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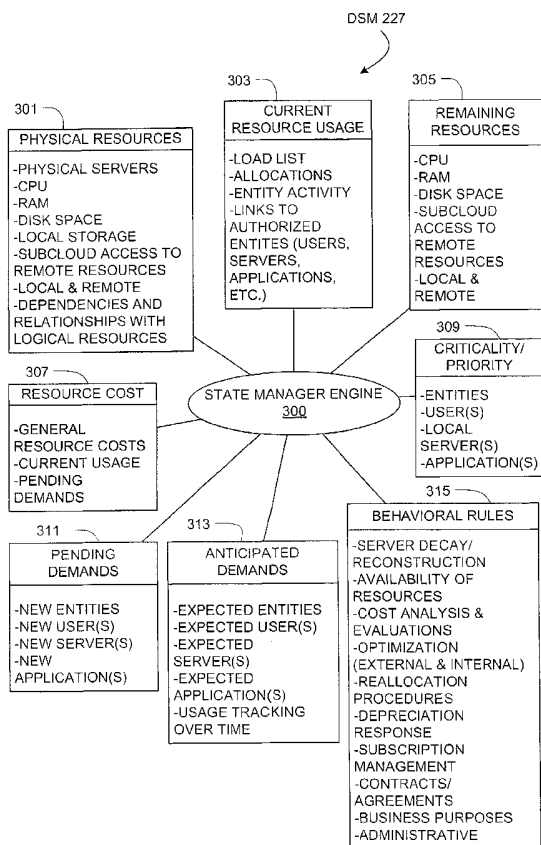
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: NEAR ON-LINE SERVERS



(57) Abstract: A dynamic state manager (DSM) (227) for a server cloud manager (SCM) of a virtualized logical server cloud (101) including a resource definition (301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, and 313), a rules module (315) and a state manager engine (300). The resource definition incorporates information of the available physical and logical resources of the server cloud, including cost, priority, usage and demand information of the resources. The resource definition further incorporates dependencies and relationships between physical and logical resources. The rules module includes predetermined behavioral rules based on demand, usage, priority and cost information. The behavioral rules define optimized resource utilization of the resources of the server cloud. The state manager engine is linked to the resource definition and the rules module and cooperates with the SCM to apply the behavioral rules to achieve optimized resource utilization.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 709/203 718/1-108;709/200

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,185,601 B1 (Wolff) 06 February 2001, see entire document.	1-20
Y	US 6,370,560 B1 (Robertazzi et al.) 09 April 2002, see entire document.	1-20
Y	US 2002/0065864 A1 (Hartsell et al.) 30 May 2002, see Abstract.	9-10
Y	US 5,999,518 A (Natkemper et al.) 07 December 1999, see entire document.	10,14-16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/22840

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPAT;US-PGPUB;EPO;JPO;DERWENT; IBM_TDB

demand,same,priority,resources,dynamic,manager,fules,state,condition,relationships,physical,utility,cost