



[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DYNAMIC VISUAL FEEDBACK MESSAGING IN A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE OF A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

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[52] U.S. Cl. 395/155; 395/157; 395/159; 395/161

[58] Field of Search 395/157, 155, 158, 159, 395/161, 550

[56] References Cited PUBLICATIONS

Microsoft Windows User's Guide (Microsoft Corporation) pp. 6, 35, 126-128, 117, 136.

Microsoft Windows User's Guide (Trademark of Microsoft Corporation), 1990, pp. 17, 41-42, 139 & 199 and attached sheets #1, 2, 3.

Primary Examiner—Heather R. Herndon

Assistant Examiner—Cliff Vo

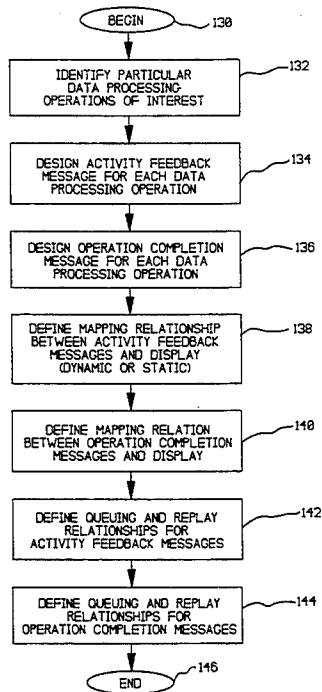
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jonathan E. Jobe; Melvin A. Hunn; Andrew J. Dillon

[57] ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus is provided for visually representing data processing operations in a data processing system. An action feedback message is provided for a

particular data processing operation. It includes a non-textual message component. Communication between an operator and the data processing system is monitored for requests for performance of the particular data processing operation. For each time a particular data processing operation is performed by the data processing system, the action feedback message is automatically displayed on a display of the data processing system, preferably for a predetermined time interval during the performance of the particular data processing operation. The action feedback message may be moved along a predetermined display path on the display of the data processing system during automatic display. Preferably the action feedback message and/or the predetermined display path is located in a region of the display of likely operator focus, as determined from automatic monitoring of operator input to the data processing system. If it is impossible to determine the region of likely operator focus, the display of the action feedback message is delayed until such determination can be made. Additionally, an operation completion message, which includes a non-textual graphical message component, and which differs from the action feedback message, is provided for display upon completion of the particular data processing operation. If operator input activities indicate that the operator is not likely to be focused on the display screen, the operation completion messages are queued for display at a later time, preferably a time during which operator input indicates that the operator is focused on the display screen of the data processing system.

28 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



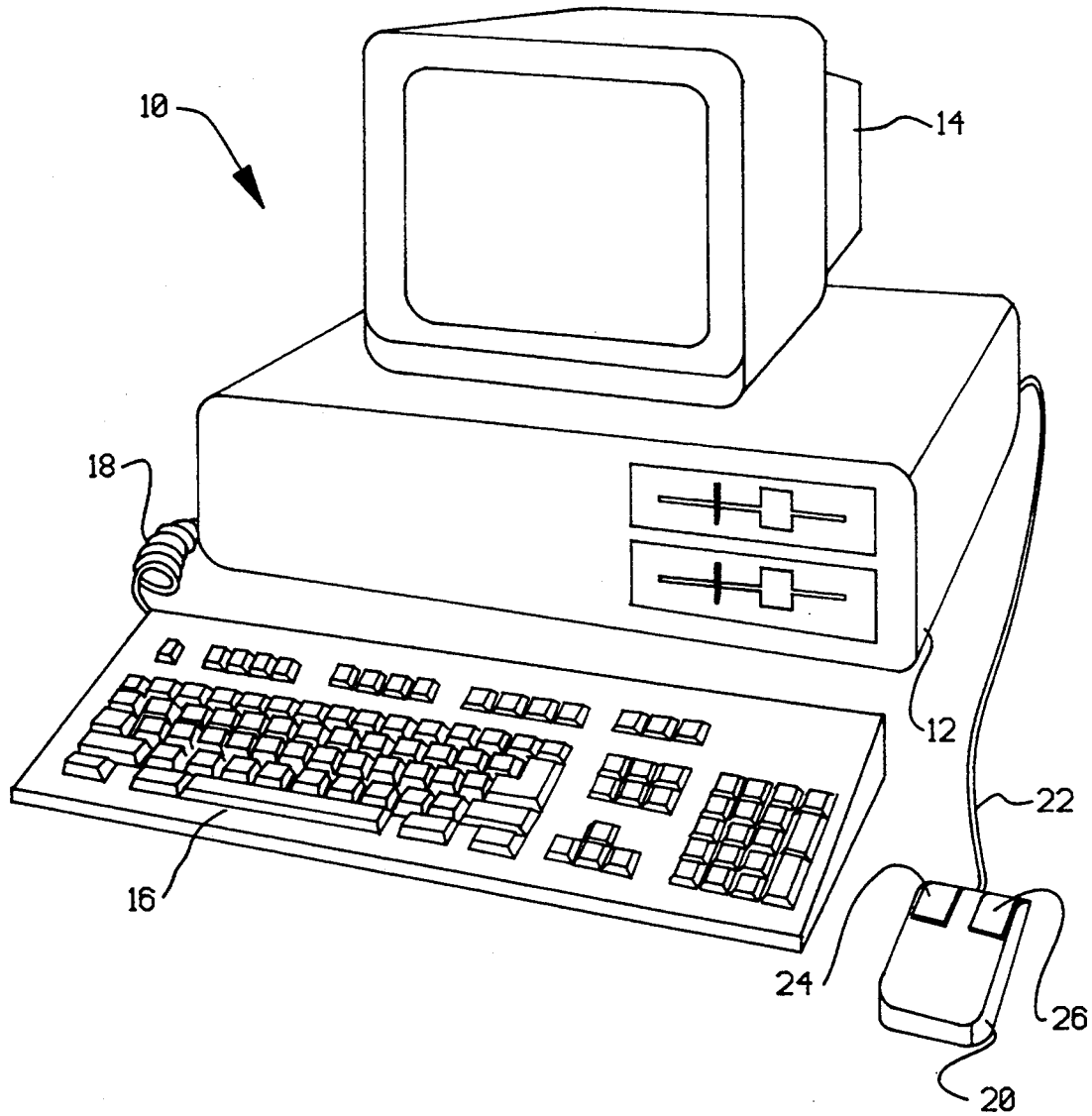


FIGURE 1

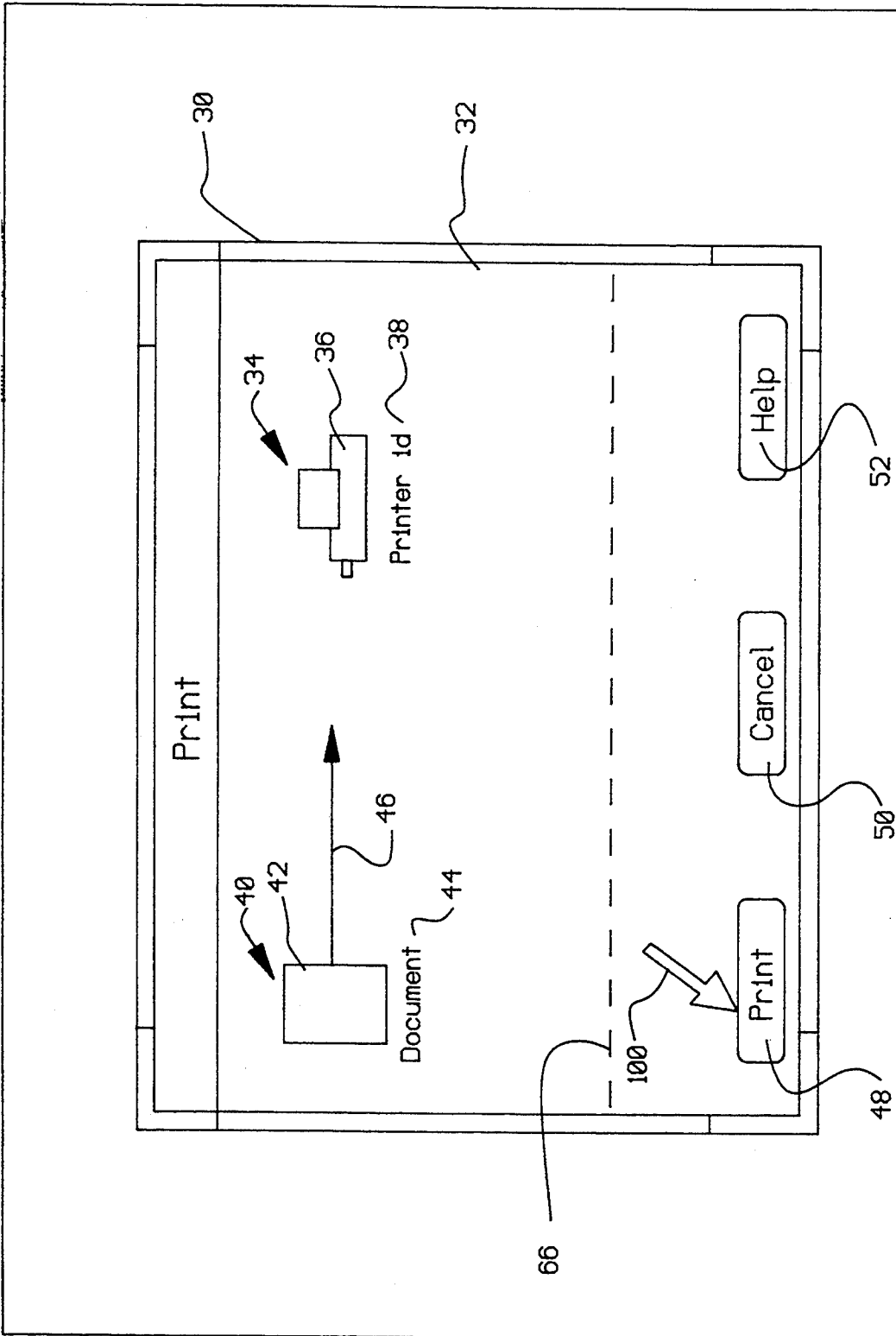


FIGURE 2a

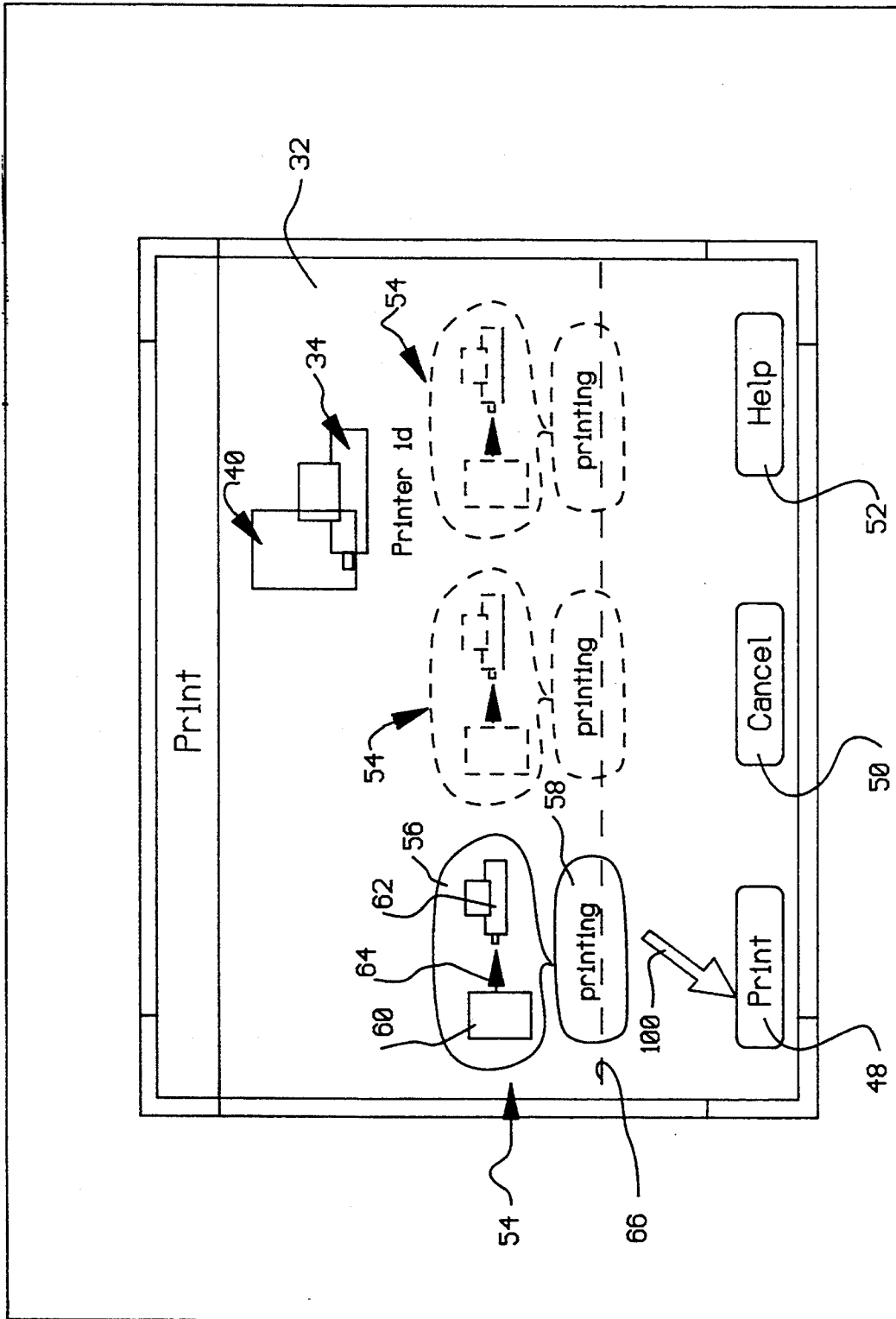


FIGURE 2b

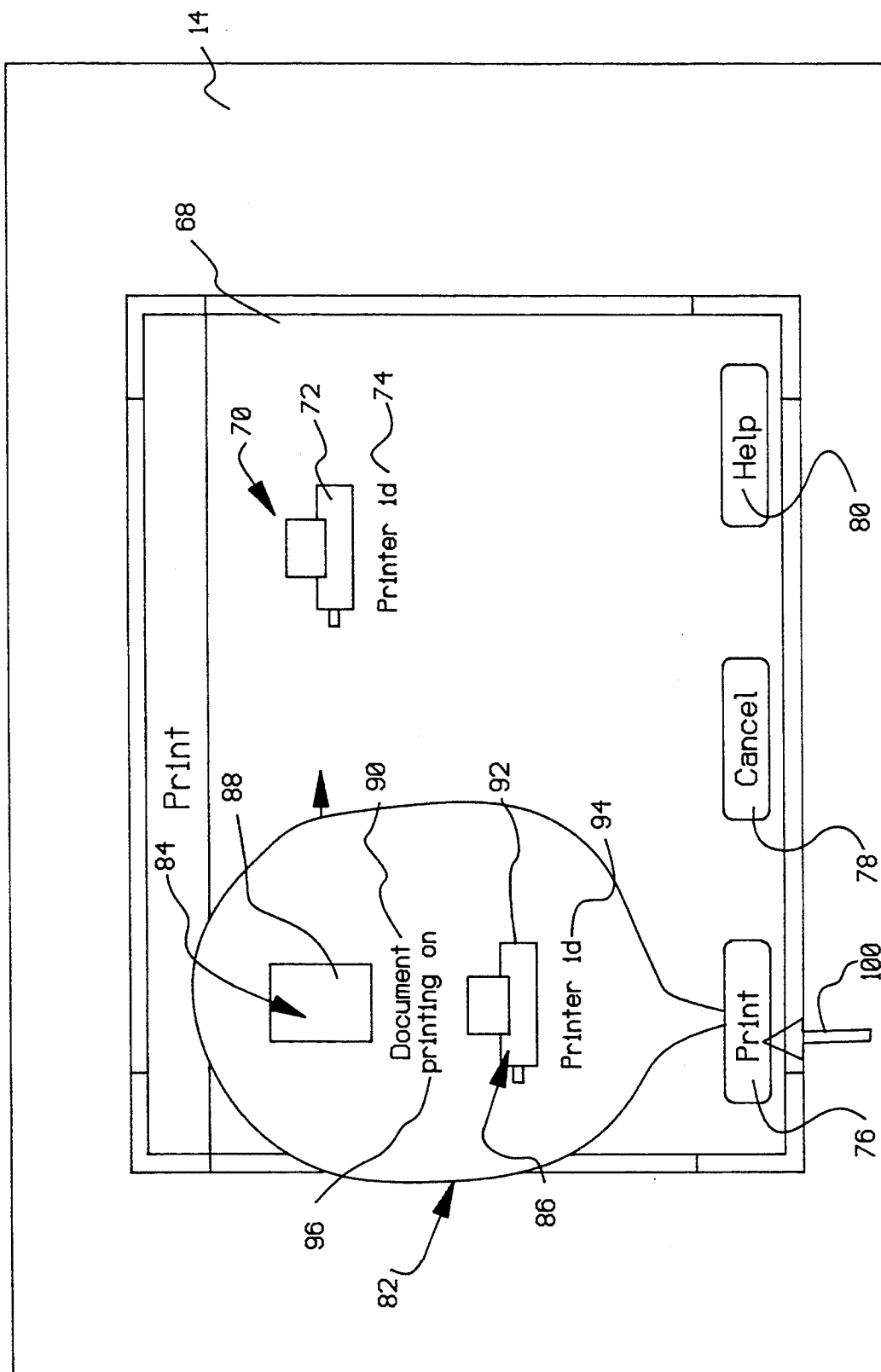


FIGURE 2c

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