

FIG. 1

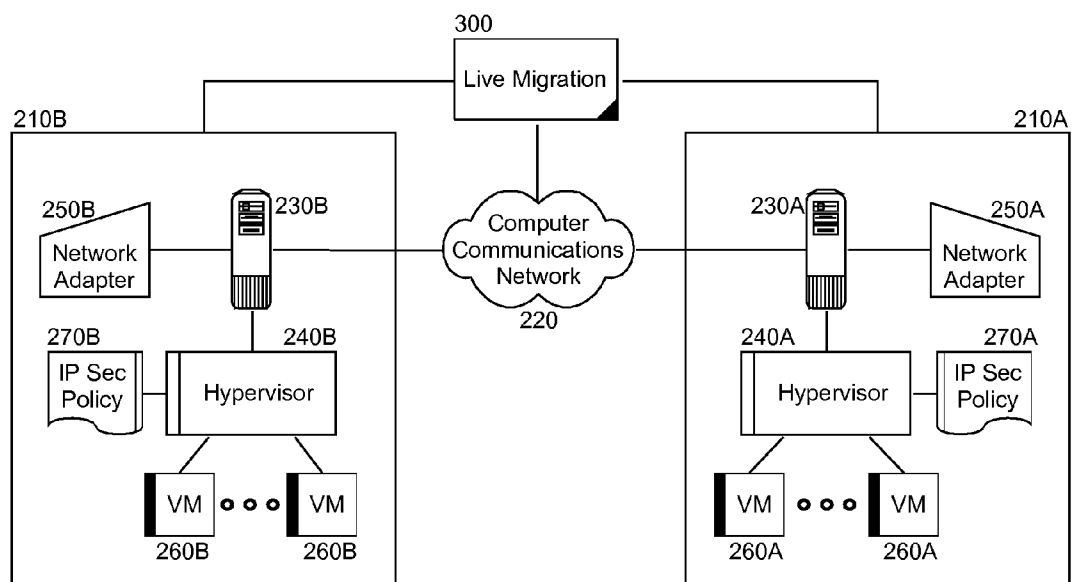


FIG. 2

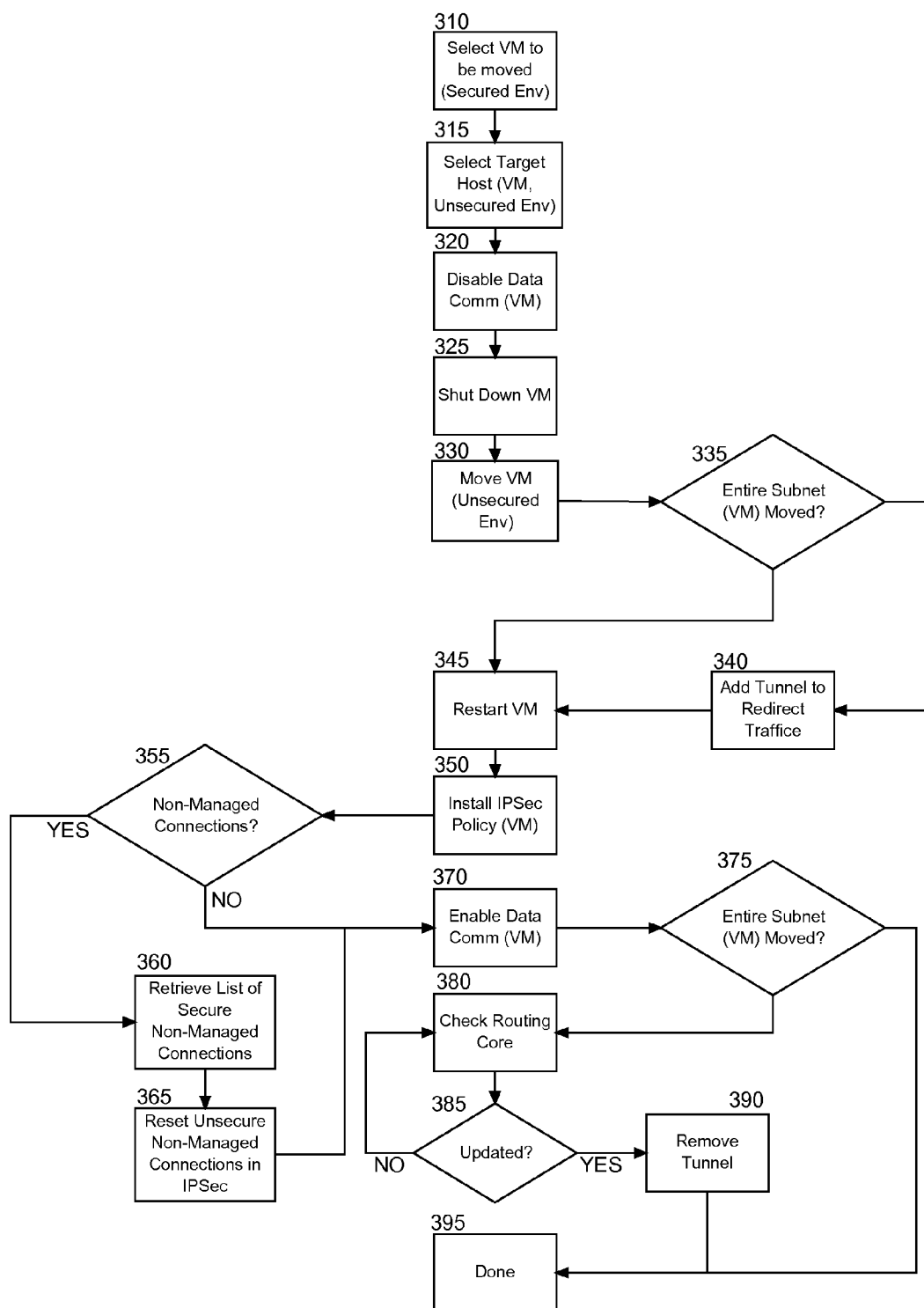


FIG. 3

SECURING LIVE MIGRATION OF A VIRTUAL MACHINE WITHIN A SERVICE LANDSCAPE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to the field of virtualization and more particularly to migrating a virtual machine in a virtualized environment.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] For many decades, computing implied both an application and a supporting platform. Until the late twentieth century, a host computing environment included a hardware infrastructure of processor core, input/output, memory and fixed storage, the combination of which supported an operating system, which in turn supported the execution of a single application at a time. Gradually, as processor power increased exponentially, advanced forms of the operating system enabled both simulated and actual multi-tasking such that multiple applications could execute within the same host computing environment.

[0005] Initially, applications were self contained bundles of logic relying on little other than core object files and related resource files. As computing become integral to modern industry, however, applications became co-dependent on the presence of other applications such that the requisite environment for an application included not only the underlying operating system and supporting hardware platform, but also other key applications including application servers, database management servers, collaboration servers and communicative logic commonly referred to as middleware. Given the complexity of application and platform interoperability, however, different combinations of applications executing in a single hardware platform can demonstrate differing degrees of performance and stability.

[0006] Virtualization as a technology aims to interject a layer between the hardware platform and operating system and executing applications. From the perspective of business continuity and disaster recovery, virtualization provides the inherent advantage of environment portability. Specifically, to move an entire environment configured with multiple different applications is a matter of moving a virtual image from one supporting hardware platform to another. Further, more powerful computing environments can support the coexistence of multiple different virtual images, all the while maintaining a virtual separation between the images. Consequently, a failure condition in one virtual image cannot jeopardize the integrity of other co-executing virtual images in the same hardware platform.

[0007] A virtual machine monitor, known in the art as a “hypervisor”, manages the interaction between each virtual image and the underlying resources provided by the hardware platform. In this regard, a bare metal hypervisor runs directly on the hardware platform much as an operating system runs directly on hardware. By comparison, a hosted hypervisor runs within a host operating system. In either case, the hypervisor can support the operation of different “guest operating system images”—known as virtual machine (VM) images—the number of VM images being limited only by the processing resources of a VM container holding the VM images or the hardware platform itself.

[0008] Virtualization has proven especially useful for those end users requiring separate computing environments for different types of applications while being limited to a single hardware platform. For instance, it is well known for a primary operating system native to one type of hardware platform to provide a virtualized guest operating system native to

a different hardware platform so that applications requiring the presence of the guest operating system can co-exist with other applications requiring the presence of the primary operating system. In this way, the end user need not provide separate computing environments each to support a different type of application. Yet, no matter the guest operating system, access to underlying resources of the single hardware platform remains static.

[0009] Virtualized environments have been deployed to aggregate different interdependent applications in different VMs in composing an applications solution. For instance, an application server can execute within one VM while a database management system can execute in a different VM and further while a Web server can execute in yet another VM. Each VM can be communicatively coupled to one another in a secure network, however, any given one of deployment of the applications can be live migrated to a different deployment without interfering with the execution of the other applications in the other VMs. In a typical live migration, a VM can be moved from one host server to another in order to permit server maintenance or to permit an improvement in hardware support for the VM.

[0010] Live migration occurs frequently within the secure computing environment for the VMs managing the execution of the different applications for the applications solution. Yet, live migration also occurs outside of the secure environment. Specifically, on occasion a VM is moved to a network environment external to the secure computing environment for the remaining VMs managing the remaining applications of the application solution. As a result, communications between the application managed by the VM in the external network and the applications managed by the VMs in the secure computing environment can be compromised through the exchange of data from outside the secure computing environment. Accordingly, live migration to a host server outside of the secure computing environment can introduce a security vulnerability to the applications solution.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] Embodiments of the present invention address deficiencies of the art in respect to live migration in a virtualized environment and provide a novel and non-obvious method, system and computer program product for secure live migration of a VM outside of a secure computing environment. In an embodiment of the invention, a method for secure live migration of a VM in a virtualized computing environment can include selecting a VM in a secure virtualized computing environment for live migration to a different virtualized computing environment and blocking data communications with the selected VM and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment. The selected VM can be live migrated to the different virtualized computing environment and the VM can be restarted in the different virtualized computing environment. Notably, a secure communicative link can be established between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment. Finally, data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs can be enabled over the secure communicative link.

[0012] In another embodiment of the invention, a virtualized computing data processing system can be provided. The system can include a secure virtualized computing environment comprising a hypervisor managing VMs within the secure virtualized computing environment. The system also can include a different virtualized computing environment comprising a hypervisor managing VMs within the different virtualized computing environment. Notably, live migration

logic can be coupled to each of the secure virtualized computing environment and the different virtualized computing environment.

[0013] The logic can include program code enabled to select one of the VMs in a secure virtualized computing environment for live migration to the different virtualized computing environment and to block data communications with the selected VM and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment. The program code also can be enabled to live migrate the selected VM to the different virtualized computing environment and to restart the VM in the different virtualized computing environment. Yet further, the program code can be enabled to establish a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment. Finally, the program code can be enabled to enable data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link.

[0014] Additional aspects of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The aspects of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. The embodiments illustrated herein are presently preferred, it being understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown, wherein:

[0016] FIG. 1 is a pictorial illustration of a process for secure live migration in a virtualized computing environment;

[0017] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of virtual computing data processing system configured for secure live migration; and,

[0018] FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a process for secure live migration in a virtualized computing environment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] Embodiments of the present invention provide a method, system and computer program product for secure live migration in a virtualized computing environment. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a grouping of VMs can be arranged in a secure virtualized environment, each hosting an application component for a computing application. A selected VM amongst the VMs can be live migrated to a host in a different virtualized environment communicatively coupled to the secure virtualized environment over an unsecure computer communications network, for instance the global Internet. In the course of live migration, however, communications between the selected VM and the other VMs can be terminated prior to the live migration. Thereafter, the selected VM can be restarted in the different virtualized environment and a secure tunnel can be established between the selected VM and the other VMs. Finally, the selected VM and the other VMs can interoperate

over the computer communications network through the tunnel so as to ensure secure data communications therebetween.

[0020] In illustration, FIG. 1 pictorially depicts a process for secure live migration in a virtualized computing environment. As shown in FIG. 1, a secure virtualized environment 110A can be provided to include multiple different VMs 130, 140 interoperating with one another through hosted application components to form a composite application. Each of the VMs 130, 140 can communicate with one another over internal communicative links 150. A selected VM 140 amongst the VMs 130, 140 can be live migrated to a different virtualized environment 110B communicatively coupled to the secure virtualized environment 110A over computer communications network 120.

[0021] Prior to performing the live migration of the selected VM 140, however, a network interface 160 supporting the communicative links 150 with the other VMs 130 can be disabled, or traffic between the selected VM 140 and the other VMs 130 can be disabled or otherwise inhibited through management of the network interface 160. Once the selected VM 140 has been live migrated to the different virtualized environment 110B, secure communicative links 170 can be established between the selected VM 140 and the other VMs 130 over the computer communications network 120. In this regard, to the extent the secure communicative links 170 conform to Internet protocol (IP) Security (IPSec), an IPSec policy 180 can be established for the secure communicative links 170 and installed in connection with the selected VM 140. Thereafter, interoperability between the selected VM 140 and the other VMs 130 can be enabled.

[0022] The process described in connection with FIG. 1 can be implemented in a virtual computing data processing system. In illustration, FIG. 2 schematically shows a virtual computing data processing system configured for secure live migration. The system can include a secure virtualized computing environment 210A communicatively coupled to a different virtualized computing environment 210B over computer communications network 220, for instance the global Internet. The secure virtualized computing environment 210A can include at least one host server 230A supporting the operation of a hypervisor 240A. The hypervisor 240A, in turn, can manage the operation of multiple different VMs 260A and each VM 260A can host the execution of one or more application components (not shown) combined to provide a computing application.

[0023] The different virtualized computing environment 210B also can include at least one host server 230B supporting the operation of a hypervisor 240B. The hypervisor 240B, in turn, can manage the operation of multiple different VMs 260B and each VM 260B can host the execution of one or more application components (not shown) combined to provide a computing application. Of note, live migration logic 300 can be coupled both to the secure virtualized computing environment 210A and the different virtualized computing environment 210B. The live migration logic 300 can include program code enabled to live migrate a selected one of the VMs 260A from the secure virtualized computing environment 210A to the different virtualized computing environment 210B while maintaining the security of data communications therebetween.

[0024] Specifically, the program code of the live migration logic 300 can be enabled to configure a network adapter 250A for the host server 230A to disable, filter or otherwise block data communications between the VMs 260A in the secure virtualized computing environment 210A when live migrating a selected one of the VMs 260A to the different virtualized computing environment 210B as a VM 260B in the different

virtualized computing environment **210B**. Further, the program code of the live migration logic **300** can be enabled to restart the live migrated one of the VMs **260B** in the different virtualized computing environment **210B** and to re-establish data communications between the live migrated one of the VMs **260B** and the VMs **260A** in the secure virtualized computing environment **210A**.

[0025] In particular, an IPSec policy **270B** can be associated with network adapter **250B** for the host server **230B** in establishing a tunnel between the host server **230B** and the host server **250A**. Likewise, an IPSec policy **270A** can be associated with network adapter **250A** for the host server **230A** in establishing the tunnel between the host server **230B** and the host server **250A**. Of course, it is to be recognized that the tunnel can accommodate not only traffic flowing between the VMs **260A**, **260B** managed by the hypervisors **240A**, **240B**, respectively, but also intermediate devices such as edge routers and security appliances, to name a couple of examples. Once the tunnel has been established, the program code of the live migration logic **300** can be enabled to resume data communications between the live migrated one of the VMs **260B** in the different virtualized computing environment **210B** and the VMs **260A** in the secure virtualized computing environment **210A**.

[0026] In yet further illustration of the operation of the live migration logic **300**, FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a process for secure live migration in a virtualized computing environment. Beginning in block **310**, a VM in a secure virtualized computing environment can be selected for live migration and in block **315** a different virtualized computing environment separate from the secure virtualized computing environment can be targeted for the live migration of the VM. In block **320**, data communications with the selected VM can be disabled and in block **325**, the VM can be shut down in the secure virtualized computing environment.

[0027] In block **330**, the selected VM can be live migrated to the different virtualized computing environment. In decision block **335**, it can be determined whether an entire subnet for the selected VM has been moved to the different virtualized computing environment. If so, in block **340** a tunnel can be established between the secure virtualized computing environment and the different virtualized computing environment to redirect traffic in the secure virtualized computing environment intended for the selected VM to the different virtualized computing environment. In block **345** the selected VM can be restarted in the different virtualized computing environment and an IPSec policy can be configured and installed in connection with the selected VM in decision block **355** it can be determined whether or not non-managed connections persist between the selected VM and other communicative entities. If so, in block **360** a list of already secure non-managed connections can be retrieved, for instance those connections secured through IPSec, application transparent (AT)-transport layer security (TLS) and unconditional TLS ports. The remaining unsecured ones of the non-managed connections can be reset in block **365** and re-established as secured connections.

[0028] Thereafter, in block **370**, data communications can be enabled between the VM in the different virtualized computing environment and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment. In decision block **375**, again it can be determined whether an entire subnet for the selected VM has been moved to the different virtualized computing environment. If so, in block **380**, the routing core for the secure virtualized computing environment can be inspected to determine whether a proper routing configuration has propagated to the routing core to enable routing of data packets to the

different virtualized computing environment irrespective of the tunnel. In decision block **385** it can be determined whether the routing core has been updated to enable routing of data packets to the different virtualized computing environment irrespective of the tunnel. If not, the routing core can be inspected again in block **380**. Once the routing core has been updated, however, in block **390** the tunnel can be removed and the process can end in block **395**.

[0029] Embodiments of the invention can take the form of an entirely hardware embodiment, an entirely software embodiment or an embodiment containing both hardware and software elements. In a preferred embodiment, the invention is implemented in software, which includes but is not limited to firmware, resident software, microcode, and the like. Furthermore, the invention can take the form of a computer program product accessible from a computer-usable or computer-readable medium providing program code for use by or in connection with a computer or any instruction execution system.

[0030] For the purposes of this description, a computer-usable or computer readable medium can be any apparatus that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The medium can be an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system (or apparatus or device) or a propagation medium. Examples of a computer-readable medium include a semiconductor or solid state memory, magnetic tape, a removable computer diskette, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), a rigid magnetic disk and an optical disk. Current examples of optical disks include compact disk-read only memory (CD-ROM), compact disk-read/write (CD-R/W) and DVD.

[0031] A data processing system suitable for storing and/or executing program code will include at least one processor coupled directly or indirectly to memory elements through a system bus. The memory elements can include local memory employed during actual execution of the program code, bulk storage, and cache memories which provide temporary storage of at least some program code in order to reduce the number of times code must be retrieved from bulk storage during execution. Input/output or I/O devices (including but not limited to keyboards, displays, pointing devices, etc.) can be coupled to the system either directly or through intervening I/O controllers. Network adapters may also be coupled to the system to enable the data processing system to become coupled to other data processing systems or remote printers or storage devices through intervening private or public networks. Modems, cable modem and Ethernet cards are just a few of the currently available types of network adapters.

We claim:

1. A method for secure live migration of a virtual machine (VM) in a virtualized computing environment, the method comprising:

selecting a VM in a secure virtualized computing environment for live migration to a different virtualized computing environment and blocking data communications with the selected VM and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment;

live migrating the selected VM to the different virtualized computing environment and restarting the VM in the different virtualized computing environment;

establishing a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment; and,

enabling data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
adding a tunnel between a routing core of the secure virtualized computing environment and the restarted VM;
and,

responsive to determining an update to the routing core permitting routing of data packets from the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment to the restarted VM, removing the tunnel.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment, comprises:

configuring an Internet protocol (IP) Security (IPSec) policy for secure communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment; and,

establishing an IPSec conformant communicative link between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment according to the configured IPSec policy.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link, further comprises:

determining non-managed connections persisting between the selected VM and other communicative entities;

identifying unsecured ones of the non-managed connections; and,

resetting the identified unsecured ones of the non-managed connections as secured connections and re-establishing the unsecured ones of the non-managed connections as secured connections.

5. A virtualized computing data processing system comprising:

a secure virtualized computing environment comprising a hypervisor managing a plurality of virtual machines (VMs) within the secure virtualized computing environment;

a different virtualized computing environment comprising a hypervisor managing a plurality of VMs within the different virtualized computing environment;

live migration logic coupled to each of the secure virtualized computing environment and the different virtualized computing environment, the logic comprising program code enabled to select one of the VMs in a secure virtualized computing environment for live migration to the different virtualized computing environment and to block data communications with the selected VM and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment, to live migrate the selected VM to the different virtualized computing environment and to restart the VM in the different virtualized computing environment, to establish a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment, and to enable data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the secure communicative link is an Internet protocol (IP) Security (IPSec) conformant secure communicative link.

7. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium embodying computer usable program code for secure live migration of a virtual machine (VM) in a virtualized computing environment, the computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code for selecting a VM in a secure virtualized computing environment for live migration to a different virtualized computing environment and blocking data communications with the selected VM and other VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment;

computer usable program code for live migrating the selected VM to the different virtualized computing environment and restarting the VM in the different virtualized computing environment;

computer usable program code for establishing a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment; and,

computer usable program code for enabling data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link.

8. The computer program product of claim 7, further comprising:

computer usable program code for adding a tunnel between a routing core of the secure virtualized computing environment and the restarted VM; and,

computer usable program code for removing the tunnel in response to determining an update to the routing core permitting routing of data packets from the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment to the restarted VM.

9. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the computer usable program code for establishing a secure communicative link between the restarted VM and at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment, comprises:

computer usable program code for configuring an Internet protocol (IP) Security (IPSec) policy for secure communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment; and,

computer usable program code for establishing an IPSec conformant communicative link between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs in the secure virtualized computing environment according to the configured IPSec policy.

10. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the computer usable program code for enabling data communications between the restarted VM and the at least one other of the VMs over the secure communicative link, further comprises:

computer usable program code for determining non-managed connections persisting between the selected VM and other communicative entities;

computer usable program code for identifying unsecured ones of the non-managed connections; and,

computer usable program code for resetting the identified unsecured ones of the non-managed connections as secured connections and re-establishing the unsecured ones of the non-managed connections as secured connections.