

names associated solely with either the first or second installed products, and the component names associated with the first installed product are displayed separate from the component names associated with the second installed product.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the component names associated with each installed product are displayed in alphabetical, date of creation, or subject order.

8. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein each manifest file contains version information for each individual component.

9. The computer program product of claim 8, further comprising instructions to compare version information extracted from each installed product with version information contained in the manifest file.

10. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the manifest file contains the following information for each individual component:

- a name for the component;
- a short description of the component;
- a relative path pointing to a local file showing the component version on the client computer;
- any dependencies that must be present before the component file can be installed; and
- a pointer to the location of the component file.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the pointer is in the form of an uniform resource locator or a web service call.

12. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the short description of the component is displayed to the user.

13. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein one or more manifest files are associated with marketing materials available for download.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the marketing materials include marketing announcements, new products, free products, or trial products.

15. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, comprising instructions operable to cause a computer to:

- identify one or more installed products on the computer;
- obtain one or more manifest files, wherein each manifest file is associated with one installed product and each manifest file contains information relating to one or more components of the corresponding installed product; and

display information contained in each manifest file in a dual-list format, wherein: a first list displays a component name for each component listed in each manifest file, including components installed and not installed on the computer; a second list displays the component name for each component of the first list that is installed on the computer; and the component names in the first list are displayed aligned with the component names in the second list such that the component name of each installed component that appears in the first list is displayed aligned with the component name of the same installed component on the second list.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein each manifest file obtained is selected from a plurality of available manifest files.

17. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising instructions to identify each installed component on the computer from a keyfile associated with each installed component.

18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first list and the second list are displayed in a hierarchical structure in which component names identified with a first installed product are displayed together and that component names identified with a second installed product are displayed together, but the component names associated with both the first installed product and the second installed product are displayed together, separate from the component names associated solely with either the first or second installed products, and the component names associated with the first installed product are displayed separate from the component names associated with the second installed product.

19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the component names associated with each installed product are displayed in alphabetical, date of creation, or subject order.

20. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein each manifest file contains the following information for each individual component:

- a name for the component;
- a short description of the component;
- a relative path pointing to a local file showing the component version on the client computer;
- any dependencies that must be present before the component file can be installed; and
- a pointer to the location of the component file.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the pointer is in the form of an uniform resource locator or a web service call.

22. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the short description of the component is displayed to the user.

23. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

- receive a first list of available update components;
- display the first list of available update components;
- create a second list of installed update components by identifying one or more target files, wherein each update component is associated with a single target file;
- display the second list of installed update components, wherein the second list of installed update components is displayed adjacent to the first list of available update components, such that each item in the list of available update components is aligned with either the identical item in the second list of installed update components, if the component is installed, or a special placeholder, if the component is not installed;
- enable the user to select one or more update components from the list of available update components, wherein