US005925127A

United States Patent [19]

Ahmad

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,925,127

[45] **Date of Patent:** Jul. 20, 1999

[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MONITORING THE USE OF RENTED SOFTWARE**

[75] Inventor: **Arshad Ahmad**, Bellevue, Wash.

[73] Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, Wash.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/831,801**

[22] Filed: **Apr. 9, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 11/00**
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **713/200**
[58] **Field of Search** 395/182.01, 186, 395/188.01, 187.01; 380/3, 9, 23, 25; 707/203, 9, 10; 702/203, 9, 10

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,924,378	5/1990	Hershey et al.	364/200
5,375,206	12/1994	Hunter et al.	395/200
5,438,508	8/1995	Wyman	364/401
5,499,340	3/1996	Barritz	395/184.01
5,671,412	9/1997	Christiano	395/615
5,708,709	1/1998	Rose	380/4
5,717,604	2/1998	Wiggens	364/514 C
5,745,879	4/1998	Wyman	705/1
5,758,069	5/1998	Olsen	396/187.01
5,890,664	8/1998	Coley et al.	380/4

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Kramer, Matt, "For Rent: Apps Over Net," *PC Week,* Apr. 21, 1997, p. 16.

Primary Examiner—Joseph E. Palys
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jones & Askew, LLP
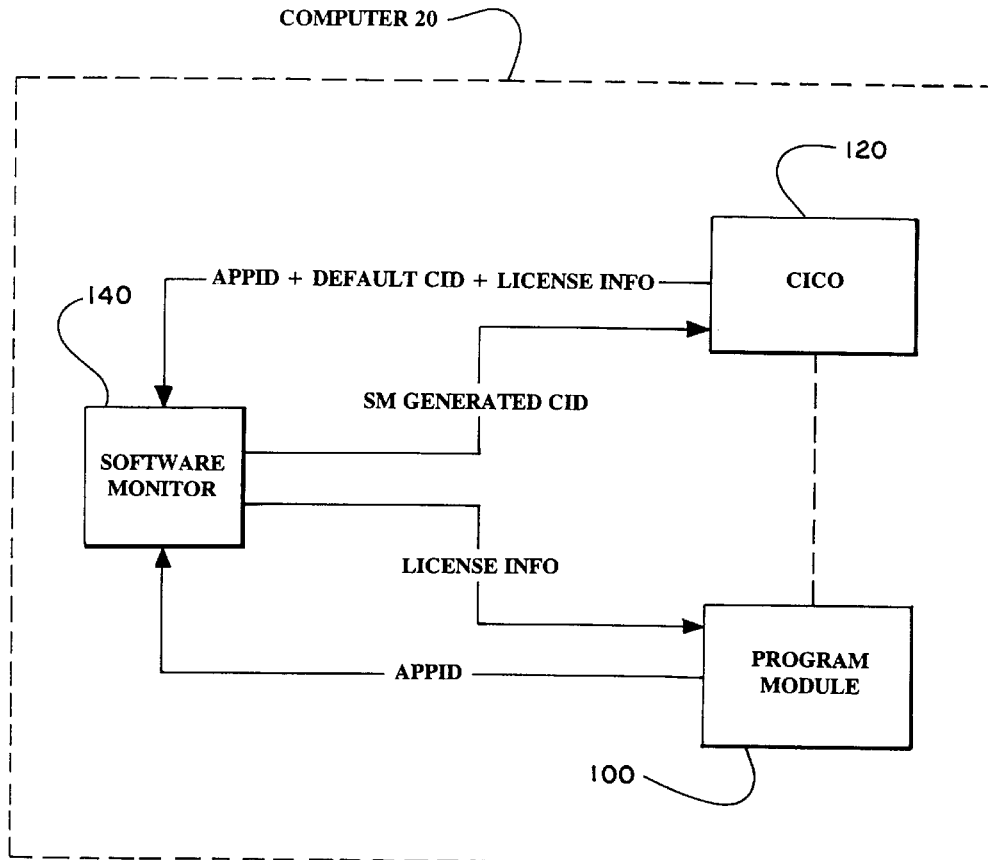
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and system for monitoring the use of a rented software program module. A rented software program module is downloaded from an Internet site operated by an authorized software rental service provider along with a Check-in/Check-out module and a Software Monitor module. The Check-in/Check-out module provides required licensing information for the rented software program module to the Software Monitor module. The Software Monitor module monitors use of the rented software program module while it is in use by the user. Particularly, the Software Monitor prevents use of the rented software program module after the expiration of the licensed usage time or licensed number of uses. The Software Monitor prevents unauthorized copying of the software program module. The desired software program module may be rented on a pay-per-use basis.
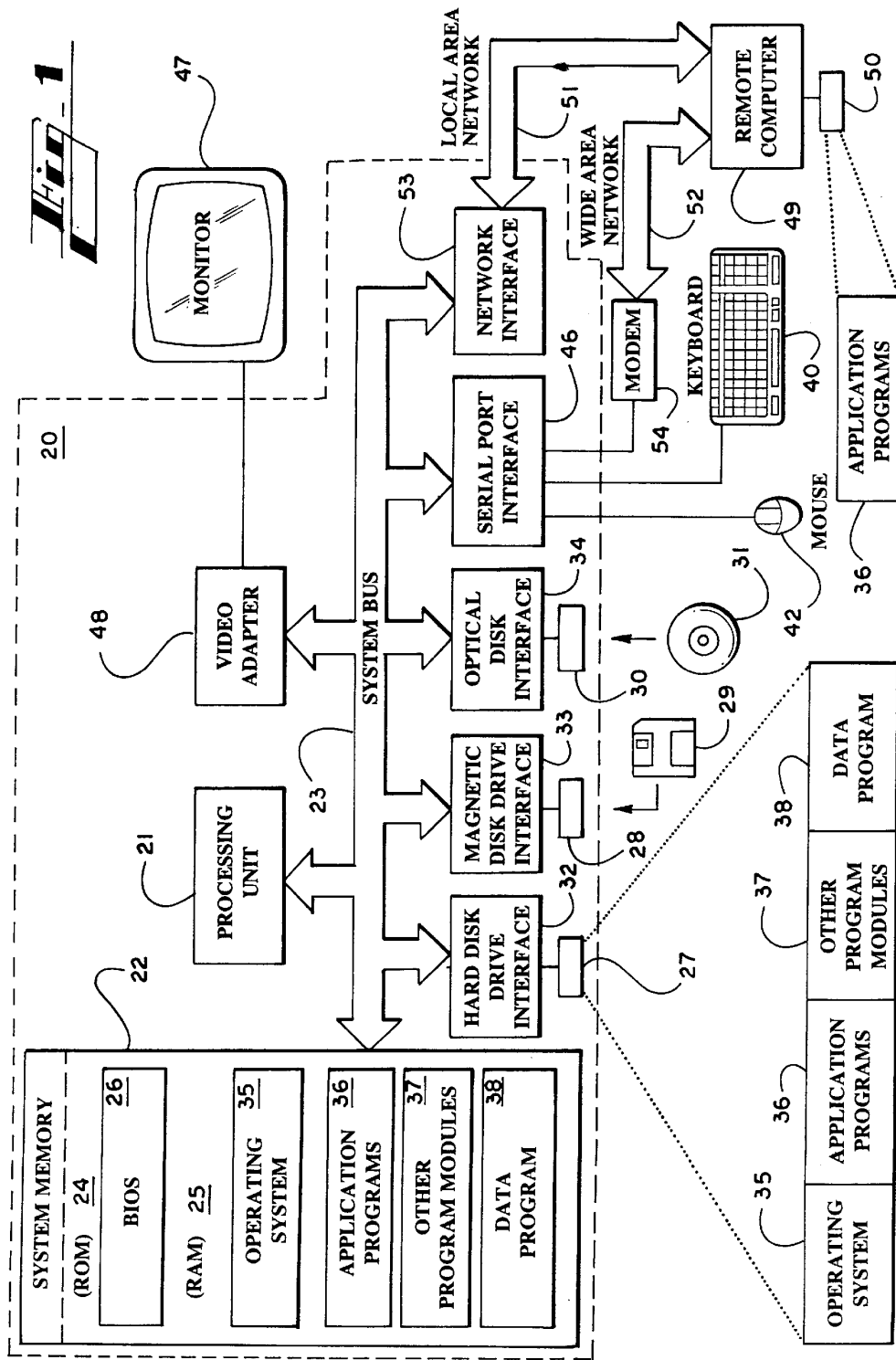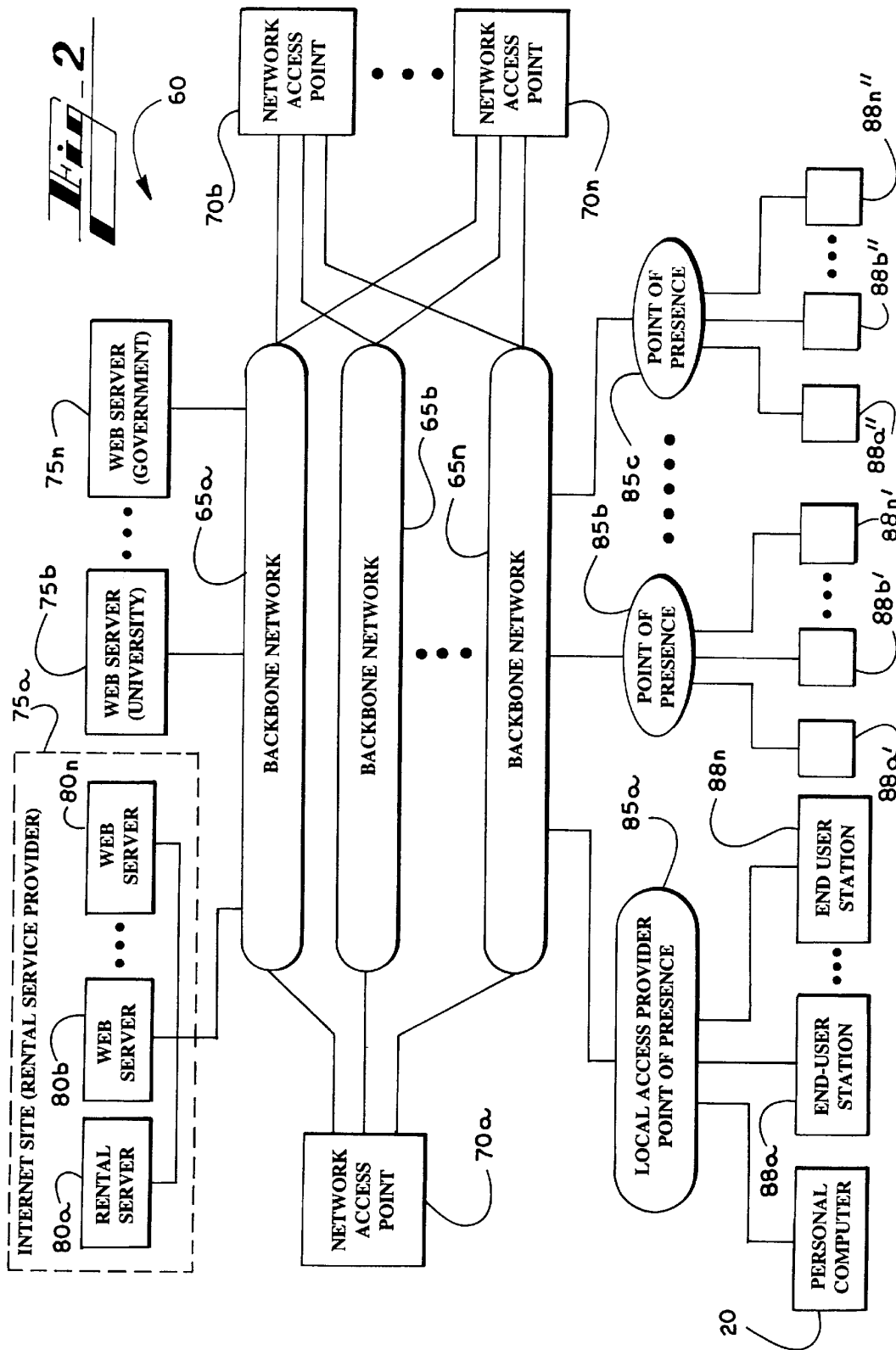
24 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig _3_

COMPUTER 20

120

APPID + DEFAULT CID + LICENSE INFO

CICO

140

SM GENERATED CID

SOFTWARE
MONITOR

LICENSE INFO

PROGRAM
MODULE

APPID

100

Fig_4

DOCKET ALARM
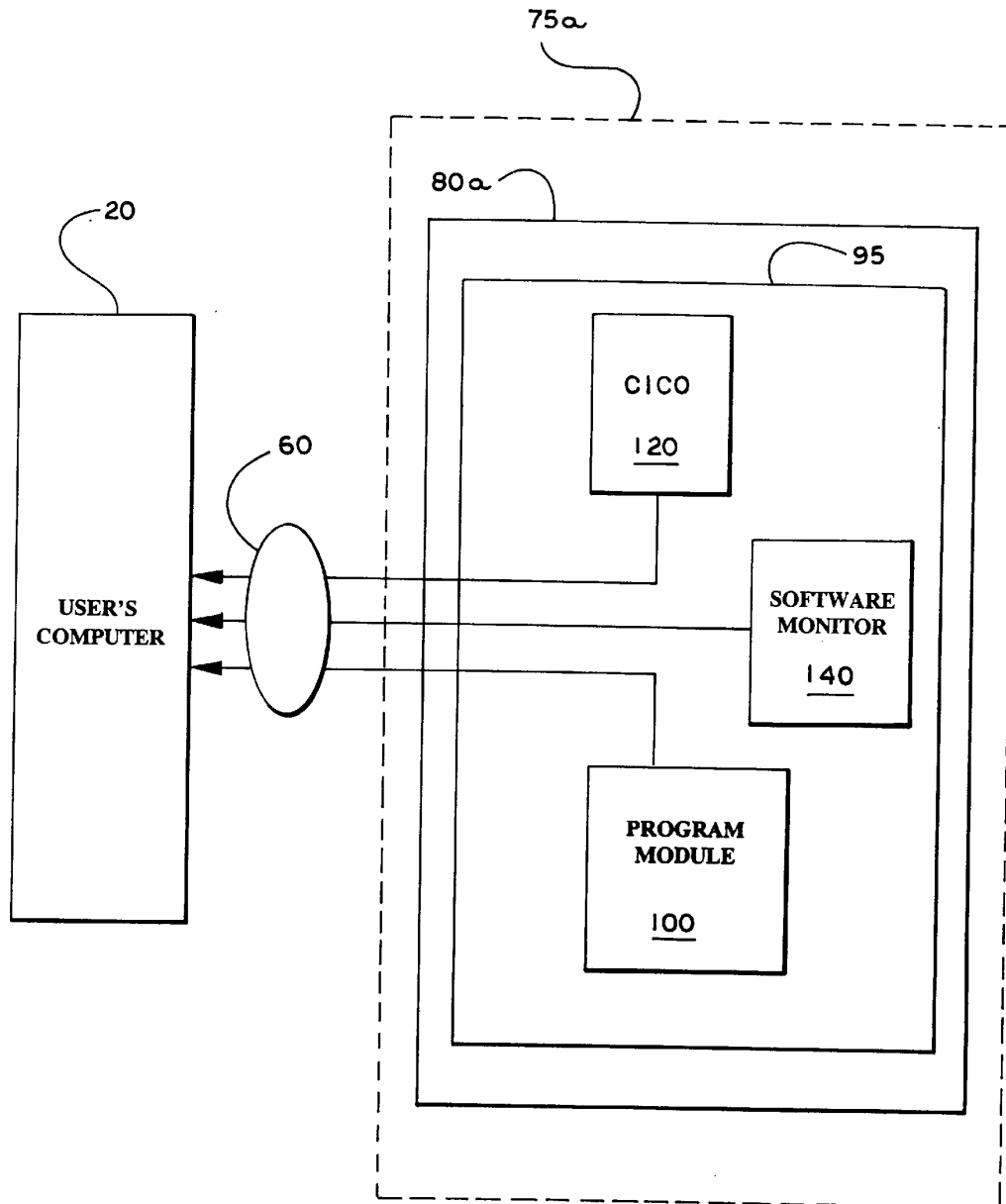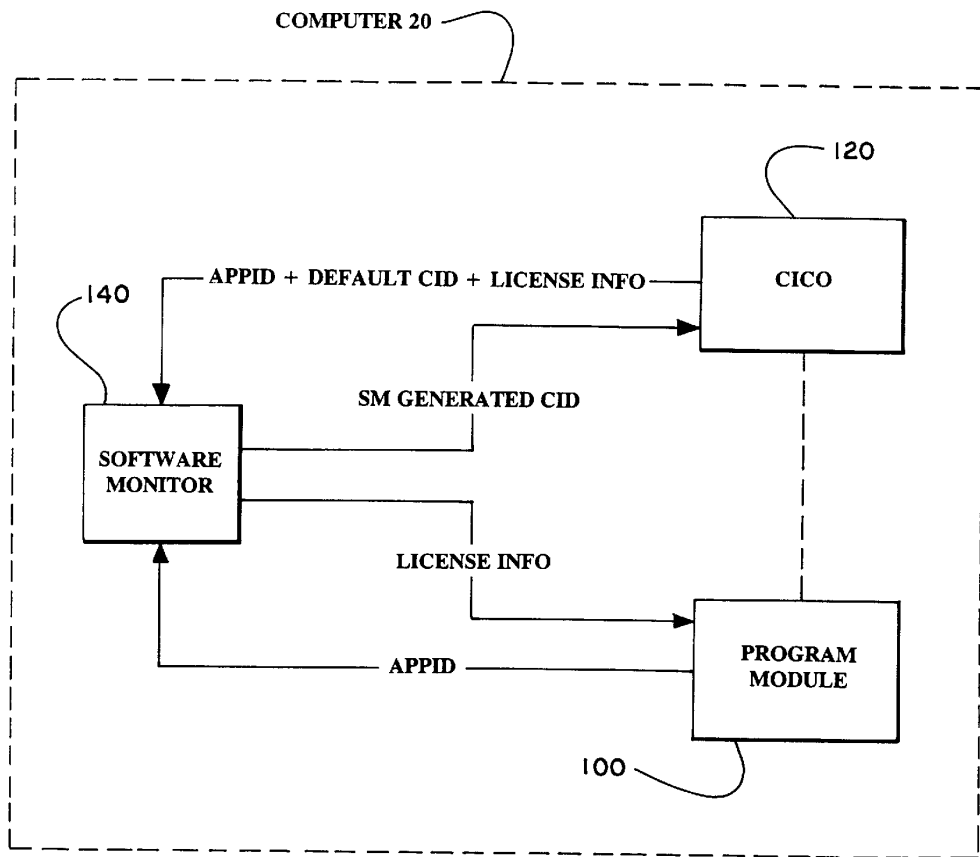
Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts

Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research

With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips

Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.

fastcase
Smarter legal research.