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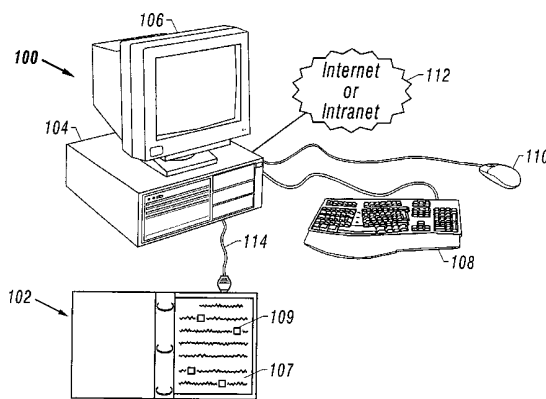
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(54) Title: DIGITAL BINDER AND METHOD THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: A computer-interactive binder is disclosed for causing an execution of a user-programmable function by an remote computer, network or other digital device, comprising a spine having first and second sides, a front cover pivotably coupled to the first side of the spine, a back cover pivotably coupled to the second side of the spine, a binding mechanism attached to either of the spine, front cover or back cover, an input device, and in some cases, a microprocessor for causing the remote computer, network or other digital device to execute the user-programmable function in response to the input device. Additionally, a computer-interactive binder insert is disclosed for causing an execution of a user-programmable function by a remote computer, network or digital device, comprising a relatively flat member having openings for mating with a binder mechanism, an input device incorporated into the flat member, and a microprocessor for causing the remote computer, network or other digital device to execute the user-programmable function in response to the input device. A computer-interactive document holding apparatus is also disclosed for causing an execution of a user-programmable function by a remote computer, network or digital device, comprising a container for holding at least one physical document, an input device incorporated into the container, and a microprocessor incorporated into the container for causing the remote computer, network or other digital device to execute the user-programmable function in response to the input device.



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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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G06F1/16 G06F3/033 G06F3/023

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)
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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, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 369 113 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 23 May 1990 (1990-05-23) the whole document ---	1-10, 12-22, 24-36, 38
Y	US 5 903 548 A (DELAMATER JEFF) 11 May 1999 (1999-05-11) abstract ----- -/--	1-10, 12-22, 24-36, 38

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in 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 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 Int Application No
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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.
A	EP 0 591 560 A (SEGA ENTERPRISES KK) 13 April 1994 (1994-04-13) abstract column 1, line 1 -column 4, line 24 column 5, line 20 -column 6, line 40; figures 1,2 column 8, line 4 - line 21; figure 6 column 8, line 49 -column 9, line 1; figure 7 column 9, line 50 -column 10, line 2 column 10, line 27 - line 32 ---	1-10, 13-22, 25-36
A	US 5 105 338 A (HELD MICHAEL E) 14 April 1992 (1992-04-14) abstract column 1, line 30 -column 2, line 4 ---	1-10, 13-22, 25-36
A	WO 93 23257 A (TIME SYSTEM INTERNATIONAL A S ;HANSEN CHRISTIAN GRAM (DK)) 25 November 1993 (1993-11-25) the whole document ---	1-10, 13-22, 25-36
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X	US 5 416 312 A (LAMOURE JACQUES) 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16) abstract column 1, line 1 -column 3, line 3 column 3, line 36 -column 6, line 60; figures 1-4	39-45
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Y	US 5 640 647 A (HUBE RANDALL R) 17 June 1997 (1997-06-17) abstract -----	47

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/33328

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

- 1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

- 2. Claims 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. Claims 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:

see additional 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.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-38

binder to which an input device is attachable, said input device being able to communicate with a remote device.

2. Claims: 39-95

a method of associating physical documents with electronic information.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In Application No
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