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Web Browser with Locked Tabs to Prevent Accidental Tab Closure

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Web Browser with Locked Tabs to Prevent Accidental Tab Closure

ABSTRACT

Some web browsers allow users to pin browser tabs such that they are positioned at an extreme end of a tab of strips. Some websites also include features that detect when a user attempts to close a tab of that website and require user confirmation to prevent accidental tab closure. However, pinned tabs can still be closed accidentally, or can be navigated away from.

This disclosure describes a web browser that enables users to lock a tab. When the user attempts to close a locked tab, a prompt is shown requesting user confirmation to close the tab. Similarly, confirmation is sought if the user attempts to close a browser window (or a remote desktop session with a locked tab within it) that includes one or more locked tabs. If the user clicks a link within a locked tab that causes the browser to navigate to a different website, confirmation for the navigation is sought. The techniques prevent accidental closure of locked tabs as well as navigation away from locked tabs. The locked tab may be indicated by a suitable visual cue, e.g., a lock icon. Optionally, locked tabs may also be pinned and automatically reopened when the user reopens the browser application.

KEYWORDS

- Web browser
- Tabbed browser
- Pinned tab
- Locked tab
- Tab closure
- Accidental closure
- Remote desktop

BACKGROUND

Modern web browsers provide a tabbed user interface that enables users to keep multiple tabs open at the same time to access different websites. Users may have a preference for keeping certain tabs open most of the time, such that they are fixed in the browser window and cannot accidentally be closed or navigated away from. For example, users may have a strong preference for keeping an online email application, calendar, chat, social media, or other tabs permanently open. Further, users may wish to have certain tabs open only for a specific period of time or for a specific occasion. For example, users may keep open a tab showing a live sports score, but only while the game is in progress. Some websites also include features that detect when a user attempts to close a tab of that website and require user confirmation to prevent accidental tab closure.

Further, a user may use remote desktop software within a browser tab to access a remote computer via a remote desktop session. The user may then open a browser window with multiple tabs on the remote computer. In such a case, the user may accidentally close the remote desktop session by closing the browser tab when intending to close a tab within the browser window of the remote desktop.

Some web browsers (or browser extensions) enable users to pin a tab. Pinning a tab positions the tab at an extreme end of the strip of browser tabs. However, these tabs can still be closed accidentally, or can be navigated away from. For example, clicking a link within a pinned tab may keep the tab itself pinned, but after the click the tab may show an entirely different web page rather than the one the user intended to pin.

DESCRIPTION

This disclosure describes a web browser that enables users to lock a tab. When the user attempts to close a locked tab, a prompt is shown requesting user confirmation to close the tab. Similarly, confirmation is sought if the user attempts to close a browser window (or a remote desktop session with a locked tab within it) that includes one or more locked tabs. If the user clicks a link within a locked tab that causes the browser to navigate to a different website, confirmation for the navigation is sought. The techniques prevent accidental closure of locked tabs as well as navigation away from locked tabs. The locked tab may be indicated by a suitable visual cue, e.g., a lock icon. Optionally, locked tabs may also be pinned and automatically reopened when the user reopens the browser application.

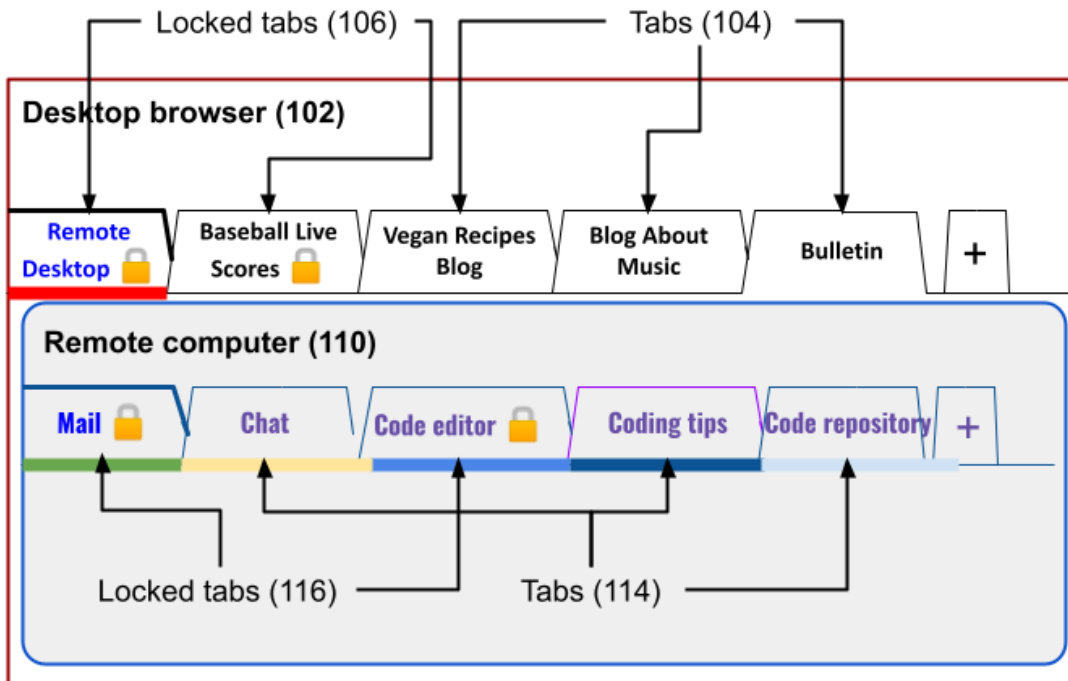


Fig. 1: Web browser with locked tabs

Fig. 1 illustrates an example of a web browser with locked tabs, per techniques of this disclosure. A user is using a desktop web browser (102) and has multiple tabs open. The open

tabs include tabs (104) that are not locked and two locked tabs (106). The displayed tab is the locked tab “remote desktop” that includes a remote desktop session to a remote computer (110).

The user has a web browser application active on the remote computer. The remote browser includes tabs (114) that are not locked as well as locked tabs (116). In the example of Fig. 1, the user has opened an email application and a code editor on the remote computer and locked those tabs, while other tabs on the remote computer are not locked.

The web browser (local/remote) can provide a context menu (e.g., activated by right clicking a tab) that provides the user the option to lock the tab. When the user locks a tab, the tab description is updated to include a lock icon which distinguishes its status from the other open tabs in the same browser. A locked tab can be configured such that a link clicked on within the locked tab always opens in a new tab by default. The position of the locked tab can be arbitrary as selected by the user. Alternatively, the user can specify that locked tabs are always to be pinned at an extreme end of the tab strip.

CONCLUSION

This disclosure describes a web browser that enables users to lock a tab. When the user attempts to close a locked tab, a prompt is shown requesting user confirmation to close the tab. Similarly, confirmation is sought if the user attempts to close a browser window (or a remote desktop session with a locked tab within it) that includes one or more locked tabs. If the user clicks a link within a locked tab that causes the browser to navigate to a different website, confirmation for the navigation is sought. The techniques prevent accidental closure of locked tabs as well as navigation away from locked tabs. The locked tab may be indicated by a suitable visual cue, e.g., a lock icon. Optionally, locked tabs may also be pinned and automatically reopened when the user reopens the browser application.

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