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(54) **SHARED COMMENTS FOR ONLINE DOCUMENT COLLABORATION**

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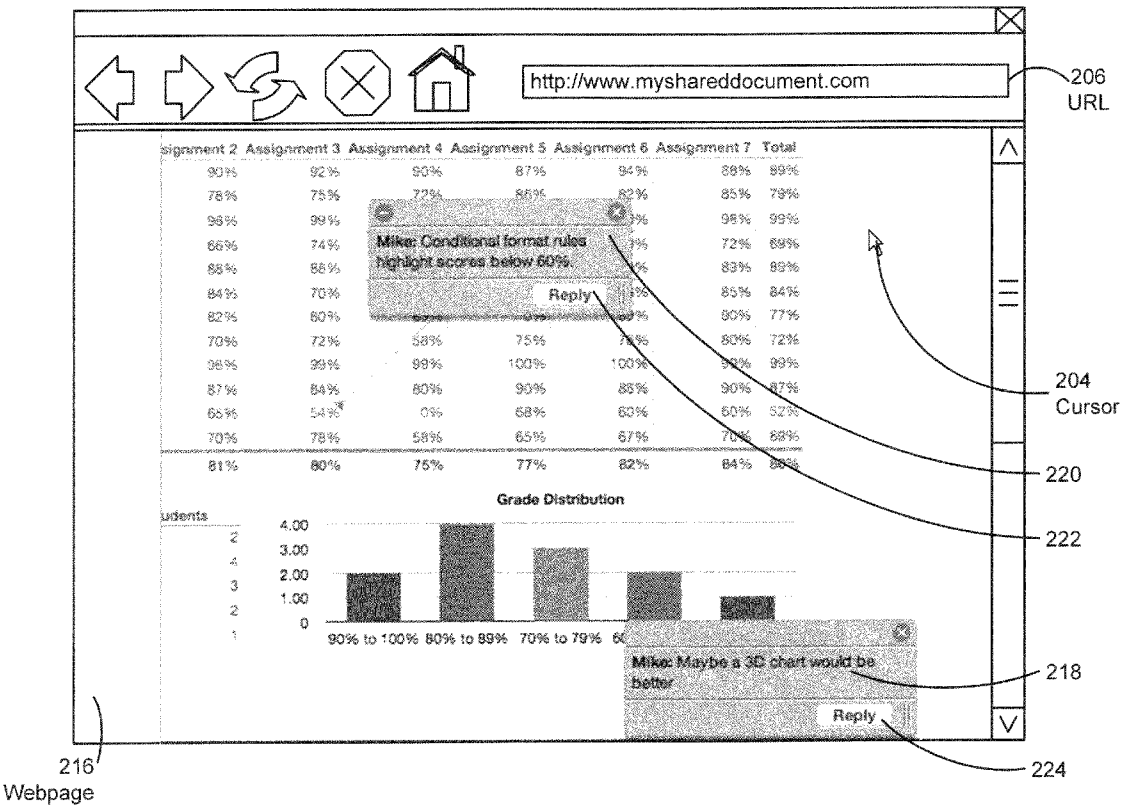
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Some embodiments of the present invention provide a system that edits a document. During operation, the system shares the document as a webpage and receives, from the webpage, a comment for the document by a collaborator of the document. Next, the system updates the webpage with the comment and enables responses to the comment by other collaborators of the document from the webpage.



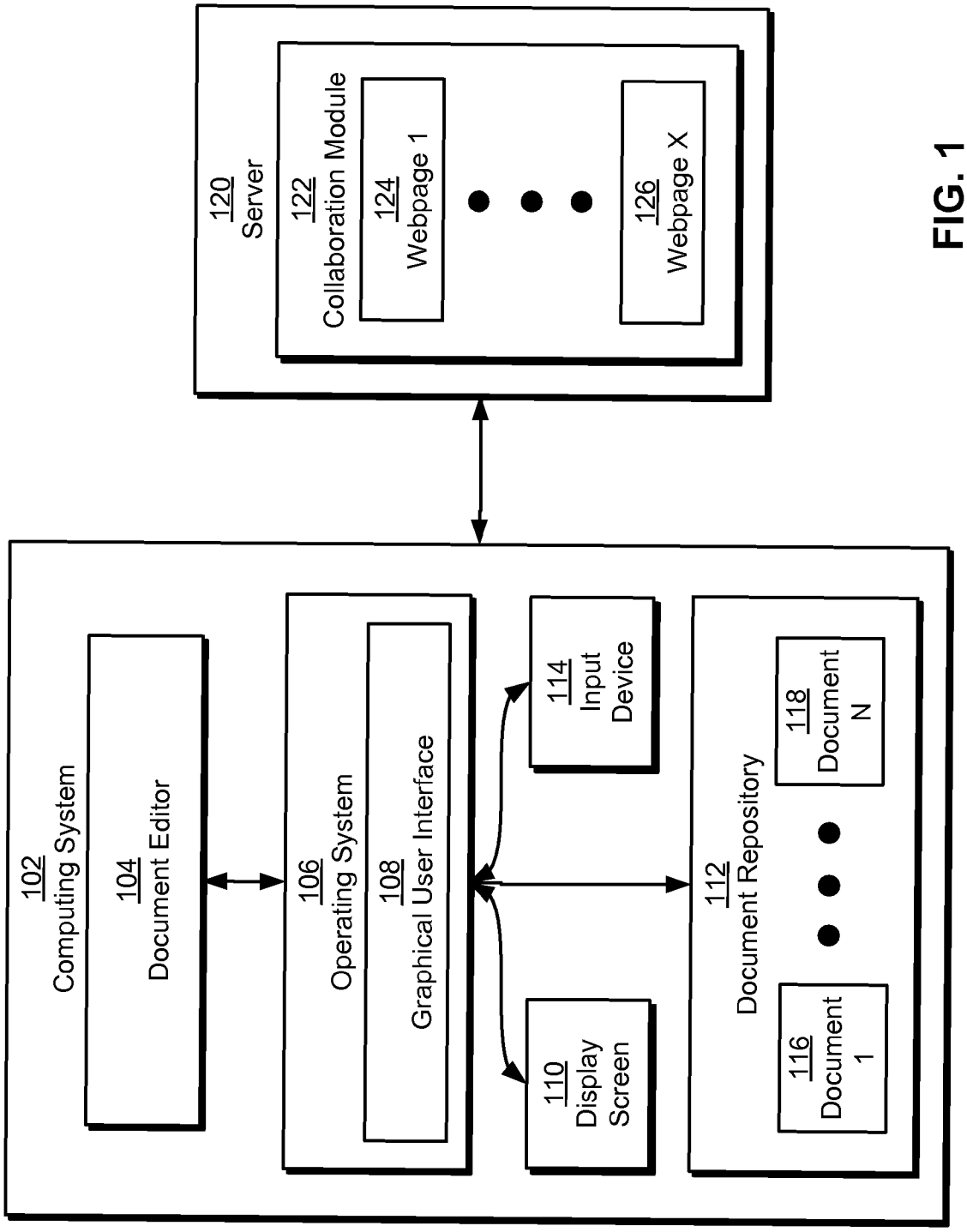

102
Computing System
104
Document Editor
106
Operating System
108
Graphical User Interface
110
Display Screen
114
Input Device
112
Document Repository
116
Document 1
118
Document N
120
Server
122
Collaboration Module
124
Webpage 1
126
Webpage X

FIG. 1

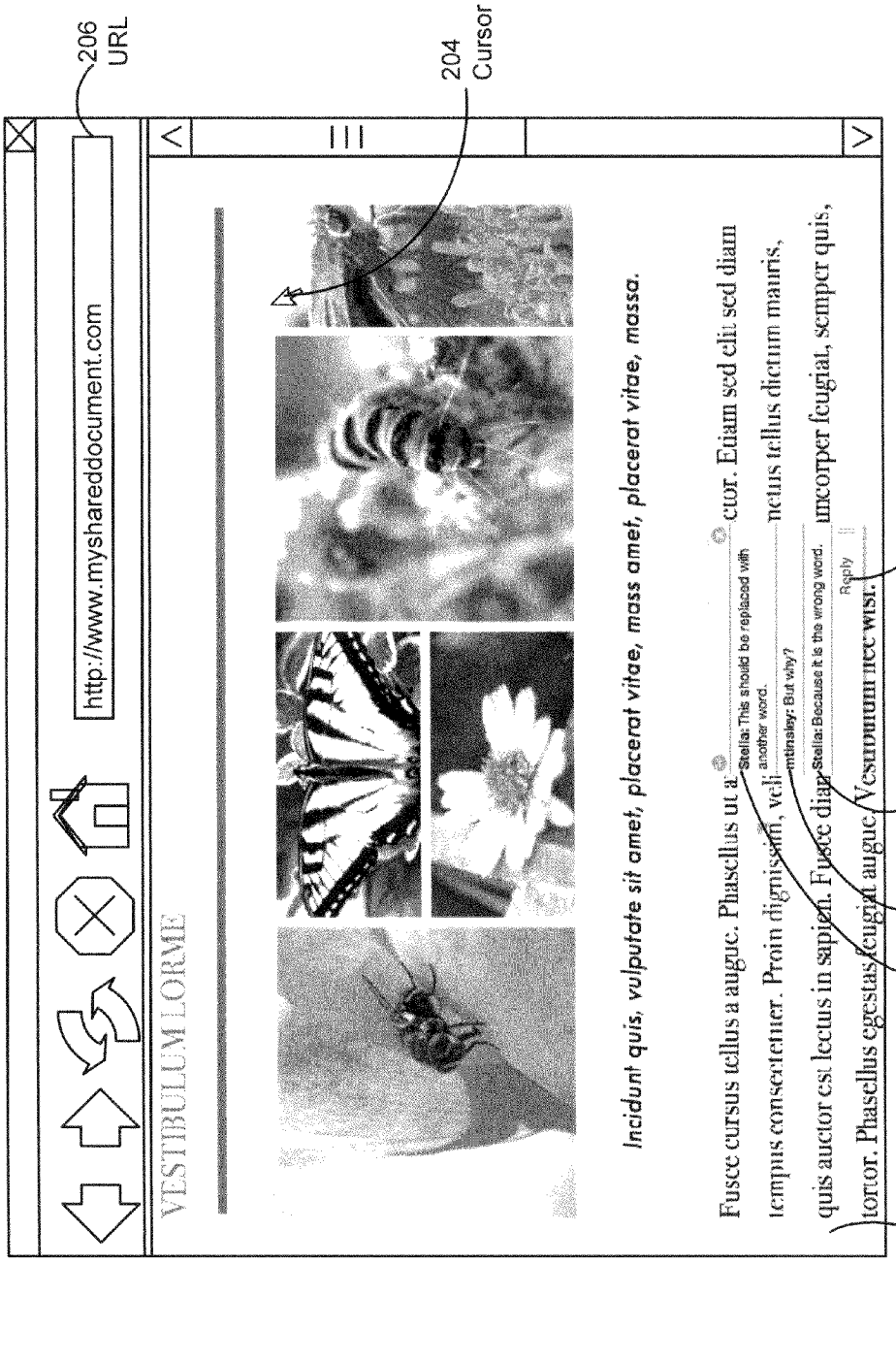

206
URL
http://www.myshareddocument.com
204
Cursor
VESTIBULUM LORME
Incidunt quis, vulputate sit amet, placerat vitae, mass amet, placerat vitae, massa.
Fusce cursus tellus a augue. Phasellus ut a
ctor. Etiam sed elit sed diam
tempus consectetuer. Proin dignissim, veli
netus tellus dictum mauris,
quis auctor est lectus in sapien. Fusce diam
uncorper feugiat, semper quis,
tortor. Phasellus egestas feugiat augue. Vestibulum nec wisi.
Stella: This should be replaced with another word.
emtinsley: But why?
Stella: Because it is the wrong word.
Reply
202
Webpage
208
210
212
214

FIG. 2A

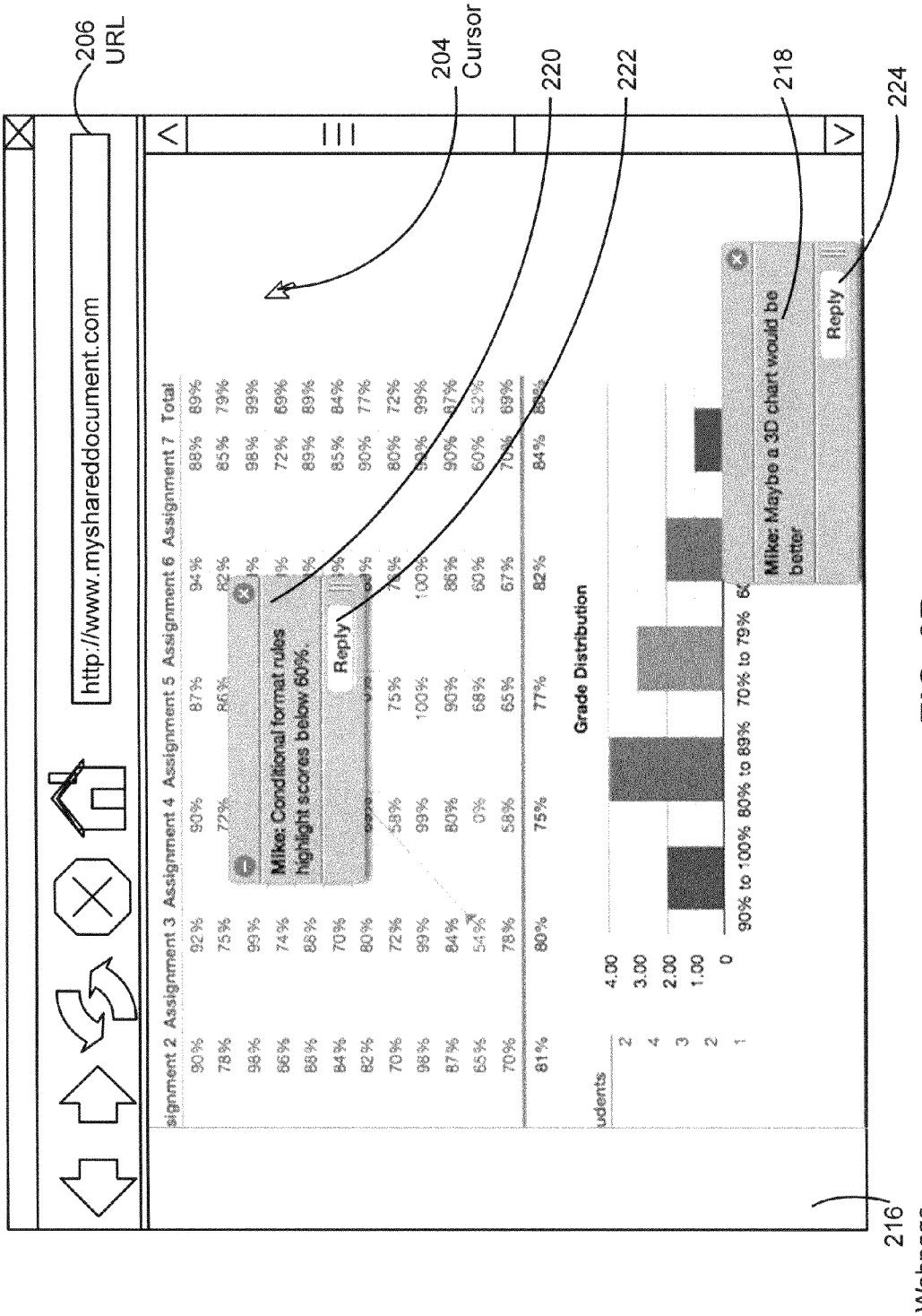

206
URL
http://www.myshareddocument.com
204
Cursor
220
222
218
224
Mike: Conditional format rules highlight scores below 60%.
Reply
Mike: Maybe a 3D chart would be better
Reply
Grade Distribution
90% to 100%
80% to 89%
70% to 79%
216
Webpage

FIG. 2B

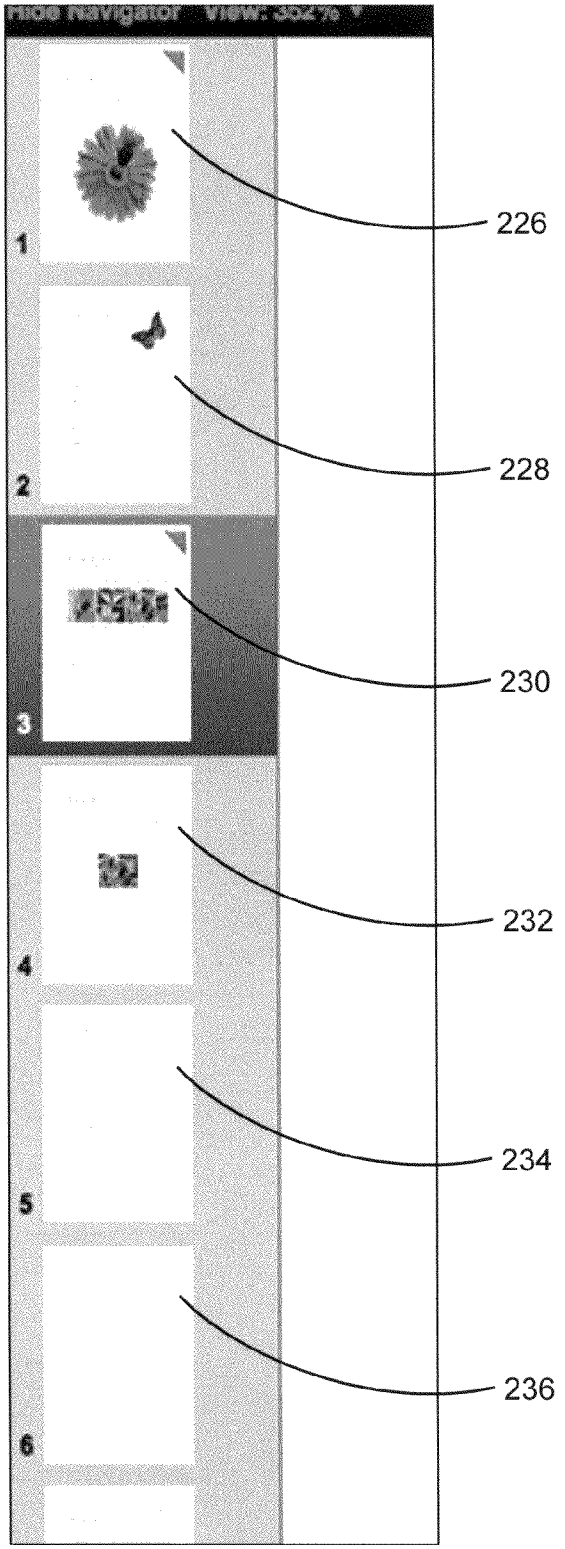


FIG. 2C

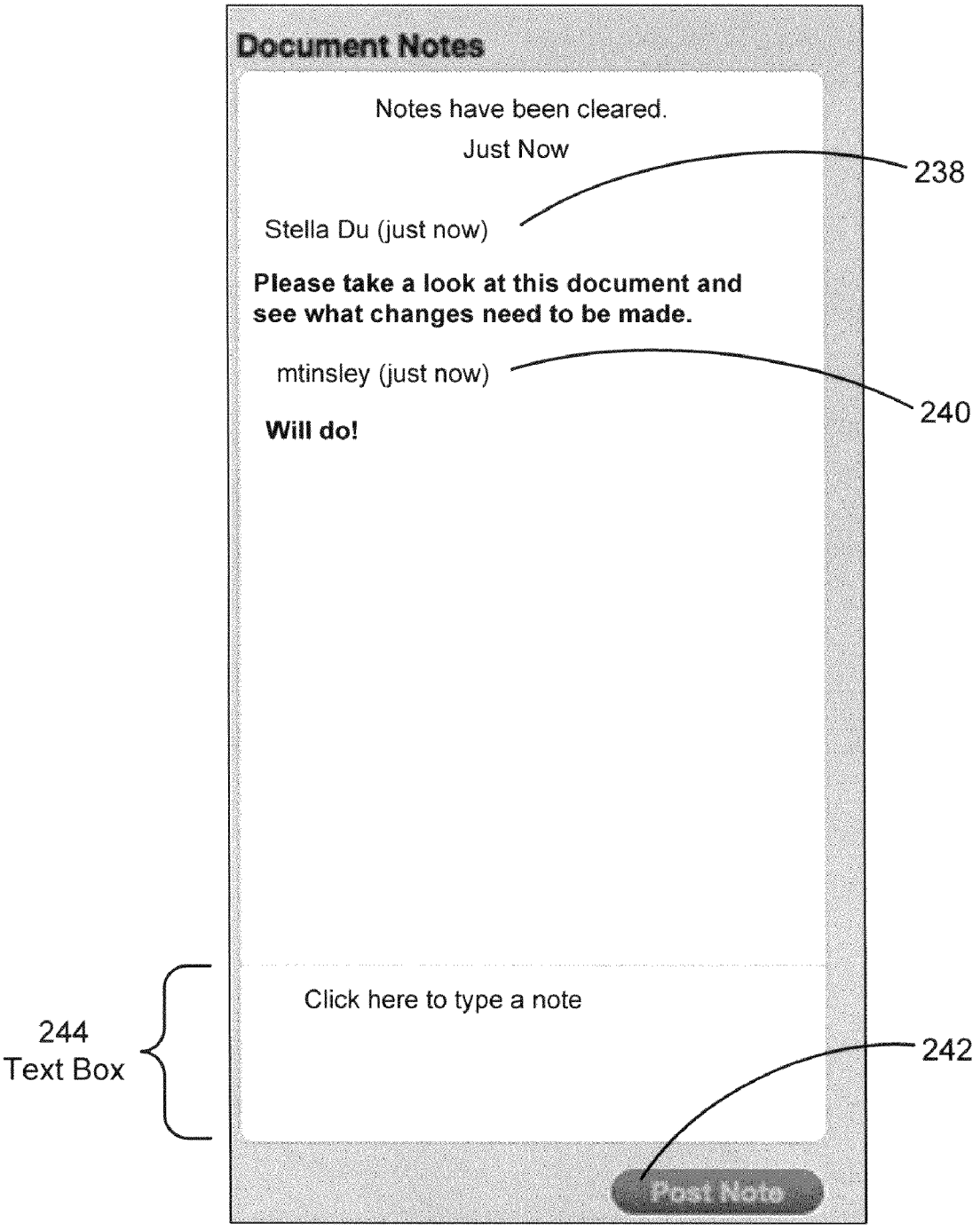

Document Notes
Notes have been cleared.
Just Now
238
Stella Du (just now)
Please take a look at this document and see what changes need to be made.
mtinsley (just now)
240
Will do!
Click here to type a note
244
Text Box
242
Post Note

FIG. 2D

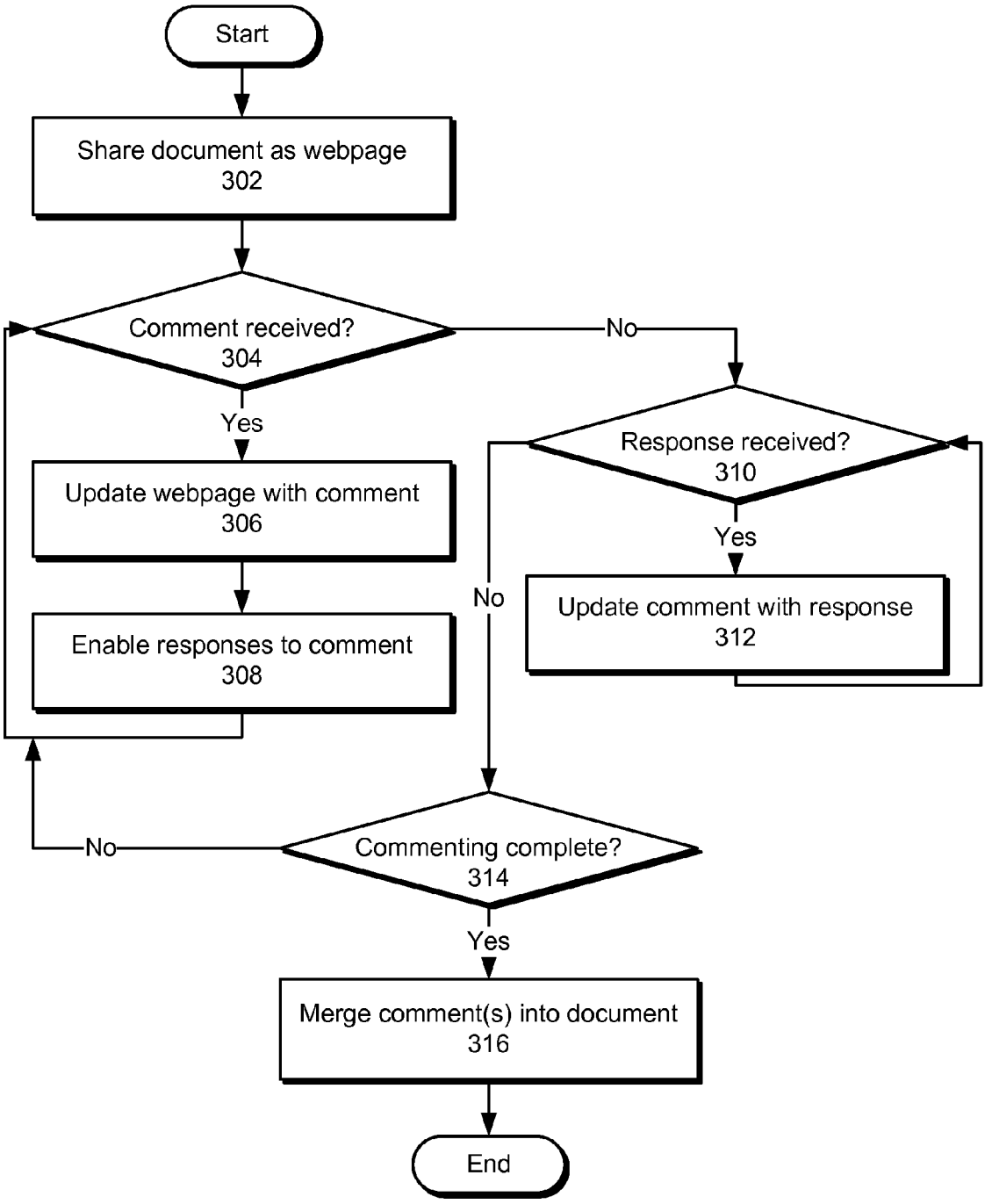

Start
Share document as webpage
302
Comment received?
304
No
Yes
Update webpage with comment
306
Enable responses to comment
308
Response received?
310
Yes
Update comment with response
312
No
No
Commenting complete?
314
Yes
Merge comment(s) into document
316
End

FIG. 3

SHARED COMMENTS FOR ONLINE DOCUMENT COLLABORATION

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The subject matter of this application is related to the subject matter in a co-pending non-provisional application by inventor Mac Murrett entitled "Creating a Text-Editable Web Page Using a Word Processor," having Ser. No. 12/109,538, and filing date 25 Apr. 2008 (Attorney Docket No. APL-P6054US1).

BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to techniques for editing documents. More specifically, the present invention relates to techniques for sharing comments in web-editable documents.

[0004] 2. Related Art

[0005] On-line networks, such as the Internet or World Wide Web (WWW), are increasingly popular forums for exchanging information and communicating with individuals and organizations. For example, many users publish their own web pages to keep in contact with their friends, colleagues and family members.

[0006] Moreover, word-processing programs are also widely used to generate documents, which can include a wide variety of content, including text and images. Additionally, these programs provide advanced features, such as tools for integrating text with embedded images in a complicated framework or layout.

[0007] Unfortunately, it is currently difficult to use a word-processing program to generate a web page that includes such advanced features because the word-processing program (or a related interpreter program) is typically needed to interpret the framework information in output files from the word-processing program, and this functionality is typically not included in web browsers.

[0008] Additionally, it is often difficult for users to interact with a web page to provide comments or feedback on the web-page content.

[0009] Hence, what is needed is a method and an apparatus that facilitates publishing documents without the above-described problems.

SUMMARY

[0010] Some embodiments of the present invention provide a system that edits a document. During operation, the system shares the document as a webpage and receives, from the webpage, a comment for the document by a collaborator of the document. Next, the system updates the webpage with the comment and enables responses to the comment by other collaborators of the document from the webpage.

[0011] In some embodiments, the system also merges the comment into the document.

[0012] In some embodiments, the system also receives a response to the comment from one of the other collaborators and updates the comment with the response.

[0013] In some embodiments, sharing the document involves receiving an export instruction from a publisher of the document and generating the webpage from the document based on the export instruction.

[0014] In some embodiments, the system also enables responses to a native comment within the document from the webpage. In these embodiments, the native comment is created by a publisher of the document.

[0015] In some embodiments, the publisher is associated with at least one of enabling the comment, enabling the responses to the comment, and enabling the responses to the native comment.

[0016] In some embodiments, the document corresponds to a word-processing document, a spreadsheet, or a presentation.

[0017] In some embodiments, the comment corresponds to a general comment, a floating comment, a cell comment, an image comment, or a text-based comment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0018] FIG. **1** shows a schematic of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. **2**A shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. **2**B shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. **2**C shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0022] FIG. **2**D shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0023] FIG. **3** shows a flowchart illustrating the process of editing a document in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0024] The following description is presented to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention, and is provided in the context of a particular application and its requirements. Various modifications to the disclosed embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the general principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments and applications without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Thus, the present invention is not limited to the embodiments shown, but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and features disclosed herein.

[0025] The data structures and code described in this detailed description are typically stored on a computer-readable storage medium, which may be any device or medium that can store code and/or data for use by a computer system. The computer-readable storage medium includes, but is not limited to, volatile memory, non-volatile memory, magnetic and optical storage devices such as disk drives, magnetic tape, CDs (compact discs), DVDs (digital versatile discs or digital video discs), or other media capable of storing computer-readable media now known or later developed.

[0026] The methods and processes described in the detailed description section can be embodied as code and/or data, which can be stored in a computer-readable storage medium as described above. When a computer system reads and executes the code and/or data stored on the computer-readable storage medium, the computer system performs the methods and processes embodied as data structures and code and stored within the computer-readable storage medium.

[0027] Furthermore, the methods and processes described below can be included in hardware modules. For example, the hardware modules can include, but are not limited to, application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) chips, field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), and other programmable-

logic devices now known or later developed. When the hardware modules are activated, the hardware modules perform the methods and processes included within the hardware modules.

[0028] Embodiments of the present invention provide a method and system for editing documents. Documents may include, for example, word-processing documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and/or other documents that may be created using an office suite. As a result, the documents may be created and/or edited using document editors such as word-processing applications, spreadsheet applications, email clients, presentation applications, and/or graphics suites.

[0029] More specifically, embodiments of the present invention provide a method and system for sharing comments in a document. The document may be shared as a webpage with one or more collaborators of the document. Comments for the document may be obtained from the collaborators through the webpage and/or obtained as native comments from a publisher of the document. The webpage may be updated with the comments to allow the other collaborators to view the comments and respond to the comments. Furthermore, comments and responses may be displayed using comment threads that allow multiple collaborators to discuss text, images, cells, pages, and/or other areas of the document. Finally, the comments may be merged into the document from the webpage to facilitate collaboration on the document and/or update of the document based on the comments.

[0030] FIG. **1** shows a schematic of a system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. **1**, the system includes a computing system **102** and a server **120**. The interaction between computing system **102** and server **120** may facilitate collaboration on documents and/or sharing of comments for documents, as explained in further detail below.

[0031] Computing system **102** may correspond to an electronic device that provides one or more services or functions to a user. For example, computing system **102** may operate as a mobile phone, personal computer (PC), global positioning system (GPS) receiver, portable media player, personal digital assistant (PDA), and/or graphing calculator. In addition, computing system **102** may include an operating system **106** that coordinates the use of hardware and software resources on computing system **102**, as well as one or more applications perform specialized tasks for the user. For example, computing system **102** may include applications such as an email client, address book, document editor **104**, and/or media player. To perform tasks for the user, applications may obtain the use of hardware resources (e.g., processor, memory, I/O components, wireless transmitter, etc.) on computing system **102** from operating system **106**, as well as interact with the user through a hardware and/or software framework provided by the operating system, as described below.

[0032] To enable interaction with the user, computing system **102** may include one or more hardware input/output (I/O) components, such as display screen **110** and an input device **114**. Each hardware I/O component may additionally be associated with a software driver (not shown) that allows operating system **106** and/or applications on computing system **102** to access and use the hardware I/O components.

[0033] Display screen **110** may be used to display images and/or text to one or more users of computing system **102**. In one or more embodiments of the invention, display screen **110** serves as the primary hardware output component for computing system **102**. For example, display screen **110** may allow the user(s) to view menus, icons, windows, emails, websites, videos, pictures, maps, documents (e.g., document **1 116**, document n **118**), and/or other components of a graphical user interface (GUI) **108** provided by operating system **106**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that display screen **110** may incorporate various types of display technology to render and display images. For example, display screen **110** may be a liquid crystal display (LCD), an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display, a surface-conducting electron-emitter display (SED), and/or other type of electronic display.

[0034] Input device **114** may function as the primary hardware input component of computing system **102**. Specifically, input device **114** may allow the user to point to and/or select one or more areas of display screen **110** using a cursor, highlight, and/or other visual indicator. Input provided by the user using input device **114** may be processed by the corresponding software driver and sent to operating system **106** and/or one or more applications (e.g., transaction application **104**) as one or more actions.

[0035] Input device **114** may receive user input through various methods, including touchscreens, touchpads, buttons, voice recognition, keypads, keyboards, and/or other input methods. In addition, multiple input devices may exist on computing system **102**. Operating system **106** and/or applications on computing system **102** may use the input from the input device(s) to perform one or more tasks, as well as update GUI **108** in response. Images corresponding to GUI **108** may be sent by operating system **106** to a screen driver (not shown), which may display the images on display screen **110** as a series of pixels. As a result, the user may interact with computing system **102** by using input device **114** to provide input to operating system **106** and/or applications and receiving output from operating system **106** and/or applications through display screen **110**.

[0036] As mentioned previously, computing system **102** may include a document editor **104** that allows the user to create, view, and edit documents (e.g., document **1 116**, document n **118**). For example, document editor **104** may correspond to a word-processing application, spreadsheet application, presentation application, graphics suite, and/or email client. Documents created using document editor **104** may include flyers, brochures, posters, emails, spreadsheets, presentations, letters, and/or catalogs. The documents may be stored locally (e.g., on a hard disk drive) on computing system in a document repository **112** that is accessible to document editor **104**. Alternatively, the documents may be stored in a location (e.g., server **120**) that is external to computing system **102** and accessed via a network connection with computing system **102**.

[0037] Document editor **104** may additionally facilitate document sharing and collaboration between the user and other collaborators. For example, document editor **104** may allow the user to send a document (e.g., via email) to the other collaborators, receive comments for the document from the collaborators, and update the document based on the comments.

[0038] Document editor **104** may further enable online sharing of the document. In particular, document editor **104** may allow the user to share (e.g., publish) the document as a webpage with collaborators of the document. The layout of images, text, and/or other information on the webpage may further replicate the layout of the document as shown within

document editor **104**. Moreover, changes made to the webpage may be incorporated back into the document. Online sharing of documents using webpages is described in a co-pending non-provisional application by inventor Mac Murrett entitled "Creating a Text-Editable Web Page Using a Word Processor," having Ser. No. 12/109,538, and filing date 25 Apr. 2008 (Attorney Docket No. APL-P6054US1), which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0039] In one or more embodiments of the invention, documents created using document editor **104** are shared as webpages using server **120**. Document editor **104** may generate one or more webpages (e.g., webpage **1 124**, webpage x **126**) from each document and send the webpages to server **120** using a network connection with server **120**. The webpages may be generated in response to an export instruction from the user and/or another publisher of the document. For example, the user may generate an export instruction for publishing the first ten pages of a catalog as webpages to server **120**. Upon receiving the export instruction, document editor **104** may generate the webpages from the catalog and send the webpages to server **120** for viewing, updating, and/or commenting by collaborators of the catalog.

[0040] In one or more embodiments of the invention, sharing of documents from document editor **104** is facilitated by a collaboration module **122** in server **120**. For example, collaboration module **122** may handle requests (e.g., HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) requests) for the webpages corresponding to the documents from collaborators of the documents. Collaboration module **122** may also verify access privileges to each document prior to transmitting the webpage (s) for the document to the collaborator requesting the document.

[0041] Furthermore, collaboration module **122** may allow collaborators to make changes to the webpages. For example, collaboration module **122** may receive comments for a document through the webpage(s) for the document. Collaboration module **122** may also update the webpage(s) with the comments to allow other collaborators to view the comments. Finally, collaboration module **122** may transmit the comments to document editor **104**, which in turn may incorporate the comments into the document. For example, document editor **104** may write the comments to a file corresponding to the document in document repository **112**.

[0042] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that document sharing, export, and merging using webpages may be implemented in multiple ways. For example, webpages may be generated from documents in document repository **112** using collaboration module **122**, server **120**, and/or another component associated with document editor **104** and/or server **120**. Similarly, comments and/or other changes to the webpages (e.g., webpage **1 124**, webpage x **126**) may be merged into the corresponding documents via pushes from server **120** or pulls from document editor **104**. Finally, webpages for each document may be provided to the collaborators using multiple servers and/or devices with network connectivity instead of a single server (e.g., server **120**).

[0043] As mentioned previously, changes to webpages on server **120** may include comments for documents created using document editor **104**. Each comment may correspond to a general (e.g., document-wide) comment, a floating comment for a specific page of a document, and/or a cell comment associated with one or more table cells of a document (e.g., a spreadsheet). Comments may also include an image comment for one or more images in a document and/or a text-based comment related to a selection of text within a document.

[0044] Furthermore, as discussed in the above-referenced application, comments for a document may be provided through a web browser displaying one or more webpages pertaining to the document. For example, a collaborator on a document may provide a text-based comment by highlighting text within a webpage representing the document and typing the comment into a box associated with the highlighted text. Collaboration module **122** may then update the webpage and/or the document with the text-based comment so that the publisher (e.g., the user of computing system **102**) and/or other collaborators may view the comment.

[0045] Collaboration module **122** may also allow collaborators to respond to comments for a document. In particular, collaboration module **122** may allow a collaborator to provide a response to a comment for the document through the webpage for the document. Collaboration module **122** may then update the comment with the response in the webpage to facilitate discussion of the document. Display of comments and responses for documents is discussed in further detail below with respect to FIGS. **2A-2D**.

[0046] For example, responses may be displayed in the webpage (e.g., in a box) below the comment in the order in which they were received. In other words, collaboration module **122** may display dialogues (e.g., conversations, threads, etc.) related to a particular part (e.g., a text selection, an image, a cell, a page, etc.) of the document from multiple collaborators within the webpage for the document. As with individual comments, the dialogues may also be merged into the document and used by the publisher to update the document. Furthermore, the publishing of such dialogues through a single source (e.g., the webpage for the document) rather than from multiple sources, versions, and/or files may facilitate the instantaneous retrieval and consolidation of comments by multiple collaborators, as well as the update of the document based on the comments by the publisher.

[0047] Collaborators may also respond to native comments created by the publisher within the document. For example, the publisher may use document editor **104** to create a presentation. The publisher may also use document editor **104** to add a native comment to the presentation asking for input regarding the title of the presentation. When the presentation is exported to server **120**, the native comment is included in the webpage corresponding to the presentation for viewing and response by other collaborators of the presentation.

[0048] Furthermore, the publisher may enable or disable online comments, responses to online comments, and/or responses to native comments by one or more collaborators of a document. More specifically, the allowance or denial of reviewing and/or commenting capabilities may be provided by the publisher in the export instruction for the document. For example, the publisher may use an export instruction to grant access to the webpage for the document to ten collaborators, creation of and/or responding to online comments to five of the ten collaborators, and responses to native comments to two of the ten collaborators. The publisher may also grant or deny other privileges to collaborators of the document, such as downloading of the document in one or more formats from server **120**, uploading of newer/updated versions of the document for sharing on server **120**, and/or other modification privileges associated with webpages on server **120**. Finally, the publisher may update access privileges to the

document using document editor **104**, collaboration module **122**, and/or another component associated with the sharing of the document.

[0049] FIG. **2**A shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. More specifically, FIG. **2**A shows a screenshot of a web-based user interface for reviewing and commenting a document. As shown in FIG. **2**A, the web-based user interface is provided by a webpage **202** within a web browser. Furthermore, webpage **202** may be obtained from a Universal Resource Locator (URL) **206** by the web browser. For example, webpage **202** may correspond to a shared representation of a document (e.g., a catalog) located at URL **206**. As described above, the document may be uploaded to a server associated with URL **206** by a publisher of the document and provided as webpage **202** to enable reviewing and/or commenting by collaborators of the document.

[0050] As shown in FIG. **2**A, webpage **202** includes a box containing a comment **208** and two responses **210**-**212** to comment **208**. Comment **208** is shown beside highlighted text in webpage **202**, indicating that comment **208** is a text-based comment. Furthermore, comment **208** may be created by selecting the text using a cursor **204** and inputting text (e.g., "This should be replaced with another word.") into a box provided by webpage **202**. Comment **208** may also be updated with response **210** (e.g., "But why?") and response **212** (e.g., "Because it is the wrong word.") by selecting a button **214** (e.g., "Reply") and entering text into another box provided by webpage **202**.

[0051] As a result, comment **208** and responses **210**-**212** may be concurrently viewed by multiple collaborators of the document and updated with additional responses within webpage **202** as the responses are received. In other words, webpage **202** may facilitate the creation and consolidation of dialogues between multiple collaborators of the document while avoiding issues related to distributing multiple files for the document, obtaining comments from multiple locations, and/or synchronizing comments from multiple collaborators. For example, webpage **202** may allow a discussion related to the highlighted text to be opened by a first collaborator (e.g., "Stella") using comment **208**. The discussion may then be updated by a second collaborator (e.g., "mtinsley") with response **210**. Finally, the first collaborator may further discuss the highlighted text with the second collaborator by posting response **212**.

[0052] New comments may also be added to webpage **202**. For example, image comments may be added by selecting one or more images in webpage **202**, text-based comments may be added by selecting one or more characters in webpage **202**, and/or floating comments may be added by selecting other regions of webpage **202**. Once review and/or commenting for the document is complete, the comments (e.g., comment **208**, responses **210**-**212**) may be merged into the document to facilitated update of the document based on the comments.

[0053] FIG. **2**B shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As with FIG. **2**A, FIG. **2**B shows a web-based user interface for commenting a document. In particular, FIG. **2**B shows a webpage **216** representing a spreadsheet document. Moreover, webpage **216** may be accessed by one or more collaborators of the spreadsheet to review the spreadsheet and/or submit comments for the spreadsheet.

[0054] As shown in FIG. **2**B, webpage **216** includes two comments **218**-**220**. Comment **218** represents a floating comment in the spreadsheet. In other words, comment **218** (e.g., "Maybe a 3D chart would be better") may be positioned within webpage **216** in a certain area (e.g., page) of webpage **216** without pointing to specific information (e.g., text, cells, images, etc.) in the spreadsheet. Responses to comment **218** may be provided by selecting a button **224** within the box containing comment **218** using cursor **204**.

[0055] On the other hand, comment **220** (e.g., "Conditional format rules highlight scores below 60%") corresponds to a cell comment related to a specific cell in the spreadsheet. Consequently, comment **220** includes an arrow to the cell within webpage **216**. Responses to comment **220** may be made by selecting button **222** using cursor **204** and/or another input mechanism (e.g., keyboard shortcuts), or by selecting the cell within webpage **216** using cursor **204**. Furthermore, responses to comment **220** may be related to comment **220** and/or the cell to which comment **220** points. As with FIG. **2**A, new comments for the spreadsheet may similarly be added by selecting cells, text, images, and/or other regions of webpage **216** and entering the comments into boxes (e.g., text boxes) provided by webpage **216**.

[0056] FIG. **2**C shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In particular, FIG. **2**C shows a screenshot of a set of thumbnails **226**-**236** for a document. Thumbnails **226**-**236** may correspond to pages of the document and may allow the user to quickly access a specific page by selecting the thumbnail representing the page. As shown in FIG. **2**C, thumbnail **230** is selected, indicating that the user may be viewing the page associated with thumbnail **230**.

[0057] Thumbnails **226**-**236** may additionally indicate the presence of comments within pages of the document. More specifically, triangles in the upper right corners of thumbnail **226** and thumbnail **230** are shown, signifying that thumbnail **226** and thumbnail **230** may include comments (e.g., native comments, online comments, etc.). The user may thus access comments for the document by selecting the thumbnails for pages that contain comments instead of browsing through the entire document.

[0058] FIG. **2**D shows an exemplary screenshot in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The screenshot of FIG. **2**D may correspond to a user interface for viewing and submitting general (e.g., document-wide) comments for a document. Furthermore, the user interface may be accessed through a document editor, such as document editor **104** of FIG. **1**, or through a web browser and webpage associated with the document.

[0059] As shown in FIG. **2**D, the document includes two general comments **238**-**240**. Comment **238** (e.g., "Please take a look at this document and see what changes need to be made.") is provided by a first collaborator (e.g., "Stella Du"), while comment **240** (e.g., "Will do!") is in response to comment **238** and is provided by a second collaborator (e.g., "mtinsley"). Additional general comments may be submitted by entering text into a text box **244** (e.g., "Click here to type a note") provided by the user interface and selecting a button **242** (e.g., "Post Note") below text box **244**. Alternatively, other types of comments for the document, such as text-based comments, image comments, cell comments, and/or floating comments, may be provided by selecting areas within one or more webpages representing the document, as described above.

[0060] FIG. **3** shows a flowchart illustrating the process of editing a documents in accordance with an embodiment of the

present invention. In one or more embodiments of the invention, one or more of the steps may be omitted, repeated, and/or performed in a different order. Accordingly, the specific arrangement of steps shown in FIG. **3** should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

[0061] First, the document is shared as a webpage (operation **302**). The document may correspond to a word-processing document, a spreadsheet, a presentation, and/or another document created using an office suite. To share the document, an export instruction may be received by a publisher of the document, and the webpage may be generated from the document based on the export instruction. Other parameters associated with sharing of the document, such as access, review, and/or commenting privileges by collaborators of the document, may also be obtained from the export instruction.

[0062] Once the document is shared, comments for the document may be received (operation **304**) from collaborators of the document. Comments may correspond to general comments, text-based comments, image comments, cell comments, and/or floating comments. If a comment is received, the webpage is updated with the comment (operation **306**) and responses to the comment are enabled (operation **308**). As a result, comments for the document may be viewed instantaneously from the webpage to avoid repetition, while responses to comments may be enabled to facilitate collaboration on and discussion of the document by multiple collaborators.

[0063] Similarly, responses to comments may be received (operation **310**) during the period in which the document is shared. The responses may be provided for native comments obtained from the document and/or for online comments obtained from the webpage. If a response to a comment is received, the comment is updated with the response (operation **312**). In other words, the response is immediately accessible from the webpage containing the comment.

[0064] To facilitate collaboration and discussion, comments and responses may continue to be received (operations **304-310**) and used to update the webpage until commenting is complete (operation **314**). As a result, multiple collaborators in multiple locations may discuss the document by providing comments and responses for the document to the webpage and viewing comments and responses from other collaborators through the webpage. If commenting is complete, the comment(s) and/or responses may be merged into the document (operation **316**) for update of the document based on the comments and responses.

[0065] The foregoing descriptions of embodiments of the present invention have been presented only for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the present invention to the forms disclosed. Accordingly, many modifications and variations will be apparent to practitioners skilled in the art. Additionally, the above disclosure is not intended to limit the present invention. The scope of the present invention is defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for editing a document, comprising:
sharing the document as a webpage;
receiving, from the webpage, a comment for the document by a collaborator of the document;
updating the webpage with the comment; and
enabling responses to the comment by other collaborators of the document from the webpage.

2. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:
merging the comment into the document.

3. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:
receiving a response to the comment from one of the other collaborators; and
updating the comment with the response.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein sharing the document involves:
receiving an export instruction from a publisher of the document; and
generating the webpage from the document based on the export instruction.

5. The method of claim **4**, further comprising:
enabling responses to a native comment within the document from the webpage, wherein the native comment is created by a publisher of the document.

6. The method of claim **5**, wherein the publisher is associated with at least one of enabling the comment, enabling the responses to the comment, and enabling the responses to the native comment.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the document corresponds to a word-processing document, a spreadsheet, or a presentation.

8. The method of claim **1**, wherein the comment corresponds to a general comment, a floating comment, a cell comment, an image comment, or a text-based comment.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the document is shared using an image within the webpage.

10. A system for editing a document, comprising:
a document editor configured to enable creation of the document by a publisher; and
a collaboration module configured to:
share the document as a webpage;
receive, from the webpage, a comment for the document by a collaborator of the document;
update the webpage with the comment; and
enable responses to the comment by other collaborators of the document from the webpage.

11. The system of claim **10**, wherein the collaboration module is further configured to merge the comment into the document.

12. The system of claim **10**, wherein the collaboration module is further configured to:
receive a response to the comment from one of the other collaborators; and
update the comment with the response.

13. The system of claim **10**,
wherein the collaboration module is further configured to enable responses to a native comment within the document from the webpage, and
wherein the native comment is created by the publisher.

14. The system of claim **13**, wherein sharing the document involves:
receiving an export instruction from the publisher; and
generating the webpage from the document based on the export instruction.

15. The system of claim **14**, wherein the publisher is associated with at least one of enabling the comment, enabling the responses to the comment, and enabling the responses to the native comment.

16. The system of claim **10**, wherein the document corresponds to a word-processing document, a spreadsheet, or a presentation.

17. The system of claim **10**, wherein the comment corresponds to a general comment, a floating comment, a cell comment, an image comment, or a text-based comment.

18. The system of claim **10**, wherein the document is shared using an image within the webpage.

19. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for editing a document, the method comprising:

sharing the document as a webpage;

receiving, from the webpage, a comment for the document by a collaborator of the document;

updating the webpage with the comment; and

enabling responses to the comment by other collaborators of the document from the webpage.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, the method further comprising:

merging the comment into the document.

21. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, the method further comprising:

receiving a response to the comment from one of the other collaborators; and

updating the comment with the response.

22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, wherein sharing the document involves:

receiving an export instruction from a publisher of the document; and

generating the webpage from the document based on the export instruction.

23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, wherein the document corresponds to a word-processing document, a spreadsheet, or a presentation.

24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, wherein the comment corresponds to a general comment, a floating comment, a cell comment, an image comment, or a text-based comment.

25. The computer-readable storage medium of claim **19**, wherein the document is shared using an image within the webpage.

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