

Upon being actuated by the virtual store 18, the plug-in module 23 sends a message via the network 14 to a server module 26 disposed on a remote server 24. One skilled in the art will realize that this example describes a remote server, but the invention will work as described if the server module 26 is also disposed on the content server 16. This particular
5 example allows multiple content servers 16 to communicate with a single server module 26, and therefore the server module 26 is disposed on a data storage apparatus 25, such as a hard disk or any other means for storing digital information, on the remote server 24.

The server module 26 maintains a database of software applications. The developers have previously registered the use of the software application with the server module 26.
10 If the developer had neglected to perform the registration, then this first installation attempt would fail and the server module 26 would attempt to contact the developer.

The database contains information relating to the software applications comprising the name of the application, the developer, hardware constraints, operating or other software constraints, pricing information and any other particular instructions or information helpful
15 for the installation.

The server module 26 then transfers via the electronic connection 12 and the network 14, a dialog box to the remote computer 10. The dialog box posts installation information from the database as well as allows access to the software license agreement for the particular software. If the user chooses to read the license agreement prior to acceptance,
20 the text is sent to the remote computer either from the server module 26, from storage within the database, or a link to the developer's page on the World-Wide Web is exercised. In either case, acceptance of the license is generally required before continuing, though the developer may choose to perform this function during the software installation itself.

In the preferred embodiment, the dialog box displays information prepared by an
25 independent auditor relative to assuring that the installation software performs only certain limited functions strictly necessary for the software installation and does not examine or