

location of the first object residing on the third base so that the first agent reference remains valid.

42. The distributed software system of claim 27, further comprising:

a first method calling protocol for calling, from a first base, a method to a first object residing on a second base, wherein the method is transmitted from the first base to the second base and wherein the method is executed on the second base where the first object resides; and  
a second method calling protocol for calling, from the first base, a method to a second object residing on the second base, wherein the method is executed on the first base using method code on the first base corresponding to the second object method and a remote reference to the second object on the second base.

43. The distributed software system of claim 42, wherein the method code on the first base corresponding to the second object method is stored in a class file on the first base.

44. A method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network comprising a plurality of computer machines, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of object-oriented classes including an object class, an agent class, a base class and a task class;  
defining an object migrate method in the object class that migrates a selected object instance to a location specified with the base class;  
defining an agent migrate method in the agent class that migrates a selected agent process to a location specified with the base class, including migration of all object instances and task instances within the agent;  
instantiating a first agent process according to the agent class, the first agent process including a plurality of task instances and object instances and distributed among the plurality of computer machines; and  
performing the object migrate method and the agent migrate method within the first agent process.

45. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of defining a task migrate method in the task class that migrates a selected task represented in a task instance to a location specified with the base class.

46. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of instantiating a plurality of base instances according to the base class, wherein the first agent process executes on at least two bases simultaneously, each base being specified with one of the plurality of base instances.

47. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of instantiating a plurality of base instances according to the base class, wherein object instances of the first agent process reside on at least two bases simultaneously, each base being specified with one of the plurality of base instances.

48. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of instantiating a plurality of base instances according to the base class, wherein task instances of the first agent process execute on at least two bases simultaneously, each base being specified with one of the plurality of base instances.

49. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

instantiating a first base instance according to the base class; and  
instantiating a second agent process according to the agent class, wherein the first and second agent processes execute simultaneously on a base specified with the first base instance.

50. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of defining a partial agent migrate method in the agent class that migrates a selected part of an agent process residing on a first base specified with a first base instance to a second base specified with a second base instance, including migration of all object instances and task instances on the first base within the selected part of the agent process.

51. The method for implementing a network-centric computer software programming system for a network of computer machines according to claim 44, further comprising the step of defining a whole agent migrate method in the agent class that