INTERNET MAIL DELIVERY AGENT WITH AUTOMATIC CACHING OF FILE ATTACHMENTS

ABSTRACT

According to the present invention, e-mail messages are scanned for MIME and other file attachments (step 54). Such attachments are selectively stripped from the messages (step 66) and stored in an accessible location. If desired, the attachment may be compressed prior to storage (step 68) A reference (e.g., a link) to the attachment and the location is then substituted in the original e-mail (step 72), which is then forwarded to the intended recipient. When the recipient desires to obtain the attachment , he or she selects the reference, preferably from a browser or other rendering engine. The attachment is then decompressed if necessary (step 108) and served to the recipient (step 110).

Fig 3