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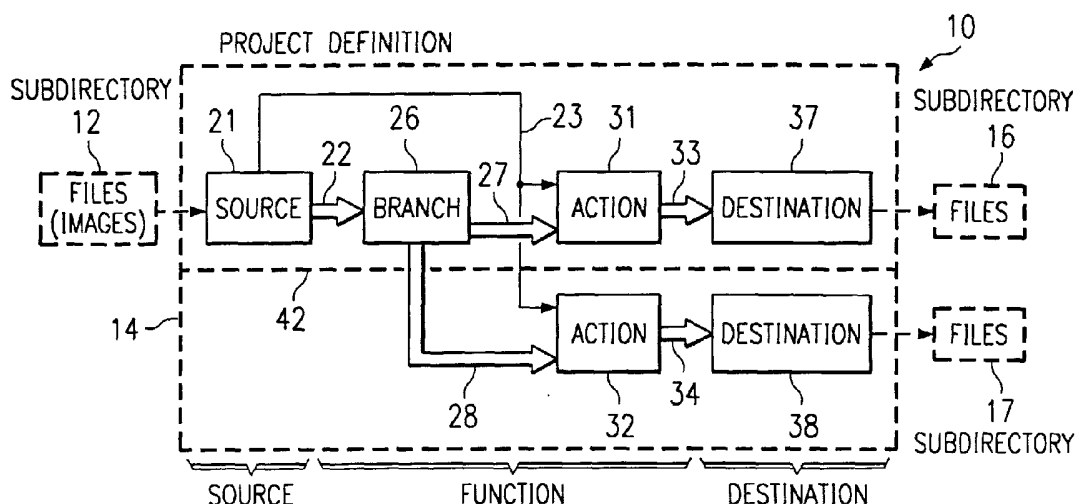
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING SCALABILITY DURING AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING



(57) **Abstract:** A number of items of data from a data source (12) can be processed and supplied to a data destination (16, 17). The data can include image data, text data, numeric data or other types of data, or a combination of these types of data. The processing of the data is controlled by a project definition (14, 71, 101), which includes a plurality of modules selected from a variety of available modules (Tables 1-4). The modules have input and output ports which are interrelated by binding information. Where a project definition is complex and/or is assigned to process a large data set, capability is provided to launch multiple instances of the same project definition, each of which processes a respective portion of the data. Further, capability is provided to launch multiple instances of the same or different project definitions on each of one or more computers, in order to efficiently execute project definitions in a centralized processing facility.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	EP 0 828 214 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 11 March 1998 (1998-03-11) column 2, line 36 -column 3, line 7 --- -/--	17,27, 31,41 18-26, 28-30, 32-40, 42-44

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PREVIATO F ET AL: "Nile's Distributed Computing Site Architecture" PAPER SUBMITTED AT CHEP'97 - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTING IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS, 17 February 1997 (1997-02-17), XP002231439 Berlin Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/8845.html> 'retrieved on 2003-02-17! the whole document ---	1-16, 18-26, 32-40
Y	ANONYMOUS: "OnSwitch - XML Based, Automated Web Image Processing" DATAMATION PRODUCT WATCH FACT SHEET, no. 966003140, 11 August 2000 (2000-08-11), XP002235801 the whole document ---	1-16, 28-30, 42-44
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

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