

state associated therewith, said state representing an operating context of the component, said service package comprising one or more files associated with a selected component, said service package further comprising a plurality of instruction sets for installing said files, said modules comprising:

a configuration module for determining the state associated with the selected component and selecting one of the instruction sets based on the determined state; and

an installation module for modifying the selected component by applying one or more of the files to the selected component in accordance with the instruction set selected by the configuration model.

26. The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein the selected component has a manifest associated therewith, said manifest defining the state associated with the component.

27. The computer-readable media of claim 26, wherein the components are stored on a computer-readable medium, and further comprising a script module for:

updating the manifest for the selected component with data related to applying the one or more of the files by the installation module; and

storing the updated manifest for the selected component on the computer-readable medium.

28. The computer-readable media of claim 27, further comprising a report module for:

receiving a request from a user for data in the updated manifest for the selected component;

querying the updated manifest in response to the received request to generate query results; and

providing the query results to the user.

29. The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein the service package comprises an updated component, and further comprising a dependency module for resolving dependencies between the updated component and the selected component in the software product.

30. The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of instruction sets corresponds to at least one of the following phases: predeployment of the software product, deployment of the software product, and post-deployment of the software product.

31. The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein the software product comprises at least one of an operating system and an application program.

32. A method of creating a service package for a software product, said software product comprising a component having one of a plurality of lifecycle phases associated therewith, said method comprising:

selecting one or more files for association with the software product;

storing the selected files on a computer-readable medium; and

storing a plurality of installation scripts on the computer-readable medium, each of said installation scripts corresponding to one of the lifecycle phases, said installation scripts being executed based on the lifecycle phase of the component to apply the stored, selected files to the software product.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein selecting one or more files for association with the software product comprises selecting one or more files for association with an image representing at least one of an application program and an operating system.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising distributing the computer-readable medium via a network.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein storing the plurality of installation scripts comprises storing a plurality of installation scripts for resolving dependencies between the selected files and installed files associated with the software product.

36. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 32.

37. A service package for updating a software product stored on a computer-readable medium, said software product comprising a component having one of a plurality of lifecycle phases associated therewith, said service package comprising:

one or more files for association with the component; and

a plurality of instruction sets corresponding to the plurality of lifecycle phases of the component, wherein one of the plurality of instruction sets is selected and executed responsive to the lifecycle phase associated with the component to apply the files to the component.

38. The service package of claim 37, wherein one of the plurality of instruction sets applies the files to the component by copying each of the files from the service package to the computer-readable medium and integrating the copied files with the component.

39. The service package of claim 37, wherein the lifecycle phases correspond to at least one of the following: predeployment of the software product, deployment of the software product, and post-deployment of the software product.

40. The service package of claim 37, wherein the software product comprises at least one of an operating system and an application program.

41. The service package of claim 37, wherein the files comprise binary files.

42. The service package of claim 37, wherein the file comprises a reference to another file.

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