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(54) **Title:** MACHINE MANAGER SERVICE FABRIC

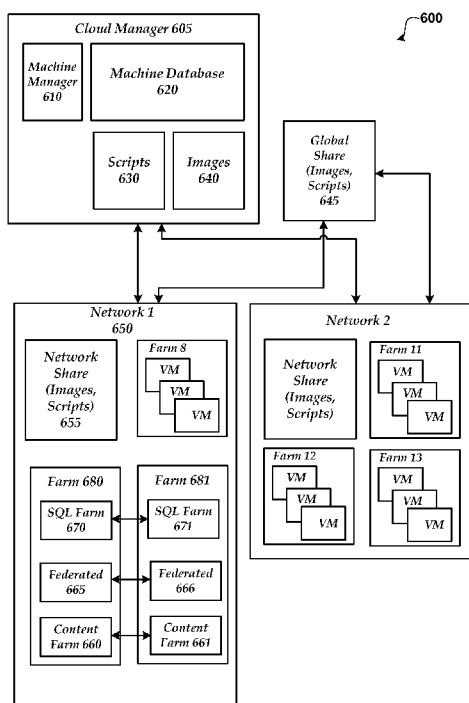


Fig. 6

(57) **Abstract:** A machine manager controls the deployment and management of machines for an online service. The machine manager is configured to manually/automatically deploy farms, upgrade farms, add machines, remove machines, start machines, stop machines, and the like. The machine manager keeps track of the locations of the machines, the roles of the machines within the networks, as well as other characteristics relating to the machines (e.g. health of the machines). Instead of upgrading software on the machines in a farm that are currently handling requests, one or more machines are configured in a new farm with the selected disk images and then the requests are moved from the old farm to the new farm.



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