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(71) Applicant: CURL CORPORATION [US/US]; 400 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US).

(72) Inventors: HARRISON, Benjamin, R.; 7 Albion, #2, Somerville, MA 02144 (US). NUSSBAUM, Daniel, S.; 64 Plymouth Street, Cambridge, MA 02141 (US). KRANZ, David, A.; 115 High Haith Road, Arlington, MA 02476 (US).

(74) Agents: SMITH, James, M. et al.; Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, P.C., 530 Virginia Road, P.O. Box 9133, Concord, MA 01742-9133 (US).

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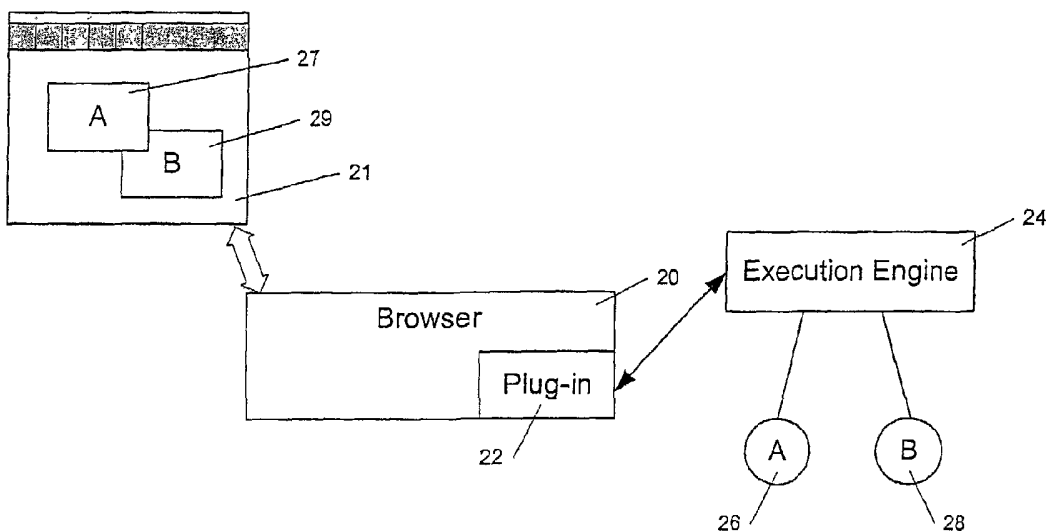
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING COMPATIBILITY ACROSS MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF A SOFTWARE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system and methods that provide compatibility across multiple versions of a software system, such as an execution engine or run-time system, are disclose. The software system is structured so that it includes a master module, and one or more helper modules, each helper module being capable of processing applets (i.e., programs or content) that require a particular version of the software system. Each time an applet is to be processed by the software system, the master module determines which helper module should be used to process the applet, and starts the selected helper module if necessary. Compatibility with additional versions can be provided by providing additional helper modules. Because numerous helper modules may be executed simultaneously, applets that require different versions of the software system may be processed simultaneously.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X A	US 5 732 275 A (TITUS DIANE ET AL) 24 March 1998 (1998-03-24) column 2, line 8 - line 18 column 4, line 20 - line 36 column 5, line 9 - line 32 column 7, line 18 - line 25 column 7, line 43 - line 58 ----- -/--	1-7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 25-29 8, 9, 12, 18, 19, 23, 24

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search 13 June 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 24/06/2003
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Name and mailing address of the ISA 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	Authorized officer Carciofi, A
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