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Thompson et al.

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(54) **AUTOMATED CONFIGURATION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 17/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/101; 707/102; 707/103 R; 707/104.1; 715/517; 700/96; 700/97**

(58) **Field of Search** **707/101, 102, 707/103 R, 104.1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 4, 5; 715/517; 700/96, 97; 709/203, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209; 705/26, 27, 28, 29**

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Primary Examiner—Shahid Alam

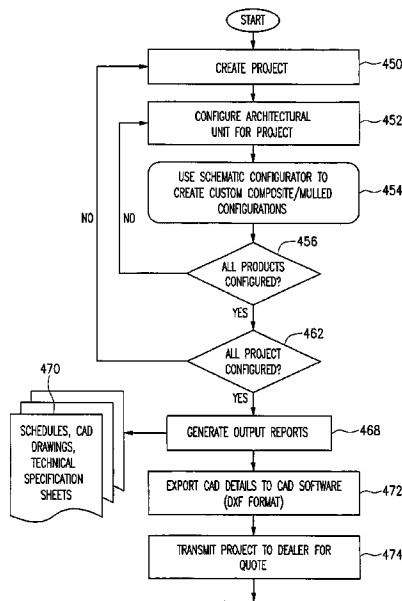
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An automated configuration system (and method) is provided for facilitating the configuration of desired products, services, or other assemblages that require users to gather and assimilate disparate knowledge of makes, models, types, features, codes, and prices of the desired product/service to be configured. In accordance with a preferred embodiment, configuration is facilitated through interaction of a user with a frame engine that performs frame-based inferences to discern stored knowledge of a product (or the like), as supplemented by a rules-based inference system.

8 Claims, 36 Drawing Sheets



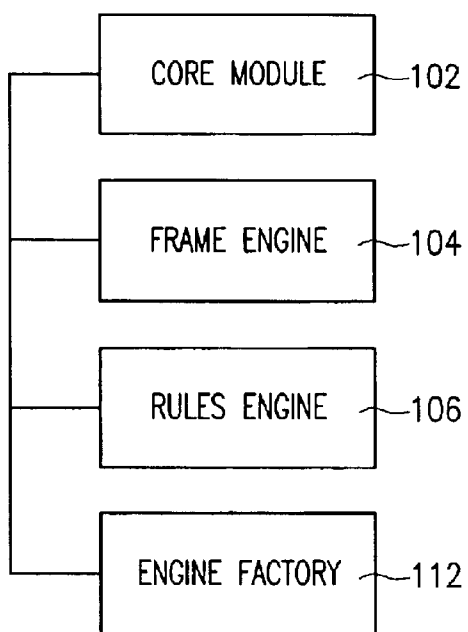


FIG. 1

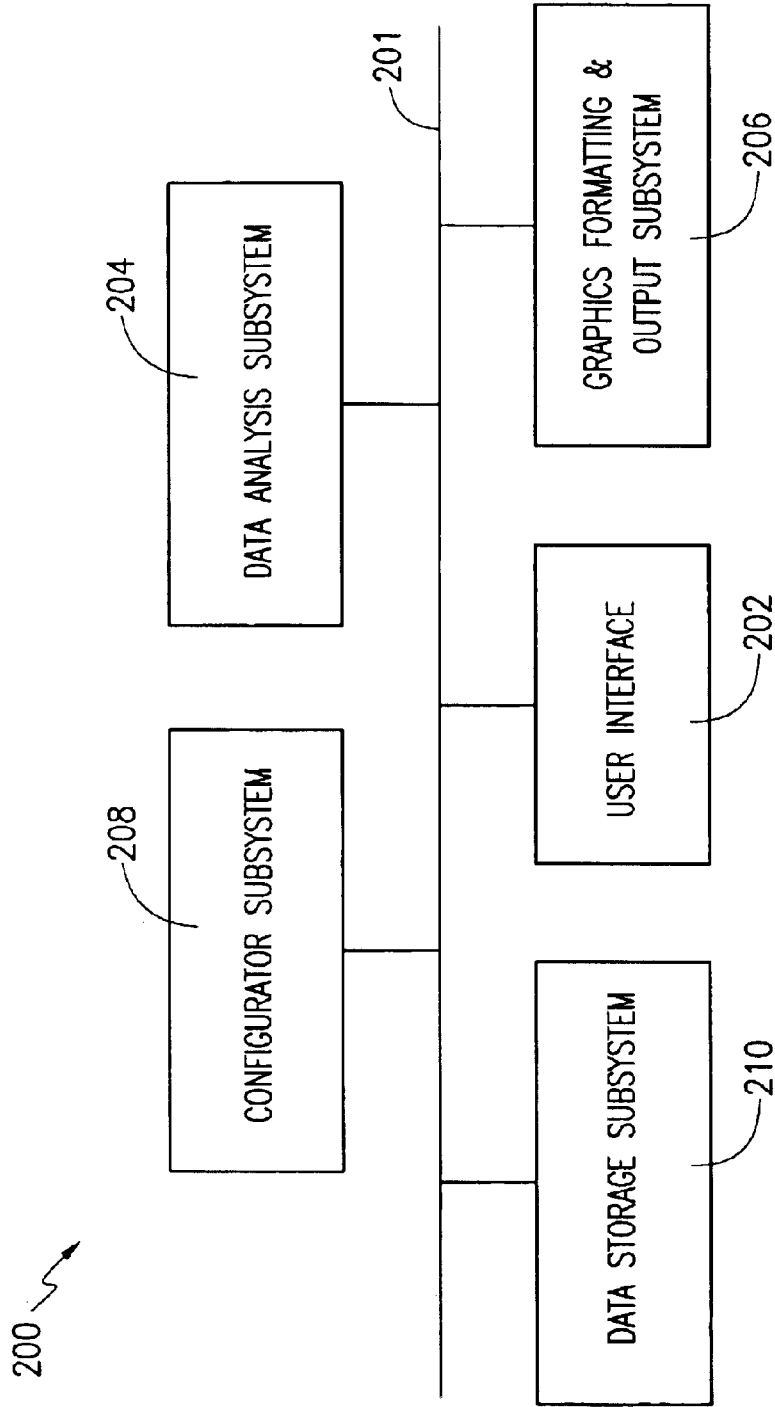


FIG. 2

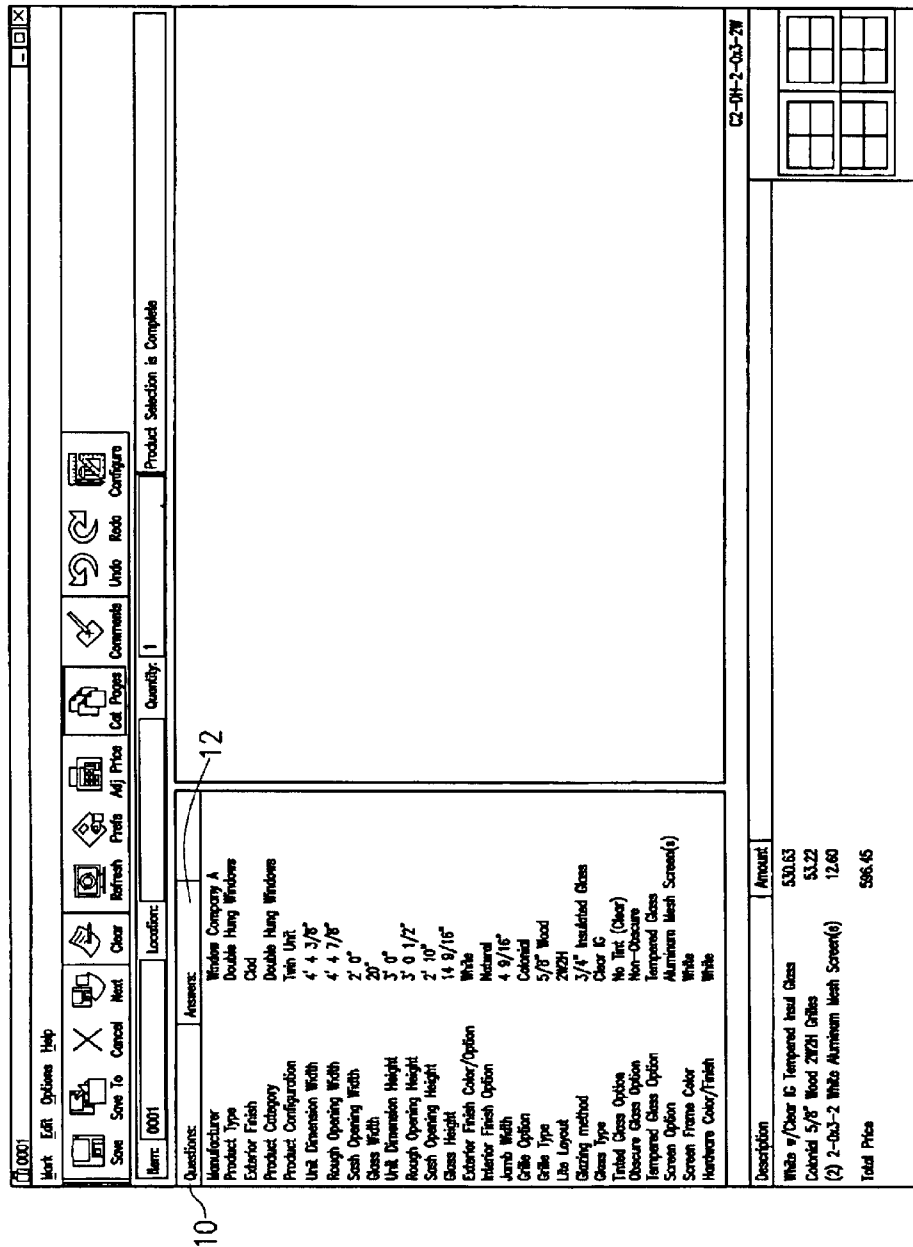


FIG. 3

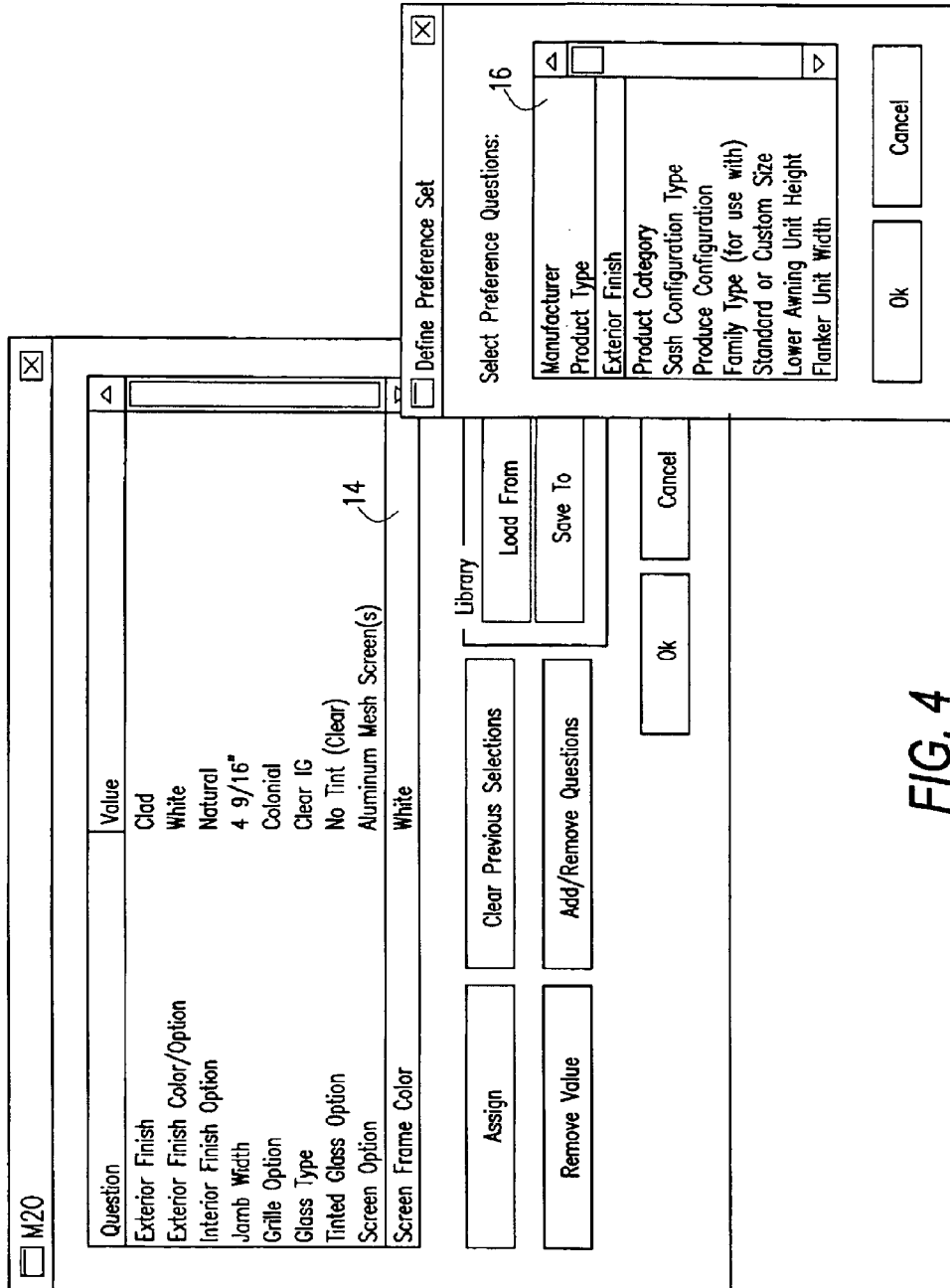


FIG. 4

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