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[54] **DEVICE INDEPENDENT SPOOLING IN A PRINT ARCHITECTURE**

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[*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,602,974.

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 3/08**

[52] U.S. Cl. **395/114; 395/112**

[58] Field of Search 395/119, 115, 395/117, 116, 1.1, 114, 102, 110, 111, 113, 109, 1.6, 1.7, 321, 112

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[57]

ABSTRACT

Print jobs are automatically and transparently spooled in a device-independent format, such as an enhanced metafile format. The enhanced metafile format provides a format into which documents are readily converted and which occupies a minimal amount of storage space. Each spooled print job is asynchronously printed relative to a program that requested the print job. Such spooled print jobs are de-spooled in a background processor mode. An operating system provides the resources for converting a print job into enhanced metafile format and spooling the print job in the enhanced metafile format.

16 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



