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System and method for issuing a message to a program
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WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM: "Document Object Model (DOM) Level 2 Events Specification"
(URL:<http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/REC-DOM-Level-2-Events-20001113/DOM2-Events.pdf>)

Abstract

Described is a mechanism for issuing an event notification message, from a first program to a second program, to indicate that an action occurred within the first program, where the event notification message includes a parameter that

5 indicates that the action is one of a group of possible actions. More specifically, in an application configured to edit documents created with the eXtensible Markup Language XML, the occurrence of an XML-related action causes the event notification message to be issued. The XML-related action may be either an XML-related move action, an XML-related insert action, or an XML-related delete action.

10 In this way, a single event notification message can be used to indicate the occurrence of three different types of actions while editing an XML document.

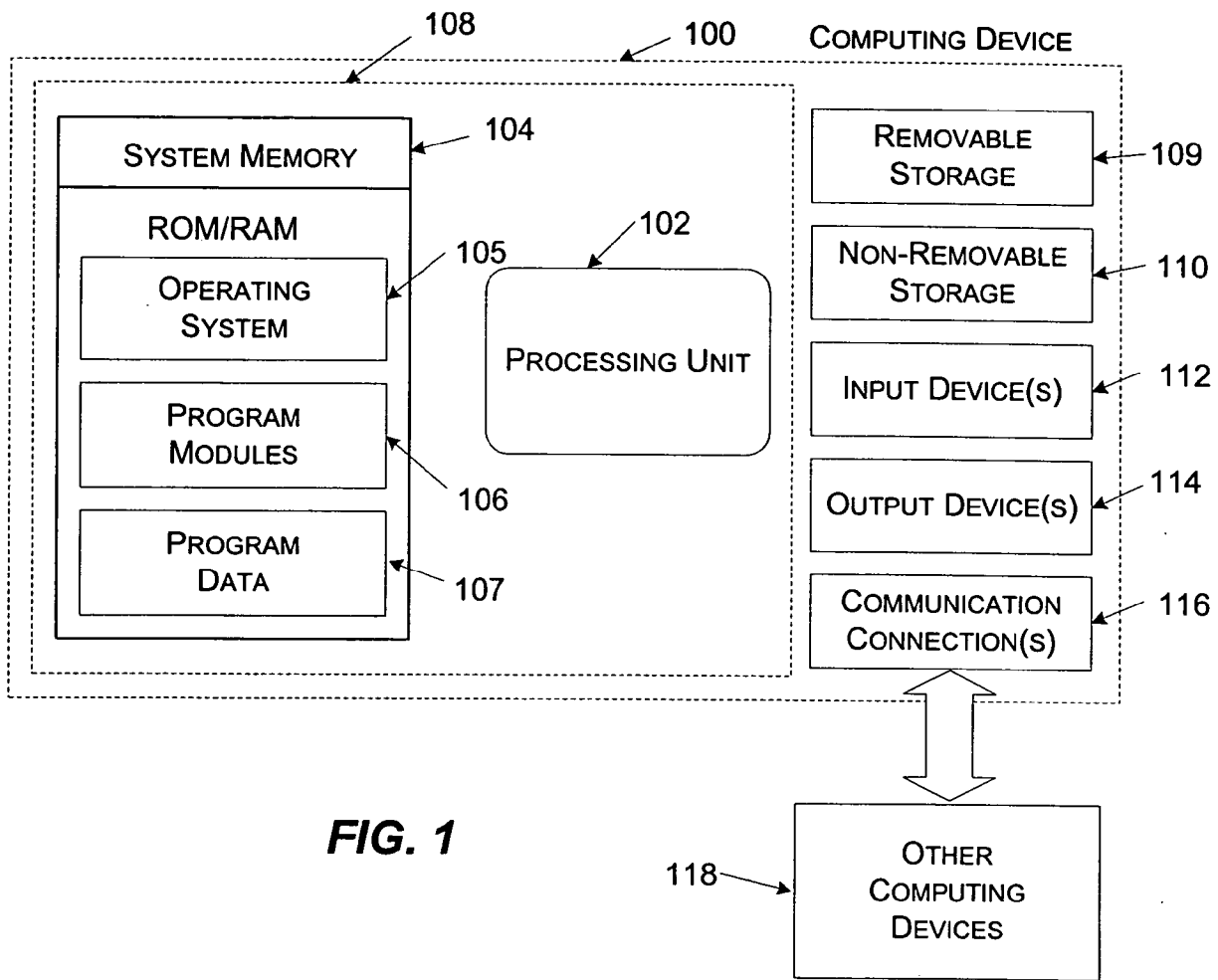


FIG. 1

AUSTRALIA
PATENTS ACT 1990
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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INVENTION TITLE:

System and method for issuing a message to a program

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

Background of the Invention

Software applications are gradually becoming more and more
5 complex and powerful. What was once a simple text editor may now be a complex
word processor with countless rich features, for example the ability to create Web
pages or edit XML markup. As technology evolves, each software application
provides more and more functionality to enhance a user's experience. In addition,
many software applications now expose their native functionality to add-on
10 applications through programmatic interfaces. For example, object oriented
programming has enabled some software applications and their documents to be
treated as objects. These objects publicly expose the functionality of the
applications in the form of methods that may be called and properties that may be
read or set to manipulate the applications or documents. These advancements have
15 enabled programmers to develop third-party add-ons to automate tasks and functions
formerly performed manually while interacting with the application. Many such add-
on applications are developed in simple programming languages, such as the Visual
Basic for Applications (VBA) language. These add-ons can work by calling the
application's methods and properties to achieve various goals and customize the
20 application's core functionality for a custom environment.

In addition to being able to make calls from the custom code of the
add-on to the core application, there is need for the custom code to be written in
such a way that it actually responds to (as opposed to "initiates") calls from the
application when something happens in the application itself. For example, one
25 could want to write custom code for a word processing application, that reacts in
some special way to the user's keystrokes received by the application and perhaps
blocks some of them if the user is editing an area where only some types of letters
are allowed. In such cases, there is need for a way for the programmer to let the
application know that there is special custom code that the application should run
30 when a given type of event occurs. Once the custom code is registered with the
application, the code can now "react" in useful ways to specific events occurring
within the core application, thereby extending the application's core functionality.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

Summary of the Invention

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for issuing a message from a first program to a second program, the data structure comprising:

- an identifier field indicating that the data structure represents an occurrence of an event related to an action performed on an XML document;
- a first parameter field identifying a first XML node associated with the event;
- a second parameter field identifying a second XML node associated with the event;

10 and

a third parameter field identifying a type of event that occurred, the type of event being a selected one of a plurality of types of events, wherein the plurality of types of events comprises an XML-related move action, an XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

15 According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

- a first program for editing a document that includes XML nodes, at least a plurality of the XML nodes including content, the first program being configured to issue a single event notification in response to an action being performed by the first program, the action

20 being an identified one from a plurality of types of actions; and

- a second program configured to receive the single event notification and to handle the single event notification with an event handler, the event handler including computer-executable instructions for responding to at least one of the plurality of types of actions, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, an XML-

25 related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

- a message means for indicating the occurrence of an event within an XML document editor, the message means comprising a plurality of parameters, a first parameter

30 identifying a first XML node, a second parameter identifying a second XML node, and a third parameter identifying a type of event that occurred, the type of event being a selected one of a plurality of types of events, wherein the plurality of types of events comprises an

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

XML-related move event, and XML-related insert event, and an XML-related delete event.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for issuing a message from a first program to a second program, comprising:

- 5 issuing from the first program to the second program, an event notification comprising a plurality of parameters, the event notification being indicative that an XML-related action occurred related to the first program, a first parameter identifying a first XML node associated with the XML-related action, a second parameter identifying a second XML node associated with the XML-related action, and a third parameter
- 10 identifying one of a plurality of types of actions that corresponds to the XML-related action, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, an XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

- According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for receiving a
- 15 message by the second program from the first program, comprising:

- receiving, by the second program from the first program, an event notification comprising a plurality of parameters, the event notification being indicative that an XML-related action occurred related to the first program, a first parameter identifying a first XML node associated with the XML-related action, a second parameter identifying a
- 20 second XML node associated with the XML-related action, and a third parameter identifying one of a plurality of types of actions that corresponds to the XML-related action, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, and XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

- Embodiments of the present invention are directed at a mechanism for
- 25 issuing an event notification message, from one fragment of code to another (which may not be part of the original code of the program but rather added by a third-party solution vendor to extend the original program's functionality). The notification message is of a specific type that indicates which of the possible events actually occurred. For example, the notification message could be triggered by some special state that the program has
- 30 entered. The event notification message could in such a case include parameters describing what the old state was, what the new state is, and a description of the reason that caused the program to enter this state. More specifically, in an application configured to edit

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

documents created with the eXtensible Markup Language XML, the occurrence of an XML-related change of state as a result of a user-initiated action causes the event notification message to be issued.

The XML-related state change that is reported by the event could be a change in the XML-based context of the user's insertion point in a word processing application. It could be triggered by for example the user moving the insertion point out of one XML element and into another. Or it could be triggered when the user inserts a new XML element around the selection. Or it could be triggered when the user deletes the XML element that currently surrounds the user's insertion point. In this way, a single event notification message can be used to indicate this kind of state change regardless of which of the three different user actions caused the state change while editing an XML document. It is useful for the add-on programmer to be able to write code responding to this kind of event for example in order to provide the user with context sensitive feedback, depending on where in the XML structure the user is currently editing content. For example, when the user starts editing the contents of a <city> XML element, the custom add-on could automatically suggest a list of frequently used cities to the user. In one aspect, the invention is directed at a data structure for notifying a program of the occurrence of an XML-related action in another program (or another part of the same program). The data structure includes an identifier indicating that an XML-related state change has occurred. The data structure also includes a plurality of parameters. One parameter is used to identify a first XML node affected by the state change, and another parameter is used to identify a second XML node affected by the state change (if the state change involves more than one XML node). A third parameter is used to identify which of a plurality of reasons is responsible for the state change. The type of state change that is the subject of this invention is a change in the XML context of the user's insertion point. The possible reasons for why the state change occurred are an XML related move action, an XML-related insert action, or an XML-related delete action. Another parameter is used to identify a particular selection of content affected by the XML-related state change.

In another embodiment, the invention is directed at a pair of executable programs (running within the same process or within two separate processes), where a first program is designed to enable editing a document that includes XML markup. The first program is also designed to issue a single event notification in response to state change

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

occurring while editing the document as a result of a user action affecting the XML context of the user selection. The reason for the event affecting the XML context is identified as one of a plurality of types of XML-related actions, such as an XML-related move action, and XML-related insert action, or an XML-related delete action. A second program is
5 designed to receive the single event notification and to handle the single event notification with an event handler. The event handler includes computer-executable instructions for responding to the types of actions in some appropriate way.

In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed at either a program for issuing or a program for receiving an event notification message, where the event
10 notification message includes parameters. The event notification message itself indicates that an XML-related state change has occurred. A first parameter of the event notification message identifies a first XML node associated with the XML-related state change, a second parameter of the event notification message identifies a second XML node associated with the XML-related state change, a third parameter of the event notification
15 message identifies one of a plurality of types of actions responsible for the state change, and a fourth parameter of the event notification message identifies an affected selection of an XML document.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20

Embodiments of the present invention are hereinafter described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a functional block diagram of a computing environment in which implementations of the present invention may be embodied.

25

FIGURE 2 is a functional block diagram overview of software applications that expose and use a public interface, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGURE 3 is a logical representation of one implementation of an event notification message that may be employed in one embodiment of the present invention.

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FIGURE 4 is a graphical representation of what a display may look like presented by a software application allowing an XML document to be edited, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

FIGURE 5 is a graphical representation of what another display may look like presented by the software application allowing the XML document to be further edited, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

5 FIGURE 6 is a graphical representation of what still another display may look like presented by the software application allowing the XML document to be edited further still, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Detailed Description

10 FIGURE 1 illustrates an exemplary computing device that may be included in various forms in systems implementing the invention. In a very basic configuration, computing device 100 typically includes at least one processing unit 102 and system memory 104. Processing unit 102 includes existing physical processors, those in design, multiple processors acting together, virtual processors, and any other device or software program capable of interpreting binary executable instructions. Depending on the exact
15 configuration and type of computing device, system memory 104 may be volatile (such as RAM), non-volatile (such as ROM, flash memory, etc.) or some combination of the two. System memory 104 typically includes an operating system 105, one or more program modules 106, and may include program data 107. This basic configuration is illustrated in FIGURE 1 by those components within dashed line 108.

Computing device 100 may also have additional features or functionality. For example, computing device 100 may also include additional data storage devices (removable and/or non-removable) such as, for example, magnetic disks, optical disks, or tape. Such additional storage is illustrated in FIGURE 1 by
5 removable storage 109 and non-removable storage 110. Computer storage media may include volatile and nonvolatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information, such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data. System memory 104, removable storage 109 and non-removable storage 110 are all
10 examples of computer storage media. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be
15 accessed by computing device 100. Any such computer storage media may be part of device 100. Computing device 100 may also have input device(s) 112 such as keyboard, mouse, pen, voice input device, touch input device, etc. Output device(s) 114 such as a display, speakers, printer, etc. may also be included. All these devices are known in the art and need not be discussed at length here.

20 Computing device 100 may also contain communications connection(s) 116 that allow the device to communicate with other computing devices 118, such as over a network. Communications connection(s) 116 is an example of communication media. Communication media typically embodies computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data in a
25 modulated data signal such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism and includes any information delivery media. The term "modulated data signal" means a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in the signal. By way of example, and not limitation, communication media includes wired media such as a wired network or direct-wired
30 connection, and wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared and other wireless media. The term computer readable media as used herein includes both storage media and communication media.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

The invention enables a software application, such as a word processor, to issue a single type of message, including parameters that refine the message, to notify another application of the occurrence of a state change, even if the state change could be caused by different user actions. More specifically, a software application that allows the editing of eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents exposes certain functionality to other software applications. This functionality may be related to editing particular markup tags or content. Developers of add-ons to the software application may rely on being informed of certain markup-editing actions. To that end, the software application exposes notifications of these actions. In accordance with the invention, the software application is configured to issue a notification of more than one action by issuing a single "event" message. In one implementation, the single event message may be operative to indicate the state change resulting from the occurrence of one of three separate actions. First, the single event may be issued in response to an element being deleted that a current selection was inside. Second, the single event may be issued in response to an element being inserted around the current selection. Third, the single event may be issued in response to the current selection changing from one location to another. Regardless of what the cause of the state change, the event that fires is the same, but it includes the cause for the state change among its parameters.

FIGURE 2 is a functional block diagram of a software application implementing one embodiment of the present invention to issue a single event message to another software application or program in response to the occurrence of one of a plurality of different actions. An XML document editor 201 is a software application that enables a user to create and edit XML documents, such as XML document 202, in a freestyle editing environment. The XML document editor 201 may be a word processor specially programmed to enable XML creation and editing. Although described here in the context of a word processor, it will be appreciated that the invention is not limited to word processors, but in fact has equal applicability to any application capable of manipulating XML (or the like) documents, such as a spreadsheet application, a forms editor, a desktop publishing package, an e-mail editor, a code editing tool, or any other tool where user

interaction with the application might result (even if unknown to the user) in an XML document being changed, just to name a few.

The XML document 202 is a file that includes XML elements and content. The XML document 202 may include elements inserted by the XML document editor 201 that are associated with formatting or the like. In addition, the XML document 202 may include elements that are inserted manually by the user and which represent arbitrary elements of the user's choosing and design. In either case, the XML document editor 201 allows the user to edit the XML document 202, including inserting, modifying, and deleting elements and their content.

An event generator 250 associated with the XML document editor 201 is programmed to listen for the occurrence of certain changes of state in the document as a result of certain actions, and to issue a notification of those state changes if they occur. The notification takes the form of a public interface 251 that exposes certain functionality of the XML document editor 201.

Turning briefly away from the public interface 251, another program, such as an automation component 209, is also included and is programmed to add some supplemental or automated functionality to the XML document editor 201. In other words, the automation component 209 is a software application that may be developed to provide a user of the XML document editor 201 with some automation of tasks already present in the XML document editor 201. One common example might be a "macro" application that reduces several otherwise-manual steps to perform some activity, such as formatting a document in accordance with a company standard, into a single button click or the like. Alternatively, the automation component 209 may add supplemental functionality to the XML document editor 201, such as enabling a user to invoke some outside process for publishing the document to the Web, or the like. In any case, the automation component 209 includes code, such as event handler 275, that responds to the occurrence of some activity in the XML document editing environment. In particular, the automation component 209 is programmed to automate or add supplemental functionality to XML-related editing actions. More specifically, in accordance with the invention, the event handler 275 is programmed to respond to the occurrence of particular actions directly related to editing the XML document 202.

Returning now to the interface exposed by the XML document editor 201, the inventors have determined that there are three categories of actions that result in an XML context state change that is of interest to XML-related add-on software applications, such as the automation component 209. These categories include: (1) deleting an XML element surrounding a current selection point, (2) inserting a new XML element around a selection point, and (3) moving the selection point from one location to another. In addition, the case of moving the selection point from one location to another encompasses three distinct XML-relevant situations: (1) moving the selection point from within one XML element to within another XML element, (2) moving the selection point from within one XML element to content that is not within an XML element, and (3) moving the selection point to within an XML element from content that is not within an XML element.

In the past, each of these categories of actions would have justified a separate notification, requiring the developer of the automation component 209 to learn and handle three different events. However, the inventors have determined that these particular three categories of actions are commonly handled by similar code and for similar purposes. Accordingly, a single event has been developed to notify add-on software applications of a state change in the document resulting from each of these three actions. In this way, a single event handler, such as event handler 275, may be implemented to take advantage of the functionality exposed by the XML document editor 201. It should be noted that in this case, the term “functionality” means functionality related to the experience of editing XML-related content or elements.

With a single event, the automation component 209 can include a single event handler 275 programmed to respond to the XML context state changes caused by each of the three categories of actions. This design simplifies the job of developing the automation component 209 without sacrificing the flexibility of handling different events. In one specific implementation, the event exposed by the public interface 251 could take substantially the form illustrated in FIGURE 3, and reproduced here:

```
XMLChange( Sel As Selection, OldXMLNode As XMLNode ,  
NewXMLNode As XMLNode , Reason As WdXMLChangeReason )
```

where each term in the instruction has the following meaning. The term "XMLChange" refers to the name of the event being exposed, the "Sel" parameter 301 corresponds to an object representing a current selection point or selected content within an XML document being edited, the "OldXMLNode" parameter 302 corresponds to an object representing an XML element in which the selection existed prior to completion of the pending action, the "NewXMLNode" parameter 303 corresponds to an object representing an XML element in which the selection will exist after completion of the pending action, and the "Reason" parameter 304 corresponds to an identifier of the category of the particular pending action that results in this XML context state change. The Reason parameter is used to identify one of the three categories of actions described above. Accordingly, when this message is issued by the XML document editor 201, the Reason parameter passed is one of three that defines which of the three types of actions has occurred.

In order to take advantage of the event exposed by the XML document editor 201, the event handler 275 includes a declaration that makes the event handler 275 aware of the event, and then the code to execute in response to each of the three categories of actions. What follows is pseudo code that can be used in one specific implementation to handle the event described above:

```
Public WithEvents oWordProc As WordProc.Application
Private Sub oWordProc_XMLChange( Sel As Selection,
    OldXMLNode As XMLNode , NewXMLNode As XMLNode ,
    Reason As WdXMLChangeReason )
    Select Case Reason
        Case wdXMLChangeReasonInsert
            Code to execute in response to an XML insertion
        Case wdXMLChangeReasonDelete
            Code to execute in response to an XML deletion
        Case wdXMLChangeReasonMove
            Code to execute in response to moving the selection point
    End Select
End Sub
```

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the above pseudo code first creates an object "oWordProc" that is of "WordProc.Application" type, where objects of type WordProc.Application are basically instantiations of the functionality made available by the software application named "WordProc." In this instance, the
5 WordProc application corresponds to the XML document editor 201 so that the oWordProc object corresponds to an instance of the XML document editor 201. Including the " WithEvents" statement makes the oWordProc object aware of events generated by the XML document editor 201. To that end, the subroutine named "oWordProc_XMLChange" includes code to handle the XMLChange event
10 described above. The parameters of the handler code and the message are the same.

In this particular instance, a Select/Case construct has been used to handle each of the three reasons that the event may be raised. For instance, the statement "Case wdXMLChangeReasonInsert" may be used to handle an event fired for the reason that an XML element has been inserted around a selection. The
15 statement "Case wdXMLChangeReasonDelete" may be used to handle an event fired for the reason that an XML element surrounding the selection has been deleted. And the statement "Case wdXMLChangeReasonMove" may be used to handle an event fired for the reason that the selection point has moved in some way XML-relevant way. Each of these three cases will now be described with reference to
20 FIGURES 4 through 6.

FIGURE 4 is a graphical representation of what a display 410 may look like presented by the XML document editor 201 while allowing the XML document 202 to be edited. As illustrated, the XML document 202 may be a resume document with several portions wrapped by XML elements. For instance, the name
25 "John Doe" is included within a <name> element 405, which is in turn included within a <resume> element 407. An insertion point is shown at an original location 415 corresponding to content within a <p> element 430.

While editing, a user may perform many actions on the XML document 202, including moving the insertion point. For instance, during editing the
30 insertion point may be moved from the original location 415 to a new location 425 within the stream of text "Professor Smith." Note that this stream of text, as illustrated, is not contained within any current XML element. Accordingly, based on this action and its surrounding circumstances, an event will be raised indicating that

the insertion point was moved from one XML element to content not within any XML element. In this case, a message closely resembling the event illustrated above may be issued with parameters as will now be defined.

5 The Sel parameter may include an object that contains a current selection. In the described example, the current selection is related to the original location 415 of the insertion point. In other words, the entire content of the <p> element may be passed in the Selection object or some subset of that content if less than all the content is selected. Since the insertion point moved from within the XML element <p>, the OldXMLNode corresponds to the particular <p> element
10 430 within which the original location 415 existed. Similarly, the NewXMLNode corresponds to the XML element to which the insertion point has moved, which in this case is NULL because there is no XML element surrounding the new location 425. Finally, the Reason parameter includes an indicator that an XML-related Move action has taken place.

15 It should be noted that the insertion point could have been moved in the other direction (e.g., from the new location 425 to the original location 415). In that case, the XML context change event would still have been raised, although the OldXMLNode would have been NULL, and the NewXMLNode would have been the <p> element 430. The other parameters would have been as just described.

20 It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art, that the creators of the word processing application are free to define which types of XML elements cause the event to fire or not. For example, application creators could decide that Move, Insert or Delete actions involving elements of some special namespace they select do not cause the event to fire, but they do if the elements are from another
25 namespace. More specifically, application creators could decide that elements from the namespace representing the native XML schema of a word processing application are completely invisible to the state change detector that causes the event to fire and only elements from the non-native namespaces are “watched” by the event generator 250.

30 FIGURE 5 is another display of the XML document 202 after further edits have been performed. First, the user may insert a new XML element around the "Professor Smith" text, thereby moving it into the <resume> element 407. Based on these circumstances, an XML-related insert event is raised by the XML document

editor 201. Accordingly, the Sel parameter of the event includes a Selection object representing the content of the new XML element 510, the text "Professor Smith." Since that text was not included within an XML element prior to the insert action, the OldXMLNode is NULL. The NewXMLNode identifies the new element, the
5 <references> element 510. Finally, the reason parameter includes an identifier corresponding to an insert event.

In this example, after the user inserts the <references> element 510, the insertion point is moved from the <references> element 510 to the <objective> element 512, thereby causing another move event to be raised. However, unlike the
10 move event described above, the current move event corresponds to moving the insertion point from one XML element (the <references> element 510) to another XML element (the <objective> element 512). In this case, the Sel parameter of the event corresponds to the content of the <references> element 510, the text
"Professor Smith." The OldXMLNode parameter identifies the <references> element
15 510, and the NewXMLNode parameter identifies the <objective> element 512. And finally, the Reason parameter identifies the type of event as an XML-related move event.

FIGURE 6 is yet another display of the XML document 202 after further edits have been performed. In this situation, the user has deleted the
20 <objective> element from around the "Rewarding employment" text 610, causing an XML-related delete event to be raised. In similar fashion to the events described above, the delete event includes a Sel parameter that identifies the "Rewarding employment" text 610 as the current selection, the <objective> element 512 (FIGURE 5) as the OldXMLNode, and the <resume> element 407 as the
25 NewXMLNode. Finally, the Reason parameter includes an indication that an XML-related delete action has been performed.

In summary, the invention enables overloading a single event notification to indicate the occurrence of a state change resulting from plural XML-related actions in an XML editing environment. The single event notification for
30 plural actions simplifies the task of developing add-on software applications that take advantage of functionality exposed by the XML editing environment.

The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since

many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgement or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for issuing a message from a first program to a second program, the data structure comprising:
 - 5 an identifier field indicating that the data structure represents an occurrence of an event related to an action performed on an XML document;
 - a first parameter field identifying a first XML node associated with the event;
 - a second parameter field identifying a second XML node associated with the event;
 - and
 - 10 a third parameter field identifying a type of event that occurred, the type of event being a selected one of a plurality of types of events, wherein the plurality of types of events comprises an XML-related move action, an XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.
- 15 2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the data structure further comprises:
 - a fourth parameter field identifying a current selection within the XML document.
3. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the first XML node
20 corresponds to a node within which the current selection existed when performance of the action began.
4. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the second XML node
25 corresponds to a node within which the current selection will exist after the action has been performed.
5. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the first XML node
corresponds to a node within which the current selection existed when performance of the
action began and the second XML node corresponds to a node within which the current
30 selection will exist after the action has been performed.
6. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the XML-related move action

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

comprises moving a current selection from the first XML node to the second XML node.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the XML-related move action comprises moving a current selection from content that does not have an associated XML node to the second XML node.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the XML-related move action comprises moving a current selection from the first XML node to content that does not have an associated XML node.

10 9. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the XML-related insert action comprises causing a current selection to be within the second XML node.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the XML-related delete action comprises deleting the first XML node such that a current selection that was within the first XML node becomes within the second XML node.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the data structure is configured to be passed from the first program to the second program when performance of the action is initiated.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:
a first program for editing a document that includes XML nodes, at least a plurality of the XML nodes including content, the first program being configured to issue a single event notification in response to an action being performed by the first program, the action being an identified one from a plurality of types of actions; and
a second program configured to receive the single event notification and to handle the single event notification with an event handler, the event handler including computer-executable instructions for responding to at least one of the plurality of types of actions, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, an XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the event handler includes computer-executable instructions for responding to each of the plurality of types of actions.

5 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action corresponding to moving a current selection from content that does not have an associated XML node to within an XML node.

10 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action corresponding to moving a current selection from within an XML node to content that does not have an associated XML node.

15 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action corresponding to moving a current selection from within one XML node to within another XML node.

20 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related insert action corresponding to inserting an XML node around content within the document.

25 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related delete action corresponding to deleting an XML node from the document.

19. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

30 a message means for indicating the occurrence of an event within an XML document editor, the message means comprising a plurality of parameters, a first parameter identifying a first XML node, a second parameter identifying a second XML node, and a third parameter identifying a type of event that occurred, the type of event being a selected

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

one of a plurality of types of events, wherein the plurality of types of events comprises an XML-related move event, and XML-related insert event, and an XML-related delete event.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the XML-related move event
5 comprises moving a selection from the first identified XML node to the second identified XML node.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein one of either the first
10 identified XML node or the second identified XML node comprises a NULL node.

22. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for issuing
a message from a first program to a second program, comprising:
issuing from the first program to the second program, an event notification
comprising a plurality of parameters, the event notification being indicative that an XML-
15 related action occurred related to the first program, a first parameter identifying a first XML node associated with the XML-related action, a second parameter identifying a second XML node associated with the XML-related action, and a third parameter identifying one of a plurality of types of actions that corresponds to the XML-related action, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, an
20 XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

23. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for
receiving a message by the second program from the first program, comprising:
receiving, by the second program from the first program, an event notification
25 comprising a plurality of parameters, the event notification being indicative that an XML-related action occurred related to the first program, a first parameter identifying a first XML node associated with the XML-related action, a second parameter identifying a second XML node associated with the XML-related action, and a third parameter identifying one of a plurality of types of actions that corresponds to the XML-related
30 action, wherein the plurality of types of actions comprises an XML-related move action, and XML-related insert action, and an XML-related delete action.

2003204800 06 Mar 2009

24. A computer-readable medium substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

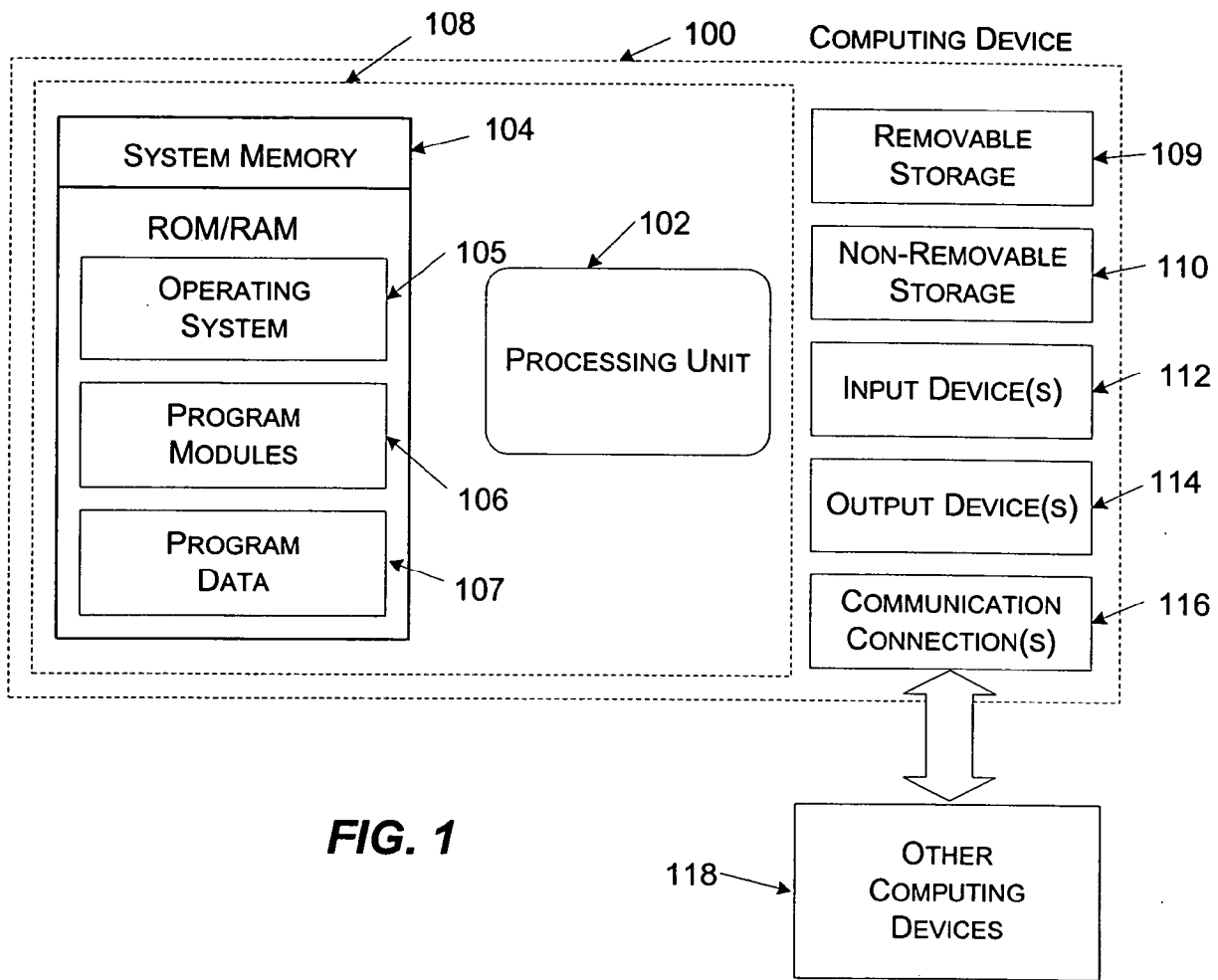


FIG. 1

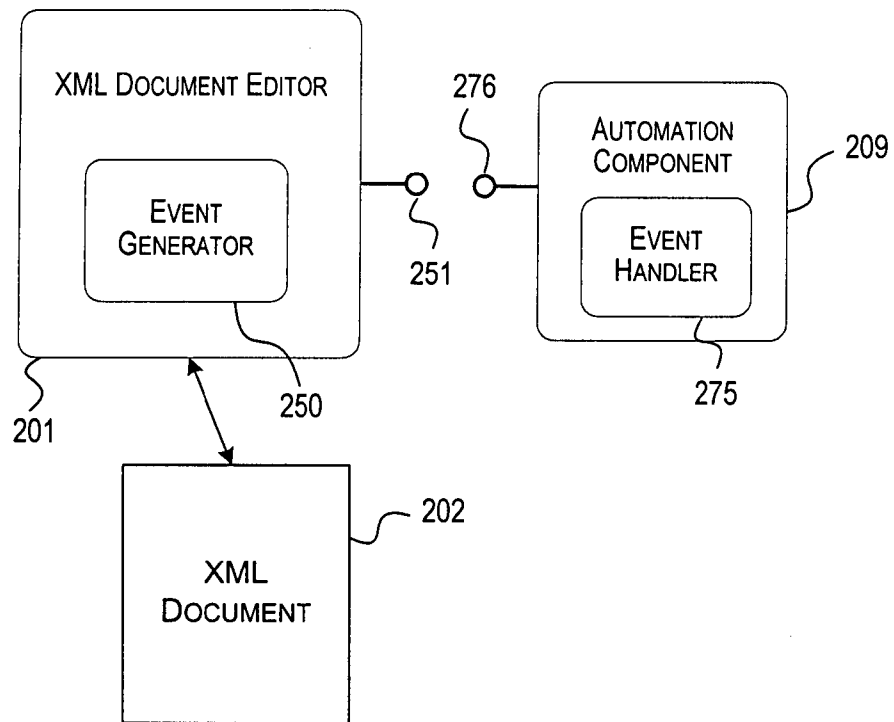


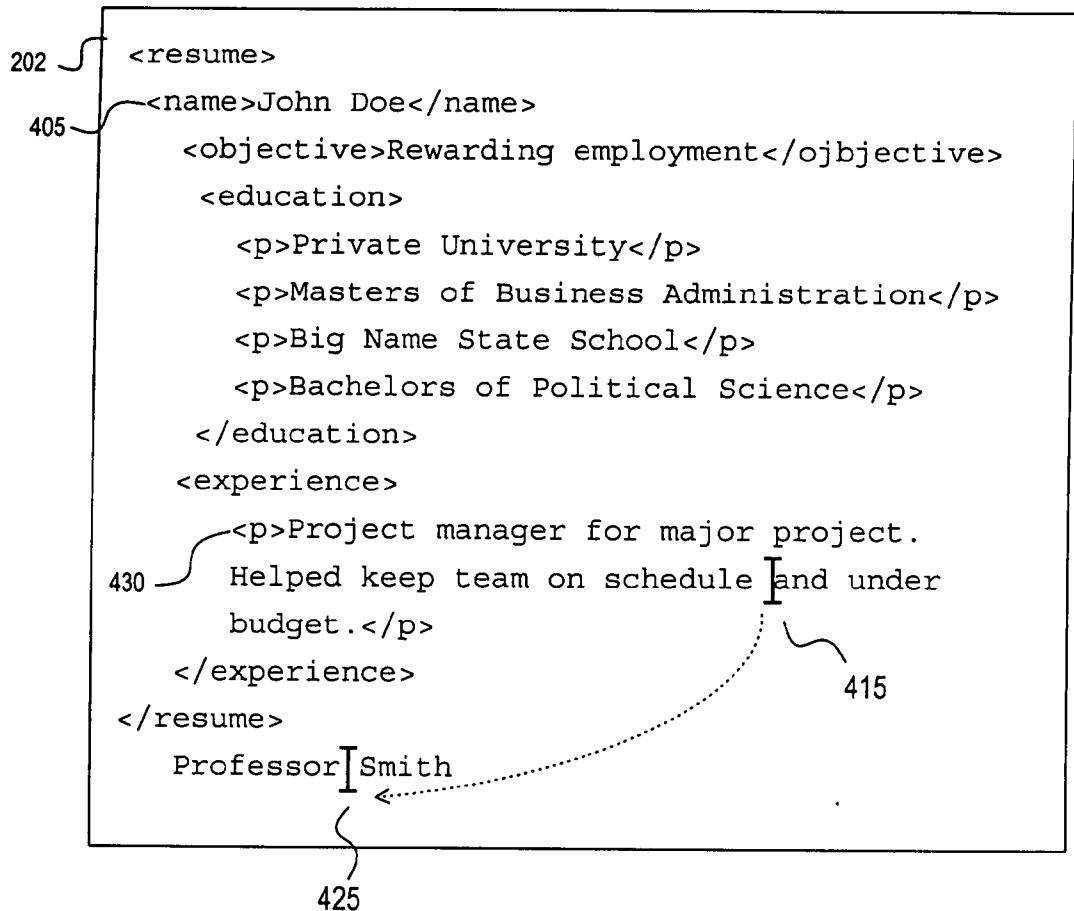
FIG. 2

XMLChange(Sel As Selection, OldXMLNode as XMLNode,
NewXMLNode As XMLNode, Reason as WdXMLChangeReason)

301 302

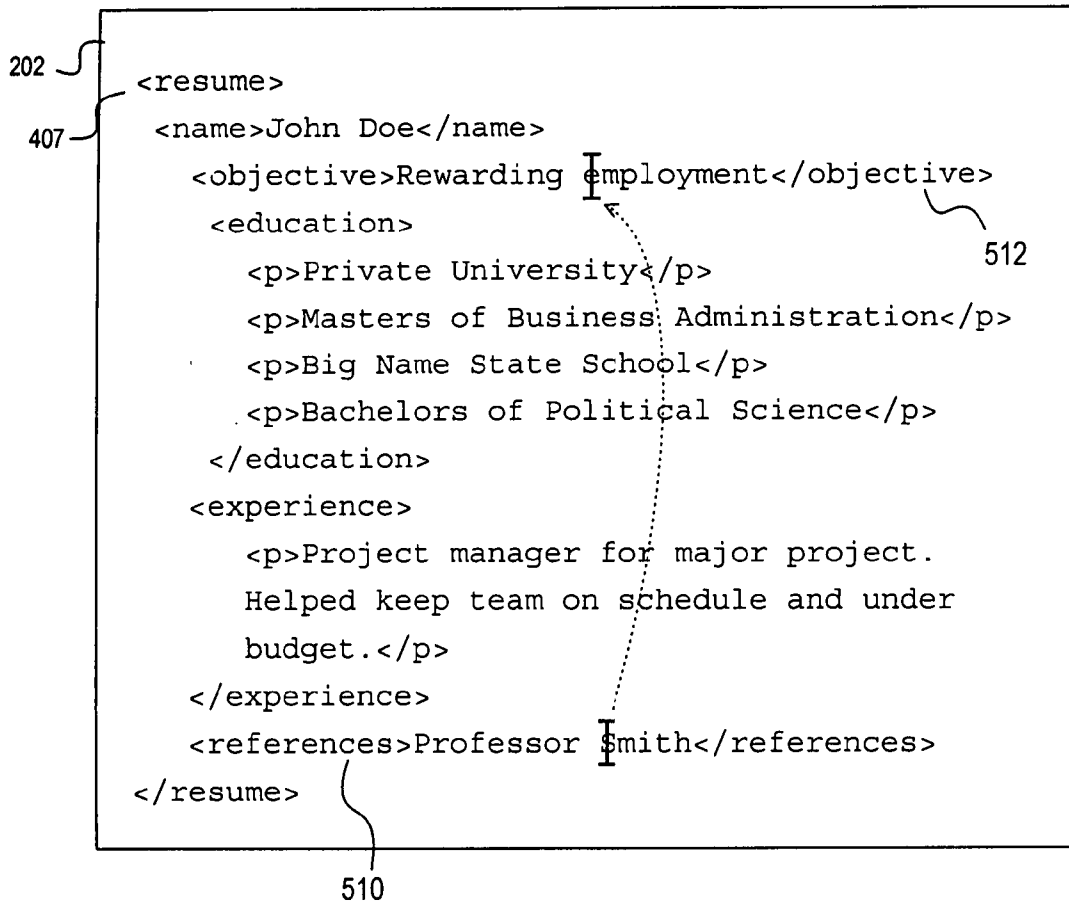
303 304

FIG. 3



OldXMLNode: `<p>`
NewXMLNode: None

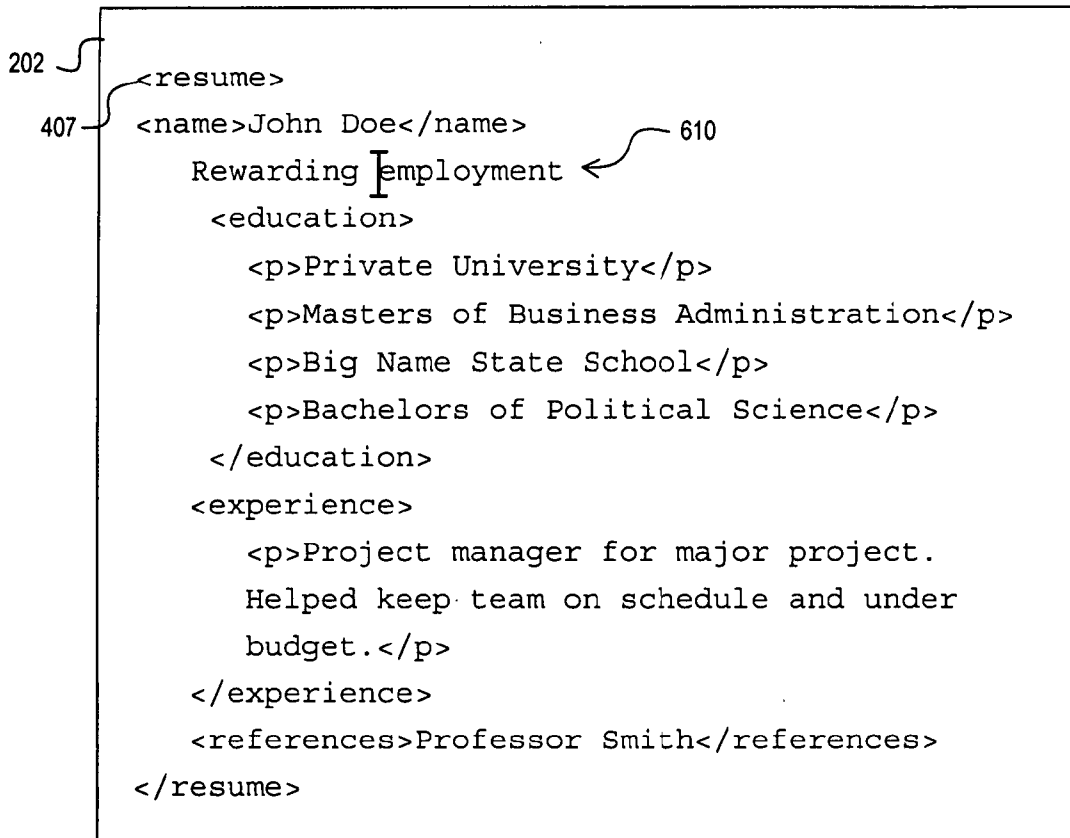
FIG. 4



OldXMLNode: None
 NewXMLNode: <references>

OldXMLNode: <references>
 NewXMLNode: <objective>

FIG. 5



OldXMLNode: <objective>

NewXMLNode: <resume>

FIG. 6