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Gustman

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS MANAGEMENT OF MULTIMEDIA ASSETS**

(75) Inventor: **Samuel Gustman**, Santa Monica, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Survivors of THW Shoah Visual History Foundation**, Los Angeles, CA (US)

(*) Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution 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).

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

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **G06F 17/30**

(52) U.S. Cl. **707/3; 707/1; 707/2; 707/4; 707/5; 707/104; 709/216**

(58) Field of Search 707/104, 1, 2, 707/3, 4, 5; 370/338, 395, 367, 452, 231; 395/500, 200.7, 38, 49, 79; 345/352; 709/216; 710/74; 712/220

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Primary Examiner—Thomas G. Black

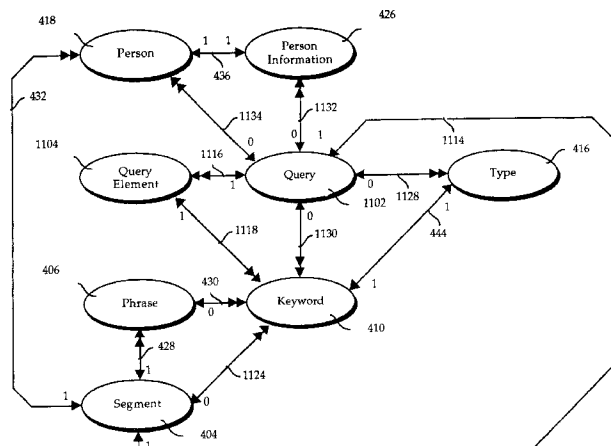
Assistant Examiner—Diane D. Mizrahi

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—The Hecker Law Group

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention is a generalized solution for management of multimedia assets. Generalized interfaces are used between a browser component, indexing server, archive server, tertiary storage manager, and method player components. The generalized interface defines a communication protocol that can be used by any browser, indexing server, archive server, tertiary storage manager, or method player component. Thus, system components supplied by multiple vendors can be interconnected to form a multimedia system that communicates using the generalized interfaces of the invention. A browser component can accept input such as search requests and display multimedia data. An indexing server component includes a data catalogue that catalogues multimedia data. The catalogue can be used to identify catalogue elements associated with data that can satisfy a search request. A search mechanism is used to identify the desired multimedia data. A search mechanism can create additional catalogues that are a subset of the catalogue provided on the indexing server. An archive server identifies a tertiary storage manager that manages the store containing the multimedia data. The tertiary storage manager retrieves the corresponding multimedia data from its store and sends it to a method play which plays it in a display region of the browser. The invention retains the content and results of a search such that it is only necessary to perform a search once. Search elements are used to store the content of a search, i.e., search criteria. A segment element is used to store the results of a search.

18 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets



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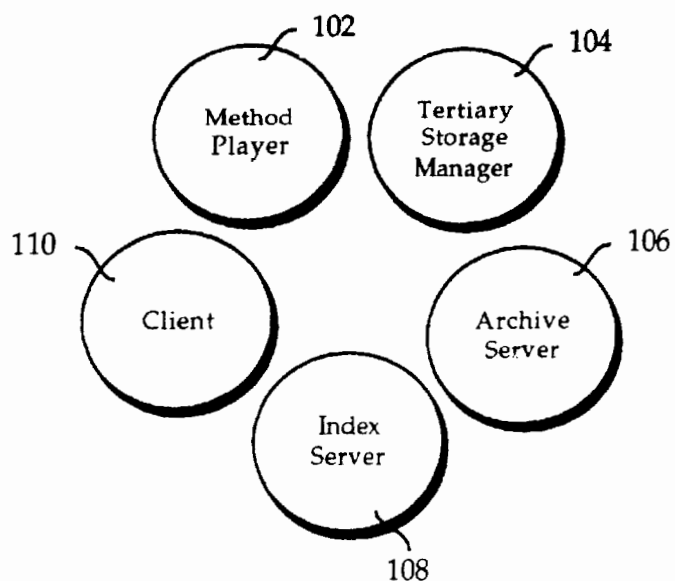


FIG. 1A

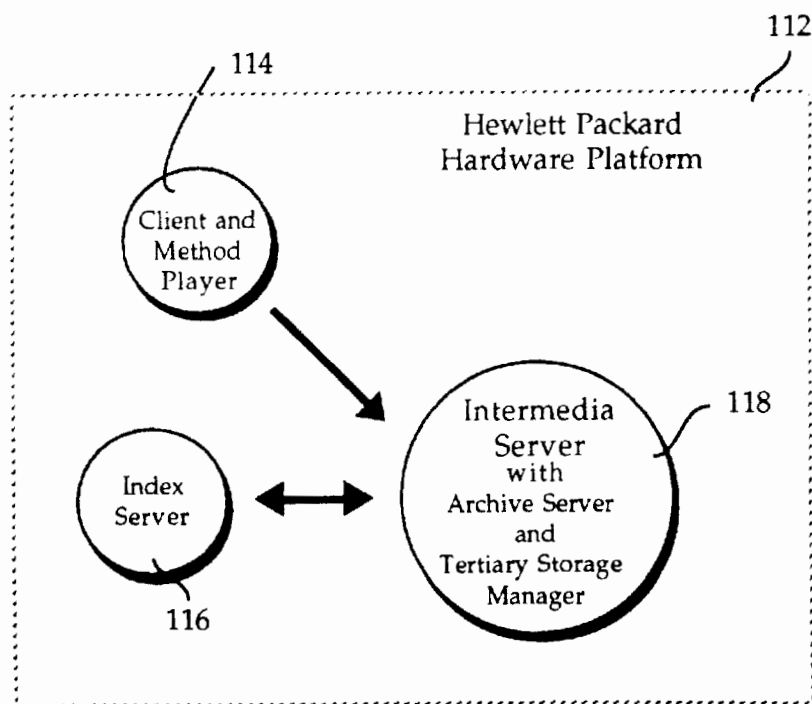


FIG. 1B

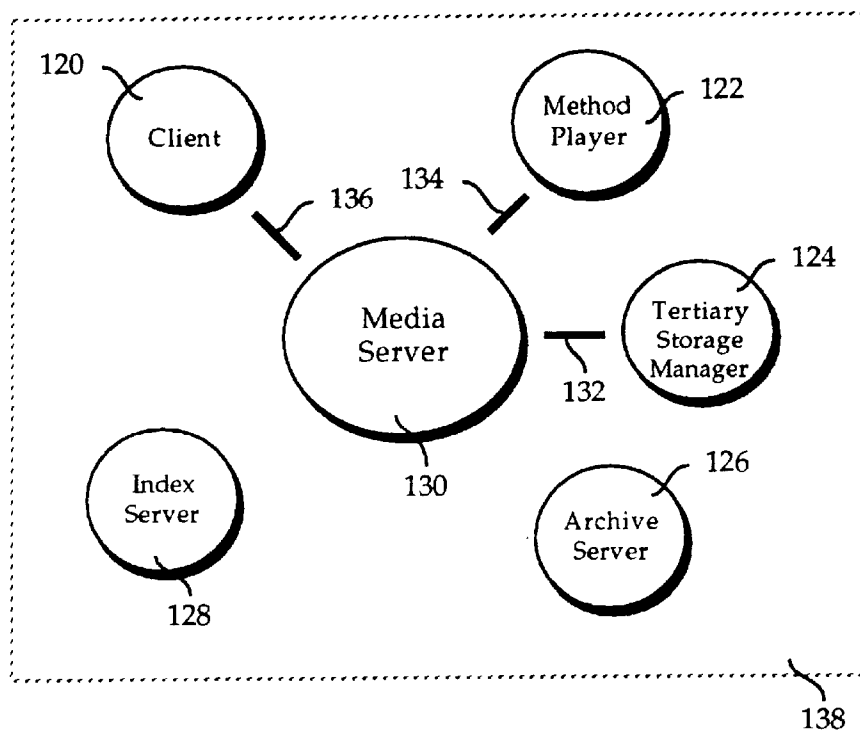


FIG. 1C

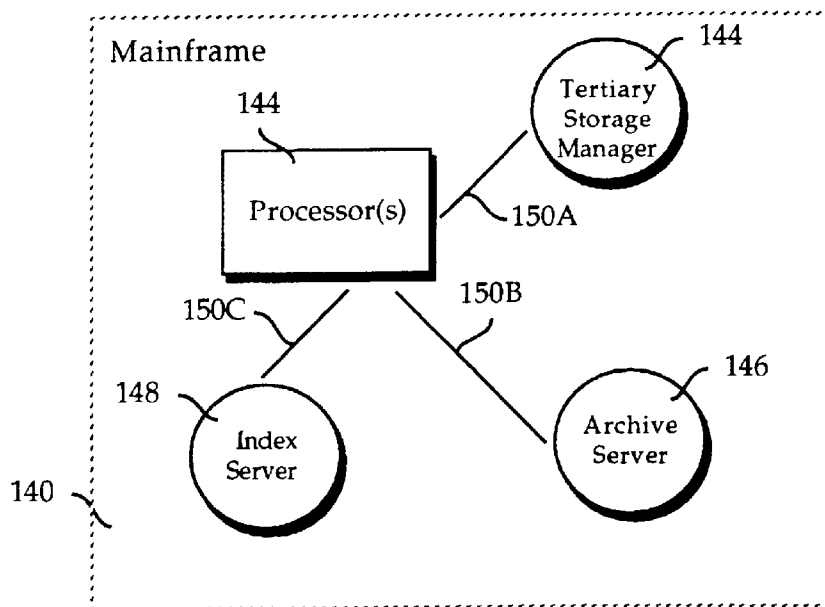


FIG. 1D

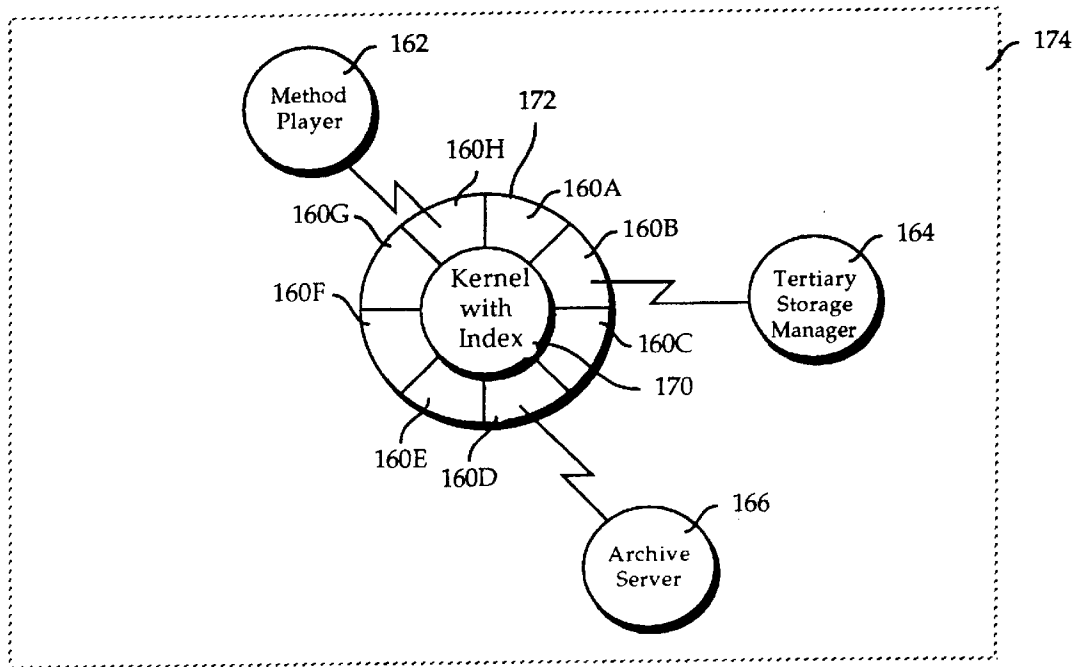


FIG. 1E

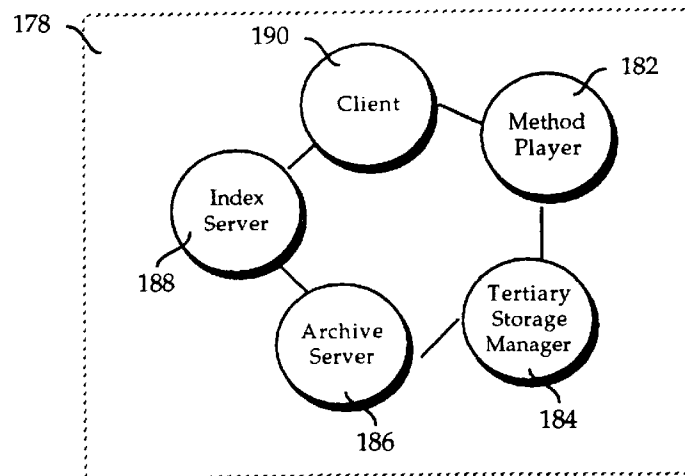


FIG. 1F

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