



(12) **United States Patent**
van Gilluwe et al.

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(54) **COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEM
INSTALLATION**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Related U.S. Application Data

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1997.

Disclosed herein is apparatus and a method of installing a
computer operating system on a data storage medium of a
computer system. The computer system includes a processor
and the data storage medium. The apparatus and method
includes reading the data storage medium for a set of storage
medium characteristics including the partition boundaries of
each existing partition on the data storage medium. An
identification of the operating system to be installed on the
data storage medium is then received, typically in the form
of a user input signal. The installation characteristic set of
the identified operating system is then retrieved from an
operating system rule database of the computer system,
which rule database can contain a set of installation char-
acteristics for each of a plurality of identified operating
systems including a space required by each operating system
on the storage medium. The read data storage medium
characteristic set is compared with the retrieved operating
system installation characteristic set. When the two sets
differ by one or more characteristics, at least one of the data
storage medium characteristics is modified so that the oper-
ating system can be installed on the data storage medium.
The modifications can, for example, include one or more of
moving an existing storage medium partition, resizing an
existing storage medium partition, or establishing a new
storage medium partition. Following the foregoing prepara-
tion of the storage medium, the operating system will
typically be installed on the data storage medium.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 9/449**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **717/11; 717/1; 707/203**

(58) **Field of Search** **717/3, 11, 1; 707/203,**
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714/2, 25, 201, 202, 710, 764

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34 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

