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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : G06F 9/44, 9/445, 9/46, 15/16

G06F 15/40, 11/08, 13/40 G05B 11/42, 9/02 (11) International Publication Number:

WO 91/11766

A3 (

(43) International Publication Date:

8 August 1991 (08.08.91)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US91/00551

(22) International Filing Date:

25 January 1991 (25.01.91)

(30) Priority data:

476,031

30 January 1990 (30.01.90) US

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- (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).

Published

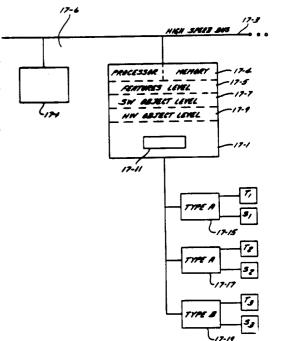
With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
9 January 1992 (09.01.92)

(54) Title: NETWORKED FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A networked system having a wide variety of applications and particularly applicable to facilities management systems has multiple levels of software in processing nodes. The levels include a "features" processing level which communicates requests for data to a software object level containing databases of processes and attributes and database managers. The database managers in the software object level operate to provide data to the high level features in the same format. The software object level communicates with a hardware object level which also contains databases and database managers to mask differences between operational hardware units. By categorizing operational units by type, additional units of a known type can be added with only low level hardware object database changes. Adding units of a new type is facilitated by software changes confined to the lower level hardware and software objects, avoiding software changes at high level features. Individual software objects are tailored for typical types of inputs and output devices encountered by facilities management systems. Universal drive circuitry also provides applicability to a broad range of devices.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 91/00551

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶							
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC Int.C1.5 G 06 F 9/44 G 06 F 9/445 G 06 F 9/46							
G 06 G 05	F 15/16 В 11/42	G 06 F 15/40 G (G 05 B 9/02	06 F 11/08 G 06 F 13,	/40			
II. FIELDS SEARCHED							
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷							
Classification System Classification Symbols							
Int.C1.5 G 06 F							
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸							
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT?							
Category °	Citation of De	ocument, 11 with indication, where approp	riate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No.13			
A	no. 2, Eliass for mi	rocessing and Micropro September 1984, (Amst en et al.: "A multilay crocomputers", pages 4 .3, 4.5	erdam, NL) F. ered operating system	1,7,19			
A	1988 International Conference on Computer Languages, 9-13 October 1988, Florida, US, IEEE, J.P. Diaz-Gonzalez et al.: "Language aspects of ENVISAGER: An object-oriented environment for the specification of real-time systems", pages 214-225, see page 215, left-hand column, line 15 - page 216, right-hand column, line 16, sections 6.1, 6.2						
*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 considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to				he application but ry underlying the imed invention			
"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			"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				
IV. CERTIFICATION							
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 07-06-1991			Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 1. 12. 91				
International Searching Authority EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE			Signature of Authorized Officer // King the the Signature of Authorized Officer				

International Application No Page 2 PCT/US 91/00551

III. DOCUN	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)	703 31700331
Category °	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	IEE Proceedings Section A a I, volume 130, no. 1, Part E, January 1983 (Old Woking, Surrey, GB), J. Kramer et al.: "CONIC: An integrated approach to distributed computer control systems", pages 1-10, see sections 2, 2.1, 3, 3.1,3.2,3.3, 3.4	1,7,19

Form PCT/ISA/210 (extra sheet) (January 1985)

Application No. PCT/ US91 /00551 Internatio FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET OBSERVATION WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE 1 This International search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons: 1. Claim numbers because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: 2. Claim numbers Diarm numbers

because they relate to parts of the International application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International search can be carried out, specifically: Claim numbers the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a). because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with VI. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING 2 This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this International application as follows: See form PCT/ISA/206 mailed on 29/08/1991 As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International search report covers all searchable claims of the International application 2. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims: 3. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers: 1-14, 19-21 As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. **Remark on Protest** The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.