

enabled then each time the vendor of the software application 20 updates the software application 20 or transmits information relevant to the software application 20, the agent module 22 detects the message/change and informs the user.

The procedure is then complete 64.

5 Figure 3 is a method similar to that of Figure 2 and will be described with reference to the same system of Figure 1, but in this method an update is being requested 70. An update is requested generally in one of two circumstances: the user has received a demo version of the application software on either a physical medium, such as diskette or CD ROM, or has downloaded a demo version from the vendor, or a new version of the software
10 has been produced by the developer. In either event though, the user is requesting to purchase a new version from the vendor.

 If the software is a demo version, then there would generally be a soft button in the graphic user interface ("GUI") that allows the user to buy the software. Selecting the button activates the agent module 22, the agent module 22 then contacts the server module 26. If
15 a new version of the software has been produced then, as previously described, the agent module 22 which periodically contacts the server module 26 for information on new versions has likely informed the user of the availability of the new version. In this case, the agent module 22 is simply being instructed by the user to update the software application 20.

 In either event, the update request 70 actuates the agent module 22 to send a signal
20 to the server module 26 requesting the update while also transmitting the identification information 72. The identification information is again secure, like the billing information, and includes user information and computer information specific to the remote computer 10, as well as information relating to the software application 20 which is to be updated.

 A check is performed to confirm that the update is being requested by the same
25 remote computer 10 on which the software application 20 was originally installed 80. Then, the server module 26 checks for the availability of a newer or a full version 78. In this way,