

containing data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of editorial modifications by one or more other collaborators.

**13.** A method of synchronizing versions of a document modified collaboratively over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a most recent version of the document that is stored locally on the network by analyzing data incorporated within one or more locally stored versions of the document, the data indicating acknowledgment of a particular version of the document by one or more collaborators;

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

applying the editorial modifications to the most recent version of the document to produce synchronized version of the document.

**14.** A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of acknowledging receipt of the editorial modifications.

**15.** A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of merging the editorial modifications with any local modifications to produce a merged version of the modifications.

**16.** A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of applying the merged modifications to the document to produce an edited version of the document.

**17.** A method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of updating data incorporated within the edited version of the document to indicate acknowledgment of the editorial modifications by any one or more of the collaborators.

**18.** A method according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the data identifies the version of a particular document.

**19.** A method according to claim 13, wherein the data comprises a universally-unique identifier.

**20.** An apparatus for editing an electronic document, said apparatus comprising:

publishing means for publishing editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to the document;

acknowledgment means for acknowledging receipt of modifications by one or more other collaborators;

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

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

**21.** An apparatus for editing a document over a network, said apparatus comprising:

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

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

**22.** An apparatus for synchronizing versions of a document modified collaboratively over a network, said apparatus comprising:

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

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

modification application means for applying the editorial modifications to the most recent version of the document to produce synchronized version of said document.

**23.** A program for editing an electronic document, said program comprising:

code for publishing editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to the document;

code for acknowledging receipt of the modifications by one or more other collaborators;

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

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

**24.** A program for editing a document over a network, said program comprising:

code for transmitting editorial modifications to the document over the network from a first location to a second location upon the editorial modifications being made to the document at the first location by a first collaborator; and

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

**25.** A program for synchronized versions of a document modified collaboratively over a network, said program comprising:

code for determining a most recent version of the document that is stored locally on the network by analyzing data incorporated within one or more locally stored versions of the document, the data indicating acknowledgment of a particular version of the document by one or more collaborators;