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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/015569 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 9/445

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/025294

(22) International Filing Date: 13 August 2003 (13.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/217,599 13 August 2002 (13.08.2002) US

(71) Applicant: **INTEL CORPORATION (a Delawere Corporation)** [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US).

(72) Inventor: **MCCARDLE, William**; 8811 West Valley Palms Drive, Spring, TX 77379 (US).

(74) Agents: **STEFFEY, Charles, E.** et al.; Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A., P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (US).

(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, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, 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.

WO 2004/015569 A2

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BOOTING WITH REMOTE CONFIGURATION DATA

(57) Abstract: Method, apparatus and computer software provide for the loading of configuration data from a remote source to set the initial configuration of a computing system during a boot process. One or more software components are operable on the computing system to determine if configuration data is to retrieved from a remote source, configure a network interface and determining if the network is active, establish a route to a server storing the configuration data, download the configuration data from the server to the computing system, verify that the configuration data was received correctly, and use the downloaded configuration data to at least in part set the initial configuration of the computing system. When remote data is unavailable, configuration data from a local source is used to set the initial configuration of the computing system. A determination of whether to retrieve configuration data from a remote source is done by checking a setting in local configuration data stored in a local nonvolatile storage device. According to various embodiments, large networks of servers are managed in a dynamic manner using the remote loading of configuration data.