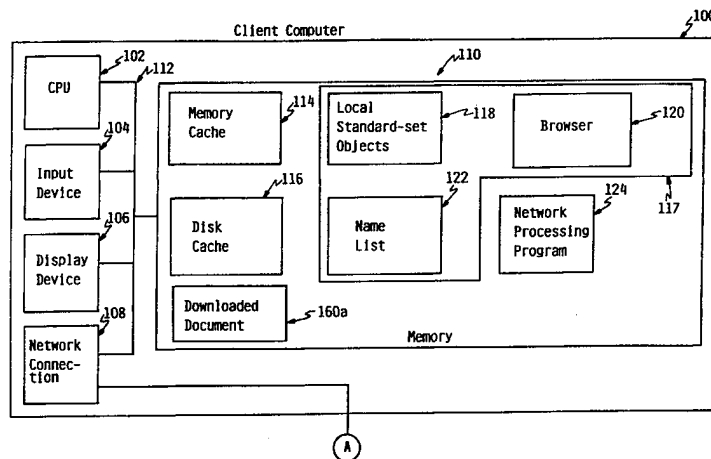




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING INFORMATION USING STANDARD OBJECTS



(57) Abstract

A document manager (120) runs at a client computer (100) and retrieves documents (160) downloaded from a server computer (150) across a communications medium (200). The documents (160) can contain embedded links to objects (163), which are building blocks that make up or are associated with the documents. The client computer (100) keeps a local copy of a standard-set of objects (118), so that when the client computer (100) needs to present the linked objects to the user, the linked objects that are part of the standard-set do not need to be retrieved from the server (150) by the client (100). When a linked object (163) is needed, the document manager parses the embedded link to the object and extracts the file name of the object. The document manager (120) then searches a name list (122), which contains all the names of objects in the standard-set. If the file name from the link is in the name list (122), the document manager (120) uses the object of the same name in the local copy of the standard-set (118). If the file name is not in the name list (122), the document manager retrieves the linked object (163) using the full embedded link.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/21304

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :G06F 13/00

US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 395/200.32, 200.33, 200.47, 200.48, 200.49, 200.51, 200.54, 200.57, 200.58, 200.59, 200.6, 200.76, 200.79, 680, 682

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS

browser, server, client, internet, network

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,572,643 A (JUDSON) 05 November 1996, Abstract, col. 1, lines 13-33, col. 2, lines 6-39, lines 50-67, col. 3, lines 46-67, col. 4, lines 1-4, lines 39-42, lines 56-64, col. 5, lines 20-27, lines 41-67, col. 6, lines 14-17, and col. 7, lines 1-5.	1-50
A	US 5,530,852 A (MESKE, JR. ET AL) 25 June 1996, col. 4, lines 34-40, col. 10, lines 44-47.	1-50

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

03 APRIL 1998

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/21304

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

US CL :

395/200.32, 200.33, 200.47, 200.48, 200.49, 200.51, 200.54, 200.57, 200.58, 200.59, 200.6, 200.76, 200.79, 680,
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