USER INTERFACE MANAGEMENT THROUGH BRANCH ISOLATION

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for presenting a hierarchical structure defining relationships between multiple elements are presented. The hierarchical structure may be embodied within Web documents and interactive application programs. Each element has a "presentation property" which may be a value or a function. A "branch isolation" method includes forming a model (30) of the hierarchical structure having multiple nodes (40), representing elements, and at least one branch (42). A root node (0) occupies a highest level (0). Each branch (42) represents a hierarchical relationship between connected nodes (40). A "focus node" represents the element receiving focus. The presentation property of the root node element (0) is selectively presented. The presentation property of every other node represented along the path from the root node (0) to the focus is also presented. The presentation property of each node represented element in a subtree is also presented, wherein the focus node is a root node of the subtree.

FIG 3