



# United States Patent [19]

Hughes et al.

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[54] **METHOD OF EXTRACTING NETWORK INFORMATION**

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[73] Assignee: **MarketScape**

[21] Appl. No.: **711,045**

[22] Filed: **Sep. 10, 1996**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **G06F 3/00; H04L 12/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **395/200.8; 395/200.53; 395/200.54; 395/200.55; 395/700**

[58] Field of Search ..... 395/200.39, 600, 395/200.53, 200.15, 619, 161, 200.8, 200.54, 200.55, 200.79, 700

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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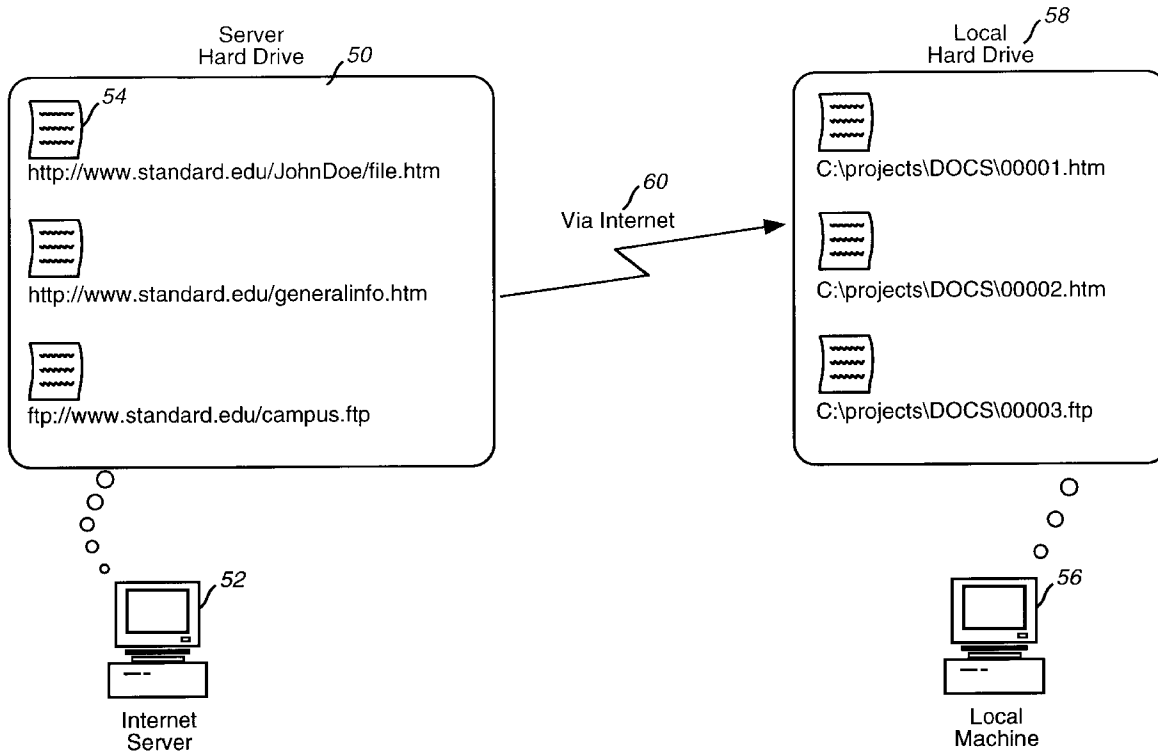
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*Assistant Examiner*—Ivan C. Pierce, IV  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Dale B. Halling

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method of extracting network information first receives an initial link address (102) and retrieves a file (104) associated with the initial link address. The file is then parsed (106) to find a hyper text link. Next it is determined (108) if the hyper text link has a link address that contains the network address as a root. When the link address contains the initial link address as the root, a link file associated with the link address is retrieved (110).

**20 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**



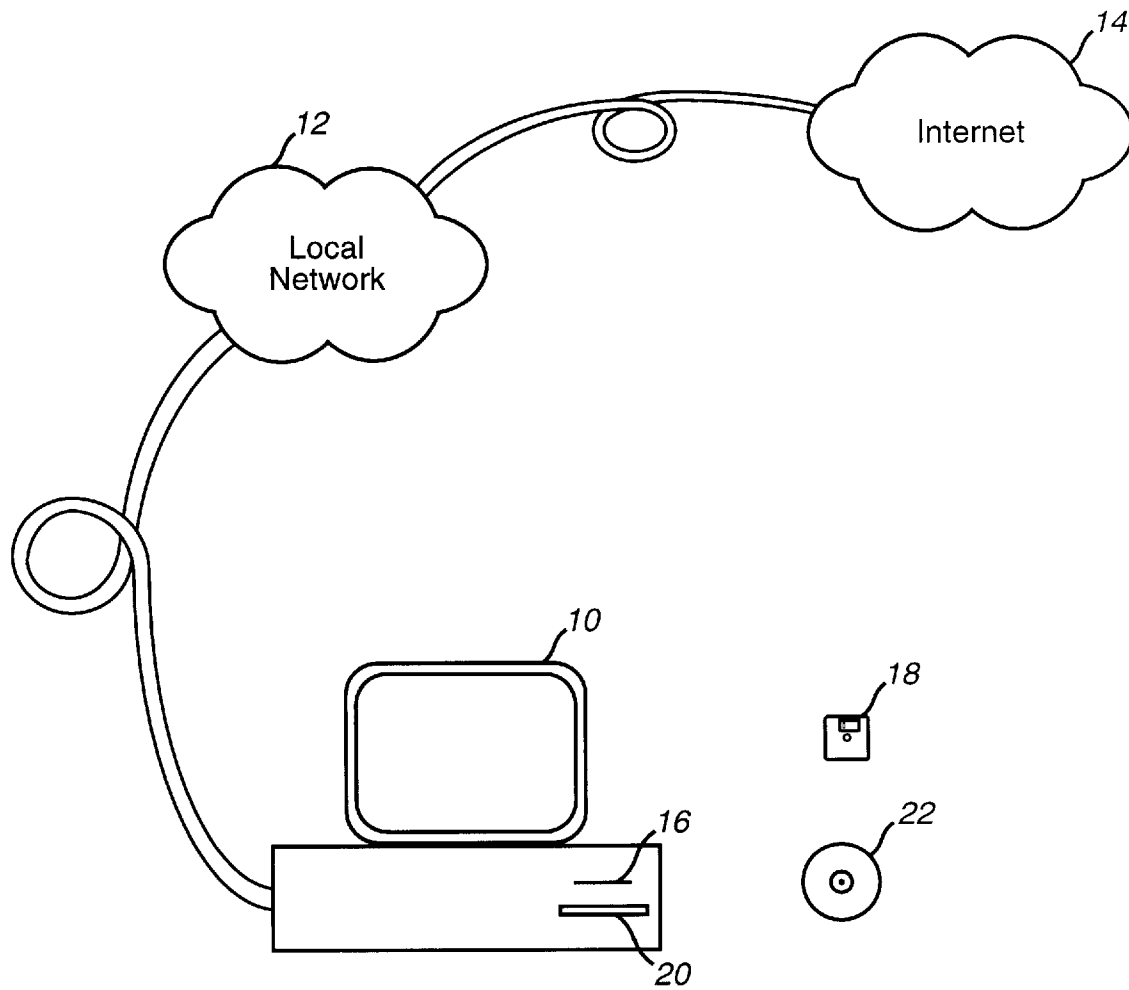


FIG. 1

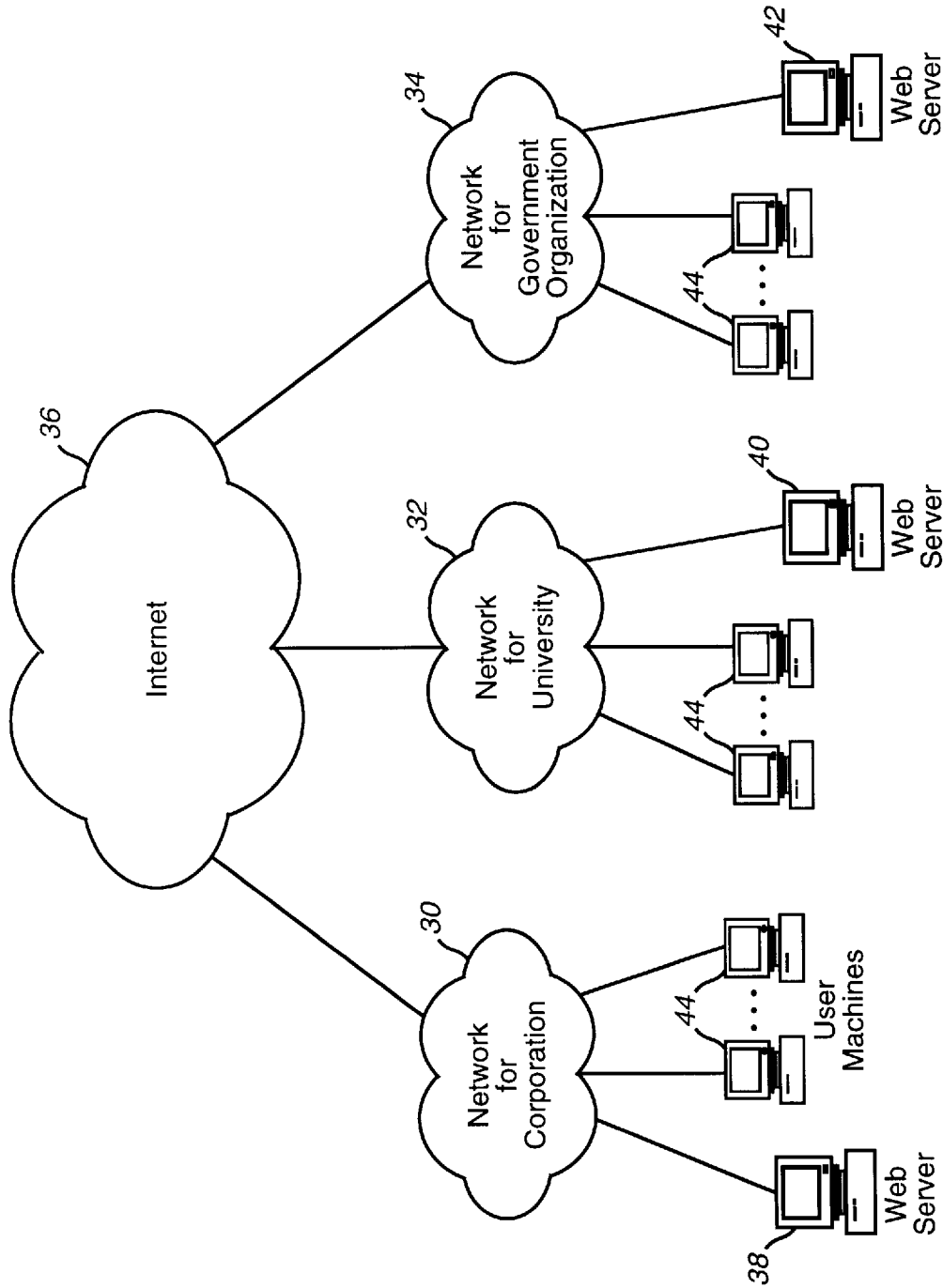


FIG. 2

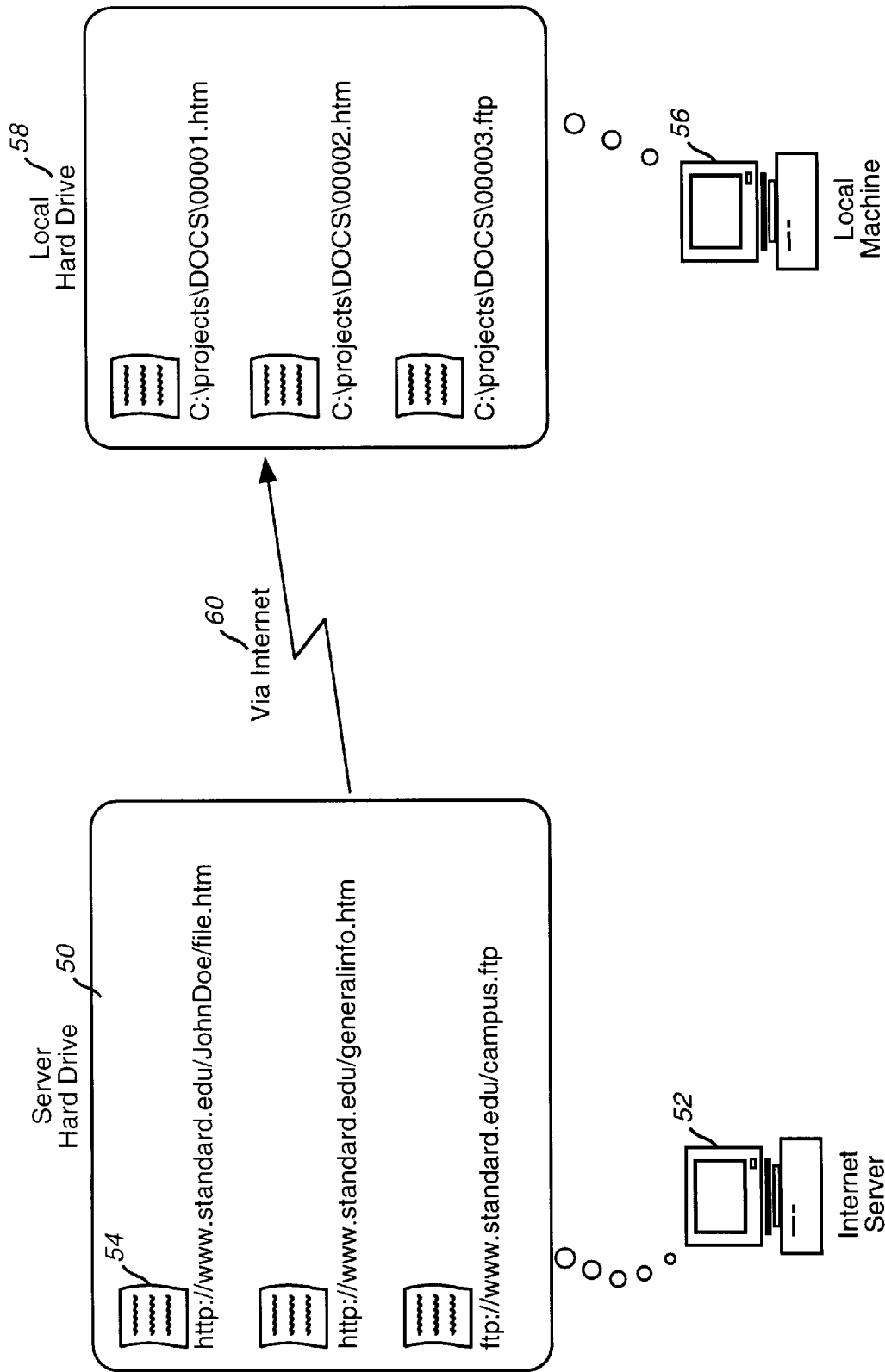
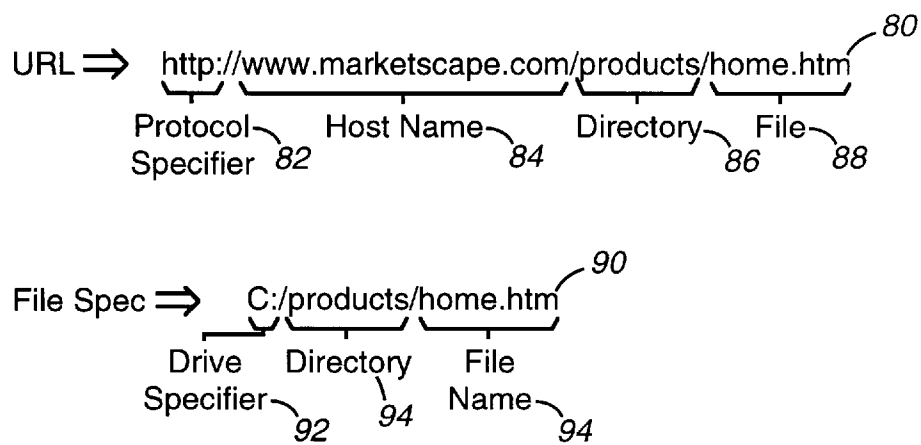


FIG. 3



URL Format Examples

**FIG. 4**

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