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# United States Patent [19]

Ackerman et al.

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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC GENERATION OF EXTERNAL INTERFACE SPECIFICATIONS**5,692,206 11/1997 Shirley et al. .... 707/531  
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[58] Field of Search ..... 707/531, 530, 707/8, 9, 10, 511; 395/701; 345/331

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## [57] ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for the automatic generation of interface specifications includes a communications network for enabling users of the apparatus to inter-communicate and to write files to pending, reference and interface data bases. The files written to the data bases are formatted and automatically received to reduce errors in the specification data in the files. A document generator responsive to commands accesses document template files in a document template data base to prepare defined documentation reflecting the external interface specification from the files in the data bases.

14 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

