

caller (step 1020). Referring back to step 1006, if the dependent control is the control changed by the user. The process then disables/enables the control accordingly (step 1012) with the process then proceeding to step 1008.

Referring back to step 1002, if the changed control has a dependency function, the process invokes the dependency function (step 1014). The process then checks RC the return value from the dependency function (step 1016). If RC equals change, the process then proceed to step 1004 as described above. If RC is not OK, the process proceeds to set an error flag (step 1018) with the process then returning to the caller (step 1020).

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claim is:

1. A method in a data processing system having an object oriented environment, wherein said object oriented environment includes a plurality of graphic user interface objects and a plurality of application objects, each graphic user object having a unique identifier and a selected attribute and each application object having a preselected response, said method comprising:

identifying graphic user interface objects associated with an application object;

creating a table specifying relationships between said graphic user interface objects and each graphic user interface object and said application object; and

each time said application object is initialized, utilizing said table to specify objects within said application object.

2. A data processing system having an object oriented environment, wherein said object oriented environment includes a plurality of graphic user interface objects and a plurality of application objects, each graphic user object having a unique identifier and a selected attribute and each application object having a preselected response, said data processing system comprising:

identification means for identifying graphic user interface objects associated with an application object;

creation means for creating a table specifying relationships between said graphic user interface objects and each graphic user interface object and said application object; and

utilization means, responsive to initialization of said application object, for utilizing said table to specify objects within said application object.

3. A method for displaying a panel in a data processing system having an object oriented environment, wherein the object oriented environment includes a plurality of graphic user interface objects and an application having at least one panel for display to a user, the method comprising:

identifying a number of controls associated with the panel;

for each control identified, creating a table for the panel; obtaining values for all attributes within the table;

setting up dependencies for the controls and the panel; and

displaying the panel.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein setting step comprises: selecting a first control from the number of controls; determining whether the selected control has a dependency function;

invoking the dependency function in response to the presence of the dependency function; and

responsive to an indication that the control must be filled with an attribute value, sending the attribute value required to set the dependency function for the control.

5. A data processing system comprising:

identification means for identifying a number of controls associated with a panel for display within the data processing system, wherein the panel is associated with an application;

creation means for creating a table for the panel;

means for obtaining values for all attributes within the table;

setup means for setting up dependencies for the controls and the panel; and

displaying the panel.

6. The data processing system of claim 5, wherein the creation means includes means for specifying the unique identifier, the selected attribute, and an identification of another control from which the control will depend.

7. The data processing system of claim 6, wherein the means for specifying further includes means for specifying a dependency function associated with the control, wherein the dependency function is invoked each time the application is initialized.

8. A method in a data processing system for displaying a panel in the data processing system having an object oriented environment, wherein the object oriented environment includes a plurality of graphic user interface objects and an application having at least one panel for display to a user, the method comprising:

identifying a number of controls associated with the panel;

for each control identified, creating a table for the panel; obtaining values for all attributes within the table;

setting up dependencies for the controls and the panel; and

displaying the panel.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein setting step comprises: selecting a first control from the number of controls; determining whether the selected control has a dependency function;

invoking the dependency function in response to the presence of the dependency function; and

responsive to an indication that the control must be filled with a value, sending the attribute value required to set the dependency function of the control.

10. A data processing system for displaying a panel in the data processing system having an object oriented environment, wherein the object oriented environment includes a plurality of graphic user interface objects and an application having at least one panel for display to a user, the method comprising:

identification means for identifying a number of controls associated with the panel;

for each control identified, creation means for creating a table for the panel;

obtain means for obtaining values for all attributes within the table;

setup means for setting up dependencies for the controls and the panel; and

display means for displaying the panel.

11. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein setting step comprises: