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[Name of Document] Abstract:



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[Object] To provide a server, more particularly a remote control server and a center server, for monitoring/controlling a target device under a network environment.

[Solving Means] A server is capable of calling, holding and/or operating a virtual machine, which is a software object described as the other self of a monitored/controlled target device having the same information as that possessed by the monitored/controlled target device, and which contains a plurality of communication protocols used for communication with the monitored/controlled target device and concealed in the software object, and/or is capable of distributing the virtual machine. Preferably, the server is able to change and/or control information of the monitored/controlled target device by operating the virtual machine. A center server connected to an information network is capable of creating and holding a virtual machine, which is a software object described as the other self of a monitored/controlled target device having the same information as that possessed by the monitored/controlled target device, and which contains a plurality of communication protocols used for communication with the monitored/controlled target device and concealed in the software object, and is capable of distributing the virtual machine and/or a program defining behaviors, etc. of a server to one or more servers. The center server shares the same information as that possessed by the monitored/controlled target device and is able to change and/or control information of the monitored/controlled target device by operating the virtual machine. The center server manages data collected by the operations and manages a system in which one or

more servers and the monitored/controlled target device are connected in the form of a network as a whole.

[Selected Figure] Fig. 1