CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to compare graphical diagrams, the method comprising:

comparing a first set of graphical objects of a first graphical diagram to a second set of graphical objects of a second graphical diagram;

in response to one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the first set matching one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the second set, declaring the given graphical object of the first set and the given graphical object of the second set a matched pair;

marking each graphical object of the first set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the second set a deleted graphical object;

marking each graphical object of the second set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the first set an added graphical object; and

generating and displaying a comparison graphical diagram that visually identifies differences between the first and second graphical diagrams, the differences including at least one of: one or more deleted graphical objects or one or more added graphical objects, wherein:

comparing the first set to the second set comprises comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages;

at each comparing stage, each graphical object of the first and second sets that has been declared as part of a matched pair is removed from a group of unmatched graphical objects and unmatched graphical objects of the first set in the group are compared to unmatched graphical objects of the second set in the group;

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages includes comparing of metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set, none of the metadata being displayed in any of the graphical diagrams; and

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages further includes comparing unique identifiers of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to unique identifiers of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the method further comprises, for each matched pair, determining whether the given graphical object of the first set is identical to the given graphical object of the second set; and

the differences between the first and second graphical diagrams visually identified in the comparison graphical diagram further include an edit for each matched pair in which the given graphical object of the first set is not identical to the given graphical object of the second set.

3. A method to compare graphical diagrams, the method comprising:

comparing a first set of graphical objects of a first graphical diagram to a second set of graphical objects of a second graphical diagram;

in response to one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the first set matching one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the second set, declaring the given graphical object of the first set and the given graphical object of the second set a matched pair;

marking each graphical object of the first set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the second set a deleted graphical object;

marking each graphical object of the second set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the first set an added graphical object; and

generating and displaying a comparison graphical diagram that visually identifies differences between the first and second graphical diagrams, the differences including at least one of: one or more deleted graphical objects or one or more added graphical objects, wherein:

comparing the first set to the second set comprises comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages;

at each comparing stage, each graphical object of the first and second sets that has been declared as part of a matched pair is removed from a group of unmatched graphical objects and unmatched graphical objects of the first set in the group are compared to unmatched graphical objects of the second set in the group;

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages includes comparing of metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set, none of the metadata being displayed in any of the graphical diagrams; and

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages further includes case sensitive comparing of text of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to text of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages further includes at least one of:

comparing of data attached to the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to data attached to the unmatched graphical objects of the second set;

comparing shapes of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to shapes of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set;

comparing sizes of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to sizes of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set; or

comparing of text of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to text of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the comparison graphical diagram includes:

displaying an altered version of the first graphical diagram in which differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are visually identified; and

simultaneously displaying an altered version of the second graphical diagram in which differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are visually identified.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to reverse a comparison direction between the first and second graphical diagrams and altering the comparison graphical diagram to display the comparison graphical diagram with the reversed comparison direction.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein altering the comparison graphical diagram to display the comparison graphical diagram with the reversed comparison direction includes:

displaying a reversed altered version of the first graphical diagram in which the differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are

changed to differences between the second graphical diagram and the first graphical diagram; and

simultaneously displaying a reversed altered version of the second graphical diagram in which the differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are changed to differences between the second graphical diagram and the first graphical diagram.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising, synchronizing scrolling between the altered version of the first graphical diagram and the altered version of the second graphical diagram, including:

in response to a user scrolling through the altered version of the first graphical diagram, automatically scrolling through the altered version of the second graphical diagram consistent with the user scrolling through the altered version of the first graphical diagram; and

in response to the user scrolling through the altered version of the second graphical diagram, automatically scrolling through the altered version of the first graphical diagram consistent with the user scrolling through the altered version of the second graphical diagram.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first graphical diagram is included in a first graphical diagram document and the second graphical diagram is included in a second graphical diagram document, the method further comprising, prior to comparing the first set to the second set, serializing each of the first graphical diagram document and the second graphical diagram document to facilitate the comparing.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

categorizing each of the differences between the first and second graphical diagrams into a corresponding one of multiple difference categories;

receiving input effective to turn off one of the difference categories; and

altering the comparison graphical diagram to stop visually identifying differences categorized in the turned off difference category.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the comparison graphical diagram includes one or more unchanged graphical objects corresponding to one or more matched pairs in which the given graphical object of the first set is identical to the given graphical object of the second set; and

displaying the comparison graphical diagram includes deemphasizing the one or more unchanged graphical objects relative to the differences.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparison graphical diagram is displayed in a graphical drawing canvas, the method further comprising displaying a panel near the graphical drawing canvas that lists the differences.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

one of the differences includes a difference between metadata of the given graphical object of the first set and of the given graphical object of the second set of one of the matched pairs;

the difference between metadata is visually identified by highlighting in the comparison graphical diagram one or both of the given graphical object of the first set or the given graphical object of the second set; and

the difference between metadata is displayed in the panel.

14. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon that are executable by a processor to perform or control performance of operations comprising:

comparing a first set of graphical objects of a first graphical diagram to a second set of graphical objects of a second graphical diagram;

in response to one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the first set matching one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the second set, declaring the given graphical object of the first set and the given graphical object of the second set a matched pair;

marking each graphical object of the first set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the second set a deleted graphical object;

marking each graphical object of the second set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the first set an added graphical object; and

generating and displaying a comparison graphical diagram that visually identifies differences between the first and second graphical diagrams, the differences including at least one of: one or more deleted graphical objects or one or more added graphical objects, wherein:

comparing the first set to the second set comprises comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages;

at each comparing stage, each graphical object of the first and second sets that has been declared as part of a matched pair is removed from a group of unmatched graphical objects and unmatched graphical objects of the first set in the group are compared to unmatched graphical objects of the second set in the group;

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages includes comparing of metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set, none of the metadata being displayed in any of the graphical diagrams;

displaying the comparison graphical diagram includes:

displaying an altered version of the first graphical diagram in which differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are visually identified; and

simultaneously displaying an altered version of the second graphical diagram in which differences between the first graphical diagram and the second graphical diagram are visually identified; and

the method further comprises receiving input effective to reverse a comparison direction between the first and second graphical diagrams and altering the comparison graphical diagram to display the comparison graphical diagram with the reversed comparison direction.

15. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein:

the operations further comprise, for each matched pair, determining whether the given graphical object of the first set is identical to the given graphical object of the second set; and

the differences between the first and second graphical diagrams visually identified in the comparison graphical diagram further include an edit for each matched pair in which the given graphical object of the first set is not identical to the given graphical object of the second set.

16. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the operations further comprises:

categorizing each of the differences between the first and second graphical diagrams into a corresponding one of multiple difference categories;

receiving input effective to turn off one of the difference categories; and

altering the comparison graphical diagram to stop visually identifying differences categorized in the turned off difference category.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein:

the comparison graphical diagram includes one or more unchanged graphical objects corresponding to one or more matched pairs in which the given graphical object of the first set is identical to the given graphical object of the second set; and

displaying the comparison graphical diagram includes deemphasizing the one or more unchanged graphical objects relative to the differences.

18. A method to compare graphical diagrams, the method comprising:

comparing a first set of graphical objects of a first graphical diagram to a second set of graphical objects of a second graphical diagram;

in response to one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the first set matching one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the second set, declaring the given graphical object of the first set and the given graphical object of the second set a matched pair;

marking each graphical object of the first set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the second set a deleted graphical object;

marking each graphical object of the second set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the first set an added graphical object; and

generating and displaying a comparison graphical diagram that visually identifies differences between the first and second graphical diagrams, the differences including at least one of: one or more deleted graphical objects or one or more added graphical objects, wherein:

comparing the first set to the second set comprises comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages;

at each comparing stage, each graphical object of the first and second sets that has been declared as part of a matched pair is removed from a group of unmatched graphical objects and unmatched graphical objects of the first set in the group are compared to unmatched graphical objects of the second set in the group;

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages includes comparing of metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set, none of the metadata being displayed in any of the graphical diagrams; and

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages further includes case insensitive comparing of text of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to text of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set.

19. A method to compare graphical diagrams, the method comprising:

comparing a first set of graphical objects of a first graphical diagram to a second set of graphical objects of a second graphical diagram;

in response to one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the first set matching one or more identifying properties of a given graphical object of the second set, declaring the given graphical object of the first set and the given graphical object of the second set a matched pair;

marking each graphical object of the first set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the second set a deleted graphical object;

marking each graphical object of the second set that is unmatched to any graphical object in the first set an added graphical object; and

generating and displaying a comparison graphical diagram that visually identifies differences between the first and second graphical diagrams, the differences including at least one of: one or more deleted graphical objects or one or more added graphical objects, wherein:

comparing the first set to the second set comprises comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages;

at each comparing stage, each graphical object of the first and second sets that has been declared as part of a matched pair is removed from a group of unmatched graphical objects and unmatched graphical objects of the first set in the group are compared to unmatched graphical objects of the second set in the group;

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages includes comparing of metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the first set to metadata of the unmatched graphical objects of the second set, none of the metadata being displayed in any of the graphical diagrams; and

comparing the first set to the second set in multiple sequential comparing stages further includes endpoint comparing of unmatched connector graphical objects of the first set to unmatched connector graphical objects of the second set.