

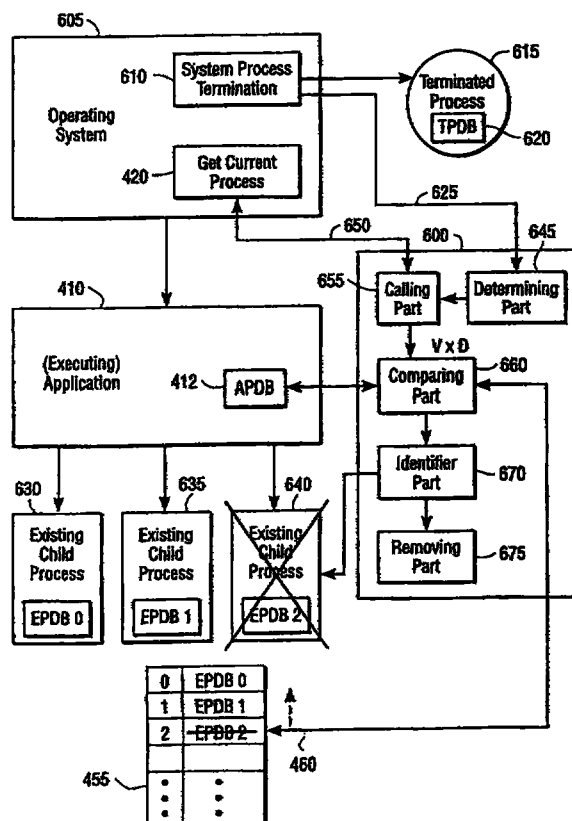
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MONITORING THE CREATION AND DESTRUCTION OF CHILD PROCESSES
WITHIN AN APPLICATION EXECUTING IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: A method and a virtual device driver for monitoring the creation and destruction of child processes (450, 445, 465) or threads within an application executing in a computer system controlled by an operating system (450), such as Windows. A list is provided (455) for storing existing child process database structures corresponding to child processes existing within the executing application (410). The list is checked periodically. If, when checked, the list has no entries, it is safe to assume that the existing child process and, possibly, related grandchild processes, have exited and execution of the application is complete. Other applications in a series of applications, for example, during the installation of a software program, may then be executed with minimal risk of corruption due to concurrent execution of the applications in the series.

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