

13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a version-specific object, wherein the version-specific object is associated with a data object, the version-specific object comprising:

a version specific property section, wherein the version-specific property section may be created by a third party application, and wherein the version-specific property may be invalidated in response to a predetermined event.

14. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13 wherein the version-specific property comprises:

a meta information section for storing the name of the property;

a version information section for storing information related to the version of the third party application used to create the version-specific application; and

a mask information section for storing information related to predetermined events for invalidating the version-specific property.

15. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13 wherein the third party application performs virus scanning functions and wherein the version information section stores information related to a virus definition file.

16. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 15 wherein the predetermined event relates to a modification of the object.

17. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing a computer process for managing version-specific information for a data object within a distributed environment, said computer process comprising:

storing version-specific information as a property associated with the data object to create a version-specific object for the data object; and

invalidating the version-specific object in response to a predetermined access attempt.

18. A computer program product as defined in claim 17 the computer comprises a services layer and the acts of storing and invalidating are performed by the services layer.

19. A computer program product as defined in claim 17 wherein the version-specific information relates to third party application information.

20. A computer program product as defined in claim 19 wherein the third party application performs virus scanning functions and wherein the predetermined access attempt relates to a modification of the object.

21. A computer program product as defined in claim 20 wherein the version-specific object remains intact following one of the following access attempts: copy, rename or backup.

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