(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
10 January 2002 (10.01.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/03220 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 17/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB01/02952

(22) International Filing Date: 3 July 2001 (03.07.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/216,347 5 July 2000 (05.07.2000) US

(71) Applicant: **ERNST & YOUNG LLP** [GB/GB]; Beckett House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU (GB).

(72) Inventor: **TREMAIN, Geoffrey, Donald**; 20 Grafton Way, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 2NW (GB).

(74) Agent: **FLINT, Adam**; W.H. Beck, Greener & Co., 7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3SZ (GB).

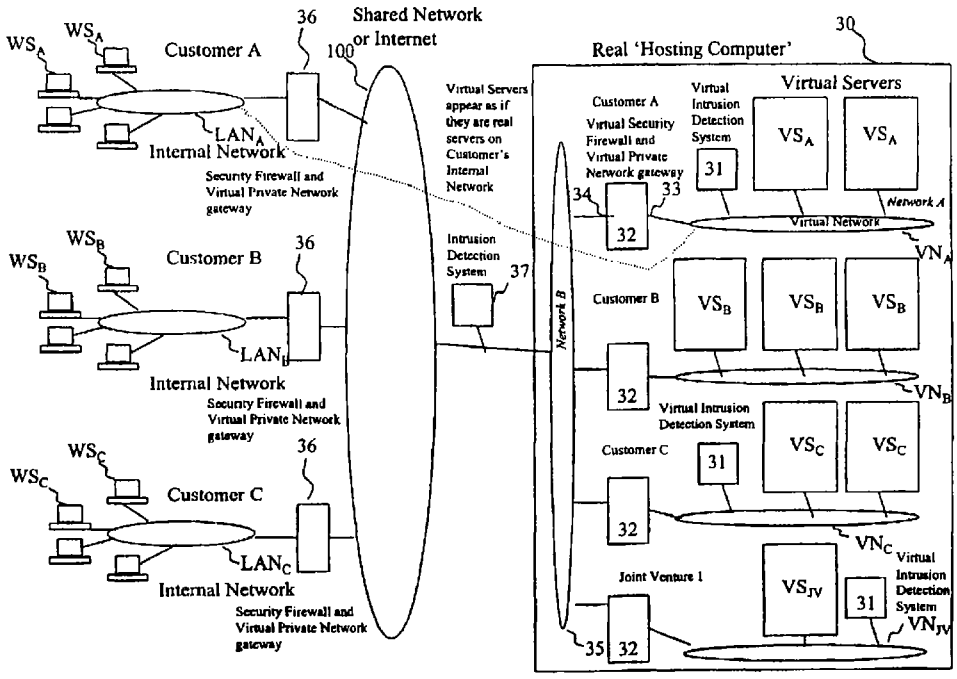
(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER SERVICES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method are disclosed for providing one or more computer services to a plurality of customers (A, B, C). At least one virtual machine (VS) is set up on a real computer (30) for each of the customers (A, B, C) at the request of each of the customers (A, B, C). The or each virtual machine (VS) for each of the customers (A, B, C) has a specification specified by the respective customer (A, B, C).

WO 02/03220 A2