Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR UPGRADING AND INSTALLING APPLICATION PACKAGES TO AN APPLICATION PLATFORM

Abstract: Systems and methods for installing and upgrading application packages to an application platform (18). The systems and methods are particularly useful in an on-demand database service (28). Application packages may be uploaded to a directory by developing users (12) (developers) for installation by subscribing users (12) (subscribers). Alternatively, a developer may send identification information to a subscribing user to allow that user to access and install that application package (26) created by the developer. Application packages may also be upgraded. If a developer changes the original source package, a subscriber can choose to pull into their organization the change(s) made by the publisher while preserving any data rows the subscriber had created since first importing the package. One or more flags may be set in the package definition to determine whether and to what extent customizations to a package may be made and upgraded by the subscriber and/or developer. A "manageable" field is provided to identify whether customizations to a particular object are subject to upgrade; if the package or an object in the package is marked as managed, a user is allowed to customize the package or the object, and these customizations will not be altered upon upgrading of the package. A "control" field is provided to identify whether an object may be modified by the developer and/or the subscriber. An "immutable" field is provided to identify whether an object can or cannot be altered by anyone.
Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Date of publication of the international search report: 18 September 2008
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G06F 9/44(2006.01)

USPC: 717/100

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)
U.S.: 717/100

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 practicable, search terms used)
EAST, ACM Digital Library, Google

c. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<td>US 6,789,215 Bl. (RUPP et al) 07 Sept. 2004, see col. 3- col. 6, col. 9-col. 10</td>
<td>1-48</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
16 May 2008 (16.05.2008)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Date of mailing of the international search report
03 JUL 2008

Authorized officer
Wei Zhen
Telephone No. 571-272-2100