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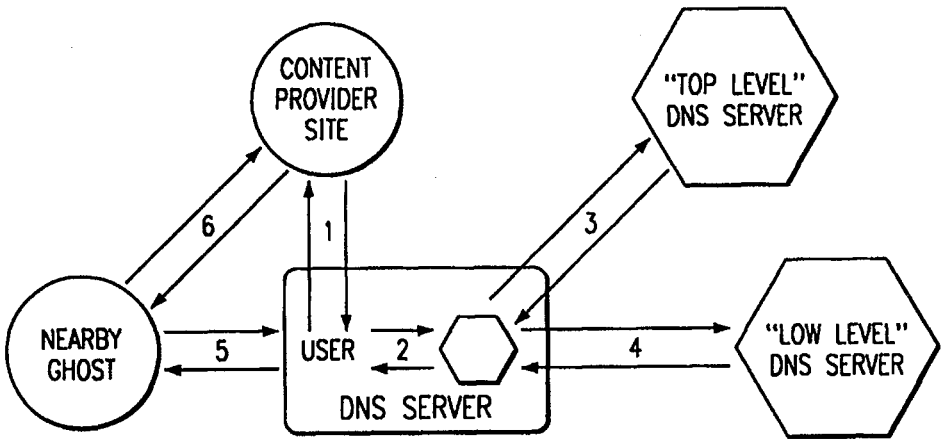
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(54) Title: GLOBAL DOCUMENT HOSTING SYSTEM UTILIZING EMBEDDED CONTENT DISTRIBUTED GHOST SERVERS



(57) Abstract

A network architecture or framework that supports hosting and content distribution on a truly global scale. The framework allows a Content Provider to replicate and serve its most popular content at an unlimited number of points throughout the world. The framework comprises a set of servers operating in a distributed manner. The actual content to be served is preferably supported on a set of hosting servers (36), sometimes referred to as ghost servers. This content comprises HTML page objects that, conventionally, are served from a Content Provider site. In accordance with the invention, however, a base HTML document portion of a web page is served from the Content Provider's site (1), while one or more embedded objects for the page are served from the hosting servers (3, 4), preferably those hosting servers (5) near the client machine. By serving the base HTML document from the Content Provider's site, the Content Provider maintains control over the content.

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