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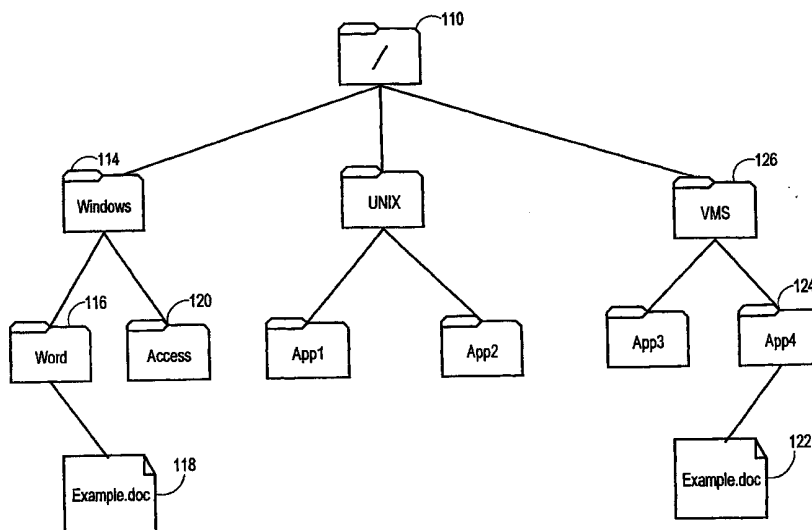
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HIERARCHICAL INDEXING FOR ACCESSING HIERARCHICALLY ORGANIZED INFORMATION IN A RELATIONAL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and mechanism are provided for creating, maintaining, and using a hierarchical index to efficiently access information in a relational system based on pathnames, thus emulating a hierarchically organized system. Each item that has any children in the emulated hierarchical system has an index entry in the index. The index entries in the index are linked together in a way that reflects the hierarchical relationship between the items associated with the index entries. Pathname resolution is performed by following direct links between the index entries associated with the items in a pathname, according to the sequence of the filenames within the pathname. By using an index whose index entries are linked in this manner, the process of accessing the items based on their pathnames is significantly accelerated, and the number of disk accesses performed during that process is significantly reduced.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A A	US 5 467 471 A (BADER DAVID A) 14 November 1995 (1995-11-14) column 2, line 33 -column 3, line 17 column 5, line 14-40; figure 2 ----- US 5 530 849 A (HANUSHEVSKY ANDREW ET AL) 25 June 1996 (1996-06-25) column 4, line 20-36 column 7, line 21-54 -----	1,9 2-8, 10-23 1-23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5467471	A	14-11-1995	WO 9420913 A	15-09-1994
US 5530849	A	25-06-1996	NONE	