



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
G06F 15/16 (2006.01) **G06F 9/44** (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2011/052175
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
19 September 2011 (19.09.2011)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
12/908,623 20 October 2010 (20.10.2010) US
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- (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** HIGH AVAILABILITY OF MACHINES DURING PATCHING

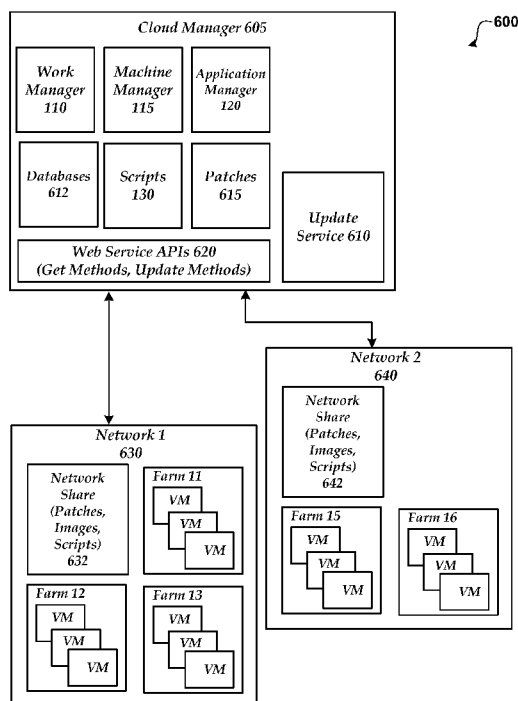


Fig. 6

(57) **Abstract:** A cloud manager is utilized in the patching of physical machines and virtual machines that are used within an online service, such as an online content management service. The cloud manager assists in the scheduling of the application of software patches to the machines (physical and virtual) within the network such that the availability of the online service is maintained while machines are being patched. The machines to be patched are partitioned into groups that are patched at different times. Generally, the groups are partitioned into a highly available independent groups of machines such that one or more of the groups that are not currently being patched continue to provide the service(s) of the group that is being patched. The machines (physical and virtual) within each of the groups may be patched in parallel.



AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, 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, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, 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, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, 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, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, 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, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

- *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))*