

An autopoietic network is described. The invention is implemented by means of a non-hierarchical network having a fractal structure. The system and its constituent networks are structurally coupled with their environment through hermeneutic processes. The system includes a number of cybernetic devices which are adapted to function as both the infrastructure of the network and the means by which the network services are delivered to network users. These cybernetic devices communicate with other cybernetic devices in such a manner so that the network is in the form of a fractal, non-hierarchical mesh which is self-similar. The cybernetic devices may be particularly adapted to supervise or "mind" one or more other cybernetic devices functioning at a lower level of aggregation or complexity. The supervised cybernetic devices may be clustered or distributed in space and be associated with machines, systems or people.

