

Form 300" is shown with only a NEWER button 313. This is because form 300" is the view of the original object instance (i.e. there were no changes prior to this point).

Another button provided on each form is an "OK" button 316. The "OK" button permits the user to remove the form from the screen.

It would also be possible to add other buttons. Buttons such as ORIG button 314, FIGS. 10 and 11, which would bring up a form having the original attributes of the associated object instances. Another button which may be provided is a HOME button 315, FIGS. 11 and 12, which would bring up a form associated with the current cell display.

In addition, it would be possible, as discussed above, to identify the data which had been modified by displaying the modified data in a different font, a different color, blinking text, etc.

Referring now to FIGS. 13A and 13B, a flow chart, generally designated 800, illustrating a method embodying the present invention is shown. In addition, pseudo code for flowchart 800 is illustrated in Appendix A. The process commences at step 801 where it determines if an event has occurred. If no event has occurred, the process returns, step 802.

If a "Show Detail" option is selected, process 801 moves to step 803 where the chain depth is set to "1". The value is then obtained, step 804, and displayed, step 805.

An "OK" option is then provided for selection on the display, step 806. The process then moves to decision step 807 and determines if there are any older remaining values in the chain. If there are no older values, the process returns to step 801. If there are older values, an "Older" option is provided on the display.

If an "Older" option is available and selected, the process moves from step 801 to step 809, where the chain depth is incremented. The value is then retrieved, step 801, and displayed, step 811. The "OK" option is provided (as in step 806) along with a "Newer" option.

The process then moves to a decision step 813 and determines if there are any older remaining values in the chain. If there are no older values, the process returns to step 801. If there are older values, the "Older" option is provided on the display.

If a "Newer" option is available and selected, the process moves from step 801 to 815, where the chain depth is decremented. The value is then retrieved, step 816, and displayed, step 817.

The option then moves to a decision step 818 where it determines whether the chain depth is not equal to "1". If the chain depth is not equal to "1", the process moves to step 819 where a "Newer" option is provided. Following step 819, or if the chain depth is equal to "1", the process moves to step 820 where the "Older" and "OK" options are provided. The process then returns to step 801.

If the "OK" option is present and selected, the process moves from step 801 to step 822, where the form is removed. The process then returns to step 801.

Therefore, a method has been shown which accomplishes the objectives of displaying information from an information based computer system which consolidates information from various object instances to be displayed onto a single form. Additionally, the system maintains an historical record of changes/corrections to the object instances.

Thus, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that there has been provided in accordance with the invention, a data cell that fully satisfies the objects, aims, and advantages set forth above.

While the invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alterations, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alterations, modifications, and variations in the appended claims.

#### APPENDIX A

Loop waiting for events:

Case Event "Show Detail"

Get the value on the correction chain at current depth.

Display a new form with the correction value in the field.

Add "OK" to the user's choices.

If there are older corrections on the correction chain:

Add "Older" to the user's choices.

Case Event "Older":

Increment the chain depth.

Get the value on the correction chain at current depth.

Display the correction value in the current form's field.

Add "Newer" and "OK" to the user's choices.

If there are older corrections on the correction chain:

Add "Older" to the user's choices.

Case Event "OK"

Remove the form.

Case Event "Newer"

Decrement the chain depth.

Get the value on the correction chain at the current depth.

Display the correction value in the current form's field.

If the chain depth is not one:

Add "Newer" to the user's choices.

Add "Older" and "OK" to the user's choices.

Case Default

Handle other events.

End of loop

We claim:

1. A method for displaying information from an information based computer system, said system having a means for displaying said information and a means for storing said information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction to display a first data value in a cell;

initializing a data value depth counter; and displaying said first data value associated with said data value depth counter in said cell.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a user option to remove the display of said first data value.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

determining if there is a first previous data value linked to said first data value in said means for storing said information; and

providing a user option to display said first previous data value.