

[0024] Alternatively, as well-known, a server computer system 43 can be directly coupled to the LAN 33 through a network interface 45 to provide files 47 and other services to the clients 35, 37, without the need to connect to the Internet through the gateway system 31.

[0025] FIG. 2B shows one example of a conventional computer system that can be used as a client computer system or a server computer system or as a web server system. The computer system of FIG. 2B may, for example, be an Apple® Macintosh® computer. It will also be appreciated that such a computer system can be used to perform many of the functions of an Internet service provider, such as ISP 5. The computer system 51 interfaces to external systems through the modem or network interface 53. It will be appreciated that the modem or network interface 53 can be considered to be part of the computer system 51. This interface 53 can be an analog modem, ISDN modem, DSL modem, cable modem, token ring interface, satellite transmission interface, or other interfaces for coupling a computer system to other computer systems. The computer system 51 includes a processing unit 55, which can be a conventional microprocessor such as a G3, G4, or G5 microprocessor from Motorola, Inc. or IBM, a Motorola Power PC microprocessor, or an Intel Pentium microprocessor. Memory 59 is coupled to the processor 55 by a bus 57. Memory 59 can be dynamic random access memory (DRAM) and can also include static RAM (SRAM), among other types of well-known memory devices. The bus 57 couples the processor 55 to the memory 59 and also to non-volatile storage 65 and to display controller 61 and to the input/output (I/O) controller 67. The display controller 61 controls in the conventional manner a display on a display device 63 which can be a cathode ray tube (CRT) or liquid crystal display (LCD). The input/output devices 69 can include a keyboard, disk drives, printers, a scanner, and other input and output devices, including a mouse or other pointing device. The display controller 61 and the I/O controller 67 can be implemented with conventional well known technology. A digital image input device 71 can be a digital camera which is coupled to an I/O controller 67 in order to allow images from the digital camera to be input into the computer system 51. The non-volatile storage 65 is often a magnetic hard disk, an optical disk, or another form of storage for large amounts of data. Some of this data is often written, by a direct memory access process, into memory 59 during execution of software in the computer system 51. One of skill in the art will immediately recognize that the terms “computer-readable medium” and “machine-readable medium” include any type of storage device that is accessible by the processor 55 and also encompass a carrier wave that encodes a data signal.

[0026] It will be appreciated that the computer system 51 is one example of many possible computer systems which have different architectures. For example, personal computers based on an Intel microprocessor often have multiple buses, one of which can be an input/output (I/O) bus for the peripherals and one that directly connects the processor 55 and the memory 59 (often referred to as a memory bus). The buses are connected together through bridge components that perform any necessary translation due to differing bus protocols.

[0027] Network computers are another type of computer system that can be used with the present invention. Network

computers do not usually include a hard disk or other mass storage, and the executable programs are loaded from a network connection into the memory 59 for execution by the processor 55. A Web TV system, which is known in the art, is also considered to be a computer system according to the present invention, but it may lack some of the features shown in FIG. 2B, such as certain input or output devices. A typical computer system will usually include at least a processor, memory, and a bus coupling the memory to the processor.

[0028] It will also be appreciated that the computer system 51 is controlled by operating system software which includes a file management system, such as a disk operating system, which is part of the operating system software. One example of an operating system software with its associated file management system software is the family of operating systems known as the Mac OS® operating system from Apple Computer, Inc. of Cupertino, Calif., and their associated file management systems. The file management system is typically stored in the non-volatile storage 65 and causes the processor 55 to execute the various acts required by the operating system to input and output data and to store data in memory, including storing files on the non-volatile storage 65.

[0029] FIG. 3 illustrates an embodiment of an immediate search feedback method 300. At block 302, the method 300 waits to receive search input from a user. Search input includes, for example, text (e.g. keywords or portions thereof) or other input describing the desired information sought by a user. In one embodiment, the received search input is text that is typed or otherwise entered by a user into a computer system. In one embodiment, search input is entered into a field or form that is presented as part of a graphical user interface (GUI). The field may be a field presented to the user as part of a web browser application, such as a field presented in a toolbar. In another embodiment, the search input field may be presented as part of the coding of a web page, such as for example an input field on a search engine homepage (e.g. <http://www.google.com>). In one embodiment, search input includes text input by the user as part of the query, such as keywords, search terms, or parameters relating to the information sought. In one embodiment, a command used to manually submit a search (e.g. pressing “Return”) using input keywords is not considered search input, since it does not describe aspects of the information sought; rather it only serves to submit a query.

[0030] As used herein, a web browser is a software application program that is used to read, display, locate, download or otherwise access documents (e.g. web pages) or other data resources on the Internet, which includes the World Wide Web. Web browsers are capable of interpreting or processing “marked up” or coded documents (typically Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)) that reside on servers and interpret the coding to render a web page. Most web browsers are graphical browsers, which are capable of displaying both text and graphics from web pages. In addition, most browsers are capable of presenting multimedia information, including sound and video. An example of a conventional web browser is the Safari™ web browser, version 1.2.4, available from Apple Computer, Inc., the assignee of the present application.

[0031] At block 303, the method 300 determines whether the user has issued a submit command. A submit command