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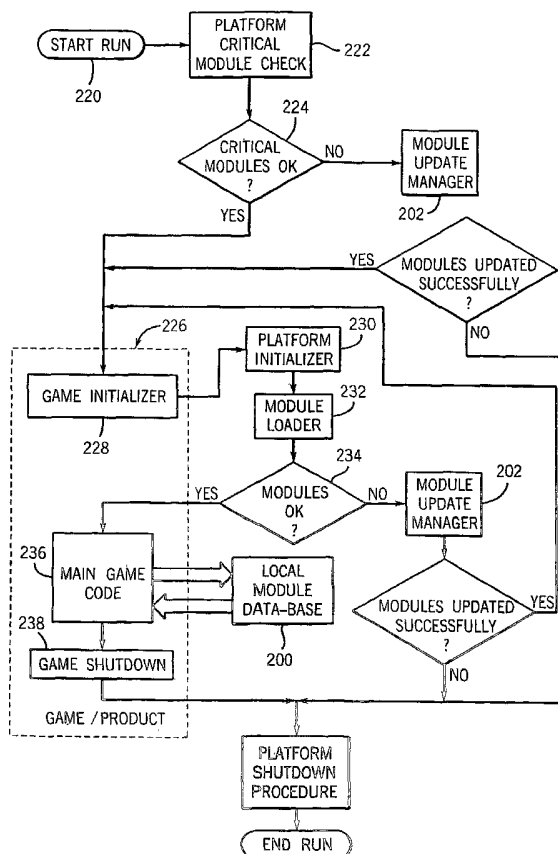
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM FOR MULTIMEDIA PROGRAMS AND PLATFORM FOR PERFORMING SUCH PROGRAMS



(57) Abstract: A game platform is installed on a users general-purpose personal computer to transform it into a dedicated game machine capable of running games. The platform utilizes a combination of low level and high level program modules contained in a module library. Upon initiation (220) of the program (226) the system checks the library for the needed modules (222) and updates the module library (224) through a module update manager (202) as needed. Next the game intialized (228) through a platform initializer (230) and module loader (232). Provided the modules are acceptable (234) the system procedes to execute the main game code (236) using the local module database (200) prior to concluding with a game shutdown (238) and platform shutdown.

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

16 October 2003

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/04161

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/00

US CL : 463/ 1, 43

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. : 463/ 1, 43

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)
USPAT, US PG-PUB**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,680,619 A (GUDMUNDSON et al) 21 October 1997 (21.10.1997) See Enitre Abstract.	1-4 ----- 1-4
X --- Y	US 5,782,692 A (STELOVSKY) 21 July 1998 (19.07.1998), See Col 5:63-8:10.	1-4 ----- 1-4
Y	US 5,707,286 A (CARLSON) 13 January 1998 (13.01.1998), See Entire Abstract.	1-4

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" 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)

"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

"T"

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

"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

"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

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 July 2003 (14.07.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 AUG 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

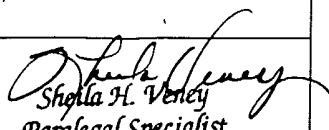
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/04161

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. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim 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. ☐ Claim 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 Continuation 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.: 1-4

Remark on Protest

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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 IS LACKING

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

Group I, claim(s) 1-4, drawn to a game platform.

Group II, claim(s) 5-9, drawn to a project builder.

Group III, claim(s) 10-16, drawn to a test program.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general 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: All the Groups are directed towards a method or apparatus for a game development system, but each group has a special technical feature of the game development system not shared by any of the remaining groups. Group I is directed to a game platform that has the special technical feature of performing the game program using both low level program modules and updated program modules, not shared by any of the remaining groups. Group II is directed to a project builder that has the special technical feature of producing a game program by concatenating game program segments, not shared by any of the remaining groups. Group III is directed to a test program that has the special technical feature of testing a game program using the local asset pool, not shared by any of the remaining groups.