

(51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 9/455 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2014/050050(22) International Filing Date:
23 May 2014 (23.05.2014)

(25) Filing Language: English

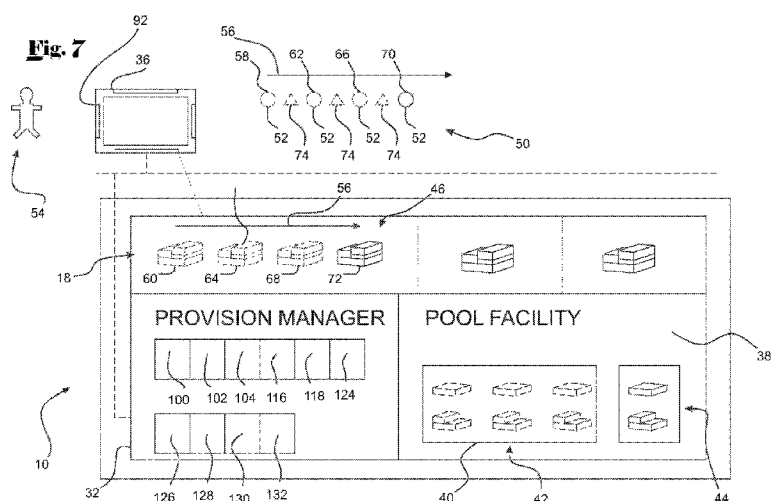
(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2013903666 23 September 2013 (23.09.2013) AU
2013903667 23 September 2013 (23.09.2013) AU
2013903853 7 October 2013 (07.10.2013) AU(71) Applicant: **GOPC PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; 88 Havelock St,
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Western Australia 6014 (AU).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM,
ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: VIRTUAL COMPUTING SYSTEMS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: In one preferred form of the present invention, there is provided a computer system (10) for providing virtual computers. The computer system (10) includes a pool facility (38) for storing a pool (40) of suspended virtual computers (42) based on at least one virtual computer template (44). A provision manager (32) provides a series (46) of virtual computers (18) as a result of a series (50) of system logon requests by a user (54). The provision manager (32) includes an update facility (100), a resume facility (102) and a customization facility (104). The update facility (104) is provided for updating the or each at least one virtual computer template (44). The resume facility (102) is provided for resuming virtual computers from the pool (40) of suspended virtual computers (42) provided by the pool facility (38). The customization facility (104) is provided for customizing virtual computers after being resumed from the pool (40) to provide active virtual computers.