AN IMPROVED USER INTERFACE FOR DISPLAYING SELECTABLE SOFTWARE FUNCTIONALITY CONTROLS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO A SELECTED OBJECT

Abstract

An improved user interface is provided for displaying selectable software functionality controls that are relevant to a selected object and that remain visibly available for use while the selected object is being edited. Upon selection of a particular object for editing, functionality available for editing the object is presented in a ribbon-shaped user interface above the software application workspace to allow the user ready and efficient access to functionality needed for editing the selected object. The display of relevant functionality controls is persisted until the user dismisses the display, selects another top-level functionality control or selects another object for editing.

Fig. 3