CALLING ATTENTION TO A SECTION OF SHARED DATA

BACKGROUND

[0001] Many productivity applications provide specialized tools for displaying and editing (e.g., creating, modifying, etc.) contents of a file. Some productivity applications allow multiple users to collaborate within a shared workspace created for business meetings, brainstorming sessions, classrooms, and so forth. Thus, these productivity applications provide an environment where multiple users can simultaneously view and/or edit the contents of a file as a group. For example, a productivity application can provide a digital whiteboard for multiple users to manipulate whiteboard objects on a digital canvas. The whiteboard objects can include digital ink expressions (e.g., drawing elements, text, diagrams, etc.), etc.

[0002] Although existing productivity applications can provide specialized functions that support group collaboration as it relates to editing content in a multi-user collaborative workspace, existing productivity applications fail to provide an effective way of coordinating group collaboration given a situation where users of the group break apart to work separately on different sections of shared data. For instance, in some scenarios, the users in the group may access the shared data using their own computing devices. Using their own computing devices, the users in the group may focus (e.g., zoom in) on separate sections of the shared data. This enables the users to independently edit content in their own section of the shared data. Consequently, a first user editing content in a first section is unlikely to be able to effectively monitor and/or keep an eye on content being edited by a second user in a second section that is not being displayed via the computing device of the first user. Stated another way, the second section is "off-screen" from the perspective of the first user and/or the computing device of the first user.

[0003] Therefore, productivity applications lack the ability to effectively coordinate when and/or where collaboration is needed and/or is wanted. For instance, continuing the example scenario from the previous paragraph, the second user may want the first user to review the content the second user has created and/or edited. Or the second user may want to ask the first user a question about the content being edited by the second user. To achieve this using existing systems, the second user would typically have to establish a separate form of communication with the first user (e.g., a textual "chat" message, a phone call, etc.) and manually guide the first user to her or his section in the shared data (e.g., "come to the upper right portion of the file", "flip to page seven of the file", etc.). The communication from the