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(76) **Inventor: Dominique Dumont, Eybens (FR)**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Correspondence Address:
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400 (US)

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method, within an object-oriented computer program, of creating a dependency between a first class and an element of a second class in a hierarchical arrangement of classes created by a class-making module using declarative definitions of each class, the method comprising:

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defining, within the first class definition,

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position information defining the relative position within the hierarchy of the element of the second class, and

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rule information defining the nature of the dependency; and

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incorporating functionality within the first class to interpret the rule and position information to create the dependency.

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