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(54) Title: DATABASE SCHEMA COMPLEXITY REDUCTION

(57) Abstract: In contrast to the traditional approach of defining relationships between data collections using complex groups of cross-reference database tables, the present invention makes use of generic sets to represent relationships between complex collections of interrelated data. The complexity of a database schema can be greatly reduced by representing the relationships between data items as these data sets (sets of data items). These sets of data items may be defined in one or more database tables in a database. This approach provides for much simplified database data management and control. It enables the easy pre- or re- calculation of sets and provides for the easy creation of hierarchical meta-data trees, which are ideal for the targeted delivery of data to the user.