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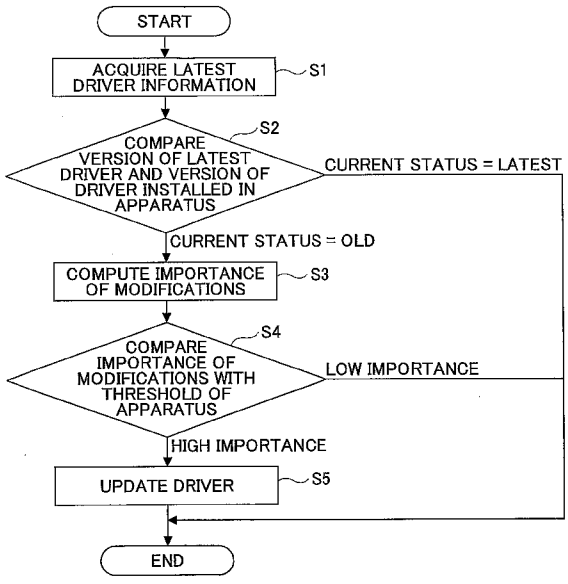
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(54) **Title:** PROGRAM VERSION MANAGEMENT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SYSTEM STABILITY



(57) **Abstract:** A method of managing program versions by acquiring information about a program supplied via a network, comparing the program of a latest version with the program of a currently used version, and deciding whether or not to perform or prompt an update of the program includes determining whether or not to perform or prompt the update of the program in response to importance of modifications to be made from the program of the currently used version to the program of the latest version.

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