



US005937417A

**United States Patent** [19]  
**Nielsen**

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,937,417**  
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 10, 1999**

- [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.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **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**

McKinstry, Christopher, "tooltips (in client side image maps)", Web Page (cmckin@clickable.com), Nov. 2, 1995.

McKinstry; "tooltips (in client side image maps)"; http://www.acl.lanl.gov/HTML\_WG/html-wg-95q4.messages/0462.html; (p. 1), Nov. 1995.

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*Assistant Examiner*—Motlewa 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.

[56] **References Cited**

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Harvey, David A., "Working on the Web: HTML authoring tools.", Computer Shopper, pp. 1-8, Nov. 1995.

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**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	-----	-----	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
304	U+	12-NOV-95	2188	SFO	LAS	414	414	828
	UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

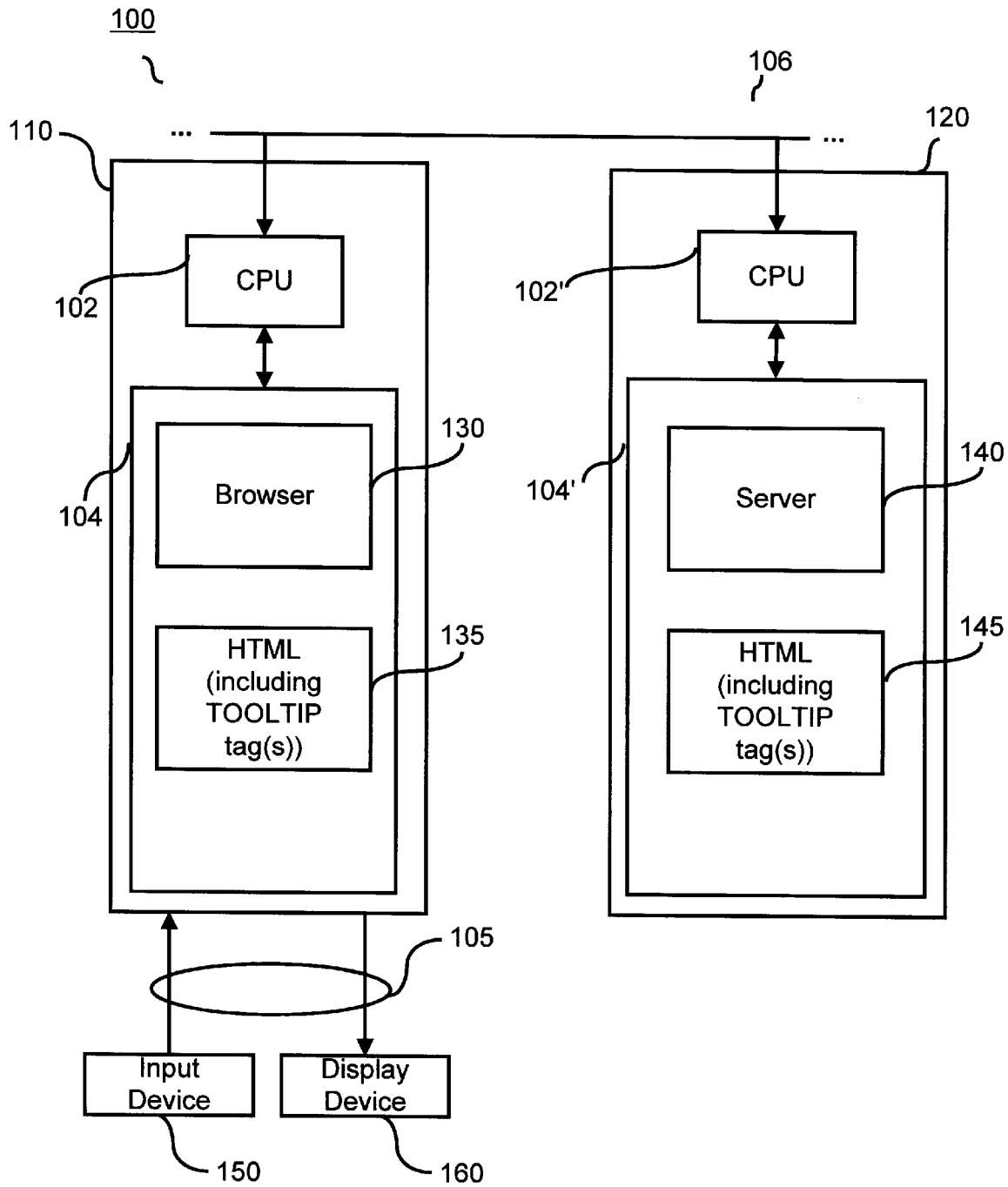
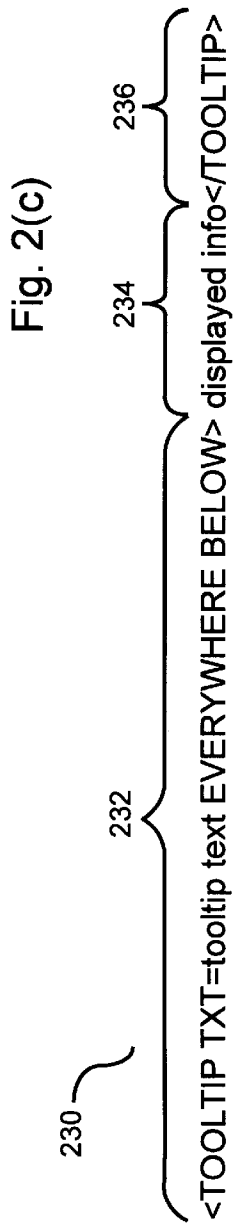
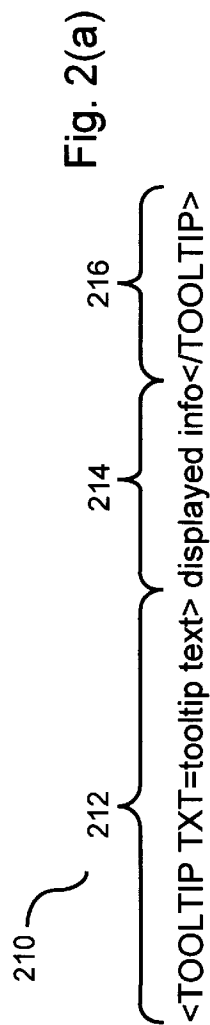


Fig. 1



STATUS

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

FIG. 3

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
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	U+	15-NOV-95	2936	LAS	SFO	414	621	1035
	U+	12-NOV-95	2188	SFO	LAS	414	414	828
304	UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

STATUS

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
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
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UA	15-NOV-95	0835	SFO	HKG	6914	8643	15557
U+	15-NOV-95	2936	LAS	SFO	414	621	1035
U+	12-NOV-95	2188	SFO	LAS	414	414	828
UA	10-NOV-95	0931	LHR	SFO	5368	6710	12078

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