

In a second, native version of the software, the creation executable software is loaded into the memory 22B of the sender computer 20, and the recipient executable software is loaded into the memory 32B of the recipient computer 32. In this embodiment, the transmitted e-mail message will not contain the recipient executable software, since the recipient executable software will already reside on the recipient computer 30.

It should of course be understood that the present invention is not to be interpreted in a manner that limits the scope of the present invention to the specific sequence of program instructions. The descriptions given herein provide the teachings necessary to implement the present invention in different programming languages and on different operating system platforms.

FIGs. 2-9 will now be described, which figures illustrate the data format which the Java executable software version implements. Those specific fields which are believed to be self explanatory will not be described in detail. Before describing this data format in further detail, however, reference is made to FIG. 12, which illustrates an enhanced e-mail initial container display 100 made up of component objects 102, 104, 106 and 108. It should be noted that the number of component objects in any initial display can be varied, as can the size and shape of each of the component objects. Also, it should be noted that the component object is also referred to in certain of the drawings and potentially the specification text as a "Vixel", which term is a trademark of PostX Corporation. The initial display 100 provides a display that is also referred to in certain of the drawings and potentially the specification text as "Active View", which term is a trademark of PostX Corporation.

FIG. 2 illustrates the e-mail message format for the enhanced e-mail message according to the present invention. This data format 40 includes a native stub code 40A that provides for a self-opening envelope at the present time, despite the fact that Java classes are not presently defined so that self-opening can occur without the use of such a native stub. Thereafter, data 40B indicates the number of recipient executable files, which files then follow as files 1, 2...n, which are labeled as 40C-1, 40C-2...40C-n, the number of which will be determined by the different number and type of images, sounds, and functional attributes that the sender inserts into the enhanced e-mail message that is sent. Container/envelope data file 40D follows thereafter, which file is further described with reference to FIG. 3.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the envelope data file 40D contains an envelope header 42, the contents of which are provided in detail in FIG. 4. Of note with respect to the contents of the FIG. 4 header is the return e-mail address of the sender, as well as the recipient name that is used in the return receipt e-mail function described further hereinafter, as well as an indication of whether the e-mail message is encrypted as described further hereinafter. It should be noted that the header is not encrypted.