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Rhoads

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[54] **NETWORK LINKING METHOD USING STEGANOGRAPHICALLY EMBEDDED DATA OBJECTS**

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[73] Assignee: **Digimarc Corporation**, Portland, Oreg.

[21] Appl. No.: **508,083**

[22] Filed: **Jul. 27, 1995**

Related U.S. Application Data

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 13/00**; H04L 9/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/200.47**; 395/187.01; 395/335; 380/4; 380/28

[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.3, 200.48, 395/200.38, 200.47, 200.75, 200.66, 187.01, 682, 602, 610, 329, 335, 339, 200.49; 380/3, 4, 5, 6, 54, 28

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A given data object can effectively contain both a graphical representation to a network user and embedded information, such as the URL address of another network node, thereby to permit the object itself to serve as an automated hot link. The underlying development tools and web site browsers create and identify such an object for use in a manner similar to a hot link, as provided on the World Wide Web.

13 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

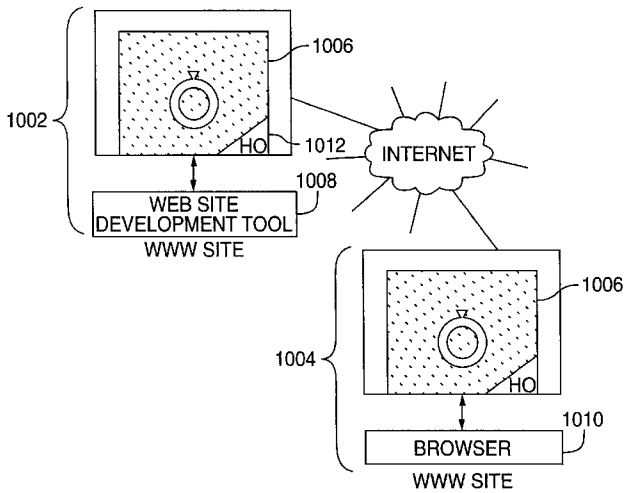

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FIG. 1

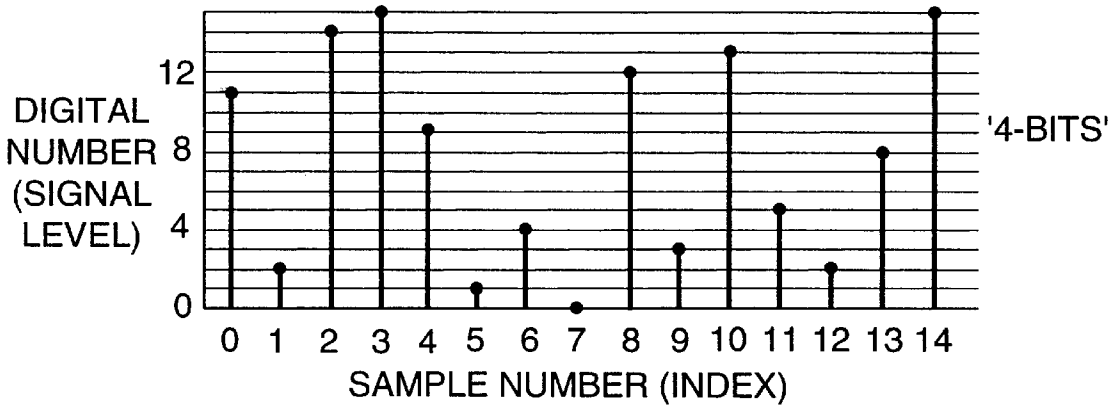
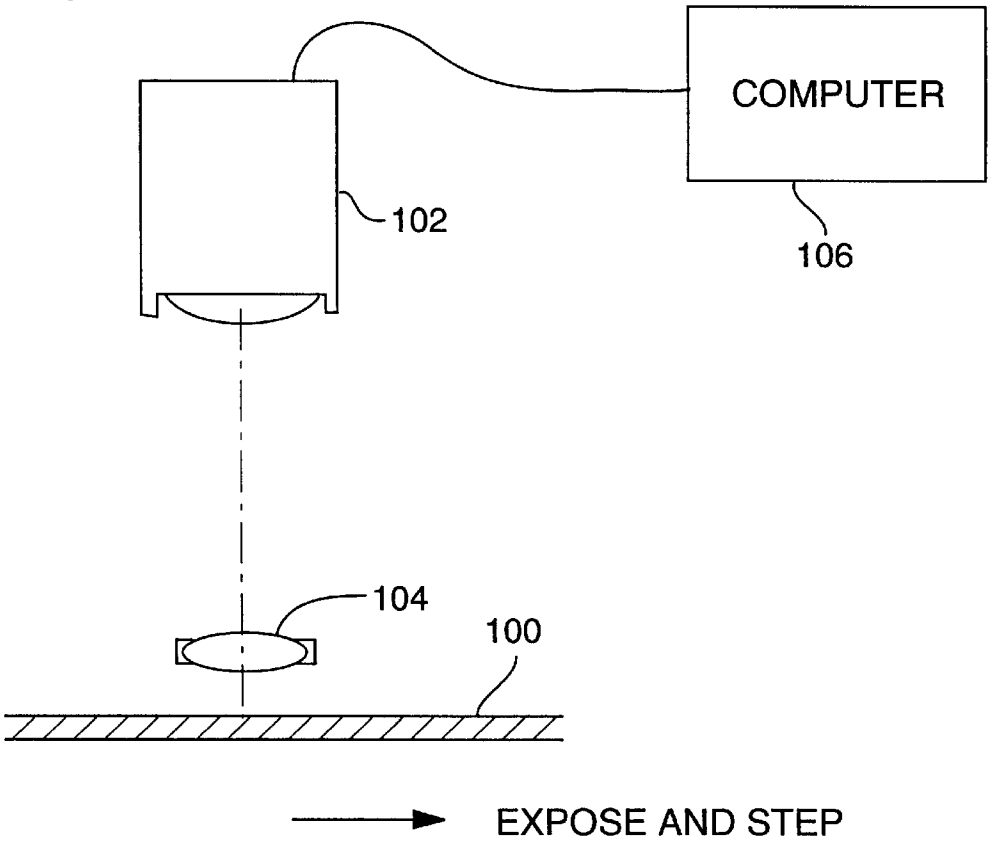


FIG. 4



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