



US005845293A

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: **5,845,293**

Veghte et al.

[45] Date of Patent: **Dec. 1, 1998**

[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM OF ASSOCIATING, SYNCHRONIZING AND RECONCILING COMPUTER FILES IN AN OPERATING SYSTEM**

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[75] Inventors: **William Lewis Veghte**, Bellevue; **Andrew Lawrence Silverman**, Redmond; **Shannon Scott Hysom**, Mercer Island; **David R. Dickman**, Redmond, all of Wash.

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[73] Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, Wash.

[21] Appl. No.: **832,333**

[22] Filed: **Mar. 26, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 287,231, Aug. 8, 1994, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 17/30**

[52] U.S. Cl. **707/202; 707/203**

[58] Field of Search 395/618, 619, 395/620; 709/201-204

Primary Examiner—Maria N. Von Buhr
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jones & Askew, LLP

[57] ABSTRACT

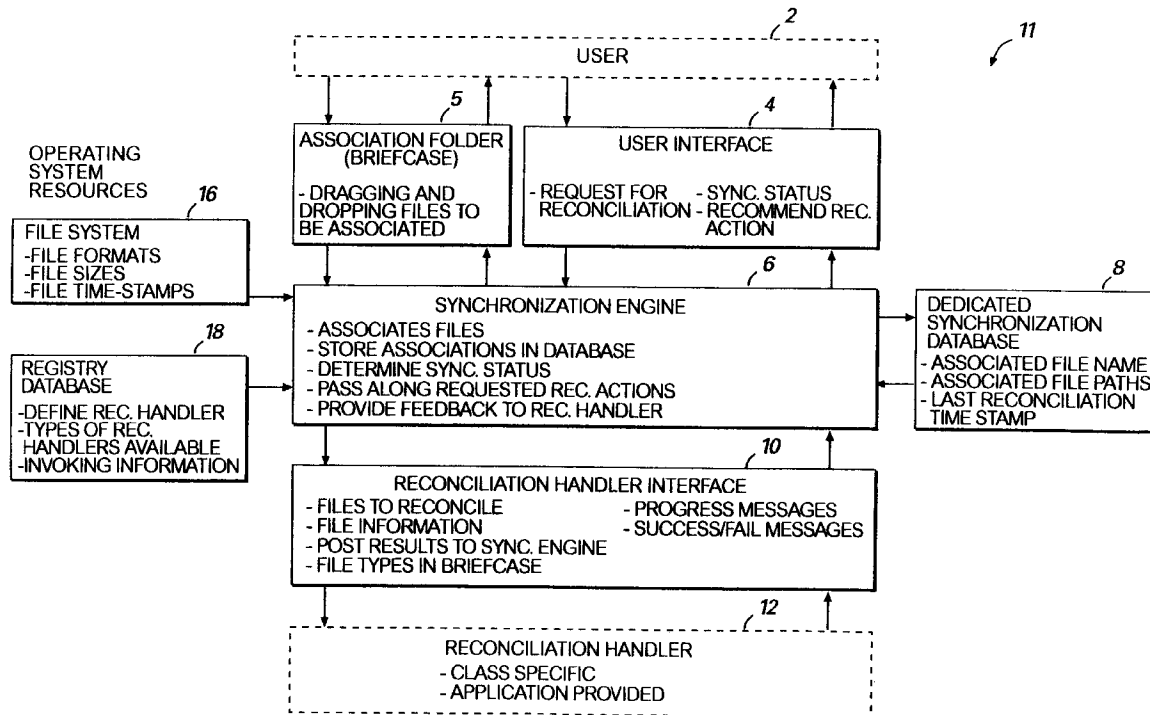
A method and system for associating, synchronizing and reconciling files. Associated files are synchronized and their synchronization status reported. Based on the synchronization status, the operating system recommends a preferred reconciliation action. Furthermore, file conflicts are recognized and an application interface for computer applications is provided to allow conflicting files to be merged.

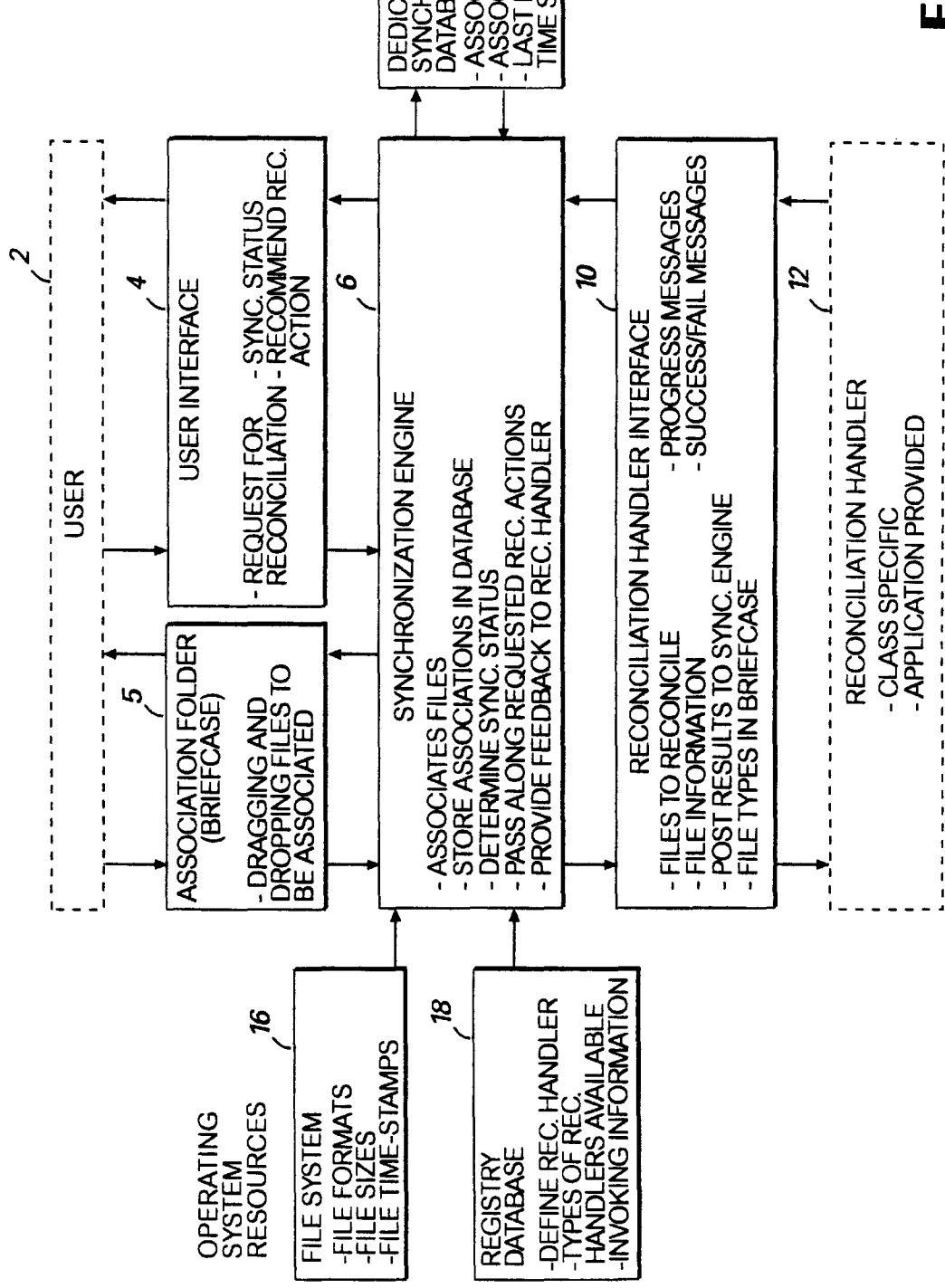
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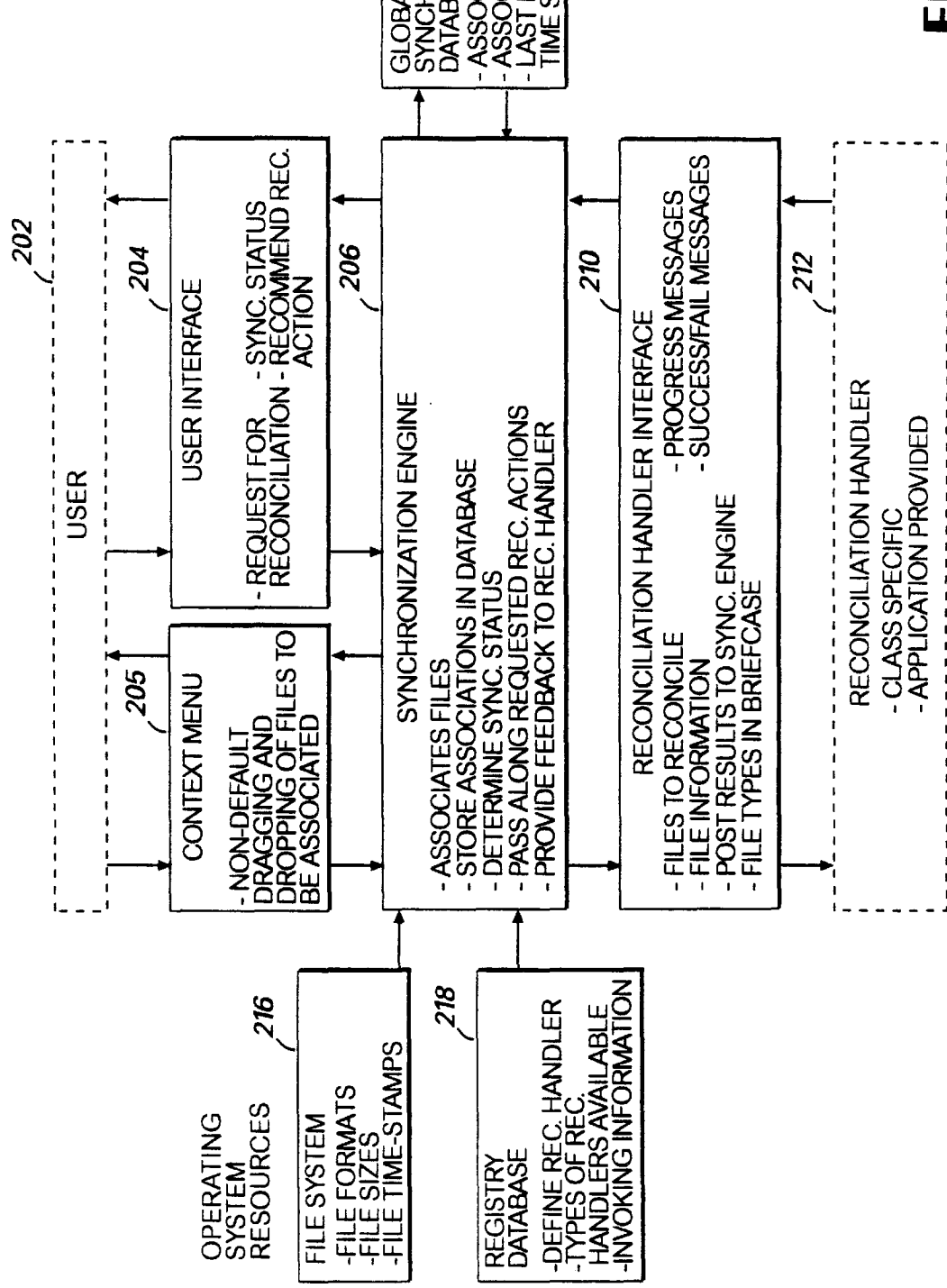
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23 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets







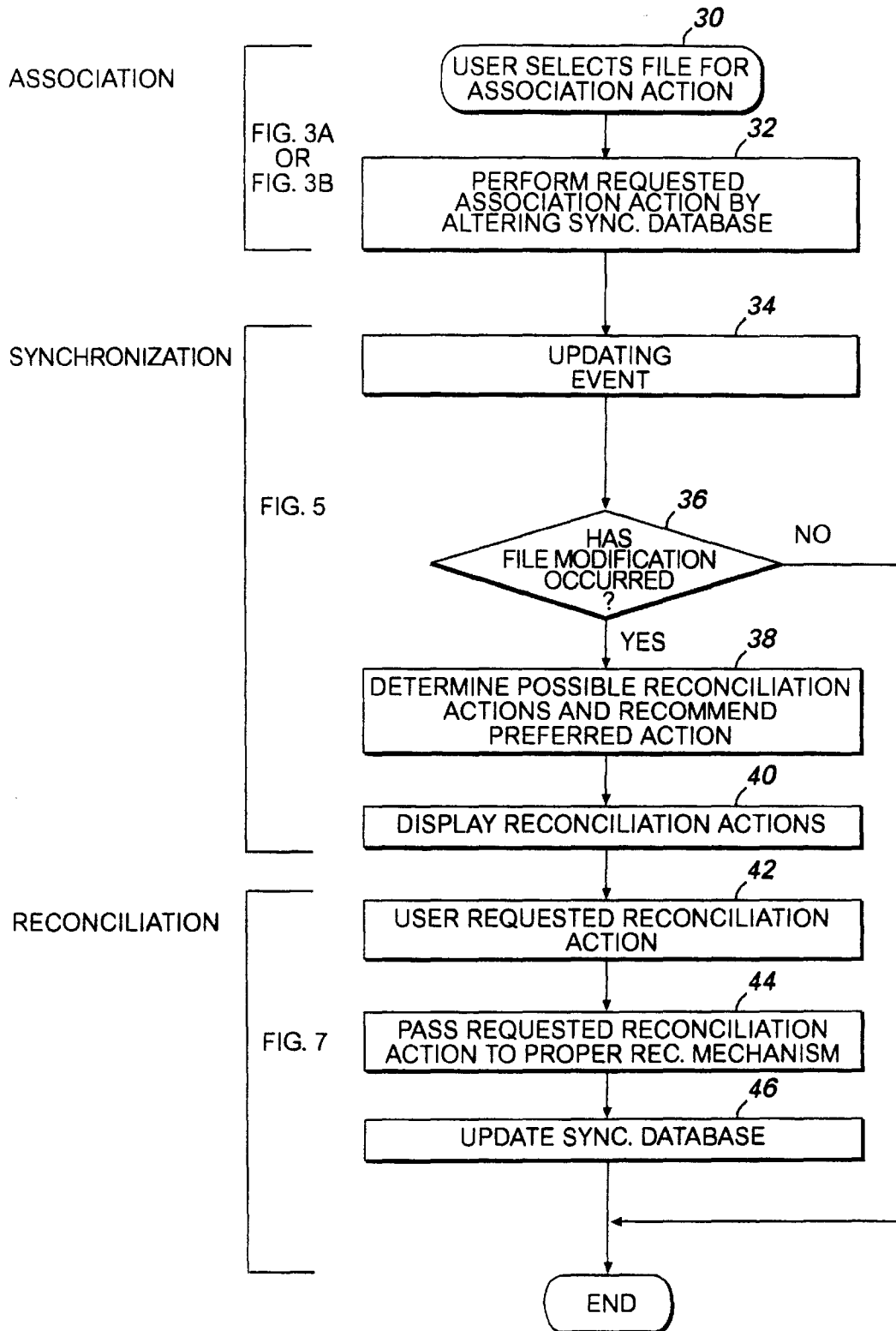


FIG. 2

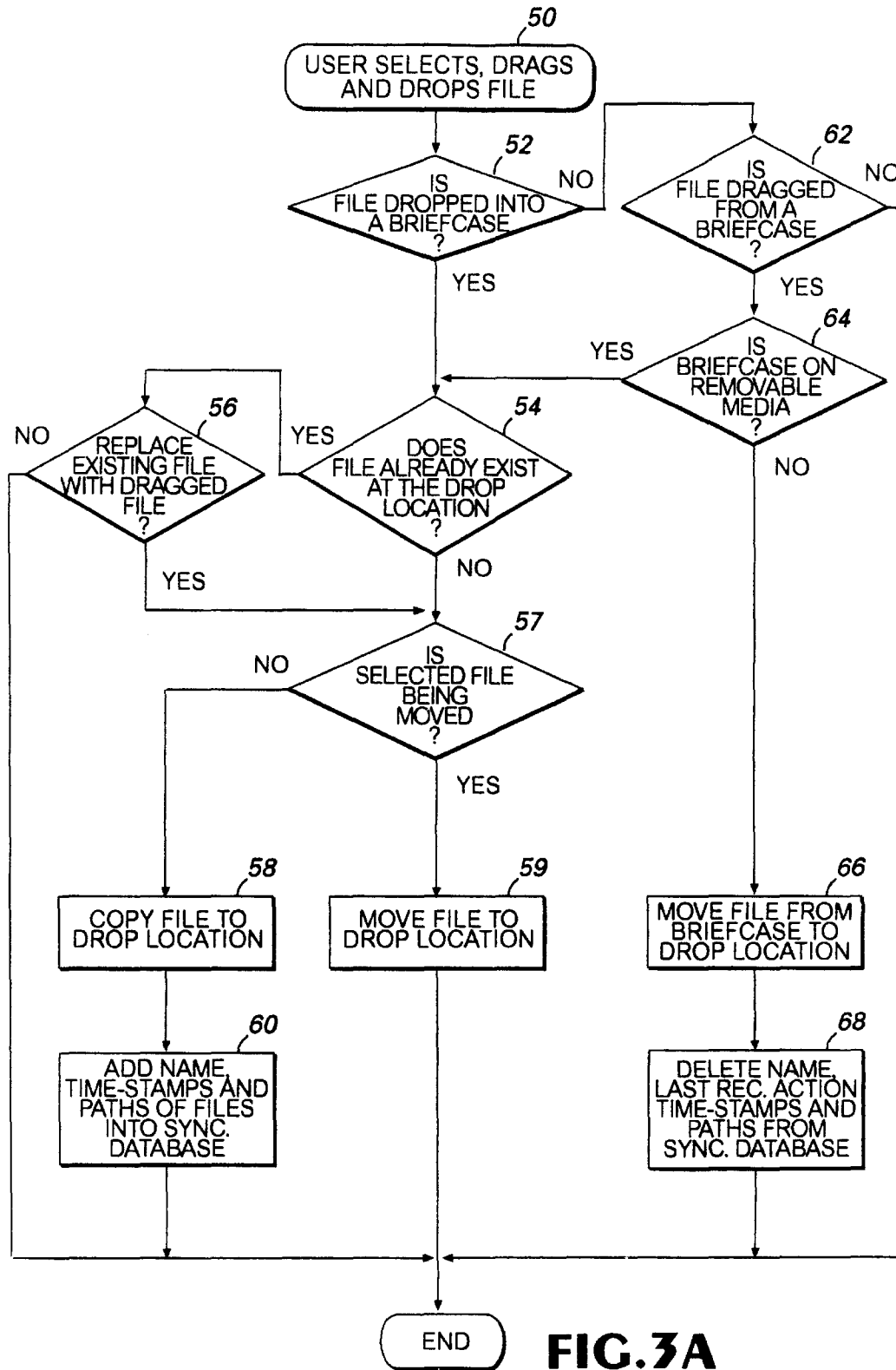


FIG.3A

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