EXHIBIT 29

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APPLICANTS

STEVEN W. CHRISTENSEN, REDLANDS, CA.

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FOREIGN APPLICATIONS********NONE
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Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's initials							

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TITLE

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING CONTROL AND STATUS INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM

U.S. DEPT. OF COMM./ PAT. & TM—PTO-436L (Rev.12-94)

PARTS OF APPLICATION FILED SEPARATELY		Applications Examiner

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED		CLAIMS ALLOWED

3-13-02

Assistant Examiner

	Total Claims 50	Print Claim 1

ISSUE FEE		DRAWING

Amount Due $1330.00	Date Paid 6/7/02		Sheets Drwg. 17/13	Figs. Drwg. 17	Print Fig. 2A

C dela Torre
Crescelle N. dela Torre
Primary Examiner

ISSUE BATCH NUMBER

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Form PTO-436A
(Rev. 8/92)

IRVINE

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ISSUE FEE IN FILE

Formal Drawings(____ shts) set _____

(FACE)

002FH001

04860.P1365

Patent

Response under 37 CFR 1.116 — Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 237

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	)	
	)	
Steven W. Christensen	)	Examiner: Dela Torre, C.
	)	
Serial No. 08/821,004	)	Art Unit: 2415
	)	
Filing Date: March 20, 1997	)	
	)	
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR	)	
DISPLAYING AND ACCESSING	)	
CONTROL AND STATUS	)	
INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER	)	
SYSTEM	)	

AMENDMENT TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
    Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed August 14, 1997,

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the following

amendments and consider the following remarks:

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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_____November 14, 1997_____
                          Date of Deposit

_____Edith Fuentes_____
                  Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

_____   _11-14-97_____
                  Signature   Date

Serial No. 08/821,004   1   04860.P1365C

002FH221

IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Twice Amended) An interactive computer-controlled display system comprising:

a processor;

a data display screen coupled to the processor;

a cursor control device coupled to said processor for positioning a cursor on said data display screen;

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 associated with different programs 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 individual 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.

11.   (Twice Amended) An interactive computer-controlled display system comprising:

a processor;

a data display screen coupled to the processor;

a cursor control device coupled to said processor for positioning a cursor on said data display screen;

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 associated with different programs 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;

at least one indicia graphics generation logic coupled to the processor and the window generation and control logic, wherein said at least one indicia graphics generation logic generates user sensitive graphics for display in at least one data display area by executing at least one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

wherein the window generation and control logic determines when said at least one data display area has been selected by the user and signals said at least one indicia graphics generation logic in response to user selection, and further wherein said at least one indicia graphics generation logic initiates a response from said at least one of the plurality of programming modules.

15.   (Twice Amended) A method for generating control information comprising the steps of:

creating an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules associated with different programs that provide status and control functions;

generating a first window sized to accommodate a plurality of display areas for indicia 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;

displaying the indicia in each of said plurality of display areas by executing one of a plurality of individual programming modules corresponding to each indicia;

selecting one of the indicia, wherein the step of selecting comprises a first programming module determining which of said plurality of display areas is selected and sending a message to a programming module of said plurality of individual programming modules responsible for generating a display of a selected indicia;

said programming module performing a function in response to a selection.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-24 remain in the application. No claims have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments place the case in a better position to be allowed. Furthermore, good and sufficient reasons exist why the below arguments were not presented earlier. Applicant requests entry of the amendments and their consideration.

Claim 1, as amended, claims:

> a window generation and control logic coupled to the processor and data display screen to create an operating environment for <u>a plurality of individual programming modules associated with different programs</u> 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.

(emphasis added).

Thus, Applicant claims <u>individual programming modules associated with different programs</u>, which are defined in the specification as a collection of individual modules that provide status and control functions. (Specification pg. 18, lines 3-5). "The control strip functions in one embodiment includes a network switch that shows whether a network connection for the computer system . . . is on or off and lets the user turn the network connection on or off. . . . The control strip may also include a battery monitor that displays the status of the battery or batteries. Another control strip module displays the state of File Sharing that may be currently employed on the computer system. The control strip of the present invention may also provide a module to allow the internal hard disk power to be turned off. The control strip may also provide power settings that allow the users to select

between maximum battery conservation or maximum computer performance. Other modules, for example, may provide, time and/or date information, may list currently running programming applications, may indicate the amount of available memory, may control a CD drive, may provide access to audio controls and status information." (Specification, pg. 18-19).

Cohausz, according to the Examiner, teaches individual programming modules at bridging paragraph of pp. 2-3, where it states: "The problem under consideration is solved according to the invention in that the oblong field comprises a plurality of individual fields which are adjacent to one another, each of which constitutes an operating field or a control button which, upon being activated, branches into the associated program area or executes the associated program function, with the indicator field or the cursor always being located on the individual field in whose associated program area/program function the user is currently located." (emphasis added). Cohausz refers to fields corresponding to program areas/functions, within a single program. Generally Cohausz refers to individual fields together forming a status indicator, "the individual fields representing portions of the individual program, text or information, i.e., sections, paragraphs, chapters, or segments of information." (Cohausz, pg. 3, lines 8-12).

Thus, it is clear from Cohausz that there are no individual programming modules associated with different programs, as claimed in the present invention, but rather a single program, which can be accessed at different locations through the use of this indicator. Therefore, Cohausz does not teach the individual programming modules associated with different programs as claimed in Claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, Claim 1 of the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over Cohausz.
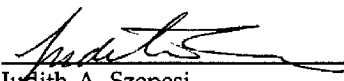
Independent Claims 11 and 15 similarly claim <u>individual</u> <u>programming modules associated with different programs</u>, and are therefore not anticipated by or obvious over Cohausz.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-24. If any obstacles remain to such allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

<div style="text-align: right;">
Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
</div>

Dated: _____//_H_____, 1997

Judith A. Szepesi
Registration No. 39,393

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Atty. Docket No. 004860.P1365C2   *Patent*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
    Steven W. Christensen   )
)
Serial No. 08/821,004   )   Examiner: Dela Torre, C.
)
Filed: March 20, 1997   )   Art Unit: 2415
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS   )
    FOR DISPLAYING AND   )
    ACCESSING CONTROL AND   )
    STATUS INFORMATION IN A   )
    COMPUTER SYSTEM   )
_____)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.   20231

Sir:

      In response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 1998, please amend the above-

referenced application as follows:

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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 _____June 25, 1998_____
          Date of Deposit

_____Edith Fuentes_____
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

_____[signature]_____   _____6-25-98_____
      Signature   Date

07/02/1998 TNGUYEN 00000053 08821004

01 FC:103   154.00 OP
02 FC:102   164.00 OP

-1-   004860.P1365C2

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Three Times Amended) An interactive computer-controlled display system comprising:

a processor;

a data display screen coupled to the processor;

a cursor control device coupled to said processor for positioning a cursor on said data display screen;

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 associated with different application programs that provide status and/or 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 the first window region is independent of any application program, and 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 individual 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.

-2-   004860.P1365C2

1. (Three Times Amended) An interactive computer-controlled display system comprising:

a processor;

a data display screen coupled to the processor;

a cursor control device coupled to said processor for positioning a cursor on said data display screen;

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 associated with different application programs that provide status and/or 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 the first window region is independent of any application program, and wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

at least one indicia graphics generation logic coupled to the processor and the window generation and control logic, wherein said at least one indicia graphics generation logic generates user sensitive graphics for display in at least one data display area by executing at least one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

wherein the window generation and control logic determines when said at least one data display area has been selected by the user and signals said at least one indicia graphics generation logic in response to user selection, and further wherein said at least one indicia graphics generation logic initiates a response from said at least one of the plurality of programming modules.

-3-   004860.P1365C2

13. (Three Times Amended) A method for generating control information comprising the steps of:

creating an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules associated with different application programs that provide status and/or control functions;

generating a first window sized to accommodate a plurality of display areas for indicia 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, and wherein the first window is independent of any application program;

displaying the indicia in each of said plurality of display areas by executing one of a plurality of individual programming modules corresponding to each indicia;

selecting one of the indicia, wherein the step of selecting comprises a first programming module determining which of said plurality of display areas is selected and sending a message to a programming module of said plurality of individual programming modules responsible for generating a display of a selected indicia;

said programming module performing a function in response to a selection.

Please add the following claims:

25. (New) A system comprising:

a window generation and control logic to create an operating environment for a plurality of individual programming modules associated with different application programs that provide status and/or control functions, wherein the

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window generation and control logic generates and displays a first window region having a plurality of display areas, wherein the first window region is independent of any application program, and 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 individual 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.

26. (New) A system comprising:

a window region independent of any application program, the window region having interactive display areas;

each of a plurality of the display areas associated with one of a plurality of individual programming modules;

wherein at least one of the individual programming modules is executable to generate information for display in the plurality of display areas, and wherein at least one of the display areas sensitive to user input.

27. (New) The system of claim 26 wherein the window region is displayed at a bottom of a display screen.

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28. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein one of the display areas displays status information.

29. (New) The system of Claim 26, wherein one of the display areas control information.

30. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the window region is always displayed on top of other windows.

31. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the window region is a resizeable control strip, such that the window region is displayed but none of the display areas are shown when the window region is closed, some of the display areas are displayed when the window region is partially open, and all of the display areas are displayed when the window region is completely open.

004860.P1365C2

<u>REMARKS</u>

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed March 25, 1998. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. Claims 1-24 remain in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 15 have been amended. New claims 25-31 have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 8-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohausz EPO Patent No. 0 584 392 A1, based upon the English translation, in view of Foster et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,588,105.

The Examiner further rejected Claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohausz EPO Patent No. 0 584 392 A1, based upon the English translation, and Foster et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,588,105 and further in view of Mills et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,202,961.

Cohausz, according to the Examiner, teaches individual programming modules at bridging paragraph of pp. 2-3, where Cohausz states:

> "The problem under consideration is solved according to the invention in that the <u>oblong field comprises a plurality of individual fields</u> which are adjacent to one another, each of which constitutes an operating field or a control button which, upon being activated, <u>branches into the associated program area or executes the associated program function</u>, with the <u>indicator field or the cursor always being located on the individual field in whose associated program area/program function the user is currently located.</u>"

It is clear from Cohausz that there are no individual programming modules associated with different application programs, but rather a single program, which can be accessed at different locations through the use of this indicator. Therefore, Cohausz does not teach the individual programming modules associated with different programs as claimed in Claim 1 of the present invention. Foster does not remedy this failing of Cohausz. Foster teaches a status bar for application windows. Specifically, Foster teaches:

-7-   004860.P1365C2

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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.'

(Foster, Summary, Column 1, lines 54-57).

Foster further notes that in order to generate his status bar, the process initially starts a new application program and then couples the status bar to the application program window. (Column 6, lines 32-40). Foster further teaches that the icons on the status bar relate to actions within the application window. Thus, for example, Foster teaches a notepad which has a status bar including items such as view button, font button, nib button, close button, etc. In addition to these specific buttons that are associated with the application, a global clock button is also taught by Foster to display the current time.

Foster teaches "buttons 60 and 62 are examples of active areas which provide indirect control over the notepad function." Thus, the buttons on the status bar of Foster provide indirect control over functions of a single application program.

Claim 1, on the other hand, 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 associated with different application programs that provide status and/or 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 the first window region is independent of any application program, and wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

(Claim 1, as amended). Neither Cohausz nor Foster teach or suggest the plurality of display areas associated with individual programming modules. Rather, Cohausz' display areas are associated with different locations of the application program, and Foster's display areas are associated with functions of the application program. Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Cohausz in view of Foster.

-8-   004860.P1365C2

Furthermore, Claim 1, as amended, claims indicia generation logic that uses message-based communication. This is defined in the specification as: passing information to the module to either tell it what to do or to obtain information about the module and its capabilities. (Specification, pg. 32, lines 5-7).

According to the Examiner Cohausz teaches message based communication at p. 3, second paragraph, where it states: "The status indicator thus has the double function of operation like a menu and of displaying exactly where in the program or in the body of information the operator or user is located." The Examiner interprets operating like a menu as telling the module what to do. The Examiner also interprets the phrase "where . . . user is located" as obtaining information about the module -- i.e. location of the user in the program.

Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner misunderstands the meaning of the term "menu" as used in Cohausz. Specifically, the term menu in Cohausz refers to a table of contents, rather than to communication with a module. This is clarified on pg. 5 of Cohausz, where it states that "the oblong status indicator can represent a menu in which the individual fields represent menu points or menu subjects." No indication is found that this relates to communication with a programming module. The sentence above this one clarifies that "the individual fiends are control panels or control buttons, which, when activated (clicked on) lead to the respective program area, text, or information segment." This is the functionality of the indicator of Cohausz.

It is the Applicants understanding that the interpretation that the indicator obtains information about the module is not supported by the reference. Cohausz refers to displaying where the user is located, i.e. actual location within a document. Along the oblong field, a square or other indicator is located at the same location as the cursor can be found in the text. This is similar to the scroll bar of most word

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processors. The difference is that the scroll bar of Cohausz is divided into subsections indicating a defined program area or program function. There is no indication of that the oblong field obtains information about a module.

In fact, Cohausz does not teach or suggest any communication between the indicator and anything else. Thus, Cohausz does not teach message based communication, as claimed in Claim 1. Foster does not remedy this failing of Cohausz. Foster controls functions of an application program and may display a clock, and does not teach or suggest message based communication. Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Cohausz in view of Foster.

Furthermore, Claim 1 claims the first window region independent of any application program. Examiner noted that Cohausz does not teach a status bar with a plurality of individual programming module associated with different programs. Examiner references Foster characterizing the status bar of Foster as being associated with different programs.

Foster teaches a status bar for application windows. Specifically, Foster teaches:

> 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.'

(Foster, Summary, Column 1, lines 54-57).

Foster further notes that in order to generate his status bar, the process initially starts a new application program and then couples the status bar to the application program window. (Column 6, lines 32-40). Foster further teaches that the icons on the status bar relate to actions within the application window. Thus, for example, Foster teaches a notepad which has a status bar including items such as view button, font button, nib button, close button, etc. In addition to these specific

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buttons that are associated with the application, a global clock button is also taught by Foster to display the current time.

However, Claim 1, as amended, 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 associated with different application programs that provide status and/or 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 the first window region is independent of any application program, and wherein each of the plurality of display areas is associated with one of the plurality of individual programming modules;

(Claim 1, as amended) (emphasis added). Neither Foster nor Cohausz teach or suggest a plurality of display areas independent of any application program and associated with a plurality of individual programming modules. Cohausz teaches a status bar for controlling a display within an application program. Similarly, Foster teaches a status bar associated with an application program, and used to control actions within the application program. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims an independent window region, not associated with any application programs. Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious over Cohausz in view of Foster.

Similarly, independent claims 11, 15, 25, and 26 claim a plurality of display areas independent of any application program and associated with a plurality of individual programming modules. Therefore, for the same reasons advanced above with respect to Claim 1, claims 11, 15, 25, and 26 are not obvious over Cohausz in view of Foster.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

-11-   004860.P1365C2

002FH263

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8598.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: _6/25_, 1998

Judith A. Szepesi
Registration No. 39,393

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