US005892905A

United States Patent [19]

Brandt et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,892,905

[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 6, 1999**

[54] **COMPUTER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING A COMMON USER INTERFACE FOR SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS ACCESSED VIA THE WORLD-WIDE WEB**

[75] Inventors: **Marcia Lynn Brandt**; **Kenneth Edgar Brown**, both of Rochester; **Pernell James Dykes**, Byron; **Erik Duane Lindberg**; **Diane Elaine Olson**, both of Rochester, all of Minn.; **Jeffrey Edward Selden**, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; **Devon Daniel Snyder**; **James Orrin Walts**, both of Rochester, Minn.

[73] Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **780,015**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 23, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 17/00**; H04L 9/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/187.01**; 395/186; 395/200.32; 395/200.59

[58] **Field of Search** 395/186, 187.01, 395/200.32, 200.59

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,305,456	4/1994	Boitana	.... 395/186
5,361,359	11/1994	Tajalli et al.	.... 395/186
5,553,239	9/1996	Heath et al.	.... 395/187.01
5,572,643	11/1996	Judson	.... 395/200.48
5,701,451	12/1997	Rogers et al. .	
5,706,427	1/1998	Tabuki	.... 395/187.01

Primary Examiner—Ly Hua
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Derek P. Martin

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides the capability to easily access many different application programs over the WWW via a common user interface. By providing standard procedures, routines, tools, and software "hooks" for accessing software applications over the WWW, software developers can concentrate on the functionality of the application program and easily use HTML to provide a GUI interface for the application program. HTML is a well-known language which can be used by almost any computer system on the market today. In addition, since HTML is a fairly well controlled and standardized language, new software application features can be added as they are developed and supported by HTML. In addition, since HTML is a widely adopted, non-proprietary technology, the present invention can provide open access to a large market for even very small software developers. Further, the present invention also allows software developers to adopt a standard access protocol, which allows them to provide support for any computer system which is capable of utilizing a HTML cognizant browser. Finally, by providing easy-to-implement, standardized solutions to the issues of user interface, authentication/security, and web transaction support, the common user interface of the present invention overcomes the limitations existing in previous solutions.

32 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets
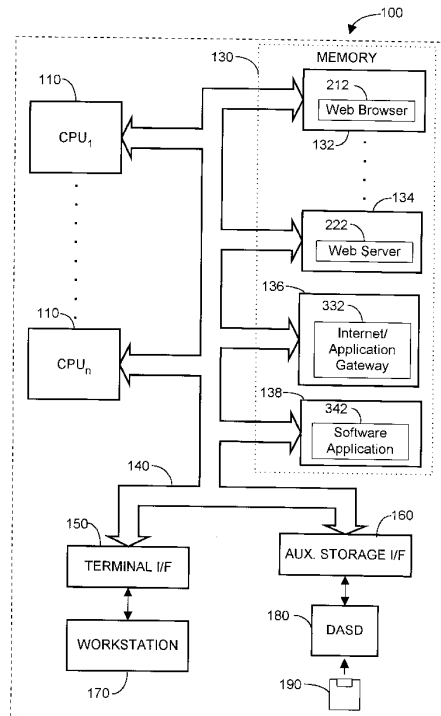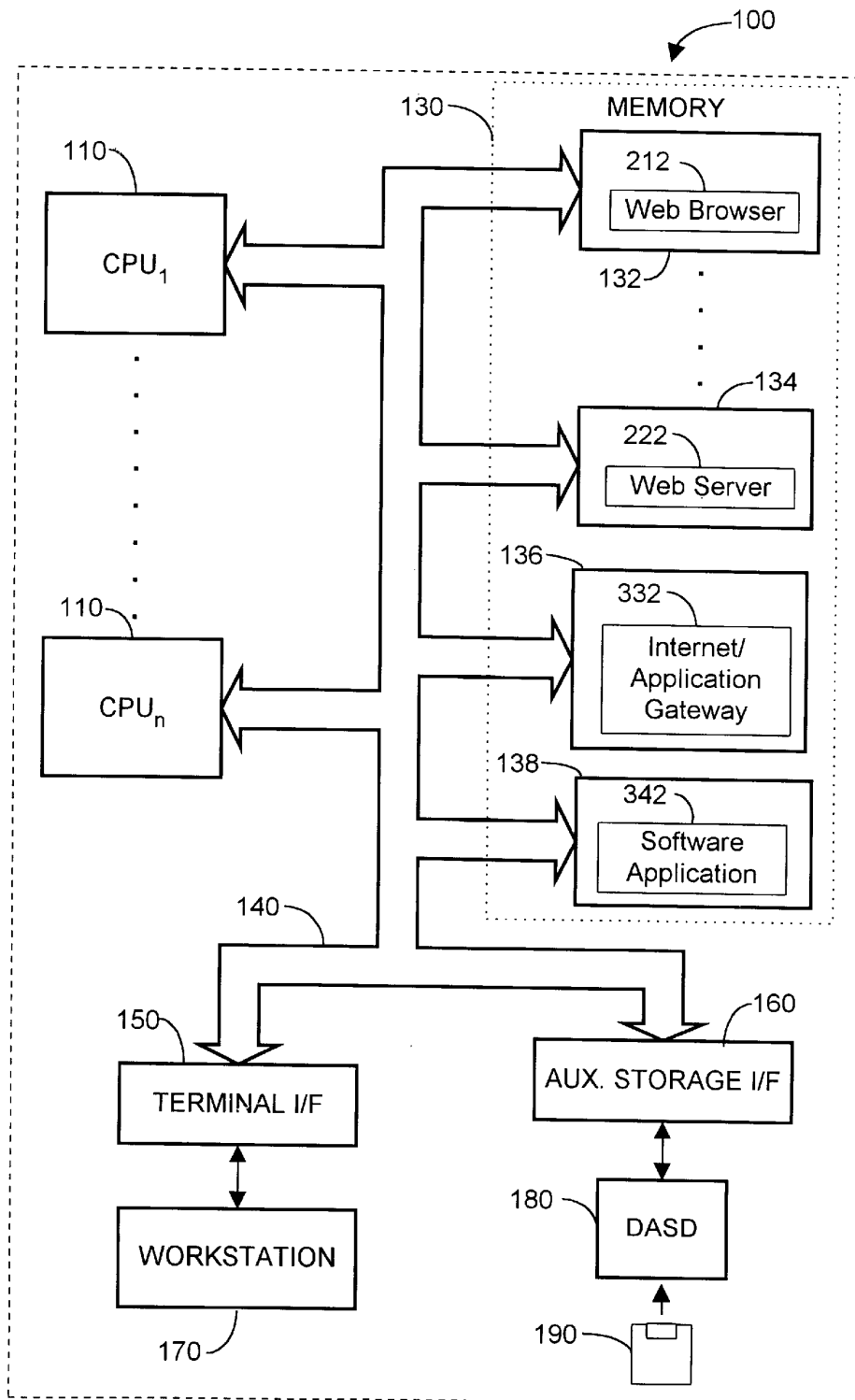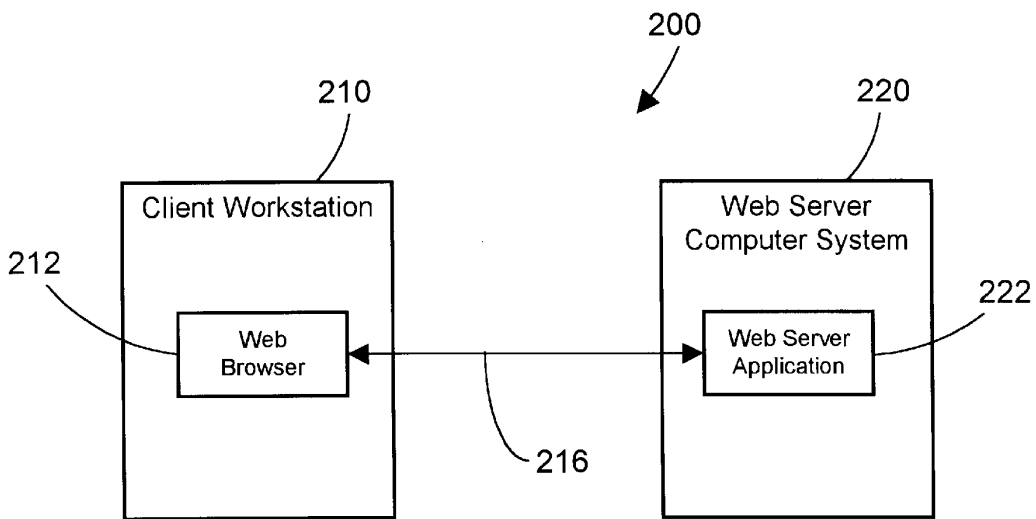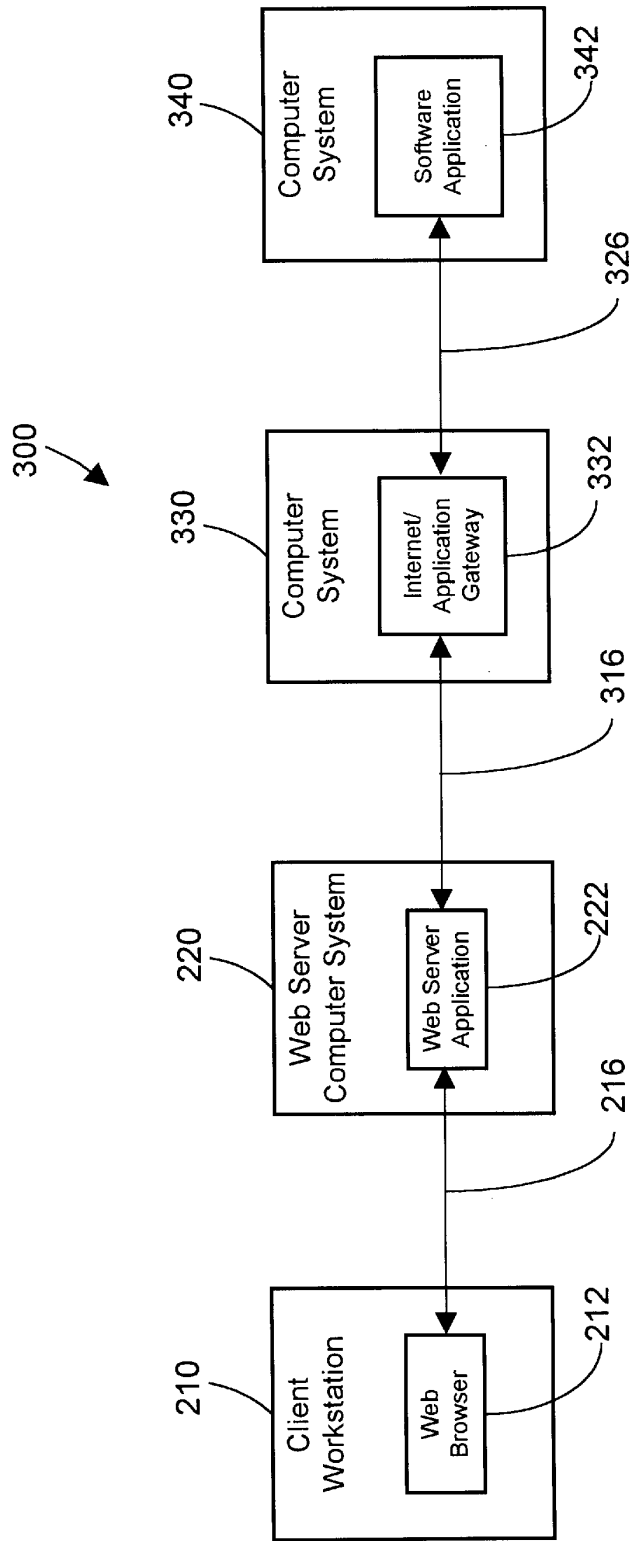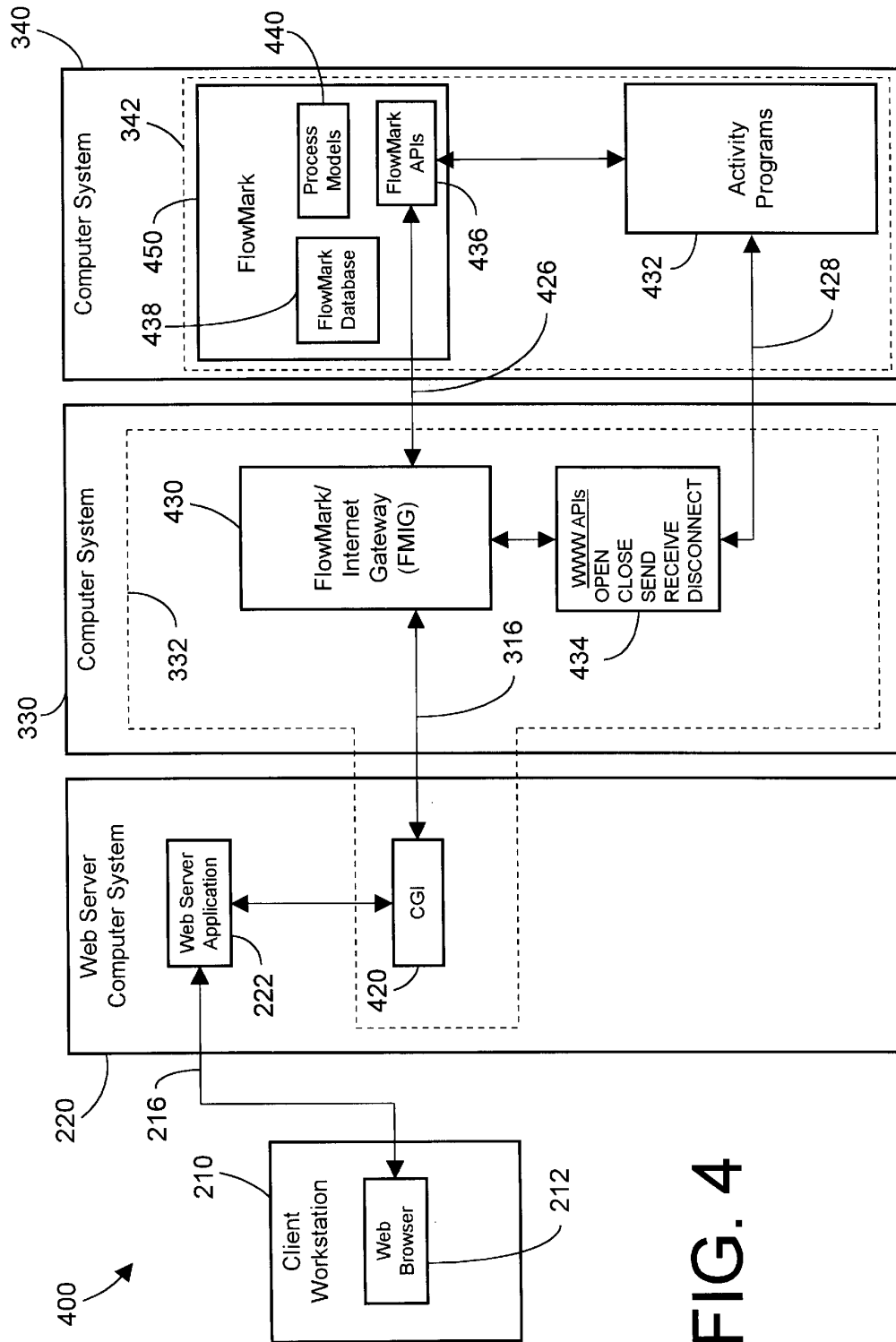
FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

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.