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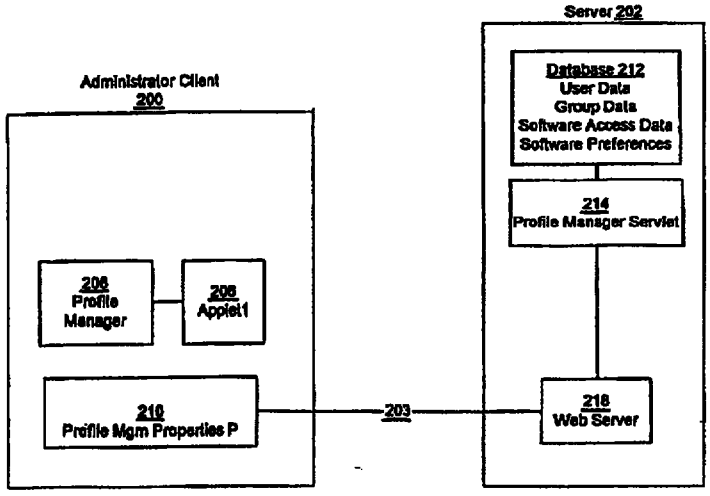
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(54) Title: CLIENT–SERVER SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING APPLICATION PREFERENCES IN A HIERARCHICAL DATA STRUCTURE



(57) Abstract

In a system with a network interconnecting a server and a plurality of user stations, a system administrator models users of the system, or user groups, terminals and terminal groups as a hierachy and sets desktop and user application preferences for each group and for the individual users separately. For a selected group context, say the group of all users of the system, or some subgroup under the group that represents all users, a default set of preferences are determined for a selected user application. The default set is then modified according to preferences that are specifically set forth in the selected group. These preferences may then again be modified by a set of preferences that belong specifically to the user.