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(12) **United States Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US 6,810,389 B1**
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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FLEXIBLE PACKAGING OF SOFTWARE APPLICATION LICENSES**

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/710,685**

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(51) **Int. Cl.^{7}** **G06F 17/60**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/59**; 705/51; 705/57; 713/200
(58) **Field of Search** 705/59, 50–58; 713/200

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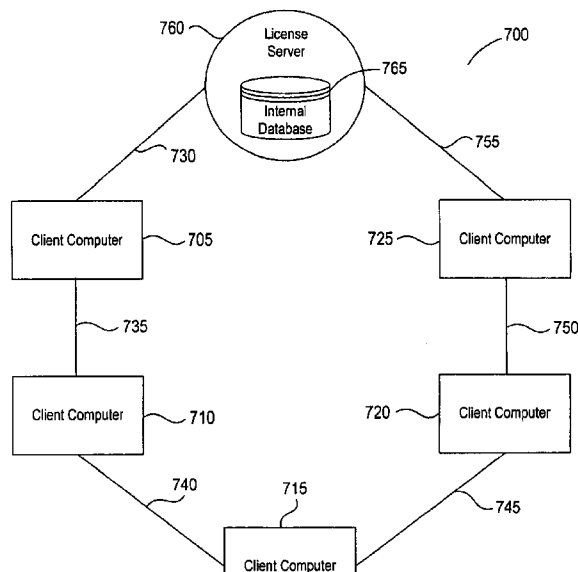"FLEXlm End Users Guide", Aug. 2000, Globetrotter Software, Inc., Version 7.1.

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Assistant Examiner—Jalatee Worjloh
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bever, Hoffman & Harms, LLP; Jeanette S. Harms

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for providing licenses to client computer systems to allow the client computer systems to use licensed software products includes receiving a request for a feature license for a feature included in a package, filtering the request based on whether the license requires the checkout of a parent license, granting a package license to the client computer system when the client computer system is allowed to receive the package license according to a license policy and denying the package license to the client computer system when the client computer system is not allowed to receive the package license according to the license policy. The request may include checkout data that includes at least one desired feature attribute. A software license server for providing licenses to client computer systems to allow the client computer systems to use licensed software products, the software license server includes at least one memory having program instructions and at least one processor configured to use the program instructions to receive a request for a feature license for a feature included in a package, filter the request based on whether the license requires the checkout of a parent license, grant a package license to the client computer system when the client computer system is allowed to receive the package license according to a license policy and deny the package license to the client computer system when the client computer system is not allowed to receive the package license according to the license policy.
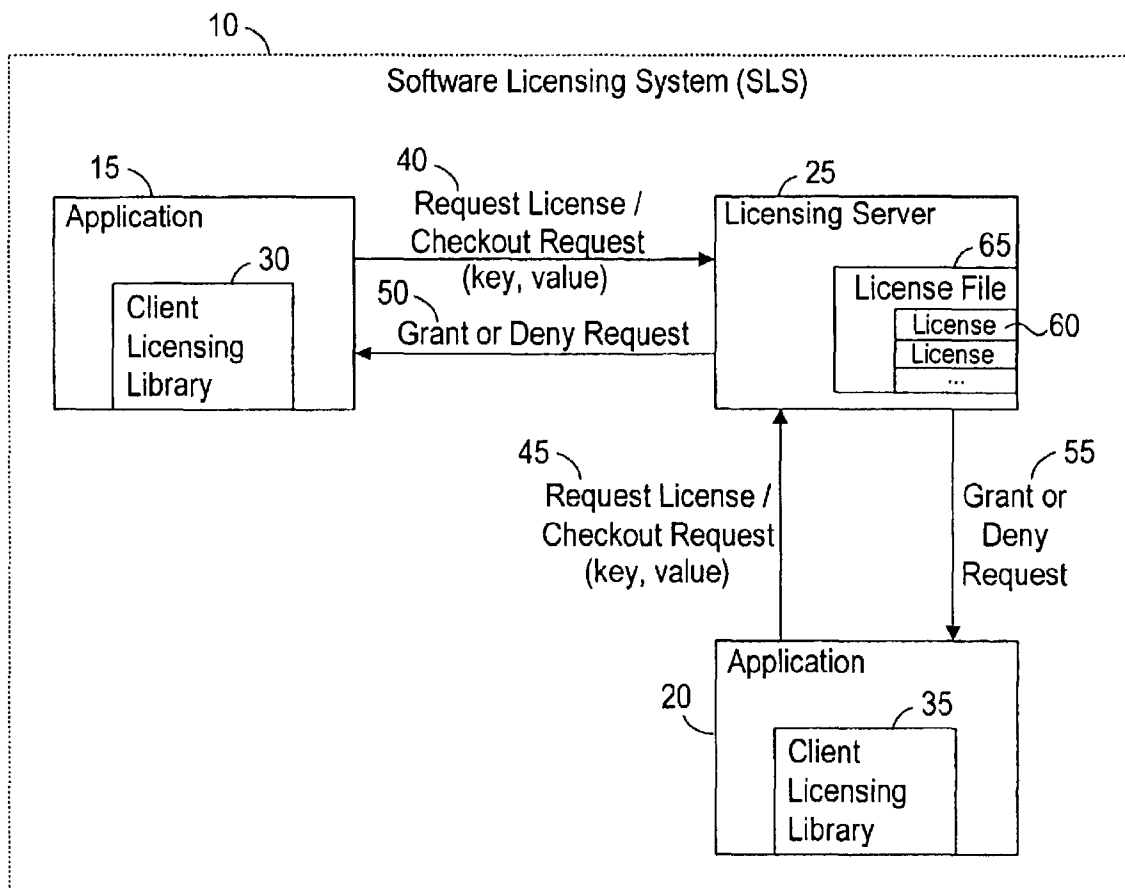
39 Claims, 32 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1 - Prior Art
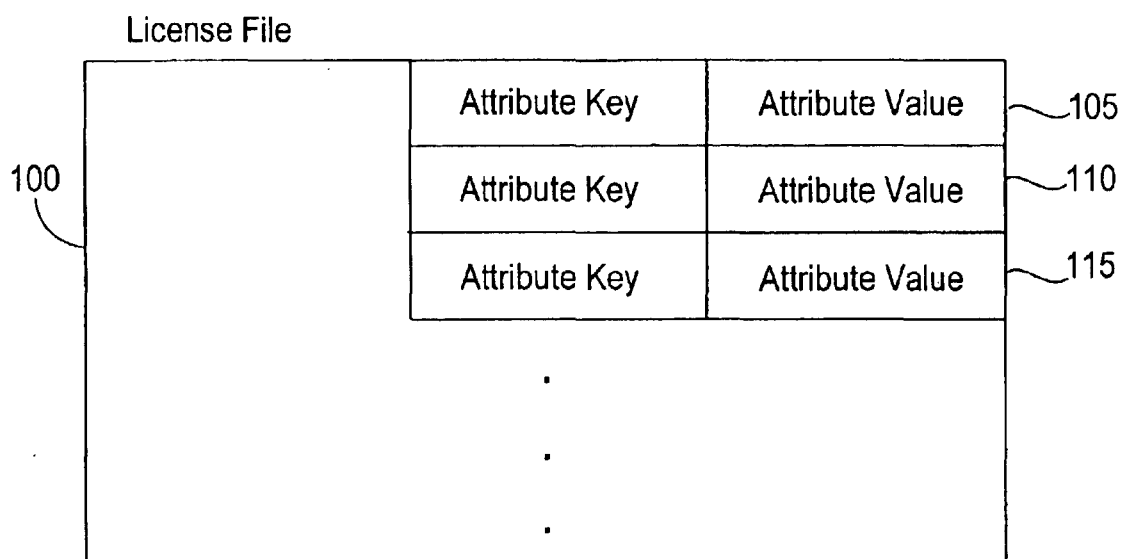
License File

	Attribute Key	Attribute Value	
	Attribute Key	Attribute Value	~105
	Attribute Key	Attribute Value	~110
	Attribute Key	Attribute Value	~115

100

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.
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Fig. 2 - Prior Art

License File

205	License Count	5	210
215	Feature Name	Spell Checker	220
225	End Date	9/1/1999	230
235	License Version	1.2	240

200

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.
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Fig. 3 - Prior Art

License File

	License Count	5
	Feature Name	Spell Checker
	End Date	9/1/1999
	License Version	1.2
	Share Mode	Feature Name, License Version

345

355

350
355

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300   305   310

315   335

Request 1   Request 2   Request 3

| Feature Name = Spell Checker |
| Version = 1.1 |

| Feature Name = Spell Checker |
| Version = 1.1 |

| Feature Name = Spell Checker |
| Version = 1.2 |

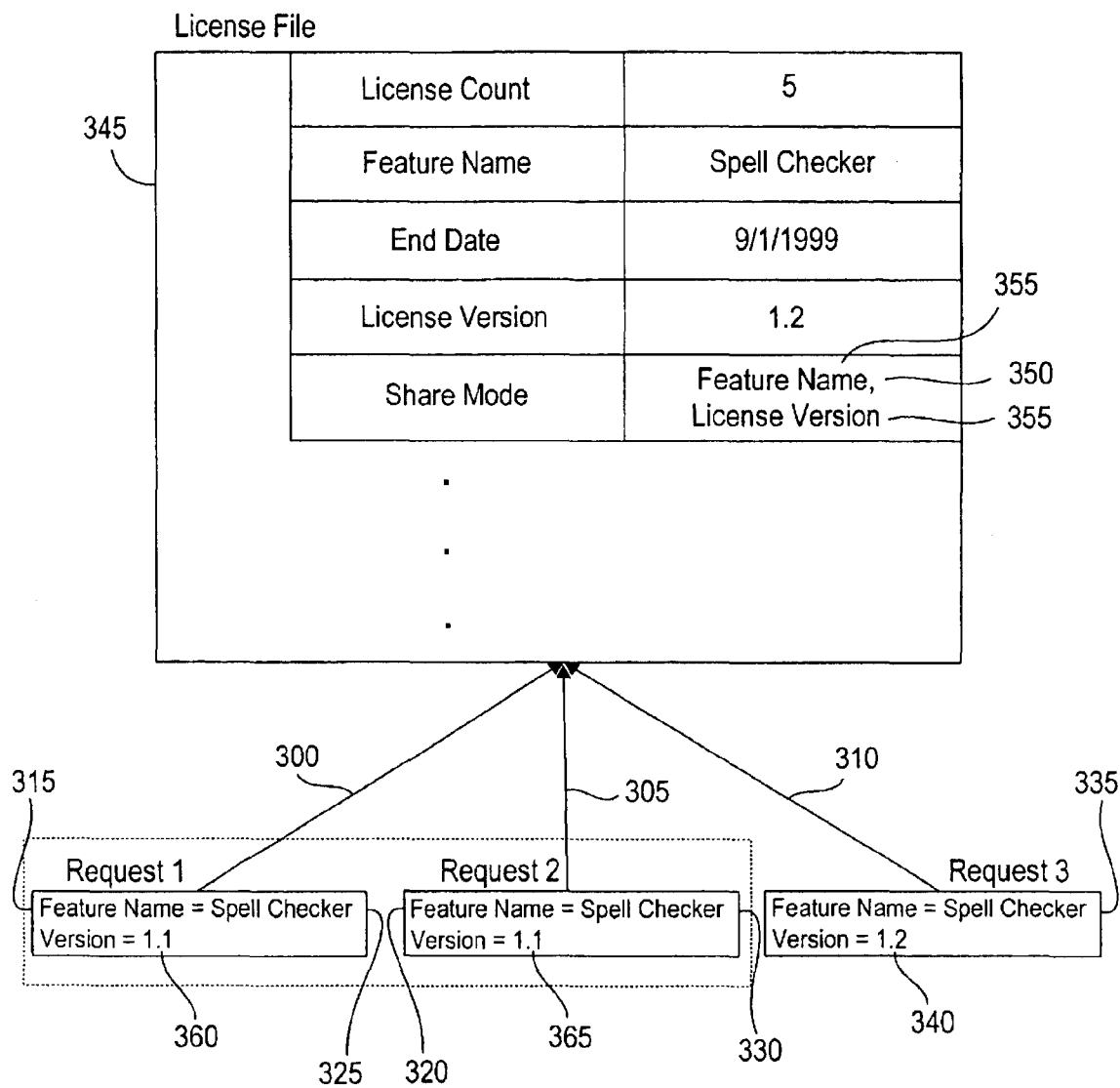360   325   320   365   330   340

Fig. 4 - Prior Art

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