

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. The component names associated with each installed product may be displayed in alphabetical, date of creation, or subject order. Each manifest file may contain 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. The pointer may be in the form of a uniform resource locator or a web service call. The short description of the component may be displayed to the user.

[0008] In another aspect, the invention features a computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product can include instructions operable to cause a computer to receive a first list of available update components. The computer program product can also include instructions operable to cause a computer to display the first list of available update components. The computer program product can also include instructions operable to cause a computer to create a second list of installed update components by identifying one or more target files, where each update component is associated with a single target file. The computer program product can further include instructions operable to cause a computer to display the second list of installed update components, where 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.

[0009] Further, the computer program product can include instructions operable to cause a computer to enable the user to select one or more update components from the list of available update components, where the user may select from update components not installed as well as update components already installed. The computer program product can also include instructions operable to cause a computer to receive one or more selected update components. The computer program product can include instructions operable to cause a computer to install one or more selected update components.

[0010] Advantageous implementations include one or more of the following features. The list of available updates may be generated as each new update is published. The special placeholder may be a blank space, an icon, or a text message to the user. The special placeholder may be displayed in a color different from that used for installed update components. The special placeholder may be displayed in a font different from that used for installed update components.

[0011] In another aspect, the invention features a computer implemented method, which can include instructions operable to cause a computer to obtain a plurality of manifest files, each manifest file containing information correspond-

ing to one or more components. The method also includes instructions operable to cause a computer to display information contained in each manifest file in a dual-list format, where 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.

[0012] Advantageous implementations include one or more of the following features. Each manifest file may be associated with an installed product on the computer. One or more manifest files may be associated with marketing materials available for download. The marketing materials may include marketing announcements, new products, free products, or trial products.

[0013] In another aspect, the invention features a computer implemented method, which can include identifying one or more installed products on the computer. The method can also include obtaining one or more manifest files, where 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. Moreover, the method can include displaying information contained in each manifest file in a dual-list format, where 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.

[0014] Advantageous implementations include one or more of the following features. The first list and the second list may be 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.

[0015] In another aspect, the invention features a computer implemented method, which can include receiving a first list of available update components. The method also includes displaying the first list of available update components. The method further includes creating a second list of installed update components by identifying one or more target files, where each update component is associated with a single target file. Moreover, the method includes displaying the second list of installed update components, where the second list of installed update components is displayed adjacent to the first list of available update components, such