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(54) **CONFIGURATIONS FOR BINDING SOFTWARE ASSEMBLIES TO APPLICATION PROGRAMS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, system and infrastructure that allow an application to run with specified versions of assemblies bound thereto, while allowing the application author, assembly publisher and/or an administrator to change the originally-specified version as desired. Each assembly may exist and run side-by-side on the system with other versions of the same assembly being used by other applications. An application manifest specifies any desired assembly versions, which may be redirected to another version (overridden) by an application configuration. A publisher configuration provided by an assembly publisher can similarly override the specified version. Lastly, an administrator configuration is capable of overriding other configuration versioning information. A table built from the manifest and any configuration redirection may be accessed during execution to quickly locate the appropriate version. The various configuration data structures themselves may be wrapped as assemblies, thereby enabling versioning of configurations.

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