

# United States Patent [19]

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

**Ahmad**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[57] **ABSTRACT**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

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.

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **G06F 11/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **713/200**

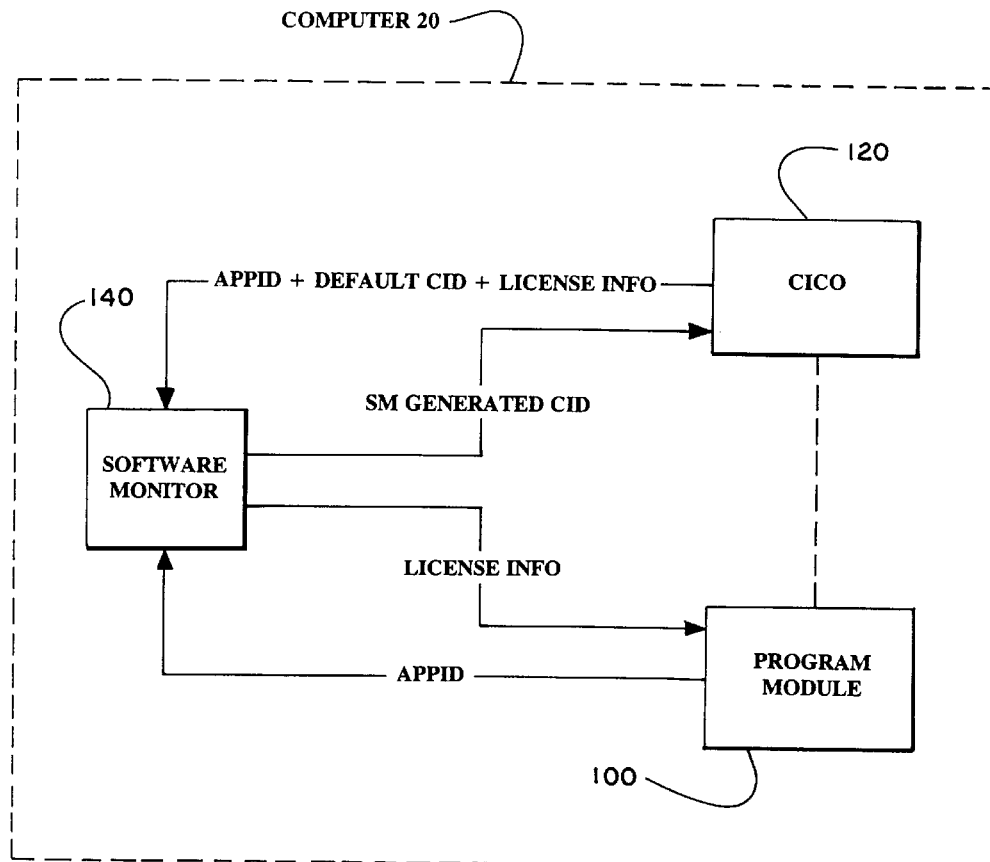
[58] **Field of Search** ..... 395/182.01, 186, 395/188.01, 187.01; 380/3, 9, 23, 25; 707/203, 9, 10; 702/203, 9, 10

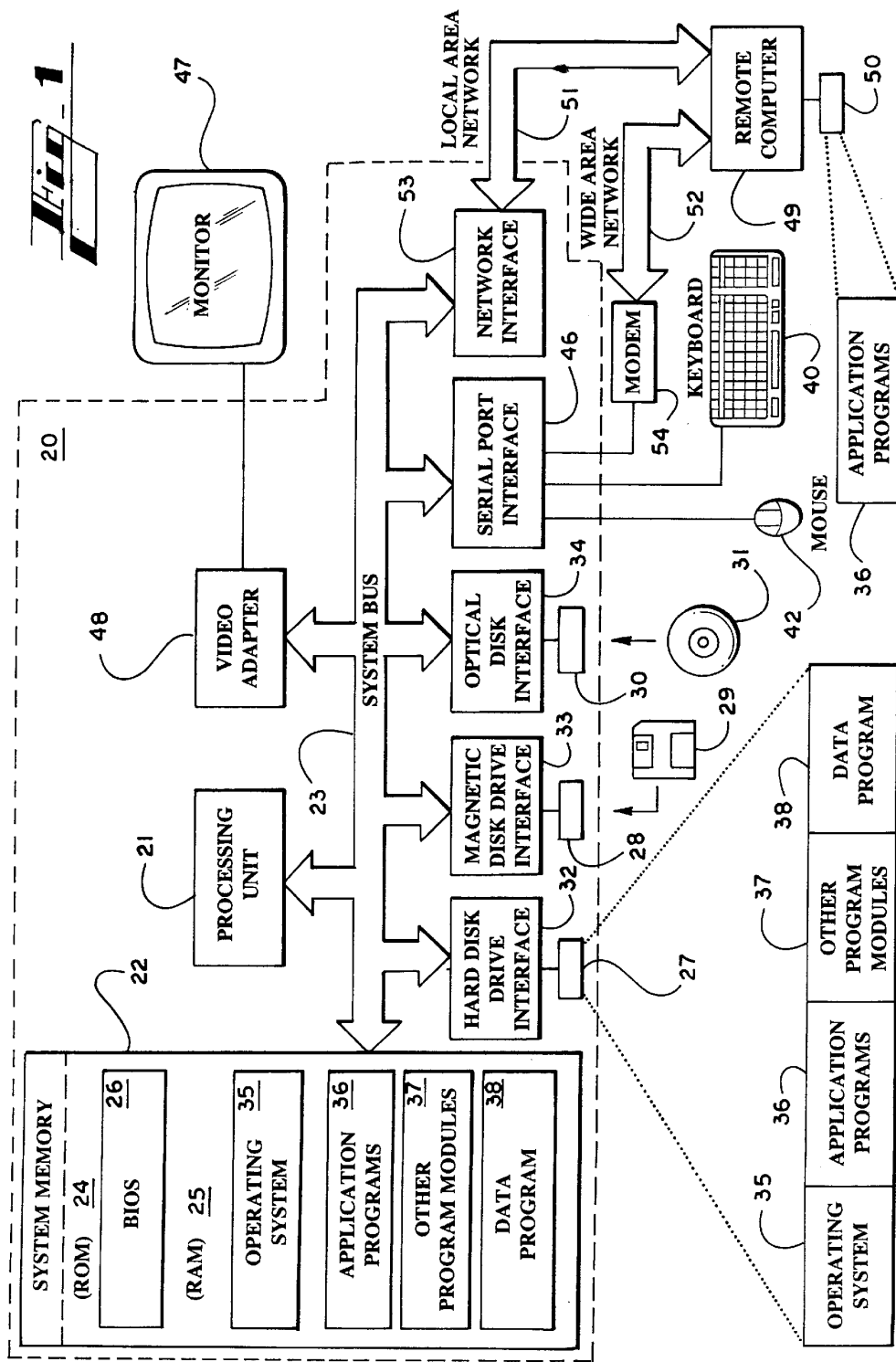
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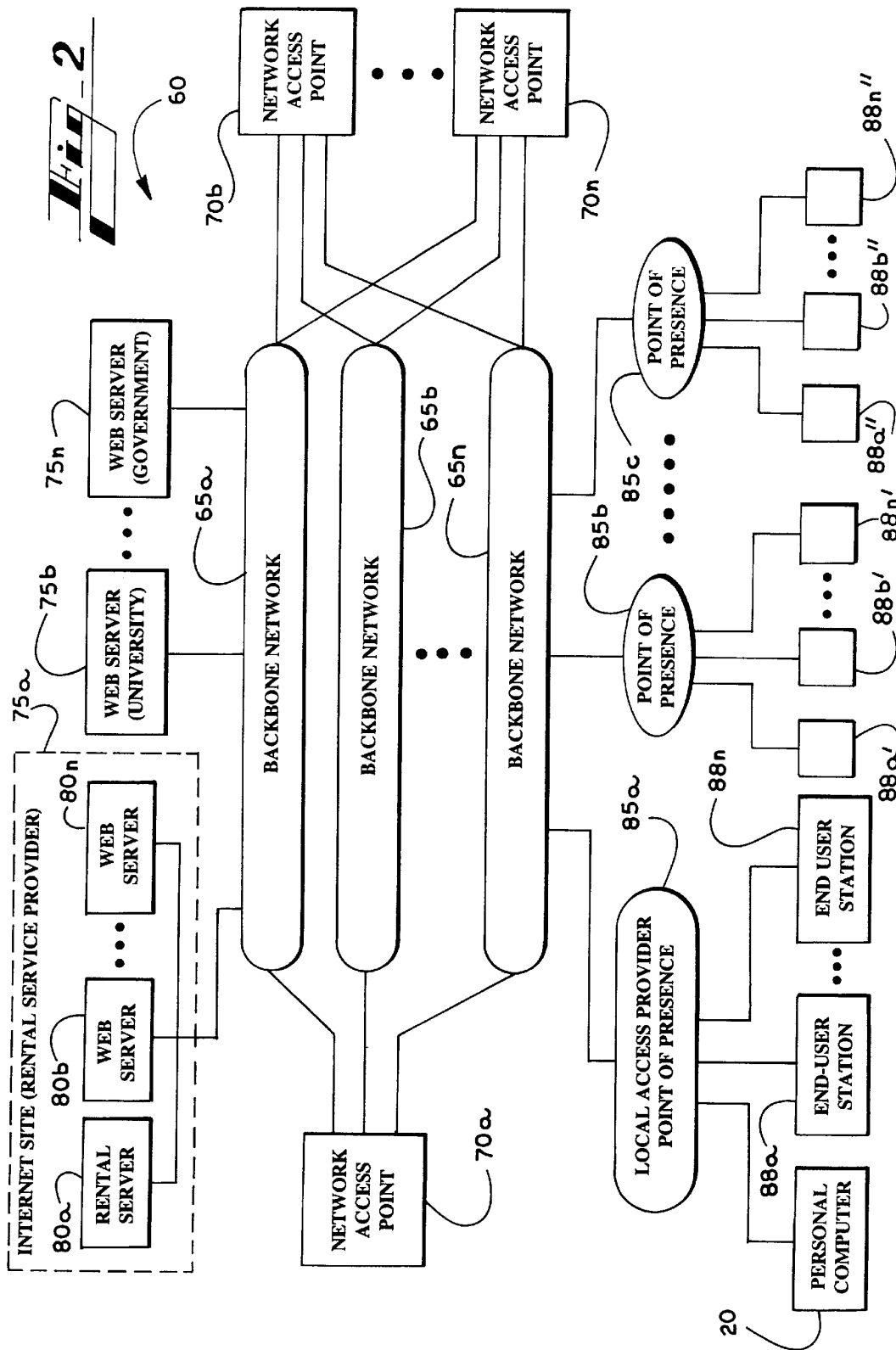
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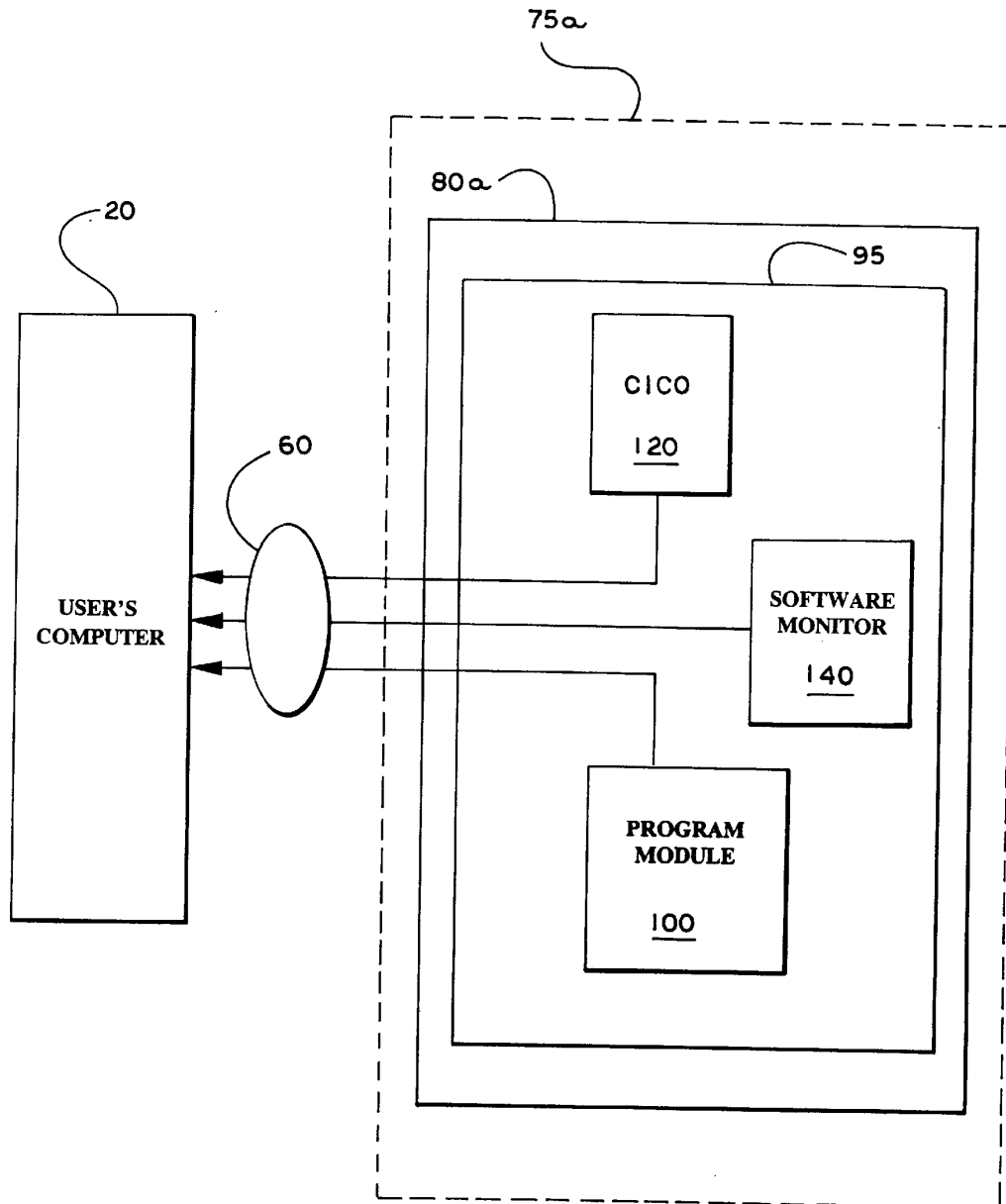
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**24 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**

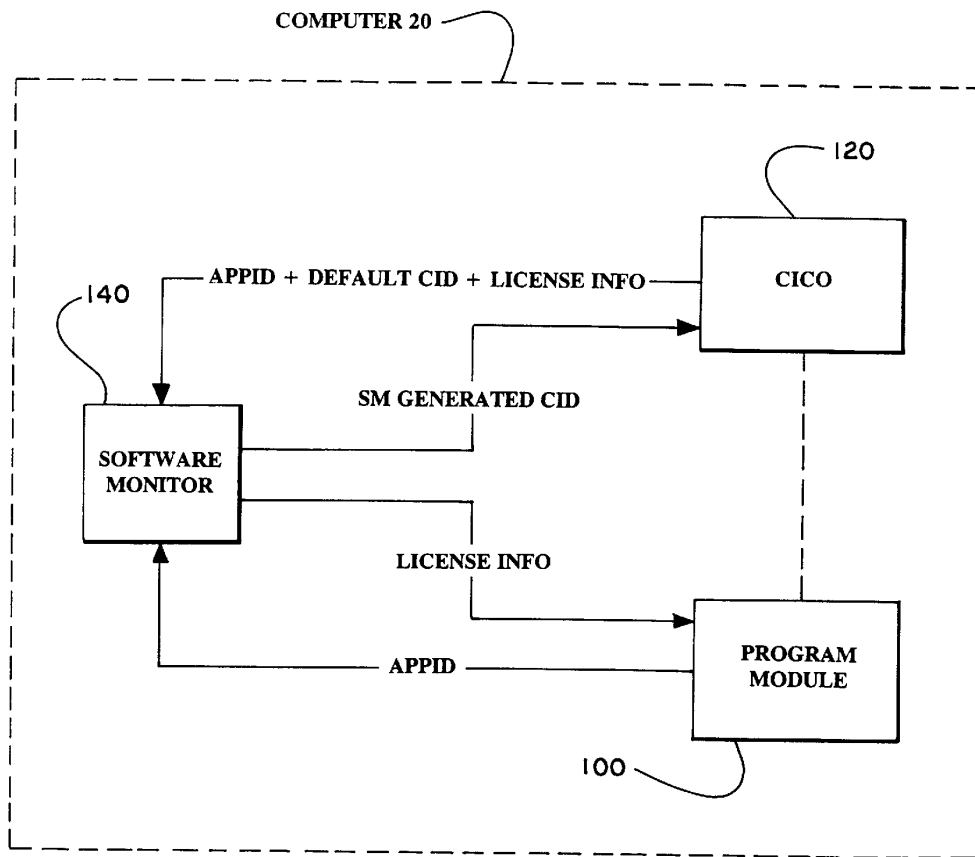








**Fig. 3**



*Fig. 4*

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