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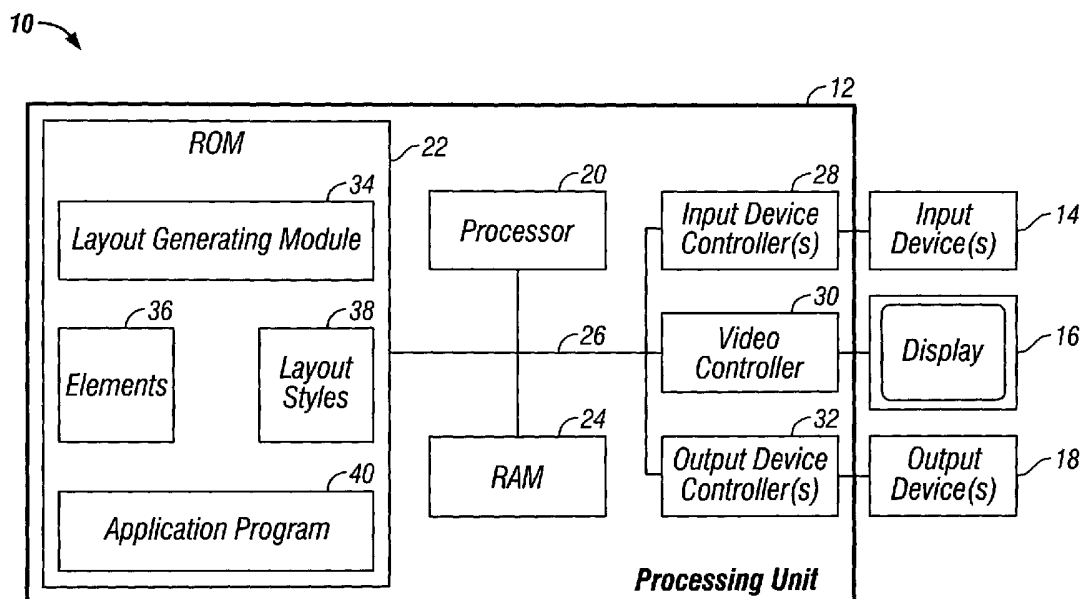
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(54) Title: AUTOMATIC LAYOUT GENERATION



(57) Abstract: Automatic layout generation where elements and group boxes may be placed in layout styles. Elements have widths that are integer multiples of a standard width. The standard width and a width of a layout shape are used in selecting a layout style. If at least two group boxes are not wider than half the layout shape width, a layout style is selected that provides spacing between side-by-side group boxes and that may accommodate group boxes wider than the predetermined width. If one, or no, such group box is present, a layout style may be selected that does not provide such spacing.

WO 2003/102712 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

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, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02/01388 A (EPICENTRIC INC) 3 January 2002 (2002-01-03) the whole document	1-24
A	EP 0 996 053 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 26 April 2000 (2000-04-26) abstract paragraph '0045!	1
A	US 5 796 401 A (WINER PETER W) 18 August 1998 (1998-08-18) abstract figure 9	8
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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.
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A	US 5 886 694 A (BREINBERG STEVEN ADAM ET AL) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23) abstract column 1, line 28 - line 32 -----	1-24
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