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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU99/00576 (22) International Filing Date: 16 July 1999 (16.07.99) (30) Priority Data: PP 4710 16 July 1998 (16.07.98) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNITED TECHNOLOGY PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; 239 Magill Road, Maylands, S.A. 5067 (AU). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NGO, Get, Sen [AU/AU]; 9-3 Orange Lane, Norwood, S.A. 5067 (AU). PARSONS, Ewan [AU/AU]; 239 Magill Road, Stepney, S.A. 5067 (AU). (74) Agent: COLLISON & CO.; 117 King William Street, Adelaide, S.A. 5000 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AB, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, 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, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, 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), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: INTERNET UTILITY INTERCONNECT METHOD AND MEANS		
(57) Abstract The present invention relates to a method and apparatus allowing for the monitoring and control of electrical appliance or utilities. This is achieved by using a master webserver that can communicate with remote slave nodes using a protocol for control and automation over networks of different media including wire, radio, microwave and powerlines. This Virtual Internet Link (VIL) responds to requests from the server and remotes to replicate information as though the remote node is connected to the Internet. The virtual link is used for remote information reading as well as home automation and security reflected in the master server. Remote nodes act on the Internet database information through a master/slave/exception protocol supporting automation, metering, security, e-cash transfers and Internet back-channel requests.		