

EXHIBIT 1.08

program, text or information range. The status indicator includes a number of individual fields represent portions of the individual program, text or information. Clicking on the field leads to the respective program area. The individual fields are arranged successively in accordance with the logical and/or timed running of the program. The sizes of the fields correspond to the size of the area represented.

Claim 1 of the present invention claims:

a window generation and control logic coupled to the processor and data display screen to create an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules that provide status and control functions, wherein the window generation and control logic generates and displays a first window region having a plurality of display areas on said data display screen, wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

an indicia generation logic coupled to the data display screen to execute at least one of the plurality of programming modules to generate information for display in one of the plurality of display areas in the first window region, wherein at least one of the plurality of display areas and its associated programming module is sensitive to user input, and further wherein the window generation and control logic and the indicia generation logic use message-based communication to exchange information to coordinate activities of the indicia generation logic to enable interactive display activity. (Emphasis added.)

The present invention provides display areas which are associated with individual programming modules. Cohausz does not provide such display areas. Cohausz teaches a status indicator which is associated with a single program. The status indicator of Cohausz indicates the location within the one single program, text or information range. The Examiner refers to page 3, paragraph 2 as teaching plurality of individual programming modules. However, page 3, paragraph 2 of Cohausz specifically states that "the individual fields represent portions of the individual program, text of information, i.e. sections, paragraphs, chapters or segments of information."

Thus, Cohausz does not teach individual programming modules associated with each field. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Cohausz.

Claim 1 of the present invention also claims an indicia generation logic that uses message-based communication to exchange information to coordinate activities of the indicia generation logic." Cohausz does not teach the use of message based communication for information exchange. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Cohausz's teaching of individual fields which lead to respective program areas does not teach the use of message-based communication. The present invention sets forth message based communication, which means that the control strip passes messages to a module to, for example, either tell the module what to do or to obtain information about the module and its capabilities. (Specifications, pg. 32, lines 5-7). There is no indication in Cohausz that such message based communication is used. Therefore, Cohausz does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in Claim 1, or any of its dependent claims.

Independent Claims 11 and 15 also include similar limitations regarding the operating environment. Therefore, based on the same rational given above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 11 and 15 and their dependent claims are not anticipated by Cohausz.

Claims 4-7 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Cohausz and U.S. Patent 5,202,961 to Mills et. al. ("Mills"). Mills teaches the use of a slider control bar for controlling the rate of display of sequential information. Specifically, Mills teaches the use of such a control strip to control the playback rate of video. This control strip is defined as having certain components such as standard playback direction/velocity indicators, reverse, stop and fast forward. Mills uses a control icon to select one of these rates of display. Claims 4-7 depend on independent Claim 1,

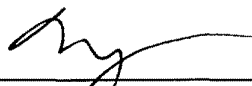
discussed above. The Examiner has acknowledged that Mills does not teach the indicia generator, or a plurality of programs corresponding to the plurality of fields as claimed in the present invention. Because Cohausz does not teach, or make obvious the use of a plurality of fields or message based communication, the present invention is not obvious in view of Cohausz further in view of Mills.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §103 have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that Claims 1-24 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 1/17, 1997



Michael J. Mallie
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

DS

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/316,237	09/30/94	CHRISTENSEN	S 04860.P1365

24M1/0131
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR AND ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
7TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES CA 90025

EXAMINER
DELA TORRE, C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2415	11

DATE MAILED: 01/31/97

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Advisory ActionApplication No.
08/316,237Applicant(s)
ChristensenExaminer
Crescelle Dela TorreGroup Art Unit
2415**THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE:** [check only a) or b)]

- a) ☐ expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ expires either three months from the mailing date of the final rejection, or on the mailing date of this Advisory Action, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for the response expire later than six months from the date of the final rejection.

Any extension of time must be obtained by filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), the proposed response and the appropriate fee. The date on which the response, the petition, and the fee have been filed is the date of the response and also the date for the purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. Any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17 will be calculated from the date of the originally set shortened statutory period for response or as set forth in b) above.

- ☐ Appellant's Brief is due two months from the date of the Notice of Appeal filed on _____ (or within any period for response set forth above, whichever is later). See 37 CFR 1.191(d) and 37 CFR 1.192(a).

Applicant's response to the final rejection, filed on Jan 21, 1997 has been considered with the following effect, but is NOT deemed to place the application in condition for allowance:

☒ The proposed amendment(s):


- ☒ will be entered upon filing of a Notice of Appeal and an Appeal Brief.
- ☐ will not be entered because:
- ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. (See note below).
 - ☐ they raise the issue of new matter. (See note below).
 - ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.
 - ☐ they present additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

☒ Applicant's response has overcome the following rejection(s):

The claim objections of claims 15-18 since applicant amended claim 15, line 3, replacing "create" with --creating--.

- ☐ Newly proposed or amended claims _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment cancelling the non-allowable claims.
- ☐ The affidavit, exhibit or request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____
- ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
- ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the status of the claims is as follows (see attached written explanation, if any):
- Claims allowed: _____
- Claims objected to: _____
- Claims rejected: 1-24
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ ☐ has ☐ has not been approved by the Examiner.
- ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Other *See Attachment A.*


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2415

Serial Number: 08/316,237


-2-

Art Unit: 2415

Attachment A

1. The after-final amendment submitted by applicant on 1/21/97 has been considered but does not overcome the rejection because of the following:

Applicant's primary arguments regarding the Cohausz reference, when taken alone or in combination with the Mills reference, are that Cohausz does not teach "individual programming modules" nor does Cohausz teach "message based communication for information exchange". The examiner disagrees with applicant on both points because Cohausz teaches "individual programming modules" at the bridging paragraph of pp. 2 - 3 ['an oblong field comprising an plurality of individual fields... each of which constitutes an operating field or control button... that branches into the associated program area or executes the associated program function']. In addition, Cohausz teaches message based communication at p. 3, second paragraph, that either tells the module what to do or to obtain information about the module and its capabilities ['the status indicator has the double function of operating like a menu {tells the module what to do} and of displaying exactly where in the program or in the body of information the operator or user is located {obtains information about the module- i.e. location of the user in the program}']


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2415



Attorney Docket No.: 04860.P1365

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of :

Steven W. Christensen

Application No.: 08/316,237

Filed: September 30, 1994

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING
CONTROL AND STATUS
INFORMATION IN A COMPUTE
SYSTEM

Examiner: Dela Torre, C

Art Unit: 2415

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on MARCH 20, 1997
Date of Deposit
Lisa Kaiser
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence
Lisa Kaiser 3/20/97
Signature Date

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a)

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a two month extension of time in which to respond to the Advisory Action mailed January 31, 1997. The two month extension extends the date of response to March 31, 1997. A check for \$390.00 is enclosed for the fee for a two month extension of time.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 2666. A duplicate of this Petition is enclosed for deposit account charging purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/20, 1997

Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598

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1 116 390.00 CK 04860P1365

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APR 10 AM 11:09
GROUP 2

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Effective October 1, 1992

Application or Docket Number

316237

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

FOR	NUMBER FILED (Column 1)	NUMBER EXTRA (Column 2)
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	18	minus 20 = * ①
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3	minus 3 = * ①
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY

OR

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE
	\$355.00
x\$11=	
x 37=	
+115=	
TOTAL	

OR

RATE	FEE
	\$710.00
x\$22=	
x 74=	
+230=	
TOTAL	710

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

AMENDMENT A	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	
Total	* 24	Minus	** 20	= 4	
Independent	* 3	Minus	*** 3	=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					

SMALL ENTITY

OR

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
x\$11=	
x 37=	
+ 115=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

OR

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
x\$22=	88
x 74=	
+230=	
TOTAL	88
ADDIT. FEE	

pas

AMENDMENT B	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	
Total	*	Minus	**	=	
Independent	*	Minus	***	=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					

TOTAL
ADDIT. FEE

OR

TOTAL
ADDIT. FEE

AMENDMENT C	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	
Total	*	Minus	**	=	
Independent	*	Minus	***	=	
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					

TOTAL
ADDIT. FEE

OR

TOTAL
ADDIT. FEE

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

FORM PTO-875
(Rev. 10-92)

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



APLND00024387



858-101 A: Fuc

08/821004

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 04860.P1365C

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
BOX FWC

Prior Application:
Examiner: Dela Torre, C
Art Unit: 2415

RULE 62

Sir: This is a request for filing a **file wrapper**

X Continuation application Divisional application
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 of pending prior nonprovisional application no. 08/316,237 ,
filed on September 30, 1994 ,
of Steven W. Christensen ,
(inventor(s) currently of record for prior application)
for METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING CONTROL AND STATUS
 INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM.
(title)

- X 1. The above-identified prior application is hereby expressly abandoned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62(g) as of the filing date of this new application. Please use all the contents of the prior application file wrapper, including the drawings, as the basic papers for the new application. No such copy of the prior application is included herewith. The present application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 before the payment of the issue fee, abandonment of, or termination of the proceedings on the prior application, or after payment of the issue fee (the latter if a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(b)(5) has been filed and granted in the prior application).
2. Please enter the preliminary amendment enclosed before calculating the filing fee.
3. Before calculating the filing fee, please enter in the present application the amendment filed on under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, but unentered, in the parent application.

E.C. 4 pend to group 251

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EM564115455615

DATE OF DEPOSIT MARCH 20, 1997

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Lisa Kaiser
(TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

Lisa Kaiser
(SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

_____ 4. Cancel in this application claims _____ of the prior application before calculating the filing fee (wherein at least one independent claim is retained for filing purposes).

X 5. The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS NOW PENDING IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION PLUS/MINUS CLAIMS
ADDED/CANCELED ABOVE

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)		SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY
For:	No. Filed	No. Extra		Rate	Fee
Basic Fee:					\$ 385
Total Claims:	24	- 20 *	4	x 11	\$ 88
Indep. Claims:	3	- 3 *	0	x 40	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claim(s) Presented				+ 130	\$
				TOTAL	\$ 858

* If the difference is less than zero,
enter "0" in Col. 2.

_____ 6. A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9 and 1.27 _____ is enclosed/_____ was filed in the pending prior application **and such status is still proper and desired.** 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).

X 7. The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for Deposit Account purposes.

X 8. A check in the amount of \$ 858.00 is enclosed for the filing fee.

_____ 9. A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed for the petition fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

X 10. Amend the specification by inserting the following before the first sentence on the first page:

X (a) -- This is a X continuation/_____ divisional of application no. 08/316,237, filed 9/30/94, now abandoned. --

_____ (b) --, which is a _____ continuation/_____ divisional of application no. _____, filed _____

_____. -- (Status: abandoned, pending, etc.)
(list all prior applications)

X 11. It is hereby requested that any request for a convention priority made in the prior application be transferred to this Rule 62 application.

entitled under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.14 to access to or information concerning either the prior application or any continuing application filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 may be given similar access to, or similar information concerning, the other application(s) in the file wrapper.
37 C.F.R. § 1.62(f).

18. This application is being filed by fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.62(a), the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is requested to delete the name(s) of the following person(s) who are not inventors of invention being claimed in this application:
- _____
- _____


Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date:

3/20/98

By



Michael J. Mallie

Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8598

☒ Attorney or Agent of Record
☐ Associate Attorney or Agent
☐ Filed Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)

Patent

10/13/Pre
and to C
6-26-97
B. Hilliard

Prior Application:
Examiner: Dela Torre, C
Art Unit: 2415

Sir: This is a request for filing a **file wrapper**

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 of pending prior nonprovisional application no. 08/316,237

of Steven W. Christensen

(inventor(s) currently of record for prior application)

for METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING CONTROL AND STATUS

INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM.

—(title)

- X 1. The above-identified prior application is hereby expressly abandoned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62(g) as of the filing date of this new application. Please use all the contents of the prior application file wrapper, including the drawings, as the basic papers for the new application. No such copy of the prior application is included herewith. The present application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 before the payment of the issue fee, abandonment of, or termination of the proceedings on the prior application, or after payment of the issue fee (the latter if a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(b)(5) has been filed and granted in the prior application).
2. Please enter the preliminary amendment enclosed before calculating the filing fee.
3. Before calculating the filing fee, please enter in the present application the amendment filed on _____ under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, but unentered, in the parent application.

'EXPRESS MAIL' MAILING LABEL NUMBER EM564115455465

DATE OF DEPOSIT MARCH 20, 1997

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED
WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST
OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE
INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

(TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

(SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

4. Cancel in this application claims _____ of the prior application before calculating the filing fee (wherein at least one independent claim is retained for filing purposes).
- ☒ 5. The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS NOW PENDING IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION PLUS/MINUS CLAIMS
ADDED/CANCELED ABOVE

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
For:	No. Filed		No. Extra	Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Basic Fee:					\$ 385		\$ 770
Total Claims:	24	- 20	* 4	x 11	\$	x 22	\$ 88
Indep. Claims:	3	- 3	* 0	x 40	\$	x 80	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claim(s) Presented				+ 130	\$	+ 260	\$
				TOTAL	\$	TOTAL	\$ 858

* If the difference is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2.

6. A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9 and 1.27 _____ is enclosed/_____ was filed in the pending prior application and such status is still proper and desired. 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).
- ☒ 7. The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for Deposit Account purposes.
- ☒ 8. A check in the amount of \$ 858.00 _____ is enclosed for the filing fee.
9. A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed for the petition fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.
- ☒ 10. Amend the specification by inserting the following before the first sentence on the first page:
- ☒ (a) This is a ☒ continuation/_____ divisional of application no. 08/316,237, filed 9/30/94, now abandoned. ~
- (b) -, which is a _____ continuation/_____ divisional of application no. _____, filed _____
- _____. -- (Status: abandoned, pending, etc.)
- (list all prior applications)
- ☒ 11. It is hereby requested that any request for a convention priority made in the prior application be transferred to this Rule 62 application.

12. Priority of foreign application number _____ filed on _____
in (country) _____ is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.
- X 13. The prior application is assigned of record to:
Apple Computer, Inc.
1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, California 95014
- X 14. The Power of Attorney in the prior application is to:
Michael J. Mallie 36,591
(Name) (Reg. No.)
Edwin H Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129, and certain other listed attorneys or agent(s) of:
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
12400 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800
- X (a) The Power appears in the original papers of the prior application
no. 08/316,237 filed 9/30/94.
- (b) The Power does not appear in the original papers, but was filed on
_____ in prior application no. _____
filed _____.
- (c) A new Power has been executed and is attached.
- X (d) Recognize as an associate attorney or agent and address all future
communications to:
Michael J. Mallie 36,591
(Name) (Reg. No.)
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
12400 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8598
- X (e) Address all future communications to the undersigned.
- X 15. Enclosed is a photocopy of a petition for an extension of time
pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 concurrently (or previously) submitted
under separate cover for the above-referenced prior application.
- X 16. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for an extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136,
if needed, for the above-noted prior application. The Commissioner of Patents and
Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any extension or petition fee under 37
C.F.R. § 1.17 that may be required for the above-referenced prior application to
Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Two photocopies of this document are enclosed for
filing in the prior application file and for Deposit Account purposes.
- X 17. The filing of an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 will be construed to include a waiver
of secrecy under 35 U.S.C. § 122 to the extent that any member of the public who is

entitled under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.14 to access to or information concerning either the prior application or any continuing application filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.62 may be given similar access to, or similar information concerning, the other application(s) in the file wrapper.
37 C.F.R. § 1.62(f).

18. This application is being filed by fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.62(a), the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is requested to delete the name(s) of the following person(s) who are not inventors of invention being claimed in this application:
- _____
- _____

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _____

3/20/97

By _____

Michael J. Mallie

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8598

Reg. No. 36,591

☒ Attorney or Agent of Record
☐ Associate Attorney or Agent
☐ Filed Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)

(1)



My 2415

Attorney Docket No.: 04860.P1365

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of :

Steven W. Christensen

Application No.: 08/316,237

Filed: September 30, 1994

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING
CONTROL AND STATUS
INFORMATION IN A COMPUTE
SYSTEM

Examiner: Dela Torre, C

Art Unit: 2415

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage
in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

on MARCH 20, 1997
Date of Deposit
Lisa Kaiser
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence
Lisa Kaiser 3/20/97
Signature Date

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a)**

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a two month extension of time in which to
respond to the Advisory Action mailed January 31, 1997. The two month
extension extends the date of response to March 31, 1997. A check for \$390.00
is enclosed for the fee for a two month extension of time.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02
2666. A duplicate of this Petition is enclosed for deposit account charging
purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/20, 1997

Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598

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2407: 116 170.00CH

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GROUP 20

FWC paid to P



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/821,004	03/20/97	CHRISTENSEN	S 04860.P1365C

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES CA 90025

E6M1/0814 7

EXAMINER

DELA TORRE, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2415

14

DATE MAILED:

08/14/97

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/821,004

Applicant(s)
Christensen

Examiner
Crescelle Delatorre

Group Art Unit
2415



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 20, 1997

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Preliminary Amendment C, filed on 3/20/97.

This action is made final.

2. Claims 1 - 24 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 11, 15 are independent claims.

This application is an FWC of 08/316,237, filed on 9/30/94, now abandoned.

3. The present title of the invention is "Method and Apparatus for Displaying and Accessing Control and Status Information in a Computer System" as originally filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1 - 3, 8 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Cohausz (EPO 0 584 392 A1), based upon the English translation, which is included with this Office Action.

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As per claim 1, Cohausz teaches an "interactive computer-controlled display system" with a 'status indicator for a computer program', that comprises:

"a processor" which is inherently taught by Cohausz, since a processor is necessary in order to execute the functions of the status indicator;

"a data display screen" with 'monitor screen' at p. 4, paragraph 5;

"a cursor control device" with a 'mouse cursor' at p. 5, paragraph 2;

"a window generation and control logic" to "create an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules that provide status and control functions" at the bridging paragraph of pp. 2 - 3, "wherein the window generation and control logic generates and displays a first window region" with oblong field 1, at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, "having a plurality of display areas" with individual fields 2, at Fig. 1, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, "wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules" at p. 3, paragraph 2;

"an indicia generation logic" to "execute at least one of the plurality of programming modules to generate information for display in one of the plurality of display areas" at p. 3, paragraph 2, "wherein at least one of the plurality of display areas and its associated programming module is sensitive to user input" at p. 5, paragraph 2, and further using "message-based communication to exchange information to coordinate activities of the indicia generation logic to enable interactive display activity" at p. 3, paragraph 2, which teaches information passing between the status indicator and the respective program area, text, or information segment.

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As per claim 2, Cohausz teaches a "control strip" with oblong field 1, at Figs. 1 - 3.

Regarding claim 3, Cohausz also teaches that "at least one display area is variably sized" at p. 5, paragraph 1, and p. 6, paragraph 2.

In addition, Cohausz teaches that "at least one of the plurality of display areas only displays information" [claim 8] at p. 3, paragraph 2, and at Figs. 1 - 3; or "acts to provide access to control information when selected" [claim 9] at p. 3, paragraph 2, or "displays an additional display element" [claim 10] at p. 6, paragraph 3.

In reference to claim 11, Cohausz teaches the following subject matter:

"a processor" which is inherently taught by Cohausz, since a processor is necessary in order to execute the functions of the status indicator;

"a data display screen" with 'monitor screen' at p. 4, paragraph 5;

"a cursor control device" with a 'mouse cursor' at p. 5, paragraph 2;

"a window generation and control logic" to "create an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules that provide status and control functions" at the bridging paragraph of pp. 2 - 3, "wherein the window generation and control logic generates and displays a first window region" with oblong field 1, at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, "having a plurality of display areas" with individual fields 2, at Fig. 1, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, "wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules" at p. 3, paragraph 2;

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"at least one indicia graphics generation logic" that "generates user sensitive graphics for display in at least one data display area by executing at least one of the plurality of programming modules" at p. 3, paragraph 2; and

wherein the window generation and control logic determines when a data display area has been selected, signals the indicia graphics generation logic, which then initiates a response from said at least one of the plurality of programming modules, also at p. 3, paragraph 2.

Cohausz also teaches that the "first window region is always visible to the user" [claim 12] at p. 4, paragraph 5, since he teaches that the status indicator is 'visible during the entire program'. As per claims 13, 14, they correspond respectively to claims 2, 3.

As to claim 15, Cohausz teaches the following steps:

"creating an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules that provide status and control functions" at p. 2, paragraph 4 to p. 3, paragraph 2;

"generating a first window" with oblong field 1, at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, to accommodate a "plurality of display areas for indicia" with individual fields 2, at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 4, paragraph 5, resulting from "executing at least one of the plurality of individual programming modules, wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules" at p. 3, paragraph 2;

"displaying an indicia" as shown at Figs. 1 - 3;

"selecting one of the indicia" at p. 5, paragraph 2; and

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"said programming module performing a function in response to the selection" at p. 5, paragraph 2.

In addition, Cohausz teaches "status information" [claim 16] and "control information" [claim 17] at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 5, paragraphs 2, 3.

As to claim 18, Cohausz teaches that the first programming module requests a set of features at p. 5, paragraph 2, sends a message to the programming module indicative of features, and the programming module returns a message; such that the programming modules interact with each other in response to user interaction with the first programming module, also at p. 5, paragraph 2.

Cohausz also teaches the following: that each of the plurality of display areas is individually and variable sized [claims 19, 22] at p. 5, paragraph 1, and p. 6, paragraph 2; the first window region always appears in front of application windows [claims 20, 23] at p. 4, paragraph 5, wherein the status indicator is 'visible during the entire program'; and the first window region is in a 'private window layer' [claims 21, 24] also at p. 4, paragraph 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohausz (EPO 0 584 392 A1), based upon the English translation, and the patent to Mills et al. (U.S. patent 5,202,961).

Cohausz teaches that the display areas [individual fields 2] of the first window region [oblong field 1] are variably sized at p. 5, paragraph 1, and p. 6, paragraph 2, but does not teach that the first window region is variably sized [claim 4], such that none of the plurality of display areas is visible [claim 5], all are visible [claim 6], or a portion is visible [claim 7].

On the other hand, Mills et al., hereinafter Mills, teach that the size of the first window region is variable [claim 4] also at col. 4, lines 8 - 9, and also teaches sizing the first window region so that none of the display areas are visible [claim 5] with close box 28, at Fig. 2, and at col. 4, lines 7 - 8, or all [claim 6] or a portion [claim 7] of the display areas are visible, both at col. 4, lines 8 - 9.

Although Cohausz does not teach that the first window region is variably sized, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to vary the size of the first window region as taught by Mills, because it gives the user control over how much and what to display of the status indicator.

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Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 8/23/96 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner agrees with applicant that Mills does not teach "providing logic that creates an operating environment like a shell for other programming modules to provide status and control functions". As pointed out by applicant, in Mills, the "control window is used for controlling video generated by an application".

Rather, the Cohausz reference was used to reject the present claims. Like applicant's claimed invention, Cohausz teaches "creating an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules that provide status and control functions" to generate and display a first window region [oblong field 1] having a plurality of display areas [individual fields 2], as shown at Figs. 1 - 3, and at p. 4, paragraph 5.

In an after-final amendment, dated 1/21/97, which was not entered, applicant's primary arguments regarding the Cohausz reference, when taken alone or in combination with the Mills reference, were that Cohausz does not teach "individual programming modules" nor does Cohausz teach "message based communication for information exchange". The examiner disagrees with applicant on both points because Cohausz teaches "individual programming modules" at the bridging paragraph of pp. 2 - 3 [an oblong field comprising a plurality of individual fields... each of which constitutes an operating field or control button... that branches into the associated program area or executes the associated program function']. In addition, Cohausz teaches message based communication at p. 3, second paragraph, that either tells the

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module what to do or to obtain information about the module and its capabilities [the status indicator has the double function of operating like a menu {tells the module what to do} and of displaying exactly where in the program or in the body of information the operator or user is located {obtains information about the module- i.e. location of the user in the program}'].]

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Foster et al. (U.S. patent 5,588,105) teach a status bar that includes an icon for controlling the application program or an area which displays information generated by the application program [see Fig. 5].

Oran et al. (U.S. patent 65,617,526) describe a system visual notification area for displaying visual notifications to a user, such as events, status information, and other information [see Figs. 2 - 6].

Jones et al. (U.S. patent 5,644,334) detail status indicators located adjacent to their associated objects in a side bar panel [see Figs. 6A - 6B].

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Responses

11. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 308-9051 may be used for formal communications or (703) 305-9724 for informal or draft communications. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquiries

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crescelle N. dela Torre whose telephone number is (703) 305-9782. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, and on alternating Fridays from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

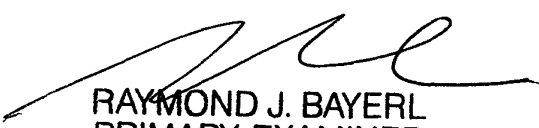
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell, can be reached on (703) 305-9703.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [mark.powell@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Cnd
cnd
August 12, 1997



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2415

Notice of References CitedApplication No.
08/821,004Applicant(s)
ChristensenExaminer
Crescelle DelatorreGroup Art Unit
2415

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS
A	5,588,105	12/1996	Foster et al.	395 ₃₄₅	326 779
B	5,617,526	4/1997	Oran et al.	395 ₃₄₅	326 779
C	5,644,334	7/1997	Jones et al.	395 ₃₄₅	326 x 419
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS
N						
O						
P						
Q						
R						
S						
T						

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE
U		
V		
W		
X		



US005588105A

United States Patent [19]

Foster et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,588,105**[45] Date of Patent: **Dec. 24, 1996**[54] **STATUS BAR FOR APPLICATION WINDOWS**[75] Inventors: **Gregg S. Foster**, Woodside; **Stephen P. Capps**, San Carlos, both of Calif.[73] Assignee: **Apple Computer, Inc.**, Cupertino, Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **393,880**[22] Filed: **Feb. 24, 1995****Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 976,970, Nov. 16, 1992, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 3/14; G06F 3/033**[52] U.S. Cl. **395/326; 395/348**[58] Field of Search **395/155, 157, 395/159, 156, 158; 345/119, 120, 146, 902**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

4,931,783	6/1990	Atkinson	345/146 X
5,121,477	6/1992	Koopmans et al.	395/156
5,140,678	8/1992	Torres	395/159
5,179,655	1/1993	Noguchi et al.	395/158
5,230,063	7/1993	Hoerber et al.	395/156
5,255,358	10/1993	Busboom et al.	395/156 X
5,276,795	1/1994	Hoerber et al.	395/156
5,305,435	4/1994	Bronson	395/159
5,317,687	5/1994	Torres	395/159
5,375,200	12/1994	Dugan et al.	395/159
5,425,141	6/1995	Gedy	395/157

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Microsoft Windows Version 3.0 User's Guide, Microsoft Corporation, 1990, pp. 17-18, 23-25, 28-29, 44-47, 55-56, 156-157, 398-399.

O'Connor, Rory J., "Apple banking on Newton's brain," San Jose Mercury News, Apr. 22, 1992.

Weiman et al., "A Step Toward the Future" Macworld, Aug. 1992, pp. 129-131.

M. Soviero, "Your World According to Newton" Popular Science, Sep. 1992, pp. 45-49.

F. Abatemarco, "From the Editor" Popular Science, Sep. 1992, p. 4.

Primary Examiner—Raymond J. Bayerl*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hickman Beyer & Weaver

[57]

ABSTRACT

A status bar characterized by a template generated independently of an application program and displayed on a computer screen in contact with an application window. The template carries at least one active area that can include an icon for controlling the application program or an area which displays information generated by the application program. Alternatively, or additionally, the active area can include "global functions" of the computer system. A method for providing a status bar is characterized by the steps of creating a status bar template having at least one area to be activated, activating at least one area to create a status bar, and displaying the status bar on a computer screen in contact with an associated application window displayed on the computer screen. The step of creating a status bar template can include the steps of creating a plurality of status bar templates, one of which is chosen to be attached to a particular application window.

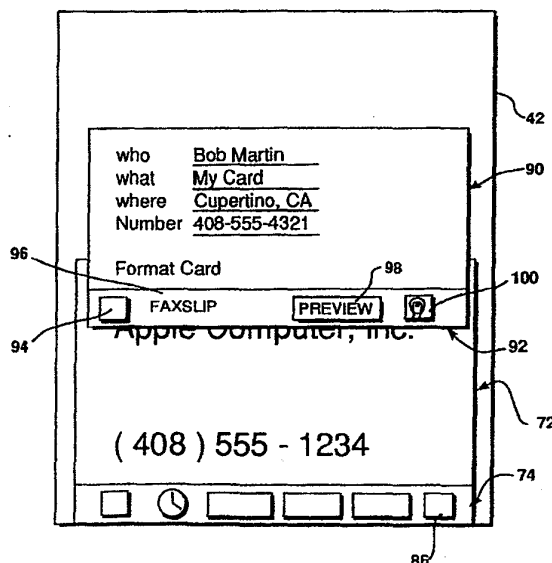
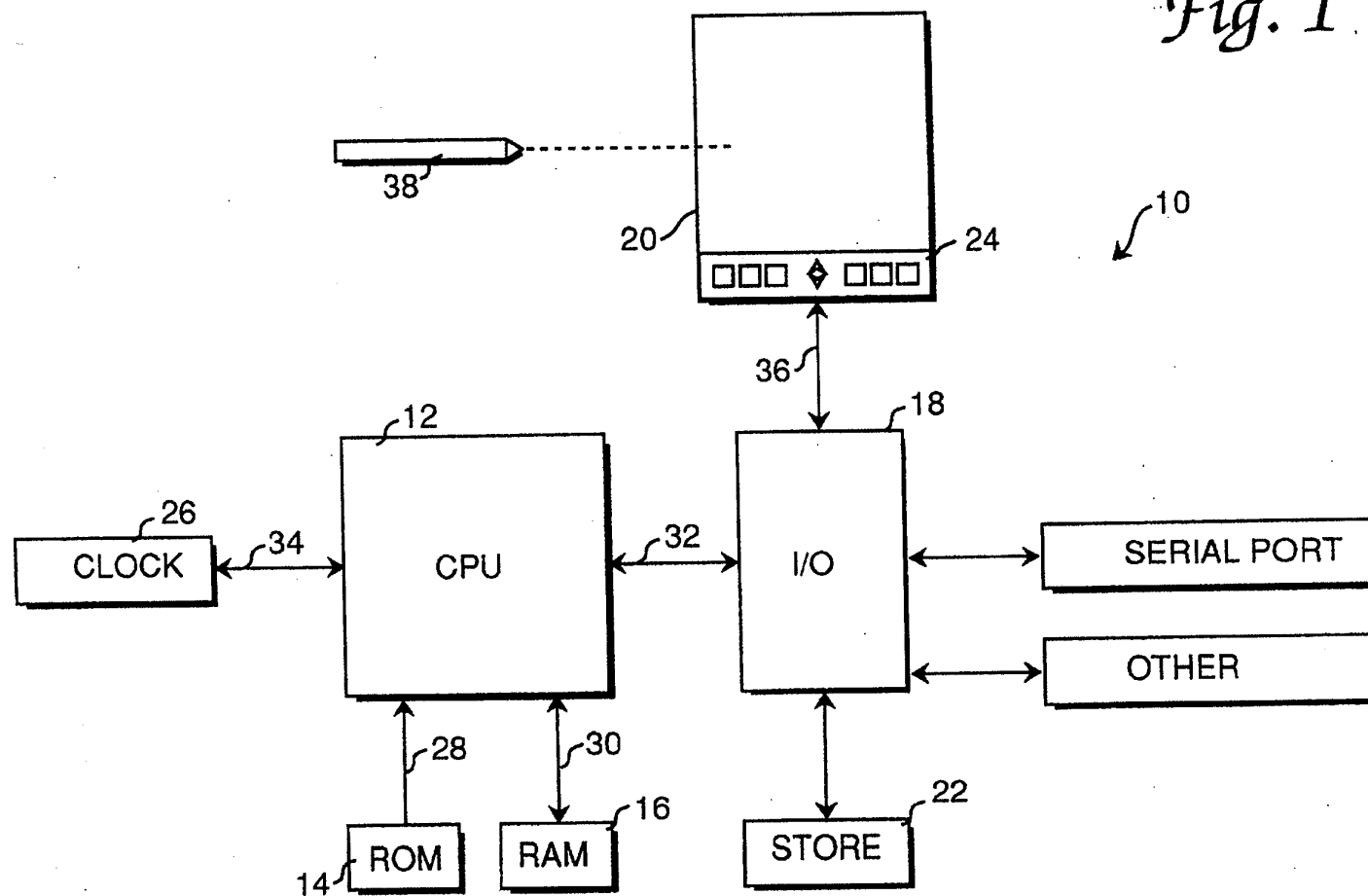
40 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1



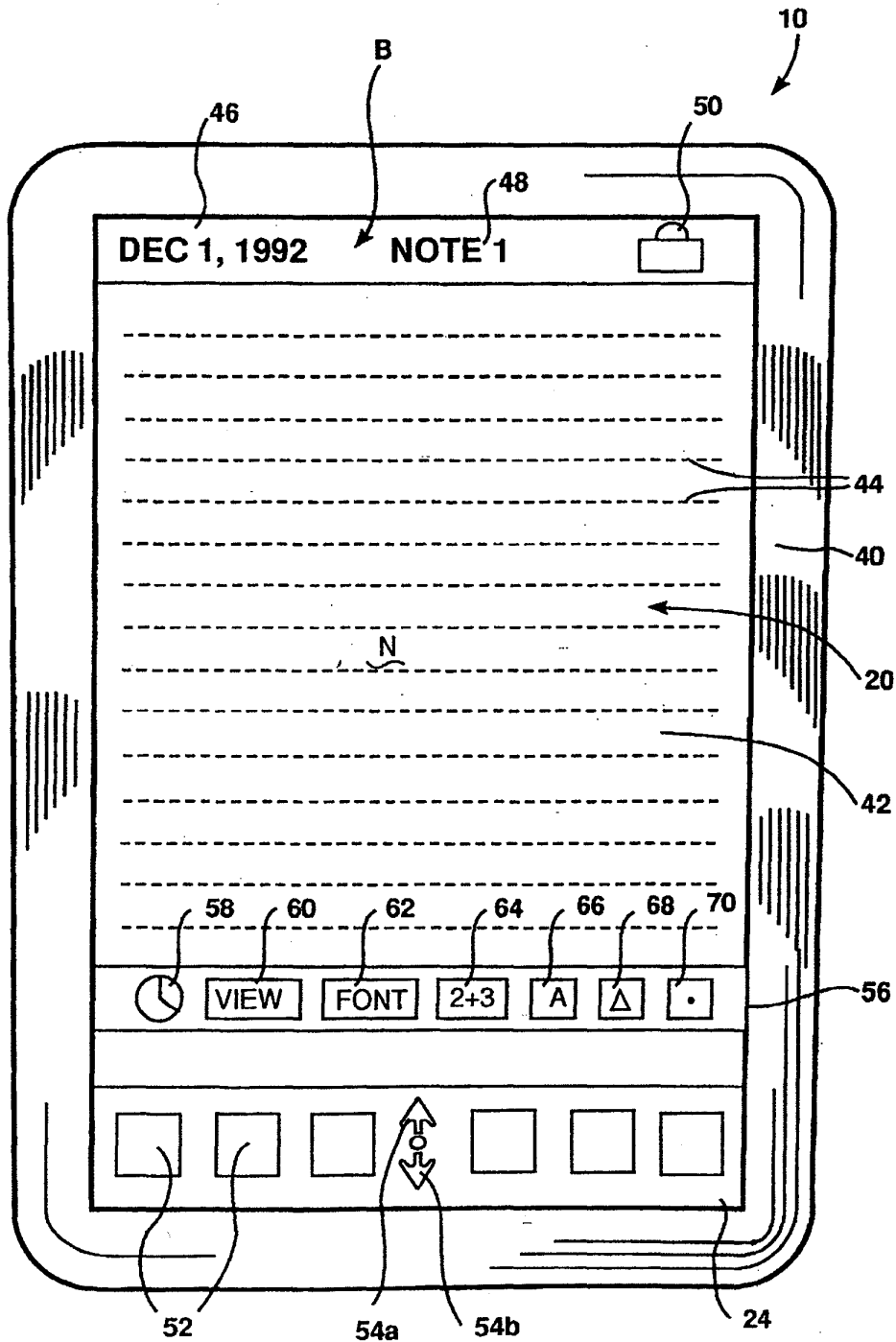
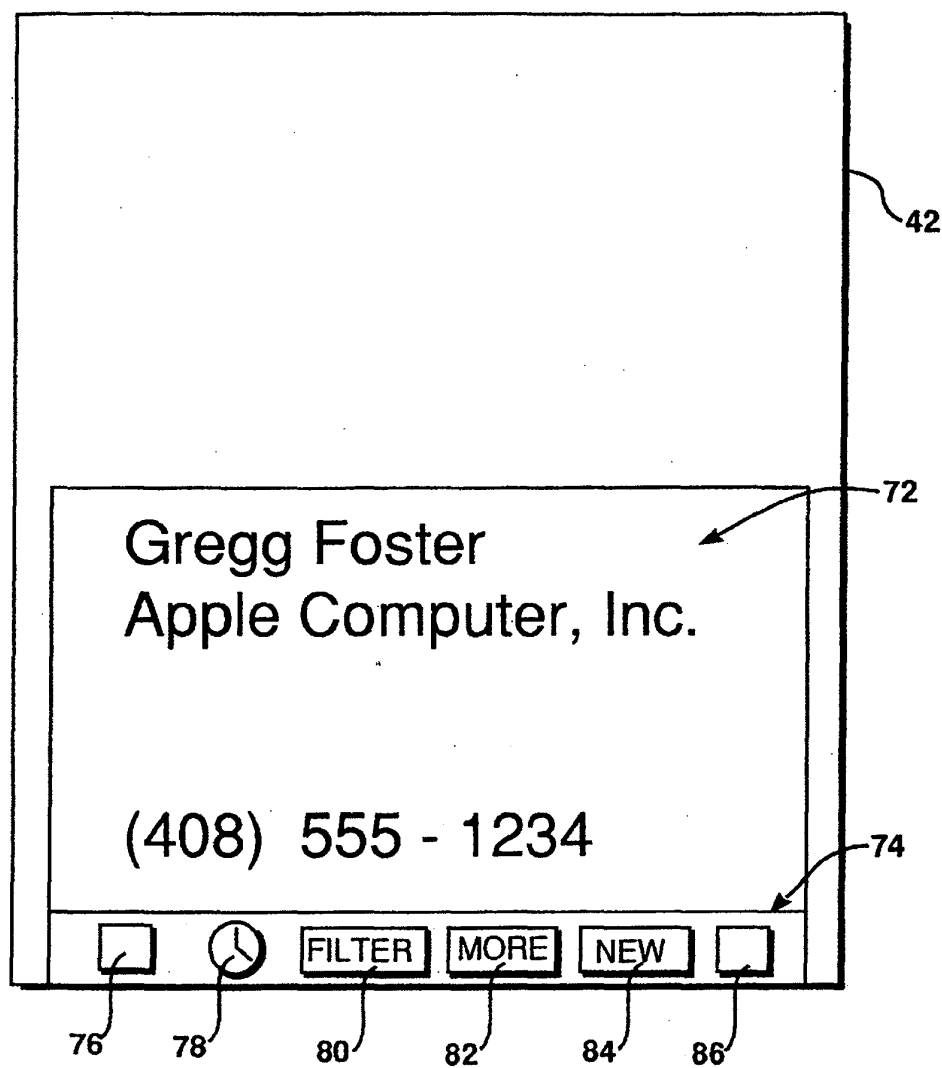
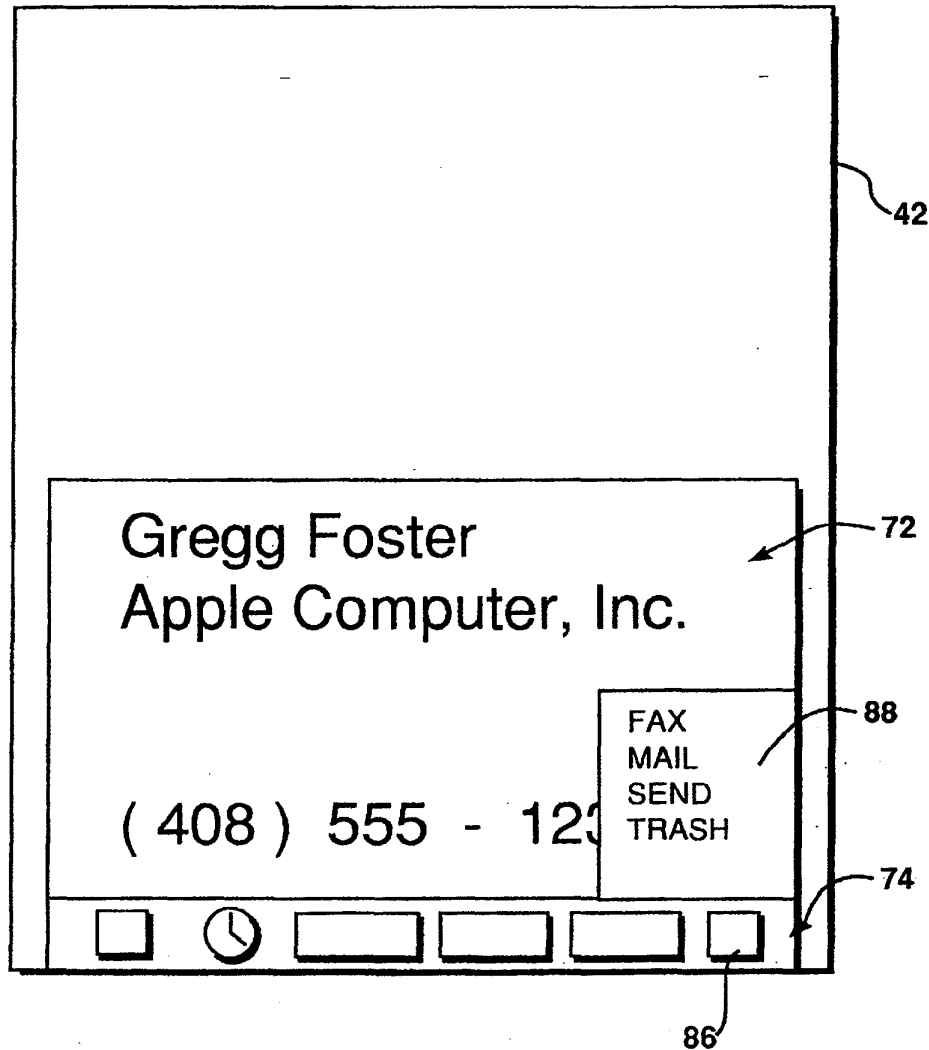


FIG. 2

*FIG. 3*

*FIG. 4*

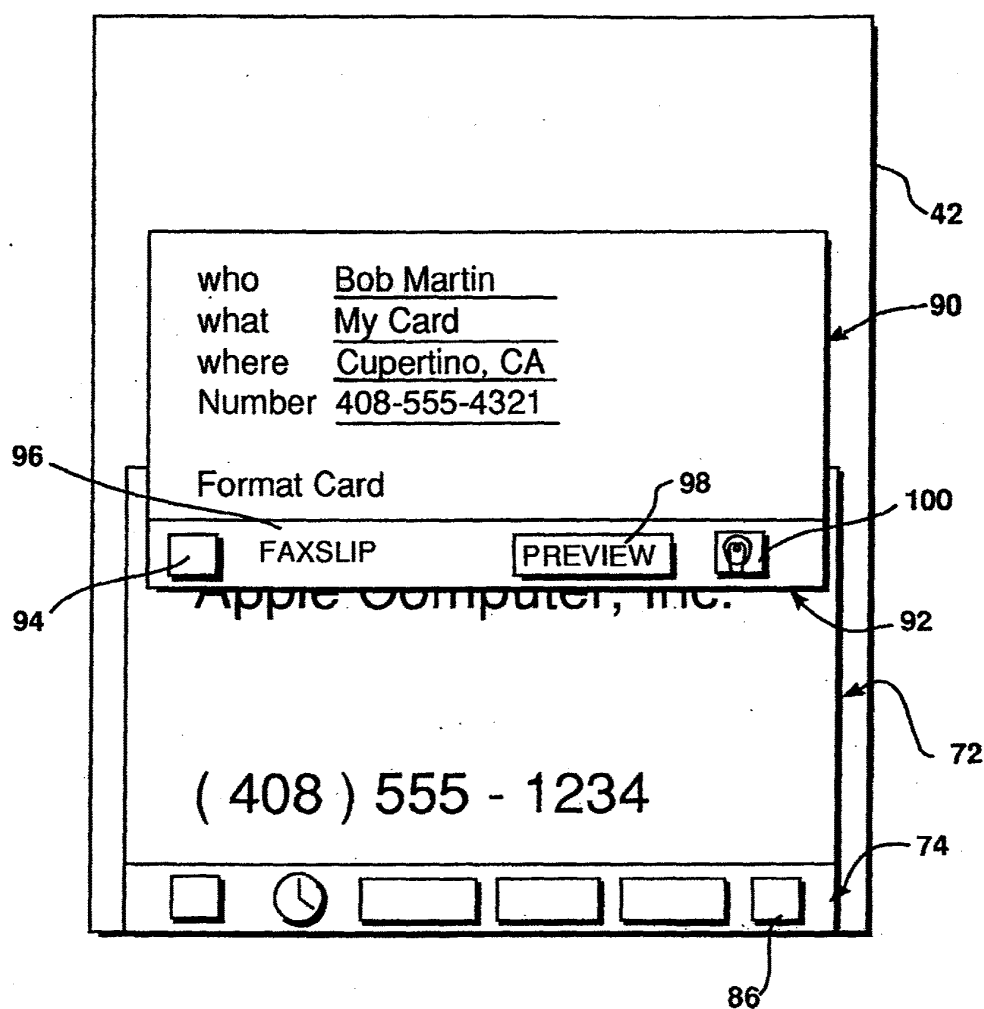


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

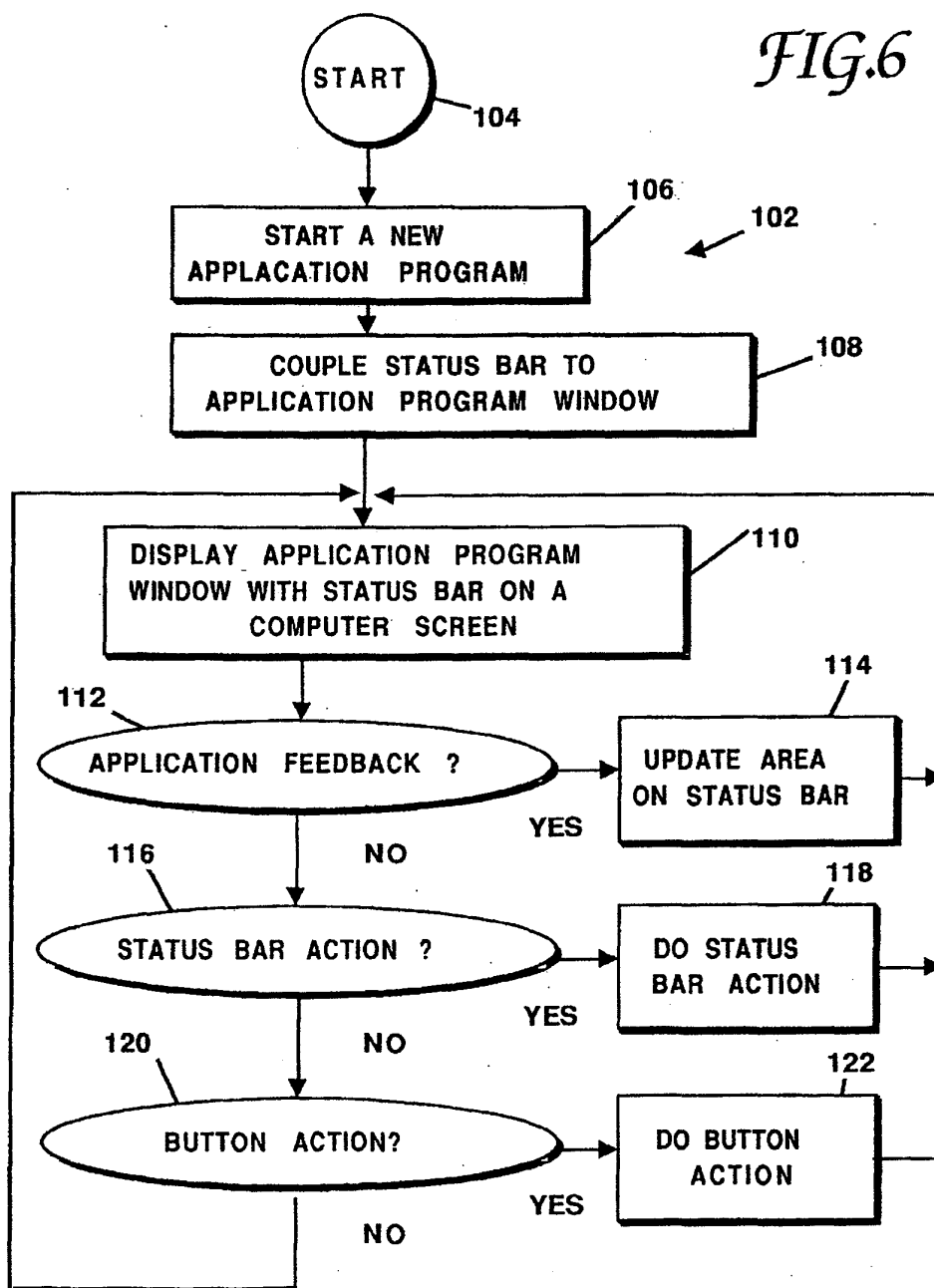


FIG. 7

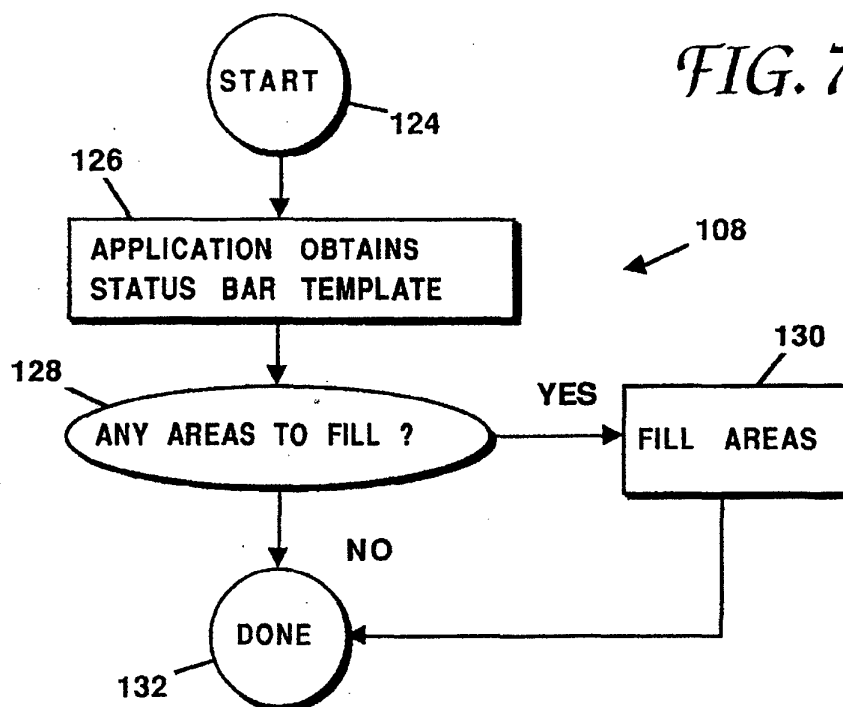


FIG. 9

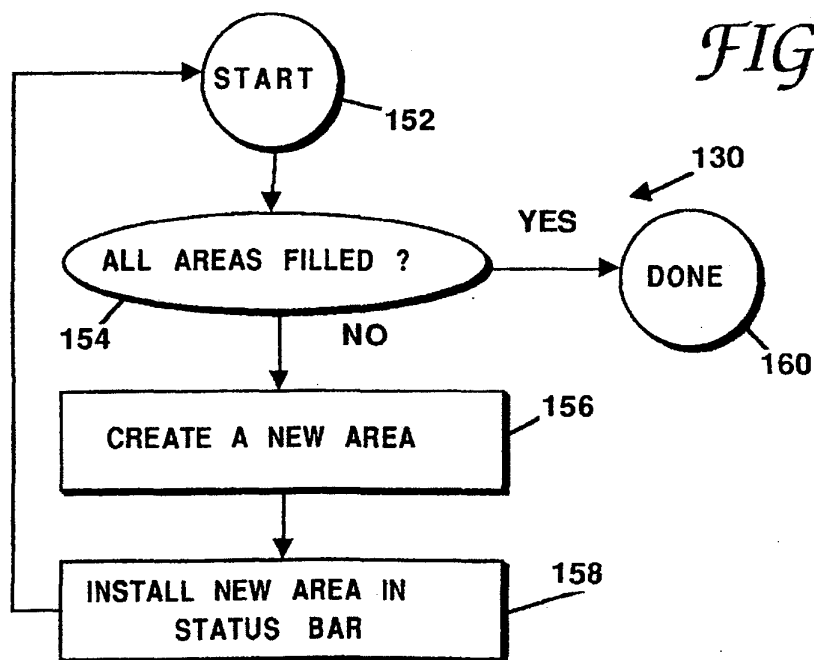


FIG. 8a

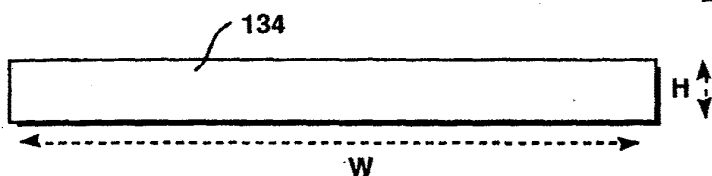


FIG. 8b

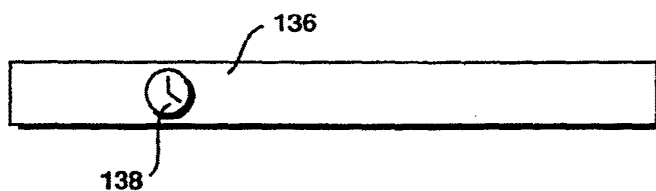


FIG. 8c

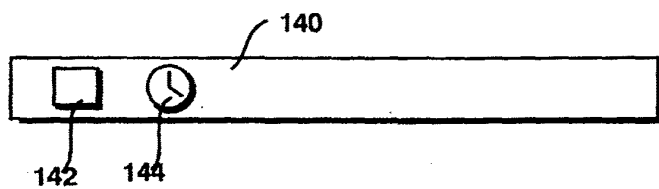


FIG. 8d

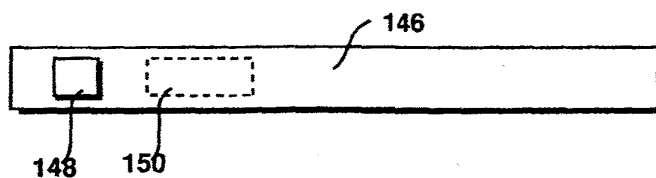
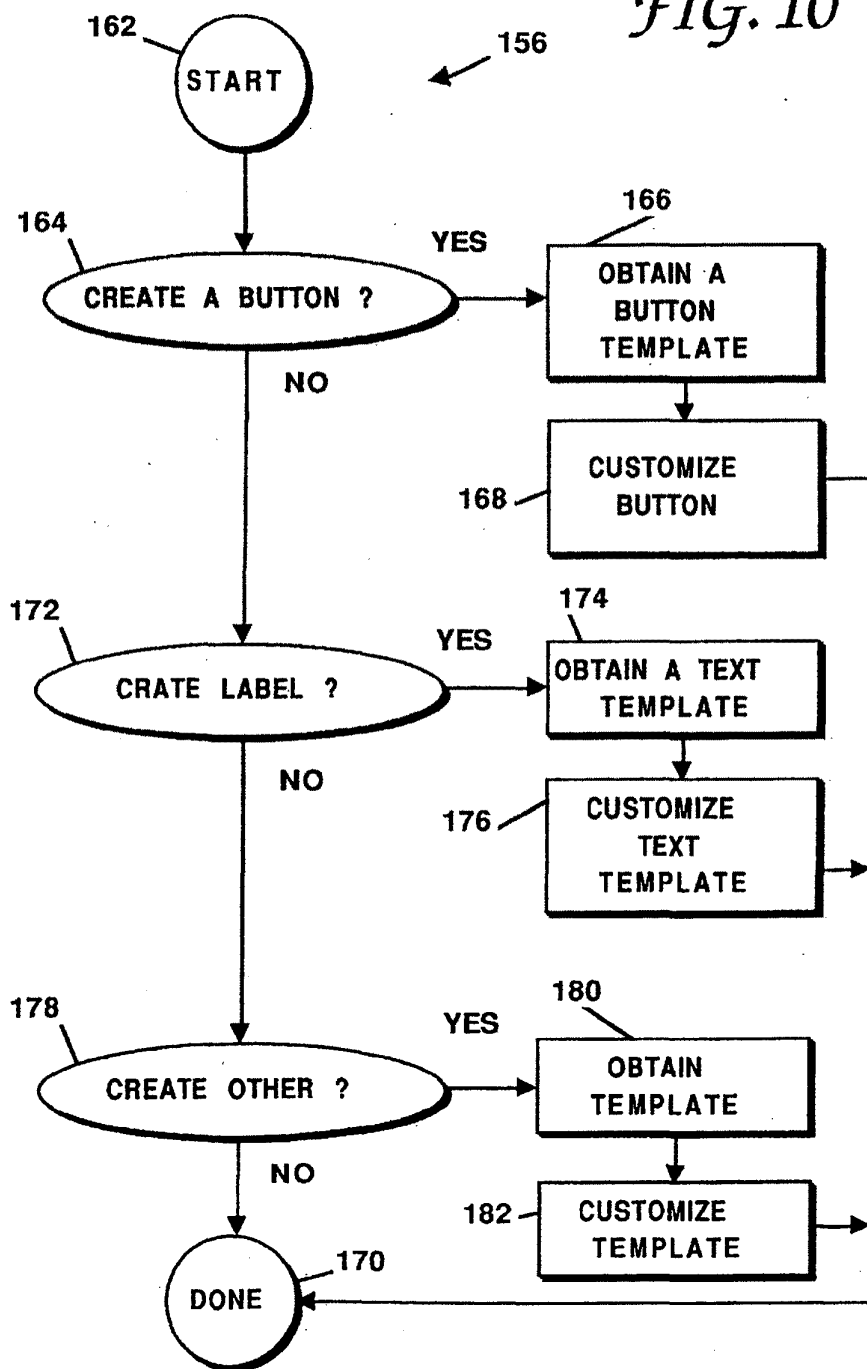


FIG. 10



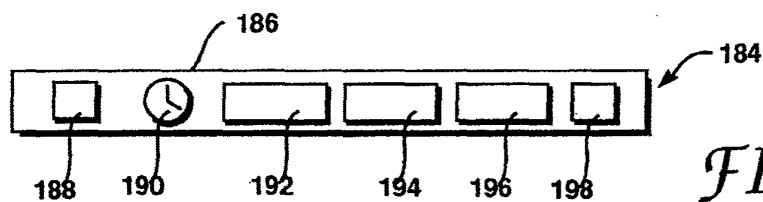


FIG. 11

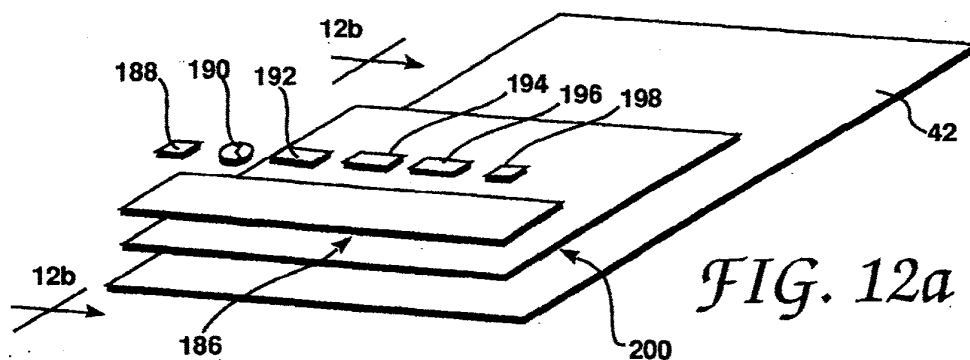


FIG. 12a

FIG. 12b

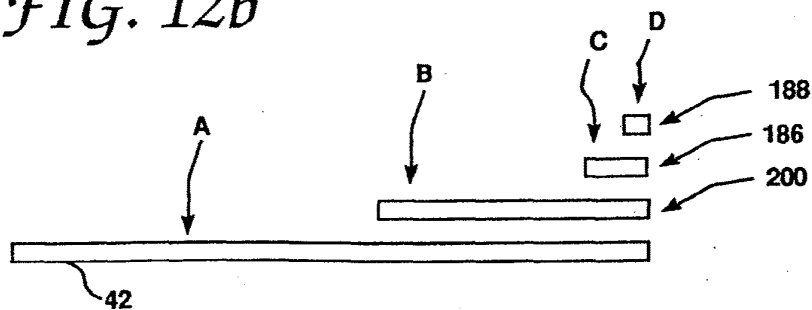
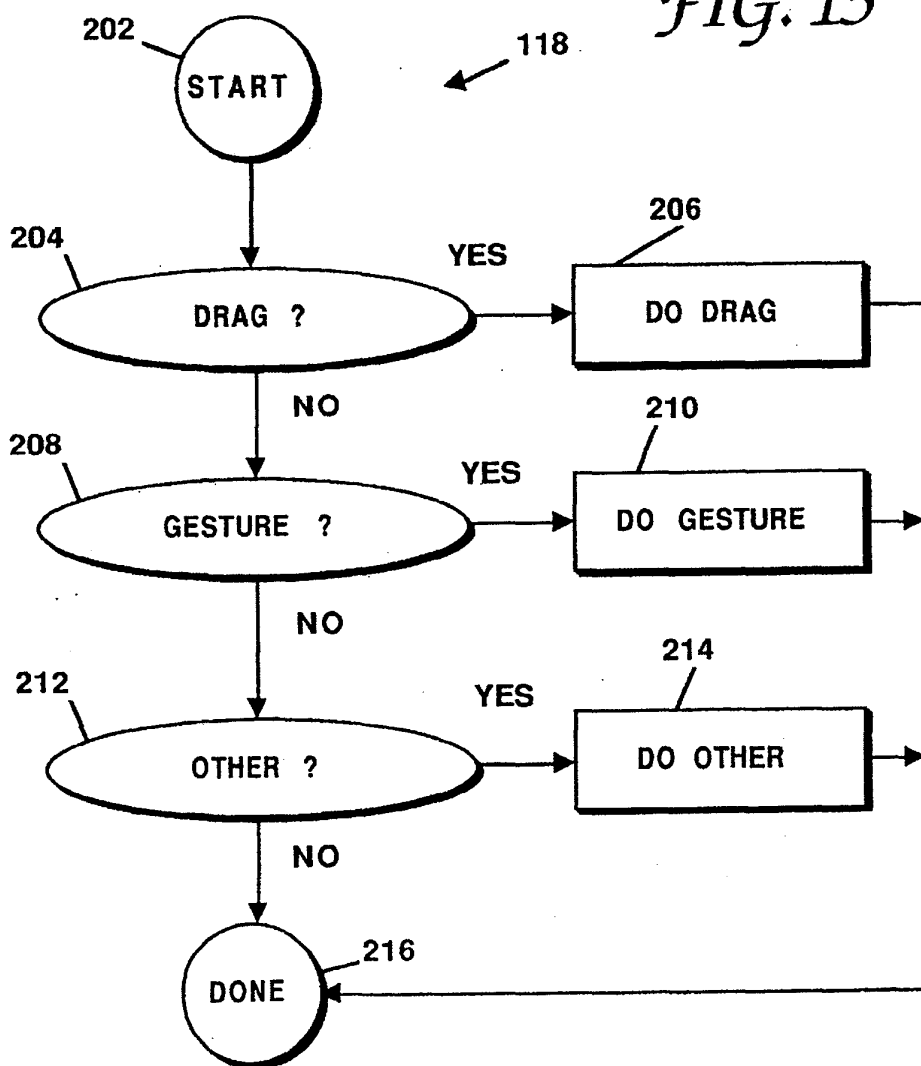


FIG. 13



STATUS BAR FOR APPLICATION WINDOWS

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 07/967,970 filed Nov. 16, 1992, now abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to computer systems, and more particularly to graphical user interfaces for computer systems.

Graphical user interfaces or GUI are becoming increasingly popular with computer users. It is generally accepted that computers having graphical user interfaces are easier to use, and that it is quicker to learn an application program in a GUI environment than in a non-GUI environment.

Apple Computer, Inc. is widely credited with popularizing graphical user interfaces with the GUI provided on their Macintosh line of computers. The Macintosh GUI includes a "desk top" area occupying most of the computer screen, a menu bar provided along the top of the screen which provides a number of pull-down menus that can be activated with a pointing device, such as a mouse or track ball. The output of application programs can be displayed on the screen within a "window" which can cover part or all of the desk top. The menu bar, however, is always visible and will always display certain system required functions regardless of which application program is currently active.

When multiple windows are open on the screen, it can, at times, become confusing as to which application is currently active and which application is being controlled by the menu bar. For example, even though the Macintosh GUI causes a title bar associated with an active window to have a distinctive shading, users still sometimes mistake a non-active window for the active window and try to operate on the non-active window with the menu bar.

Some graphical user interfaces, such as X-window and some graphical UNIX user interfaces, permit multiple active windows on a computer screen. While such systems are advantageous in that several application programs can be run at the same time, the user interface becomes more complex since each application program can provide its own, idiosyncratic interface to a user. This added complexity decreases user efficiency and increases learning time.

In view of the foregoing, it would be desirable to have similar user interfaces associated with any application program window which might be displayed on a screen. With such a system, it would be immediately clear which application was being acted upon, and user efficiency would be increased due to standardization of the interface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes the disadvantage of the prior art with a "status bar" which is attached to open application windows. Since the status bar is attached directly to the application window, there is no ambiguity as to which window that status bar controls. Furthermore, the status bar has a common format to provide a more uniform graphical user interface for the user of the computer system.

A status bar in accordance with the present invention includes a status bar template generated independently of an application program which is displayed on a computer screen in contact with an application window. The status bar template carries at least one active area. The active area can include an icon which, if activated, can control an operation of the application program. The active area can also be used

to display information derived from the application program, display information derived from the computer system ("global information"), or control a function of the computer system ("global control").

A method for providing a status bar includes the steps of creating a status bar template having at least one area to be activated; activating the area to create a status bar for that application; and displaying the status bar on a computer screen in contact with an associated application window.

The step of creating a status bar template can include creating a number of alternative status bar templates, in which case an additional step of selecting one of the status bar templates is performed. Again, the active area can control a function of the application program, display information from the application program, display global information, or it can control a function outside of the application program.

A major advantage of the present invention is that the status bar is attached directly to an application window so there is no ambiguity as to which application program that status bar controls. Another advantage of the status bar is that it can be configured by the application program with application specific features. Furthermore, the status bar ensures a common graphical user interface which makes the status bar functions easy to learn and use.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the screen, case, and keypad of the computer system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates a first screen display showing a pop-up window with a status bar;

FIG. 4 is a view of the screen where a pop-up window has been activated from the status bar;

FIG. 5 is a view of the screen where a second window has been opened with an associated status bar;

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram of a method for providing a status bar in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating, in greater detail, the "Couple Status Bar" step of FIG. 6;

FIGS. 8a-8b illustrate several status bar templates;

FIG. 9 illustrates the "Fill Areas" step 130 of FIG. 7;

FIG. 10 is a flow diagram illustrating the "Create a New Area" step 156 of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 illustrates a completed status bar object;

FIGS. 12A and 12B illustrates the "Install New Area" step 158 of FIG. 9;

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrating the "Do Status Bar Action" step 118 of FIG. 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention is well suited for pointer based computer systems such as the pen-based, stylus-based and mouse driven systems that are currently popular. For the purposes of illustration, the invention will be described in connection with a pen-based system. However, the present invention is well suited to any computer system using a window-type graphical user interface (GUI), or for non-window interfaces where a common user interface for application programs is desired.