Title: A METHOD AND PROCESS OF COLLECTING DATA OF USER ACTIVITIES WITHOUT THE USER KNOWING

Abstract: The Collector process (10) may be conveyed to the target computer on any media from which the target computer is capable of performing the boot process (12), and the results of the collector process (10) may be recorded on any removable medium upon which the target computer is capable of recording. The collector process is manufactured onto an industry standard diskette which may be stored for an indefinite amount of time until it is needed. The collector process (10) is initiated by placing the diskette (11) into the diskette drive of the target computer while it is in a power-off condition and then turning power on. This will cause the collector process (10) to be loaded into the volatile memory (14) of the target computer but will not affect the non-volatile memory (16). The collector process (10) then examines each of the non-volatile storage devices (16) connected to the target computer and constructs a record of their contents in the volatile memory (14) of the target computer. The records of contents are generated by the collector process (10) first looking to the directory (18) on the target computer to construct a database. The database is then compressed, encrypted, and stored (24) as described below. The data collected from the non-volatile diskette devices (16) are reduced in size by an arbitrary data compression technique (22). These compressed, and optionally encrypted (24), data are then written to the original diskette replacing the collector process (10). Power on the target computer is then turned off (26) causing all records of the collector process (10) to be erased from volatile memory of the computer thereby not leaving any “footprint” for the computer user to see or find.
European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 15 May 2003

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

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(7) : GO6F 11/30
   US CL : 713/200
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. : 713/1, 2, 100, 193, 200, 201; 709/224, 229; 711/100

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

   Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
   East and Dialog searched, audit, config.sys, boot disk; collecting or gathering adj data or information

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,251,152 (NOTESS) 05 OCTOBER 1993, see col. 3, lines 4-11, col. 4, lines 1-36, co. 4, lines 62-68, col. 7, lines 1-20, col. 10, lines 17-31.</td>
<td>1-4, 8, 11, 17-18, 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  ☐ 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" earlier application or patent 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: 12 June 2002 (12.06.2002)
Date of mailing the international search report: 31 OCT 2002

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: Gail Hayes
Telephone No. (703) 306-0426

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)