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## (12) United States Patent MacPhail

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### (54) METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISPLAYING STATUS OF CRITICAL INDICATORS ON DIVERSE DISPLAY DEVICES

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 09/548,696

(22) Filed: Apr. 13, 2000

977; 700/27; 710/15, 17, 18, 19

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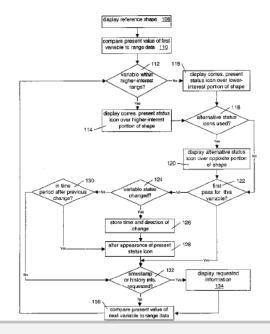
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#### (57) ABSTRACT

In a system and method for displaying status of critical indicators or variables, icons representing the indicators are displayed in superposition with a reference shape. The reference shape is divided into "higher-interest" and "lowerinterest" portions, such that display of an icon over the higher-interest portion of the reference shape indicates a higher-interest value of the corresponding variable. The reference shape is preferably elongated horizontally, with its upper portion designated as the higher-interest portion and its lower portion designated the lower-interest portion. Each monitored variable may be allocated a vertical "slice" of the reference shape, such that the position of the corresponding icon when the variable is in the higher-interest state is laterally aligned with the position of the icon when the variable is in the lower-interest state. In some embodiments, a single icon representing the present status of the corresponding variable is positioned over either the higherinterest or lower-interest portion of the reference shape. Alternatively, two icons may be used for each variable, where one is positioned over the higher-interest portion and the other over the lower-interest portion. This representation is believed to make the status of each monitored variable visible at a glance. The simplicity of the representation may allow it to be used effectively on various computational devices, including those with small, monochrome displays.

## 28 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets





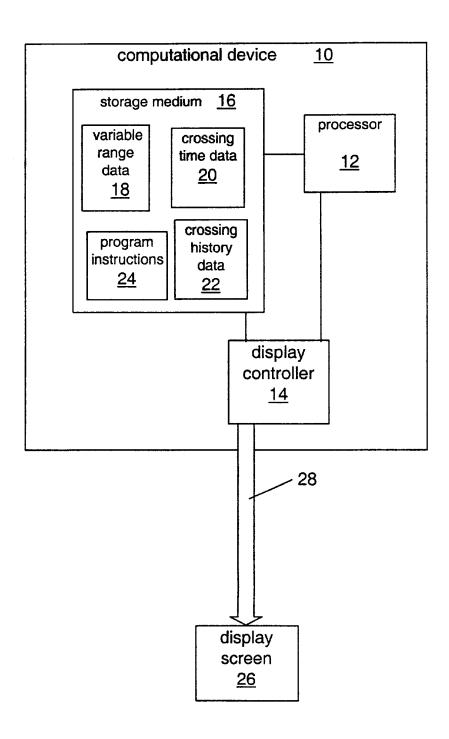
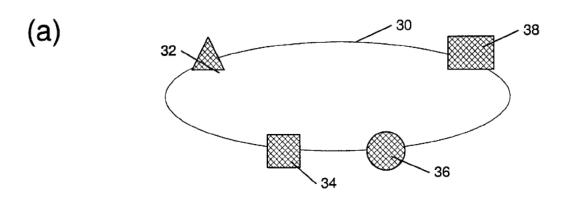
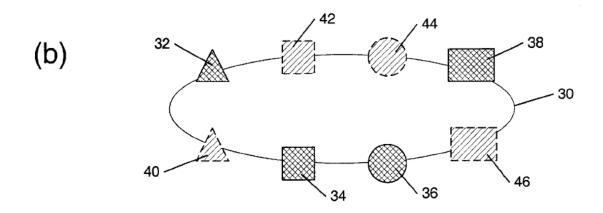


Fig. 1



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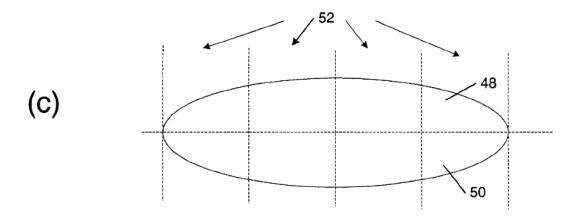
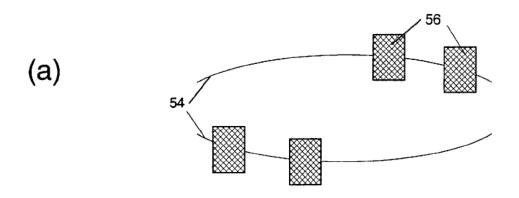
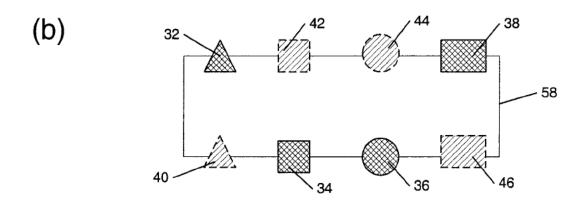


Fig. 2



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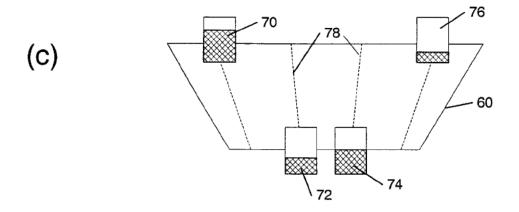
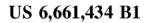
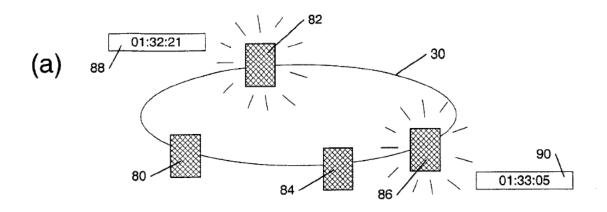


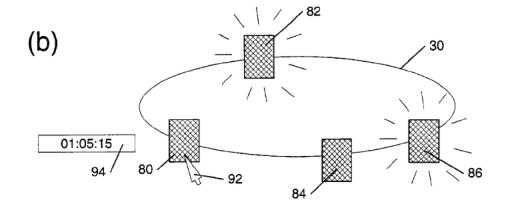
Fig. 3







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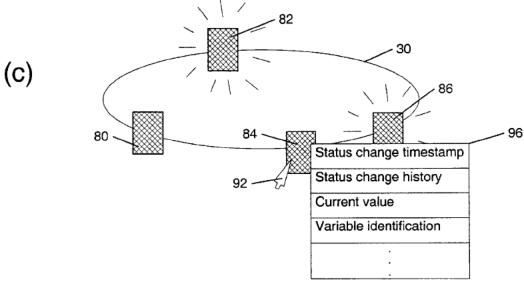


Fig. 4

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