

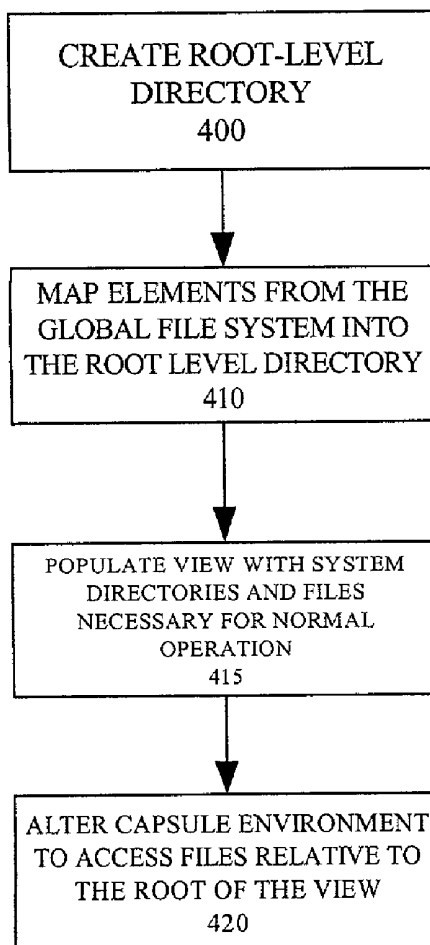


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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0095479 A1**
Schmidt (43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 18, 2002**(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIRTUAL
NAMESPACES FOR ACTIVE COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENTS**(52) **U.S. Cl. 709/218; 709/200**(57) **ABSTRACT**(76) **Inventor: Brian Keith Schmidt, Mountain View,
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The present invention provides private namespaces for active computing environments. The invention uses one or more "compute capsules". A compute capsule is a private, portable, persistent environment. Each compute capsule comprises an arbitrary set of active processes and their associated state information. In one embodiment, compute capsules provide a private, customizable view of a shared file system, so that users can modify arbitrary files without the expense of providing each person with a separate and complete file system image. In one embodiment, the invention provides environments with different personalities, each of which can be contained within a capsule. For example, a user can have one capsule for normal desktop usage, a fail-safe capsule with a minimal environment and no external dependencies, capsules for work-related and personal activities, etc. In one embodiment, capsules are given access rights.

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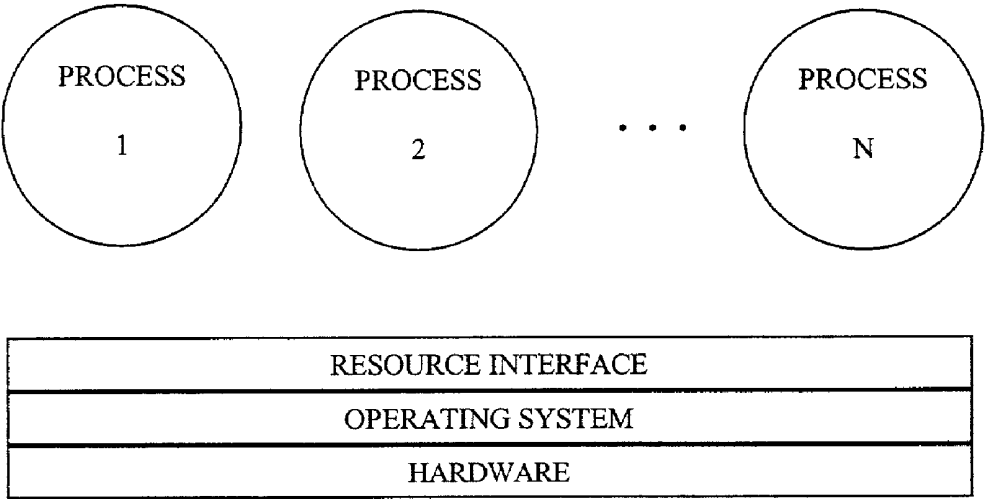


FIGURE 1

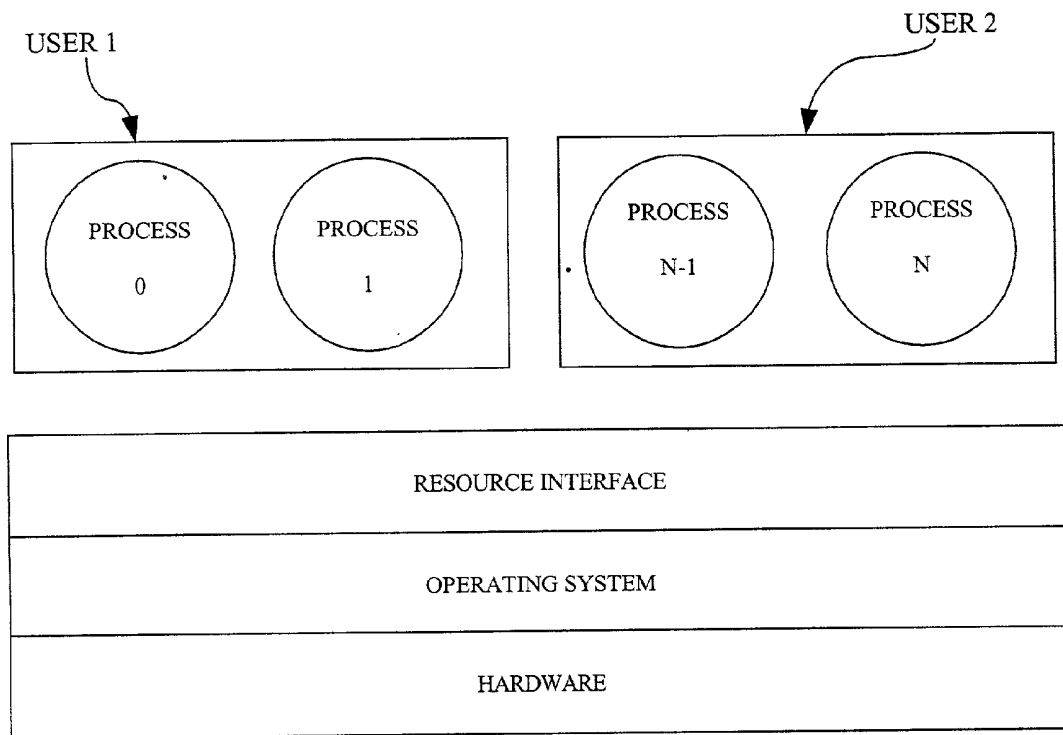


FIGURE 2

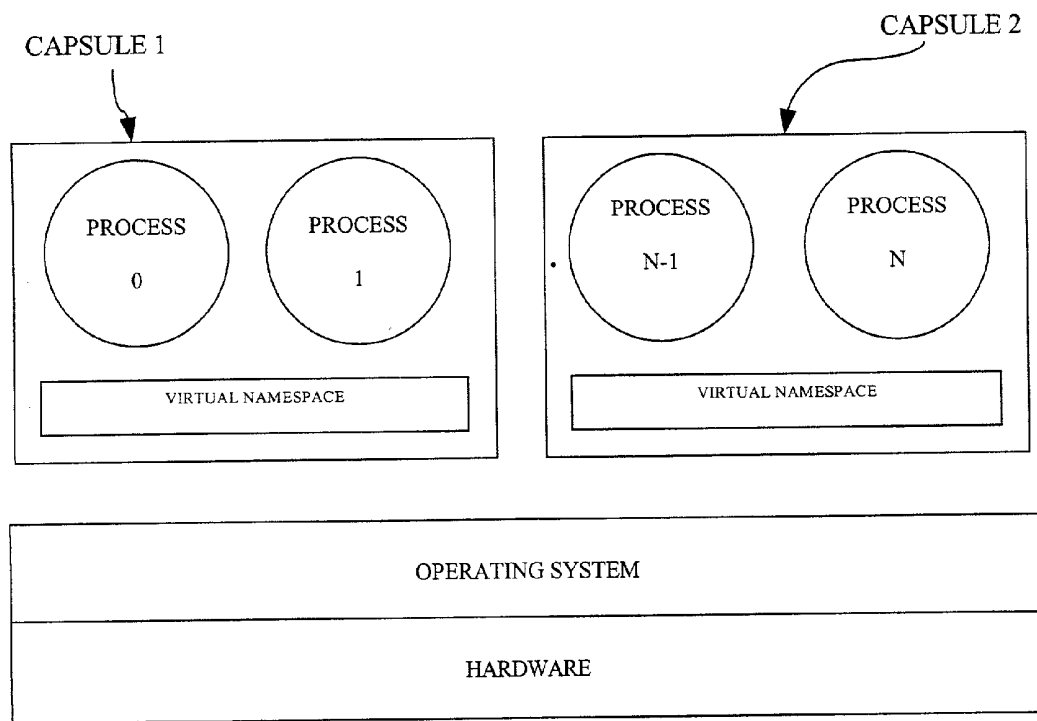


FIGURE 3

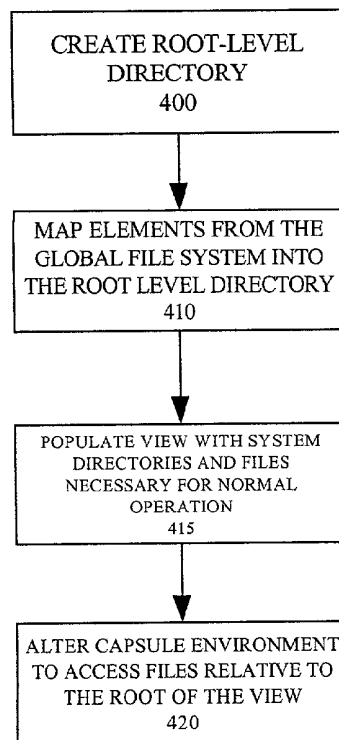


FIGURE 4

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