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(54) **USER TASK INTERFACE IN A WEB APPLICATION**

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See application file for complete search history.

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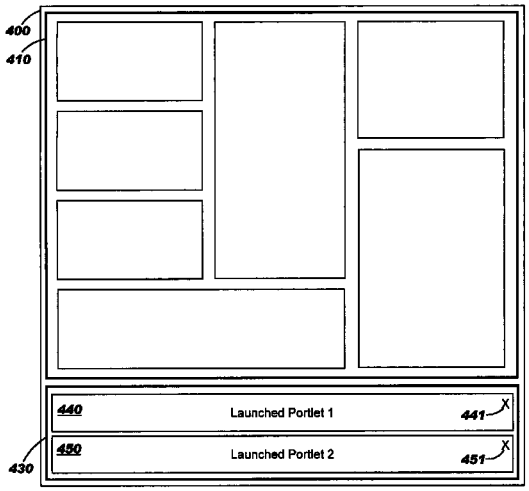
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A task-like user interface is provided for Web-based applications. Preferred embodiments enable users to initiate multiple instances of tasks within a single Web application, where independent state information is retained for each instance. Each user-initiated task also has a prescribed life cycle with a definite start and end. Resources allocated to perform various activities can therefore be released when the activity ends. Optionally, contextual information can be passed to a task upon invocation. Support for persisting a currently-viewable work unit as a user-selectable favorite may optionally be provided.

14 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets