

THREE-DIMENSIONAL MASSIVE MODEL VISUALIZATION DATABASE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Field:

The present disclosure relates generally to manufacturing, and in particular, to a method and apparatus for manufacturing vehicles using a three-dimensional massive model visualization system.

2. Background:

In manufacturing aircraft, large three-dimensional data sets, referred to here as three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, are used to display three-dimensional models of an aircraft to users. A three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is a collection of three-dimensional models in vehicles, such as aircraft. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may have a myriad of models for thousands to millions of parts for the vehicle.

The display of these three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are often referred to as massive model visualizations (MMV). For example, a user may visualize different configurations of an aircraft in which these configurations are displayed using a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set of the aircraft of interest. Different options may be selected to display how different configurations would look.

Further, the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are also used in the manufacturing process for aircraft. With three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, visualizations of the progress of the aircraft may be made to more effectively communicate information to engineers,

managers, or other human operators involved in the manufacturing process.

For example, the assemblies in an aircraft may be displayed in a manner to show the state of assemblies for the aircraft at different times, as well as the current state of the aircraft. With this display, the human operator may quickly obtain an understanding of the assembly progress for a particular aircraft on a line.

Further, the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be displayed to show the state of work orders for different assemblies. For example, the aircraft may be displayed with color coding or other graphic indicators to indicate the state of work orders for different assemblies. For example, color coding displayed with the assemblies to indicate the state of work orders, such as on time, delayed, completed, in progress, or other states of manufacture.

Three-dimensional massive model visualization of complex objects, such as aircraft, usually involve the display of large amounts of three-dimensional model geometry that may originate from many different storage locations. Locating and processing the three-dimensional model items needed for visualizing an aircraft may be a challenging and time-consuming process.

Three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be used to visualize complex objects such as aircraft. Three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are pre-built, self-contained datasets that have been optimized to allow for high-performance interactive visualization of complex three-dimensional data.

Currently, the user locates the three-dimensional models needed to build a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set for a configuration that the user desires to see for an aircraft. The user then builds the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the user computer. This process requires the user to know how to configure the build process.

Additionally, having available computing resources to process all the models and other data needed for a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is also needed on a user computer.

5 Therefore, it would be desirable to have a method and apparatus that take into account at least some of the issues discussed above, as well as other possible issues. For example, it would be desirable to have a method and apparatus that overcome a technical problem with finding, building, and
10 managing three-dimensional objects using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets.

SUMMARY

An embodiment of the present disclosure provides a method for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets. The method comprises compiling a list of objects for which the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built. The method automatically builds the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for objects in the list of objects using a computer system. The method stores the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in a group of repositories. The method distributes at least one three-dimensional model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets to at least one of a plurality of client devices. The method receives, from the at least one of the plurality of client devices, user input of a request for selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date. The method also selectively updates the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received by updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the at least one client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models.

Another embodiment of the present disclosure provides a method for displaying three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on a client device. The method comprises displaying a vehicle list of vehicles displayable that are on the client device. The method downloads a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets corresponding to a vehicle selected from the vehicle list from a group of repositories in a computer system. The method displays a three-dimensional massive model visualization of the vehicle using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set downloaded to the client device.

Yet another embodiment of the present disclosure provides a three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system. The system comprises a group of repositories, a computer system, a data set manager and a client device.

The data set manager runs on the computer and is configured to compile a vehicle list of vehicles for which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built. The data set manager automatically builds the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for vehicles in the vehicle list using the computer system. The data set manager stores the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in the group of repositories. The data set manager distributes at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets to at least one of a plurality of client devices. The data set manager receives, from the at least one of the plurality of client devices, user input of a request for selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date. The client device is local to a user and is configured to request the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets from the group of repositories for displaying a three-dimensional massive model visualization for at least one vehicle in the vehicle list of vehicles. The client device is also configured to update the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on a client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models when the user input is received.

The features and functions can be achieved independently in various embodiments of the present disclosure or may be combined in yet other embodiments in which further details can be seen with reference to the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the illustrative embodiments are set forth in the appended claims.

5 The illustrative embodiments, however, as well as a preferred mode of use, further objectives and features thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

10 **Figure 1** is an illustration of a block diagram of a three-dimensional massive model visualization environment in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

Figure 2 is an illustration of a distribution interface in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

15 **Figure 3** is an illustration of a three-dimensional massive model visualization interface in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

Figure 4 is an illustration of a flowchart of a process for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

Figure 5 is an illustration of a flowchart of a process for automatic creation of three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

25 **Figure 6** is an illustration of a flowchart of a process for retrieving a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

Figure 7 is an illustration of a block diagram of a data processing system in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

30 **Figure 8** is an illustration of an aircraft manufacturing and service method in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

Figure 9 is an illustration of an aircraft in which an illustrative embodiment may be implemented; and

Figure 10 is an illustration of a block diagram of a product management system in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account one or more different considerations. For example, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account that building a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set for complex object such as an aircraft places many requirements on a user. For example, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take account that the user will need to locate and obtain models for the different components of the aircraft, as well as other information, to build a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set. In locating models, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account that the user will need knowledge of query languages and which database selections to make in obtaining the correct models to build a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Further, the illustrative embodiments also recognize and take into account the time needed to build a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set for use in visualizing an aircraft may be longer than desired. For example, building a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set may take one hour, two hours, or some other amount of time. This amount of time maybe problematic depending on when the visualization of the aircraft is needed. For example, the time is unpractical for users who often cannot devote their computing time to that purpose.

Also, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take account that the user will need to manage the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets. The illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account that this management maybe problematic. For example, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account that the user will need to name and store the three-dimensional massive model visualization data

sets in a location for use at another time. Misplaced data, poorly managed three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, wasted hard drive space used to store old three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, as well as other issues may result. The dataset downloaded onto shared devices and using up all the storage space with multiple users. The client software may be configured for multi-user operation to overcome this problem.

Thus, the illustrative embodiments recognize and take into account that an improved process for creating and managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for users is needed. With reference now to the figures, and in particular with reference to **Figure 1**, an illustration of a block diagram of a three-dimensional massive model environment is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. As depicted, three-dimensional massive model environment **100** is an environment in which the displaying of vehicle **102** may be made using computer system **104** that generates three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** that may be distributed to client devices **120** to display massive model visualizations on those client devices.

In this illustrative example, vehicle **102** may take various forms. For example, vehicle **102** may be selected from a group comprising a mobile platform, an aircraft, an airplane, a rotorcraft, a surface ship, a tank, a personnel carrier, a train, a spacecraft, a submarine, a bus, an automobile, and other suitable types of vehicles.

As depicted, computer system **104** is a physical hardware system and includes one or more data processing systems. When more than one data processing system is present, those data processing systems are in communication with each other using a communications medium. The communications medium may be a network. The data processing systems may be selected from at

least one of a computer, a server computer, a tablet, or some other suitable type of data processing system.

As used herein, the phrase "at least one of", when used with a list of items, means different combinations of one or more of the listed items may be used, and only one of each item in the list may be needed. In other words, "at least one of" means any combination of items and number of items may be used from the list, but not all of the items in the list are required. The item may be a particular object, a thing, or a category.

For example, without limitation, "at least one of item A, item B, or item C" may include item A, item A and item B, or item B. This example also may include item A, item B, and item C or item B and item C. Of course, any combinations of these items may be present. In some illustrative examples, "at least one of" may be, for example, without limitation, two of item A, one of item B, and ten of item C; four of item B and seven of item C; or other suitable combinations.

In this illustrative example, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** is present in computer system **104**. Three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** is configured to create and manage three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** for a group of vehicles **110**. As used herein, a "group of" when used with reference to items means one or more items. For example, a group of vehicles **110** is one or more of vehicles **110**.

Three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** in computer system **104** includes data set manager **112**. As depicted, data set manager **112** in computer system **104** is configured to compile vehicle list **114** of vehicles **110** for which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** are to be built. Further, data set manager **112** is also configured to automatically build three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** for vehicles **110** in vehicle list **114**.

using computer system **104** and store three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** in a group of repositories **116**.

5 In this illustrative example, models **128** are models for vehicles **110**. In other words, these are models that may be used to create three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** for vehicles **110** identified in vehicle list **114** of vehicles **110**. Further, data set manager **112** is configured to distribute three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** to repositories **116**. The distribution is for client devices **120** to obtain three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** from repositories **116** to display three-dimensional massive model visualizations **118** for vehicles **110** using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** on client devices **120**.
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In the illustrative examples, client devices **120** are hardware devices that include processor units for processing information, such as three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108**. Client devices **120** may take a number of different forms. For example, client devices **120** maybe selected from at least one of a tablet computer, a workstation, a server computer, a laptop computer, or some other suitable type of data processing system.
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As depicted, three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** in three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** may represent a configuration for a vehicle in vehicles **110**. In another illustrative example, three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** may represent an instance of a vehicle. The representation of vehicles **110** may be for already produced vehicles, vehicles in production, vehicles that are being designed, or vehicles in some other state.
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Data set manager **112** also is configured to selectively update three-dimensional massive model visualization data set

122 in three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** in repositories **116** when three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** is out-of-date. For example, data set manager **112** may update three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** located on a group of repositories **116**.

In other illustrative examples, client devices **124** may update three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** located on client device **124**. Data set manager **112** sending at least one of a message, a command, program code, or other information to client device **124** that causes client device **124** indicate that an update is needed. The indication may be that when an updated three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is available for specific instances (e.g. a specific airplane line number). As a result, client device **124** may ask user **129** (through a dialog box of some type) if user **129** wants to update that specific instance. The update on client device **124** may be performed with a manual approval from user **129**. Client device **124** indicates if an update is available, but user **129** provides the input as to whether an update will occur.

When updating three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** on client device **124**, clients devices **124** may download all of a newest three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from a repository when user input is received to update three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122**.

In another example, at least one of data set manager **112** or client device **124** may rebuild all of three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122**. Data set manager **112** may rebuild three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** located in the repositories **116**.

Client device **124** may rebuild all of three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** on client device **124**. In another example, client device **124** may rebuild a first

portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** on client device **124** that is out-of-date while a second portion of three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** is unchanged. These portions may be different in size and the portion may be discontinuous.

In the illustrative of example, the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set may be considered to be out-of-date when the current three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on client device **124** has a different timestamp from the version in repositories **116**. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data set may also be considered to be out-of-date when a model shape has changed, a location of a model has changed, a configuration of vehicles has changed, or some other change that makes three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** no longer current.

In still another illustrative example, client device **124** may update three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122** located on client device **124** by at least one of masking a first group of models **126** or adding a second group of models **128** for three-dimensional massive model visualization data set **122**. In masking the first group of models, the item identifier may be removed from the display list.

In the illustrative example, data set manager **112** in three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** may provide the data set creation dates with three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** stored in repositories **116**. Client devices **120** may access these creation dates in repositories **116**. This data allows client devices **120** to determine what has changed.

With three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** being automatically built and updated, user **129** may more easily visualize vehicles **110** using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** corresponding to vehicles **110**. For example, three-dimensional massive model

visualizations **118** of vehicle **110** may be displayed on client device **124** using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** obtained from repositories **116**. In one illustrative example, client device **124** may display three-dimensional massive model visualization **130** for a given vehicle from vehicle list **114** of vehicles **110** that are displayable using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** stored in the group of repositories **116** in computer system **104**, to thereby display a given configuration of vehicle **102** from vehicle list **114** of vehicles **110**.

Data set manager **112** may be implemented in software, hardware, firmware or a combination thereof. When software is used, the operations performed by data set manager **112** may be implemented in program code configured to run on hardware, such as a processor unit. When firmware is used, the operations performed by data set manager **112** may be implemented in program code and data and stored in persistent memory to run on a processor unit. When hardware is employed, the hardware may include circuits that operate to perform the operations in data set manager **112** in computer system **104** within three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106**. Client device **120** includes client-side software that may be used to visualize three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** stored in repositories **116** as three-dimensional massive model visualizations **118**.

In the illustrative examples, the hardware may take a form selected from at least one of a circuit system, an integrated circuit, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a programmable logic device, or some other suitable type of hardware configured to perform a number of operations. With a programmable logic device, the device may be configured to perform the number of operations. The device may be reconfigured at a later time or may be permanently configured to perform the number of operations. Programmable logic devices

include, for example, a programmable logic array, a programmable array logic, a field programmable logic array, a field programmable gate array, and other suitable hardware devices.

Additionally, the processes may be implemented in organic components integrated with inorganic components and may be comprised entirely of organic components, excluding a human being. For example, the processes may be implemented as circuits in organic semiconductors.

Computer system **104** is a physical hardware system and includes one or more data processing systems. When more than one data processing system is present, those data processing systems are in communication with each other using a communications medium. The communications medium may be a network. The data processing systems may be selected from at least one of a computer, a server computer, a tablet, or some other suitable data processing system.

In one illustrative example, one or more technical solutions are present that overcome a technical problem with a technical problem with finding, building, and managing three-dimensional objects using three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets. As a result, one or more technical solutions may provide a technical effect to automating and increasing the ease at which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are used in client devices.

As a result, computer system **104**, when running program code for processes in data set manager **112**, operates as a special purpose computer system in which data set manager **112** in computer system **104** enables creating and performing other operations in managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108**. As used herein, the terms "computer system," "comparator," "manager," "component," or "module" may include a hardware and/or software system that operates to perform one or more functions. For example, the comparator, manager, module, component, or system may include a

computer processor, controller, or other logic-based device that performs operations based on instructions stored on a tangible and non-transitory computer readable storage medium, such as a computer memory. Alternatively, the comparator, manager,
5 module, component, or system may include a hard-wired device that performs operations based on hard-wired logic of the device.

The flowcharts, modules, or components shown in the attached figures may represent the hardware that operates based
10 on software instructions and hardware logic, the software that directs hardware to perform the operations, or a combination thereof. In particular, data set manager **112** running one or more processes on computer system **104** transforms computer system **104** into a special purpose computer system as compared to
15 currently available general computer systems that do not have data set manager **112**.

The illustration of three-dimensional massive model environment **100** in **Figure 1** is not meant to imply physical or architectural limitations to the manner in which an illustrative
20 embodiment may be implemented. Other components, in addition to or in place of the ones illustrated, may be used. Some components may be unnecessary. Also, the blocks are presented to illustrate some functional components. One or more of these blocks may be combined, divided, or combined and divided into
25 different blocks when implemented in an illustrative embodiment.

For example, different users on client device **124** share one or more common three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets that may be stored on client device **124**. In another illustrative example, the same three-dimensional massive model
30 visualization data set may be obtained from the group of repositories **116**, such as a cloud storage system, such that a user may access the same three-dimensional massive model visualization data set at different ones of client devices **120**.

Another illustrative example may be applied to objects in addition to or in place of vehicles **110**. For example, objects may be selected from at least one of a mobile platform, a stationary platform, a land-based structure, an aquatic-based structure, a space-based structure, an aircraft, a surface ship, a tank, a personnel carrier, a train, a spacecraft, a space station, a satellite, a submarine, an automobile, a power plant, a bridge, a dam, a house, a manufacturing facility, a building, or some other suitable type of object for which a three-dimensional massive model visualization is desired.

With reference next to **Figure 2**, an illustration of a distribution interface is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. In this illustrative example, distribution interface **200** is an example of a graphical user interface that may be displayed on client devices **120** of **Figure 1**.

As depicted, distribution interface **200** displays a list of three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets that may be accessed by a user. In this example, section **202** shows a list of massive model visualization data sets that may be downloaded to a client device. A selection of a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from section **202** results in the selected three-dimensional massive model visualization data set being downloaded to the client device.

In this illustrative example, section **204** illustrates three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets that have been cached or stored locally on the client device.

A user may select a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from section **204** for display. The selection of a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from section **204** results in a three-dimensional massive data set being displayed by a visualization application.

With reference now to **Figure 3**, an illustration of a three-dimensional massive model visualization interface is depicted in

accordance with an illustrative embodiment. In this illustrative example, three-dimensional massive model visualization interface **300** is an example of a graphical user interface that may be displayed on client device **124** of **Figure 1**.

In this illustrative example, airplane **302** is displayed in three-dimensional massive model visualization interface **300**. The display of airplane **302** is made in response to a selection of a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from section **204** of distribution interface **200** in **Figure 2**.

Turning next to **Figure 4**, a flowchart of a process for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The process illustrated in **Figure 4** may be implemented in three-dimensional massive model environment **100** in **Figure 1**. The different operations may be implemented as program code that is run by one or more processor units in computer system **104** in **Figure 1**. The processor units may be in the same data processing system or a different data processing systems, depending on the implementation. For example, the operations in **Figure 4** may be implemented in data set manager **112** in **Figure 1**.

The process begins by compiling a vehicle list of vehicles for which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built (operation **400**). In operation **400**, the vehicle list is a buildlist that may identify vehicles, such as aircraft by model, line number, part numbers, location of visualization data, distribution information, rebuild frequency, and other information that may be used to create three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for the vehicles.

The process automatically builds three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for vehicles in the vehicle list using a computer system (operation **402**). In operation **402**, the automatic building may be performed by a data set manager

directly, or by the data set manager initiating other processes that build the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets. Further, the building of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be initiated by trigger events. The trigger events may be, for example, a date of delivery for an aircraft, a date when manufacturing of aircraft, or other dates or events that may be used to trigger the automatic building of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets.

The process stores the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in a group of repositories (operation **404**). The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be stored in repositories in various locations. The locations of repositories may depend on various factors, such as geographic location of client devices that will access the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, network configurations, bandwidth availability, and other suitable factors.

The process distributes the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for displaying three-dimensional massive model visualizations for the vehicles using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on client devices (operation **406**). The distribution may include retrieval of the massive model visualization data sets by client devices. In other illustrative examples, the distribution includes sending location information to users. The location information may include, for example, lists or links to the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets.

The process selectively updates a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date (operation **408**). The process terminates thereafter. In other illustrative examples, this process may be repeated any number of times.

With reference next to **Figure 5**, a flowchart of a process for automatic creation of three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The process illustrated in **Figure 5** is an example of one implementation for operation 402 in **Figure 4**.

The process illustrated in **Figure 5** may be implemented in three-dimensional massive model environment 100 in **Figure 1**. The different operations may be implemented as program code that is run by one or more processor units in computer system 104 in **Figure 1**. The processor units may be in the same data processing system or different data processing systems, depending on the implementation.

The process begins by importing a build list (operation 500). The process launches a data set creation process for each vehicle in the build list (operation 502).

The process monitors the data set creation processes and output generated by the data set creation processes (operation 504). The process determines whether building of any of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets failed (operation 506). If the building of any of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets failed, the process submits those failed builds (operation 508). The process then returns to operation 504. Otherwise, the process generates a distribution list (operation 510). The process terminates thereafter.

With reference now to **Figure 6**, a flowchart of a process for retrieving a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The process illustrated in **Figure 6** may be implemented in three-dimensional massive model environment 100 in **Figure 1**. The different operations may be implemented as program code that is run by one or more processor units in computer system 104 in **Figure 1**. The processor units may be in the same data processing system or different data processing

systems, depending on the implementation. For example, these operations may be implemented in client devices **120** to generate three-dimensional massive model visualization **130** of **Figure 1**.

The process begins by identifying a data set list for a user (operation **600**). The data set list is a list of three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets that have been assigned or distributed to the user for visualization for other uses. The process displays the data set list on a graphical user interface (operation **602**).

The process receives user input selecting a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from the data set list displayed on the graphical user interface (operation **604**). The process determines whether the selected three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date (operation **606**). In operation **606**, the determination as to whether the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date may be made in a number different ways. For example, the determination may be made by comparing timestamps, date modified information, or other suitable forms of information that may be used to indicate whether a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date.

If the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date, the process warns that the selected three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date and suggests updating (operation **608**). In operation **608**, the user may choose to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set or use the current one that is out-of-date. A determination is made as to whether to update the selected three-dimensional massive model visualization data set (operation **610**). This determination may be made from user input indicating whether an update should occur.

If the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is to be updated, the process updates the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set (operation **612**). The

update in operation **612** may be performed in a number different ways. For example, the update may be made by patching the existing three-dimensional massive model visualization dataset with new information or by downloading a newer version of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from the server.

For example, an updated version of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set may be downloaded from a repository. In another example, the client device may perform the update locally without downloading another three-dimensional massive model visualization data set. In other illustrative examples, the client device may mask models that are no longer used and download models that may have been added to the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set to obtain updated information for displaying a three-dimensional massive model visualization.

The process then loads the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set into a visualization application for the client device (operation **614**). The process displays the three-dimensional massive model visualization using the visualization application (operation **616**). The process terminates thereafter.

With reference again to operation **610**, if the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is not to be updated, the process proceeds to operation **614** as described above. With reference back to operation **606**, if the selected three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is not out-of-date, the process proceeds to operation **614**.

The flowcharts and block diagrams in the different depicted embodiments illustrate the architecture, functionality, and operation of some possible implementations of apparatuses and methods in an illustrative embodiment. In this regard, each block in the flowcharts or block diagrams may represent at least one of a module, a segment, a function, or a portion of an operation or step. For example, one or more of the blocks may

be implemented as program code, hardware, or a combination of the program code and hardware. When implemented in hardware, the hardware may, for example, take the form of integrated circuits that are manufactured or configured to perform one or more operations in the flowcharts or block diagrams. When implemented as a combination of program code and hardware, the implementation may take the form of firmware. Each block in the flowcharts or the block diagrams may be implemented using special purpose hardware systems that perform the different operations or combinations of special purpose hardware and program code run by the special purpose hardware.

In some alternative implementations of an illustrative embodiment, the function or functions noted in the blocks may occur out of the order noted in the figures. For example, in some cases, two blocks shown in succession may be performed substantially concurrently, or the blocks may sometimes be performed in the reverse order, depending upon the functionality involved. Also, other blocks may be added, in addition to the illustrated blocks, in a flowchart or block diagram.

Turning now to **Figure 7**, an illustration of a block diagram of a data processing system is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. Data processing system **700** may be used to implement one or more data processing systems in computer system **104** of **Figure 1**. Data processing system **700** also may be used to implement client devices **120** in **Figure 1**. In this illustrative example, data processing system **700** includes communications framework **702**, which provides communications between processor unit **704**, memory **706**, persistent storage **708**, communications unit **710**, input/output unit **712**, and display **714**. In this example, communication frameworks **702** may take the form of a bus system.

Processor unit **704** serves to execute instructions for software that may be loaded into memory **706**. Processor unit **704** may be a number of processors, a multi-processor core, or some

other type of processor, depending on the particular implementation.

Memory **706** and persistent storage **708** are examples of storage devices **716**. A storage device is any piece of hardware that is capable of storing information, such as, for example, without limitation, at least one of data, program code in functional form, or other suitable information either on a temporary basis, a permanent basis, or both on a temporary basis and a permanent basis. Storage devices **716** may also be referred to as computer-readable storage devices in these illustrative examples. Memory **706**, in these examples, may be, for example, a random-access memory or any other suitable volatile or non-volatile storage device. Persistent storage **708** may take various forms, depending on the particular implementation.

For example, persistent storage **708** may contain one or more components or devices. For example, persistent storage **708** may be a hard drive, a solid state hard drive, a flash memory, a rewritable optical disk, a rewritable magnetic tape, or some combination of the above. The media used by persistent storage **708** also may be removable. For example, a removable hard drive may be used for persistent storage **708**.

Communications unit **710**, in these illustrative examples, provides for communications with other data processing systems or devices. In these illustrative examples, communications unit **710** is a network interface card.

Input/output unit **712** allows for input and output of data with other devices that may be connected to data processing system **700**. For example, input/output unit **712** may provide a connection for user input through at least one of a keyboard, a mouse, or some other suitable type of input device. Further, input/output unit **712** may send output to a printer. Display **714** provides a mechanism to display information to a user.

Instructions for at least one of the operating system, applications, or programs may be located in storage devices **716**,

which are in communication with processor unit **704** through communications framework **702**. The processes of the different embodiments may be performed by processor unit **704** using computer-implemented instructions, which may be located in a memory, such as memory **706**.

These instructions are referred to as program code, computer-usable program code, or computer-readable program code that may be read and executed by a processor in processor unit **704**. The program code in the different embodiments may be embodied on different physical or computer-readable storage media, such as memory **706** or persistent storage **708**.

Program code **718** is located in a functional form on computer-readable media **720** that is selectively removable and may be loaded onto or transferred to data processing system **700** for execution by processor unit **704**. Program code **718** and computer-readable media **720** form computer program product **722** in these illustrative examples. In one example, computer-readable media **720** may be computer-readable storage media **724** or computer-readable signal media **726**.

In these illustrative examples, computer-readable storage media **724** is a physical or tangible storage device used to store program code **718** rather than a medium that propagates or transmits program code **718**. Alternatively, program code **718** may be transferred to data processing system **700** using computer-readable signal media **726**. Computer-readable signal media **726** may be, for example, a propagated data signal containing program code **718**. For example, computer-readable signal media **726** may be at least one of an electromagnetic signal, an optical signal, or any other suitable type of signal. These signals may be transmitted over at least one of communications links, such as wireless communications links, optical fiber cable, coaxial cable, a wire, or any other suitable type of communications link.

The different components illustrated for data processing system **700** are not meant to provide architectural limitations to the manner in which different embodiments may be implemented. The different illustrative embodiments may be implemented in a data processing system including components, in addition to or in place of those illustrated, for data processing system **700**. Other components shown in **Figure 7** can be varied from the illustrative examples shown. The different embodiments may be implemented using any hardware device or system capable of running program code **718**.

Illustrative embodiments of the disclosure may be described in the context of aircraft manufacturing and service method **800** as shown in **Figure 8** and aircraft **900** as shown in **Figure 9**. Turning first to **Figure 8**, an illustration of an aircraft manufacturing and service method is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. During pre-production, aircraft manufacturing and service method **800** may include specification and design **802** of aircraft **900** in **Figure 9** and material procurement **804**.

During production, component and subassembly manufacturing **806** and system integration **808** of aircraft **900** in **Figure 9** takes place. Thereafter, aircraft **900** in **Figure 9** may go through certification and delivery **810** in order to be placed in service **812**. While in service **812** by a customer, aircraft **900** in **Figure 9** is scheduled for routine maintenance and service **814**, which may include modification, reconfiguration, refurbishment, or other maintenance and service.

Each of the processes of aircraft manufacturing and service method **800** may be performed or carried out by a system integrator, a third party, an operator, or some combination thereof. In these examples, the operator may be a customer. For the purposes of this description, a system integrator may include, without limitation, any number of aircraft manufacturers and major-system subcontractors; a third party may

include, without limitation, any number of vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers; and an operator may be an airline, a leasing company, a military entity, a service organization, and so on.

5 With reference now to **Figure 9**, an illustration of an aircraft is depicted in which an illustrative embodiment may be implemented. In this example, aircraft **900** is produced by aircraft manufacturing and service method **800** in **Figure 8** and may include airframe **902** with plurality of systems **904** and
10 interior **906**. Examples of systems **904** include one or more of propulsion system **908**, electrical system **910**, hydraulic system **912**, and environmental system **914**. Any number of other systems may be included. Although an aerospace example is shown, different illustrative embodiments may be applied to other
15 industries, such as the automotive industry.

Apparatuses and methods embodied herein may be employed during at least one of the stages of aircraft manufacturing and service method **800** in **Figure 8**. For example, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** in **Figure 1** may
20 be used to display different configurations for aircraft **900** during specification and design **802** of aircraft **900**, component and subassembly manufacturing **806**, and system integration **808**. As another example, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** also may be used to create
25 and display aircraft **900** during routine maintenance and service **814**. For example, the display of the configurations may be used to plan or implement work orders for modification, reconfiguration, refurbishment, or other maintenance and service for aircraft **900**.

30 In one illustrative example, components or subassemblies produced in component and subassembly manufacturing **806** in **Figure 8** may be fabricated or manufactured in a manner similar to components or subassemblies produced while aircraft **900** is in service **812** in **Figure 8**. As yet another example, one or more

apparatus embodiments, method embodiments, or a combination thereof may be utilized during production stages, such as component and subassembly manufacturing **806** and system integration **808** in **Figure 8**. One or more apparatus embodiments, method embodiments, or a combination thereof may be utilized while aircraft **900** is in service **812**, during maintenance and service **814** in **Figure 8**, or both. The use of a number of the different illustrative embodiments may substantially expedite the assembly of aircraft **900**, reduce the cost of aircraft **900**, or both expedite the assembly of aircraft **900** and reduce the cost of aircraft **900**.

For example, with automated creation of three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108**, the amount of time and effort needed to create these data sets for viewing on client devices may be reduced. Further, data set manager **112** also provides an ability to update three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** used by client devices **120**. As result, less effort and knowledge is needed by users of client devices **120** to view three-dimensional massive model visualizations **118** for vehicles **110**.

Turning now to **Figure 10**, an illustration of a block diagram of a product management system is depicted in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. Product management system **1000** is a physical hardware system. In this illustrative example, product management system **1000** may include at least one of manufacturing system **1002** or maintenance system **1004**.

Manufacturing system **1002** is configured to manufacture products, such as aircraft **900** in **Figure 9**. As depicted, manufacturing system **1002** includes manufacturing equipment **1006**. Manufacturing equipment **1006** includes at least one of fabrication equipment **1008** or assembly equipment **1010**.

Fabrication equipment **1008** is equipment that may be used to fabricate components for parts used to form aircraft **900**. For example, fabrication equipment **1008** may include machines and

tools. These machines and tools may be at least one of a drill, a hydraulic press, a furnace, a mold, a composite tape laying machine, a vacuum system, a lathe, or other suitable types of equipment. Fabrication equipment **1008** may be used to fabricate
5 at least one of metal parts, composite parts, semiconductors, circuits, fasteners, ribs, skin panels, spars, antennas, or other suitable types of parts.

Assembly equipment **1010** is equipment used to assemble parts to form aircraft **900**. In particular, assembly equipment **1010**
10 may be used to assemble components and parts to form aircraft **900**. Assembly equipment **1010** also may include machines and tools. These machines and tools may be at least one of a robotic arm, a crawler, a faster installation system, a rail-based drilling system, or a robot. Assembly equipment **1010** may
15 be used to assemble parts such as seats, horizontal stabilizers, wings, engines, engine housings, landing gear systems, and other parts for aircraft **900**.

In this illustrative example, maintenance system **1004** includes maintenance equipment **1012**. Maintenance equipment **1012**
20 may include any equipment needed to perform maintenance on aircraft **900**. Maintenance equipment **1012** may include tools for performing different operations on parts on aircraft **900**. These operations may include at least one of disassembling parts, refurbishing parts, inspecting parts, reworking parts,
25 manufacturing replacement parts, or other operations for performing maintenance on aircraft **900**. These operations may be for routine maintenance, inspections, upgrades, refurbishment, or other types of maintenance operations.

In the illustrative example, maintenance equipment **1012** may
30 include ultrasonic inspection devices, x-ray imaging systems, vision systems, drills, crawlers, and other suitable devices. In some cases, maintenance equipment **1012** may include fabrication equipment **1008**, assembly equipment **1010**, or both to produce and assemble parts that may be needed for maintenance.

Product management system **1000** also includes control system **1014**. Control system **1014** is a hardware system and may also include software or other types of components. Control system **1014** is configured to control the operation of at least one of manufacturing system **1002** or maintenance system **1004**. In particular, control system **1014** may control the operation of at least one of fabrication equipment **1008**, assembly equipment **1010**, or maintenance equipment **1012**.

The hardware in control system **1014** may be using hardware that may include computers, circuits, networks, and other types of equipment. The control may take the form of direct control of manufacturing equipment **1006**. For example, robots, computer-controlled machines, and other equipment may be controlled by control system **1014**. In other illustrative examples, control system **1014** may manage operations performed by human operators **1016** in manufacturing or performing maintenance on aircraft **900**. For example, control system **1014** may assign tasks, provide instructions, display models, or perform other operations to manage operations performed by human operators **1016**.

In these illustrative examples, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system **106** and data set manager **112** may be implemented in control system **1014** to manage at least one of the manufacturing or maintenance of aircraft **900** in **Figure 9**. With data set manager **112**, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets **108** may be created and managed for use by client devices **120** in viewing three-dimensional massive model visualizations **118** of products, such as vehicles **110** of **Figure 1**. These visualizations may be made for at least one of manufacturing or maintenance of aircraft **900** in **Figure 9**.

In the different illustrative examples, human operators **1016** may operate or interact with at least one of manufacturing equipment **1006**, maintenance equipment **1012**, or control system **1014**. This interaction may be performed to manufacture aircraft **900**.

Of course, product management system **1000** may be configured to manage other products other than aircraft **900**. Although product management system **1000** has been described with respect to manufacturing in the aerospace industry, product management
5 system **1000** may be configured to manage products for other industries. For example, product management system **1000** may be configured to manufacture products for the automotive industry, as well as any other suitable industries.

Thus, the different illustrative examples provide a method
10 and apparatus for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets. In one illustrative example, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be automatically created and distributed for use by client devices. The automatic creation may allow for three-dimensional massive
15 model visualization data sets to be created prior to those three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets being needed for use. Additionally, with the automated creation, times may be selected when lower use of processor resources occur to increase processor resources available for creating the
20 three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets.

Additionally, the data set manager provides an ability to keep the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets fresh. In other words, an identification of out-of-date three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets occurs and
25 updated three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets may be created. Further, a client device also may update a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set fresh through different updating mechanisms when the client device determines that the three-dimensional massive model
30 visualization data set is no longer up-to-date. One or more illustrative examples provide a method and apparatus that increases the ease at which users may access and use three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets and client devices.

As depicted, three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are pre-built in the computer system for use by users on client devices. The users at the client devices may download the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets without needing to process data to create those data sets.

The description of the different illustrative embodiments has been presented for purposes of illustration and description and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the embodiments in the form disclosed. The different illustrative examples describe components that perform actions or operations.

In an illustrative embodiment, a component may be configured to perform the action or operation described. For example, the component may have a configuration or design for a structure that provides the component an ability to perform the action or operation that is described in the illustrative examples as being performed by the component.

Further, the disclosure comprises embodiments according to the following clauses:

Clause 1. A method for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, the method comprising:

compiling a list of objects for which the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built;

automatically building the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for the objects in the list using a

computer system;

storing the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in a group of repositories;

distributing the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for displaying massive model

visualizations for the objects using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on client devices; and

receiving user input of a request for selectively updating a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the

three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date.

Clause 2. The method of Clause 1, wherein selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date comprises:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the group of repositories.

Clause 3. The method of Clause 1 further comprising:

selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received through updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on a client device by downloading information to rebuild the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 4. The method of Clause 3 further comprising:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received by downloading all of a newest three-dimensional massive model data set from a repository.

Clause 5. The method of Clause 3 further comprising:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received by rebuilding a first portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device that is out-of-date while a second portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is unchanged.

Clause 6. The method of Clause 1 further comprising:

selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model

visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received by updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on a client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models.

Clause 7. The method of Clause 3 further comprising:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received by rebuilding of all of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device that is out-of-date.

Clause 8. The method of Clause 1 further comprising:

displaying the massive model visualizations for the objects on the client devices using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets.

Clause 9. The method of Clause 1 further comprising:

displaying a massive model visualization for a given object from the list of objects that are displayable using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets stored in the group of repositories in the computer system, to thereby display a given configuration of an object from the list of objects.

Clause 10. The method of Clause 1, wherein the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets represents an instance of an object.

Clause 11. The method of Clause 1, wherein the objects are selected from at least one of a mobile platform, a stationary platform, a land-based structure, an aquatic-based structure, a space-based structure, an aircraft, a surface ship, a tank, a personnel carrier, a train, a spacecraft, a space station, a satellite, a submarine, an automobile, a power plant, a bridge, a dam, a house, a manufacturing facility, and a building.

Clause 12. A method of displaying three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on a client device, the method comprising:

displaying a vehicle list of vehicles displayable that are
5 on the client device;

downloading a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets corresponding to a vehicle selected from the vehicle list from a group of repositories in a computer system; and

10 displaying a massive model visualization of the vehicle using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set downloaded to the client device.

Clause 13. The method of Clause 12 further comprising:

selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model
15 visualization data set prior to displaying the massive model visualization of the vehicle using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set downloaded to the client device when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date and when a user input is received to update the
20 three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 14. The method of Clause 13 further comprising:

comparing time stamps between the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device with a source copy of the three-dimensional massive model visualization
25 data set on a repository.

Clause 15. The method of Clause 13, wherein selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date and when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set
30 comprises:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the group of repositories in the computer

system when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 16. The method of Clause 13, wherein selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date and when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set comprises:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 17. The method of Clause 16, wherein updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set comprises:

downloading all of a newest three-dimensional massive model visualization data set from a repository when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 18. The method of Clause 16, wherein updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set comprises:

rebuilding a first portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device that is out-of-date while a second portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is unchanged when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 19. The method of Clause 13, wherein selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data

set when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date and when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set comprises:

5 updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models when the user input is received to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

10 Clause 20. The method of Clause 12, wherein the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets represents an instance of a vehicle.

Clause 21. A three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system comprising:

a computer system; and

a data set manager in the computer system, wherein the data set manager is configured to compile a vehicle list of vehicles for which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built; automatically build the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for vehicles in the vehicle list using the computer system; store the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in a group of repositories; distribute the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for displaying massive model visualizations for the vehicles using the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on client devices; and receive user input of a request for selectively updating a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date.

Clause 22. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 21 further comprising:

a client device local to a user that requests a three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets from the group of repositories for displaying a three-dimensional massive model visualization for the vehicles.

Clause 23. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 21, wherein, the data set manager is configured to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on model the group of repositories when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date.

Clause 24. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 22, wherein the client device is configured to selectively update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received through updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device by downloading information to rebuild the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

Clause 25. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 24, wherein the client device is configured to rebuild all of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device when the user input is received.

Clause 26. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 24, wherein the client device is configured to rebuild a first portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device that is out-of-date while a second portion of the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is unchanged on the client device when the user input is received.

Clause 27. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 22, wherein the client device is configured to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on a client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models when the user input is received.

Clause 28. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of Clause 24, wherein the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets represents an instance of a vehicle.

Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. Further, different illustrative embodiments may provide different features as compared to other desirable embodiments. The embodiment or embodiments selected are chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the embodiments, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the disclosure for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for managing three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets, the method comprising:

5 compiling a list of objects for which the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built;

automatically building the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for objects in the list of objects using a computer system;

10 storing the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in a group of repositories;

distributing at least one three-dimensional model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets to at least one of a plurality of client
15 devices;

receiving, from the at least one of the plurality of client devices, user input of a request for selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets
20 when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date; and

selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one
25 three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received by updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the at least one client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models.

30 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving, from the at least one of the plurality of client devices, user input of a request for selectively updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model

visualization data sets when the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date comprises:

updating the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the group of repositories.

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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received through updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the at least one client device by downloading information to rebuild the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

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4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the at least one client device when the user input is received by downloading all of a newest three-dimensional massive model data set from a repository.

20

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the at least one client device when the user input is received by rebuilding a first portion of the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the at least one client device that is out-of-date while a second portion of the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is unchanged.

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6. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model
visualization data set located on the at least one client device
when the user input is received by rebuilding of all of the at
least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set
5 on the at least one client device that is out-of-date.

7. The method of any of claims 1 to 6 further comprising:
displaying an object on the at least one of the plurality
of client devices using the three-dimensional massive model
10 visualization data set.

8. The method of any of claims 1 to 7 further comprising:
displaying a massive model visualization for a given object
from the list of objects that are displayable using the three-
15 dimensional massive model visualization data sets stored in the
group of repositories in the computer system, to thereby display
a given configuration of the given object from the list of
objects.

20 9. The method of any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the three-
dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-
dimensional massive model visualization data sets represents an
instance of an object.

25 10. The method of any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the objects are
selected from at least one of a mobile platform, a stationary
platform, a land-based structure, an aquatic-based structure, a
space-based structure, an aircraft, a surface ship, a tank, a
personnel carrier, a train, a spacecraft, a space station, a
30 satellite, a submarine, an automobile, a power plant, a dam, a
house, a manufacturing facility, and a building.

11. A three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system comprising:

a group of repositories;

a computer system;

5 a data set manager in the computer system, wherein the data

set manager is configured to compile a vehicle list of vehicles for which three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets are to be built; automatically build the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets for vehicles in the

10 vehicle list using the computer system; store the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets in the group of repositories; distribute at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets to at least one of a
15 plurality of client devices; and receive, from the at least one of the plurality of client devices, user input of a request for selectively updating the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-
20 dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date; and

a client device local to a user configured to request the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data
25 sets from the group of repositories for displaying a three-dimensional massive model visualization for at least one vehicle in the vehicle list of vehicles,

wherein the client device is configured to update the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set
30 on a client device by at least one of masking a first group of models or adding a second group of models when the user input is received.

12. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of claim 11, wherein, the data set manager is configured to update the three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located in the group of repositories when the at least one
5 three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date.

13. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of claim 11, wherein the client device is configured to
10 selectively update the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets when the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set is out-of-date when the user input is received through updating the at least
15 one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set located on the client device by downloading information to rebuild the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set.

20 14. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of claim 13, wherein the client device is configured to rebuild all three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets on the client device when the user input is received.

25 15. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of claim 13, wherein the client device is configured to rebuild a first portion of the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set on the client device that is out-of-date while a second portion of the at least one three-
30 dimensional massive model visualization data set is unchanged on the client device when the user input is received.

16. The three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets system of claim 13, wherein the at least one three-dimensional massive model visualization data set in the three-dimensional massive model visualization data sets represents an instance of
5 a vehicle.