

The agent module 22 embedded in the software application 20 remains enabled and active, and maintains communication with the server module 26. At predetermined intervals, once a week for example, the agent module 22 can then correspond with the server module 26 and inquire as to whether any updates are available to the software application. The server module 26 can then inform the agent module 22 of updates or any additional marketing information which the vendor would have the user of the software application 20 know.

Figure 2 shows a flow diagram of a method which will be described with reference to the system of Figure 1.

As previously described, an installation request 36 is first received by the plug-in module 23 after a user decides to purchase the software application 20.

The user is then queried whether installer verification is required 38. If so, then a code given to the user by the plug-in module 23 is input 40. The code helps determine information appropriate to the software application 20 and the installer, which should be transmitted to the user. If the installer information is sufficient and the installer is verified 41, then the installation process is continued. Otherwise, the installation is terminated 64.

The server module 26 is then contacted 42 by the plug-in module 23 and pricing, constraint information, and any special instructions are then transmitted to the user of the remote computer 10.

As previously described, in the preferred embodiment the user is provided with information by the independent auditor regarding the limited functionality of the installing program. The user is given the option of verifying the credentials of the installer. If the user chooses this option, the user is given the option of connecting to the auditor via a Web Browser such as NETSCAPE or directly by the plug-in module 23. Once connected to the audit module housing the verification program 34 disposed on the audit server 30 provided by the independent auditor 36, the user will have the opportunity to review the assurances