

18. The system of claim 17 further comprising an activation context configured to maintain assembly version mapping information, wherein the binding mechanism saves assembly version information to the activation context.

19. The system of claim 18 further comprising a version matching mechanism configured to access the activation context to relate a version independent request from the executable code to a version specific assembly.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the activation context is persistable to a non-volatile storage.

21. The system of claim 17 wherein the executable code comprises an application program in the form of a file maintained in an application folder, and wherein the manifest comprises another file maintained in the application folder.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the configuration includes an application configuration file maintained in the application folder.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the configuration further includes a publisher configuration file maintained in an assembly cache with at least one version of the assembly.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the configuration further includes an administrator configuration.

25. The system of claim 17 wherein the configuration includes at least one of an application configuration data structure, a publisher configuration data structure and an administrator configuration data structure.

26. The system of claim 17 wherein the configuration includes configuration version data associated therewith.

27. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules configured to implement the system of claim 17.

28. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request corresponding to binding a selected version of an assembly to an application program;

determining whether publisher configuration information is associated with the assembly, and if so, interpreting information in the publisher configuration to determine whether to bind to the application program a version of the assembly that is different from the selected version, and if so, selecting that different version as the selected version of the assembly for binding to the application program; and

determining whether application configuration information is associated with the application, and if so, interpreting the application configuration information to determine whether to bind to the application program a version of the assembly that is different from the selected version, and if so, selecting that different version as the selected version of the assembly for binding to the application program.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising, returning information corresponding to the selected version of the assembly in response to the request.

30. The method of claim 28 further comprising, loading the selected version of the assembly in response to the request.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the selected version is loaded from a folder containing the application program.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the assembly is a shared assembly maintained in an assembly cache, and wherein the selected version is loaded from the assembly cache.

33. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request corresponding to binding a selected version of an assembly to an application program;

determining whether application configuration information is associated with the application, and if so, interpreting the application configuration information to determine whether to bind to the application program a version of the assembly that is different from the selected version, and if so, selecting that different version as the selected version of the assembly for binding to the application program;

determining whether publisher configuration information is associated with the assembly, and if so, interpreting information in the publisher configuration to determine whether to bind to the application program a version of the assembly that is different from the selected version, and if so, selecting that different version as the selected version of the assembly for binding to the application program; and

determining whether administrator configuration information exists, and if so, interpreting administrator configuration information to determine whether to bind to the application program a version of the assembly that is different from the selected version, and if so, selecting that different version as the selected version of the assembly for binding to the application program.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising, returning information corresponding to the selected version of the assembly in response to the request.

35. The method of claim 33 further comprising, loading the selected version of the assembly in response to the request.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the selected version is loaded from a folder containing the application program.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the assembly is a shared assembly maintained in an assembly cache, and wherein the selected version is loaded from the assembly cache.

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