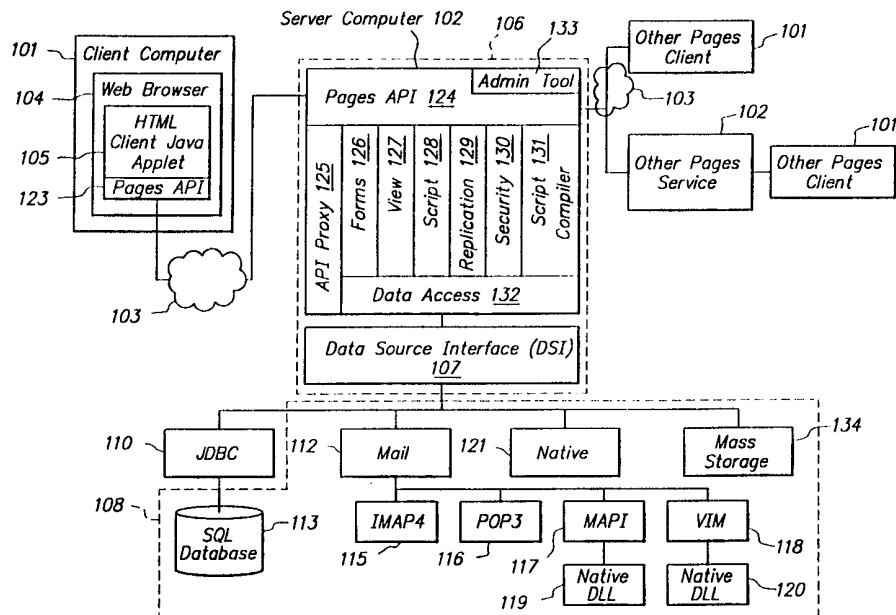




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06F 13/14, H04L 9/00</p>	<p>A3</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/01802</p> <p>(43) International Publication Date: 14 January 1999 (14.01.99)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/13794</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 1 July 1998 (01.07.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 08/886,186 1 July 1997 (01.07.97) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SANGA INTERNATIONAL, INC. [BB/CA]; Suite 1624, 50 O'Connor Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2 (CA).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MAINE, Shaun, P., J. [CA/BB]; Vista del Mar, Enterprise Drive, ChristChurch (BB). LUSSIER, Mark, J. [US/US]; 70 Southwick Road, North Reading, MA 01864 (US). STEVENS, Andrew, G. [US/US]; 15 Dennison Street, Waltham, MA 02154 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agents: SUEOKA, Greg, T. et al.; Fenwick & West LLP, Two Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p> <p>(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 22 April 1999 (22.04.99)</p>	

(54) Title: PLATFORM-INDEPENDENT UNIVERSAL DATA ACCESS SYSTEM AND METHOD IN A CLIENT-SERVER ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract

A data access system (100) and method provides platform independent access from a client module (101) to a variety of data sources (108) stored in a variety of data formats on a variety of computer systems, including database sources and electronic mail sources (112). The system includes a desktop client module (104) that is a Java applet (105) that runs within a Java-compliant browser (104) located on a client computer (101). The desktop client module provides access to any one of a plurality of data sources, each represented as a book (200) on the client desktop. Access of the data associated with a book is implemented using a data access service application running on a server computer (102) in communication with the desktop client. The data access service application (106) includes a data source interface (107) that stores metadata associated with each book. Accessed data is presented in a customized viewing format as (127) as specified by various views (204) and forms associated with each book.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/13794

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :GO6F 13/14; HO4L 9/00
US CL :395/200.33, 200.58, 200.59

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. : 395/200.33, 200.58, 200.59

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,544,322 A (CHENG et al) 06 August 1996, the abstract, col. 3 to col. 5, col. 9 to col. 12.	1-16
P	US 5,754,857 A (GADOL) 19 May 1998, the abstract, Figs. 2-7, cols. 1-20.	1-16
P	US 5,757,925 A (FAYBISHENKO) 26 MAY 1998, the abstract, Fig. 1, cols. 1-18.	1-16
P	US 5,630,066 A (GOSLING) 13 MAY 1997, the abstract, Figs. 2-3.	1-16
P	US 5,740,430 A (ROSENBERG ET AL) 14 APRIL 1998, the abstract, numerals 22, 32, 34, 44 of Fig. 1, a browser and a server of Figs. 3-4, last line of col. 1 to line 28 of col. 3.	1-16

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 09 JANUARY 1999	Date of mailing of the international search report 25 FEB 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer KRISNA LIM <i>Joni Hill</i> Telephone No. (703) 308-0000