

SUMMARY

[0015] It is an object of the present invention to substantially overcome, or at least ameliorate, one or more disadvantages of existing arrangements.

[0016] According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of editing an electronic document, said method comprising the steps of:

[0017] publishing editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to said document;

[0018] acknowledging receipt of said modifications by one or more other collaborators;

[0019] merging the published modifications with any local modifications to produce a merged version of said modifications; and

[0020] applying the merged modifications to said document to produce an edited version of said document including said editorial modifications, said edited version containing data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of said editorial modifications by one or more of said collaborators.

[0021] According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of editing a document over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

[0022] transmitting editorial modifications to said document over said network from a first location to a second location upon said editorial modifications being made to said document at said first location by a first collaborator; and

[0023] applying said editorial modifications to a version of said document stored at said second location, to produce an edited version of said document, said edited version comprising data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of said editorial modifications by one or more other collaborators.

[0024] According to still another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of synchronising versions of a document modified collaboratively over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

[0025] determining a most recent version of said document that is stored locally on said network by analysing data incorporated within one or more locally stored versions of said document, said data indicating acknowledgment of a particular version of said document by one or more collaborators;

[0026] requesting editorial modifications made to said most recent version of said document by any one or more of said collaborators at one or more remote locations of said network; and

[0027] applying said editorial modifications to said most recent version of said document to produce synchronised version of said document.

[0028] According to still another aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus for editing an electronic document, said apparatus comprising:

[0029] publishing means for publishing editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to said document;

[0030] acknowledgment means for acknowledging receipt of said modifications by one or more other collaborators;

[0031] merging means for merging the published modifications with any local modifications to produce a merged version of said modifications; and

[0032] modification application means for applying the merged modifications to said document to produce an edited version of said document including said editorial modifications, said edited version containing data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of said editorial modifications by one or more of said collaborators.

[0033] According to still another aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus for editing a document over a network, said apparatus comprising the steps of:

[0034] transmission means for transmitting editorial modifications to said document over said network from a first location to a second location upon said editorial modifications being made to said document at said first location by a first collaborator; and

[0035] modification application means for applying said editorial modifications to a version of said document stored at said second location, to produce an edited version of said document, said edited version comprising data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of said editorial modifications by one or more other collaborators.

[0036] According to still another aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus for synchronising versions of a document modified collaboratively over a network, said apparatus comprising:

[0037] version determining means for determining a most recent version of said document that is stored locally on said network by analysing data incorporated within one or more locally stored versions of said document, said data indicating acknowledgment of a particular version of said document by one or more collaborators;

[0038] modification requesting means for requesting editorial modifications made to said most recent version of said document by any one or more of said collaborators at one or more remote locations of said network; and

[0039] modification application means for applying said editorial modifications to said most recent version of said document to produce synchronised version of said document.

[0040] According to still another aspect of the present invention there is provided a program for editing an electronic document, said program comprising:

[0041] code for publishing editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to said document;

[0042] code for acknowledging receipt of said modifications by one or more other collaborators;

[0043] code for merging the published modifications with any local modifications to produce a merged version of said modifications; and