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(54) Title: INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM FOR STORING AND RETRIEVING THE VISUAL FORM OF INFORMATION FROM AN APPLICATION IN A DATABASE

(57) Abstract

The visual form of data from a computer program is received and stored in a database. The visual form of the data may be received, for example, in response to a print operation by the computer program or by some other operation such as a cut and paste sequence of operations or by sending the data to another application. The visual form of the data may be stored as a vector image that permits scalability. The visual form of the data may be stored with other identifying information or tags in the database to facilitate searching of the database. The data in the database may be encoded in a manner that ensures data integrity and that permits detection of when data has been compromised. In one embodiment, a service layer application is provided to control access to the database by performing encoding and decoding of the data in the database. The service layer may have an application programming interface that permits many applications to have access to the database. Another application may be provided for accessing the visual form of the data from the database and for providing this data to another computer program. Such an application permits a user to create compound documents from data in the database using the other computer program.

