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the control data block, observing a progress report posted in the control data block and sending the progress report to the agent; and
 a work thread linked to an object for performing some work with a resource, creating the progress report, posting the progress report in the control data block, observing the control message posted in the control data block and executing the control message.

28. The database system as recited in claim **25**, wherein each minion is a named class instance.

29. The database system as recited in claim **26**, wherein the agent serves as a distribution and control mechanism for the one or more minions.

30. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the object tier further comprises a notification manager linked to the first set of objects and the interactive manager.

31. The database system as recited in claim **30**, wherein the notification manager is a third agent process.

32. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the object tier further comprises a security guard linked to the first set of objects, the agent manager and the external application.

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33. The database system as recited in claim **32**, wherein the security guard is a fourth agent process.

34. The database system as recited in claim **33**, wherein the security guard prevents unauthorized access to the object tier and the data storage tier.

35. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the network is an Internet.

36. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the network is a local area network.

37. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the external application is a web-based application.

38. The database system as recited in claim **22**, wherein the interactive manager comprises a server lookup agent and an interactive server agent.

39. The database system as recited in claim **38**, wherein the server lookup agent stores and maintains connection information for the interactive server agent.

40. The database system as recited in claim **38**, wherein the interactive server agent provides an interface between the external application and the agent manager and the first set of objects.

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