

## United States Patent [19]

US006026429Ā

### 6,026,429 [11] **Patent Number: Date of Patent:** \*Feb. 15, 2000

### Jones et al.

### [54] SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF INTERNET RESOURCES

- [75] Inventors: David R. Jones; Gregory S. Gerard, both of Columbus; Julie H. Hanley, Middletown, all of Ohio
- [73] Assignee: America Online, Inc., Dulles, Va.
- This patent issued on a continued pros-[\*] Notice: ecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).
- [21] Appl. No.: 08/967,431
- [22] Filed: Nov. 10, 1997

### **Related U.S. Application Data**

- [63] Continuation of application No. 08/476,711, Jun. 7, 1995, abandoned.
- Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ...... A47C 27/14 [51]
- [52]
- 705/26; 705/27 [58] 395/700, 145-161, 200.03, 200.09, 148, 188, 189, 200.31, 200.49; 707/3-10, 4,

5, 6; 709/201, 202, 206, 218; 705/26, 27

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[56]

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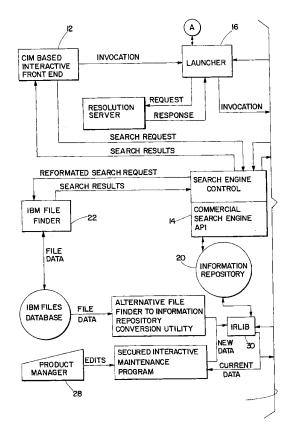
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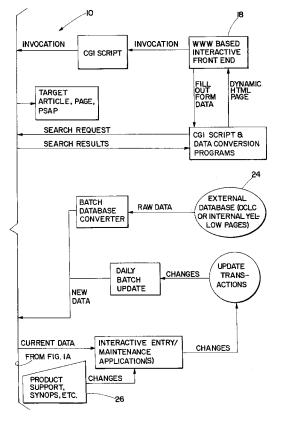
Primary Examiner-William Grant Assistant Examiner-McDievnel Marc Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Standley & Gilcrest LLP

#### [57] ABSTRACT

A mechanism for seanilessly searching and accessing information available through the Internet and other resources is disclosed. The present invention maintains a database of file objects available from numerous sources. The present invention updates the database periodically to ensure the accuracy and completeness of it. The present invention also may access and retrieve data from numerous sources when prompted by a sige and simple command initiated by the user. The user is shielded from the quirks and intricacies of various information sources.

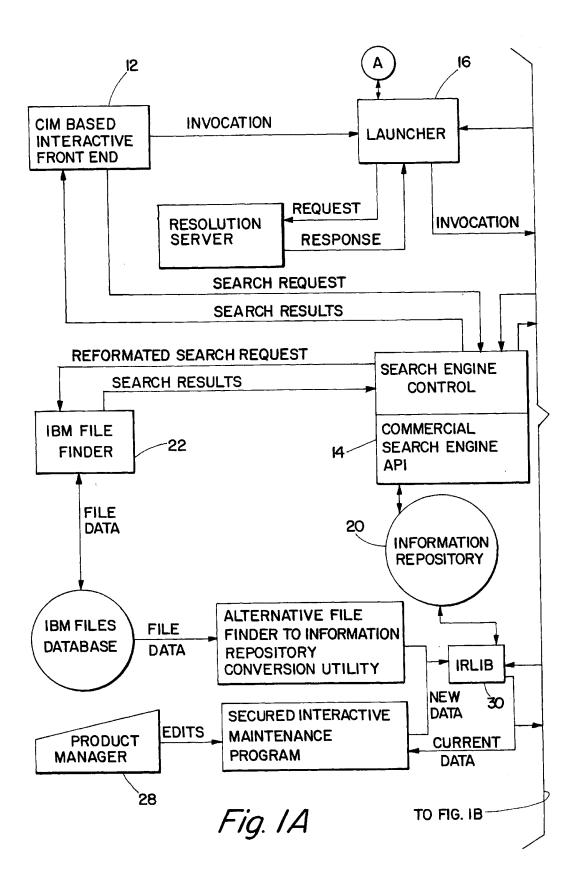
### 24 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets





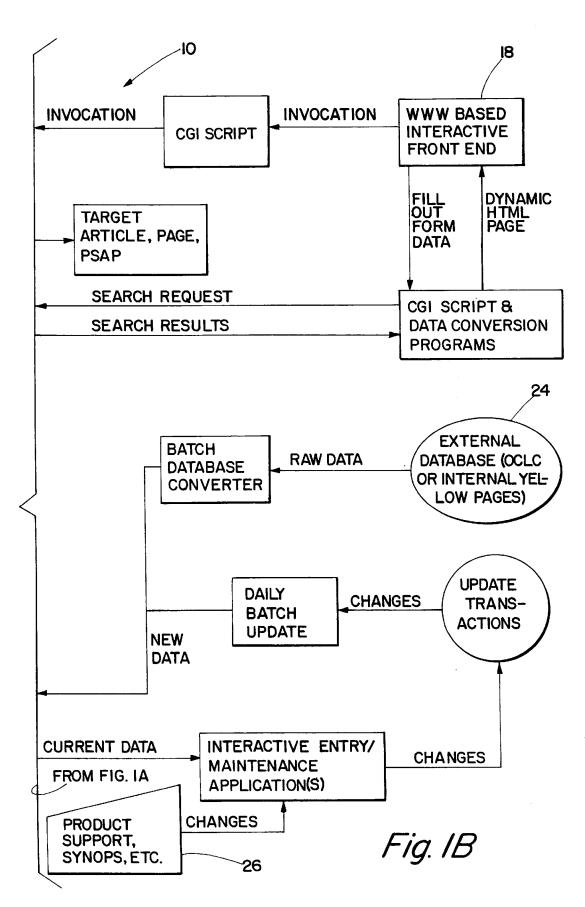
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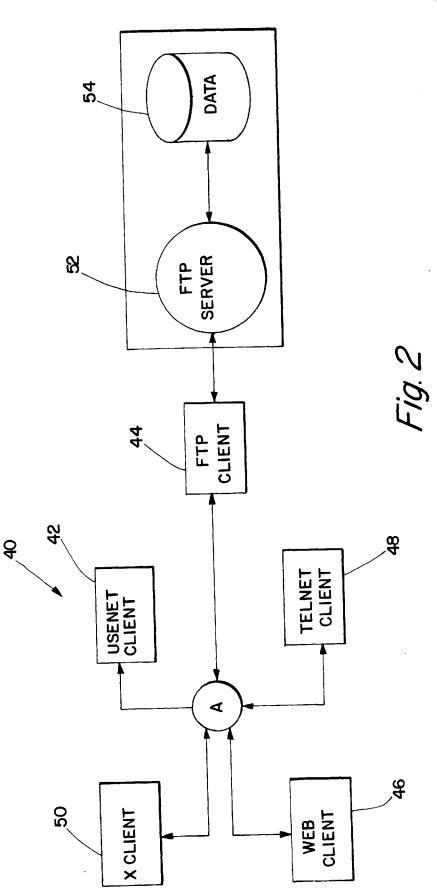
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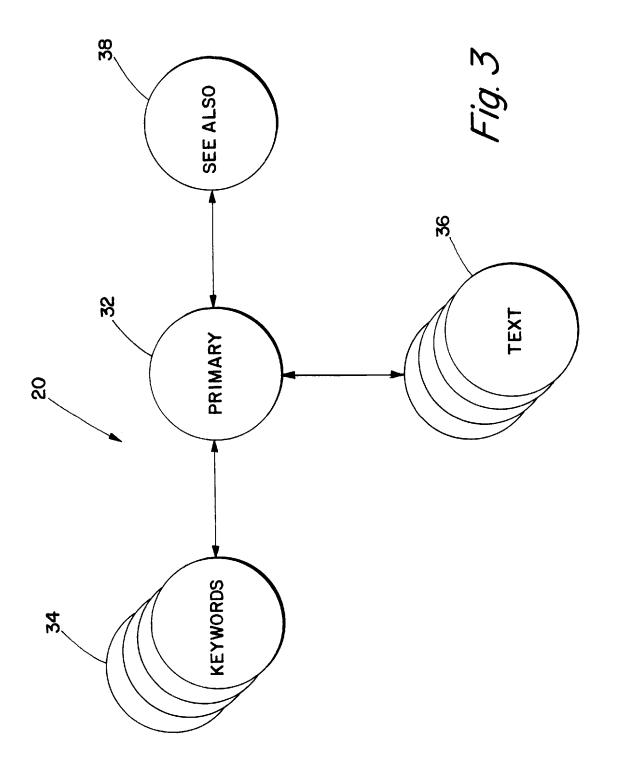
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