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(54) Title: SOFTWARE SYSTEM GENERATION

(57) Abstract

A system for building collaborative software agents is provided with a set of editors (305) for capturing data for installation in the individual agents. The collaborative software agents will normally form a community, including some standard agents (315), provided by the system, and will collaborate to provide functionality in a domain selected by the user. Each collaborative software agent built by the system is provided with co-ordination policies, selected by the user, and represented by a co-ordination graph (310). A single collaborative software agent can be provided with more than one collaborative policy and is capable of running more than one collaborative policy simultaneously with different agents of the system. An exception handler flags an exception during use of the collaborative agents in the relevant domain when the value of a variable for an agent conflicts with a relevant constraint. Alternatively, the exception handler flags an exception when the resource and time constraints cannot be met by allocation of tasks between the collaborative agents. Communities of software agents built within a system might be used to launch and/or manage telecommunications services or to control a chemical process, for example.