

ENTITY	Link	
ATTRIBUTES	type	capacity
VALUE	video, satellite, optical, etc	10Mbits/s
DEFAULT VALUE		7Mbits/s

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4.2 Step 2: *Agent Definition 500*

For each of the agents identified in Step 1, the following user inputs have
10 to be made, via the Agent Definition Editor 320:

- identities of the tasks the agent can perform;
- the number of tasks the agent can perform concurrently;
- the time period over which the agent will normally allocate its resources
15 (plan its activities); and
- the resources available to the agent.

This data will be routed to the planner and scheduler 220, described above
in relation to Figure 2, for use in building a commitment table 245.

20 Data entry concerning task identifiers, the number of tasks and the
planning time frame is a fairly straight forward process, except that where the time
frame is concerned, different factors will come into play. For instance, in some
scenarios, an agent which can only plan ahead for shorter durations is less able to
meet customer requests but may be more reactive to changing economic
25 circumstances.

The tasks are defined at a later stage, discussed below under the heading
"4.5 Step 5: Tasks Definition", and at this stage it is only necessary to input the
identifiers. However, the resources available to the agent have to be defined.
Since the context in which the agent may be functioning could be any of a large
30 number of very different contexts, it is necessary to give the agent a definition of
the resources which is sufficient for it to build a correct logical model of the real
physical resources available to the agent such that it could plan its activities
properly. CABS provides a Fact/Variables Editor 355 which is used for describing
the resources available to an agent.