



US006002867A

United States Patent [19] Jazdzewski

[11] Patent Number: **6,002,867**
[45] Date of Patent: **Dec. 14, 1999**

[54] **DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM WITH METHODS PROVIDING VISUAL FORM INHERITANCE**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] Appl. No.: **08/738,433**

A visual development system is described which allows a user to derive forms from other “ancestor” forms, inheriting their components, properties, and code as a starting point for one’s own forms. During system operation, the user selects an “Inherit” menu choice for indicating to the system that the form to be created inherits from an existing ancestor form. Ancestor forms can be any forms already contained in an existing project or in an “object repository” provided by the system. Form inheritance allows the user to create a library of standard form templates, either within a single application or across an entire suite of applications. Any changes made to the ancestor form immediately appear in the descendant forms. Further, the use can customize each form type so derived while still retaining the ability to modify the standard form and have those changes reflected in the derived forms.

[22] Filed: **Oct. 24, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 9/45**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/701; 395/702; 395/703; 395/704; 707/507**

[58] **Field of Search** **345/701, 702, 345/703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 712, 135, 700, 200.62**

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32 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets

