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United States Patent [19]

Nielsen

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[54] **TOOLTIPS ON WEBPAGES**

[75] Inventor: **Jakob Nielsen**, Atherton, Calif.

[73] Assignee: **Sun Microsystems, Inc.**, Palo Alto, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/643,893**

[22] Filed: **May 7, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 15/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **707/513**; 707/501; 345/337; 345/338

[58] **Field of Search** 395/337, 338, 395/762, 774; 345/337, 338; 707/501, 513

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Assistant Examiner—Motilewa A. Good-Johnson
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Graham & James LLP

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus that allows a Web page designer to specify tooltips for his Web page. Tooltips are text areas that display automatically when the user places the cursor over predetermined text on a display device. The invention also enables Web browser software to display the tooltips specified by the designer. The HTML format extension allows a Web page designer to specify the text over which the user must place the cursor to activate tooltips. The HTML extension also allows the designer to specify the tooltip text that will be displayed when the cursor reaches the specified text. Using the present invention, the designer only needs to specify tooltips for any given information once per page, even though the displayed information may appear multiple times on the Web page.

6 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

STATUS

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Name: Dr. Jakob Nielsen
Userid: jn

Point Balance: 184243 as of 03/11/96

Points Earned Due to Flight Mileage

	Carrier	Flight Date	Flight Number	From City	To City	Flight Miles	Bonus Miles	Total Miles
302	UA	15-FEB-96	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078
	UA	01-FEB-96	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
	UA	16-DEC-95	0073	EWR	SFO	2565	2565	5130
	UA	09-DEC-95	0036	SFO	BOS	2704	2704	5408
	UA	21-NOV-95	0806	HKG	SFO	6914	8643	15557
	UA	15-NOV-95	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
	U+	15-NOV-95	2936	LAS	SFO	414	621	1035
304	U+	12-NOV-95	2188	SFO	LAS	414	414	828
	UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

London Heathrow

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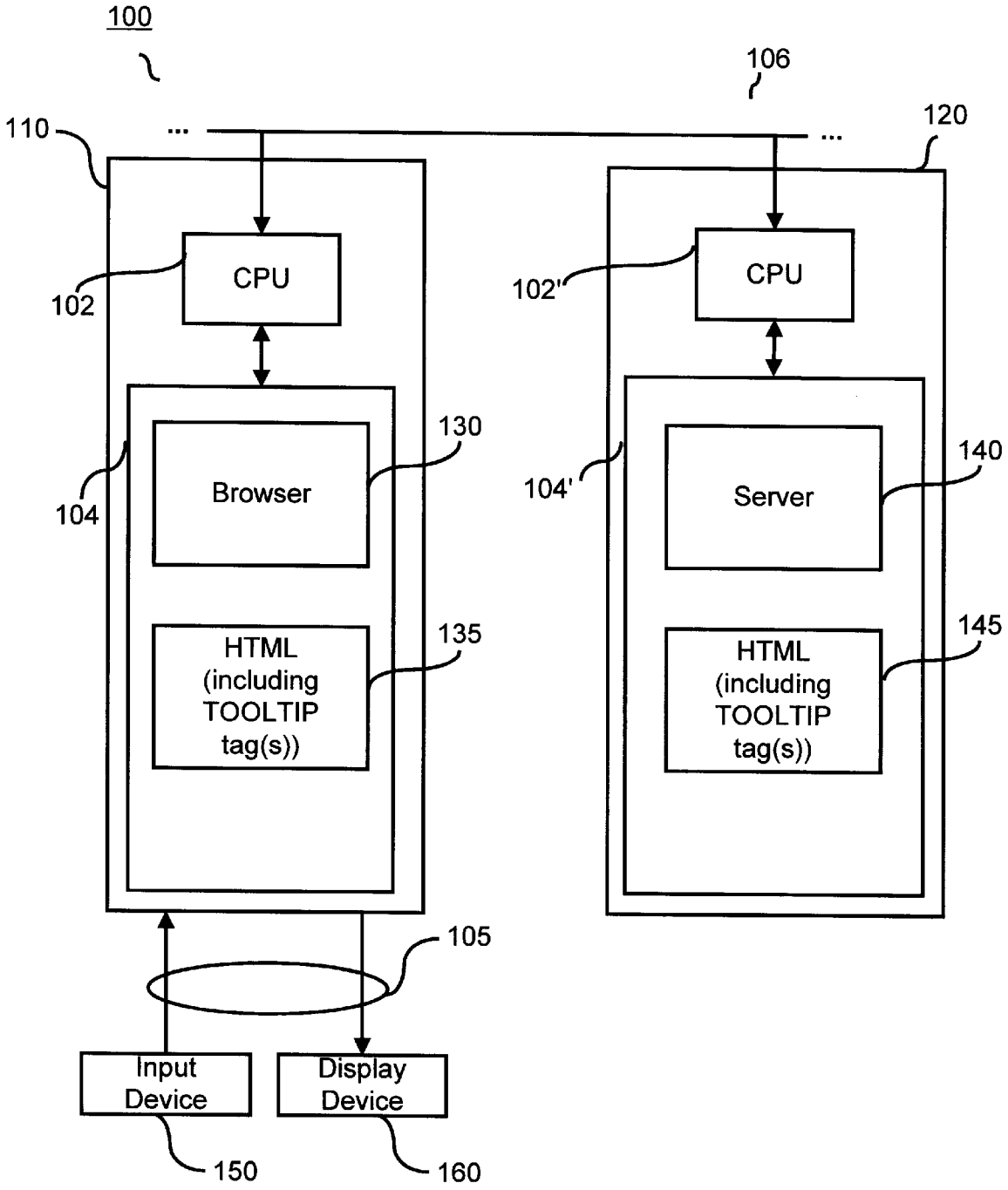

Fig. 1

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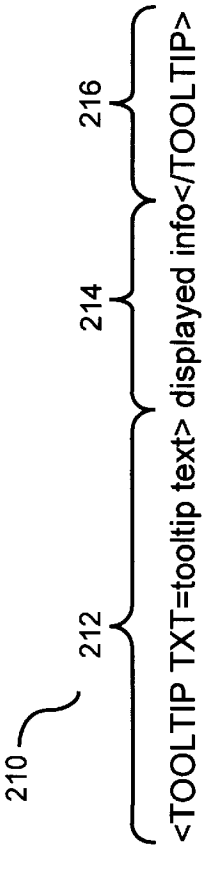

Fig. 2(a)

Fig. 2(b)

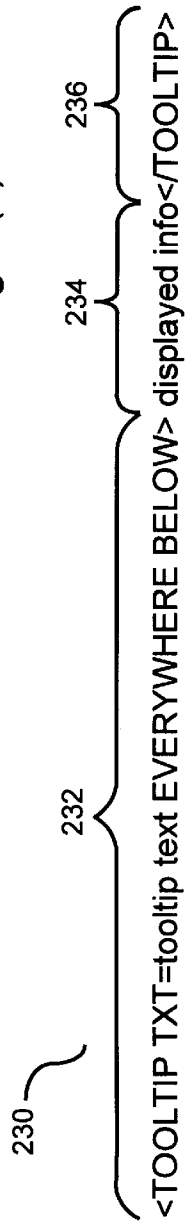

Fig. 2(c)

Fig. 2(d)

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ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Name: Dr. Jakob Nielsen
Userid: jn

FIG. 3

Point Balance: 184243 as of 03/11/96

Points Earned Due to Flight Mileage

	Carrier	Flight Date	Flight Number	From City	To City	Flight Miles	Bonus Miles	Total Miles
302	UA	15-FEB-96	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078
	UA	01-FEB-96	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
	UA	16-DEC-95	0073	EWR	SFO	2565	2565	5130
	UA	09-DEC-95	0036	SFO	BOS	2704	2704	5408
	UA	21-NOV-95	0806	HKG	SFO	6914	8643	15557
	UA	15-NOV-95	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
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	UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

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ACCOUNT SUMMARY

FIG. 4

Name: Dr. Jakob Nielsen
Userid: jn

Point Balance: 184243 as of 03/11/96

Points Earned Due to Flight Mileage

	Carrier	Flight Date	Flight Number	From City	To City	Flight Miles	Bonus Miles	Total Miles
302				London Heathrow				
	UA	15-FEB-96	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078
	UA	01-FEB-96	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
	UA	16-DEC-95	0073	EWR	SFO	2565	2565	5130
	UA	09-DEC-95	0036	SFO	BOS	2704	2704	5408
	UA	21-NOV-95	0806	HKG	SFO	6914	8643	15557
	UA	15-NOV-95	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
	U+	15-NOV-95	2936	LAS	SFO	414	621	1035
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	UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

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