

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Katz et al.**

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 (45) **Date of Patent:** **\*Dec. 17, 2002**

(54) **COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR  
 AUTOMATICALLY INSTANTIATING TASKS  
 DESIGNATED BY A USER**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
 patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-  
 claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **08/242,957**

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(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 17/30**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **709/318**

(58) Field of Search ..... 395/650; 709/310–320,  
 709/328, 329; 345/762, 763

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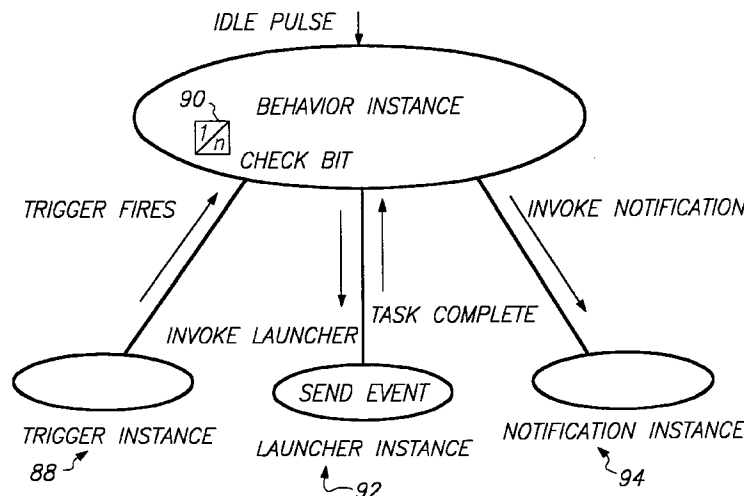
*Primary Examiner*—St. John Courtenay, III

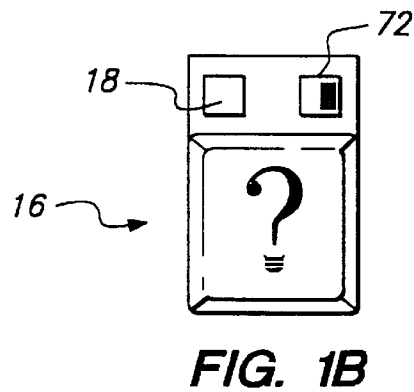
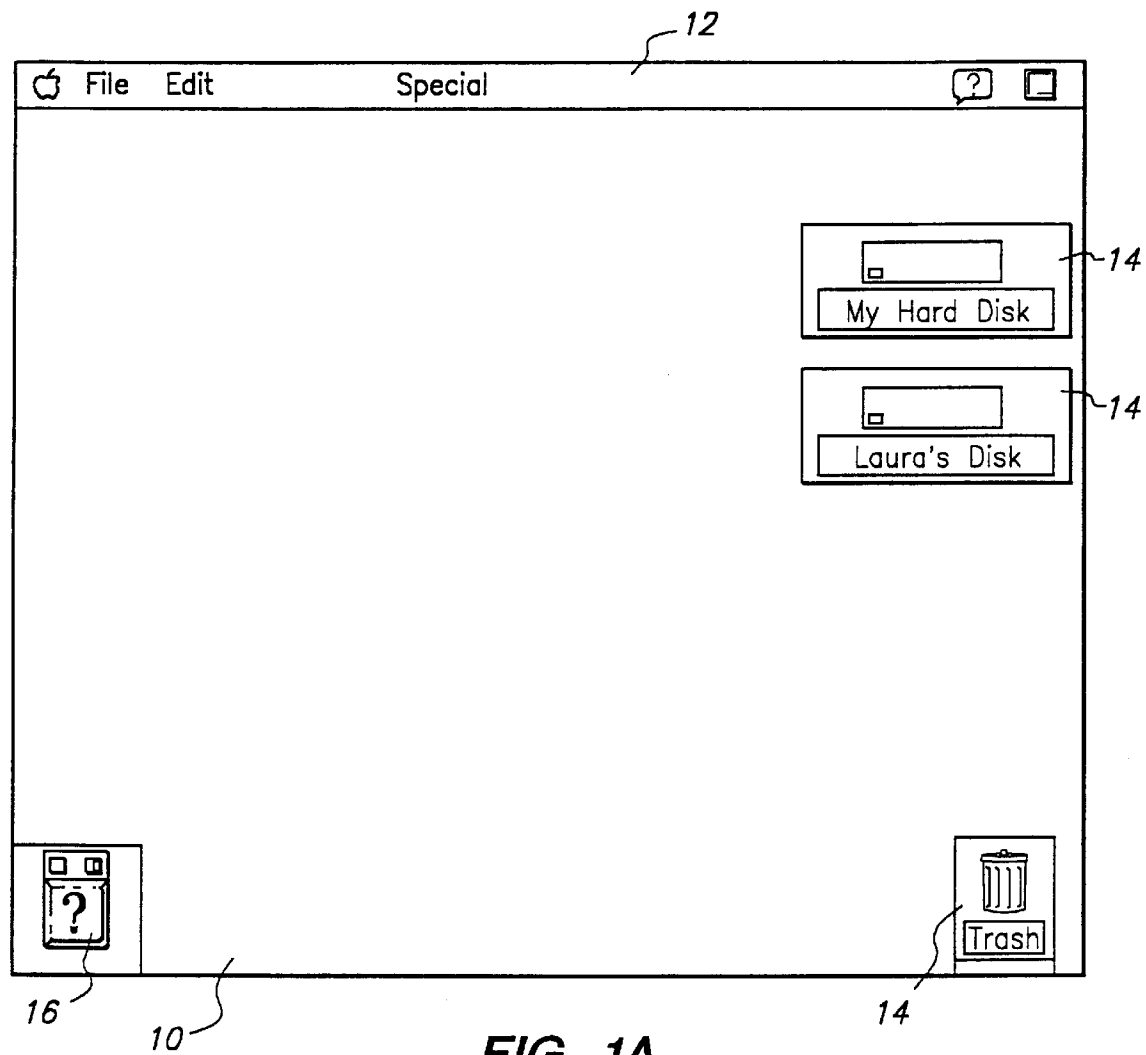
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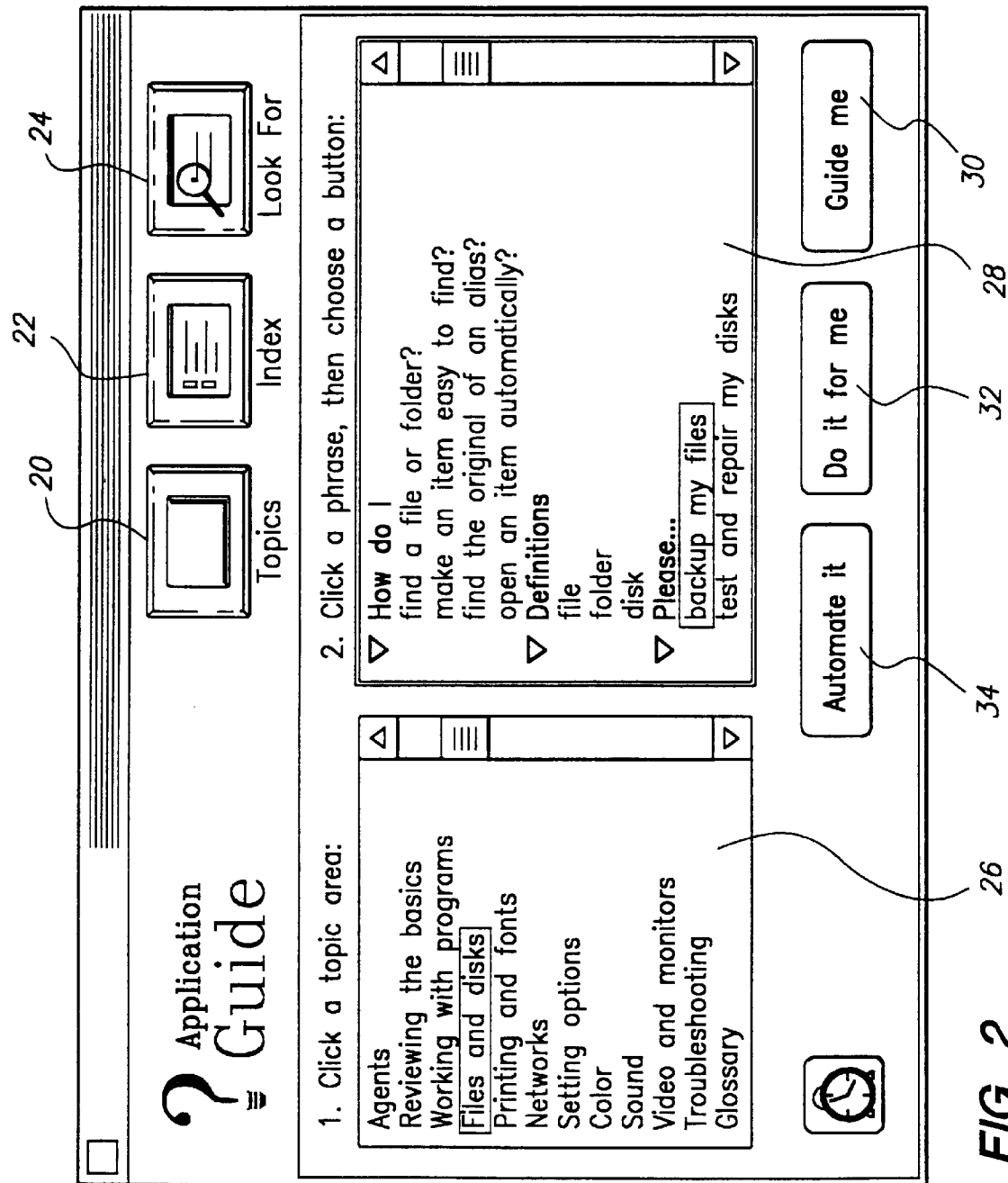
(57) **ABSTRACT**

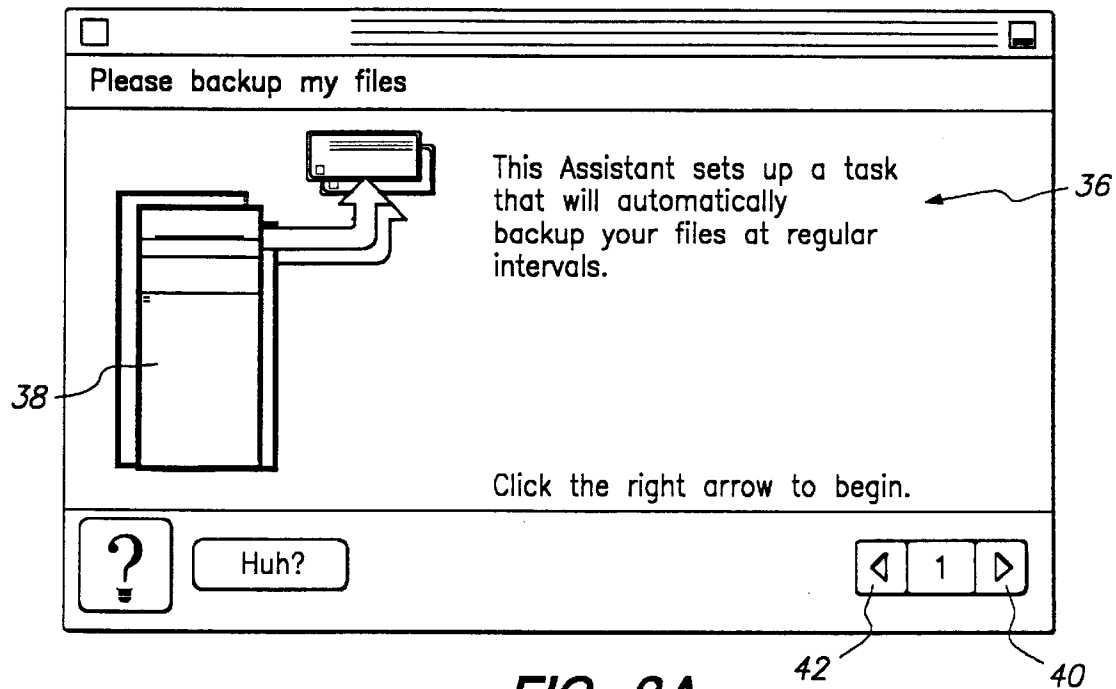
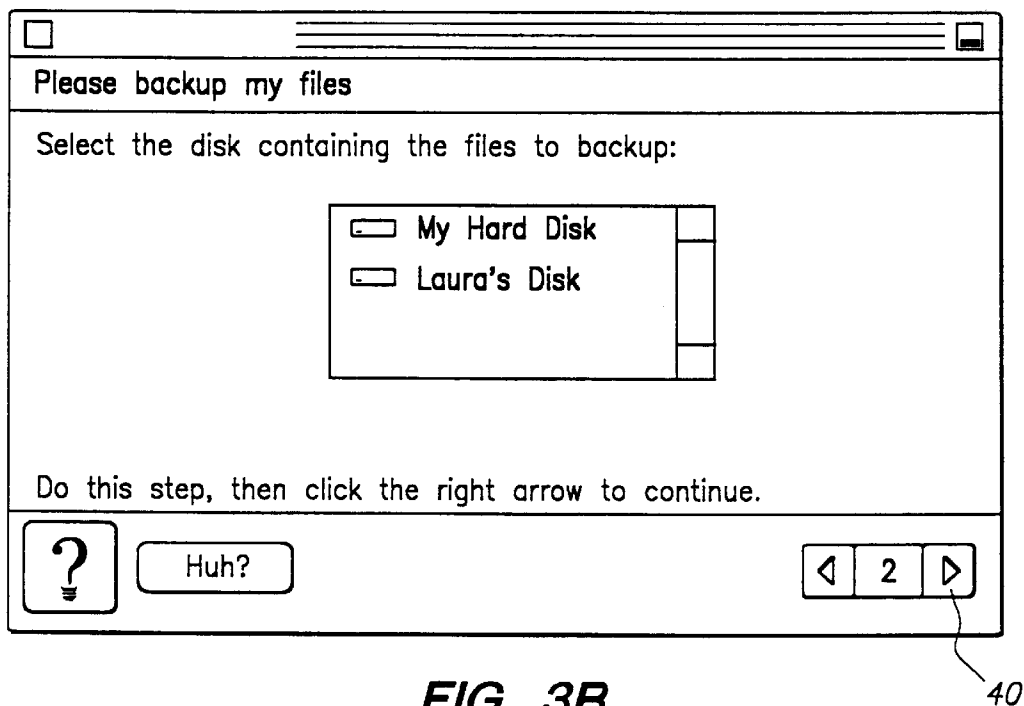
A computer-user interface facilitates interaction between the  
 user and the computer in a manner which enables the  
 computer to assist the user in accomplishing desired goals.  
 Based upon a particular task to be performed, the computer  
 interviews the user to obtain the information pertinent to that  
 particular task. Once the information is provided to the  
 computer, it works with the user to automatically perform  
 desired tasks in response to triggering events designated by  
 the user. In addition, the computer can notify the user  
 whenever a task is being carried out. Any executable func-  
 tion can be designated by the user as the object of a task. The  
 initiation of this task can be carried out in response to any  
 programmatically detectable event, or trigger, which is also  
 designated by the user. As a further feature, the user has the  
 ability to select from among a number of different types of  
 notification to be provided whenever the task is being  
 performed. With the flexibility offered by this arrangement,  
 he user can customize the operation of a computer to suit his  
 or her particular needs.

**5 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets**







**FIG. 3A****FIG. 3B**

Please backup my files

Which files should be included in the backup?

☒ Documents  
☐ Applications  
☐ System Software

Do this step, then click the right arrow to continue.

? Huh? < 3 >

**FIG. 3C**

Please backup my files

Select the destination disk from the list below:

☐ My Hard Disk  
☐ Laura's Disk

Do this step, then click the right arrow to continue.

? Huh? < 4 >

**FIG. 3D**

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