PCT WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 15/177 // 17/30	A3	(11) International Publication Number: **WO 99/13413**
		(43) International Publication Date: 18 March 1999 (18.03.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK98/00387

(22) International Filing Date: 9 September 1998 (09.09.98)

(30) Priority Data:
1034/97 9 September 1997 (09.09.97) DK

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: BAAN FRONT OFFICE SYSTEMS A/S [DK/DK]; Hørkær 12 A, DK–2730 Herlev (DK).

(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: SKOVGAARD, Hans, Jørgen [DK/DK]; Stavnsholtvej 182, DK–3520 Farum (DK).

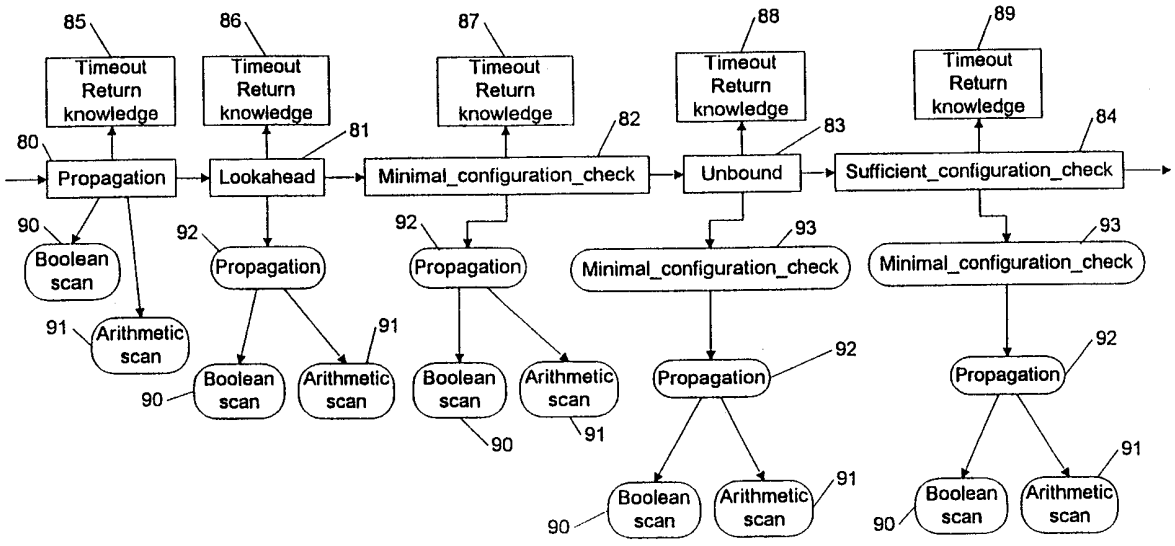
(74) Agent: HOFMAN–BANG & BOUTARD; Lehmann & Ree a/s, Hans Bekkevolds Allé 7, DK–2900 Hellerup (DK).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, 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, SK (Utility model), 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, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
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.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
6 May 1999 (06.05.99)

(54) Title: A METHOD AND A COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR CONFIGURING A SET OF OBJECTS



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a method of configuring a set of object values in a computer, at least one object value of said set of object values being user-chosen from a number of object values, each object having at least one possible object value, each object value being determined or undetermined, each of said determined object values being assigned to a value, some of these or all of these object values being comprised in the said set of object values, and said object values being constrained by a rule base defining a number of relationships between the objects or the object values. The method further comprises at least one interruptible algorithm adapted to deduce knowledge about the undetermined object values, said knowledge indicating whether a user selection of a part of or all of the individual undetermined object values are possible or not, said algorithm or algorithms comprising at least one readout point, in at least one readout point storing the deduced knowledge in at least one dynamic representation of object values, the deduced knowledge in each readout point representing partial knowledge about the undetermined objects, said partial knowledge being presented to the user in response to a user interrupt or a time interrupt. The invention thus improves the interactive performance of configuration, as information of knowledge can be gradually extracted.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	**ES**	Spain	**LS**	Lesotho	**SI**	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	**FI**	Finland	**LT**	Lithuania	**SK**	Slovakia
AT	Austria	**FR**	France	**LU**	Luxembourg	**SN**	Senegal
AU	Australia	**GA**	Gabon	**LV**	Latvia	**SZ**	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	**GB**	United Kingdom	**MC**	Monaco	**TD**	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	**GE**	Georgia	**MD**	Republic of Moldova	**TG**	Togo
BB	Barbados	**GH**	Ghana	**MG**	Madagascar	**TJ**	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	**GN**	Guinea	**MK**	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**TM**	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	**GR**	Greece			**TR**	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	**HU**	Hungary	**ML**	Mali	**TT**	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	**IE**	Ireland	**MN**	Mongolia	**UA**	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	**IL**	Israel	**MR**	Mauritania	**UG**	Uganda
BY	Belarus	**IS**	Iceland	**MW**	Malawi	**US**	United States of America
CA	Canada	**IT**	Italy	**MX**	Mexico	**UZ**	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	**JP**	Japan	**NE**	Niger	**VN**	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	**KE**	Kenya	**NL**	Netherlands	**YU**	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	**KG**	Kyrgyzstan	**NO**	Norway	**ZW**	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	**KP**	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	**NZ**	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			**PL**	Poland		
CN	China	**KR**	Republic of Korea	**PT**	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	**KZ**	Kazakstan	**RO**	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	**LC**	Saint Lucia	**RU**	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	**LI**	Liechtenstein	**SD**	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	**LK**	Sri Lanka	**SE**	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	**LR**	Liberia	**SG**	Singapore		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00387

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: G06F 15/177 // G06F 17/30
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)

IPC6: G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DIALOG

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 9715886 A1 (CALICO TECHNOLOGY, INC.), 1 May 1997 (01.05.97), see the whole document --	1-15
Y	EP 0359254 A2 (KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA), 21 March 1990 (21.03.90), column 2, line 31 - column 3, line 46, claims 1,6, abstract --	1-15
A	The Journal of Logic Programming, Volume 19, No 20, 1994, Tomas Axling et al, "A TOOL FOR DEVELOPING INTERACTIVE CONFIGURATION APPLICATIONS", see the whole document --	1-15

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [X] 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" erlier document but 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	Date of mailing of the international search report
4 March 1999	15 -03- 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86	Authorized officer Linus Wretblad Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00387

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5140671 A (RAYMOND R, HAYES ET AL), 18 August 1992 (18.08.92), column 2, line 1 - column 3, line 33, figures 3,6b,7a,8, claim 1, abstract ---	1-15
A	US 5515524 A (JOHN LYNCH ET AL), 7 May 1996 (07.05.96), claim 2, abstract --- ---	1-15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

02/02/99

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00387

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9715886 A1	01/05/97	AU 7519596 A	15/05/97
		CA 2235366 A	01/05/97
		EP 0859982 A	26/08/98
		US 5745765 A	28/04/98
EP 0359254 A2	21/03/90	JP 2077841 A	16/03/90
		JP 2752094 B	18/05/98
		US 5136698 A	04/08/92
US 5140671 A	18/08/92	EP 0439343 A	31/07/91
		JP 5151025 A	18/06/93
		JP 7082439 B	06/09/95
US 5515524 A	07/05/96	AU 685451 B	22/01/98
		AU 6363598 A	18/06/98
		AU 6494794 A	24/10/94
		BR 9406179 A	06/02/96
		CA 2158153 A	13/10/94
		EP 0719432 A	03/07/96
		JP 8509309 T	01/10/96
		US 5708798 A	13/01/98
		WO 9423372 A	13/10/94