

Adobe Patent on Tabbed Palettes

<http://swpat.ffii.org/pikta/mupli/ep689133/index.en.html>

Workgroup

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english version 2004/08/16 by Hartmut PILCH*

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This patent, granted by the EPO in Aug 2001, has been used by Adobe to sue Macromedia Inc in the US. The EP version took 6 years to examine, and it was granted in full breadth, without any modification. It covers the idea of adding a third dimension to a menu system by arranging several sets of options behind each other, marked with tabs. This is particularly found to be useful in image processing software of Adobe and Macromedia, but also in The GIMP and many other programs.

Contents

EC Class: G06F3/033A1

IP Class: G06F9/44

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requested: [-] EP0689133, A3, B1

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Name of the Invention: Method of displaying multiple sets of information in the same area of a computer screen

Claim 1: A method for combining on a computer display an additional set of information displayed in a first area of the display and having associated with it a selection indicator into a group of multiple sets of information needed on a recurring basis displayed in a second area of the screen, comprising the steps of

1. establishing the second area on the computer display in which the group of multiple sets of information is displayed, the second area having a size which is less than the entire area of the computer display, the second area displaying a first of the multiple sets of information;
2. providing within the second area a plurality of selection indicators, each one associated with a corresponding one of the multiple selecting a second of the multiple sets of information for display within the second area by activating a selection indicator associated with a second of the multiple sets of information, whereby the second of the multiple sets of information is substituted for the first of the multiple sets of information within the area of the display; and
3. combining the additional set of information, displayed in the first area of the display into the group of multiple sets of information so that the additional set of information may be selected using its selection indicator in the same manner as the other sets of information in the group.

patent application (A): claims¹, description² and abstract³

granted version (B1): The EPO publishes the patent as a collection of graphical files, which we concatenate into one huge PDF file⁴ and, by OCR batch processing⁵, reduce to a text file⁶.

¹claims.html

²desc.html

³abstract.html

⁴ep0689133.pdf

⁵<http://localhost/swpat/girzu/epatext/index.en.html>

⁶ep0689133.txt