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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **AMADEUS S.A.S.** [FR/FR]; 485 route du Pin Montard, Sophia Antipolis, F-06410 Biot (FR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **CORDESSES, Joël** [FR/FR]; Les Jardins d'Antibes, D11-Boulevard du Val Claret, F-06600 Antibes (FR). **MONBEL, Stéphane** [FR/FR]; Résidence Les Jardins de la Corniche, 127 Avenue de la Corniche Fleurie, F-06200 Nice (FR). **DOR, Pierre** [FR/FR]; 1019 Route de Grasse, F-06140 Vence (FR). **TCHENG, Christophe** [FR/FR]; Val d'Azur, 2 Place des Santolines, F-06560 Valbonne (FR).

(74) Agent: **DECOBERT, Jean-Pascal**; Cabinet Hautier, 20 rue de la Liberté, F-06000 Nice (FR).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEPLOYING NON-BACKWARD COMPATIBLE SERVER VERSIONS IN A CLIENT/SERVER COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

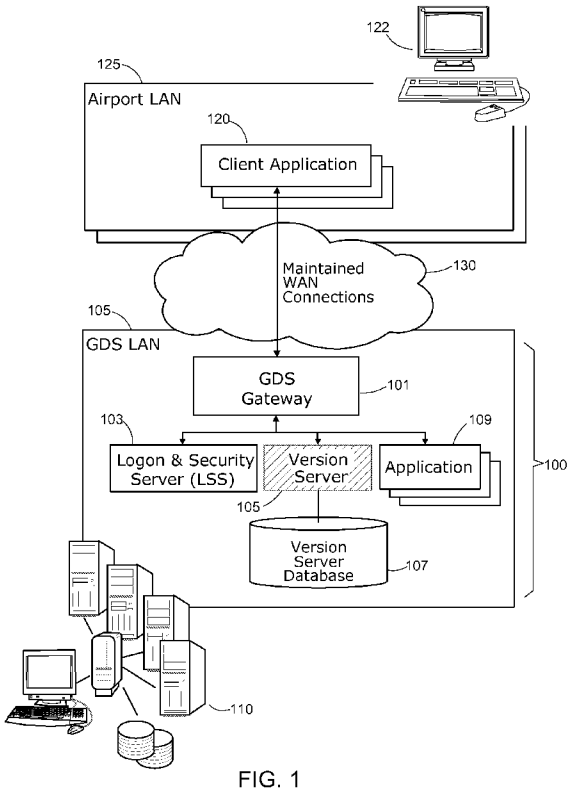


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method and a system for managing the introduction of a new non-backward compatible version of an application server into a client/server networking environment are described. The method consists in first distributing to a client system to be served by the new non-backward compatible version of the application server a client application operable in a mode compatible with the current version of the application server and in a mode compatible with the new non-backward compatible version. Upon installation in the client system the client application is set into a downgraded mode compatible with the current version of the application server. While the current version of the application server is still in production, the client application is kept operated in the downgraded mode. Upon introduction of the new non-backward compatible version of the application server, the client application is set into a valid mode compatible with the new version of the application server. From that point on, the client application is operated in the valid mode. Setting of the modes is automatically triggered at each re-launch of the client system which queries a version server operating in the client/server networking environment. Query includes an identification of the client system and a client application version number in order to obtain from the queried version server a status value to operate the client system into a mode including the downgraded mode and the valid mode.

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