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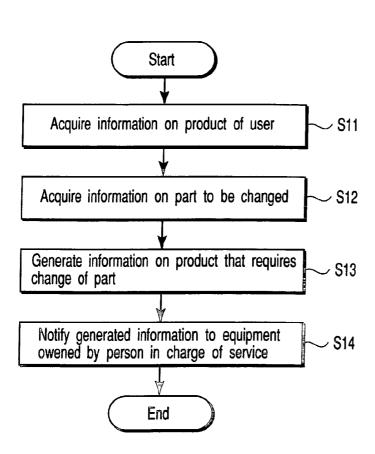
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(54) Title: METHOD, SYSTEM AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR COPING WITH THE CHANGES IN HARD-WARE VIA REMOTE MAITENANCE MANAGEMENT



(57) Abstract: A method for coping a change in hardware accesses a product of a user through a network and acquires information on the product of the user. It further acquires information on a part to be changed, and generates information on a product that requires change of a part from the acquired information on the product of the user and information on the part to be changed.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/60 H04L H04L12/24 H04L12/26 G06F11/07 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) G06F H04L GO3G IPC 7 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 C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ DE 100 29 455 A (MITSUBISHI INTERNAT GMBH) 1 - 1119 July 2001 (2001-07-19) abstract column 4, line 12 -column 5, line 58 column 6, line 54 -column 7, line 7 column 8, line 3 -column 11, line 20 EP 0 843 229 A (CANON INFORMATION SYST 1,2,4,5, X INC) 20 May 1998 (1998-05-20) 7,8,10, abstract; figures 1,16-18 column 1, line 45 -column 2, line 26 column 12, line 42 -column 16, line 13 P,X EP 1 182 857 A (HITACHI LTD) 1 - 1127 February 2002 (2002-02-27) abstract; figures 3,4 paragraphs '0033!, '0034! Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "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) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 4 August 2003 21/08/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Hopper, E Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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