

FIG. 15 is a diagram illustrating the process of sending return receipt e-mail messages according to the invention;

FIGs. 16A, 16B1-16B2 and 16C1-16C4 illustrates example data structures for an envelope container having a company logo as an object component according to the invention; and

5 FIGs. 17A-17D illustrate views and actions that result from the data structures such as set forth in FIGs. 16A, 16B1-16B2 and 16C1-16C4.

### **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment**

10 FIG. 1 illustrates a computer network 10 which operates upon the e-mail enhancement program according to the present invention. A sender computer 20 communicates with a recipient computer 30 through a network 12. Of course, additional computers, represented as computers 32(1), 32(2) ...32(n) can also be connected to the network 12 and be used to send and receive e-mail messages.

15 Sender computer 20 contains, as is known, a computing portion 22 that contains, as is known, I/O 22A, memory 22B and some type of processor 22C, which can be in the form of, for instance, a microprocessor. Attached to the computing portion 22 is a keyboard 24, a mouse 26, and a display 28. Similarly, recipient computer 30 contains, as is known, a computing portion 32 that contains, as is known, I/O 32A, memory 32B and some type of processor 32C, which can be in the form of, for instance, a microprocessor. Attached to the computing portion  
20 32 is a keyboard 34, a mouse 36, and a display 38.

Creation executable software according to the present invention contains sequences of program instructions that allow for the creation of an enhanced e-mail message according to the present invention, as well as the transmission of the created message through the network to the recipient. Recipient executable software according to the present invention contains a different  
25 sequence of program instructions that allow for the receipt, and thus visual, audible and functional attributes to be obtained by the recipient.

There currently exist two different embodiments of the software according to the present invention. In a first, version of the software, the creation and recipient executable software is loaded into the memory 22B of the sender computer 20. When this embodiment of the software  
30 is used, the e-mail message structure contains, as described hereinafter, a portion that attaches the recipient executable software to the e-mail message transmitted from the sender to the recipient. So long as the recipient computer 30 can operate as a Java virtual machine, the recipient computer 30 will receive the e-mail message containing the recipient executable software, preferably written in Java, and use that recipient executable software to display the  
35 enhanced e-mail message on the display 38 of the recipient computer 30.