US005530795A

United States Patent [19]

Wan

[11] **Patent Number: 5,530,795**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jun. 25, 1996**

[54] **COMPUTER CONFERENCING**

[76] Inventor: **Hong K. Wan**, 111 Bukit Batok West Ave 6, #21-134, Singapore 2365, Singapore

[21] Appl. No.: **196,514**

[22] Filed: **Feb. 15, 1994**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06T 1/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/153**; 395/158; 395/200.04

[58] **Field of Search** 395/153, 157–158, 395/161, 146, 200, 200.02, 200.04, 200.1; 345/1–3

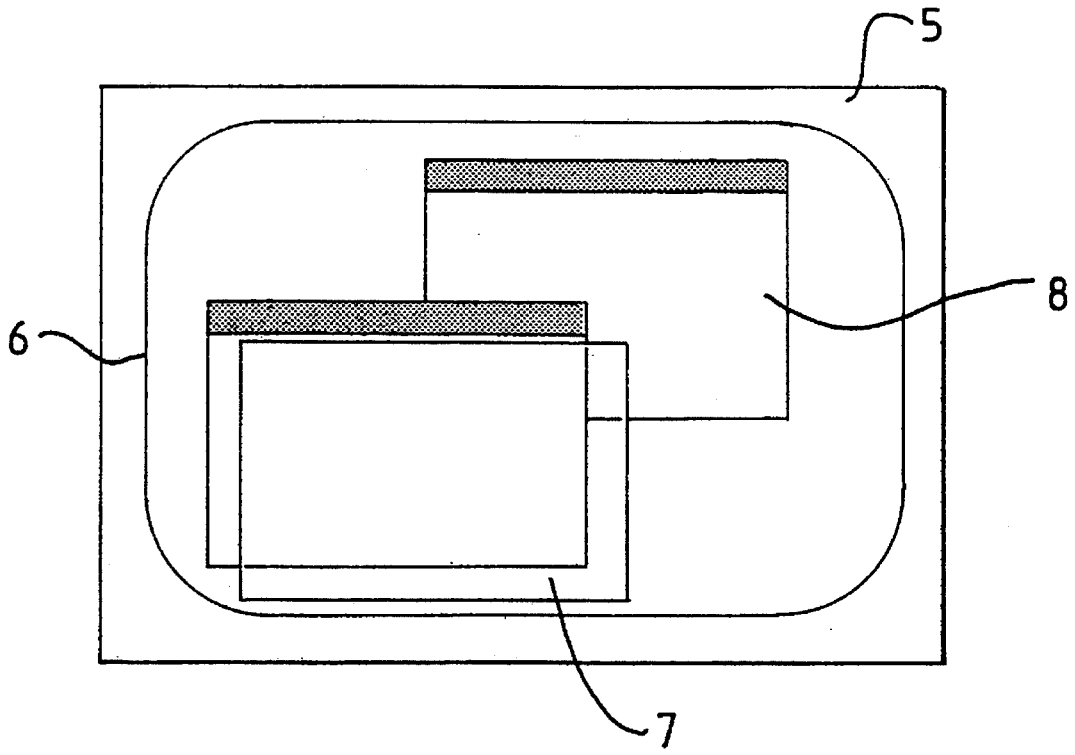
[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Re. 34,476	12/1993	Norwood	382/13
4,646,250	2/1987	Childress	395/149
5,157,763	10/1992	Peters et al.	395/157
5,220,657	6/1993	Bly et al.	395/425
5,339,389	8/1994	Bates et al.	395/153
5,408,600	4/1995	Garfinkel et al.	395/153

Primary Examiner—Mark K. Zimmerman
Assistant Examiner—Joseph H. Feild
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Klarquist Sparkman Campbell Leigh & Whinston

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Information is communicated between computer users having display units by displaying a common software application and generating a transparent display window over the common software application. A data communication link is established between the users and a common display of a subject software application that can receive input via the communication link appears on each display unit. An overlay software application is activated to generate a transparent display window positioned over the common application on each display unit, after which the common application remains visible. Inputs made are displayed on

9 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets