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[54] OBJECT MANAGEMENT FACILITY WHICH INCLUDES A SNAPSHOT FACILITY FOR PROVIDING DATA TRANSFER BETWEEN TWO OBJECTS

[75] Inventors: **John A. Dysart**, Santa Clara; **William M. Crow**, San Jose; **Peter S. Showman**, Cupertino, all of Calif.

[73] Assignee: **Hewlett-Packard Company**, Palo Alto, Calif.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/700**; 364/275.6; 364/277.81; 364/286; 364/943; 364/962; 364/DIG. 1; 364/DIG. 2; 395/100

[58] **Field of Search** ... 364/200 MS File, 900 MS File, 364/518, 521; 340/721

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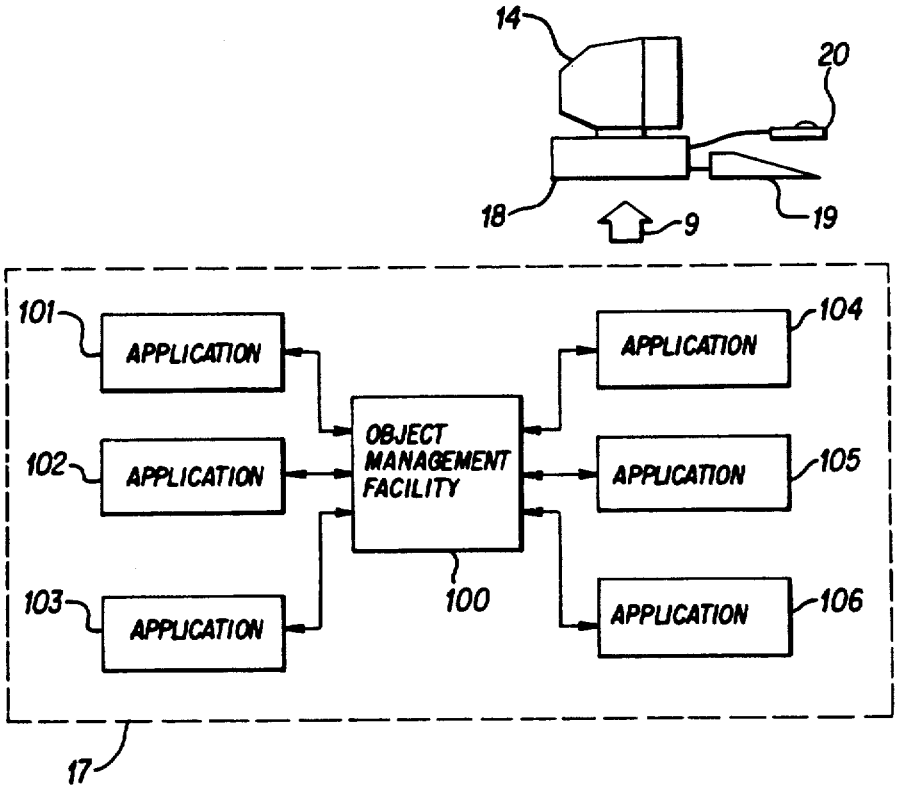
Primary Examiner—Thomas C. Lee
Assistant Examiner—Ayni Mohamed

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A computer having a file management system and a plurality of objects is presented. The file management allows for the coordination of the transfer of data between objects. A link with a view may be created between a child objects and a parent object as follows. A link data structure includes a reference name which identifies the link data structure, a reference to the child object, a reference to the parent object and a data identifier which identifies the data to be transferred. Upon request from the parent object, the child object displays the data in the location specified by the parent object. When the file management system receives the request from the parent object it sends a request for the transfer of the data to the child object. The child object then displays the data at the specified location. Alternatively, when the link is set up, the child object may set up a snapshot object. The snapshot takes over responsibility to display the data at the specified location. When the file management system receives the request from the parent object it sends a request for the transfer of the data to the snapshot rather than the child object. The snapshot then displays the data at the specified location.

15 Claims, 59 Drawing Sheets