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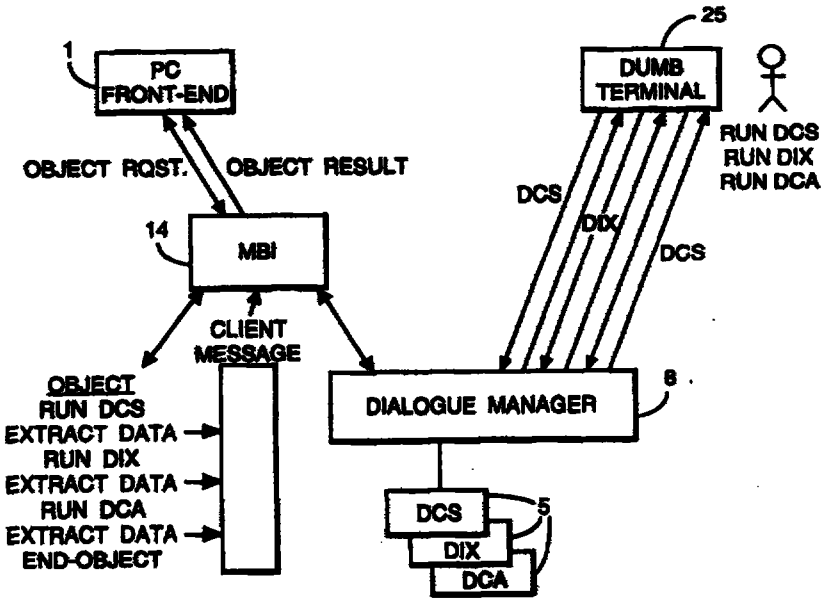
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(57) Abstract

An interface device, for use in a data management system, interfaces between a plurality of application programs, each requiring a device dependent message to run a transaction, and a client device capable of requesting a transaction to be run. The interface device receives device independent messages, from a client device, each containing a keyword, and translates these into device dependent messages which are sent to application programs. The device dependent message returned from the application program is translated by the interface into a device independent message before being sent to the client device.

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