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(71) Applicant: COMPREHENSIVE SOFTWARE SYS-
TEMS, INC. [US/US]; 25178 Genesee Trail, Golden, CO
80401 (US).

(72) Inventor: SCHWALM, Brian, E.; 2855 Rock Creek Cir.
#212, Superior, CO 80027 (US).

(74) Agent: BRUESS, Steven, C.; Merchant & Gould P.C.,
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903 (US).

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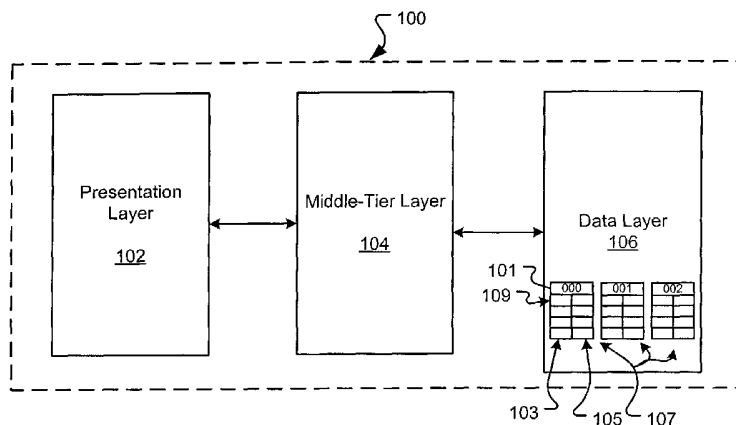
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING METADATA



(57) Abstract: A method and system for managing metadata for use by client application programs is disclosed. The client application programs are constructed with various software modules responsible for displaying graphical user interface components to users through a display module, e.g., computer monitor. The graphical user interface components are built using program data and metadata. Program data is data that is entered by a user or generated by a client application program. Metadata is data that describes the program data. The present invention manages metadata using a tri-layer system, which includes a presentation layer, a middle-tier layer and a data layer. The presentation layer includes the client application program, and therefore various software modules used to execute the client application program. The presentation layer also includes an ObjectStore component for managing retrieval and manipulation of metadata for the software modules. Software modules send requests for a metadata object to the ObjectStore component. The ObjectStore component works with the middle-tier layer to extract the requested metadata object from the data layer. The presentation layer, the middle-tier layer and the data layer may reside on a single computer or on multiple computers, such as the case in a client-server environment.

WO 2004/053635 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 709/212

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E ---	US 6,662,188 B1 (Rasmussen et al.) 9 December 2003 (9.12.2003), Fig. 2A, col. 6, lines 33-35; col. 9, lines 10-11; col. 5, line 23; col. 6, lines 41-42, 48-51.	1-2 -----
Y, E		3-16 and 32-35
Y, P	US 6,535,868 B1 Galeazzi et al. 18 March 2003 (18.3.2003)	3-6
Y, P	US 6,308,168 B1 (Dovich et al.) 23 October 2001 (23.10.2003) see entire document especially col. 6, lines 5-16; col. 4, lines 41-44;56-60; col. 2, lines 29-34.	9, 10, 11
Y, P	US 6,611,838 B1 (Ignat et al.) 26 August 2003 (26.8.2003) see entire document especially col. 12, lines 8-13, 24-34; col. 8, lines 64-67	12-14, 32-35
X ---	US 6,240,416 B1 (Immon et al.) 29 May 2001 (29.6.2001), see the entire document especially col. 4, lines 1-4, col. 11, lines 30-41, col. 5 lines 12-14, col. 6, lines 7-13 and	17-31, 36-49 -----
Y	Fig. 3; col. 11, lines 30-39, Fig. 8 and Fig. 9.	7, 8, 15, 16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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