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(54) **AUTOMATIC ICON GENERATION**

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(*) Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/838**; 345/835; 345/779
(58) **Field of Search** 345/348, 349, 345/350, 351, 334, 335, 838, 835–837, 839, 779; 707/529, 515, 501.1, 513

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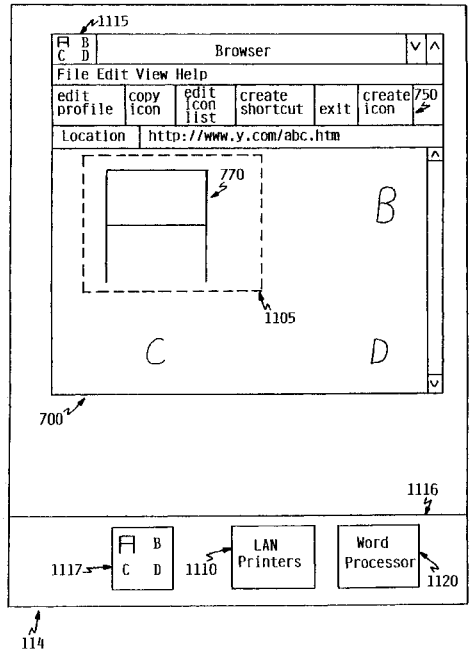
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mechanism for automatically generating icons. In the preferred embodiment, a browser displays a web page in a window on a display screen. The browser selects a subset of the page, and transforms the subset to an icon. The browser then displays the icon, which represents the browser and the page, on the display screen. Thus, when multiple invocations of the browser are active, each invocation will have a different, associated icon, depending on each invocation's current page. In this way, the user can easily distinguish between the browser invocations by viewing the different icons.

53 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets