

preferably be installed in the user's browser software, which the user is using to connect to the Internet.

5 The server module can be on a separate remote content server or the same content server upon which the software application is located. The physical location is not important to the individual modules as long as they can communicate electronically. The server module then transfers hardware constraints, pricing information and available options particular to the chosen software application to the remote computer.

10 The user of the remote computer then accepts the pricing, confirms acceptance of license terms and inputs user information, all of which is then transferred back to the server module as identification information. Upon verified receipt of the user's information, the server module then enables the installation of the software application by communicating with the agent module, either the agent module embedded in the software application or the plug-in embedded in the browser. Installation of the software application can then proceed over the network.

15 In further aspects, the invention provides methods in accord with the apparatus described above. The aforementioned and other aspects of the invention are evident in the drawings and in the description that follows.