

document into a collaboration. The path to the collaboration, path to the response document and the name of the revision to import into are required. A ReceiveOptions object 918 is returned object for insertion of the response into its corresponding collaboration.

[0149] ReceiveOptions object 918 provides details for receiving of a response file. This is returned by the Receive application. The COM interfaces are:

[0150] "Title As String" specifies the title for the response.

[0151] "SenderName As String" specifies the senders name for the response.

[0152] "SenderAddress As String" specifies the senders email address for the response.

[0153] "Color As Long" specifies the color for the response.

[0154] The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense. It will, however, be evident that additions, subtractions, deletions, and other modifications and changes may be made thereunto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method using a computer system for collaboration on a document stored in a computer readable medium, between a managing author and a contributing author, comprising:

assigning computer access rights to said document by said managing author, said computer access rights exclusively controlling changes to said document;

creating a replica of said document using said computer system, when said contributing author accesses said document for editing;

causing a change to said replica, when said contributing author edits said replica; and

incorporating said change into said document, if said change is accepted by said managing author.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said replica is stored in said computer readable medium.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said computer readable medium is a common database accessible by both said managing author and said contributing author.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said document is a word processing document.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said word processing document is a Microsoft® Word document.

6. A system for document collaboration between a plurality of user computers linked via a communications network, comprising:

a common storage area coupled to said plurality of user computers via said communications network;

manager software stored on a first user computer of said plurality of user computers, said manager software for exclusively controlling change to a document stored in said common storage area; and

contributor software stored on a second user computer of said plurality of user computers, said contributor soft-

ware providing a proposed change to a replica of said document, said replica stored in said common storage area.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said proposed change is incorporated into said document by said manager software.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said common storage includes a revision comprising said incorporated proposed change to said document.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein said common storage area is a Document Management System (DMS).

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said DMS comprises a response comprising said proposed change.

11. The system of claim 6 wherein said document is an evolving document.

12. The system of claim 6 wherein said common storage area is part of a local file system.

13. The system of claim 6 wherein said common storage area is part of a collaboration server.

14. The system of claim 6 wherein said manager software and said contributor software are part of a single executable program.

15. The system of claim 6 wherein said common storage area comprises a revision object, said revision object having a response object.

16. A method for document collaboration using a contributor computer and a manager computer connected together via a network, said method comprising:

said contributor computer receiving a replica of a document sent by said manager computer, wherein said replica and said document are stored in a common database;

generating a proposed change by editing said replica; and

displaying by said contributor computer of a portion of said document having said proposed change, after said proposed change is incorporated by said manager computer into said document.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said common database is database selected from a group consisting of a DMS, a collaboration server database, and a flat file.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said portion of said document having said proposed change being displayed is part of a next revision of said document.

19. A method for document collaboration using a plurality of contributing computers and a managing computer, said manager computer controlling changes to a document, said method comprising:

displaying a part of a first replica of said document by a first computer of said plurality of contributing computers; and

concurrently with said displaying said part of said first replica, said first computer displaying a part of a second replica of said document, wherein said second replica comprises a change to said document by a second computer of said plurality of contributing computers.

20. The method claim 19 further comprising sending a change to said first replica by said first computer to said manager computer for changing said document.

21. The method claim 19 wherein said document and said replica is stored in a common data storage area.

22. The method claim 19 wherein said first computer reads a common data storage area comprising said first replica and second replica.