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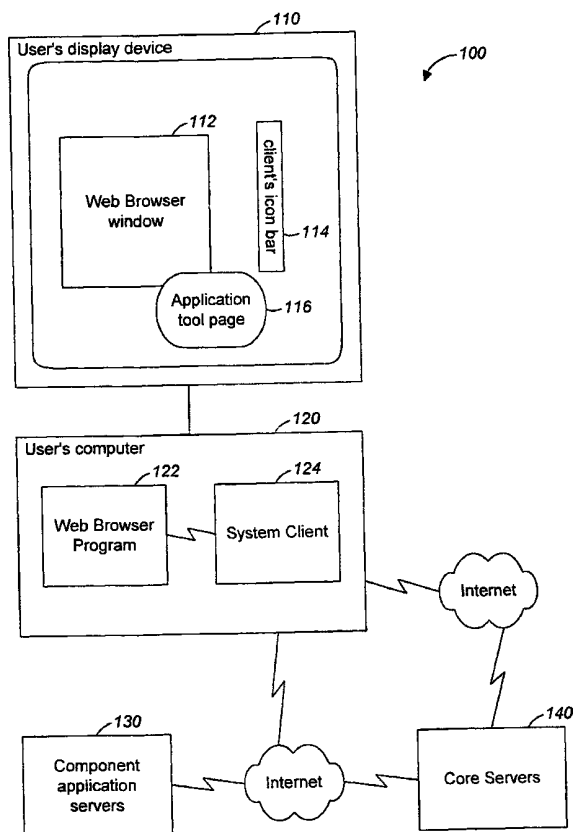
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(54) Title: PROVIDING WEB BROWSING COMPANION TOOLS AND SERVICES



(57) Abstract: Systems, methods, and apparatus (including computer program apparatus) for a browser-aware application delivery system (100). The system provides World Wide Web browser extensions based on server processes rather than on plug-in program modules loaded and installed on a user's machine (120). The system operates like a monitor (110) for a user while the user is browsing the Web (122), and it enables the user to obtain and interact with the context-sensitive services and information based on the user's browsing activity. The system allows the user to add application tools (116), which are implemented on servers (130, 140) separate from the user's computer (120). Third parties can easily add tools to the system by registering application services with the system.

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- *With international search report.*
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27159

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : GO6F 3/00, 17/30

US CL : 345/329, 335, 346, 357; 707/501, 513; 709/201, 203.

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. : 345/329, 334, 335, 346, 352, 357; 707/501, 513; 709/201, 203, 204, 223.

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)

PLUS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,796,393 A [MACNAUGHTON et al.] 18 August 1998, see Fig. 6, see entire document	1-36, 66-116
Y	US 5,794,230 A [HORADAN et al] 11 August 1998, see Fig. 1, see entire document	37-116
Y	US 5,809,248 A [VIDOVIC] 15 September 1998, see abstract, Figs. 5-7, see entire document	1-65, 111-116
Y	US 5,801,702 A [DOLAN et al] 01 September 1998; see Figs. 2, 8B-C; Esee abstract, see entire document	20-36, 66-110
Y	US 5,649,186 A [FERGUSON] 15 July 1997, see abstract, see entire document	1-19, 37-95, 111-116

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

* Special categories of cited documents	"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Z" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 MAY 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 SEP 2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/27159

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,625,781 A [CLINE et al] 29 April 1997, see abstract, see Figs. 2-3, see entire document	37-65, 111-116
A,P	US 5,974,446 A [SONNENREICH et al] 26 Oct 1999, see entire document	1-116
A,P	US 5,854,630 A [NIELSEN] 29 December 1998, see entire document	1-116
A,P	US 5,970,064 A [CLARK et al] 19 October 1999, see entire document	1-116
A,E	US 6,031,528 A [LANGFAHL et al] 29 February 2000, see entire document	1-116
A,E	US 6,032,162 A [BURKE] 29 February 2000, see entire document	1-116

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/27159

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 31, 34 and 43
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

The reason these claims are unsearchable because they do not depend in alternative upon their multiple parents.

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims, it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-19, drawn to a service program operable to communicate with a client program for receiving first information about web pages request by web browser and operable to communicate with the computer program tool to send to the tool second information about web pages.

Group II, claims 20-36, drawn to a method for presenting the related information about web pages to the user.

Group III, claims 37-65, drawn to a client program providing a client user interface separate from a first web browser wherein the client program receiving first information from the first web browser about activity occurring on the first web browser and outputs to the user the first information.

Group IV, claims 66-95, drawn to a client program to receive information from the web browser, one or more server program operable to run on one or more server computers to provide core functionality and to communicate with the client program for receiving registration information, receiving client information, recognizing an occurrence of a predefined condition and transmit a flag to the tool, and the client program is operable to receive an output and present that output to the user.

Group V, claims 96-110, drawn to a client program, a computer program and the sales tool being operable for executed on a server, to transmit and to receive information from the client user interface for selling a product or service to a user on the web from a seller.

Group VI, claims 111-116, drawn to a method for displaying a user interface comprising a second program for receiving information specifying a present position on a display screen of a first user interface of a first program which independently operating from the second program and calculating a position for a second user interface element of the second program on the display screen according to the present position of the first element and displaying the second element at the calculated position.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV, V and VI do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: group I draws to related information in Web browser, group II leads to the technique which displays relates information the users, while group III relate to activities occurring and outputting what happen in the Web. Group IV drives to the technique wherein multiple server programs run on one or more server computers to provide core functionality and communicate with client program for tracking registration and recognizing predefined condition in Web browser. Group V, on the other hand, drawn to the technique of selling product or service on the Web from seller to end users. Group VI correspond to the technique which displays multiple graphical user interface elements' position on multiple independently operating programs.