



US005825651A

United States Patent [19] Gupta et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,825,651
[45] **Date of Patent:** Oct. 20, 1998

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING AND CONFIGURING SYSTEMS**

5,355,317 10/1994 Talbott et al. 364/468
5,357,440 10/1994 Talbott et al. 364/467
5,586,052 12/1996 Iannuzzi et al. 364/512
5,659,478 8/1997 Pennisi et al. 364/468.01

[75] Inventors: **Neeraj Gupta; Venky Veeraraghavan; Ajay Agarwal**, all of Austin, Tex.

Primary Examiner—Kevin A. Kriess
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hecker & Harriman

[73] Assignee: **Trilogy Development Group, Inc.**, Austin, Tex.

[57] ABSTRACT

[21] Appl. No.: **707,187**

The invention provides the ability to interactively select and configure a product among a set of related products based on availability and compatibility of features and options. It does not impose an order in the selection of products, features or options; only valid selections can be made at any time. To create an electronic representation of the product information to achieve the above goal, the invention provides a framework for defining a systems by defining the components of the system using elements contained in a parts catalog and defining relationships between the components of a system. A configuration system validates a configuration using the system definition, the current state of the configuration and user input.

[22] Filed: **Sep. 3, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 1/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **364/468.09**; 364/488

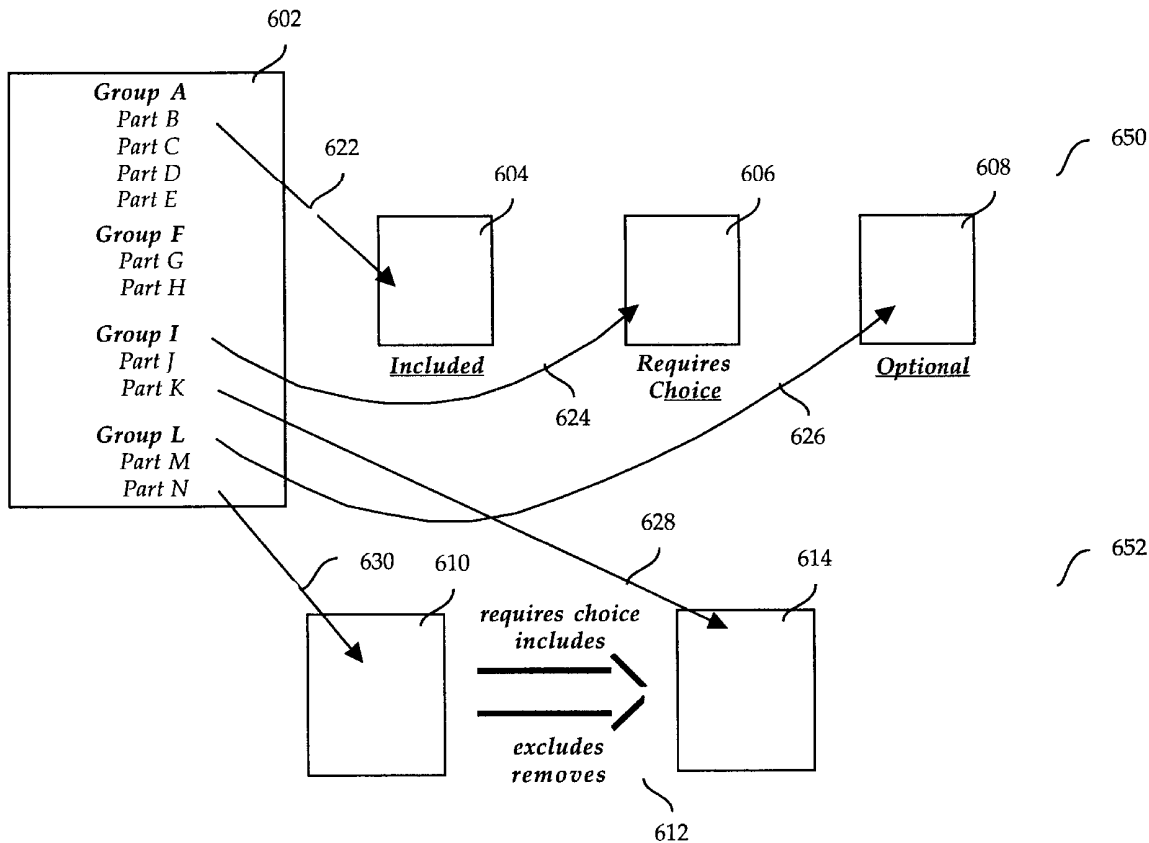
[58] **Field of Search** 364/468.09, 468.02, 364/468.03, 468.1, 488; 395/651

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,796,194 1/1989 Atherton .
5,019,961 5/1991 Adesso et al. 364/192
5,019,992 5/1991 Brown et al. 364/468

85 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets



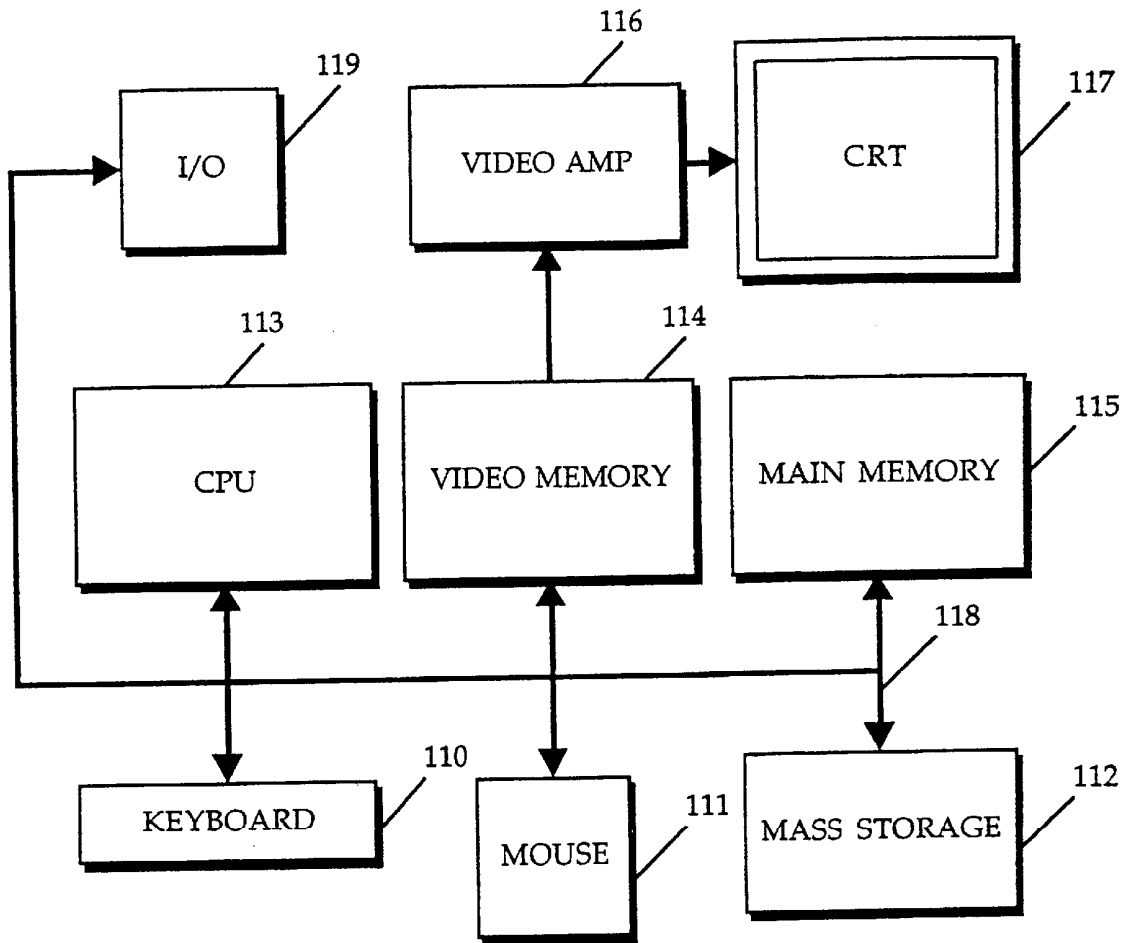


FIG. 1

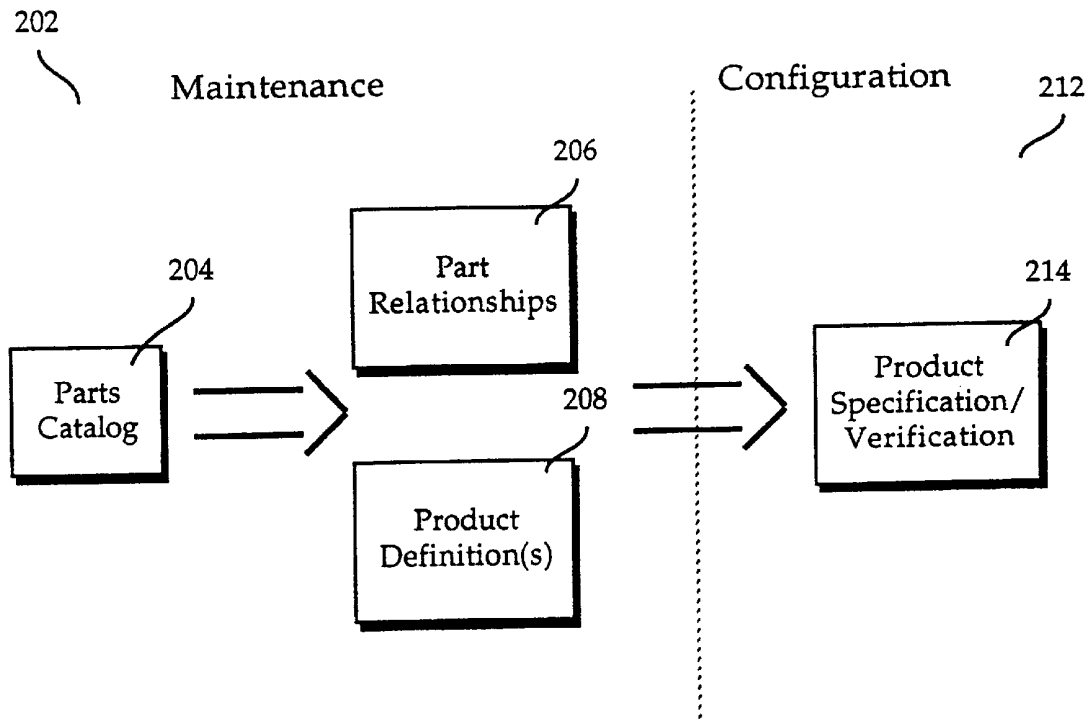


FIG. 2

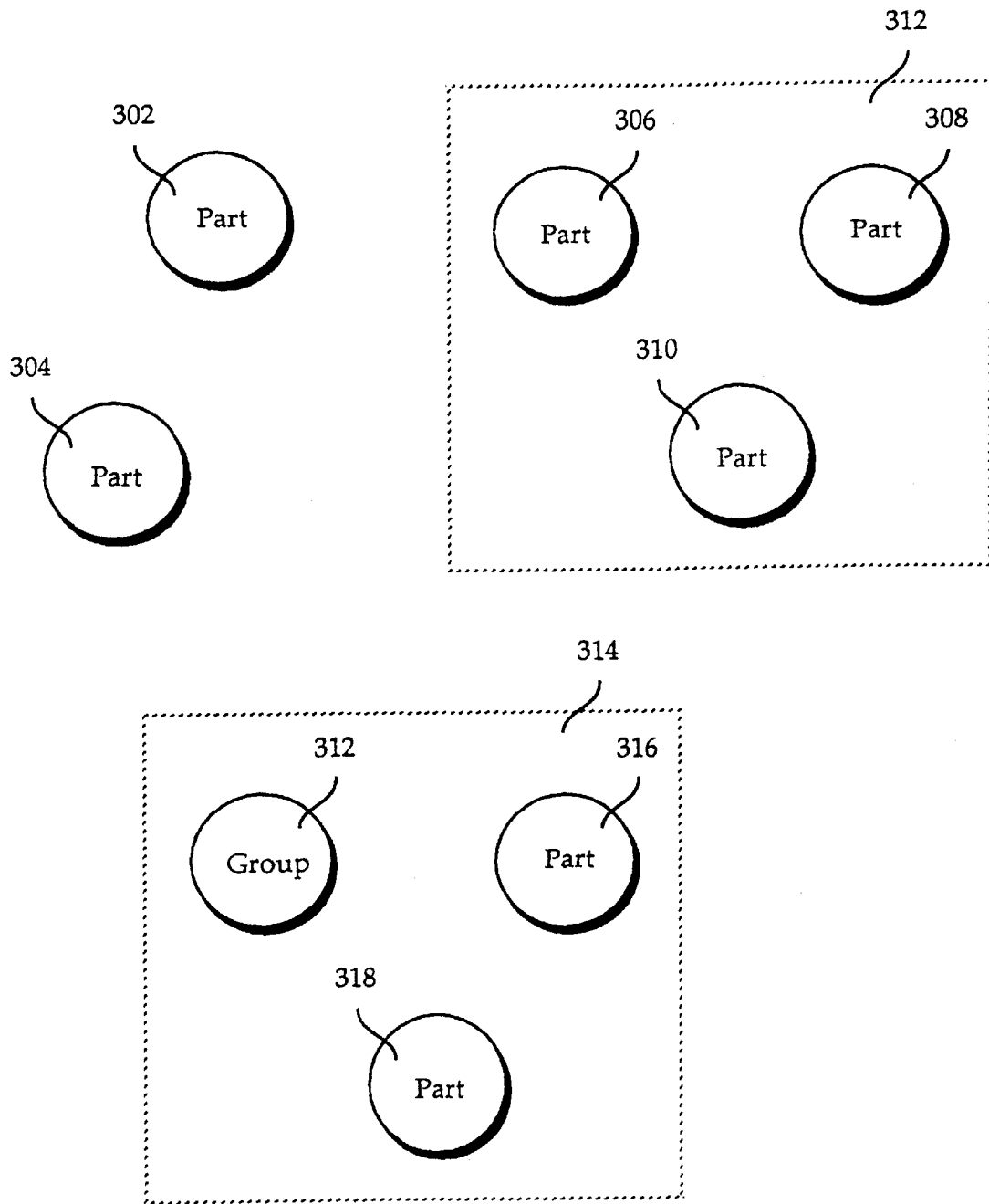


FIG. 3

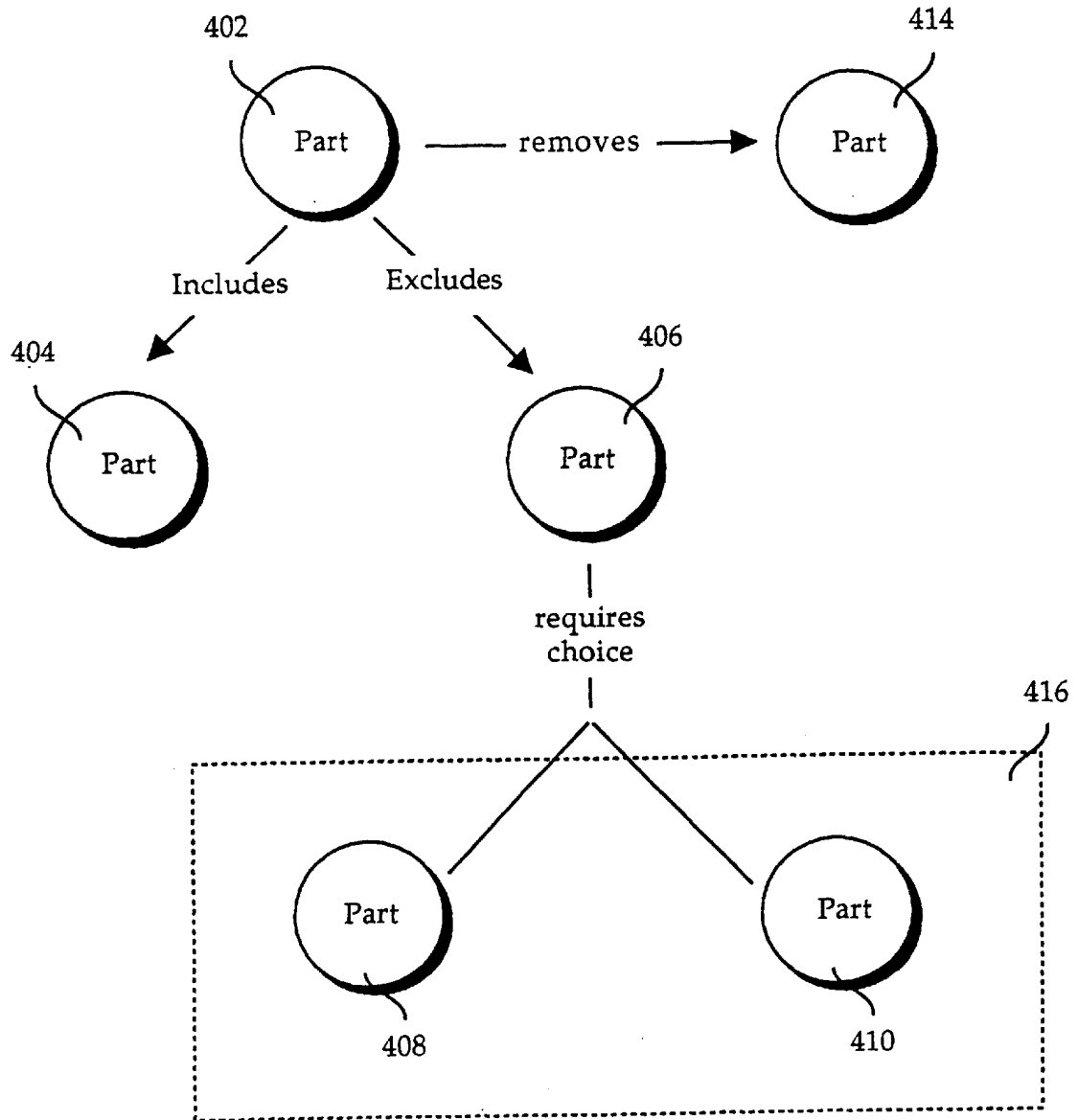


FIG. 4

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.