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**Mathews et al.**

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PROVIDING ACCESS TO DRAWING  
INFORMATION**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 535 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-  
claimer.

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30, 1999.

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**G06F 17/50** (2006.01)  
**G06F 7/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **703/1; 715/964; 707/3**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **703/1;**  
**345/672, 595; 700/98, 182; 715/964; 707/3**  
See application file for complete search history.

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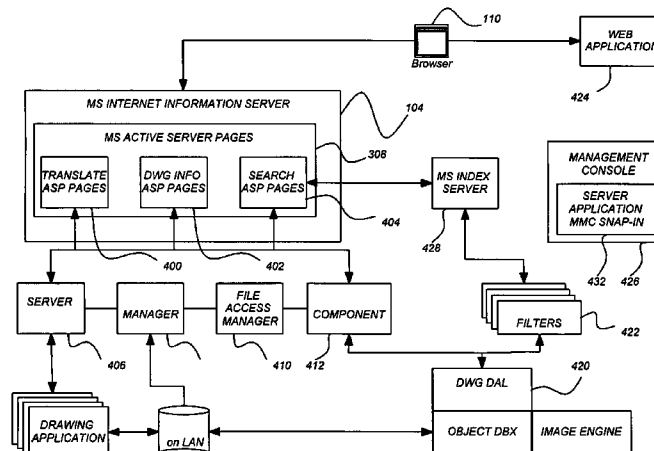
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(57)

**ABSTRACT**

A computer implemented system, method, and article of  
manufacture provide access to a drawing. A server computer  
has one or more server component applications. One or more  
drawing files are created by a first drawing application and  
stored on the server computer. A search server component  
application executes on the server computer and provides a  
query engine that allows queries of the one or more drawing  
files to locate data. A conversion server component applica-  
tion executes on the server computer and dynamically convert  
the drawing files into a drawing file format viewable by a  
client application executing on a client computer. The server  
component applications are further configured to provide the  
one or more drawing files that have been dynamically con-  
verted to the client computer.

**21 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



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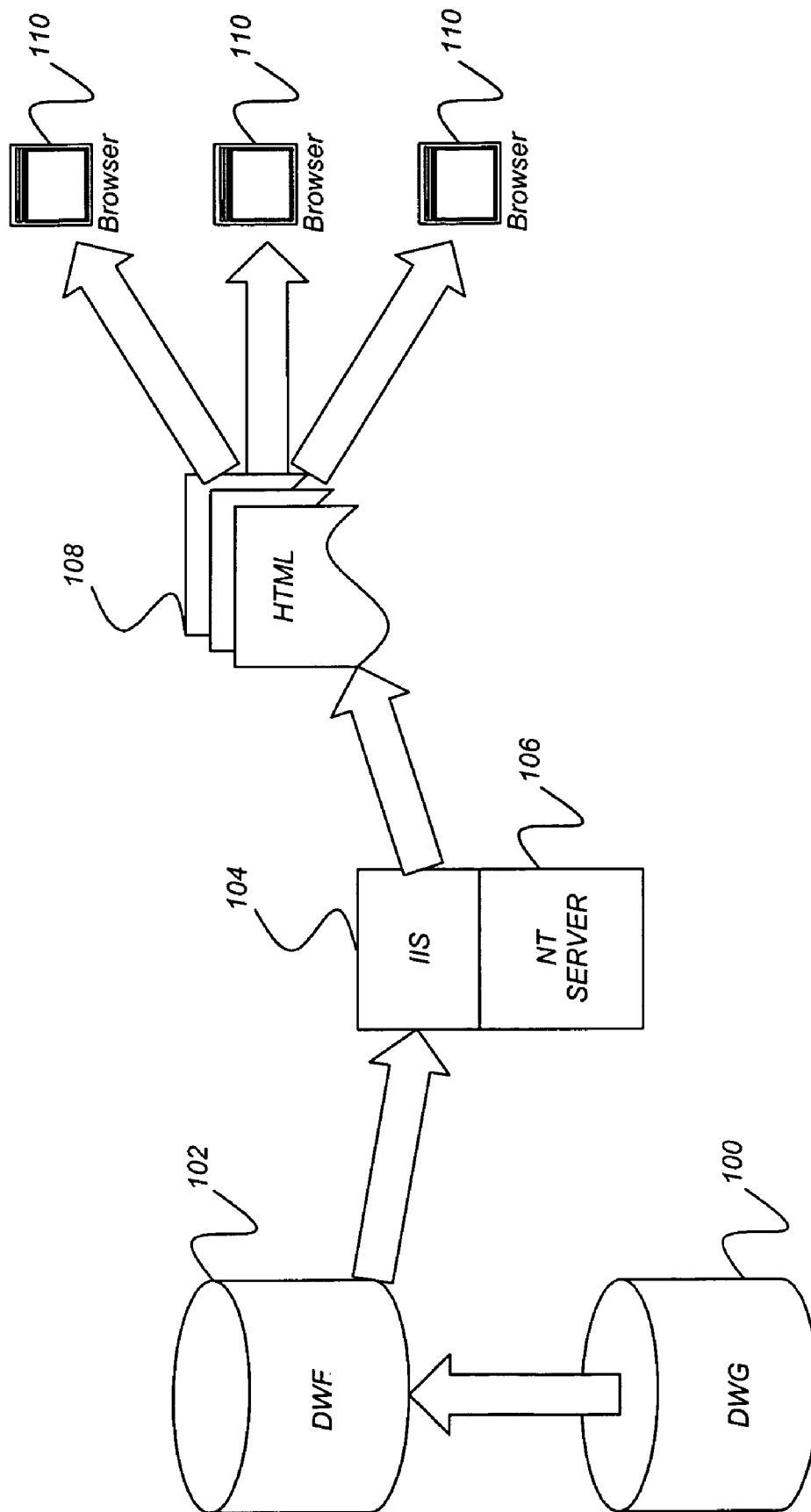


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

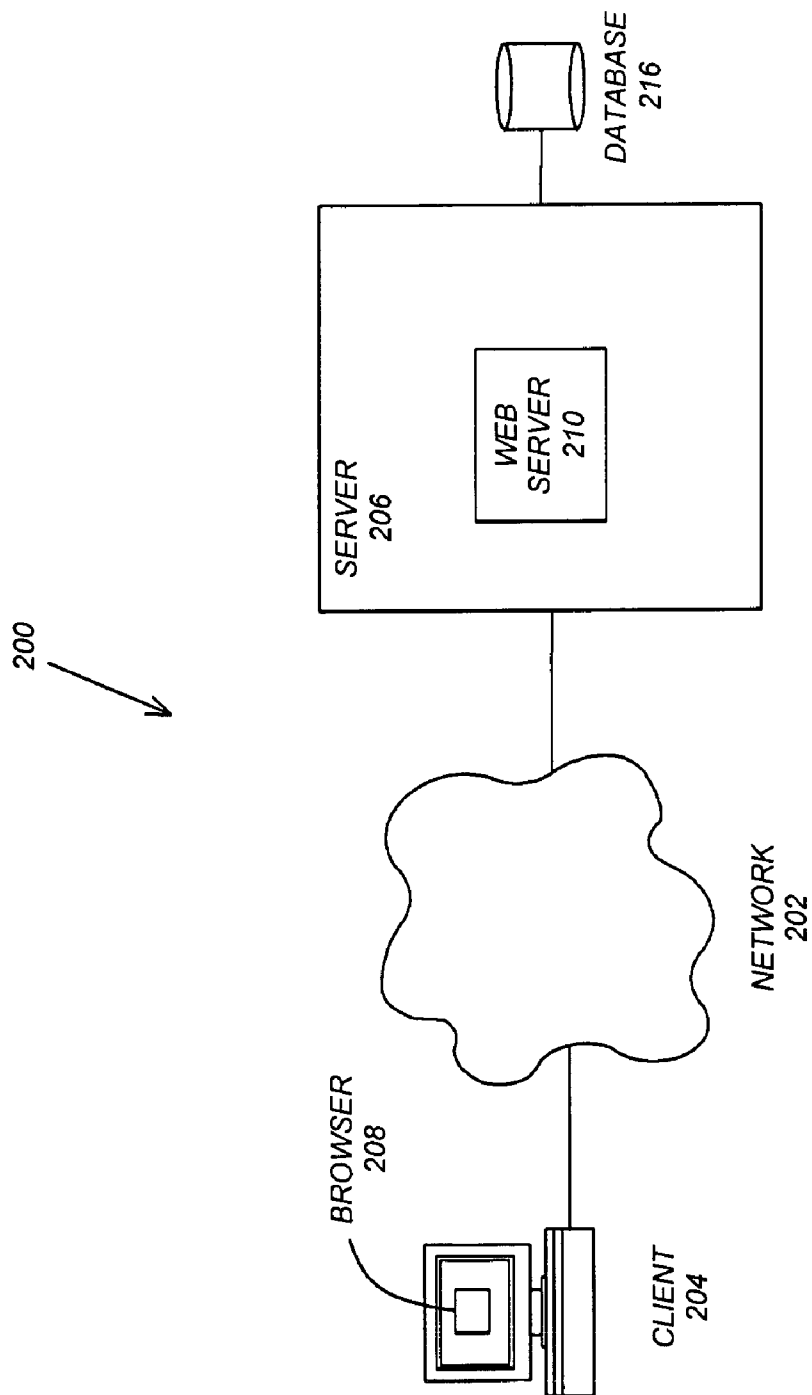


FIG. 2

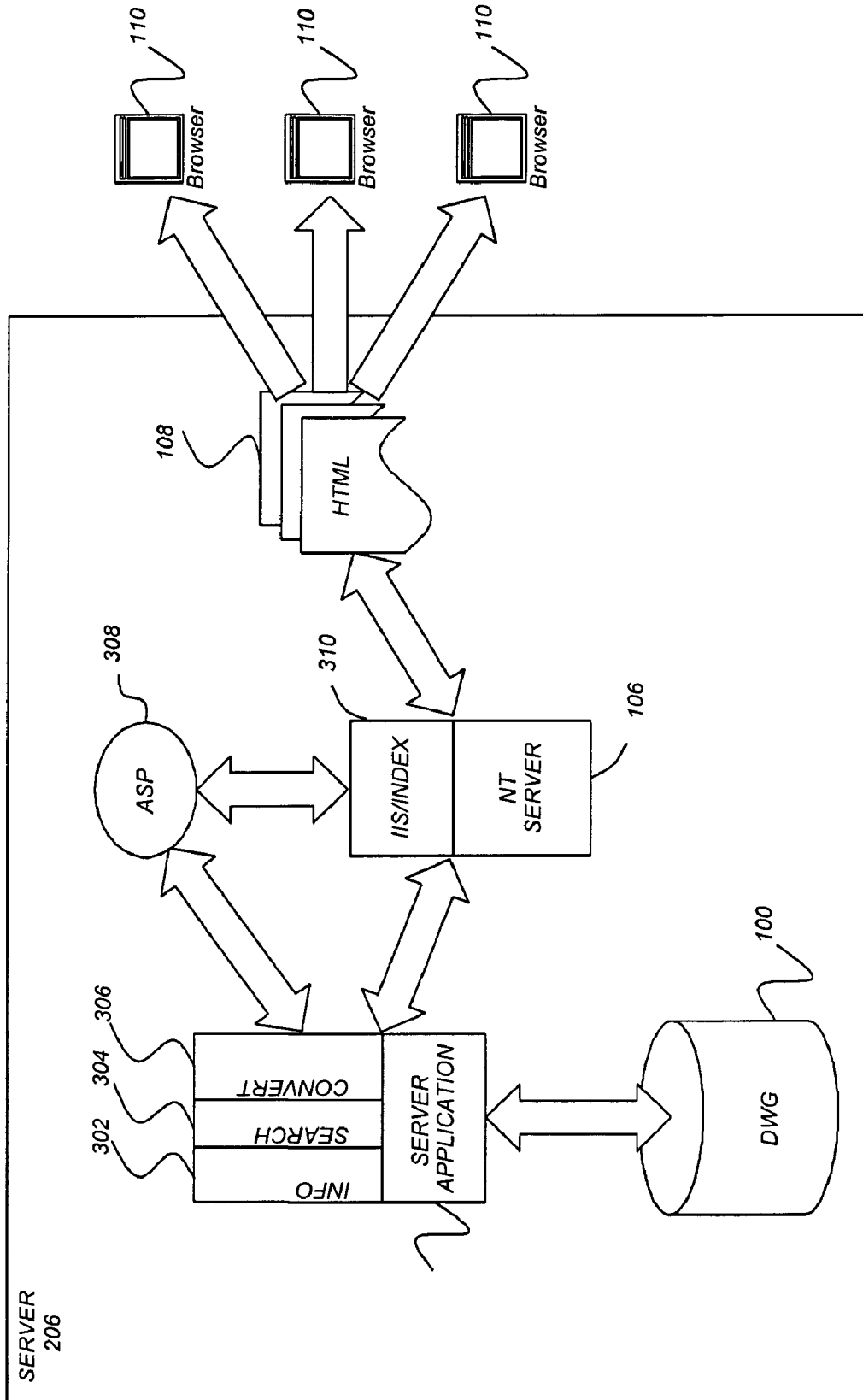


FIG. 3



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