

If, however, step 112 determines that the event is directed to a component object/Vixel, then step 116 follows and it is determined which component objects have events, and then in step 118 the action associated with the event intended for each component object takes place.

For instance, if component object 102 illustrated in FIG. 12 contains an User Action of FIG. 9 in the form of a mouse over, then the action of placing the mouse cursor 122 over the component object 102 will cause in step 112 a determination is made that the action involves a component object, and in step 116 a determination that the action pertains to component object 102. Thereafter, step 116 to results and the actions associated with that event will be executed. A specific example of such events will be provided hereinafter.

FIG. 14 illustrates one functional attribute of the present invention, which functional attribute can be set forth at the initiation of receiving an enhanced e-mail message according to the present invention, or after the initiation of an action stemming from a component object. An event 124 initiates the conditional display of contents functional attribute. If this conditional display of contents functional attribute occurs at the initiation of the enhanced e-mail message, step 126 follows and the enhanced e-mail message is opened as an attachment, as has been previously described. Step 128 follows, in which terms and conditions which must be agreed upon are first made known to the recipient. Thereafter, step 130 follows and the recipients response is reported back to the sender, in a manner using some form of return receipt as will be described hereinafter. If the conditions responded to in a manner deemed appropriate by the sender, then step 132 follows, and the appropriate contents are then made accessible to the recipient. Step 134, which follows thereafter, waits for another event to occur, as has been previously described with reference to FIG. 13.

FIG. 15 illustrates another functional attribute of the present invention, referred to as a return receipt. If a return receipt is requested by the sender, step 136 is initiated at an appropriate time. This could be when the attachment that forms the enhanced e-mail according to the present invention is initially transmitted to the recipient, when the recipient closes the enhanced e-mail that has been received, or it can be triggered by an event that relates to a sub-component of a component object according to the present invention. If the sender did not request a return receipt when initially sending the message, then step 140 follows, no action is taken, and then step 142 waits for another event to occur, as has been previously described with reference to FIG. 13. If, however, sender requested a return receipt, step 144 follows and a determination is made whether a specific format of response was requested. If not, step 146 follows and a default response, such as "xyz@abc.com has opened the envelope at 10:pm pacific daylight time" is transmitted, this response being delivered using the sender address information, and other time information on the system. Step 148 follows and the computer 30