

a location field containing data representing a location on the computer for each component in the list represented by the first field; and

a source field containing data representing a source for the distribution unit represented by the first field.

**28.** The data structure of claim 27, wherein the component field further comprising a component name field for each component in the distribution unit.

**29.** The data structure of claim 27, further comprising:

a component version field containing data representing a version for a component in the list represented in the component field; and

a component type field containing data representing a data type for the component represented in the component version field.

**30.** The data structure of claim 27, further comprising:

a digital signature data field containing data representing a digital signature affixed to the distribution unit.

**31.** A computer system comprising:

a processing unit;

a system memory coupled to the processing unit through a system bus;

a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through the system bus; and

a software package manager executed from the computer-readable medium by the processing unit, wherein the software package manager comprises:

a software installation function that causes the processing unit to store components comprising software and contained in a distribution unit onto a computer-readable medium as directed by a manifest file, to install the software, and to update a code store data structure stored on a computer-readable medium with information contained in the manifest file;

a software execution function that causes the processing unit to locate the appropriate components using the code store data structure when the processing unit is instructed to execute the software; and

an uninstallation function that causes the processing unit to remove the components from the computer-readable medium and to modify the code store data structure when the processing unit is instructed to uninstall the software.

**32.** The computer system of claim 31, further comprising a transport medium coupled to the system bus and further communicatively coupled to a server computer, and wherein the software installation function causes the processing unit to acquire the manifest file and the distribution unit from the server computer through the transport medium.

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