

**EX PARTE
REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE
ISSUED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 307**

THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS
INDICATED BELOW.

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appeared in the patent, but has been deleted and is no longer a part of the patent; matter printed in italics indicates additions made to the patent.

AS A RESULT OF REEXAMINATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT:

Claims 1, 11 and 21 are determined to be patentable as amended.

Claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22-26 dependent on an amended claim, are determined to be patentable.

1. An automatic method for operating a service provider for the Internet so as to provide dynamic management of hosted services comprising:

for each of a plurality of customer accounts *which have separately contracted with the service provider to provide hosted services unique to a customer account*: providing a plurality of servers allocated to a common administrative group for that customer account and configured to access software and data unique to that customer account to provide hosted services to the Internet for that customer account;

automatically monitoring each administrative group; and automatically and dynamically reallocating at least one server from a first administrative group to a second administrative group in response to the automatic monitoring, including:

setting initialization pointers for said at least one server to access software and data unique to the customer account for the second administrative group; and reinitializing said at least one server such that said at least one server joins the second administrative group.

11. A system for providing dynamic management of hosted services for the Internet provided to multiple customer accounts, *which have separately contracted with the service provider to provide hosted services unique to a customer account*, comprising:

at least five servers operably connected to an intranet, each server having host management circuitry provid-

ing a communication channel with at least one of the other servers that is separate from the intranet;

at least four of the servers executing a local decision software program that monitors the server and communicates status information across the communication channel;

at least two of the servers allocated to a first administrative group for a first customer account and configured to access software and data unique to the first account to provide hosted services to the Internet for that customer account;

at least two of the servers allocated to a second administrative group for a second customer account and configured to access software and data unique to the second customer account to provide hosted services to the Internet for that customer account; and

at least one of the servers executing a master decision software program that collects status information from the other servers and dynamically reallocates at least one server from the first administrative group to the second administrative group in response to at least the status information.

21. An automatic method for operating a service provider for the Internet so as to provide dynamic management of hosted services comprising:

for each of a plurality of customer accounts *which have separately contracted with the service provider to provide hosted services unique to a customer account*:

providing a plurality of servers allocated to a common administrative group for that customer account and configured to access software and data unique to that customer account to provide hosted services to the Internet for that customer account;

establishing a pool of a plurality of virtual servers that may be selectively configured to access software and data for each of the plurality of customer accounts;

automatically monitoring each administrative group; automatically allocating at least one virtual server to join the plurality of servers of a first administrative group in response to the automatic monitoring, including:

setting initialization pointers for said at least one virtual server to access software and data unique to the customer account for the second administrative group; and reinitializing said at least one virtual server such that said at least one server joins the first administrative group.

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