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(54) **METHOD, APPARATUS AND PROGRAM STORAGE DEVICE FOR SCHEDULING THE PERFORMANCE OF MAINTENANCE TASKS TO MAINTAIN A SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT**

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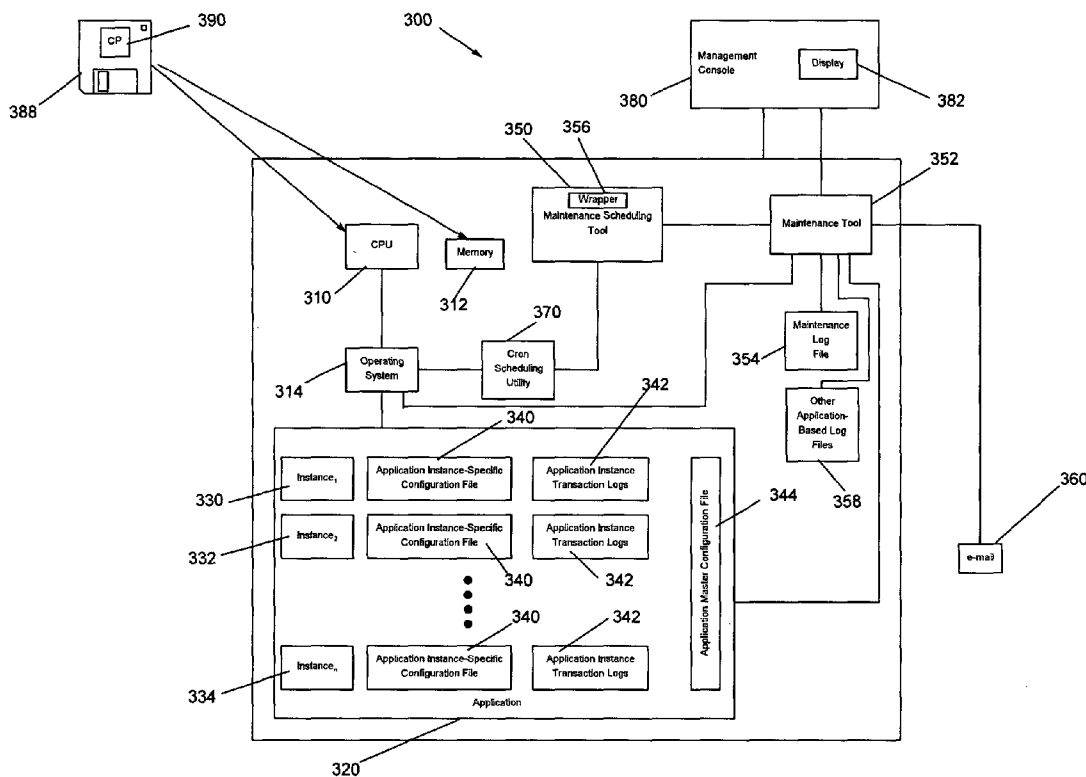
(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method, apparatus and program storage device for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment is disclosed. A parameter for a computer system is monitored to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task. At least one maintenance task is performed when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

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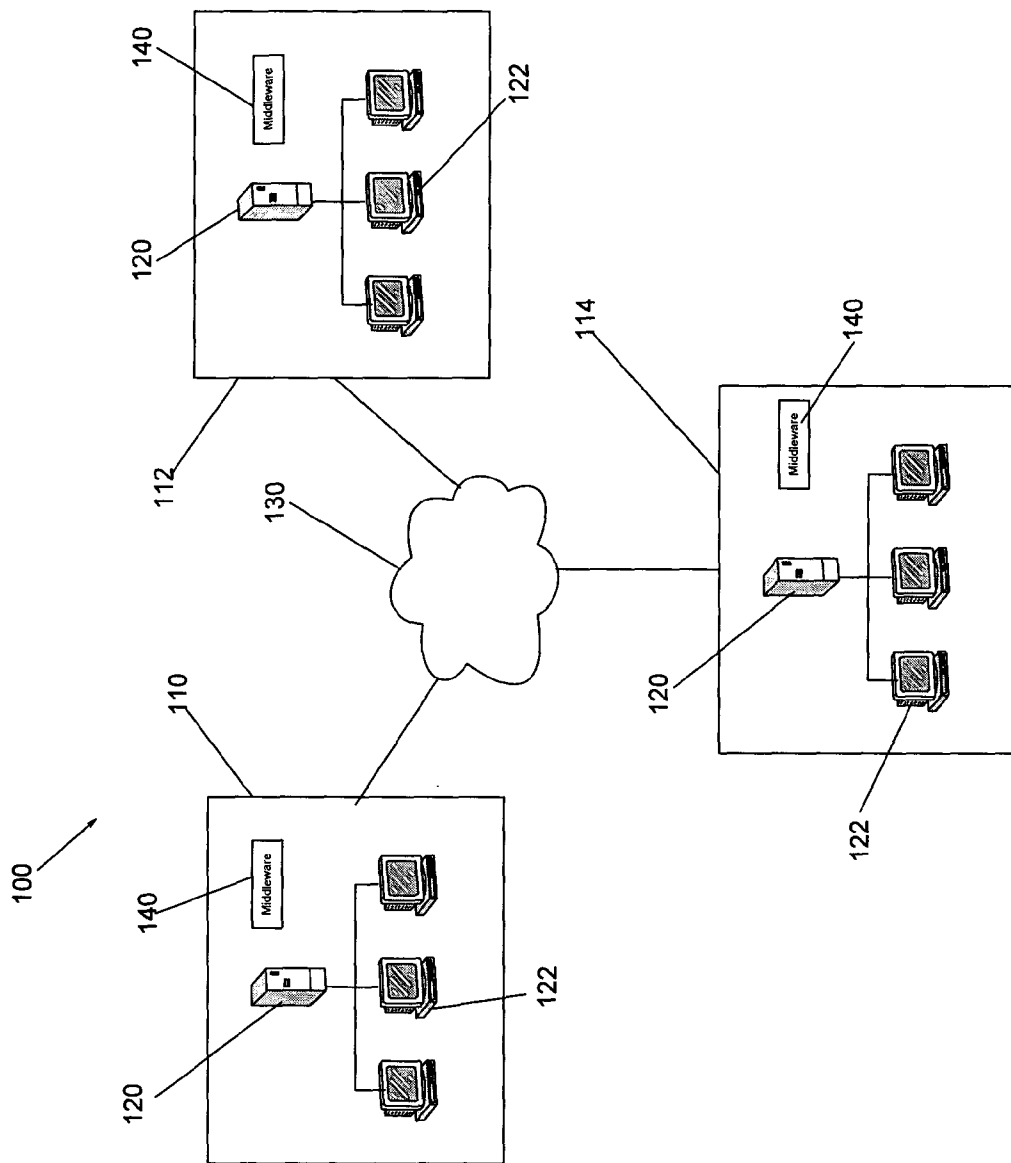


Fig. 1

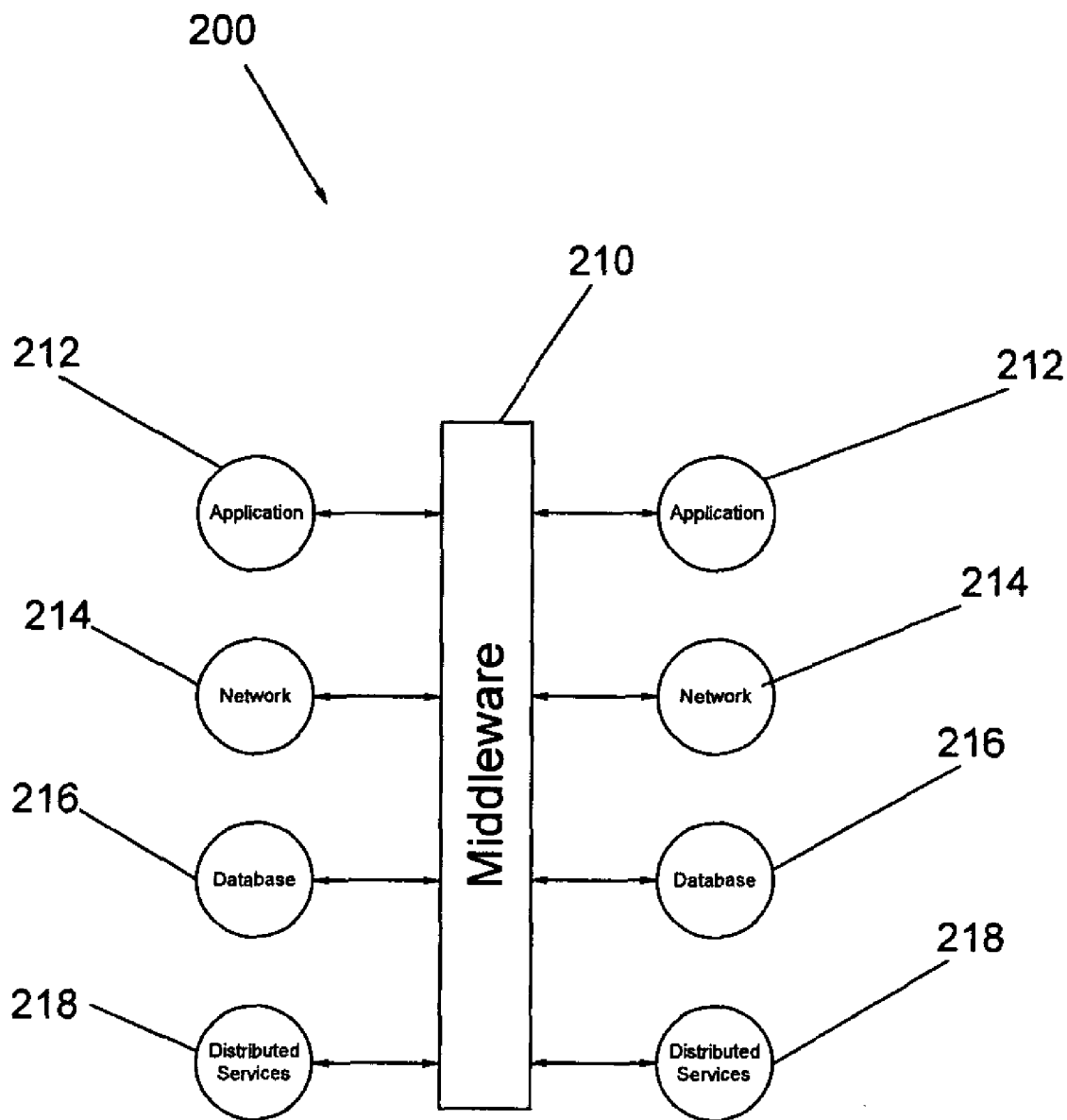


Fig. 2

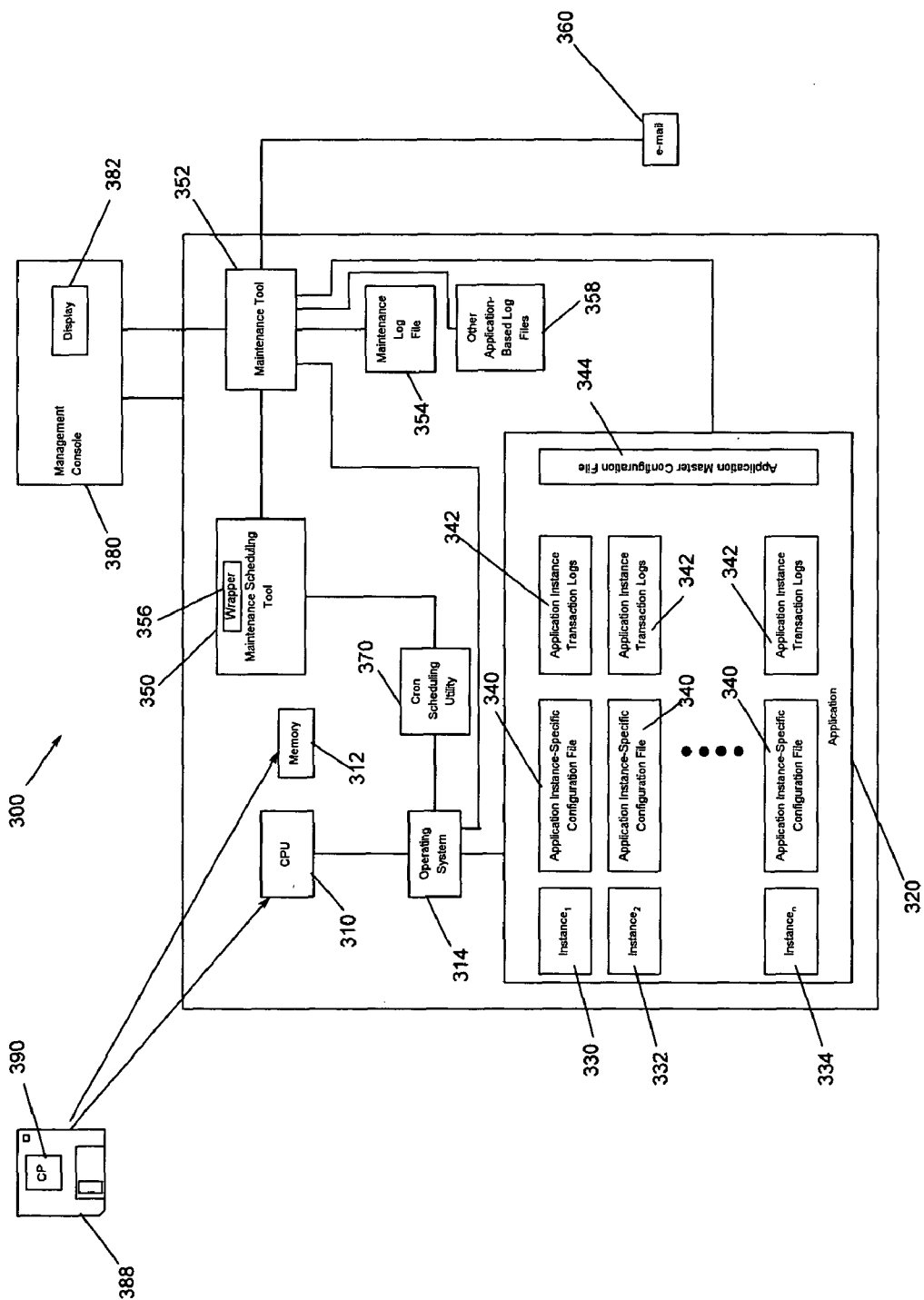


Fig. 3

400

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Save Command | Used To Dump All Configuration Information To A Text File For Reuse. The Last Two Iterations May Be Kept Actively, With Older Versions Retained As Archives |
| Checkpoint Command | Causes All Objects To Be Written To Log For Immediate Recovery If Corrupted. For All Running Queue Managers That Use Linear Logging |
| Clean Log Command | The Clean Log Script Looks In The Error Logs For The Latest Transaction Logs That Are Needed For Full Recovery. The Clean Log Script Will Then Take Older Logs And Zip Them Up To Conserve Space. Used For All Running Queue Managers Using Linear Logging |
| Prune Command | Provided To Prune Old Compressed Logs From Clean Logs That Are No Longer Needed. The Prune Command Keeps Linear Logging Queue Managers From Taking Over The Filesystem And Filling It Up. The Prune Utility Provides Administrators With The Ability To Roll Back To An Earlier Point In Time, But Also Keeps File Systems Free Of Obsolete Files. |
| Save Authorizations Command | Provides Recovery Of Authorizations In Case A Queue Manager Needs To Be Rebuilt, Or If Moved To Another Box. |
| Archive Old Save Files Command | Provides Logs Beyond The Standard Two Save Files For Each Queue Manager. The Archive Old Save Files Command Takes Old Save Files Periodically, And Copy Them To An Archive Directory. |

Fig. 4

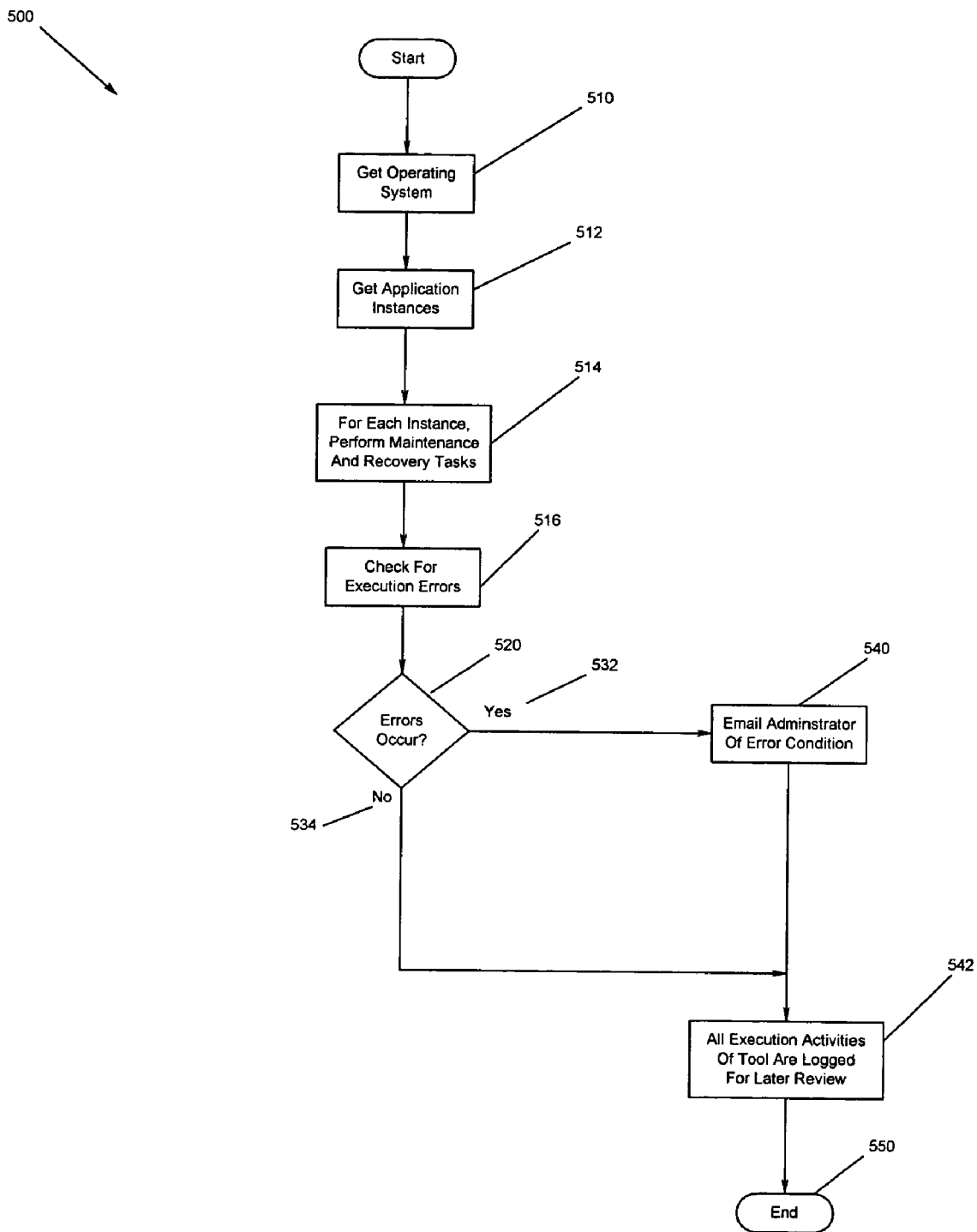


Fig. 5

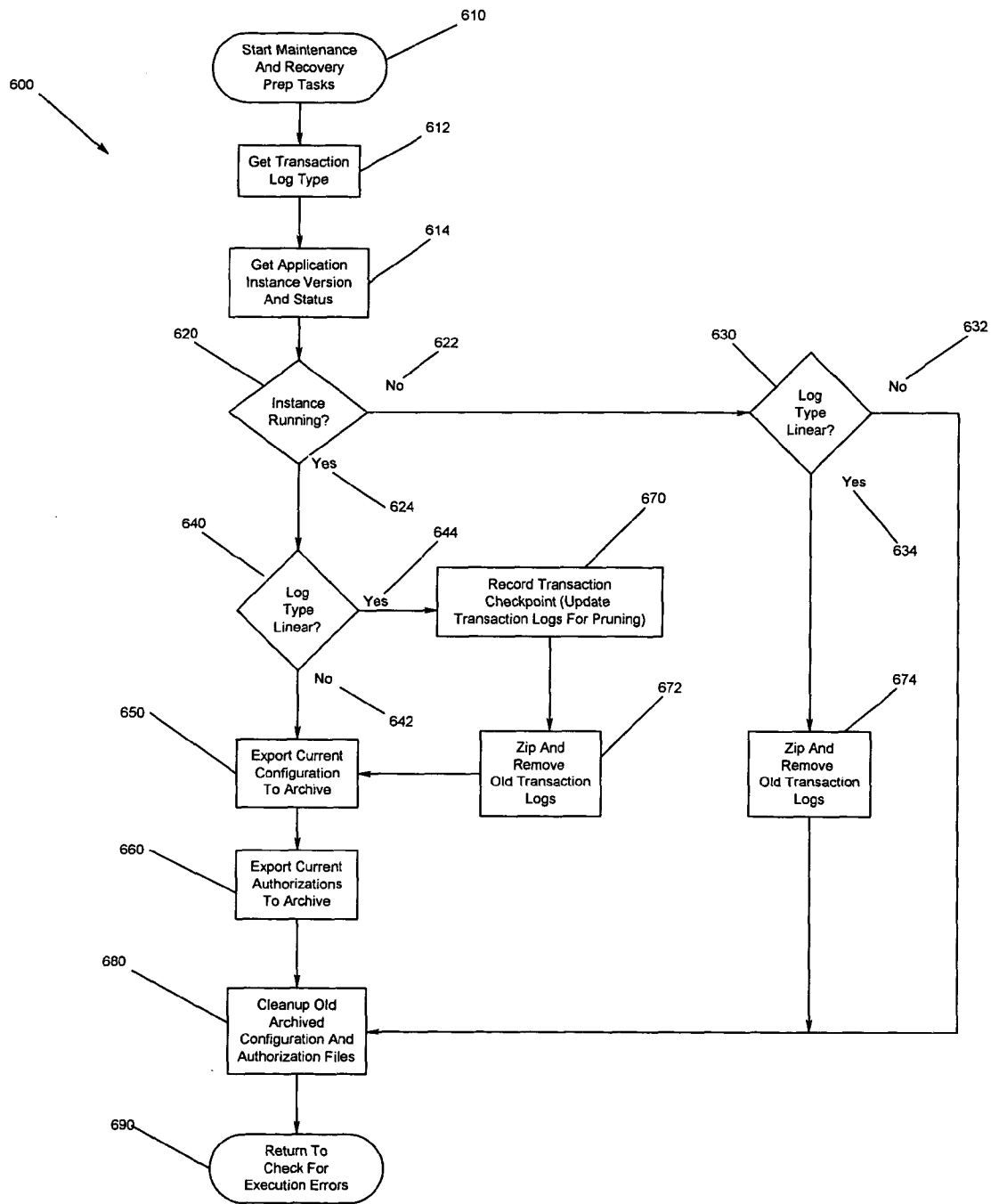


Fig. 6

700 ↘

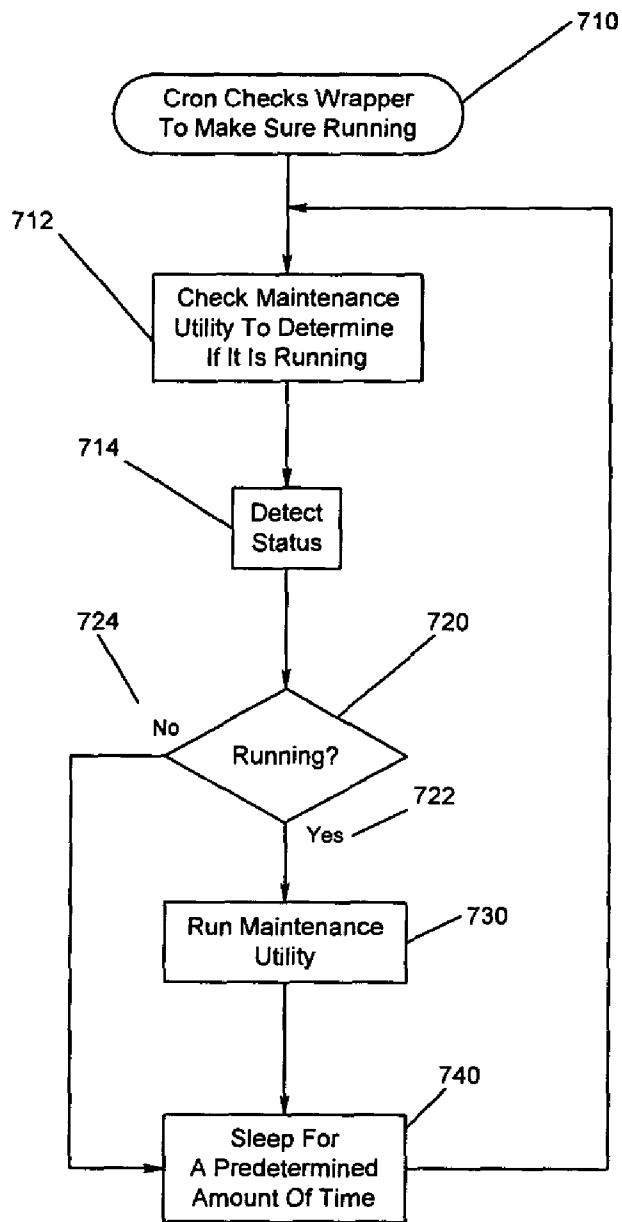


Fig. 7

**METHOD, APPARATUS AND PROGRAM
STORAGE DEVICE FOR SCHEDULING THE
PERFORMANCE OF MAINTENANCE TASKS TO
MAINTAIN A SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates in general to maintaining a computer system, and more particularly to a method, apparatus and program storage device for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] The defining environment for application development is changing. E-business applications are being used to leverage the Internet as a platform for building and integrating applications over a network environment. Further, application servers are moving from a processor-based operating system to an Internet-based operating system or network computing. However, this term may be somewhat ambiguous. Nevertheless, this term is increasingly being used to refer to virtual applications that are assembled from many different components that run on many machines across a network as if they were a single system. Components can range from entire centralized applications to single modules of a larger distributed application. Most important, it is becoming clear that only virtual applications can deliver the flexibility to meet many of the lead-edge needs of today's corporate information systems. Accordingly, these application servers are being used to integrate applications, business processes, and data. To leverage investments, businesses are turning to open standard based infrastructures to allow solutions to be crafted based on the best products for an application, process, etc. rather being locked into a single-vendor solution.

[0005] However, such an open standard integrated solution throughout the enterprise requires tools and systems to accomplish the integration, connectivity, modeling, monitoring and management functions. People, processes, information, and systems must be integrated throughout the enterprise. Connectivity refers to connecting applications and systems across a company and to partners and customers. Modeling includes the ability to model and simulate business processes to graphically represent the flow of work across people and application systems. Monitoring is provided by tracking business processes as they execute in applications and systems across the enterprise. Management of the enterprise demands visualization of immediate operational results of business processes. This critical knowledge enables review of business and system processes over a period of time so that bottlenecks and problem areas can be identified and corrected.

[0006] In order to connect processes and to transform data, a diverse collection of functions must be provided. This diverse collection of functions is referred to as middleware. The term middleware is an inclusive term that encompasses many disparate functions that do not easily fit within other architectural components. Thus, middleware may be considered an aggregation of distinct subcomponents. Middleware provides application services that were once written into applications. However, these services today are pro-

vided in an independent infrastructure layer. Middleware enhances application integration by providing uniform mechanisms to bridge old and new technologies, or by enabling dissimilar elements to work together.

[0007] One type of middleware is message-oriented middleware. Message-oriented middleware allows application programs that may be distributed across similar or dissimilar platforms and/or network protocols to exchange data with each other using messages and queues. In order to maintain a clean and efficient environment, certain maintenance procedures must be run regularly. Such maintenance tasks, however, are not easily performed by built-in utilities. In fact some important tasks cannot be performed at all by built-in utilities. Thus, the system administrator is left with the task of determining how to best carry out these tasks. Still, not all administrators are skilled in programming such tasks. Moreover, administrators may not know the optimum time to run maintenance tasks. For example, maintenance tasks may be scheduled to run too often. Because such maintenance tasks may be resource intensive, the performance of the server may suffer. Alternatively, maintenance tasks may not be scheduled often enough and therefore the system may not be operating efficiently.

[0008] It can be seen then that there is a need for a method, apparatus and program storage device for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] To overcome the limitations in the prior art described above, and to overcome other limitations that will become apparent upon reading and understanding the present specification, the present invention discloses a method, apparatus and program storage device for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment.

[0010] The present invention solves the above-described problems by providing a way for administrators can skillfully maintain servers. The present invention determines when to run maintenance operations based on predetermined system criteria.

[0011] A method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention includes monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and performing at least one maintenance task when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

[0012] In another embodiment of the present invention, a system for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment is provided. The system includes a maintenance tool for providing resources for performing at least one maintenance task and a maintenance scheduling device for monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and causing the maintenance tool to perform at least one maintenance task when the maintenance scheduling device detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

[0013] In another embodiment of the present invention, another system for scheduling the performance of maintenance

nance tasks to maintain a system environment is provided. This system includes means for providing resources for performing at least one maintenance task and means for monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and causing the means for providing resources to perform at least one maintenance task when the means for monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

[0014] In another embodiment of the present invention, a program storage medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment is provided. The method includes monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and performing at least one maintenance task when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

[0015] These and various other advantages and features of novelty which characterize the invention are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed hereto and form a part hereof. However, for a better understanding of the invention, its advantages, and the objects obtained by its use, reference should be made to the drawings which form a further part hereof, and to accompanying descriptive matter, in which there are illustrated and described specific examples of an apparatus in accordance with the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout:

[0017] **FIG. 1** illustrates a distributed computing environment according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] **FIG. 2** illustrates a middleware layer infrastructure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] **FIG. 3** illustrates a system for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] **FIG. 4** illustrates examples of management tools according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] **FIG. 5** illustrates a flow chart of the maintenance program execution according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] **FIG. 6** illustrates a detailed flow chart for the maintenance and recovery task operations according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0023] **FIG. 7** illustrates the dynamic execution of the maintenance utility according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] In the following description of the embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration the specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may

be utilized because structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0025] The present invention provides a method, apparatus and program storage device for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment. Administrators use the present invention to skillfully maintain servers. When to run maintenance operations is determined based on predetermined system criteria.

[0026] **FIG. 1** illustrates a distributed computing environment **100** according to an embodiment of the present invention. **FIG. 1** illustrates three computing domains **110-114**. The three computing domains **110-114** include at least one server **120** and at least one client **122** networked to the server **120**. The domains **110-114** are coupled through a network **130**. Applications running in each of the domains **110-114** are usually built using centralized approaches, wherein the business rules and data that comprise the application reside on a single mainframe or network server, and lack ways to participate as components on the network. To prevent isolation between the domains **110-114**, middleware services **140** are used to provide uniform mechanisms to bridge the different technologies and to enable dissimilar elements to work together. Middleware **140** comprises computer software that runs on a computer in at least one of the clusters **110-114**.

[0027] **FIG. 2** illustrates a middleware layer infrastructure **200** according to an embodiment of the present invention. In **FIG. 2** the middleware layer **210** provides an independent infrastructure layer that sits between applications **212**, networks **214**, databases **216**, and distributed services communications mechanisms **218**. The middleware layer **210** enhances application integration by providing uniform mechanisms to bridge between the applications **212**, networks **214**, databases **216**, and distributed services communications mechanisms **218**. Management of the infrastructure is facilitated by the middleware layer **210** by allowing for the centralized management of application services that are shared by many applications. The middleware layer **210** also reduces the costs and complexity of implementing change in infrastructure services by enabling changes to be made across many applications, rather than to each application that uses a service.

[0028] One type of middleware services that is used to ensure that the applications and other functions are running smoothly is maintenance utilities. For example, in a distributed computing environment, certain maintenance procedures must be run regularly to ensure the system is operating properly. For example, servers in a computing environment must be monitored to prevent crashes and/or to facilitate peak performance. Such maintenance tasks, however, are not easily performed by built-in utilities. In fact some important tasks cannot be performed at all by built-in utilities. Thus, the system administrator is left with the task of determining how to best carry out these tasks. Still, not all administrators are skilled in programming such tasks. Moreover, administrators may not know the optimum time to run maintenance tasks. Thus, the present invention provides a maintenance tool to provide an administrator the ability to determine when settings changed as well as the option of restoring old settings through saved files.

[0029] **FIG. 3** illustrates a system **300** for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system

environment according to an embodiment of the present invention. In **FIG. 3**, a central processing unit **310** may access memory **312** and runs an operating system **314**. The operating system **314** may access application **320**. The application **320** includes instances **330-334**. Master configuration file **344** identifies each of the application instances configured on the system, as well as default settings for each instance. Each instance **330-334** may include an application instance-specific configuration file **340** and application instance transaction logs **342**.

[**0030**] The present invention includes a maintenance scheduling tool **350** to schedule maintenance tasks. Maintenance tasks are provided via the maintenance tools **352**. The maintenance tools **352** maintain a maintenance log file **354**. The maintenance tools **352** are part of a larger suite of tools created to provide daily maintenance routines, as well as routines that copy settings to an archive location for later point-in-time recovery, if necessary. A script is provided via the maintenance scheduling tool **350** to determine how often the maintenance tools **352** are to be performed. For example, administration setup maintenance may need to be performed nightly on all servers. However, some servers that are heavily used may need maintenance run more often than just once a day. To statically schedule run times, however, may be too little or too much.

[**0031**] In one embodiment of the present invention, the script provided in the maintenance scheduling tool **350** to control the maintenance tools **352** is a korn-shell script. A korn-shell script is a program that reads textual commands from the user or from a file, converts them into operating system commands, and executes them. A wrapper **356** sits on top of the script in the maintenance scheduling tool **350** to dynamically determine whether the maintenance tools **352** should be run. For example, the wrapper **356** may look at regular intervals such as every 30 minutes. The wrapper **356** will cause the maintenance tools to be run at least every 24 hours or other preset period, but also self-regulates in case log filesystems are in danger of filling up. Thus, the wrapper **356** in the maintenance scheduling tool **350** monitors server conditions and runs the maintenance tools **352** whenever prudent. However, the present invention is not meant to be limited to a particular period or pattern. In this manner, the utilities **352** function as a “maintenance on demand” package of tools. If the maintenance tools **352** are run too often thereby indicating some sort of problem on the server, an alert is generated and the administrator is paged, for example, via email **360**.

[**0032**] Some commands may be executed directly within the interpreter itself, e.g., setting variables or control constructs, while others may cause it to load and execute other files. Unix’s command interpreters are known as shells. The maintenance tools **352** employ several other external programs to complete its operation.

[**0033**] The cron scheduling utility **370** is an operating system scheduler that monitors for a set time and then executes a predetermined command. For example, the maintenance tools **352** may be scheduled to complete once each night and then log all operations to an output log. The maintenance tools **352** then may email **360** the administrator whenever it doesn’t complete successfully. This provides administrators with the ability to manage problems before they grow and take down the server. For example, the maintenance tools may be used to clear unneeded log space.

[**0034**] Log files **358**, such as the channel exit log file, are pruned to keep from growing too large. Log files **358** may have a preset size, and once full, existing files are copied to a backup file. Any “error” output may be emailed to the administrator for review. Also, all program activity may be logged to a file **358** for review; and to track whether maintenance was started manually or via a cron scheduling utility.

[**0035**] A management console **380** provides an administrator access to and control of the maintenance tools **352** and scheduler **350**. The management console **380** may include a display **382** for displaying status or other data provided by the maintenance tools **352**.

[**0036**] **FIG. 4** illustrates examples of management tools **400** according to an embodiment of the present invention. **FIG. 4** illustrates the save command **410**, which is used to dump all configuration information to a text file for reuse **412**. The last two iterations may be kept actively, with older versions retained as archives. Another tool is the built-in checkpoint command **420** for all running queue managers that use linear logging. (A queue manager is an application instance for asynchronous messaging applications such as IBM WebSphere MQ). The built-in checkpoint command **420** causes all objects to be written to log for immediate recovery if corrupted **422**.

[**0037**] A clean log command **430** may be provided for all running queue managers using linear logging. The clean log script **430** looks in the error logs for the latest transaction logs that are needed for full recovery **432**. The clean log script **430** will then take older logs and zip them up to conserve space. A prune command **440** may be provided to prune old compressed logs from clean logs that are no longer needed. The prune command **440** keeps linear logging queue managers from taking over the filesystem and filling it up **442**. If linear logging queue managers are provided and do not run this, the filesystem will eventually fill up and take the queue manager down, causing an outage. The prune utility **440** provides administrators with the ability to roll back to an earlier point in time, but also keeps file systems free of obsolete files.

[**0038**] The save authorizations script **450** is a command that should be run periodically for all running queue managers. The save authorization script **450** provides recovery of application-based authorizations in case a queue manager needs to be rebuilt, or if moved to another box **452**. Such scripts may be kept in a specified log file. For example, ten of the authorization scripts may be kept to provide 2.5 months’ ability to recover should problems be encountered. An archive-old-configuration-files script **460** provides logs beyond the standard two configuration files for each queue manager. The archive-old-configuration-files command **460** takes old configuration files periodically, and copies them to an archive directory **462**. For example, if taken twice weekly, 50 of these archive files may be kept to provide six full months recovery ability. The archive-old-configuration-files feature is especially helpful for queue managers whose definitions (configuration) change regularly, or where non-standard administrators may have access to alter objects, and a record of it needs to be kept.

[**0039**] Those skilled in the art will recognize that the present invention is not meant to be limited to the maintenance tasks illustrated above with reference to **FIG. 4**.

Rather, embodiments in accordance with the present invention may run any type of maintenance tools based on system criteria. Further, by combining maintenance tasks, a maintenance scheduling tool according to embodiments of the present invention may provide a comprehensive maintenance routine. For example, the combination of the save file command **410** and the save authorization script **450** allows a complete snapshot of activity that can later be used to fix problems or restore configurations.

[0040] **FIG. 5** illustrates a flow chart **500** of the maintenance program execution according to an embodiment of the present invention. In **FIG. 5**, the tool determines the operating-system type and tailors execution to the specified environment **510**. Application instances are then retrieved **512**. For each instance, maintenance and recovery-preparation tasks are performed **514**. Errors during execution of the maintenance and recovery-preparation tasks are monitored **516**. A determination is made whether errors occurred **520**. If errors occurred **532**, the administrator is alerted of the error condition **540**. If not **534**, the maintenance program terminates **550**. All execution activities are logged for later review **542**.

[0041] **FIG. 6** illustrates a detailed flow chart **600** for the maintenance and recovery task operations (e.g., block **514** of **FIG. 5**) according to an embodiment of the present invention. In **FIG. 6**, the maintenance and recovery task is initiated **610**. A transaction log type is obtained **612**. The application instance version and status is also obtained **614**. A determination is made whether the instance is running **620** and whether the log type is linear or circular **630, 640**. If the instance is not running **622** and the system is circular **632**, the archived configuration and authorization files are cleaned-up **680** and the system returns to check for execution errors **690**.

[0042] If the instance is running **624** and the system is circular **642**, the current configuration is exported to an archive **650**. The current authorizations are also exported to an archive **660**. Then, the archived configuration and authorization files are cleaned-up **680** and the system returns to check for execution errors **690**.

[0043] If the instance is running **624** and the system is linear **644**, the transaction checkpoint is recorded **670**, e.g., the transaction log files are updated for pruning. The old transaction logs are zipped and removed **672**. Because the instance is running, the current configuration is exported to an archive **650**. The current authorizations are also exported to an archive **660**. Then, the archived configuration and authorization files are cleaned-up **680** and the system returns to check for execution errors **690**.

[0044] If the instance is not running **622** and the system is linear **634**, the old transaction logs are zipped and removed **674**. Because the instance is not running **622**, the archived configuration and authorization files are merely cleaned-up **680** and the system returns to check for execution errors **690**. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the blocks deciding whether the log type is linear or circular **630, 640** may be the same process, and in a like manner so may the blocks where old transaction logs are zipped and removed **672, 674**.

[0045] Furthermore, those skilled in the art will recognize that the present invention is not meant to be limited to the

maintenance tasks illustrated above with reference to **FIG. 6**. Rather, embodiments in accordance with the present invention may run any type of maintenance tools based on system criteria. Examples of additional maintenance tasks that may be performed according to the maintenance scheduling tool of the present invention include, but are not limited to, providing database consistency checks, ensuring database compaction, performing full-text index generation, performing view recalculations, etc.

[0046] **FIG. 7** illustrates the dynamic execution of the maintenance utility **700** according to an embodiment of the present invention. In **FIG. 7**, the cron scheduling utility checks the wrapper utility according to a schedule **710**, e.g., every 30 minutes, once daily, at set times, etc., to determine if the wrapper that manages execution of maintenance tools is running. (The cron utility only makes sure the wrapper is running; the wrapper utility then runs continuously and periodically checks whether maintenance should be executed.) If it is not found to be running, the cron scheduling utility starts the wrapper, which then monitors the need for maintenance in a dynamic, continuous fashion. The wrapper then determines whether the maintenance tools are already running **712**. If the maintenance tools are actively executing currently, the wrapper will not start parallel maintenance tasks. Next, the need for maintenance is ascertained through checking current conditions such as free disk space **714**. A determination is made whether the maintenance utility should be performed now **720** (for example, if maintenance tasks have not yet been performed today, if free disk space is getting too low, etc.). If not **724**, the wrapper utility sleeps again for a predetermined amount of time **740**, after which the process is repeated. If the maintenance utility should be run now **722**, the maintenance utility is performed **730**.

[0047] The process illustrated with reference to **FIGS. 1-7** may be tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium or carrier, e.g. one or more of the fixed and/or removable data storage devices **388** illustrated in **FIG. 3**, or other data storage or data communications devices. The computer program **390** may be loaded into memory **312** to configure the system **300** for execution of the computer program **390**. The computer program **390** include instructions which, when read and executed by a processor, such as central processing unit **310** of **FIG. 1**, causes the devices to perform the steps necessary to execute the steps or elements of an embodiment of the present invention.

[0048] Accordingly, embodiments of the present invention ensure that the servers are operating according to specifications. Referring again to **FIG. 3**, the maintenance tool **352** periodically performs maintenance tasks via control of the maintenance scheduling device **350**, and if any of the tasks cannot be accomplished, or if an error is detected, the maintenance tool alerts the system administrator. The frequency that maintenance scheduling device **350** causes the maintenance tool **352** to run is determined according to predetermined criteria, e.g., timing, system conditions such as disk space availability, server usage, etc.

[0049] The foregoing description of the exemplary embodiment of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in

light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the invention be limited not with this detailed description, but rather by the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment, comprising:

monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task; and

performing at least one maintenance task when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring a computer system parameter further comprises monitoring conditions on a server.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task further comprises performing at least one maintenance task when the server meets a predetermined criteria.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises disk space for the server becoming too low.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task further comprises running a maintenance routine for improving computer system operation.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task further comprises backing up settings to an archive.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the backing up settings to an archive further comprises saving configurations and authorizations for applications running on a server.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task further comprises writing log files.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task further comprises reducing a size for files stored on the computer system.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising alerting an administrator upon an occurrence of an event.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the alerting an administrator upon an occurrence of an event further comprises alerting an administrator when a maintenance task fails.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the alerting an administrator upon an occurrence of an event further comprises alerting an administrator when a maintenance task is ran too often.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the performing at least one maintenance task at least once within a predetermined period further comprising performing at least one maintenance task once a day.

14. A system for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment, comprising:

a maintenance tool for providing resources for performing at least one maintenance task; and

a maintenance scheduling device for monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and causing the maintenance

tool to perform at least one maintenance task when the maintenance scheduling device detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the computer system further comprises a server.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the maintenance scheduling device causes the maintenance tool to perform at least one maintenance task when the server meets a predetermined criteria.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises disk space for the server becoming too low.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one maintenance task further comprises a maintenance routine for improving computer system operation.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one maintenance task further comprises a backup of system settings to an archive.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the system settings further comprise configurations and authorizations for applications running on a server.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one maintenance task further comprises writing log files.

22. The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one maintenance task further comprises reducing a size for files stored on the computer system.

23. The system of claim 14, wherein the maintenance tool alerts an administrator upon an occurrence of an event.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the event further comprises a failure of a maintenance task.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the event further comprises a maintenance task running too often.

26. The system of claim 14, wherein the predetermined period further comprises once a day.

27. A system for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment, comprising:

means for providing resources for performing at least one maintenance task; and

means for monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task and causing the means for providing resources to perform at least one maintenance task when the means for monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

28. A program storage medium readable by a computer, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for scheduling the performance of maintenance tasks to maintain a system environment, the method comprising:

monitoring a parameter for a computer system to detect a need to perform at least one maintenance task; and

performing at least one maintenance task when the monitoring detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at least once within a predetermined period.

* * * * *