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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA ITEM MOVEMENT BETWEEN DISPARATE SOURCES AND HIERARCHICAL, OBJECT-ORIENTED REPRESENTATION

(57) Abstract

Data moves between multiple, disparate data sources and the object–oriented computer programs that process the data. A data access server is interposed between the object–oriented programs and the data sources, and acts as an intermediary. The intermediary server receives requests for data access from object–oriented computer programs, correlates each request to one or more interactions with one or more data sources, performs each required interaction, consolidates the results of the interactions, and presents a singular response to the requesting computer program. The consolidated response from the intermediary server contains data items requested by the computer program, information regarding the hierarchical topology that relates the data items, and an indication of the possible object types that might embody the data items. The application program receives the consolidated response and builds an object hierarchy to embody the data items and to interface them to the rest of the application program. The class of an object used to embody data items is selected at execution time from a list of possible candidates.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte .tional Application No
PCT/US 99/18484

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/46 G06F17/30 G06F9/44

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)
IPC 7 G06F

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 practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 794 248 A (HOWE III JACK L ET AL) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11)	1,2,5,9, 13,14, 17,21, 25,26, 29,33, 37,38, 41,45,91
Y	column 4, line 43 -column 7, line 37	3,4,6, 10,15, 16,18, 22,27, 28,30, 34,39, 40,42,46
A	--- -/--	49-78

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
20 March 2000	07/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Bijn, K

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte ional Application No
PCT/US 99/18484

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Information on patent family members

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