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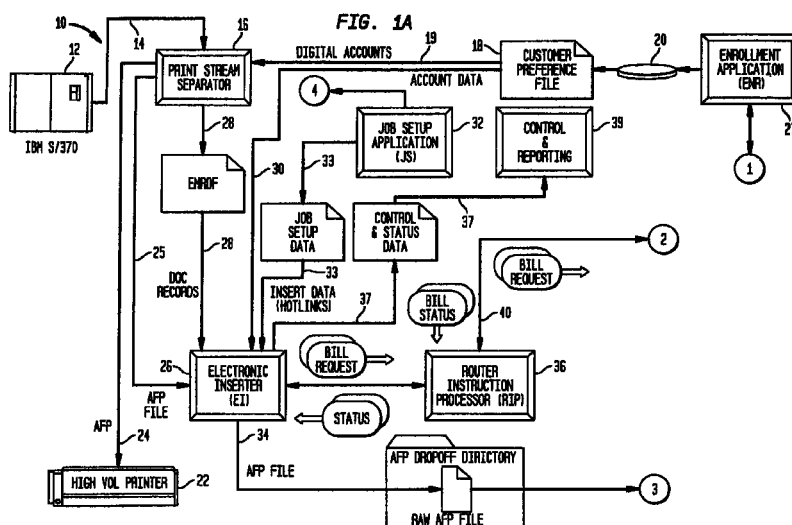
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(54) **Bill processing server and method for a digital document delivery system**

(57) A bill processing server and method forms part of an overall digital document delivery system and is primarily responsible for maintaining an account database which in turn contains information concerning the account balance of the customers which receive electronic bills. The bill processing server interacts with a router instruction processor for receipt of bill data objects for updating the account database as well as for receiving customer response information via an interactive bill presentment server so as to maintain the account database including receipt of payment informa-

tion from the customers. The bill processing server can send account information to an associated payment processing system. The bill processing server can also generate reports concerning the status of the account database and can further generate notification to the customer of an existence of an electronic bill. Finally the bill processing server can generate links to secondary documents to be associated with a generated primary document (bill).





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 6155

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Y	US 3 652 078 A (SATHER EUGENE ET AL) 28 March 1972 (1972-03-28) * abstract * * column 1, line 56 - column 3, line 11 * * ---	1-14	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 15 December 2000	Examiner Glaser, N
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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