



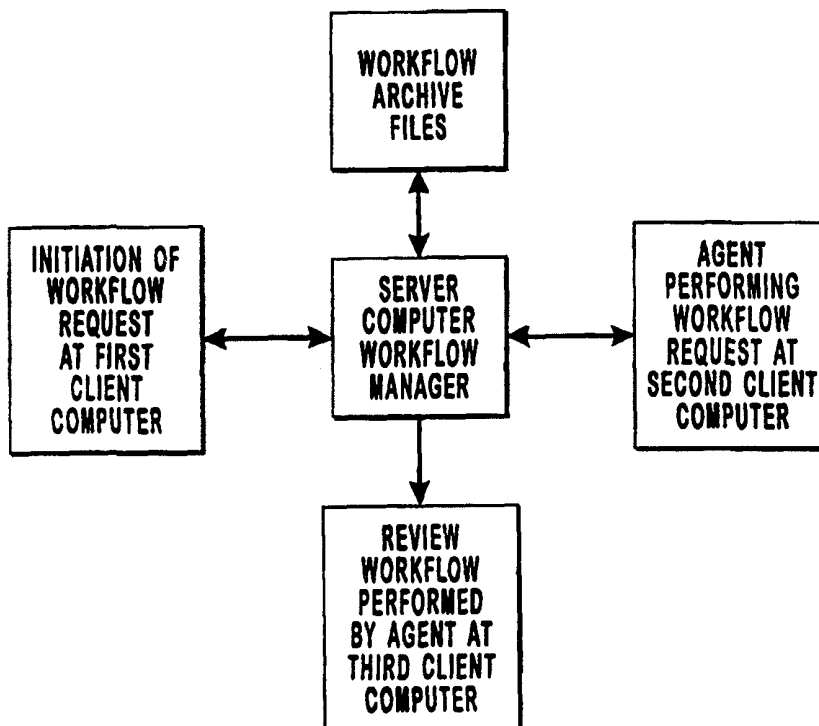
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/26354 (22) International Filing Date: 8 November 1999 (08.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/200,878 30 November 1998 (30.11.98) US (71) Applicant: MICROSOFT CORPORATION [US/US]; One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052 (US). (72) Inventors: AMBLER, Christopher; Apartment S-294, 17776 N.E. 90th Street, Redmond, WA 98052 (US). WALLACE, Andrew; 4427 175th Place S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006 (US). (74) Agents: NYDEGGER, Rick, D. et al.; Workman, Nydegger & Seeley, 1000 Eagle Gate Tower, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, 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, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, 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. (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 8 September 2000 (08.09.00)	

(54) Title: SYSTEM, METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR WORKFLOW PROCESSING USING MESSAGING WITH MIME MULTIPART CONTENT TYPE

(57) Abstract

A client computer in a communications network with a server computer assembles a record set that has a MIME declaration header with a multipart content type and a content sub-type indicative of a workflow media type. The first client computer also assembles a binary file having therein an encoded workflow specification. The record set is then transmitted with the binary file to the communications network. A second client computer on the communications network receives both the record set and the binary file and begins decoding the workflow specification. The second client computer uses an application program to execute the decoded workflow specification so as to perform all or a portion of the workflow process that is specified therein. The workflow specification is optionally written in eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/26354

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16; B42D 5/04

US CL : 709/200, 206, 218, 219; 705/8, 9

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. : 709/200, 206, 218, 219; 705/8, 9

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)

APS

search terms: e/electronic mail, MIME header, workflow, content types

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	US 5,930,512 A (BODEN et al) 27 July 1999, Abstract	1-28
A,P	US 5,978,836 A (OUCHI) 02 November 1999, Summary of the Invention	1-28
A,P	US 6,016,478 A (ZHANG et al) 18 January 2000, Abstract	1-28
A,P	US 6,038,541 A (TOKUDA et al) 14 March 2000, Abstract	1-28



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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

GLENTON B. BURGESS

Telephone No. (703) 305-3900

James R. Matthews