

What is claimed is:

1. A system for manipulation by a computer of target software stored on one or more target computer-readable media, said target software having an online state and an offline state, said system comprising a driver executing on the computer to provide access to the target software, said driver comprising one or more redirect components for manipulating the target software when the target software is offline, said manipulating occurring in response to at least one command received from a user.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the target software comprises an operating system, and wherein the target software is online when the operating system is executing.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the target software comprises an application program, and wherein the target software is online when the application program is executing.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer and the target software are connected to a data communication system, and wherein the driver executes on the computer to provide access to the target software via the data communication system.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface, wherein the command comprises input from the user via the graphical user interface.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver, responsive to user input, manipulates at least one system setting for the target software.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the target software comprises at least one file, and wherein the driver, responsive to user input, manipulates the target software by modifying the file.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the target computer-readable media comprise one or more files, wherein the driver modifies the files.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the driver adds to or deletes from the files.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver comprises computer-executable instructions for storing, in a queue accessible by the computer, a list of one or more tasks associated with execution of the command.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the driver further comprises computer-executable instructions for modifying the list of tasks stored in the queue to direct the tasks to operate on the target computer-readable media.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the driver further comprises computer-executable instructions for committing the queue to perform each of the modified tasks.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the computer-executable instructions for storing and modifying are executed when the target software is in the online state.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver comprises a service component for adding a service to the target software by installing one or more files associated with the service to the target computer-readable media.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver comprises a registry component for updating at least one system setting of the target software by modifying one or more files on the target computer-readable media.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver comprises a file component for performing file input and file output operations on the target computer-readable media.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the driver comprises a device component for adding at least one device driver to

the target software by installing one or more files associated with the device driver to the target computer-readable media.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the device driver is a mass storage device controller.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the device component is associated with a hardware device.

20. A method for manipulation by a computer of target software stored on one or more target computer-readable media, said target software having an online state and an offline state, said method comprising accessing the target computer-readable media when the target software is offline in response to at least one command received from a user.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the target software comprises an operating system, and wherein said accessing comprises accessing the target computer-readable media when the operating system is unexecuted.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the target software comprises an application program, and wherein said accessing comprises accessing the target computer-readable media when the application program is unexecuted.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the computer and the target software are connected to a data communication system.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising generating a list of one or more tasks associated with execution of the command.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising storing the list of tasks in a queue accessible by the computer.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising modifying the list of tasks stored in the queue to direct the tasks to operate on the target computer-readable media.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising committing the queue to perform each of the modified tasks.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein the target computer-readable media comprise one or more files, and wherein accessing comprises modifying the files.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein modifying comprises adding to or deleting from the files.

30. The method of claim 20, wherein accessing comprises manipulating at least one system setting for the target software.

31. The method of claim 20, further comprising identifying the target software from the command.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the command comprises one or more command-line options, and wherein identifying comprises parsing the command-line options.

33. The method of claim 20, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 20.

34. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure representing a queue for use by a computer in manipulating target software stored on one or more target computer-readable media, said target software having an online state and an offline state, said manipulating occurring when the target software is in the offline state and responsive to at least one command received from a user, said data structure comprising a queue field storing a list of one or more tasks associated with execution of the command.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the target software comprises an operating system, and wherein the target software is online when the operating system is executing.