

As also illustrated in FIG. 3, the envelope data file 40D contains envelope data 44, which includes the list of attachments sent by the sender, and recipients and sender's letter. Senders Attachments 50-1, 50-2..50-n represent attachments that are included within the enhanced e-mail message, as will be described in more detail hereinafter, as will be the contents of the component objects file 54, also referred to as the Active View file, the contents of which are set forth in FIG. 6.

As shown in FIG. 6, component objects file 54 includes a component object header data structure 56, followed by component object or Vixel data structure 58-1, 58-2....58-n, and component object property or Vixel property data structures 60-1, 60-2, 60-2-n...60-n. The contents of the component object header data structure 56 are set forth in FIG. 7, the contents of the component object property data structures 58 are set forth in FIG. 8, and the contents of sub-component object property data structures 60 are set forth in FIG. 9.

Of note with respect to the contents of the header data structure illustrated in FIG. 7 is that the "platinum envelope" entry for the file information is used as a description information, no conditional processing is done with this field. The identifiers for "Container Type" correspond to different representations of default containers.

A default "envelope" container contains component objects representing the front face of an envelope, and different other component objects being recipient address, sender address, stamp, digital time stamp, the back side of the envelope and the envelope open attribute that allows for attachments or messages within the envelope to be viewed appearing on the back side of the envelope so that the e-mail message appears on the recipient's computer screen like an envelope.

A default "postcard" container contains component objects representing 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, and digital time stamp.

A default "newsletter" container contains a component object representing each page of a newsletter, as well as various component objects on each page.

A default "CD" container contains a component object for each different audio track for a component object that has a functional attribute of playing music.

A default "Rolled up Newspaper" container contains a component object representing a newspaper, a component object representing the index to the newspaper, and a component object representing each section of the newspaper, as well as component objects for each article if desired.

A default "stack of card" container contain a component object representing each card.

A default "coupon" contains a component object for each coupon that could appear in, for example, a newspaper.