

Application 205 from unwanted intrusions coming from Internet 201. Firewall 204 also protects against unwanted interactions between Home Network 203 and Distributed Computing Application 205. An alternative arrangement to perform the same functions is shown in Figure 3.

[0028] For reliability, Home Network Server 101 may use a robust operating system that can run for long periods of time without crashing. Additional reliability may be obtained through the use of an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), preferably one that performs power conditioning.

[0029] The otherwise unused capacity of Home Network Server 101 is used for distributed computing which is controlled by a contracting company through the Internet. The contracting company may use the distributed computing resources itself or it may resell the resources to others.

[0030] In exchange for the use of the otherwise unused capacity of Home Network Server 101 for distributed computing, the contracting company provides the subscriber with something of value such as reduced cost of Internet service, free Internet service, or a net payment. The contracting company may alternatively or additionally subsidize the purchase costs of the Home Network Server or other equipment.

[0031] While preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown, it is to be expressly understood that modifications and changes may be made thereto.