the front face of a postcard, and different other component objects represented on the back face of the postcard being the recipient address, sender address, stamp, senders letter and digital time stamp.

Still furthermore, the size and shape of component objects can be varied as desired by the sender, overlap with each other and vary in number within a single e-mail message. Accordingly, the appearance of the e-mail message can be varied as desired by the sender.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The structural and functional aspects of the invention will become understood by those skilled in the art by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the appended drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating an implementation of the invention in a computer network;

FIG. 2 illustrates an e-mail message format for an enhanced e-mail message according to the invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates the format of an envelope data structure according to the invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates the contents of an envelope header in an envelope data file according to the invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates envelope data;

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating a component objects file according to the invention;

FIG. 7 illustrates the contents of a component object header data structure according to the invention;

FIG. 8 illustrates the contents of a component object data structure according to the invention;

FIG. 9 illustrates the contents of a component object property data structure according to the invention;

FIGs. 10A and 10B illustrate the process of creating and sending an enhanced e-mail message according to the invention;

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating the process of receiving an enhanced e-mail message according to the invention;

FIG. 12 illustrates an enhanced e-mail message initial container display according to the invention;

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating the process of handling a user action according to the invention;

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating the process of conditional display of contents if conditions set by the sender according to the invention;