(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
8 July 2004 (08.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/057462 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 9/50, 9/52

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/014190

(22) International Filing Date:
12 December 2003 (12.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/326,147 20 December 2002 (20.12.2002) US

(71) Applicant: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US).

(71) Applicant *(for LU only)*: IBM DEUTSCHLAND GMBH [DE/DE]; Pascalstrasse 100, 70569 Stuttgart (DE).

(72) Inventor: RUSSELL, David, K.; 6601 Northeast Drive, Austin, TX 78723 (US).

(74) Agent: TEUFEL, Fritz; IBM Deutschland GmbH, Intellectual Property, Postal Code, 70548 Stuttgart (DE).

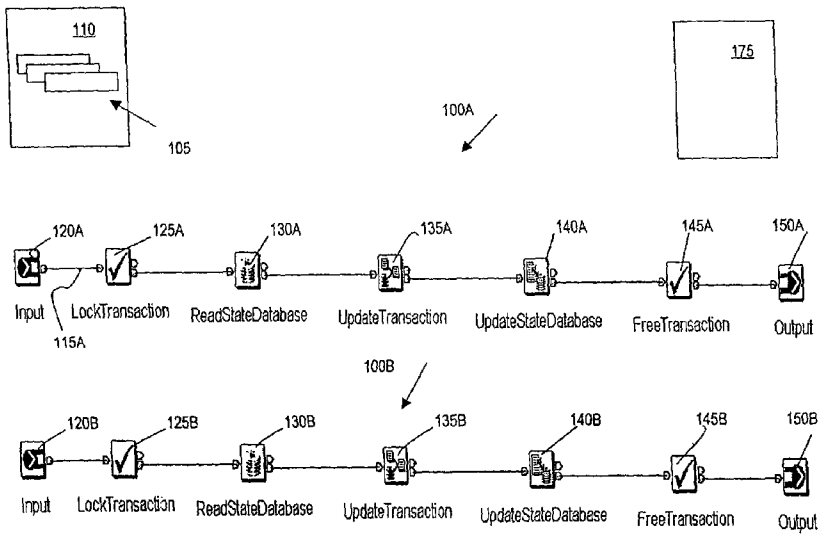
(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR MANAGING MESSAGE FLOW IN A MULTITHREADED, MESSAGE FLOW ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: In one form, a method for managing message flow includes processing messages concurrently by processing nodes in a computer software application. The processing nodes include at least one set of lock acquisition, system resource access and lock release nodes interconnected in a flow path. In such a set, the nodes are interconnected in a flow path and process a respective one of the messages in a sequence defined by the flow path. The processing includes granting access to a system resource exclusively for the set's respective message responsive to the lock acquisition node processing its respective message. The system resource is accessed for the message responsive to the set's system resource node processing the message. The accessing of the resource for the message includes changing a certain system state. The exclusive accessing of the system resource is released responsive to the set's lock release node processing the message.

WO 2004/057462 A3

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 July 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.