



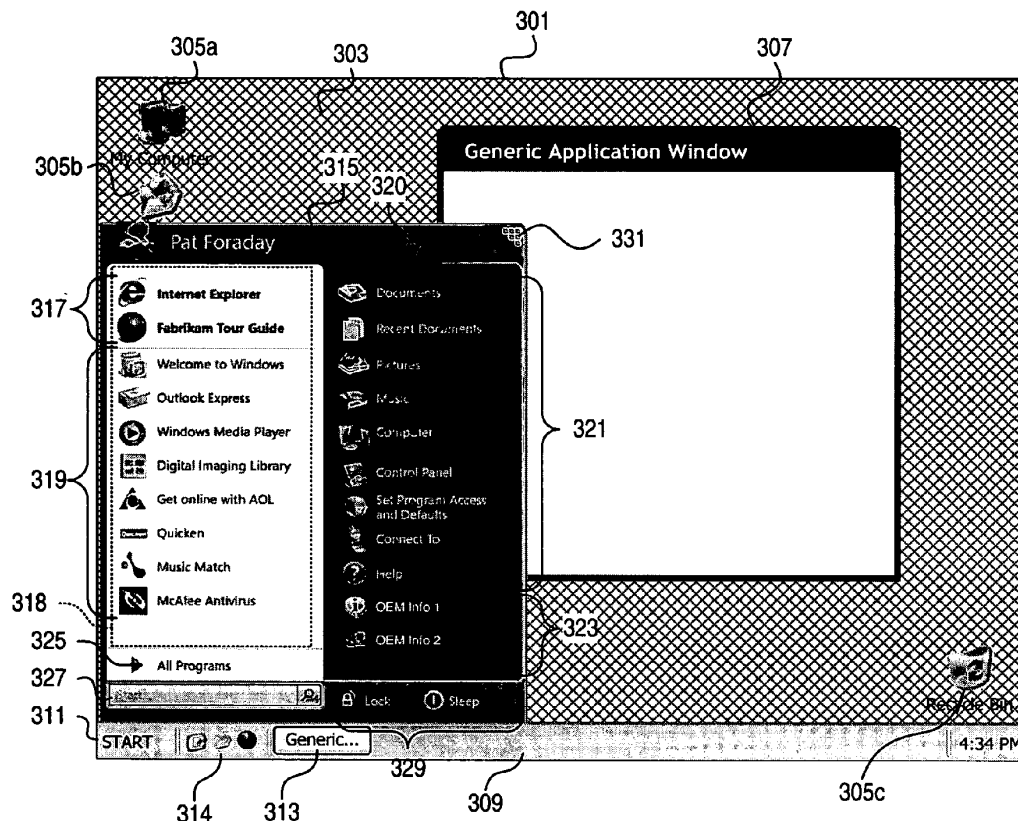
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Matthews et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0218503 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 28, 2006**(54) **OPERATING SYSTEM PROGRAM LAUNCH
MENU SEARCH****Publication Classification**(75) Inventors: **David A. Matthews**, Seattle, WA (US);
Charles W. Stabb, Seattle, WA (US);
Matthew R. Lerner, Seattle, WA (US)(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 17/00 (2006.01)
G06F 3/00 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **715/779; 715/780**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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An operating system program launch menu, such as a Start menu, provides various mechanisms for a user to quickly and efficiently locate and launch desired data items such as programs, data files, storage locations, and the like. A search box within the program launch menu may be used to quickly locate programs, documents, communications, and other data items. An auto-complete feature may be used, e.g., when the user restricts the locations searched for the user-entered search text. A most commonly used program list may include programs based on various criteria including both frequency of use and recent use, thereby always including a most recently used item. An all programs view may display programs and documents in a hosted-tree view within the original confines of the program launch menu, thereby negating the need to open sub-menus on top of a large portion of the desktop displayed on the display device.

(73) Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, WA(21) Appl. No.: **11/085,654**(22) Filed: **Mar. 22, 2005**

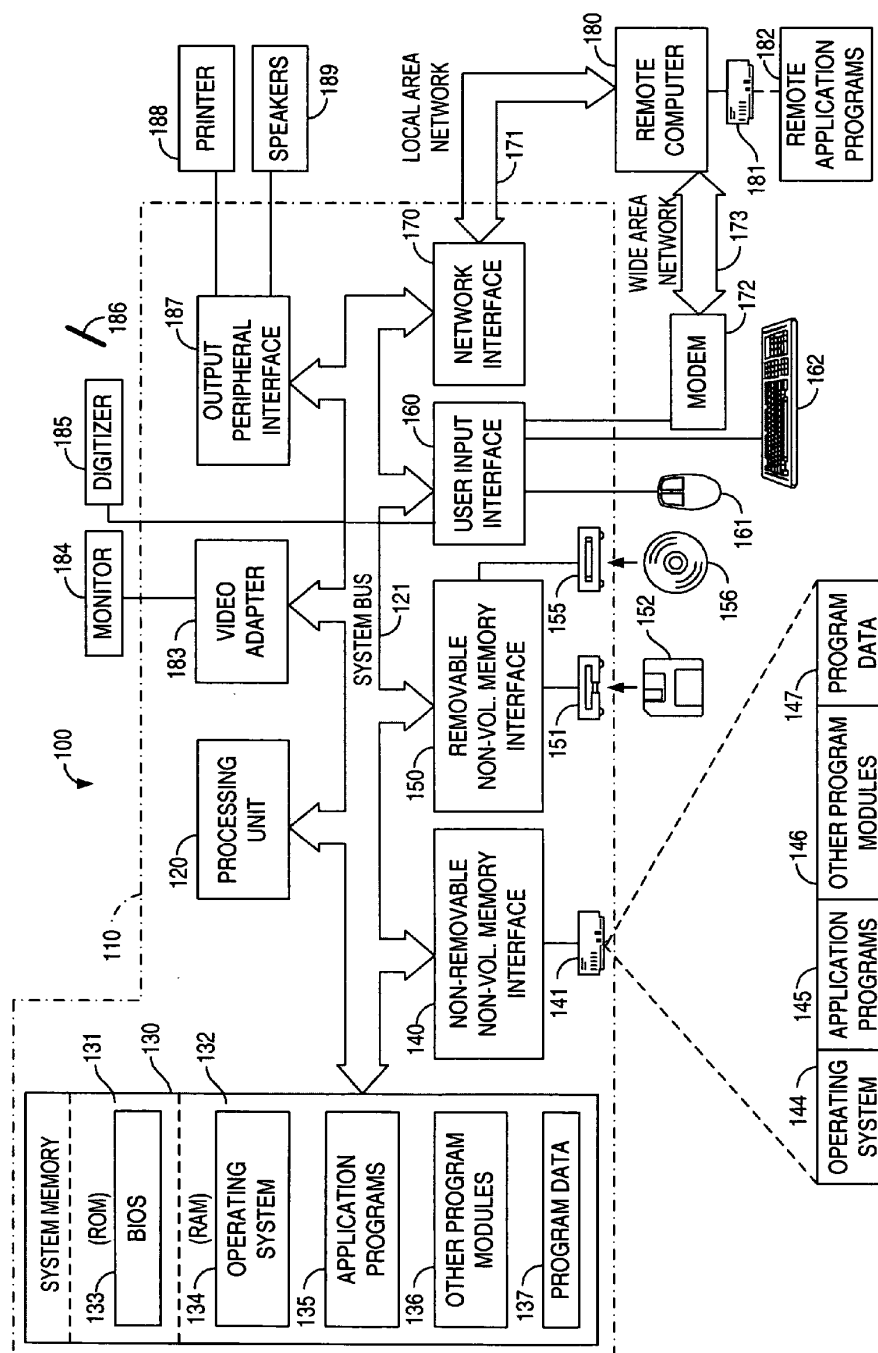


FIG. 1

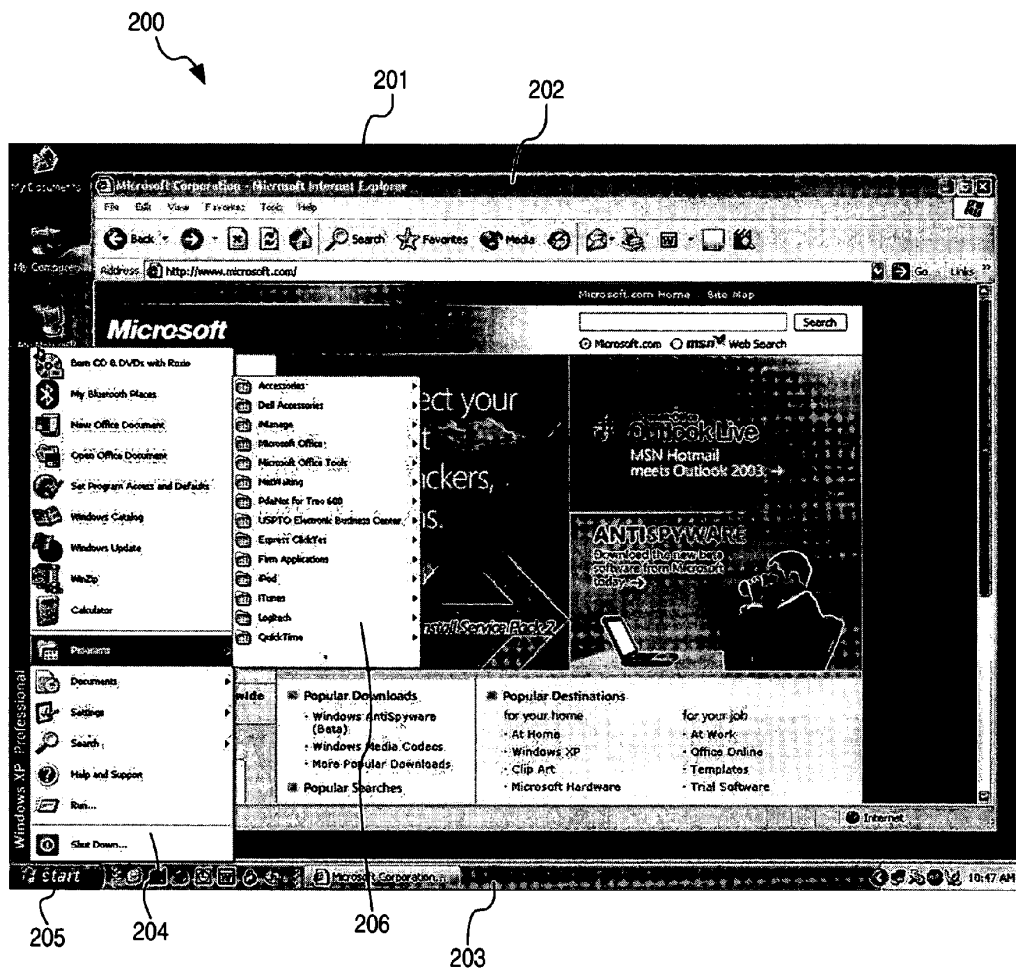


FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)

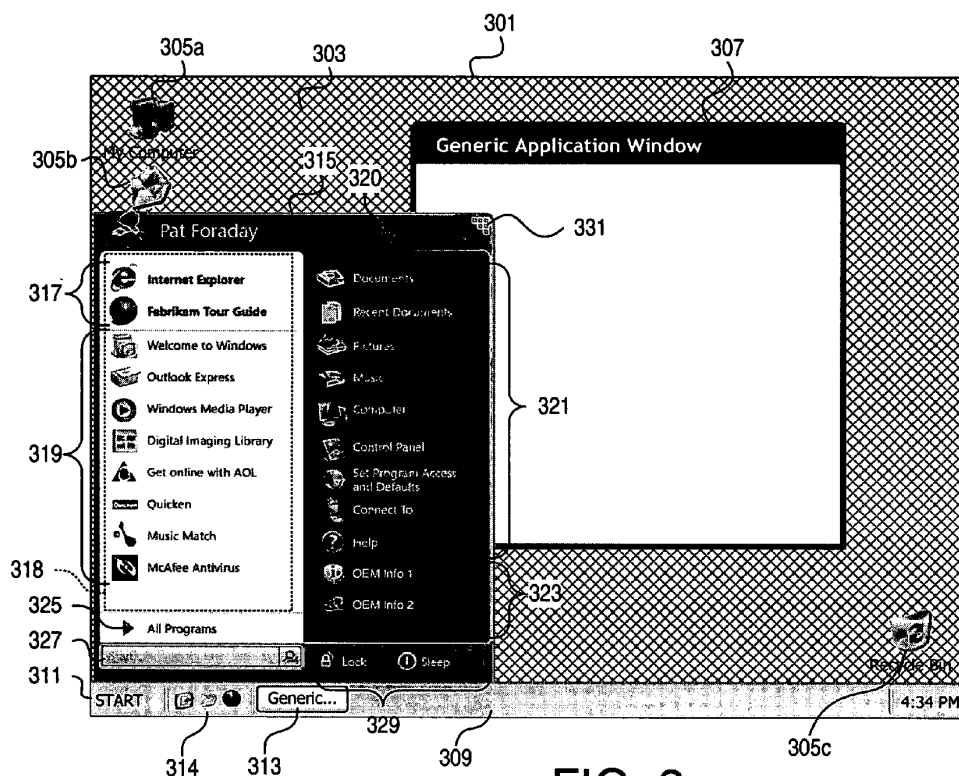


FIG. 3

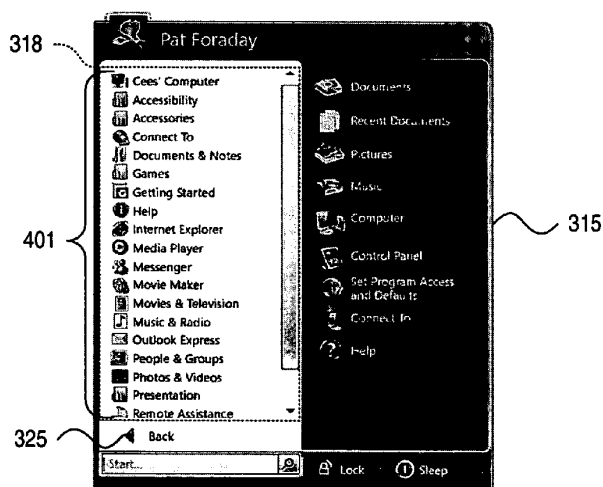


FIG. 4

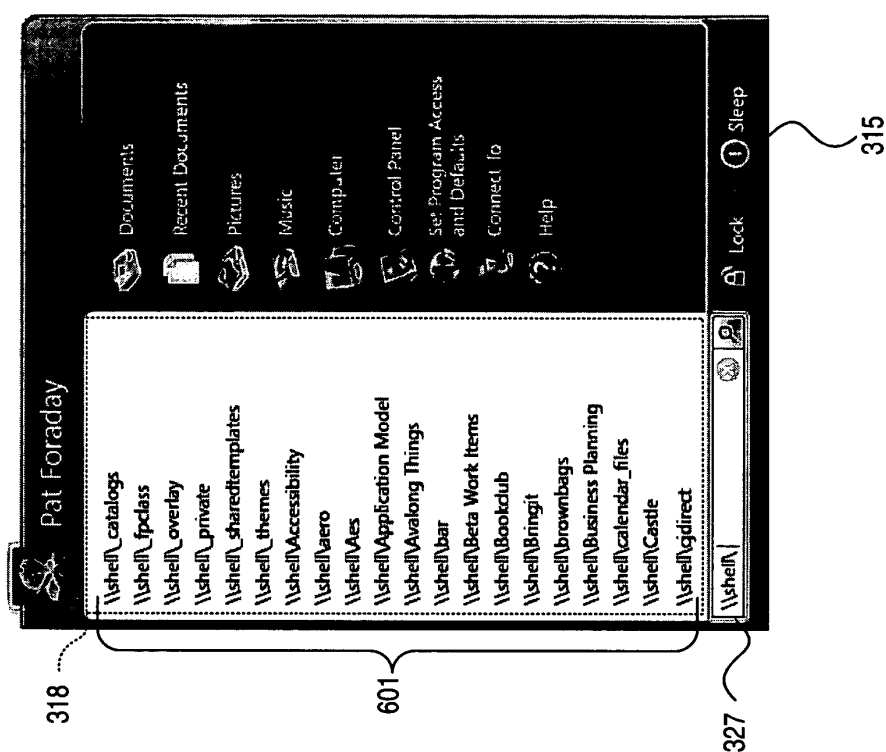


FIG. 5

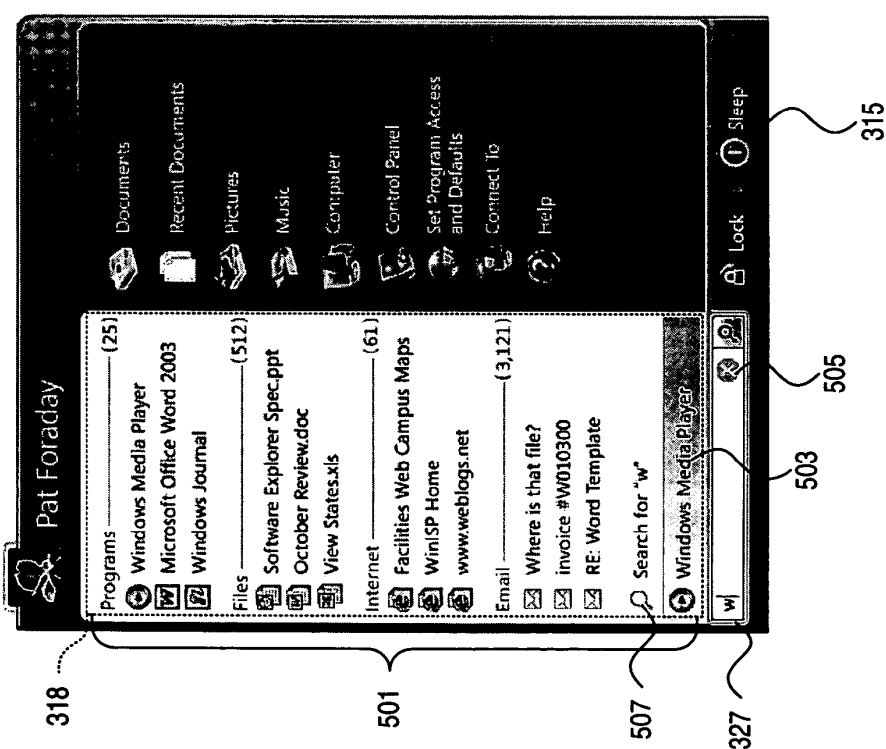


FIG. 6

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