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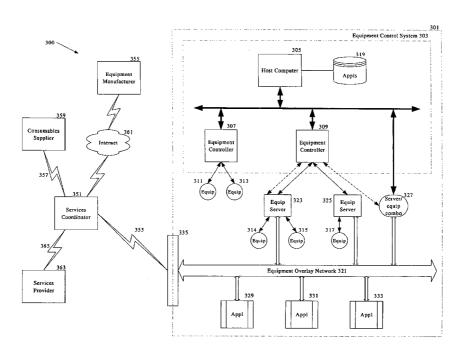
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### (54) Title: EQUIPMENT OVERLAY NETWORK ARCHITECTURE



(57) Abstract: An equipment overlay network architecture defines a network that allows access to equipment in a facility by an application that uses a protocol not native to the equipment. The equipment overlay network architecture includes an equipment server logically located between the equipment and the application that converts between the non-native protocol of the application and a protocol native to the equipment. The equipment server is also coupled into an equipment control system controlled by a host.





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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G05B19/418 H04L29/06

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

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{H04L} & \mbox{G05B} \end{array}$ 

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	WO 98 53581 A (COACTIVE NETWORKS INC) 26 November 1998 (1998-11-26) abstract	1,6-9, 11-13, 17,18, 22-25
Υ	page 4, <b>paragraph 2 -</b> paragraph 3	2-5, 14-16, 19-21, 26-28,30
Α	page 5, paragraph 2 - paragraph 17 page 8, paragraph 1 page 13, line 16 -page 14, line 4 	10,29
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.  * Special categories of cited documents:	Patent family members are listed in annex.
<ul> <li>'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>'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)</li> <li>'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>'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</li> <li>'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</li> <li>'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 combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>'&amp;' document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search  14 June 2002  Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2	Date of mailing of the international search report  25/06/2002  Authorized officer
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Blanco Cardona, P

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