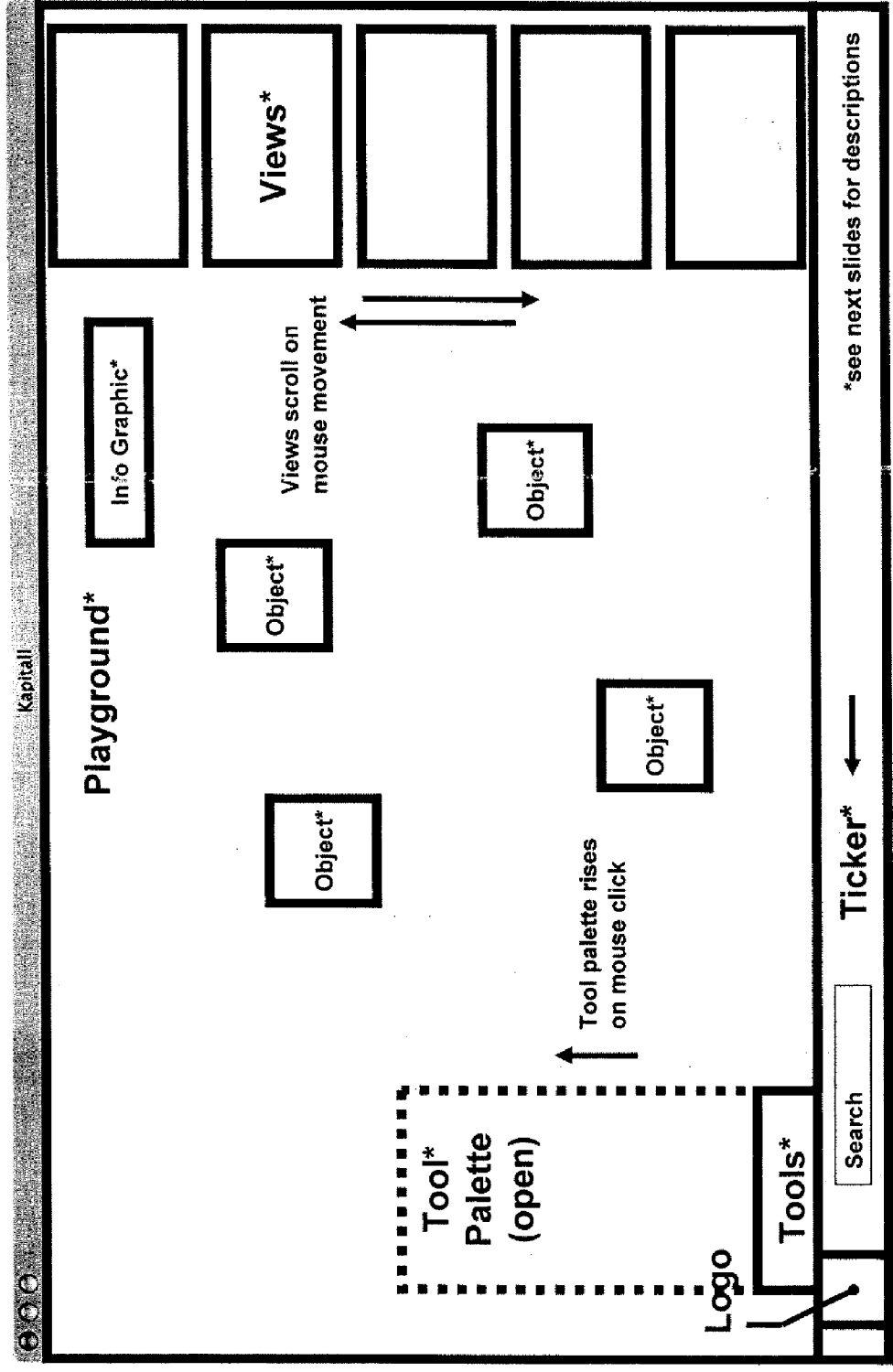


FIG. 2



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Profile:

Gaspard de Dreuzy

About You

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New York

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FIG. 4

Banks returning bailouts will face condi...

Asia faces weak recovery from slowdown...

Walmart eyes China convenience store ma...

General Electric Co \$11.67 \$0.57 4.35%

Wells Fargo & Co \$26.84 \$3.02 15.59%

KAPITAL \$12.89 \$1.85 17.07%

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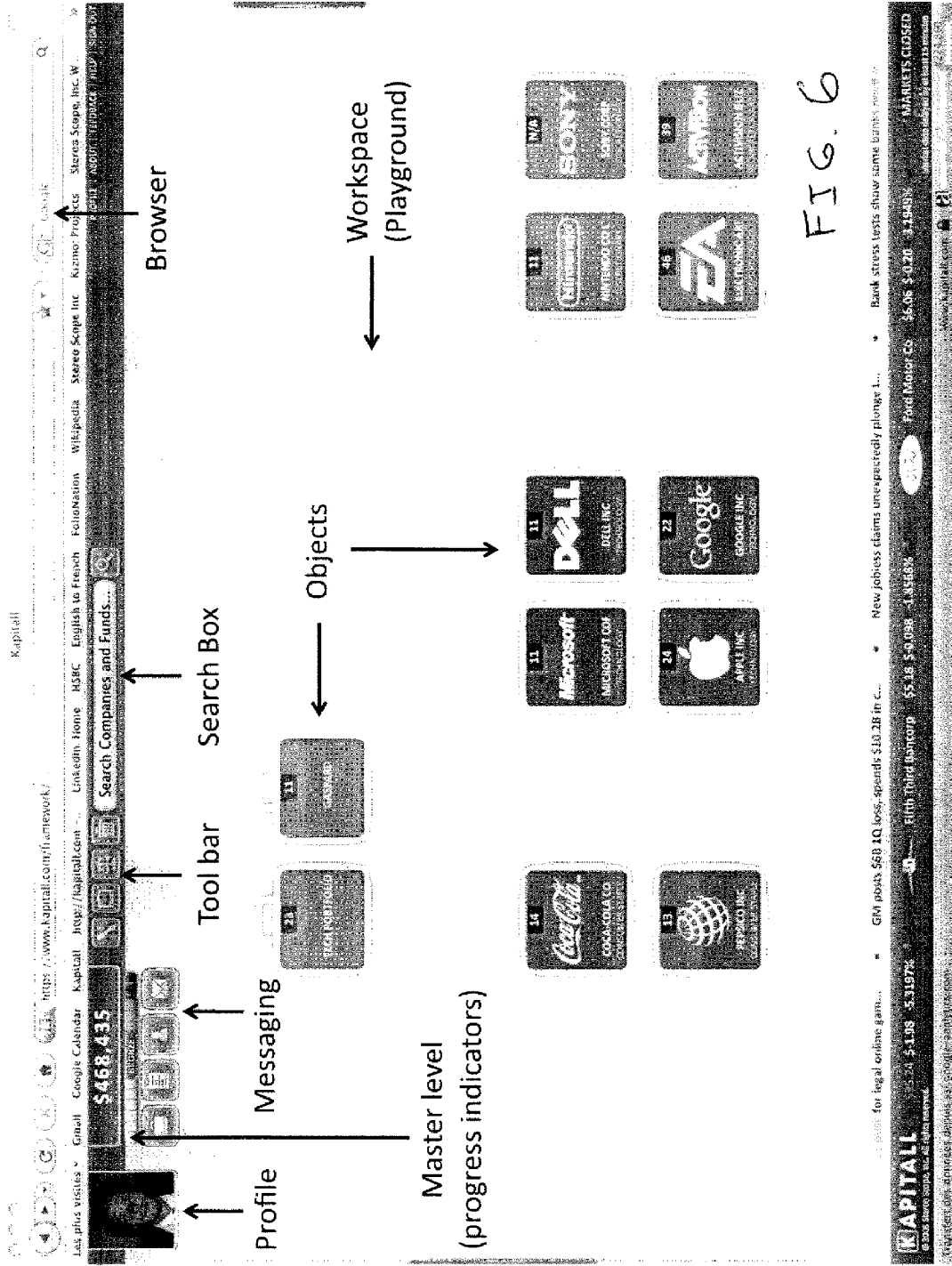
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- APPLE INTERNATIONAL CO LTD APNF
- APPLETON GROUP PLUS FUND AGPL
- APPLESEED FUND APPEX

FIG. 5

Walmart eyes China convenience store ma... Bermanke: Economy should grow again late... Stocks dip as Bernanke gives guarded out... SEC chief says...

General Electric Co \$13.67 \$0.57 4.35% JP Morgan Chase & Co \$37.22 \$2.40 6.89%

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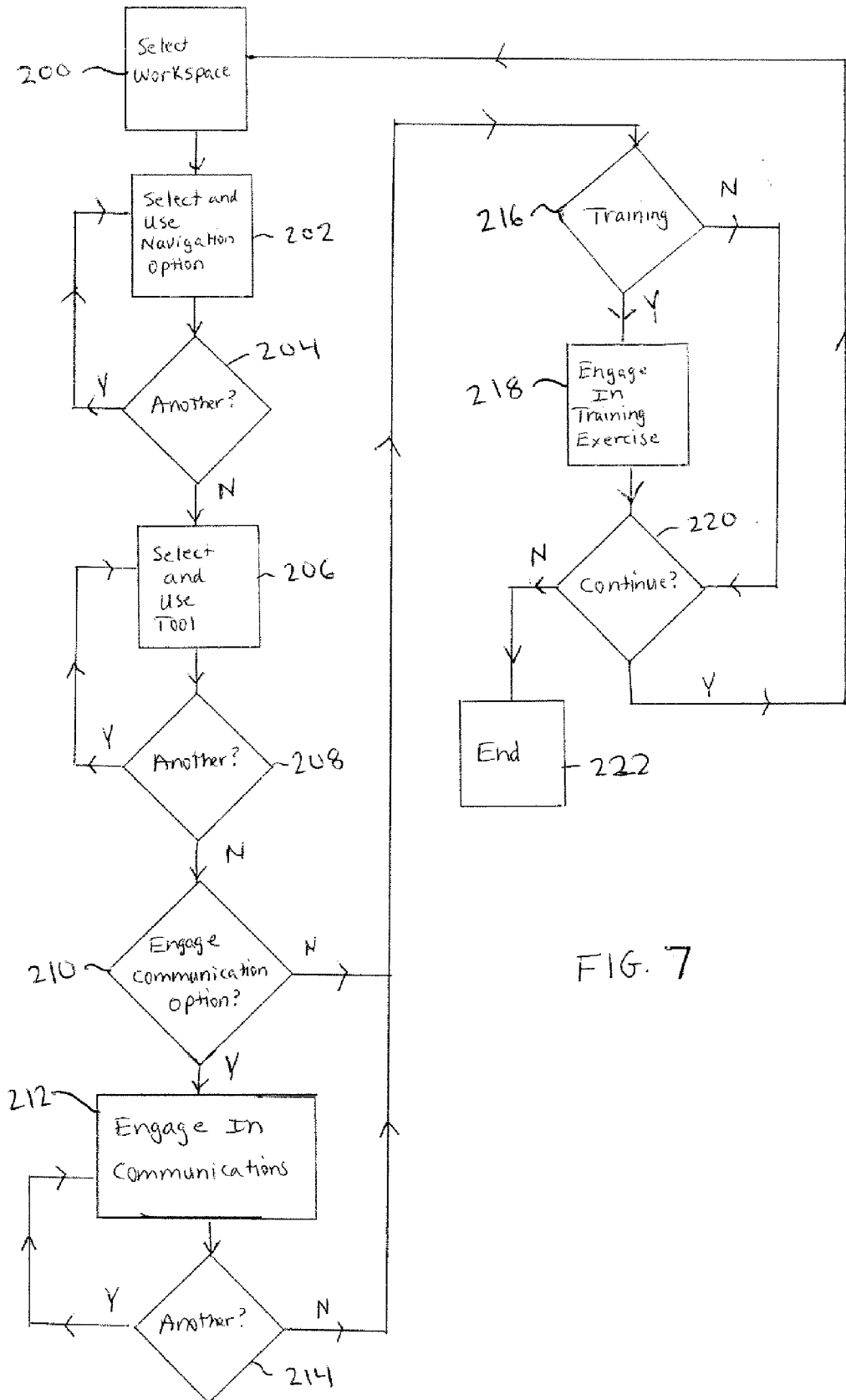


FIG. 7

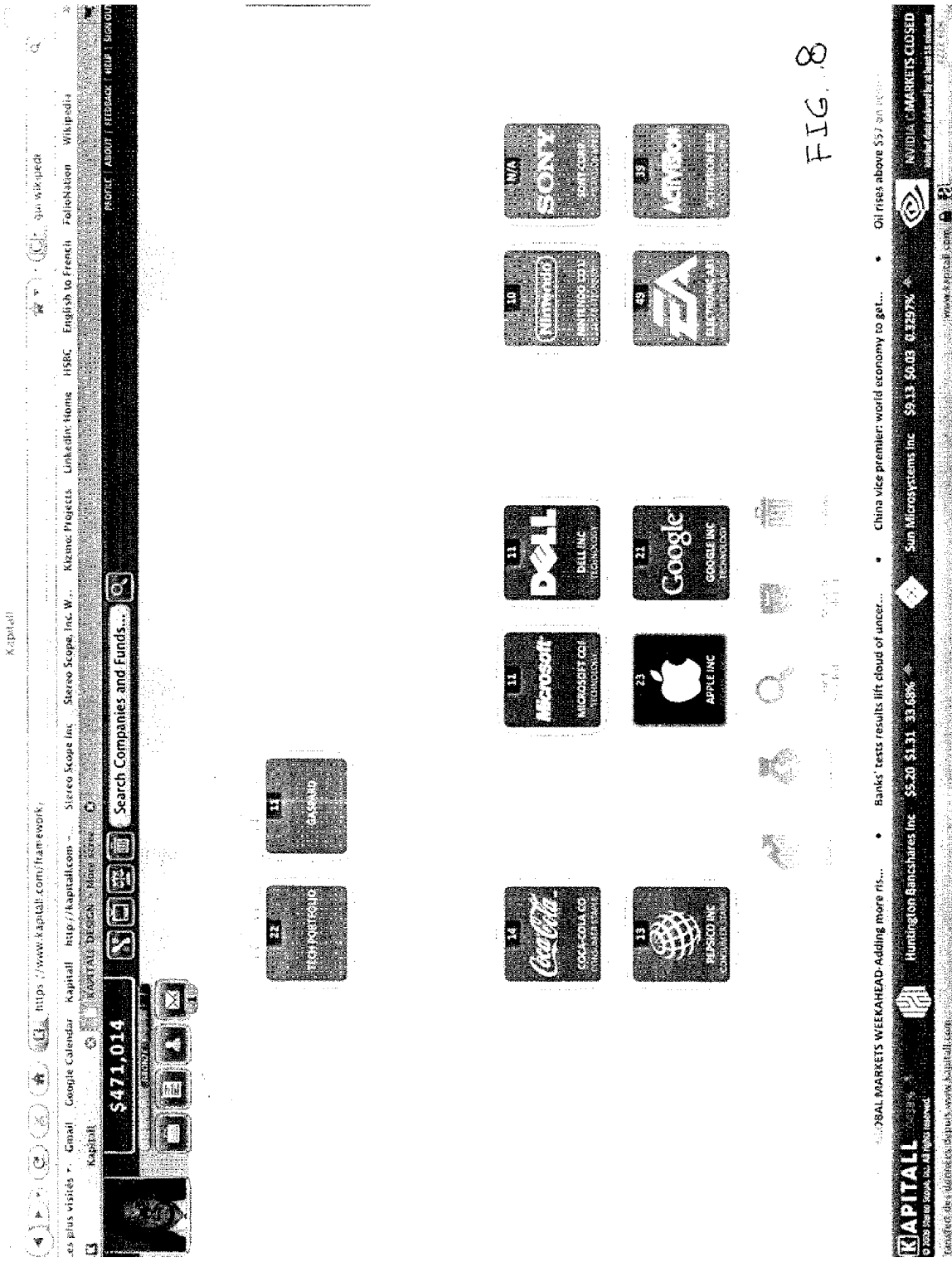


FIG. 8

ORGANIZE OBJECTS

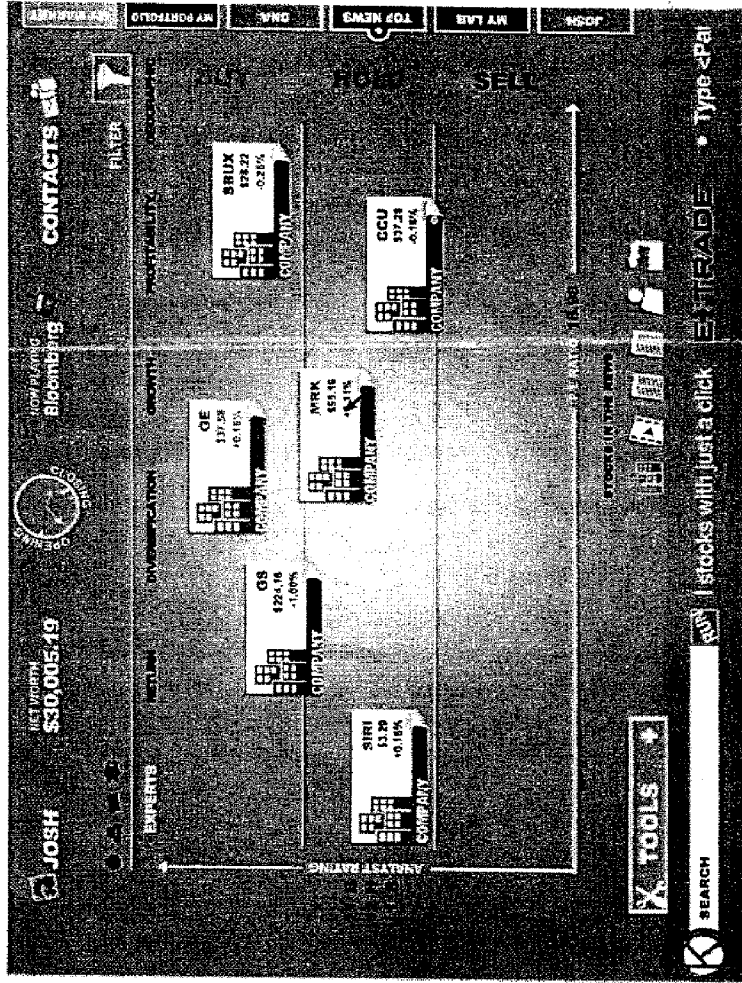


FIG 9

Capital

http://www.kapital.com/framebook/3/page-3/stock-fundsnapshots/params/FTRX

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Fidelity Invest / Public-Cap Growth

Fidelity Trend Fund (FTRNX)

Net Asset Value: \$43.54 -0.09 -0.21% Total Net Assets: \$511.1M

15

Share Save to Playground

Hypothetical \$10,000 Investment

Dividend Yield: 0.46%

Dividend Frequency: Annually

Apr 1999 Apr 2009

About

The Fund seeks growth of capital by investing primarily in common stocks of both foreign and domestic issuers. It seeks to take advantage of trends in security values reflecting changes in general and particular economic and financial conditions.

Risk & Reward

Historically, this fund has been highly correlated to the S&P 500, with similar volatility.

Top Holdings

Google	3.66%
Microsoft	3.22%
Apple	2.52%
Oracle	2.37%
IBM	2.1%

Lipper Ratings

You own 0 shares of Fidelity Trend Fund Stock

Buy

Total Return: 4 (4)

Consistent Return: 4 (4)

Preservation: 4 (4)

Tax Efficiency: 2 (2)

Expense: 3 (3)

Highest (4) (4) (4) (2) (3) lowest

Avg. Annual Total Return

1 Yr	3.1%	5 Yr	10.4%
Fidelity Trend fund	-33.06%	-8.23%	-0.51%
Index	-33.06%	-8.23%	-0.51%

FIG. 10A

Oil rises above \$54 on economic recovery...

US STOCKS: Wall St to open higher after e...

Banks returning bailouts will face condi...

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Fifth Third Bancorp \$5.28 \$0.70

CISCO \$19.61 \$-0.02 -0.1019%

KAPITAL

Card Metcor Co \$6.26 \$0.41 7.01%

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CapitalIQ

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Consumer Staples

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13

Pepsico Inc (PEP) Last trade: \$49.72 -0.01 -0.02%

Market Cap: \$77.4B
Dividend yield: 3.46%

1 year 1-year return: 22.49%

News Media

About
PepsiCo, Inc. consists of Frito-Lay Company, Pepsi-Cola Company, and Tropicana Products. PepsiCo brands are among the best known and most respected in the world and are available in countries

Brands
Annual Sales: \$43.3B

Company Management

CEO: Indra Nooyi
Salary: \$1,300,000
Total Compensation: \$13,382,035
Employees: 195,000
Salary/Employee: \$218,439

Analysts Recommendation
Sell 0 Mod. Sell 0 Buy 5
Avg Target Price: \$60.35

Climate Counts Score
Starting 37

Technopak
News

Buzz
You own 0 shares of PepsiCo Inc stock

ZACKS
Research, Financials, and more information on Zacks Investment Research

FIG. 10B

TrueNorth - Inspiration Cafe

Resume Email This Get Link

Video Provided by EngPro.com

SEC chief says new short-selling rules a...

Stocks dip as Bernanke gives guarded out...

Bernanke: Economy should grow again inte...

Regions Financial Corp \$5.83 \$0.34 6.81%

intel Corp \$16.12 \$-0.04 -0.2475%

Prizer Inc \$13.91 \$-0.00 MARKETS CLOSED

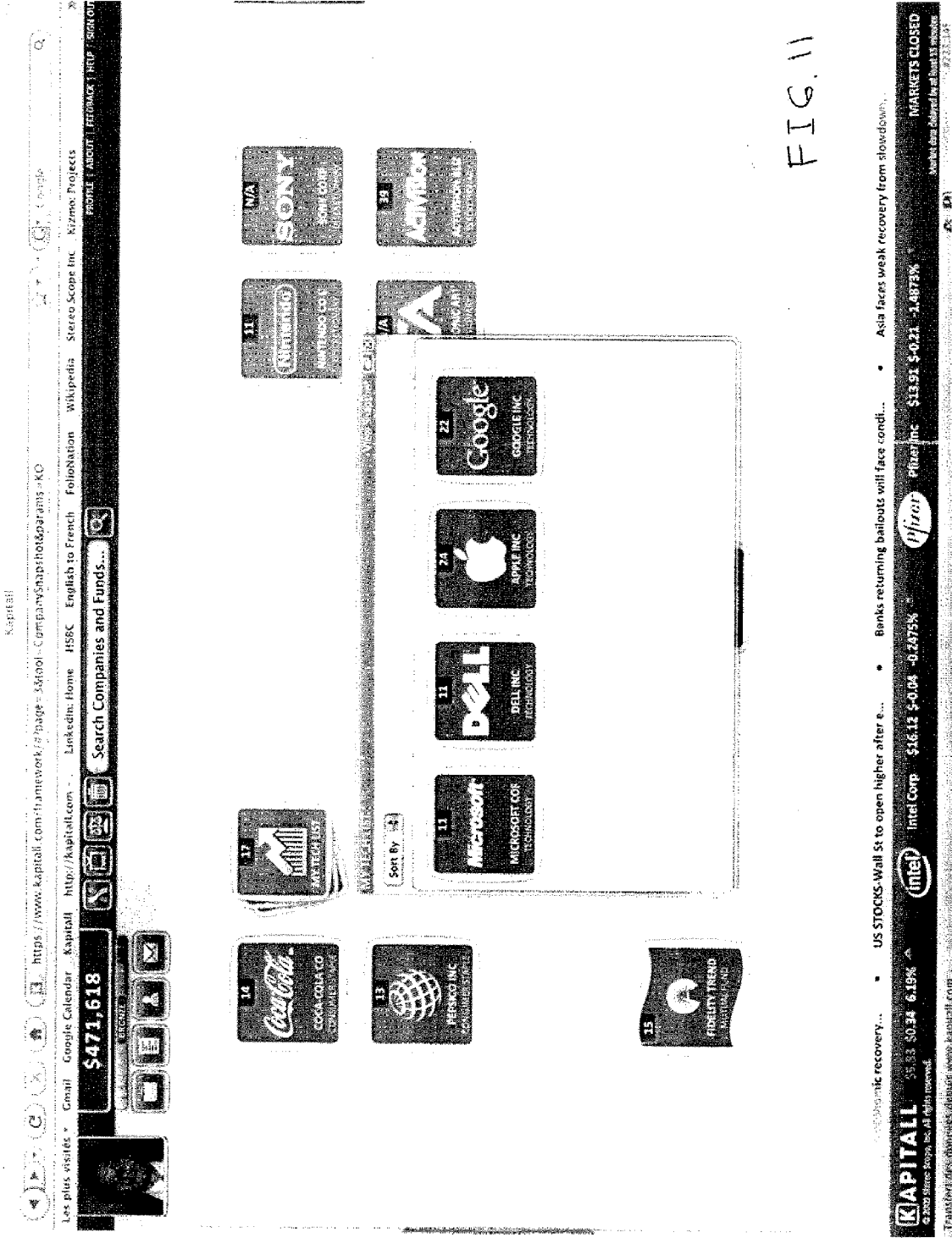
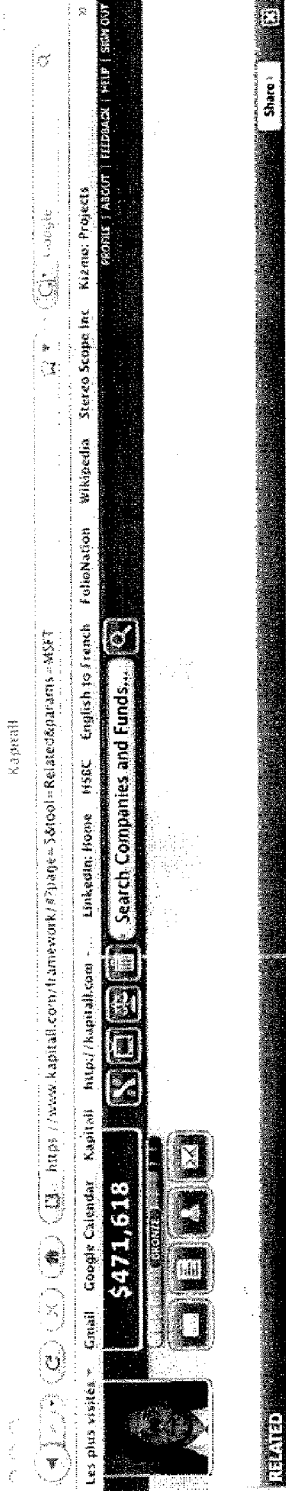


FIG. 11



Microsoft Corp

Companies



Lists



FIG. 12



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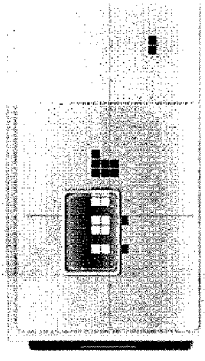
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13 PEPSICO INC FOOD & BEVERAGE	24 APPLE INC TECHNOLOGY	22 Google GOOGLE INC TECHNOLOGY	38 ARMY/BLACK ARMY/BLACK TECHNOLOGY

FIG. 13

Bank of America may need \$34B in new cap... Oil rises above \$54 on economic recovery... US STOCKS-Wall St to open higher after e... Banks rally

KAPITALL 6.19%

Intel Corp \$16.12 \$-0.04 -0.2475%

Filter Inc \$13.91 \$-0.21 -1.4873%

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APPLY ANALYTICAL TOOLS TO OBJECTS

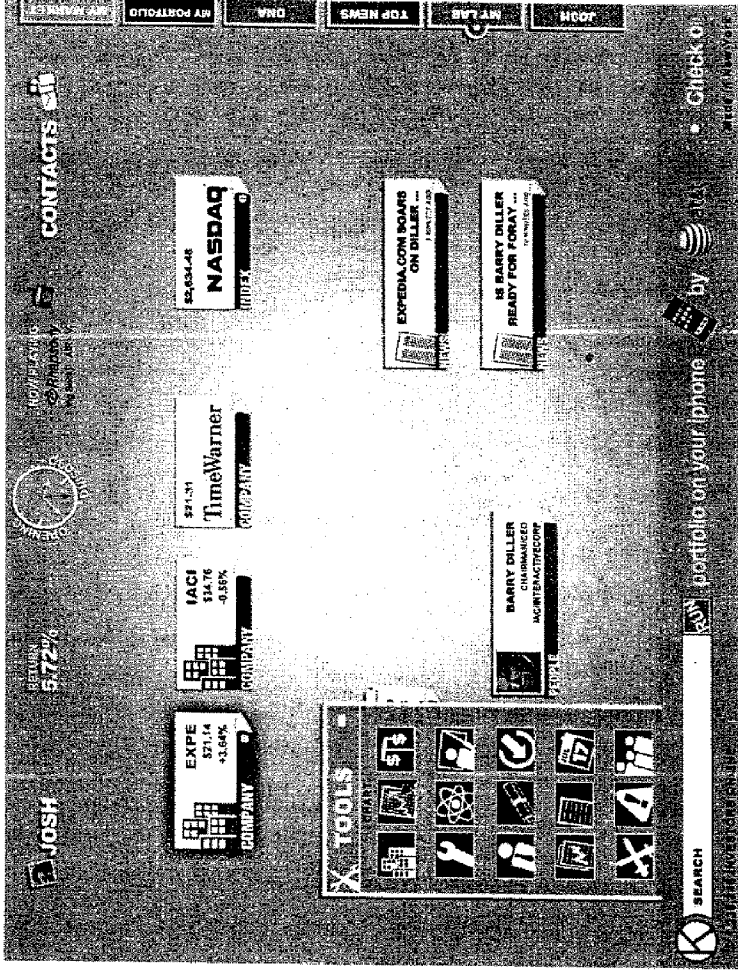


FIG. 14

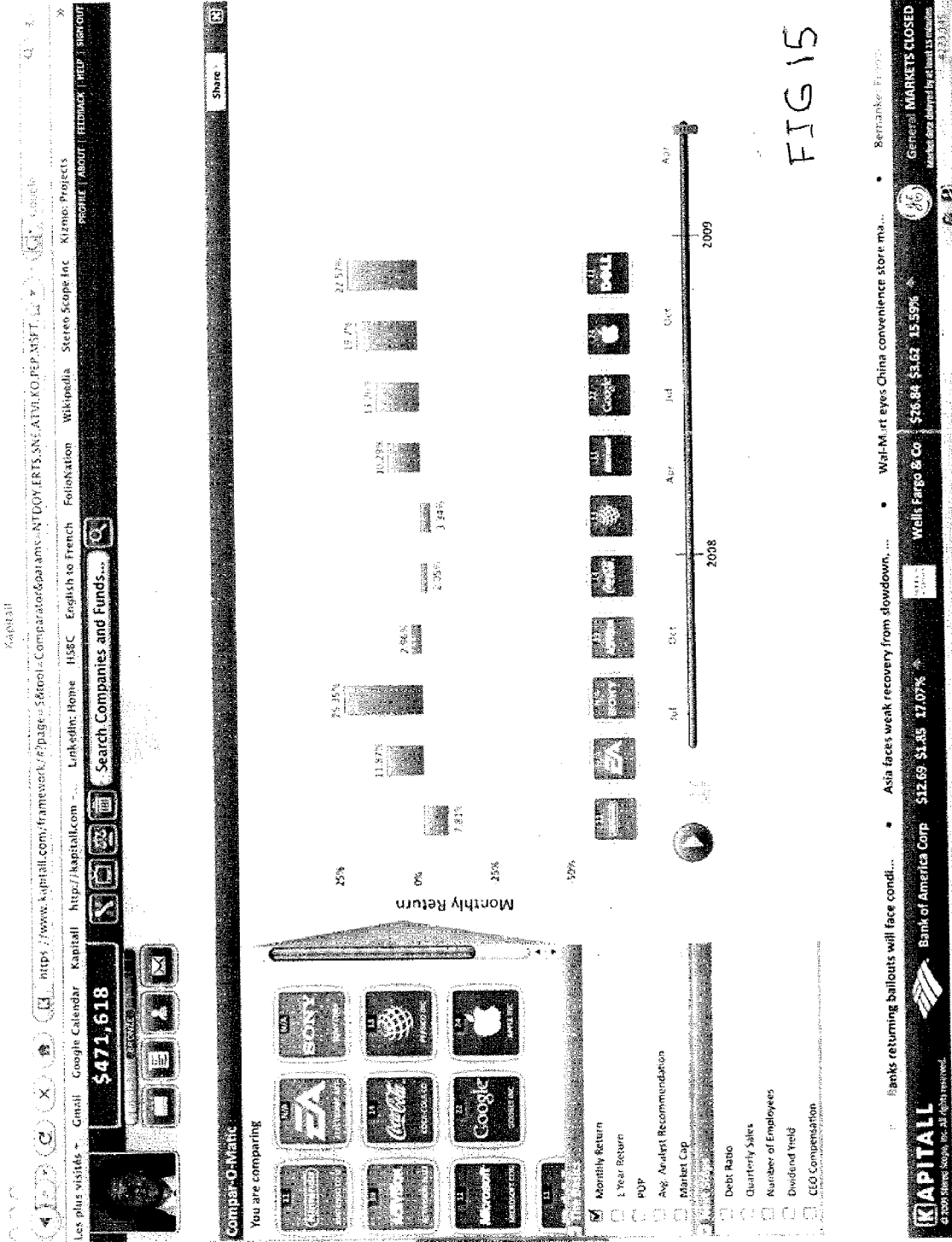


FIG 15

Bank of America Corp \$12.69 \$4.35 17.07% ↑
 Wells Fargo & Co \$76.84 \$3.67 15.59% ↑
 WMT eyes China convenience store ma...
 WATMART

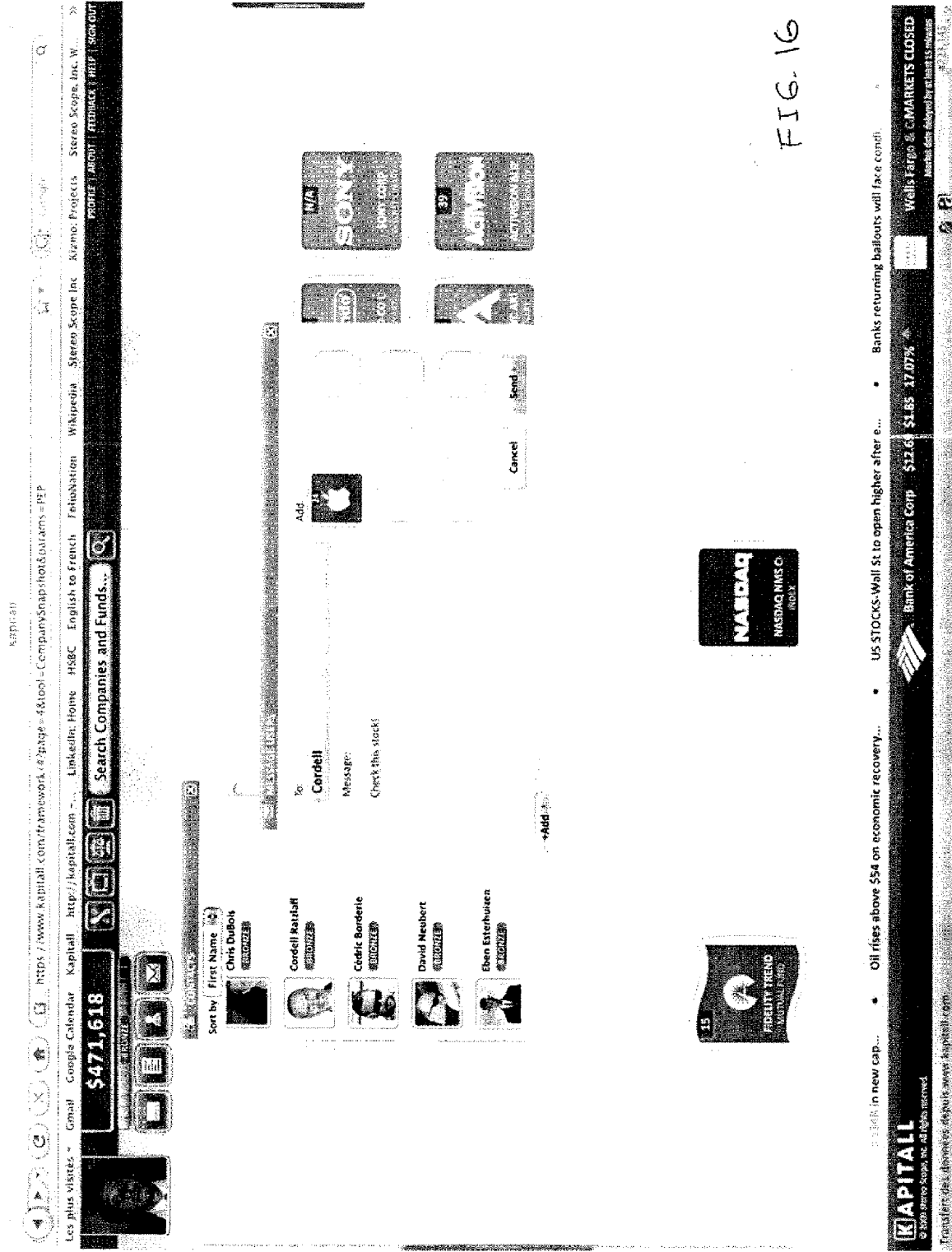


FIG. 16

**SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING
AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION
WORKSPACE**

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/051,998, filed May 9, 2008, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to methods and system for interacting with and manipulating information, such as financial information or sport information.

BACKGROUND

[0003] For a large number of individuals the Internet has become one of the primary sources for information, ranging from financial to sporting news and data. This information can be very helpful to users providing them with necessary data to make a variety of short and long term decisions. Unfortunately, the volume of available data on the Internet is growing exponentially and the format in which it is provided is often complicated, confusing, and static. As a result, individuals sometime fail to identify and analyze the most pertinent information for their short and long term decisions.

SUMMARY

[0004] A method for providing an interactive information workspace (or “playground”) in accordance with embodiments of the present invention includes obtaining at a workspace management processing system a selection of one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools. A customized interactive workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format is provided to the computing system from the workspace management processing system based on a default interactive workspace that provides a frame and includes the selected one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools. The customized interactive workspace is configured to enable at least one of the one or more application tools to interact with at least one of the one or more condensed information objects from within the customized interactive workspace and the customized interactive workspace.

[0005] A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions for providing an interactive information workspace comprising machine executable code which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform steps including obtaining at a workspace management processing system a selection of one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools. A customized interactive workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format is provided to the computing system from the workspace management processing system based on a default interactive workspace populated with the selected one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools. The customized interactive workspace is configured to enable at least one of the one or more application tools to interact with at least one of the one or more condensed information objects from within the customized interactive workspace and the customized interactive workspace.

[0006] An interactive information provider system in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention includes a customization system and a processing system at a computing system. The customization system obtains a selection of one or more condensed information objects and one or more of application tools. The workspace processing system provides a customized interactive workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format based on a default interactive workspace populated with the selected one or more condensed information objects and the selected one or more analytic tools, the customized interactive workspace is configured to enable at least one of the selected one or more analytic tools to interact with at least one of the selected one or more condensed information objects from within the customized interactive workspace and the customized interactive workspace.

[0007] A method for interacting with and manipulating information in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention includes displaying at least one interactive customizable workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display format. One or more information objects are provided and contained in the customized interactive workspace. At least one action is performed on at least one of the user-selected information objects and the customized interactive workspace via at least one of an application tool and a feature operation. The customized interactive workspace is displayed based on results of the performed action on the at least one of the information objects.

[0008] A computer readable medium in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention includes having stored thereon instructions for methods for interacting with and manipulating information comprising machine executable code which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform steps including displaying at least one interactive customizable workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format. One or more information objects are provided and contained in the customized interactive workspace. At least one action is performed on at least one of the information objects via at least one of an application tool and a feature operation. The customized interactive workspace is displayed based on results of the performed action on the at least one of the information objects.

[0009] A system that interacts with and manipulates information in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention includes a display system and an interaction processing system in a computing system. The display system displays one or more selected information objects in an interactive customizable workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format. The interaction processing system performs at least one action on at least one of the information objects via at least one of an application tool and a feature operation. The display system displays the interactive customizable workspace based on the performed action on the at least one of the information objects.

[0010] The present invention provides a number of advantages including providing a more effective method, computer readable medium and system for interacting with and manipulating information in a customized interactive workspace modeled through a video game metaphor and that provides a frame and a container for information objects. For example, with the present invention financial information, such as in-depth information on stocks and mutual funds, is

much easier to search, understand, manipulate, share, and analyze to enhance the efficiency and ease of use from within one single, integrated system modeled through a video game-metaphor. Additionally, the present invention provides this interaction with information in a much more graphical and intuitive manner through a type of graphical user interface that offers graphical icons, and visual indicators. As a result, with the present invention individuals are not only able to easily obtain and interact with information they need, but are motivated to do so because of the ease with which the present invention represents and makes this information available to them. Further, the present invention provides a method for interacting with information that may include one or more of tools that act upon information objects, user-directed controls, full screen graphics, instant or real-time communication with peer computing systems, information overlays, instant or real-time feedback, user profiles, displayed performance results measured against metrics, and a modern, unique and user friendly graphical user interface (GUI).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an information management system in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a flow chart of a method for generating a customized interactive workspace (the “playground”) in a video game display format for interacting with and manipulating information in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an exemplary default or initial workspace;

[0014] FIG. 4 is a screen shot of entering data in a user profile associated with an exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a screen shot of searching for information objects from an exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0016] FIG. 6 is a screen shot of an exemplary customized interactive workspace populated with information objects;

[0017] FIG. 7 is a flow chart of a method for interacting with information in a customized interactive workspace in a video game display format accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 8 is a screen shot of moving and selecting information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0019] FIG. 9 is a screen shot of organizing information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0020] FIGS. 10A and 10B are screen shots of initiating information objects and displaying the information encapsulated in the objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0021] FIG. 11 is a screen shot of grouping information objects together into lists in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0022] FIG. 12 is a screen shot of browsing related information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0023] FIG. 13 is a screen shot of navigating the exemplary customized interactive workspace using a navigation map;

[0024] FIG. 14 is a screen shot of applying an analytic tool to an information object and displaying the results of this action in the exemplary customized interactive workspace;

[0025] FIG. 15 is a screen shot of exemplary results of applying the analytic tool to an information object in the exemplary customized interactive workspace; and

[0026] FIG. 16 is a screen shot of connecting with other user computing systems and sharing information objects with peers in the exemplary customized interactive workspace.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0027] An information management system **10** in accordance with embodiments of the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 1. By way of example only, the information management system **10** illustrated and described herein is utilized with interacting with and manipulating financial information, although the system can be used with other types and amounts of information, such as non-video game information by way of example only. The information management system **10** includes a plurality of user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)**, a plurality of object information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)**, a workspace management processing system **16**, and a communication network **18**, although the system can include other numbers and types of systems, devices, equipment, parts, components, and/or elements in other configurations. The present invention provides a number of advantages including providing a more effective method, computer readable medium and system for interacting with for information in a customized interactive workspace configured in a video game display graphical user interface format.

[0028] Referring more specifically to FIG. 1, each of the plurality of user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** enables a user to access and interact with one or more interactive desktop and/or browser-based workspaces or workspaces, although other numbers and types of systems could be used for interacting with one or more interactive workspaces. A variety of different types of users computing system may utilize the present invention, such as an investment management computing system by way of example only. A workspace or “playground” is a virtual desktop and/or browser-based interactive space that contains content and information objects that can be acted upon by application tools, although the workspace can contain other types and amounts of data. In these embodiments, the workspace organizes information in a video game display graphical user interface format, although other types of formats could be used. A graphical user interface (GUI) is a type of user interface that offers graphical icons, and visual indicators, as opposed to text-based interfaces, typed command labels or text navigation to fully represent the information and actions available to a user. In these embodiments, actions are usually performed through direct manipulation of the graphical elements, although actions can be performed in other manners. The graphical user interface provides a platform a user can interact with for the tasks of gathering and producing information. A video game display format graphical user interface is a graphical user interface which includes information objects, full screen graphics, tools that affect objects, user directed control, instant communication with peers, information overlay, instant feedback, user profiles, multiple levels that require and help operators to advance in knowledge and skill, and performance measurements against metrics, although a video game display graphical user interface formats can include other numbers and types of aspects in other greater or lesser combinations of these elements. With respect to the different levels, in these embodiments the customized interactive workspace is

adjusted or customized to have information objects, tools and other items displayed and accessible based on a determined level of skill of the operator and may optionally provide additional information objects, tools and other items, although the customized interactive workspace can be adjusted in other manners based on the skill level. The video game format for the customizable interactive workspace provides a more graphical, intuitive and user-friendly type of graphical user interface that offers graphical icons, visual indicators and levels based on experience of the operator. In contrast, prior displays for information typically are modeled after less intuitive and less user friendly print media of simple columns and rows.

[0029] An information object comprises a computer interface element that is a visual front to the underlying data other information that it represents and encapsulates. The information object visually represents the information or other data as an independent user interface component that displays basic characteristics, such as an attribute-like name or attribute-like price, of the information it encapsulates. One characteristic or other attribute of the information that an information object represents is that it can vary in real time based upon changes to data received from one of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** via a communications network **18**, although it can have other numbers and types of characteristics. A variety of different types of actions can be performed on information objects including: searching; adding and removing; moving, dragging and dropping; initiating opening and closing; sending and receiving from peers; analyzing (e.g. comparing); storing; altering; grouping (to create lists); and browsing related information objects, although other types and numbers of action could be performed on the information objects.

[0030] In these embodiments, application tools depend and act on information objects, although other types and numbers of tools and tools which do not depend on any objects or locate, display and create specific information objects can be used. Additionally, in these embodiments the tools can be contextual based on the information objects in the customized interactive workspace, although one or more of the tools may not depend on any information object. A feature operation is an action which can be executed on the customized interactive workspace, such as changing background graphics, font size or screen size by way of example, although other types and numbers of feature operations can be executed.

[0031] Each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** includes a central processing unit (CPU) or processor, a memory, user input device, a display, and an interface system, and which are coupled together by a bus or other link, although each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** can include other numbers and types of components, parts, devices, systems, and elements in other configurations. The processor in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** executes a program of stored instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated herein, although the processor could execute other numbers and types of programmed instructions.

[0032] The memory in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** stores these programmed instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated herein, although some or all of the programmed instructions could be stored and/or executed elsewhere. A variety of different types of memory storage devices, such as a random access memory (RAM) or a read only memory (ROM) in the system or a floppy disk, hard disk, CD ROM, or

other computer readable medium which is read from and/or written to by a magnetic, optical, or other reading and/or writing system that is coupled to one or more processors, can be used for the memory in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)**.

[0033] The user input device in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** is used to input selections, such as requests for an action or operation or requests for an analysis with an application tool, although the user input device could be used to input other types of data and actions and interact with other elements. The user input device can include a computer keyboard and a computer mouse, although other types and numbers of user input devices can be used, such as (but not limited to) a video game console controller, a mobile communications device keyboard, and a TV remote controller. The display in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** is used to show the one or more interactive customizable workspaces in one or more windows, although other types and amounts of information can be displayed in other manners. The display can include a computer or mobile communications device display screen, such as a CRT or LCD screen, although other types and numbers of displays could be used.

[0034] The interface system in each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** is used to operatively couple and communicate between each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** and each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** along with the workspace management processing system **16** via the communications network **18**, although other types and numbers of communication networks or systems with other types and numbers of connections and configurations can be used. By way of example only, the communication network can use TCP/IP over Ethernet and industry-standard protocols, including SOAP, XML, LDAP, and SNMP, although other types and numbers of communication networks, such as a direct connection, a local area network, a wide area network, modems and phone lines, e-mail, and wireless communication technology, each having their own communications protocols, can be used.

[0035] Each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** provides by way of example financial information objects, event/news information objects, product information objects, and/or personal information objects, although other numbers and types of systems and other numbers and types of information, such as sports information, can be provided. Information is represented in the form of information objects that can be manipulated on and between workspaces, although the information can be in other formats. Each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** includes a central processing unit (CPU) or processor, a memory, and an interface system which are coupled together by a bus or other link, although other numbers and types of components, parts, devices, systems, and elements in other configurations and locations can be used. The processor in each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** executes a program of stored instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated by way of the embodiments herein, although the processor could execute other numbers and types of programmed instructions.

[0036] The memory in each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** stores these programmed instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated herein, although some or all of the programmed instructions could be stored and/or executed else-

where. A variety of different types of memory storage devices, such as a random access memory (RAM) or a read only memory (ROM) in the system or a floppy disk, hard disk, CD ROM, DVD ROM, or other computer readable medium which is read from and/or written to by a magnetic, optical, or other reading and/or writing system that is coupled to the processor, can be used for the memory in each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)**.

[0037] The interface system in each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** is used to operatively couple and communicate between each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** and each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** along with the workspace management processing system **16** via the communications network, although other types and numbers of communication networks or systems with other types and numbers of connections and configurations can be used.

[0038] The workspace management processing system **16** generates and provides at least one multiple customized interactive workspaces based on a stored default interactive workspace populated with selected information objects and selected application tools, although the customized interactive workspace can provide other types and numbers of functions and other numbers and types and numbers of processing systems can be used.

[0039] The workspace management processing system **16** includes a central processing unit (CPU) or processor, a memory, and an interface system which are coupled together by a bus or other link, although other numbers and types of components, parts, devices, systems, and elements in other configurations and locations can be used. The processor in the workspace management processing system **16** executes a program of stored instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated by way of the embodiments herein, although the processor could execute other numbers and types of programmed instructions.

[0040] The memory in the workspace management processing system **16** stores these programmed instructions for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated herein, although some or all of the programmed instructions could be stored and/or executed elsewhere. A variety of different types of memory storage devices, such as a random access memory (RAM) or a read only memory (ROM) in the system or a floppy disk, hard disk, CD ROM, DVD ROM, or other computer readable medium which is read from and/or written to by a magnetic, optical, or other reading and/or writing system that is coupled to the processor, can be used for the memory in the workspace management processing system **16**.

[0041] The interface system in the workspace management processing system **16** is used to operatively couple and communicate between the workspace management processing system **16** and each of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** along with each of the information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)** via the communications network **18**, although other types and numbers of communication networks or systems with other types and numbers of connections and configurations can be used.

[0042] Although embodiments of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)**, information provider systems **14(1)-14(n)**, and the workspace management processing system **16** are described herein, each of these systems can be adapted to and implemented on any suitable computer system or computing device. It is to be understood that the devices and systems of

the embodiments described herein are for exemplary purposes, as many variations of the specific hardware and software used to implement the embodiments are possible, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s).

[0043] Furthermore, each of the systems of the embodiments may be conveniently adapted and implemented using one or more general purpose computer systems, microprocessors, digital signal processors, and micro-controllers, programmed according to the teachings of the embodiments, as described and illustrated herein, and as will be appreciated by those ordinarily skilled in the art.

[0044] In addition, two or more computing systems or devices can be substituted for any one of the systems in any embodiment of the embodiments. Accordingly, principles and advantages of distributed processing, such as redundancy and replication also can be implemented, as desired, to increase the robustness and performance of the devices and systems of the embodiments. The embodiments may also be implemented on computer system or systems that extend across any suitable network using any suitable interface mechanisms and communications technologies, including by way of example only telecommunications in any suitable form (e.g., voice and modem), wireless communications media, wireless communications networks, cellular communications networks, G3 communications networks, Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTNs), Packet Data Networks (PDNs), the Internet, intranets, and combinations thereof.

[0045] The embodiments may also be embodied as a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for one or more aspects of the present invention as described and illustrated by way of the embodiments herein, as described herein, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps necessary to implement the methods of the embodiments, as described and illustrated herein.

[0046] A method for generating a customized interactive workspace in a video game display graphical user interface format for interacting with information in accordance with embodiments of the present invention will now be described below with reference to FIGS. **1-6**. Referring more specifically to FIG. **2**, in step **100** an operator at one of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** logs into the workspace management processing system **16** to access a workspace, although other manners for accessing a workspace can be used. If this is the first time an operator at one of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** or if the operator has either not registered or completed registering before, the workspace management processing system **16** prompts the operator through the one of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)** to enter profile information as set forth in FIG. **4**. In these embodiments, the profile information entered and stored in memory in the workspace management system **16** includes, but not limited to, personal user information such as name, address, email address, phone number, and categories of information which are of interest, although other types and amounts of information can be obtained and/or entered and stored and this captured user profile data can be stored at other locations.

[0047] In step **102**, the workspace management system **16** initially provides a default interactive workspace to the requesting one of the user computing systems **12(1)-12(n)**, although other types and numbers of workspaces could be provided, such as one or more previously stored customized

interactive workspaces associated with the one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n). By way of example, a default interactive workspace is illustrated in FIG. 3.

[0048] In step 104, the workspace management system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to search for one or more condensed information objects to select for inclusion in the default interactive workspace. If in step 104 the workspace management system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to search for one or more condensed information objects to select for inclusion in the default interactive workspace, then the No branch is taken to step 120 where this method ends. By way of example only, the No branch may be taken when the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) already has a customized interactive interface stored or does not desire to generate one at this time. If in step 104 the workspace management system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to search for one or more condensed information objects to select for inclusion in the default interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken to step 106. In step 106, the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) enters one or more search queries for information objects which are transmitted to the workspace management processing system 16 to execute the search as illustrated in FIG. 5, although the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) or other types and numbers of systems and devices could conduct the search.

[0049] In step 108, the workspace management processing system 16 receives and executes the one or more search queries in databases at one or more of the information provider systems 14(1)-14(n), although the workspace management processing system 16 could search other types and numbers of databases and other systems and devices, such as within its own memory 22. The workspace management processing system 16 obtains the results of these searches and condenses each of the results into one or more condensed information objects as illustrated in the list of search results for "apple" shown in FIG. 5, although the information objects can be obtained in other manners, such as by retrieving them from memory if previously generated. As discussed in greater detail earlier, an information object comprises a computer interface element that is a visual front to the underlying data that it represents and encapsulates. The information object visually represents the information or other data as an independent user interface component that displays a basic characteristic, such as an attribute-like name, of the information it encapsulates.

[0050] In step 110, the workspace management processing system 16 generates and displays the one or more information objects resulting from the search in the customized interactive workspace in a video game display format on the display screen of the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n). By way of example only, a screen shot of a customized interactive workspace with information objects loaded in and entitled: "TECH PORTFOLIO"; "GASPARD"; "COCA-COLA"; "PEPSICO INC"; "MICROSOFT"; "DELL"; "APPLE"; "GOOGLE"; "NINTENDO"; "SONY"; "ELECTRONIC ARTS" and "ACTIVISION" is illustrated in FIG. 6, although other types and numbers of information objects and other interactive headers could be populated into the customized interactive workspace.

[0051] In step 112, the workspace management processing system 16 queries the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to determine whether the desired information objects, in this particular example company related information objects, are displayed on the customized interactive workspace. If in step 112 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the desired information objects, in this particular example company related information objects, are not displayed, then the No branch is taken to step 118.

[0052] In step 118, the workspace management processing system 16 queries the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to determine whether to end any further searching. If in step 118 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to end the search, then the No branch is taken back to step 106 as described earlier. If in step 118 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to end the search, then the Yes branch is taken back to step 120 where this process ends.

[0053] If back in step 112 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the desired information objects, in this particular example company related information objects, are now all displayed, then the Yes branch is taken to step 114. In step 114, the workspace management system 16 provides the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) options for other items, such as application tools, feature operations, real time communication systems, stock tickers, time zone clocks, training session engagement icons, and training mastery level indicators, by way of example only, although other types and numbers of items can be provided for selection and can be obtained and presented in other manners. The workspace management system 16 receives the selection of any of these items from the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) and then generates displays any selected items in the customized interactive workspace in a video game display format on the display screen of the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n). By way of example only, a screen shot of a customized interactive workspace with: "PROFILE"; "MASTER LEVEL"; "TOOL BAR"; "SEARCH BOX"; "BROWSER"; AND INFORMATION OBJECTS" is illustrated in FIG. 6, although other types and numbers of items could be entered. Next, the method proceeds again to step 118 as described in greater detail earlier.

[0054] A method for interacting with information in a customized interactive workspace in a video game display graphical user interface format accordance with embodiments of the present invention will now be described below with reference to FIGS. 1 and 7-16. Referring more specifically to FIG. 7, in step 200 the workspace management processing system 16 provides the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) with one or more options of previously generated customized interactive workspaces associated with and stored for the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n), although the customized interactive workspace could be stored at another location or can be newly generated each time. The workspace management processing system 16 receives the request to either provide one of the stored customized interactive workspaces or to generate one by condensing and organizing search

results as described earlier and provides this for display on a display system at the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n).

[0055] In step 202, the workspace management processing system 16 receives, processes and displays the results of the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) selecting and using one or more actions or feature operations on the customized interactive interface, although the action and feature operation can be executed by other systems, such as the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n). By way of example only, the workspace management processing system 16 could receive, process and display the result of an action in the exemplary customized interactive workspace to: move and select information objects as illustrated in FIG. 8; organize information objects as illustrated in FIG. 9; and enter or open information objects as illustrated in FIGS. 10A and 10B; group information objects together into lists as illustrated in FIG. 11; browse related information objects as illustrated in FIG. 12; and navigate the exemplary customized interactive workspace using a navigation map as illustrated in FIG. 13, although other numbers and types of action or feature operations, such as changing graphics or fonts by way of example only, could be executed.

[0056] Moving and selecting information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace as illustrated in FIG. 8 allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to easily manipulate and interact with any of the displayed information objects. Organizing the information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace as illustrated in FIG. 9 allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to organize the information objects in whatever format is most beneficial to the operator for the particular operation being carried out. By way of example only, an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) may open several interactive customized workspaces with different sets of information objects, such as different investment technology sectors, which are organized in similar manners to facilitate comprehension while navigation between workspaces. Entering or otherwise opening information objects in the exemplary customized interactive workspace as illustrated in FIGS. 10A and 10B allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to see more detailed information stored under each of the opened condensed information objects. Grouping information objects together into lists as illustrated in FIG. 11 allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to arrange the information objects into subsets for further review, comparison and analysis. Browsing related information objects as illustrated in FIG. 12 allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to identify other related information objects to a selected information object for further review, comparison and analysis. In these embodiments, the workspace management processing system 16 searches for and identifies related information objects to a selected information object based on one or more entered search terms, although related information objects can be identified in other manners. By way of example only, the operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) may wish to compare the "MICROSOFT" information object to other related technology companies and lists as illustrated in FIG. 12. Navigating the exemplary customized interactive workspace using an overlaid navigation map as illustrated in FIG. 13 allows an operator at one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) to utilize the miniaturized navigation

map in the right hand corner to more easily navigate the interactive customized workspace. In these embodiments, the navigation map illustrates a smaller map which divides the interactive customized workspace into six quadrants which can each be individually selected and enlarged for display and interaction, although the navigation map divide up the customized interactive workspace into other numbers and types of sections and can provide other types of navigation.

[0057] In step 204, once an action or feature operation has been executed, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to select and use another action or feature operation in the customized interactive workspace. If in step 204 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to select and use another action or feature operation in the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken back to step 202 as described earlier. If in step 204 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to select and use another action or feature operation in the customized interactive workspace at this time, then the No branch is taken to step 206.

[0058] In step 206, the workspace management processing system 16 receives, processes and displays the results of the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) selecting and using one or more application tools on one or more information objects in the customized interactive interface. By way of example only, the workspace management processing system 16 could receive, process and display the result of an action to select and apply an application tool to one or more of the information objects as illustrated in FIGS. 14 and 15, although other numbers and types of action or feature operations, such as changing graphics or fonts by way of example only, could be executed. Additionally, the workspace management processing system 16 could provide the requesting one of the user computing system 12(1)-12(n) with the option of having the result of the action displayed as an information overlay, although the result could be provided in the customized interactive workspace in other manners.

[0059] In step 208, once an application tool has been executed, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to select and utilize another application tool in the customized interactive workspace. If in step 204 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to select and use another analytic tool in the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken back to step 206 as described earlier. If in step 208 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to select and use another application tool in the customized interactive workspace at this time, then the No branch is taken to step 210.

[0060] In step 210, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to engage and utilize the real time communication option in the customized interactive workspace, although other types and numbers of communication systems which are engaged in other manners can be used. If in step 210 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user

computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to engage and utilize the communication option in the customized interactive workspace, then the No branch is taken back to step 216. If in step 210 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to engage and utilize the communication option in the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken to step 212.

[0061] In step 212, the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) engages in a real-time communication using the communication option on the customized interactive workspace. By way of example only, the workspace management processing system 16 could receive, process and display the result of the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) engaging and utilizing an instant messaging system as illustrated in FIG. 16.

[0062] In step 214, once the communication has been completed, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to engage in another communication via the customized interactive workspace. If in step 214 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to engage in another communication via the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken back to step 212 as described earlier. If in step 214 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to engage in another communication via the customized interactive workspace, then the No branch is taken to step 216.

[0063] In step 216, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to engage in training in the customized interactive workspace. If in step 216 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to engage in training in the customized interactive workspace, then the No branch is taken to step 220. If in step 216 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would not like to engage in training in the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken to step 218.

[0064] In step 218, the workspace management processing system 16 reviews the stored user profile and stored training result information and obtains and provides training materials to the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) via the customized interactive workspace. The workspace management processing system 16 monitors the training and then optionally tests the requesting one of the user computing system 12(1)-12(n), although the testing can be conducted in other manners by other systems and devices. The results of the training are updated and stored by the workplace management processing system with the user profile currently associated with the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n), although the results can be stored in other manners and locations.

[0065] In step 220, the workspace management processing system 16 determines whether the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to continue using the customized interactive workspace. If in step 220 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n)

would not like to engage using the customized interactive workspace, then the No branch is taken to step 222 where this session of the method ends. If in step 220 the workspace management processing system 16 determines the requesting one of the user computing systems 12(1)-12(n) would like to continue using the customized interactive workspace, then the Yes branch is taken to step 200 as described earlier.

[0066] In the above-described steps, once an action or feature operation has been executed, the workspace management processing system 16 optionally can update the associated user profile as a result of any information obtained as a result of the action or feature operation and can adjust the customized interactive workspace based on the update user profile information. By way of example only, if the action related to applying an application tool to determine an average rate of return, the workspace management processing system 16 could generate an item for the customized interactive interface which continually determined and displayed this rate of return.

[0067] Accordingly, as described and illustrated by the exemplary embodiments herein the present invention provides a more effective method, computer readable medium and system for interacting with for information in a customized interactive workspace configured in a video game display format. For example, with the present invention financial information, such as in-depth information on stocks and mutual funds, is much easier to understand, manipulate, and analyze from within one single, integrated system in a video game display format. Additionally, the present invention provides this interaction with this information in a much more intuitive and user friendly manner. As a result, with the present invention individuals are not only able to easily obtain and interact with the non-video game based information they need, but are motivated to do so because of the ease with which the present invention presents and makes this information visual and available to them. Further, the present invention provides a method for interacting with information that may include one or more of application tools that affect and act upon objects, user-directed controls, full screen graphics, instant or real-time communication with peer computing systems, information overlays, instant or real-time feedback, user profiles, displayed performance results measured against metrics, and a unique and user friendly graphical user interface.

[0068] Having thus described the basic concept of the invention, it will be rather apparent to those skilled in the art that the foregoing detailed disclosure is intended to be presented by way of example only, and is not limiting. Various alterations, improvements, and modifications will occur and are intended to those skilled in the art, though not expressly stated herein. These alterations, improvements, and modifications are intended to be suggested hereby, and are within the spirit and scope of the invention. Additionally, the recited order of processing elements or sequences, or the use of numbers, letters, or other designations therefore, is not intended to limit the claimed processes to any order except as may be specified in the claims. Accordingly, the invention is limited only by the following claims and equivalents thereto.

1. A method for providing an interactive information workspace, the method comprising:

obtaining at a workspace management processing system a selection of one or more condensed information objects and one or more of application tools; and

providing at the computing system a customized interactive workspace for non-video game based information in a video game display graphical user interface format from the workspace management processing system based on a default interactive customizable workspace populated with the selected one or more condensed information objects and one or more application tools, the customized interactive workspace is configured to enable at least one of the one or more application tools to interact with at least one of the one or more condensed information objects from within the customized interactive workspace and the customized interactive workspace.

2-90. (canceled)

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