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11/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application
Inventor(s): Peter Dickinson
SC/Serial No.: 09/303,958
Confirm. No.: 9018
Filed: May 3, 1999
Title: Methods and Apparatuses for File Synchronization and Updating Using a Signature List

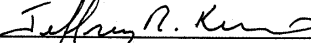
PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 2154
Examiner: Bharat Barot

Customer No. 23910

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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 (Attorney Signature)
Jeffrey R. Kurin, Reg. No. _____
Signature Date: November 14, 2002

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This RESPONSE is in reply to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2002. No fee is due for the addition of any new claims.

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21 and 27 as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged. Marked up copies of the amended claims illustrating the changes are shown in the Appendix to this Response.

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1. (Twice Amended) A method for a server computer to generate an update file for transmission to a client computer that permits the client computer to generate a copy of a current version of a subscription file comprised of a first plurality of file segments from a copy of an earlier version of the subscription file comprised of a second plurality of file segments, such that each file segment corresponds to a portion of its respective subscription file, the method comprising the steps of:

for each segment of the current version of the subscription file,

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- (a) searching an earlier version of a signature list corresponding to an earlier version of the subscription file for an old segment signature which matches a new segment signature corresponding to the segment;
 - (b) if step (a) results in a match, writing a command in the update file for the client computer to copy an old segment of the client computer's copy of the earlier version of the subscription file into the client computer's copy of the current version of the subscription file, wherein the old segment corresponds to the segment for which a match was detected in step (a); and
 - (c) if step (a) results in no match, writing a command in the update file for the client computer to insert a new segment of the current version of the subscription file into the client computer's copy of the current version of the subscription file;

wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is written into the update file and the unchanged segment is excluded from the update file; and
wherein steps (a) through (c) are performed by the server computer, without interaction with the client computer, in response to the server computer detecting a change between the current version of the subscription file and the earlier version of the subscription file.

2. / (Cancelled)

3. / (Cancelled)

4. (Once Amended) A method as in claim 1,
wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is compressed.

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5. (Once Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is encrypted.
6. (Once Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is retrieved by the server computer from a network drive.

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7. (Twice Amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- (d) transmitting the update file to the client computer as an executable attachment by electronic mail, wherein the executable attachment will cause the client computer to generate a copy of the current version of the subscription file from the copy of the earlier version of the subscription file, in response to the client computer executing the attachment.

8. A method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
- prior to step (a), performing a check on the current version of the subscription file to determine if the subscription file has been altered since a previous check and continuing to perform the remaining steps only if the check determines that the current version of the subscription file has been altered.
9. A method as in claim 8, wherein the step of performing a check is performed at periodic intervals.
10. A method as in claim 8, wherein the step of performing a check on the current version of the subscription file comprises checking a current time stamp of the current version of the subscription file to determine whether it differs from an earlier time stamp of the subscription file.

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11. (Twice Amended) A computer readable storage medium, comprising:
- computer readable program code embodied on said computer readable storage medium, said computer readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for a server computer to generate an update file for transmission to a client computer that permits the client computer to generate a copy of a current version of a subscription file comprised of a first plurality of file segments from a copy

of an earlier version of the subscription file comprised of a second plurality of file segments, such that each file segment corresponds to a portion of its respective subscription file, the method comprising the steps of:

for each segment of the current version of the subscription file,

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- (a) searching an earlier version of a signature list corresponding to an earlier version of the subscription file for an old segment signature which matches a new segment signature corresponding to the segment;
 - (b) if step (a) results in a match, writing a command in the update file for the client computer to copy an old segment of the client computer's copy of the earlier version of the subscription file into the client computer's copy of the current version of the subscription file, wherein the old segment corresponds to the segment for which a match was detected in step (a); and
 - (c) if step (a) results in no match, writing a command in the update file for the client computer to insert a new segment of the current version of the subscription file into the client computer's copy of the current version of the subscription file;

wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is written into the update file and the unchanged segment is excluded from the update file; and
wherein steps (a) through (c) are performed by the server computer, without interaction with the client computer, in response to the server computer detecting a change between the current version of the subscription file and the earlier version of the subscription file.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium as in claim 11,
wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is compressed.

15. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium as in claim 11,
wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is encrypted.

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16. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium as in claim 11, wherein the new segment of the current version of the subscription file is retrieved by the server computer from a network drive.

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17. (Twice Amended) A computer readable storage medium as in claim 11, further comprising the step of:
14 (d) transmitting the update file to the client computer as an executable attachment by electronic mail, wherein the executable attachment will cause the client computer to generate a copy of the current version of the subscription file from the copy of the earlier version of the subscription file, in response to the client computer executing the attachment.

18. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 17, the method further comprising the step of: prior to step (a), performing a check on the current version of the subscription file to determine if the subscription file has been altered since a previous check and continuing to perform the remaining steps only if the check determines that the current version of the subscription file has been altered.

19. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18, wherein the step of performing a check is performed at periodic intervals.

20. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18, wherein the step of performing a check on the current version of the subscription file comprises checking a current time stamp of the current version of the subscription file to determine whether it differs from an earlier time stamp of the subscription file.

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21. (Twice Amended) A computer system, comprising:
18 a processor; and
19 a processor readable storage medium having processor readable program code embodied on said processor readable storage medium, said processor readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for a server computer to generate an update file for transmission to a client computer that permits the client computer to generate a copy of a current version of a subscription file comprised of a first plurality of file segments from a copy of an earlier version of the subscription file comprised of a second

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