

ule, to create and store new versions of the module, to create and name independent paths of development of the module, with each path being an ordered set of versions, and with the versions in the path identified by version numbers, and for building, in the memory, an indexed line file, including the text of all lines active in all versions along all paths of the module, and a variant history file for given path, wherein the improvement comprises:

- a memory for storing an indexed line file, a variant history file, and program data;
- a CPU, connected to said memory, for executing said program data to create an indexed line file having a unique line identifier associated with each line in the line file and a variant history file including an ordered set of records, with each record including a unique line identifier, associated with a line active in one of the versions in the given path, and indicating one of the version numbers in the given path where the line identified by the unique line identifier

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fier became active or one of the version numbers in the given path where the line identified by the unique line identifier was deleted.

10. The computer of claim 9 also for generating a change tag associated with the operation of creating a new version, wherein said program data when executed by said CPU causes each unique line identifier to include a change tag associated with the operation of creating the version where the line identified by the unique line identifier first became active; and

causes said variant history file to have its records ordered so that record indicating a version number of a first given version, in which a given line becomes active, immediately precedes record indicating the version number of a second given version in which said given line is deleted, and where records of lines made active in the second given version immediately follow a last record indicating a line is deleted in the second given version.

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