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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
24 November 2005 (24.11.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/111868 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 17/30

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/024634

(22) International Filing Date: 30 July 2004 (30.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/566,947 3 May 2004 (03.05.2004) US
Not furnished 9 July 2004 (09.07.2004) US

(71) Applicant: **MICROSOFT CORPORATION** [US/US]; One Microsoft Way, Redmont, WA 98052 (US).

(72) Inventors: **ANTHONY, Colin, R.**; 11207 123rd Lane, NE Apt. C-21, Kirkland, WA 98033 (US). **VAN DOK, Cornelis, K.**; 16818 S.E. 2nd Place, Bellevue, WA 98008 (US). **IWEMA, Marieke**; 10300 Rainer Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98178 (US).

(74) Agents: **STROHM, Scott, B.** et al.; Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P., 2555 Grand Blv., Kansas City, MI 64108-2613 (US).

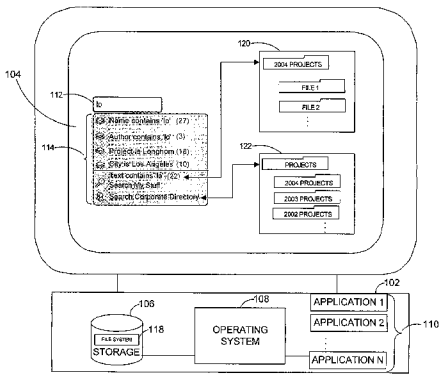
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, 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 *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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.

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FRO DYNAMICALLY GENERATING A SELECTABLE SEARCH EXTENSION



(57) Abstract: A system and related techniques accept user-inputted search terms, for example to perform a search for files or other data or objects. Corresponding matches to those terms may be presented to the user in a "word-wheel"-type breakout list generated on the fly for groupings of hits by attributes or other criteria, as the system searches through the file system at the current level or point in the file system hierarchy. According to embodiments, when the search logic fails to locate a hit on the inputted search term at the current level or point in the file system hierarchy, an extension of the search to different levels or points in the file system hierarchy may be automatically generated, and for instance presented to the user as a selectable search box. That box may for example be highlighted to the user for easy selection. When the user does select the selectable search box, the user's search, for instance for files of type or extension ".doc" or ".memo", may be seamlessly extended to other files, folders, trees or other points or levels in the file system hierarchy. Search results may be continuously or dynamically updated as the user, for example, enters more characters or other data.

WO 2005/111868 A2