

DESCRIPTION

Title of Invention: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
PROGRAM

Technical Field

[0001]

The present invention relates to an information
processing apparatus and a program.

Background Art

[0002]

PTL 1, which will be described below, has described
that a memory apparatus in which structured documents having
attribute information and folders having the structured
documents are stored is searched for a structured document
in accordance with specified search conditions, and a
document ID and attribute information of a structured
document satisfying the specified search conditions are
associated with each other and stored in a database. In
addition, it is described that an attribute item is
specified to classify the above-described structured
document stored in the database. In addition, it is
described that a tree structure is created in order to
further classify the specified attribute item into subitems,
the tree structure including the above-described specified
attribute item and attribute subitems of this attribute item
as virtual folders. In addition, it is described that a

structured document included in a virtual folder selected from the created tree structure is classified by extraction using the above-described database.

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0003]

PTL 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

Publication No. 2011-53881

Summary of Invention

Technical Problem

[0004]

An object of the present invention is to improve the ease of operation in the case where a user manually searches for desired data.

Solution to Problem

[0005]

An invention of Claim 1 for solving the above-described problem is an information processing apparatus including means, display control means, and update means, the means causing, for each of plural pieces of data each of which belongs to any of plural data groups constituting a tree structure, meta-information storage means to store an identification data string of pieces of identification data of data groups included in a path to a data group to which the piece of data belongs, as a piece of meta-information of

the piece of data, the display control means causing display means to display an image representing a tree structure composed of plural virtual data groups corresponding to the plural data groups, in accordance with pieces of meta-information of the plural pieces of data, the update means updating, in a case where at least one of the pieces of identification data has been specified by a user, a piece of meta-information including the specified piece of identification data among the pieces of meta-information.

[0006]

An invention of Claim 2 is the invention of Claim 1, in which the update means updates the piece of meta-information including the specified piece of identification data such that the position of the specified piece of identification data becomes a top of the identification data string.

[0007]

An invention of Claim 3 is the invention of Claim 1 or 2, in which the display control means causes the display means to display, in accordance with the pieces of meta-information, the image representing the tree structure composed of the plural virtual data groups corresponding to the plural data groups, and causes the display means to display an identification image of the piece of data in association with an identification image of a virtual data group identified by the last piece of identification data

among the piece of meta-information of the piece of data.

[0008]

In addition, an invention of Claim 4 is a program causing a computer to function as means, display control means, and update means, the means causing, for each of plural pieces of data each of which belongs to any of plural data groups constituting a tree structure, meta-information storage means to store an identification data string of pieces of identification data of data groups included in a path to a data group to which the piece of data belongs, as a piece of meta-information of the piece of data, the display control means causing display means to display an image representing a tree structure composed of plural virtual data groups corresponding to the plural data groups, in accordance with pieces of meta-information of the plural pieces of data, the update means updating, in a case where at least one of the pieces of identification data has been specified by a user, a piece of meta-information including the specified piece of identification data among the pieces of meta-information.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0009]

According to the inventions of Claims 1 and 4, the ease of operation may be improved in the case where a user manually searches for desired data.

[0010]

According to the inventions of Claims 2 and 3, the ease of operation in the case where a user manually searches for desired data may be more assuredly improved than in the case where configurations according to the inventions of Claims 2 and 3 are not used.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0011]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating a configuration of an information processing apparatus.

[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 is a diagram illustrating a tree structure.

[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a diagram illustrating a virtual tree.

[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a process performed by a controller.

[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a diagram illustrating the content stored in a metadata database.

[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 is a flowchart illustrating a process performed by the controller.

[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating the content stored in the metadata database.

[Fig. 8] Fig. 8 is a diagram illustrating a virtual tree.

Description of Embodiments

[0012]

In the following, an example of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to the drawings.

[0013]

Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating a configuration of an information processing apparatus 2 according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In the case of the exemplary embodiment, the information processing apparatus 2 is realized as a personal computer, and includes a controller 4, a main memory 6, a hard disk 8, an operation input unit 10, and a display 12. The controller 4 is a microprocessor and executes various types of information processing in accordance with a program stored in the main memory 6. The main memory 6 is realized by a ROM and a RAM, and the above-described program is stored in the main memory 6. Here, this program is read from a computer-readable information storage medium (for example, a DVD[®]-ROM) and stored in the main memory 6. This program may also be downloaded via a network and stored in the main memory 6.

[0014]

The operation input unit 10 is a mouse, a keyboard, and the like, and outputs an operation signal indicating the content of an operation performed by a user to the controller 4. In addition, the display 12 is a display and

outputs information in accordance with a command from the controller 4.

[0015]

A file system is implemented in the information processing apparatus 2, and tree structure data are stored in the hard disk 8, the tree structure data representing a tree structure including plural folders present in the file system. The tree structure data include folder names of folders. In addition, in the tree structure data, the folder name of each folder is associated with the folder name of a parent folder of the folder. A folder corresponds to a "data group". Note that a folder is also called a directory.

[0016]

Fig. 2 illustrates a tree structure represented by the tree structure data. Substantially rectangular shapes represent folders, each of the substantially rectangular shapes representing a folder. In addition, a character string in a folder indicates a folder name. In addition, a number described at the upper left of each folder indicates a layer where the folder is positioned in the tree structure. For example, a "company A" folder F1 at the upper left in Fig. 2 is positioned in the first layer, a "OO project" folder F2 is positioned in the second layer, a "document" folder F3 is positioned in the third layer, and an

"associated with xx" folder F4 is positioned in the fourth layer. Note that a further upper layer of the first layer is a root.

[0017]

In addition, plural document files present in the file system are stored in the hard disk 8. Document files are document data, and document files correspond to pieces of "data". Circles illustrated in Fig. 2 represent document files, each of the circles representing a document file. Each of the document files is stored in any one of the folders. An ID of the document file (hereinafter referred to as a document ID) is associated with a folder name of the folder where the document file is stored, and is stored in the hard disk 8. For example, according to Fig. 2, a document file "D1" is stored in a "round-robin document" folder F5 of the third layer.

[0018]

Normally, each document file is stored in a folder corresponding to the classification of the document file by a user. For example, according to Fig. 2, since the document file "D1" is a document file for a round-robin document regarding a OO project of a company A, the document file "D1" is stored in the "round-robin document" folder F5 of the third layer. Note that, here, the case is assumed where when the document file "D1" is created, no

group of folders is present in and below a "round-robin document" folder F6 of the first layer. Thus, the document file "D1" may originally be stored in a "company A" folder F7 of the second layer, but the document file "D1" is not stored in the "company A" folder F7 of the second layer but in the "round-robin document" folder F5 of the third layer. For information, since a document file "D12", which is a document file for a round-robin document regarding the company A, is created after a group of folders is created in and below the "round-robin document" folder F6 of the first layer, the document file "D12" is stored in the "company A" folder F7 of the second layer.

[0019]

In the information processing apparatus 2, in the case where an Explorer screen presentation operation has been performed, a predetermined Explorer screen is presented on the display 12. In addition, in the case where an Explorer screen presentation operation has been performed, the controller 4 displays an image representing a tree structure represented by the tree structure data, that is, the image illustrated in Fig. 2 in an Explorer screen in accordance with the tree structure data stored in the hard disk 8. Here, first, after display of only images of folders of the first layer in an Explorer screen, every time a user selects an image of a folder among the folders, the controller 4

displays document files stored in the folder and images of subfolders of the folder in the Explorer screen. The user searches for a desired document file by following the tree structure.

[0020]

Here, assume the case where the user has selected an image of the "round-robin document" folder F6 of the first layer in an Explorer screen, on the basis of the fact that the document file "D1" is a round-robin document regarding the company A. In this case, even when the tree structure is followed from the "round-robin document" folder F6, the document file "D1" is not found. An operation for following the tree structure from the "company A" folder F1 of the first layer needs to be additionally performed, which is troublesome.

[0021]

In this respect, in the information processing apparatus 2, the ease of operation for searching for a desired document file is improved in order to ease such a burden.

[0022]

That is, in the information processing apparatus 2, the user is guided so as to select one of plural viewpoints predetermined on the Explorer screen. In addition, when the user selects one of the viewpoints as necessary, an image of

a tree structure (hereinafter referred to as a virtual tree) obtained by arranging images of plural virtual folders corresponding to the respective folders into a tree format in accordance with the selected viewpoint is displayed on the Explorer screen.

[0023]

Fig. 3 illustrates a virtual tree displayed on the Explorer screen. Here, a virtual tree obtained in the case where the user, who wants to find the document file "D1", has selected one viewpoint "voucher" is illustrated. Substantially rectangular shapes represent images of virtual folders, each of the substantially rectangular shapes representing an image of a virtual folder. In addition, a character string in a virtual folder indicates a folder name of the virtual folder. In addition, a number described at the upper left of each virtual folder indicates a layer where the virtual folder is positioned in a virtual tree. Note that this number is not displayed on the Explorer screen. As illustrated in Fig. 3, in the case where the viewpoint "voucher" has been selected, a virtual folder Vf1 corresponding to the "round-robin document" folders F5 and F6 and "round-robin document" folders F8 and F9 (see Fig. 2), a virtual folder Vf2 corresponding to "contract" folders F11, F12, and F13 (see Fig. 2), and a virtual folder Vf3 are displayed as virtual folders of the first layer. Note that

circles illustrated in Fig. 3 represent document files, each of the circles representing a document file.

[0024]

In the case of the exemplary embodiment, when one viewpoint is selected, first, only images of virtual folders of the first layer are displayed on the Explorer screen. Thereafter, every time the user selects an image of a virtual folder among the virtual folders, images of virtual subfolders of the virtual folder are displayed on the Explorer screen. The user assuredly finds the document file "D1" by simply following the virtual tree from the virtual folder Vf1.

[0025]

In the following, a process will be explained, the process being performed by the controller 4 to ease a burden in the case where the user searches for a desired document file. First, a process performed by the controller 4 in the case where an Explorer screen presentation operation has been performed will be explained. In the case where an Explorer screen presentation operation has been performed, the controller 4 performs a process illustrated in Fig. 4 in addition to a process performed for displaying the tree structure illustrated in Fig. 2.

[0026]

That is, in the process illustrated in Fig. 4, the

controller 4 selects each of document files present in the file system as a document file of interest, and executes steps S101 and S103 every time a document file of interest is selected. First, the controller 4 determines a folder in which a document file of interest is stored (S101). That is, in S101, the controller 4 reads a folder name associated with a document ID of the document file of interest from the hard disk 8. Then, the controller 4 determines an absolute path to the folder in which the document file of interest is stored, with reference to the tree structure data (S102). Then, the controller 4 stores a data string of folder names of folders included in the determined absolute path, as a piece of metadata of the document file of interest, in a metadata database stored in the hard disk 8 (hereinafter referred to as a metadata DB) in association with the document ID of the document file of interest (S103).

[0027]

Fig. 5 illustrates the content stored in the metadata DB. As illustrated in Fig. 5, a piece of metadata of a document file is stored in association with the document ID of the document file in the metadata DB. Here, the position of each folder name in a piece of metadata is determined in accordance with the layer where the folder having the folder name is positioned. That is, a folder name of a folder of the "Nth (N is a positive integer)" layer is positioned at

the "Nth" place from the top in a piece of metadata. For example, according to Fig. 2, an absolute path to the folder F5 in which the document file "D1" is stored includes the folders F1, F2, and F5. Since the folder F1 is a folder of the first layer, the folder name of the folder F1 is positioned at the top in a piece of metadata of the document file "D1". In addition, since the folder F2 is a folder of the second layer, the folder name of the folder F2 is positioned at the second place from the top. In addition, since the folder F5 is a folder of the third layer, the folder name of the folder F5 is positioned at the third place from the top.

[0028]

Next, a process performed by the controller 4 in the case where one viewpoint has been selected by the user will be explained with reference to Fig. 6. In the exemplary embodiment, the user selects one viewpoint and, as a result, terms preset to the viewpoint are specified. For example, the user selects a viewpoint "voucher" and, as a result, two terms "round-robin document" and "contract" preset to the viewpoint "voucher" are specified. That is, in the case where one viewpoint has been selected by the user, first, the controller 4 reads terms preset to the selected viewpoint (hereinafter referred to as designated terms) from the hard disk 8 (S201).

[0029]

Then, for pieces of metadata stored in the metadata DB, the controller 4 selects each piece of metadata as a piece of metadata of interest and executes steps S202 to S204 every time a piece of metadata of interest is selected.

[0030]

That is, the controller 4 determines whether or not a folder name including any of the designated terms acquired in S201 is present in the piece of metadata of interest (S202). Then, in the case where a folder name including any of the designated terms is present in the piece of metadata of interest (Y in S202), the controller 4 updates the piece of metadata of interest in S203 as in the following explanation. That is, the controller 4 moves the folder name including a designated term to the top in the piece of metadata of interest, and other folder names are moved backward by one (S203). In contrast, in the case where a folder name including any of the designated terms is not present in the piece of metadata of interest (N in S202), the controller 4 updates the piece of metadata of interest in S204 as in the following explanation. That is, the controller 4 moves all the folder names backward by one, and an additional folder name "others" is set as a top folder name (S204).

[0031]

In the case where the viewpoint "voucher" has been specified, the content stored in the metadata DB after execution of steps S202 to S204 on all the pieces of metadata is illustrated in Fig. 7. In Fig. 7, an arrow indicates movement of a folder name.

[0032]

When steps S202 to S204 are executed on all the pieces of metadata, the controller 4 causes the display 12 to display an image of a virtual tree as illustrated in Fig. 3 in accordance with a certain virtual tree display algorithm, using the pieces of metadata stored in the metadata DB (S205).

[0033]

That is, in S205, the controller 4 causes the display 12 to display images of virtual folders having names the same as folder names included in pieces of metadata. Here, the display position of an image of a virtual folder is determined by the position of its folder name in a certain piece of metadata. That is, an image of a virtual folder having a name the same as the "Nth (N is a positive integer)" folder name from the top in a certain piece of metadata is displayed in the "Nth" layer of the virtual tree. In addition, an image of a virtual folder having a name the same as the "Nth" folder name from the top in a certain piece of metadata is displayed as a parent folder of a

virtual folder having a name the same as the "N+1th" folder name from the top in the certain piece of metadata.

[0034]

In addition, in S205, the controller 4 causes the display 12 to also display images of document files. Here, an image of a document file is displayed in association with "an image of a virtual folder having a name the same as the last folder name included in a piece of metadata of the document file". Here, the image of the document file is displayed to the immediate right of the image of the virtual folder with which the image of the document file is associated.

[0035]

As described above, in the exemplary embodiment, the entirety of the virtual tree is not displayed at once, first, only images of virtual folders of the first layer are displayed on the Explorer screen. Thereafter, every time the user selects an image of a virtual folder among the virtual folders, images of virtual subfolders of the virtual folder and images of document files displayed in association with the images of the virtual subfolders are displayed on the Explorer screen. As a result, the virtual tree as illustrated in Fig. 3 is displayed, and the user may assuredly find the document file "D1" by simply following the virtual tree from the virtual folder Vf1.

[0036]

Moreover, the original tree structure is also maintained. That is, it is unnecessary to update the tree structure data.

[0037]

Note that an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is not limited to the above-described exemplary embodiment.

[0038]

For example, the present invention may also be applicable to the case where data other than document data correspond to "data".

[0039]

Moreover, step S204 of Fig. 6 may also be omitted by employing another algorithm different from the virtual tree display algorithm described above as a virtual tree display algorithm. Fig. 8 illustrates a virtual tree in the case where another algorithm is employed as a virtual tree display algorithm. In this case, pieces of metadata that do not include the designated terms "round-robin document" and "contract" are not updated in the process illustrated in Fig. 6, and a group of virtual folders in and below the virtual folder Vf3 (see Fig. 3) is omitted from the virtual tree. Note that virtual folders Vf4, Vf5, and Vf6 (see Fig. 3) are displayed below each of the virtual folder Vf1 and the

virtual folder Vf2 in the virtual tree.

Reference Signs List

[0040]

2 information processing apparatus, 4 controller, 6
main memory, 8 hard disk, 10 operation input unit, 12
display, F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12,
F13 folder, Vf1, Vf2, Vf3, Vf4, Vf5, Vf6 virtual folder.

CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

An information processing apparatus comprising:

means that causes, for each of a plurality of pieces of data each of which belongs to any of a plurality of data groups constituting a tree structure, meta-information storage means to store an identification data string of pieces of identification data of data groups included in a path to a data group to which the piece of data belongs, as a piece of meta-information of the piece of data;

display control means that causes display means to display an image representing a tree structure composed of a plurality of virtual data groups corresponding to the plurality of data groups, in accordance with pieces of meta-information of the plurality of pieces of data; and

update means that updates, in a case where at least one of the pieces of identification data has been specified by a user, a piece of meta-information including the specified piece of identification data among the pieces of meta-information.

[Claim 2]

The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the update means

updates the piece of meta-information including the

specified piece of identification data such that the position of the specified piece of identification data becomes a top of the identification data string.

[Claim 3]

The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein

the display control means

causes the display means to display, in accordance with the pieces of meta-information, the image representing the tree structure composed of the plurality of virtual data groups corresponding to the plurality of data groups, and causes the display means to display an identification image of the piece of data in association with an identification image of a virtual data group identified by the last piece of identification data among the piece of meta-information of the piece of data.

[Claim 4]

A program causing a computer to function as:

means that causes, for each of a plurality of pieces of data each of which belongs to any of a plurality of data groups constituting a tree structure, meta-information storage means to store an identification data string of pieces of identification data of data groups included in a path to a data group to which the piece of data belongs, as a piece of meta-information of the piece of data;

display control means that causes display means to display an image representing a tree structure composed of a plurality of virtual data groups corresponding to the plurality of data groups, in accordance with pieces of meta-information of the plurality of pieces of data; and

update means that updates, in a case where at least one of the pieces of identification data has been specified by a user, a piece of meta-information including the specified piece of identification data among the pieces of meta-information.