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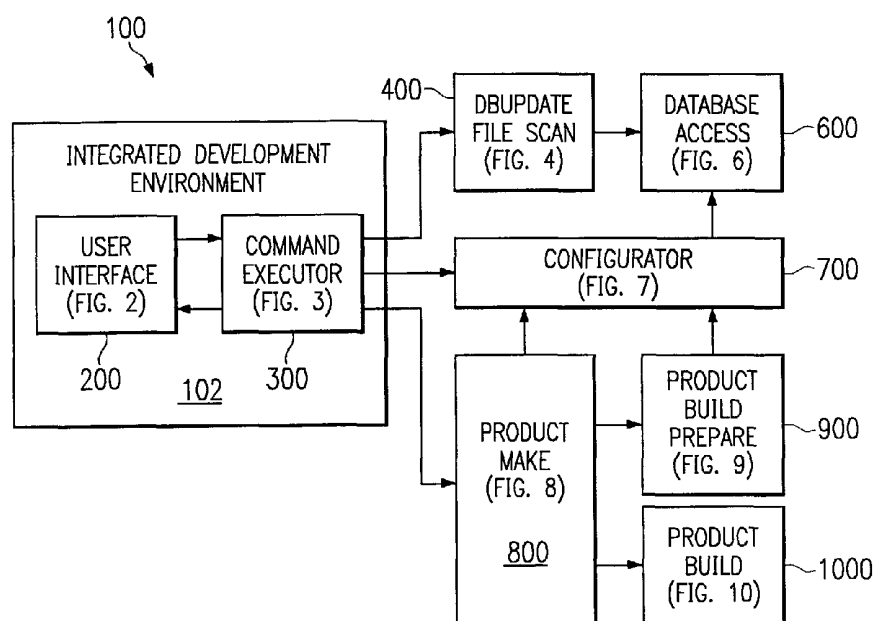
(43) International Publication Date
5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/23998 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 9/44** (72) **Inventors:** COHEN, Frances; 65 Carson, Irvine, CA 92620 (US). BOMBET, Marc, Abraham; 22501 Chase #8103, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US). LUSINSKY, Robert, Dennis; 1449 E. Holcomb Place, Placentia, CA 92870 (US). LEWIS, Timothy, Andrew; 33775 Shallow Ct., Fremont, CA 94555 (US). SANDUSKY, Marc, Shane; 7 Greenborrow Court, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/25928
- (22) International Filing Date:
22 September 2000 (22.09.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English (74) **Agent:** RITTMASER, Ted, R.; Foley & Lardner, Suite 3500, 2029 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067-3021 (US).
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/404,298 24 September 1999 (24.09.1999) US
09/531,678 20 March 2000 (20.03.2000) US
- (81) Designated States (*national*): CN, DE, GB, JP.
- Published:**
— With international search report.
- (71) **Applicant:** PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES LTD. [US/US]; 411 East Plumeria Drive, San Jose, CA 95134 (US). For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING SELECTION OF COMPONENTS



(57) **Abstract:** A software development system develops a product from core library of source code elements, the core library being categorized into components having one or more features. A configurator develops configuration state data based on a designated platform type and the source code elements. A graphical user interface displays a visual and logical representation of the product according to the configuration state data, including visual indications of any unresolved dependencies. A product make routine then generates the product from the source code elements according to the configuration state data.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING SELECTION OF COMPONENTS

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION/OVERVIEW

The present invention relates generally to methods and systems for developing and integrating a software product by customizing and combining source code libraries and integrating them to form the software product. More particularly and illustratively,
10 the present invention relates to a software system for maintaining and re-using the core components of a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) for a personal computer (PC) that simplifies BIOS deployment and that provides the architecture for extensible yet maintainable core libraries which enable rapid product development, enhancement, and modification.

15 2. BACKGROUND AND STATE OF THE ART

A BIOS product is a piece of software code that executes when a PC is started up or “booted” and that is later called upon to provide various services while the PC is running. A development system for BIOS products must support all the peripherals that may be installed on any type of PC from a low-end basic PC up to a state-of-the-art,
20 highly customized, high-end server or portable product. The various aspects of building a BIOS are described below to illustrate the capabilities that a software system for maintaining and using a library of core BIOS software components should provide.

A customer wishing to build a BIOS for a particular machine selects core BIOS software components to support the peripherals installed on that machine from a library
25 of such components. Each software component may include one or more features and may be configured by adding or removing code for features from the set of available features and by specifying the values of optional parameters (“options”) for this code. The customer may wish to add special BIOS code for peripherals custom manufactured by the customer and not available from the BIOS vendor.

Configurable features are implemented as separate code in the core BIOS component library that have external references and definitions in the code addressing other code components by name and by directory/subdirectory or by library name so the code for each feature can be linked into the final product only when it is properly
5 configured and addressed. The present state of the art is to replace the code for a called, named, and addressed optional feature that is not selected with a stub routine that merely returns to its caller. Another possibility is to reference the optional feature indirectly through a pointer that can be set to null if the feature is removed; however, this requires each caller to verify that the pointer is valid. Ideally, the code to call an
10 optional feature should be removed from the code when the component is built to realize a savings in both execution time and memory size occupied by the program.

The present state of the art defines the optional parameters of a software component (hereinafter called "options") as manifest constants, e.g., "BUFFER_SIZE EQU 256." The name of a manifest constant (BUFFER_SIZE) and the value it
15 represents (256) are associated when the manifest constant is defined. Each reference to the name of a manifest constant, such as the length of an array or the value of a variable, for example, is replaced with the associated constant value when the source code is compiled. This allows each option to be given a descriptive name and makes it possible to change the option value in all the places it is referenced by changing the one
20 definition. Options such as these are typically set or adjusted by defining or modifying an "include" file by hand. The "include" file is then incorporated by reference into the other source code files. It is easy to miss a file containing a reference to an option name, or to confuse options having the same names in different system components.

The producers and marketers of the core BIOS component library need to
25 respond rapidly to new devices that become available in the marketplace. One tried and true method is to make a copy of the code for a similar existing device and to modify it only where necessary to support the new device. The original code may have supported several configurable features that are now also available for the new device. Copying the code from another core component gives rise to two components in the same library
30 with not only the same features, but also identical external names to reference them. This ambiguity can cause further confusion at compile and link time.

The customer may sell machines that incorporate either an old device or a new device. The customer may therefore create a BIOS that incorporates both an old software component supporting the old device and a new component, generated by modifying the old component and having identical external names, supporting the new device. The BIOS would contain additional code to intercept the calls to each procedure in the old and new components. The customer then would add decision code for each intercepted procedure that decides whether the procedure in the new component or the old component should be called. This gives rise to a BIOS containing two components having identical external names and decision code for each intercepted call that must call one of the two procedures with identical names without being intercepted. Both software components would have to be compiled and linked separately so that the identical external names in each component would not conflict. They would also have to be linked together with the decision code that calls them.

Suppose that both the old component and the new component, generated by modifying the old component and having identical external names, had an initialization feature named INIT. The additional decision code mentioned above must be called in place of the INIT procedure so it can determine whether the INIT procedure in the old or new component should be called. Present art would require that each call to INIT go indirectly through a pointer table so that the pointer could be changed to intercept, or hook, each such call. All calls to INIT throughout the BIOS would be intercepted, or hooked, in this manner. The ability to intercept such calls is also important for debugging purposes.

The producers of the core BIOS component library respond to new devices that become available in the marketplace by rapidly releasing new versions of the library.

In the process of maintaining and enhancing the library, they may modify some interfaces to add functionality or to fix bugs. The customer with an existing BIOS will wish to incorporate the new functionality and bug fixes as well as the newly supported devices. The customer must verify that calls to existing interfaces which have changed are still compatible and quickly identify those interfaces that are now incompatible and that must be changed. Present art validates interfaces by matching the number of parameters, the type of each parameter, and the range of values.

The BIOS code for a particular device typically consists of initialization code that executes when the PC is started up and support code that provides services when called upon. There may be no references in the support code to the initialization code, or vice versa, that would cause both pieces of code to be included in the BIOS build; yet the support code clearly depends upon the initialization code. Present art requires manual intervention to insure that both pieces of code are included in the build.

The conventional way of finally testing source code modules for consistency is to compile and/or assemble the separate source code files, identifying and correcting all errors and repeating this process; link the object code files, identifying and correcting all errors and repeating both of these processes; and finally, combine the separately linked system elements into an inter-linked image, identifying and correcting all errors and repeating all three of these processes repeatedly and recursively until no more errors are found. Even then, improper linkages may result from identical names being used to mean different things in different sets of source files, from selection of the wrong set of two very similar sets of source files, or from version incompatibilities that compilers and assemblers cannot detect. All of these problems, in combination, make software system development and integration more time consuming than ideally it should be.

Accordingly, primary objects of the present invention are the achievement of a software development system that can identify, and assist one to correct, the above types of errors prior to any assembly, compilation, or linking; that permits one to view and select components, features, and variations simply and without regard to where the corresponding source code is stored; that permits one to specify globally that the product is to be a "server" or a "portable" and to achieve thereby entirely different system configurations; and that addresses the problems mentioned above of selecting the proper one of several component variations, of adjusting and controlling the values and scope of options, and of automating the selection of needed system components in accordance with source code dependencies.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, and in accordance with these and other objects and advantages, the present invention is embodied in a software development system that

manages a source code library for the purpose of creation of software products using that library. The invention collects an abundance of information from a source code file system which is structured to facilitate and enable the system designer to support this collection. The information collected has a variety of uses, one of which is to configure the product being developed. Product configuration includes choosing the source code library parts that will be integrated into the final product image. Configuration is automated for the type of product being created, as well as for satisfying code dependencies by bringing in subroutines to create a complete and coherent product. The system designer is presented with a view of the source code that applies and that will be built into the product being developed, and he or she is given simplified customization capabilities that are supported by the invention. The customization techniques provided are maintainable for the product's lifetime through upgrades and maintenance.

The product configuration is passed to the product build process, thereby allowing the compilation and object creation to take advantage of the acquired product knowledge. Configuration data is passed to the compilation process by means of equates defined in dynamically created files added to the code tree. Preprocessor macros expand to take advantage of these equates, either for size optimization or flow control. For example, an optional procedure call can be compiled in or out depending upon the value of an equate supplied in the created file. This equate's value is based on whether the procedure called is part of the product configuration. The product configuration determines specific files to compile into the final product image. In the preferred embodiment of this invention, Unix style Makefiles are dynamically created, based on the product configuration. This process replaces the use of search object libraries; all object libraries created are load libraries.

The invention also passes information through the compilation process to a product linker of this invention. This product linker is capable of supporting additional customization support, resource optimization, execution placement management, and product validation beyond normal address linking.

As part of this invention source code files are placed into a directory hierarchy. Different subdirectories may correspond to different software "components." Each "component" in the directory hierarchy, whether it be a true software component or a "hardware component," meaning software supporting the needs of a particular

hardware device, may be defined further by one or more “features” stored in lower level subdirectories so that one or more features may comprise each component and there may also be “sub-features” stored in yet lower level subdirectories. One or more source code files may reside in each feature subdirectory. Each component and each feature is further described by an information file that is placed into its corresponding subdirectory defining what type of platform (server, notebook, etc.) a feature is intended for, what class it is assigned to, etc.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the source code files call upon special preprocessor macros to define each external procedure and to classify it as public (callable between components) or private (callable by parents or siblings within one component only). Each call to such an external procedure is also made with a special macro routine, and each source file that contains such a call declares the procedure is being referenced publicly or privately with a call to another special macro routine. These special macro routines may pass, among other things, program revision numbers and program class designations. Special macros are also used to define public and private “include” files and to declare references to them. In addition, special macros may be used to create a list, to define the entries that are to form such a list and that are drawn from separate source code components, and to specify sort criteria for the list entries.

The component information files and feature information files are scanned, and their contents are stored within a special database. These files may relate a component or feature to a particular class and may specify which types of platforms (desktop, portable, server, etc.) for which a component is appropriate or essential. The source code files assigned to each feature are also scanned, and the parameters associated with the special macros such as classes and version numbers are also entered into the database along with each feature’s directory address. This database then holds a complete description of the source code library, including the available components, the features each component provides, the way in which features are classed together so that they later may be linked together, and the rules for selecting components and features for inclusion into a particular platform type (portable, server, etc.). The information for each feature includes the source files that must be compiled to provide each feature, the external interfaces to each feature, the dependencies of each feature

upon externally-defined subroutines and options, and the class assignments that prevent identical names within different classes from being confused, and cross-linked.

Once a system designer using the present invention has specified a type of platform, the minimum information necessary to specify a configuration for such a platform is extracted from the database, including all components and all features that the specified type of platform requires. This platform specification identifies a preliminary set of source code files that must be compiled and linked to provide the desired system configuration. There is more than enough information from the parameters of the macros of the present invention to associate each procedure call and option with its proper definition.

The present invention acts in the manner of a linker in that it associates each procedure call with its definition and identifies all missing procedures; however, this test "linking" process takes place long before compilation or assembly and linking and makes use of all the information available from the parameters of all the special macros found within the library. This allows the present invention to associate a procedure call with its definition using criteria other than and in addition to just the matching of procedure names and argument counts, and to identify and signal any procedure calls that are using an incompatible interface, such as incompatible versions of programs, as well as differentiating between procedure calls by class designation.

The present invention quickly identifies problems and errors within the current configuration before compilation or assembly and provides a visual interface through which the designer can quickly locate and fix problems by selecting and editing source code files. The same visual interface also allows the designer to add or remove components and features with the click of a mouse button and to add or override source file selections to adjust the configuration as needed.

Once the designer has selected a valid configuration, he or she may direct the present invention to build the configured product. The present invention then compiles or assembles only those source files specified by the configuration data, and links each feature separately to resolve the private external references within the component, converting class designations into specific addresses to resolve ambiguities in public external references, and thereby produces a linked executable file for each component. Finally, a special product component linker is called upon as a second stage linker that

can link the separate component executable files together into the final integrated product. Each public procedure call is fixed up with the address of the public procedure that it references. Lists defined by the list macros of the present invention are gathered, sorted and are stored in the code segment where they were defined.

5 The product component linker is controlled and directed by data associated with the macros and, in the preferred embodiment, passed to the component linker in special code segments which are read and then discarded by the component linker. The resolution of the various options and the linkages between procedure calls and procedure entry points are also controlled in the preferred embodiment by automatically
10 generated, special "include" files which pass information into each source code file to enable each macro to redefine, redirect, or even omit entirely any given procedure call statement, to control the scope of each option, and to permit the designer, through the visual interface, to adjust option values. Program calls made in a RAM-less
15 environment may also be achieved through macros that automatically use a register for return address storage and that automatically provide, in ROM code, dummy stacks and register controlled return jumps to intercept procedure "return" instructions.

Other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention are apparent in the drawings and in the detailed description of the preferred embodiment that follows. The features of novelty that characterize the invention are pointed out with particularity
20 in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 presents an overview block diagram of a program development system
100 designed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, emphasizing the relationships between the various software elements;

25 Fig. 2 presents an overview summary of the visual user interface system, listing user executable functions and also listing display functions;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the routine that executes user-initiated commands;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of the database update routine;

Fig. 5A is a flow diagram illustrating the process of modifying a file, updating the database, determining a revised product configuration, and displaying the newly-revised configuration to the user or system designer;

5 Fig. 5B is a flow diagram illustrating the process of creating a final product, including scanning all files, updating the database, revising the configuration (if necessary), displaying any configuration revisions to the system designer, and building the finished product;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram of the database access routines;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of the configurator routine;

10 Fig. 8 is a flow diagram illustrating an overview of the product make procedure;

Fig. 9A is a flow diagram of the build prepare routine which creates the "feature.inc" file for each feature;

15 Fig. 9B is a flow diagram of the build prepare routine which creates the component makefiles and which calls upon the routine in Fig. 9A to create the "feature.inc" files;

Fig. 10 is a flow diagram of the steps carried out by the make utility when executing the product and component makefiles, causing source code selection, modification, compilation, assembly, linking, and final component linking by the product component linker;

20 Fig. 11 is a flow diagram illustrating an overview of the program development system 100, emphasizing the data flow aspects of the invention;

Fig. 12 illustrates an outline of the contents of the component source code library (1200 in Fig. 11);

25 Fig. 13 illustrates the contents of a typical IBM PC compatible assembly language source code file 1300 occupying the component source code library 1200 shown in Fig. 11;

Fig. 14 illustrates the contents of a typical component information file "compnent.inf" 1400 occupying the component source code library 1200 shown in Fig. 11;

30 Fig. 15 illustrates an example of what may be placed in component information files;

Fig. 16 illustrates the contents of a typical feature information file "feature.inf" 1600 occupying the component source code library 1200 shown in Fig. 11;

Fig. 17 illustrates an example of what may be placed into feature information files;

5 Fig. 18 illustrates an outline of the contents of the component database 1800 shown in Fig. 11;

Fig. 19 illustrates an outline of the contents of the configuration state data 1900 shown in Fig. 11;

10 Fig. 20 illustrates an outline of the portion of data shown in Fig. 19 that is selected and fed into the product make routine 900 shown in Figs. 8 and 34 to govern the building of the finished product;

Fig. 21 illustrates an exemplary set of product configuration commands contained in the product configuration data file "platform.cfg" 2100 shown in Fig. 11;

Fig. 22 illustrates an outline of what may be placed into this "platform.cfg" file;

15 Fig. 23 illustrates the contents of an exemplary feature include file "feature.inc" 2300 (Fig. 11), these contents being generated automatically by the product make routine 900 (Fig. 11) and more particularly generated by the build feature include file routine 950 (Figs. 9A and 35);

20 Fig. 24 illustrates the contents of an exemplary component make file 2400 (Fig. 11) generated automatically by the product make routine 800 (Figs. 8 and 34) and more particularly generated by the component build prepare routine 900 (Figs. 9B and 34);

Fig. 25 illustrates the contents of an exemplary product make file 2500 (Fig. 11) generated automatically by the product make routine 800 (Figs. 8 and 34);

25 Fig. 26 is a block diagram of the database update routine 400, also shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 27 is a block diagram revealing the details of the feature and component file scan routine 2700 shown in Fig. 26 (called by steps in Figs. 4, 11, and 26);

Fig. 28 is a block diagram of the configurator procedure 2800 shown in Fig. 11, also shown in Fig. 7;

30 Fig. 29 is a block diagram of the initial activation routine 2900 portion of the configurator procedure 2800 (Fig. 28);

Fig. 30 is a block diagram of the product configure routine 3000 portion of the configurator procedure 2800 (Fig. 28);

Fig. 31 is a block diagram of the resolve external references routine 3100 within the product configure routine 3000 (Fig. 30) of the configurator procedure 2800 (Fig. 28);

Fig. 32 illustrates the internal structuring of the RAM-based product configuration data 1900 (Fig. 11), also shown in Fig. 19);

Fig. 33A presents a system designer view of the graphical user interface of the present invention; including a logical view of a project and windowed views of specific files;

Fig. 33B illustrates how errors are revealed to the system designer in the user interface;

Fig. 33C illustrates how the system designer opens, removes, or overrides a source code file, or learns of its properties from the graphical user interface;

Fig. 33D illustrates how the system designer opens and selects or de-selects a component with the graphical user interface;

Fig. 33E illustrates how a system designer adjusts an option using the graphical user interface;

Fig. 33F illustrates the icons and what they mean in the graphical user interface;

Fig. 34 is an overview block diagram of the product make routine 800 (Fig. 11), also shown in Fig. 8;

Fig. 35 is a block diagram of the build feature include file routine 950, also shown in Fig. 9A;

Fig. 36 presents a block diagram overview of the product component linker routine 3600 (Fig. 11);

Fig. 37 presents a block diagram overview of the list creation and management process 3700;

Fig. 38 presents a block diagram illustrating the flow of control information through the system 100 to guide the software development process;

Fig. 39 presents a block diagram to illustrate the allocation and management of non-volatile RAM;

Fig. 40 presents a block diagram illustrating the allocation and management of strings;

Fig. 41 presents a block diagram illustrating the public, private, and "ShieldPrivates" dependency access features of the invention; and

5 Fig. 42 presents a block diagram that illustrates the use of the product component linker 3600 to customize single items taken from a table.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiment of the invention is optimized for use in an IBM compatible PC ROM code image software development environment in which a shared
10 library of code is used by many vendors to develop ROM BIOS code images for portables, desktops, and servers having a variety of different processors, busses, and peripherals. The invention was developed using conventional, unmodified assemblers, compilers, and linkers, as well as a standard UNIX-style make utility. In addition, a special product component linker 3600 (Fig. 36) was developed for use with the
15 invention. The component linker 3600 is, in many respects, a conventional linker for combining separately compiled and linked *.exe files into a single, integrated code image suitable for ROM storage. The ways in which it differs from a conventional tool used for this purpose are pointed out below.

The inventors contemplate that the invention has applicability beyond the
20 development of ROM BIOS images to embedded systems of all types, as well as to software development in general. In its more general features, the invention is applicable to any software development environment where software components and features need to be managed, selected, and altered to meet the special requirements of specific clients.

25 Because conventional compilers, assemblers, and linkers are used in the preferred embodiment of the invention without any special file preprocessors, and because it is desirable and convenient and efficient to have some steps of the present invention (in its preferred embodiment) performed from within such compilers and assemblers, some way of altering the performance of these standard components was
30 needed. Accordingly, the preferred embodiment of the present invention contemplates inserting specially-defined macros into the source code at many points where

conventional programming commands such as "CALL" or "PROC" or "INCLUDE" or the like would normally appear. These special macros are described in complete detail below, at the end of this specification, following the more general overview explanation of the invention. But it is also possible to utilize preprocessors or to utilize modified
5 compilers and assemblers that can achieve the functionality of the present invention without the need nor the use of some or all such special macros. In effect, the results achieved in the preferred embodiment of the present invention through the use of special macros can be achieved without the authors of source code files having to use special macros by simply having a preprocessor or the compilers and assemblers respond to
10 commands such as "CALL" and "PROC" and "INCLUDE" in substantially the same way in which the present invention has them respond to the macros substituted for these commands. The present invention encompasses such variations in design as falling within its scope.

In addition, the preferred embodiment of the invention places the data that is to
15 control the product component linker into special code segments defined and created by the special macros, a technique that is particularly apt in the IBM PC environment where segmentation is heavily used for other purposes as well. Once again, other equivalent ways can readily be provided for collecting this data (such as the definition and contents of lists) from the many source-code files, for example, at a much earlier
20 stage in the process, and for passing this data to the component linker or its equivalent to thereby achieve the goals of the present invention.

An overview of the program development system 100, which is the preferred embodiment of the present invention, is presented in Fig. 1. Fig. 1 emphasizes the major software routines that form parts of the system and how they call upon and relate
25 to each other.

At the heart of the system 100 is an integrated development environment 102, which includes a user interface 200, the functions of which are set forth in Fig. 2. The user interface itself appears in Figs. 33A through 33F. With reference to Fig. 33A, the designer is presented with a first window (to the left) in which he or she may view a
30 logical (as shown) or a directory-subdirectory view of a source code library. A "logical view" is a user view of the code library that is organized, and the components and features of the code library are displayed, hierarchically first by class, then by

component, then by feature, then by subfeature, and so on, with each individual source code file associated with a corresponding component, feature, and sub-feature.

As shown in Fig. 33A, the logical view includes a root node 3308, which is shown as Platform - Desktop - IA32. In the first level below the root node 3308 are a series of components, such as FDisk 3310, Intel371ab (PIIX4) 3314, POST services 3306, etc. In the levels below each of the components, there may be one or more features. For example, in Fig. 33A, the Post services component 3306 includes several features, such as Decompress Manager 3304, Memory Manager 3307, and POST Dispatcher 3309. In addition to being in the level directly below a component, a feature may also be viewed in a lower level as a sub-feature, which is a child feature to a parent feature. In Fig. 33A, the LZINT feature 3311 is a subfeature to the Decompress Manager feature 3304.

Hereinafter, the term “object” will be used generically to mean a “component,” “feature,” or “subfeature”. (This special usage of the term “object” in this patent is not to be confused with the entirely different meaning assigned to the term “object” in the field of object-oriented programming.) The “logical view,” with the code subdivided by class (note the class designations “post” 3321 for the component 3306 and “decompmgr” 3323 for the feature Decompress Manager 3304 in Fig. 33A), goes beyond just the user view, however. In source code files, when references are made to the names of externals, such as include files, procedures, and options, class designations may replace these precise directory/subdirectory addresses, used in conventional software development systems, and accordingly the programmer need not be concerned with precisely where an external procedure or an included file resides – only with the class to which the source code file containing the external procedure is assigned.

Fig. 2 lists the primary functions performed and views provided by the user interface 200. The designer can use the keyboard or mouse 202 to modify a file or directory 302 (Fig. 3), build the product from a valid configuration 306, customize features by forcing them into or out of the build 304, specify custom code (file override) in addition to or in place of code from the component source code library 304, and customize or change option values 304. The updated user view 204, as a result of these changes, then displays the component and feature tree (left side of Fig. 33A):

with components and features clearly marked as in (bold) or out (faint) of the build (Fig. 33A); with components and features clearly marked where the designer has forced them into (marked with a check) or out of (marked with a “prohibit” slashed circle) the build, overriding the default configuration (Fig. 33D); with original source files shown plus custom 3332 and override files 3326 clearly marked (Fig. 33C); with dependencies 3325, 3327 listed individually and collapsable into an icon (Fig. 33B); with interface declarations 3329 (Fig. 33B), option declarations 3336 (Fig. 33E) viewable; and with feature/file errors and warnings clearly shown 3318, 3320, 3322, 3324, and 3325 (Fig. 33B).

The user interface 200 permits the designer to issue commands through a command executor routine 300, an overview view of which appears in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, and in all similar figures to follow, any rectangle that overlies the border of the large rectangle that encompasses the components of the routine 300 contains one or more entry points to the routine -- one or more commands that may be issued by the designer or by a calling routine.

If the designer wishes to update or modify a source code file, or move a file into a new directory, or change the directory structure of the system, the designer does so using the user interface shown in Fig. 33A. For example, to revise a source code file, the designer clicks on the file’s name 3326 (Fig. 33C) and selects “Open” using the mouse and pointer. The file appears in an editable window (right half of Fig. 33A) where the designer may review and optionally modify the source code file (step 502 in Fig. 5A). When the designer is finished, the designer closes the window and “saves” any modifications in the traditional way. The command executor 300 is then called upon automatically to perform the steps shown, starting at 302, in Fig. 3, and also shown in flow diagram form in Fig. 5A. First, at step 402 in Figs. 3, 4, and 5A, the database update routine 400 (Fig. 4) is called upon to scan the file, assuming that it has been changed (steps 404, 406, and 408 in Fig. 4). The routine 400 collects information from source-code-resident special macros and from commands found in component and feature information files (step 2700 in Figs. 4 and 27) defining each source code file’s internal names, entry points, and exits, as indicated at 1826 to 1830 in Fig. 18 (source library database 1800). The information gathered includes the “class” assigned to each procedure call, to distinguish, for example, “TIMER” class procedures from “DMA”

class procedures so that identical procedure names will not be confused
("TIMER.RESET" cannot be confused with "DMA.RESET", for example); version
numbers, such as "3.2," for later use to check for incompatible versions; and like
information. All this information is stored within the database 1800 (Figs. 6 and 18) by
5 the data access routine 600 write API routine 602 (Fig. 6).

Next, a configurator routine 700 (Fig. 7), which maintains configuration status
data 1900 (Figs. 19 and 32) in RAM, is called upon at entry 704 to use the database
1800 to update the product configuration state data 1900 and to then configure 3000
(Fig. 30) the product to be built by redetermining which objects (components and
10 features) to include, which to exclude, which objects to make designer options with
what default values, depending upon which platform type (server, desktop, etc.) has
been selected, what dependencies (options, calls to functions, file inclusions, etc.) need
to be satisfied, and so on. Finally, at step 204 (in Figs. 3, 5A, and 7), the routine UI
UPDATE VIEW (Fig. 2) is called upon to regenerate the logical view of the software
15 system within the left-hand window of Fig. 33A to share with the designer the new state
of the system, and to permit the designer to change default object selections (see the
menu 3334 in Fig. 33D) or to adjust the values of options (see the menu 3338 in Fig.
33E). In this quick and unobtrusive manner, all changes made by the designer are
quickly and accurately recorded, the product to be built is reconfigured accordingly,
20 and the designer is presented immediately with the results of all this activity.

If the designer does something, for example, that might cause the final linker in
a conventional system to fail because of a dependency that could not be satisfied, such
as by the absence within the library of any external procedure to which a "call"
statement can be linked (this could, for example, be caused simply by the misspelling of
25 a procedure's name), then, as is shown in Fig. 33B, little "X"s will appear beside the
items that are causing the trouble. The designer may then, by simply clicking down
through the displayed tree, quickly find, for example, the particular "dependency" that
caused the problem (for example, the subroutine name "SendEOI" in the class "pic"
shown as "pic.SendEOI" at 3324 in Fig. 33B). A "find" utility enables the file
30 containing this reference to be quickly found, opened, corrected, and closed, with the
system again being updated and corrected automatically to reflect the correction (the
"X"s would then disappear).

With reference now to Figs. 3 and 5B, when it comes time to build the final product, the entry 306 "full product build" in the command executor routine 300 is called upon by the user interface 200 in response to a user keyboard/mouse command 202. Once again, the database update routine 400 (in Fig. 4), entry 402, is called upon to perform a scan, this time of the entire library: source code files; component information files; and feature information files. With brief reference to Figs. 15 and 17, the "component.inf" and "feature.inf" component and feature information files contain build commands that define the value of options (line 1528, for example), and also contain formal rules to determine logically when a particular object (component or feature) is to be selected (lines 1514, 1516, and 1518 in Fig. 15, for example). These files also provide class designations (line 1504, for example) for the corresponding components and/or features. Such a class designation is automatically applied to procedures and labels within any source code files that are stored in the same subdirectory with a "component.inf" or "feature.inf" file containing such a class designation. this enables, for example, external calls to the procedures specifying a class as if it were a "path" ("class path" designation, such as "TIMER.RESET" where "TIMER" is the class and "RESET" is the procedure name) may be found and linked up properly without the individual calling source code files having to specify the actual path through the source code library tree to the called procedure source code file. This class designation also determines how the objects are organized in the user's "logical," as opposed to "directory/subdirectory," view of the library contents (Fig. 33A). Since dependencies are always designated as to their class, in addition to the class determining which subroutine or procedure calls link to which subroutines or procedures in which source code files, the class designations also determine other similar linkages whenever any type of external reference by a dependency is satisfied. Identical function and procedure names, and other names (include file names, for example) may accordingly be used in features and objects assigned to different classes without causing any confusion or mis-linking. And class designations enable include files and procedures to be found without regard to where they are actually stored within the component source code library file directory tree. For example, prior to assembly or compilation, include file paths (or addresses) are automatically generated and inserted without user intervention or knowledge of where the include files are actually stored.

Next, the database 1800 (Fig. 6) is updated (step 602 in Figs. 4, 5B, and 6). Then the configurator 700 is called upon again to revise the product configuration state data (step 706); and if any changes are made, then the routine UI UPDATE VIEW 204 (Fig. 2) is called upon to update the user's view; and if any red "X"s appear (Fig. 33B), the product build is cancelled.

Note, in Fig. 7, that the configurator begins a configuration with product configuration data 2100, which is retrieved from a file "platform.cfg." With reference to Fig. 22, this product configuration file designates such things as PLATFORMTYPE 2201 (server, desktop, etc., and specific architecture), system option values 2202, features to be included or not included 2212, additional files to be included 2215, files to be replaced 2216 (override), option values 2218-2220, and the like. All of this information comes from the user interface, and all of it is created under user. A simple question asking routine (not shown) can be used to create a new configuration by asking the designer simple questions to determine the platform type, the system architecture, and other such fundamental things. The remainder of the data contained in this file is accumulated whenever the designer exercises his or her option to override the default object selections and option values, again through interaction with the user interface. (Of course, this file may also be edited manually; the entire program development system may be run without the user interface, with the routines shown to the right in Fig. 1 executed one-at-a-time manually; but much of the functionality of the invention lies in the interactive user interface.)

The configurator 700 next goes to the database 1800 and loads itself up with all of the data which the database contains, both data obtained from scans of source code files, and in particular the parameters the programmer has supplied to the special macro call statements (such as class, name, version number, and the like taken from each type of macro), and also data gathered from special class and feature files which occupy the same subdirectories as the corresponding class and feature source code files. All of this information, in combination, is called the product configuration state data 1900. As shown in Fig. 19, this data includes component names 1902, 1904, 1906, descriptions of components 1908, feature names 1910 and 1912, and information associated with each feature such as class 1914, files 1916, definitions 1917 and references 1919, etc. This is the information that governs the nature of the user display. Note that the "in"

1922, 1926 and “out” 1924, 1928 status of each object (feature or component) is clearly marked by a flag bit or number in the configuration state data (as is indicated by the presence or absence of Xs in Fig. 19.)

Program control next continues with a call to the product make routine 800 shown in Fig. 8 (step 800 in Figs. 3 and 5B). The product make routine begins at step 802 by calling upon the configurator 700 to provide a list of all active (or selected) components. The product make routine 800 eventually will retrieve all of the selected (or “X”ed) information shown in Fig. 19. This selected information is shown at 2000 in Fig. 20.

Returning now to the product make routine 800 shown in Fig. 8, at step 900, for each separate component, the product make routine calls upon the component build prepare routine 900, shown in Fig. 9B. This routine, at step 902, calls upon the configurator 700 and its RAM configuration state data 2100 to provide source code file and file dependency information for the component. Next, at step 950, the build prepare – feature include files routine (Fig. 9A) is called upon to go through each of the feature subdirectories of the component. At step 952, the configurator 700 is again called upon, this time to obtain information about a particular feature. The information provided is compared to the existing information found within the feature’s “feature.inc” file, if any exists, at step 954. If the information has changed (step 956), then a new “feature.inc” file 2300 is generated and is written. Next, at step 960, if there are more features, this process is repeated until, at step 962, all the features have been checked out. Then program control returns to step 904, where the component information is compared with the contents of any existing component makefile. If, at step 906, there is any change, a new component makefile 2400 (Fig. 24) is created at step 908 that governs the proper compilation and/or assembly and linkage of the component and all of its features into an “*.obj” object file. The build prepare – component makefile routine 900 is repeatedly called in this manner, once for each component that has been selected for inclusion in the finished product.

By way of brief explanation, to be supplemented below, the “feature.inc” files are placed into each feature subdirectory along with the source code files that actually define each feature. Each of the feature source code files contains the command “INCLUDE feature.inc”. This causes the compiler or assembler to insert a feature’s

“feature.inc” file into all the source code files for the feature, where they may perform such tasks as changing class references to file path references, define options, and set switches that cause procedure calls to be deleted from the source code, if they call unselected components (see, for example, Fig. 23, where the value TRUE is assigned to “D_TIMER_DELAY” to cause a subroutine call to the “TIMER_DELAY” function to be included in the source code), or to be marked, for example, with a specific component name (to require the procedure linked to a call statement to reside within a feature of the named component). Likewise, a procedure entry point can be marked “override” to cause it to be selected in preference to an identical procedure name in some other source code file. Through the mechanism of the automatically-generated “feature.inc” files, all such user-option mechanisms can be adjusted by the system designer from the graphical user interface without the need to edit or alter the source code files themselves. This gives the system designer unprecedented control over the configuration of the finished product, with minimal effort.

After all components have been processed, program control returns to the product make routine (Fig. 8), step 908, where a product makefile 2500 is created. This product makefile 2500 contains directions that switch the computer’s focus to the various component subdirectories and that then cause the computer to execute the component makefiles 2400 found within each such subdirectory, thereby building an object code module for each object. Then it calls upon the product component linker 3600 to link together all the component object code files 1104 (Fig. 11) into the finished product 1106 (Fig. 11).

Next, at step 1000 in Fig. 8, a standard Unix “make” utility is called upon to build the product under the control of the component and product makefiles 2400 and 2500 just described. This process is outlined in Fig. 10. At step 1002, a command is read from the master make file that selects the subdirectory of a component (step 1006). The make utility, governed by the product makefile 2500, then calls upon itself to process the component makefile 2400 found within that component subdirectory which carries out the steps 1008 to 1016. At step 1008, a command is read from the component makefile 2400 which calls for compiling 1010, assembling 1012, or linking 1014 a feature source code file, and this process continues repetitively until all the commands have been executed (step 1016), thereby producing a built product

component file 1104 which also contains special segments that contain “fix-up” data that the product component linker 3600 will later use to patch one or more separately linked executable object code files into a finished, unified product (other special segments may contain list elements, etc.). The make utility, at 1018, sensing more
5 commands in the product make file 2500, continues to read commands from this file 2500, to select additional component subdirectories, and to call upon itself to execute component make commands found in makefiles associated with each additional component, as was just explained, until finally all the component source code files have been compiled or assembled and linked.

10 At step 1004, the make utility finally reaches the product component linker instructions (2528 and 2530 in Fig. 25), which cause the product component linker 3600 to combine all of the separately linked component executable files to be merged into a single code image, with the addresses fixed up such that class and name references are all replaced with absolute image addresses, ready for incorporation into a
15 ROM-based finished product 1106.

With reference to Fig. 2, there are a number of other user commands available. At entry 304, the designer may force a feature in or out by calling upon the configurator 700 to change the product configuration, and these changes are reflected in and stored within the the project configuration data file 2100 “project.cfg.” Option values may be
20 changed in this same way, and files specified for inclusion within the manufacture of a finished product may be overridden and replaced with other files designated by the designer.

Another option is the quick product build or the single component or single file build at entry 308, which bypasses the tree scan and configurator steps 402 and 706.

25 The new source tree entry 312 is used when the source code library tree has never before been processed, thereby making it unnecessary to perform steps such as steps 956 and 904 in Figs. 9A and 9B that check for whether existing special files need to be corrected (since it is likely no such files exist). The step 402 calls for a scan of the entire tree (Fig. 4). The configure product entry 702 into the configurator 700 is then
30 taken which, at step 604, calls for access to the data in the database 1800 (Fig. 6) and then configures the product in step 3000 (see Fig. 30 for details). At step 204 (Fig. 2) a

report is generated for the designer, and the product configuration state data 1900 is written out to disk storage.

The macros are described in full detail towards the end of this specification. Their functioning is described here in overview.

5 The program development system 100 is useful in resolving dependencies between references and declarations. One way the program development system 100 can resolve these dependencies is with the use of macros. For example, the macros can be used to resolve dependencies in the situation where two routines with the same name exist, and this commonly named routine is being referenced. Such a situation can occur
10 when two or more identical components are used in a system, each component having the same routine names.

To overcome this problem, macros for branching the code execution, EXTJMP and EXTCALL, are used. These macros must be preceded in the file by a PUBEXT public external declaration macro. EXTJMP and EXTCALL are macros used to branch
15 from a routine in one component to routines within another component. Both macros generate fix-up data, destined for the product component linker (and placed into the external segment 3802 shown in Fig. 38) that lists the address of EXTJMP or EXTCALL macro and the name (class plus procedure name) of the routine that is to be branched to. The fix-up data is stored in intermediate libraries, which reside in the
20 external segment 3802 from which it is accessible to the product component linker 3600 which actually performs the fix-ups. The name and class generated by an EXTJMP or EXTCALL macro may be the default name and class; it may be an alternate name and class, if the call or jump is declared by the PUBEXT to have an alternate name and class; or the call or jump may be deleted entirely, and no fix-up data generated, if the
25 call or jump is declared by the PUBEXT to be optional. A data switch passed in as part of the "feature.inc" file, calculated by the product make utility based upon whether the default procedure exists or not, switches the macros between the default name and class and the other two options. In this manner, an optional call destination can be achieved if the default destination does not exist, or the call or jump can be automatically deleted
30 if the default destination does not exist.

The PUBEXT, EXTCALL, and EXTJMP macros can all designate a component by name. Then, if two components contain the same procedure name, the fixup data

generated by the EXTJMP and EXTCALL macros will contain a component name designation, and then the product component linker 3600 will link that call or jump only to a procedure residing within the named component. In this way, the name ambiguity discussed above can be resolved.

5 A PUBLIC_PROC macro indicates the location of a procedure within a component. One of the arguments that this macro may accept is the key word INTERCEPT, which is added to the “fix-up” data generated by this procedure. Every public procedure macro generates fix-up data, including the name (class plus name) of the procedure, plus its absolute address within the object code, and this fix-up data also
10 identifies the component that contains the procedure. This fix-up data is placed into the public segment 3804 from which it can be accessed by the product component linker 3600, which does the actual fixing up of the data.

 If the key work INTERCEPT is present in the fix-up data of a given procedure, and if there are other procedures that have the same name (name plus class), then the
15 product component linker 3600 will link all procedure calls (identified by their fix-up data in the external segment 3802) to the procedure designated the INTERCEPT procedure instead of to other identically named procedures, for example, assigned to the same class and possibly having the same component name.

 The following is a more general discussion of macros and system development, and of how macros can be used and of how systems can be designed. It is not fully in
20 accord with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, particularly in not always assuming that the “fix-up” steps are performed by a product component linker. Fix-up data, of course, may be stored in some form of intermediate library, and the fixing up of the code can be done in other ways. (The description of the preferred
25 embodiment will begin again with the detailed description of Fig. 11 which commences some paragraphs below.)

 A PUBLIC_PROC macro may used to declare a dispatch routine. The dispatch routine is a routine that acts as a dispatcher to branch to the two different routines. The name and address of the routine will be stored as fix-up data. This fix-up data is also
30 stored in the intermediate libraries. The build tools discard the fix-up data generated by these macros before generating the final binary image.

In addition to the argument in the EXTCALL and EXTJMP macros designating the routine name, another argument in these macros designates the name of the component library used to resolve the specific branch. The name of the component library used to resolve the specific branch can be designated by the designer through the user interface 200. The designer can obtain information from the user interface to determine which component libraries can be designated. Alternatively, an automation utility (a wizard) can parse the components in which the common routine is found and generate a source code template with a dispatch routine for each common routine between the components. This wizard would automate the search for common routines and simplify the coding for the dispatch routines as well as provide a method to automate debugging between the components.

Like the address of every branch, the name of the routine to be branched to, and the name and address of the dispatch routine, the information regarding the designated component library is stored as fix-up data in the intermediate libraries, which the build tools discard before generating the final binary image. The binary linker uses all of this fix-up data stored in the intermediate libraries to patch the branch instruction with the address of the correct routine from the correct component library, thereby resolving the dependency.

By using these macros to resolve such a dependency, existing component routines do not need prior knowledge of the component to which it belongs since routines are automatically distinguished by the component in which they were compiled and linked into the component library. Existing component routines also need not be recompiled. Moreover, all component routines can be encapsulated within a single component library and distinguished via the component, which enhances code encapsulation.

These macros used to resolve a reference to a commonly named routine existing in at least two components are not required. Any method for tracking external references (i.e. branches) can be used. Other tracking mechanisms that can be used include, for example, a preprocessor, assembler or compiler keywords, and a custom linker. Likewise, the invention can utilize any method for tracking public declarations. Any method that allows public declarations to be tracked and the declaration type (i.e. intercept or non-intercept) can be used.

Another way the macros can be used is to select among possible resolutions to unresolved compilation references in the objects of a build. The names of objects and their location are maintained in a database. There may be only one object per file-system directory and each object directory contains either a COMPONENT.INF or a FEATURE.INF file. The database may be updated either by scanning the file system for such INF files or through manipulation of the database using an API.

The objects could be specified explicitly. A directory or list of directories could be specified which would then be searched for objects, not to determine order, but to determine presence or absence. The detection occurs in a timely fashion and can be handled automatically. A database or some other storage means could be used.

The INF file includes ASCII text containing attributes used for browsing the software project and controlling the compilation process. In addition, BaseClass is used to identify that two features have the same interface and provide the same basis functionality. Normally no final software product may contain two features having the same BaseClass.

Since the build can be for numerous types of target hardware platforms, it is useful to classify these platforms into general categories, such as BasicPC, Notebook or embedded. For each of these platform types it is possible to specify the default behavior, which can then be changed by the designer manually. One of these default behaviors is an "OnDemand" attribute, which indicates that the object will be included in the final software product if there is a reference to it by another object, another object with the same BaseClass has not been explicitly included by the system designer, and the system designer has specified that the hardware platform falls into the general category listed in the PlatformType command.

The OnDemand attribute could be placed within a source file (rather than a separate file). The attribute could also be in some sort of master database instead of in the tree. Alternatively, the attribute could be for one or more platform types or not use platform type at all in determining whether or not the OnDemand attribute should be used. The OnDemand attribute could be linked to any number of user specified software project attributes (not just Platform Type) or none at all. The On Demand attribute could also be moved to the interface functions themselves (for function-level exclusion).

Interface functions (i.e. functions which can be called between objects) are declared using the macros `PUBLIC_PROC` and `PRIVATE_PROC`. These macros specify the scope and other attributes information for the function. Objects which use interface functions must either be in the same file as the function or else declare its prototype using a `PUBEXT` or `PRVEXT` macro. The actual function calls use the `EXTCALL` macro. Configurator 700 scans the source files before the normal compilation process begins in order to determine the location of all interface functions and all references to such functions. Then, based on the platform type and explicit commands from the system designer, the list of references to interface functions is compared against the list of interface function declarations. When there is a non-optional reference with no declaration, this is considered unresolved.

The detection of unresolved references can be done without the use of the macros. Standard methods could be used including leaving such detection until the link stage of compilation. It could also be used in late binding with dynamic load libraries, using a list of libraries and their attributes.

At this point, all objects listed as `OnDemand` are checked to see if including them would resolve one or more unresolved references. If so, the object is included. The determination that an object will be included in the final software product is determined before normal compilation begins. This is accomplished by either including or excluding the files in the object from the compilation process. For some objects, all files therein are included or excluded. For other objects, this is done on a file-by-file basis. In either case, the make file is modified. An error condition is detected when two components with the same `BaseClass` are marked `OnDemand` and one or both of them would resolve an unresolved reference. Although preferably done before compilation, the decision to include an object in the final make product can alternatively be done using link-stage binding or run-time binding.

This method for resolving references prior to compilation allows a developer of the object to determine which object should be included by default. This lowers the chance of errors and increases productivity. It also allows faster builds, since pre-compilation knowledge of all objects and all dependencies limits the number of files to be assembled to the exact minimum.

The macros can also be used to resolve dependencies based on the versioning of the objects being referenced and declared. The PUBLIC_PROC macro is used to declare public function interfaces. One of the parameters in this macro is a version number in the form x.y, where x is the major version number and y is the minor version number.

Incrementing the major version number indicates a later revision of the interface, which is not backwards compatible with regards to inputs, outputs and/or side effects. Incrementing the minor version number indicates a later revision of the interface, which is backwards compatible with versions of the interface having the same major version number and lower minor version numbers. This indicates that all inputs and outputs expected by lower minor version numbers are supported, as well as similar side effects. However, new inputs may produce new outputs and different side effects. This versioning scheme is just one of many possible, including non-numeric, single version numbers, and dual version numbers with one being the current and one being the backward compatibility version.

The PUBEXT macro is used to declare a reference to a public interface, either function or array. One of the parameters includes the version number expected by the caller. The version number has a similar format to that of the PUBLIC_PROC and LIST_CREATE macros. A warning is generated if the caller and callee differ in major version numbers or if the caller has a higher version number than the callee.

The database is accessed to determine the location of the "callee" and its version. The information in the database is updated using the DBUPDATE (database update) utility, which, when invoked, scans for the previously described macros in all source code files in each object and places the name of the interface and its version in the database. It also finds the references to these interfaces by scanning for PUBEXT and recording the location and the version of the caller in the database.

Then, the database is searched for each caller to see if the version is compatible with the callee. The version is considered compatible if the major version number of caller and callee are the same and the callee minor version number is greater than or equal to the caller version number. This information can be displayed, output to a file, etc. so that the designer is informed of any potential incompatibility.

The database is not required, and the scanning process need not use a database at all. Rather, the version information could be added to the data prototypes as a special keyword handled by a preprocessor or special version of a compiler. For example, in C, the version number of the function could be encoded as a `_`-style keyword in the function prototype.

In addition, the exact manner by which the version number is attached to the caller and callee could vary from programming language to programming language. For example, in C, it can be attached to the function prototypes if MASM macros are used. For other embodiments, the versions could be attached using an external file. The versioning can also apply to static variables or data structures.

This use of versioning allows large software projects to be built more independently by tracking semantic changes in input parameters (bug fixes-modified parameter definitions). It also gives improved feedback as to whether the software project is likely to work before compilation and run-time. The versioning may also reduce errors because functional changes are readily identifiable by examining the version numbers.

Another use for the macros is to intercept a call to a first routine and have the call to the first routine replace by a second routine, which is the intercept routine. First, the two macros used to branch code execution, `EXTJMP` and `EXTCALL`, are used. `EXTJMP` and `EXTCALL` are macros used to jump to or call routines between components. Both macros generate fix-up data that lists the address of every call and jump and the name of the routine to be called. The fix-up data is stored in the intermediate libraries and discarded before the build tools generate the final binary image.

A routine that intercepts a call to another routine should have the same name as the routine to be intercepted. The intercept routine uses the `PUBLIC_PROC` macro to declare itself as an interface routine with an `INTERCEPT` keyword specified as a macro argument. The `PUBLIC_PROC` macro generates fix-up information that lists the address of the intercept routine, the name of the intercept routine (identical to the original routine), and the attribute that the routine is used to intercept another routine. Again, the fix-up data is stored in the intermediate libraries and discarded before the build tools generate the final binary image.

Using the generated fix-up data stored in the intermediate libraries, a linking utility is used to correctly link each branch and generate the final binary image. The address of the called routine is directly patched for the branch instruction in the component initiating the branch if a routine is not intercepted. However, the address of the intercept routine will be patched in place of the originally called routine whenever the intercept routine is present.

Although the address of the intercept routine is patched in place of the originally called routine, the originally called routine can be optionally branched to from within the intercept routine using the EXTJMP and EXTCALL macros. The linking utility will perform this by using the fix-up information in the intermediate libraries to correctly link the branch instruction to the original routine. In addition, the originally called routine can be optionally removed if the intercept routine never calls it and no other piece of code in the final binary image would reference it.

This interception process can be extended to replace called routines with referenced variables. It can also be extended to allow calls between routines within the same component to also be intercepted. The process could be modified to allow the intercept routine name to be different than that of the routine intercepted, i.e., the originally called routine. This would simply require an alternate and separate mechanism to couple the intercept routine with that of the caller.

With the use of this interception process, calls can be directly linked to their routine and no indirection is needed. Furthermore, the caller does not need to anticipate or know about any potential routines intercepting a call. The caller simply declares itself as any other procedure. The process also does not require the originally called routine to be in the final image if it is never called or referenced.

The elimination of an intercepted routine from the final binary image allows for a more efficient use of space by eliminating code that is not used. This efficiency can be extended to eliminate code that makes unnecessary calls. When all source files composing a project are present, a scanning and update utility scans each project source file for specific macros that reference declarations in other files. The two branch macros EXTCALL and EXTJMP use the macros PUBEXT and PRVEXT to declare all references. The scanning utility will scan for the PUBEXT and PRVEXT macros. The names of the declarations that the branch instructions refer to (via the PUBEXT and

PRVEXT) are then recorded by the scanning utility into a database along with the source file name and location.

The two branch macros EXTCALL and EXTJMP require one of two BIOS external declaration macros: PUBEXT or PRVEXT. The macros have an attribute field allowing the macro to declare the reference to the branch declaration to be “optional.” To eliminate unnecessary code from the final binary image, a branch instruction will not be compiled if the declaration that the branch instruction references is optional and the source file defining the declaration is not in the build.

Every branch is reconciled with its public declaration, which is in a different file. For each declaration reference, a flag indicates if a specific declaration is present in the build. A flag will not be generated for any declaration referenced that is not in a project source file. The flag is stored in an include file to be picked-up by the macros during compilation.

The two branch macros EXTCALL and EXTJMP will interpret the data generated by the scan utility (and passed via the include file) and optionally generate the necessary branch instruction for compilation. No branching code will be generated if the declaration is not in the project and the branch was marked as optional using either the PUBEXT or PRVERT macro. The EXTCALL and EXTJMP macros also provide a mechanism to insert additional code to be compiled if the declaration for the branch instruction is resolved. Conversely, additional code in addition to the branch instruction can be removed if the declaration for the branch instruction is not resolved.

This process can be extended to replace branched routines with referenced data types. The mechanism used would be identical to that for code branches. Furthermore, the macros discussed in the implementation of this process are not required for its implementation. Instead of the macros, the process could be implemented by scanning for the declarations dynamically as the project is pieced together as opposed to just before the compilation. The macros used to declare declarations and record declaration references could instead be keywords interpreted by the compiler or other utilities such as a preprocessor. Also as discussed above, a different method other than the formal database can be used to record the declarations and their references. A monolithic file that was parsed for information could be used in addition to other methodologies of

recording data. In addition, a mechanism other than an include file could be used to pass the flags.

This process of removing optional branch code allows for the removal of the code before source compilation using prior knowledge of the system, which decreases the compile time. The removal of the declaration reference in addition to the declaration itself is completed without a stub. The process also operates across multiple translation units.

The resolution of declarations and references and the use of versioning can also be applied to labels. Similar to procedures, i.e., routines, the `PUBLIC_PROC` and the `PRIVATE_PROC` macros are used to declare each label definition. Labels defined by the `PUBLIC_PROC` or the `PRIVATE_PROC` macro may be used to resolve either public or private label references. Each label definition includes the label's name, the label's location, and the version of the label being defined. The `PUBEXT` and `PRVEXT` macros are used to declare each label reference. Each label reference includes the label's name, label's location, and the version of the label being referenced.

A validation utility is used to validate each label reference. The function of the validation utility could be integrated with another utility, such as the compiler or the integrated development environment. The utility ensures that each label reference has a respective label definition. The utility then compares the version information for each label. The utility will report an error if either a label being referenced does not exist or if the label being referenced is of an incorrect version. The validation utility reports the resolution status of each label reference once all label references have been resolved. The resolution status for each label can be reported to aid in the debugging of the build process.

This process allows the designer performing the build process to save time by quickly detecting and correcting all build-related label resolution errors before the time consuming build process is performed. It also does not require libraries or components that are external to the software product's code base to be previously built in order to detect build-related label resolution errors.

In the program development system 100, the main data structure is called a "list." A list is an array of fixed size elements, which entries may be added by any source code file. Lists must be created once, using a `LIST_CREATE` macro. This

specifies the name of the list and the size of each list entry. List entries are added in groups. The groups begin with a LIST_START macro and end with a LIST_END macro. Each list entry is assigned a name.

For groups containing replacement list entries, an extra parameter on the LIST_START macro specifies the override priority. The override priority is applied to all list entries within the group. If the software project contains two list entries with the same name but different override priorities, the list entry with the higher priority is retained and the other discarded. Two entries having the same name and priority is an error condition.

The binary linker creates the final list, containing all list entries. The binary linker finds all list entries. For those with the same name, it compares their override priority. The highest priority entry is retained and the others discarded. The list entries for a particular list are placed sequentially, given an address and all references to the list and its entries are resolved.

This list process can be used with any statically initialized data structure. The lists can use different keywords for creating and initializing the data structures or none at all as long as the replacement data structure can be identified. The number of override levels can be changed, from a simple one level to n levels, n being an integer greater than one. The merging of the lists can be performed by the normal linker or even the compiler.

Using the list process, data structures can be created normally. In addition, more than one level of replacement can be done, which allows for “core,” “product line” and “platform” distinctions.

Program development system 100 also provides a mechanism for including libraries in the build based on the existence of other libraries within the build. A load library is a dynamically triggered load library similar to prior art load libraries because the library’s entire code set is included in the build. A search library is a dynamically triggered load library providing a mechanism similar to prior art search libraries for conditionally including code in the build. The difference between these two types of libraries is seen in the type of reference used.

Search libraries use a “forward” reference to include the library code in a build. For example, if Library A depends upon an object in search Library B, then the object

code from search Library B will be included in the build. Dynamically triggered load libraries, on the other hand, use a “backward” reference to include the library code in a build. For example, Library B will declare that it should be included in the build when Library A is in a build – even though Library A has no dependency upon Library B.

5 Three things are needed to implement the dynamically triggered load library: a configuration script, a trigger command, and a build script generator. A configuration script is necessary to identify which modules are intended to be included in the final product. This may be a simple MAKEFILE, or it may be a custom file that simply lists the module names.

10 An “External Trigger” command is associated with the library to be loaded based on external criteria. For example, a special file (ModuleY.INF) can be associated with the triggered component. The INF file includes an External Trigger command indicating that “ModuleY” should be included in the final product if, for example, “ModuleX” has been included. Although the trigger declarations in this
15 example is made within a .INF file, the trigger declarations can be included anywhere within the library’s code. It is simply the responsibility of the script generator to locate these declarations and use them appropriately.

 The build script generator’s main task is to generate a MAKEFILE (or appropriate compiler/linker script) for building the executable product. The generator
20 uses all potential library’s INF files and the configuration script as input. During the script generation phase, the generator, based on external triggers, will determine if any of the libraries should be included in the final build. The use of a MAKEFILE assumes the use of tools that utilize such a script. This is not a requirement, however, and it may be substituted with any manufacturer’s build tools to obtain the same effect.

25 The use of dynamically triggered load libraries provides the ability to include libraries in a product without the need to directly modify the triggering module code or build scripts. A benefit of dynamically triggered load libraries is also found as the number of libraries and interdependencies among modules increases. For example, when a designer chooses to include 20 modules into a software project build from 400
30 possible choices, it is difficult to know what “backward” referenced libraries may exist. The externally triggered load library solves this problem because the backward referenced libraries will bring themselves into the final product.

In program development system 100, a utility can scan the source code files of a system to detect and record public declarations and external references. The public declarations and external references are scan-able keywords in the source code files. A list of the source files that will be used as source code libraries (as opposed to those files assumed in the build) is created.

As discussed above, a utility can resolve external references to the public declarations detected in the source code. Like a linker, the utility first finds references to external declarations in files assumed in the build. It tries to resolve them with files assumed in the build, followed by files in libraries. This is a recursive process; a file or module brought into the build may reference other files or modules. This resolution process needs to output the resultant list of source code files that will be part of the build. Normal compilation and linking can follow, and no object libraries need to be created.

In the generated list, files can be listed in a makefile, batch file, or command line application, like it is done for the creation of object libraries. A centralized list can list the library files of a project. The resolution of external references to public declarations can be done at alternate phases of development and build. It can be done dynamically during edit of a source code file for real-time feedback to the developer, or it can be done after individual file compilation, using compilation output to provide public and reference information. In addition, the listing of object modules to compile and link can be done from a batch file, or a list input for command line link execution.

The listings and resolution help save development time. First, they help prevent the developer from mistakenly looking at the wrong source code during debug trouble shooting, because the actual files and their location will be listed and viewable.

Knowledge of specific files used in a build also helps the developer detect the location of problem features missing or undesired features added. Second, the developer also gets immediate feedback of unresolved references prior to building the system. This saves development time, because unresolved external references are normally reported only at the end of the build process when the link is done.

Program development system 100 also provides flexibility to source code that includes a file of a specific feature class by obviating the need to specify where the include file is located. In the source code files used in program development system

100, there can be a macro class and a file name of an include file. The include file lists its class information within a macro. Prior to compilation, the source code file is scanned, and the location of the appropriate include file is determined by a system utility.

5 The system utility source code file includes a local include file of a static system-determined name. This included file is created dynamically by the system before compilation of the source code. The source code file lists a local fixed name include file before this macro is listed.

10 Using the system scan utility, the source code tree of the software system will be scanned for the above defined macros before compilation. System configuration utilities use the information retrieved from scanning the system and reconcile the class information of the file with the include files found. The system utilities generate an include file local to the source code file. The generated local include file provides the macro expansion to specify the physical location of the included file. The system
15 utilities also dynamically create the makefile with the proper location of the include dependency.

20 In order to maintain control of changes to the include files located in differing locations, a versioning scheme can be used, where both the source code file and the include file list the version of the included file as parameters of their macros. The system utilities validate that they are compatible.

25 Using this system, the source code does not need to know which include file will be used, and a deployment of the system does not need to manually specify it. This is advantageous in polymorphic features with include files, or multiple versions of features (upgrades...) in different locations. The system utilities automatically resolve the include file to the appropriate file. The class information prevents multiple instances of an include file of the same name being a problem.

30 The following description provides a more detailed description of program development system 100. Fig. 11 presents an overview of the program development system 100 which emphasizes the flow of information (right side of the figure) to, from, and between the routines (center of the figure) and the designer managing the graphical user interface 200, into the finished product 1106 (lower left corner of the figure). Data flows are indicated by double-line arrows, while routine command paths are indicated

by single-line arrows. The description presented below of Fig. 11 places main emphasis upon data, data structures, and the data flow aspects of the present invention.

Initially, the component source code library 1200 is set up within a directory on a media such as a fixed disk drive. Within the library directory, subdirectories are assigned to each component of the software product. Under the subdirectory of each component, sub-subdirectories are set up for features each of which contains one or more source code files corresponding to that feature, and further sub directories under the first layer of feature subdirectories may define sub-features, and so on. Each component subdirectory also contains a "component.inf" file 1400 which defines how a particular component is to be compiled and linked, what type of platforms it may, must, or must not be used with, etc. Each feature subdirectory also contains a "feature.inf" file 1600 that defines, among other things, how a particular component is to be compiled and linked, what type of platforms it may, must, or must not be used with, and so on. The options supported by these files are described in more detail in connection with the descriptions presented below of Figs. 14 through 17.

The database update routine 400 scans all of these files and builds the database 1800, which then contains information extracted from the arguments passed to all of the special macros calls to which macros are inserted into the source code files, plus all the information gathered from the "feature.inf" and "compnent.inf" files. This data can then be accessed by the configurator procedure 700. In particular, the database system is designed and structured so that it can answer the following questions: What are the components? What are the features? With respect to an object (component or feature), what are its dependencies, including functional dependencies (jumps, calls, etc.), options, and include file dependencies? What are its interfaces, including procedures, labels, and lists? What are its options? What are its files? What are its details? It can present a list of the components and/or features whose inclusion in the final product is triggered by a special trigger type, such as: an external trigger (X must be in if Y is in); recommended triggers (use recommended for servers; and "on demand" triggers (it must go in because component Z requires its presence). It can make sure a file (identified by name, path, data and time stamp) exists. It can also present information on a specific option identified by name. And finally, it can present a list of the "Enums" (or enumerated data names and values) for a specified option.

The configurator procedure 700 creates the configuration state data, defining the configuration of the finished product, using information drawn from the database 1800 and information drawn from the product configuration file "platform.cfg" 2100. The configurator 700, which in the preferred embodiment is written in C++, maintains this information in a C++ RAM data structure of classes (in the C programming sense of the word class) as is shown in Fig. 32. As shown, any number of product configurations 3202 may be stored in this RAM data structure. Each such product configuration may be linked to any number of classes 3204 (in the sense of the present invention), components 3206, and features 3208. The classes 3204 may also be linked to any number of components 3206 and features 3208 (note that components do not need to be assigned a class if they are not associated with source code files, which generally they are not). Each feature 3208 may be linked to any number of sub-features 3208. The components 3206 and features 3208 may be associated with files 3214 (source code files and include files) and also with options 3210 (such as equates or manifest constants of the type formally represented as, for example, "START_DELAY EQU 12" in conventional "include" files). In the case of source code files 3214, each may be linked to any number of dependencies 3216 ("include"s, "option"s, macros, and functions, where functions include lists, labels, function calls, and strings) as well as any number of interfaces 3218 (anything that can be publicly (between components) or privately (access limited to parents and siblings) referenced, such as procedures). The "visibility" of a name in a source code file is thus first limited by class, and then by component/function (parent/sibling) relationships if a name is not declared to be public. In the case of options, any option may optionally be assigned a set of enumerations 3212, as in Pascal computer programs, with each enumeration assigned a numeric value, such as "Fast = 3; Slow = 2; Off = 1", to present a simple example. Menus of enumerations may then be presented to the designer through the user interface (when the "Modify" selection is made of the menu 3338 shown in Fig. 33E).

The graphical user interface 200 in Fig. 11 is described in more detail elsewhere. Briefly summarized, the designer at 206 may double click on icons representing source code files, "feature.inf" and "compnent.inf" files and may thereby edit any files, with automatic calls being thereafter placed to the database update routine 400, the configurator procedure 700, and to the graphical configuration display 212 to

update the database 1800, the configuration state data 1900, and the user display (Fig. 33A). At 208, the designer may use tools provided to reference and search for various named system components, referencing them and navigating through the library looking for where they may be defined, after which their definitions may be viewed and revised as just described. At 210, the designer may call upon the configurator procedure 700 to modify the finished product configuration, with changes dutifully recorded both in the configuration state data 1900 (as in the "X"s shown in Fig. 19) and in the disk-resident product configuration data file 2100 "platform.cfg." All such changes, once again, are displayed upon the graphical configuration display 212.

The final user command are the user build request commands 214 in Fig. 11. As previously explained in connection with Fig. 7, this command causes user-selected and system-selected configuration state data (as illustrated in Fig. 20 (compare to Fig. 19)) to be supplied to the product make routine 800 (described in overview in Fig. 8 and in more detail in Fig. 34) to first construct the component make files 2400 and the product make files 2500, which together control all aspects of compilation and linking, and also cause the feature include files 2300 "feature.inc" corresponding to each feature and the switching on and off of feature dependencies (including or excluding "calls" and the like) to be constructed or updated.

When it has finished its work, the product make routine 900 in Fig. 11 simply calls upon a standard Unix make utility to execute the product make file 2500 and thereby places into execution the product build routine 1000 described in overview in Fig. 10, which calls upon the compiler, assembler, and linker to create built product component files 1104 for each and every component under the control of the individual component make files, with the source code modified as is required by the feature include files 2300 for each individual feature.

Finally, the product component linker 3600 in Fig. 11 is called upon to accept the built product component files 1104, strip from them data contained in special macro-generated segments that are intended to control the product component linker as it performs the final "fix-up" of the object code images, sewing them together into a fully-linked, unitary ROM image, with calls by name and class replaced with the proper calls to absolute addresses in the ROM image, with list components retrieved from their special segments, organized into independent lists, sorted as commanded, and inserted

where indicated into the proper code segments, with options fully resolved, and with all other final steps of linking fully completed. In this manner, the product component linker generates the finished product 1106 ready for installation into an EEPROM or flash ROM or the like.

5 Fig. 12 illustrates the general structure of the component source code library 1200. This library is constructed on the hard disk drive of a computer or server in any convenient root directory. In the preferred embodiment, all system elements must reside within the confines of this root directory, which is the only part of the disk drive that is scanned by the database update routine 400.

10 There can be any number of system components. Each component resides within its own subdirectory within the root directory assigned to the library. In Fig. 12, the outline structure of the lines of text represent symbolically the levels of directories and subdirectories within which things are stored, and rectangles surround single subdirectories and their contents.

15 Accordingly, the root directory in Fig. 12 is the source library A 1202. Everything within this source library is scanned by the database update routine 400. Within this root directory are shown two subdirecoties, one allotted to component A 1202 and one allotted to component B 1206. Each componend subdirectory contains a component information file. The subdirectory for component A contains a component
20 A information file 1400 (the details of which are shown in Fig. 14), and the subdirectory for component B likewise contains a component B information file 1210. Each component subdirectory also contains one or more feature sub-subdirectories. In Fig. 12, the component A subdirectory contains two feature subdiectories 1212 and 1214. Each feature sub-subdirectory contains feature source code files 1300, 1220,
25 1224, and 1226 and a feature information file 1600 and 1222, as shown. With reference to the feature 1 sub-subdirectory, it contains the feature 1 information file 1600 the details of which are shown in Fig. 16 and the feature 1 source code file A the details of which are shown in Fig. 13.

30 Fig. 13 presents the source code file "BEEP.ASM", an assembly language source file with macro calls of the present invention emphasized. This file is used to illustrate the Configuration Display (Fig. 33A).

All source files used with the present invention should include "SYSTEM.INC" 1306, which includes other include files used by the present invention. Among other things, these include files contain the special macros that may be used to implement many aspects of the invention. All source files used with the present invention should also include "FEATURE.INC" 1308, the feature include file that is generated by Product Build Prepare (Fig. 9), which builds a feature include file for each feature (Fig. 35 Build A Feature Include File). The feature include file that was built by the present invention for feature BEEP, and would be included by BEEP.ASM, is shown in Fig. 23. As will be explained, the "FEATURE.INC" include file contains macro variables that control the code generated by the macros PUBEXT 1312 and EXTCALL 1318, which permits direct designer control over the linkup of procedures without changes to the source code.

The PUBEXT macro 1312 declares an external procedure DELAY in class TIMER with interface version 1.0. The macro name itself declares the procedure to be one that is defined by a PUBLIC_PROC macro that is contained within a separately linked component. These references are to be fixed up by the Product Component Linker (Fig. 36). The PUBEXT macro is described in Section 2.1 of the Line-by-line Description of Macros presented below.

The PUBLIC_PROC macro 1316 defines an external procedure ERRORBEEP in the class BEEP with an interface version 1.0. The macro name itself defines the procedure as able to be referenced in separately linked components that declare it with a PUBEXT macro. The PUBLIC_PROC macro is described in Section 3.1 of the Line-by-line Description of Macros. As will be explained, the class designation is replaced with an absolute library address by the macro prior to compilation or assembly.

The EXTCALL macro 1318 calls the external procedure DELAY assigned to the class TIMER using its declaration in the PUBEXT macro 1312. Since this procedure is defined in a separately linked component, the reference to it will be fixed up by the Product Component Linker (Fig. 36). The EXTCALL macro is described in Section 1.1 of the Line-by-line Description of Macros.

The END_PROC macro 1320 ends the procedure opened by the PUBLIC_PROC macro 1316. It is described in Section 3.3 of the Line-by-line Description of Macros.

Each object, i.e. a component or feature, has a corresponding information file, which can be represented as a .INF file. The purpose of these information files is to include information required by the BIOS tools, or whatever tools for which the software product being developed is used, that cannot be derived from the tree structure or assembly file scan. A database update process scans these .INF files and the assembly files to gather information and place it into a centralized database.

A component information file (COMPONENT.INF) is included at every component tip. A feature information file (FEATURE.INF) is contained within each subdirectory of a component or feature directory. Since the COMPONENT.INF and FEATURE.INF files are virtually the same, the following description simply refers to them as INF files and only distinguishes between the two types where differences exist. In general, the information in the INF files includes the name of the object and associated libraries or binaries, free flowing descriptive information about the object, the class or subclass to which the object belongs, and option declarations.

Each of the INF files may include one or more commands. These commands preferably are not case sensitive and do not exceed a single line. In addition, it is preferable that only one command exists per line. Comments may be placed on any line by itself, or at the end of any command line by preceding it with an identifier, such as '//'.

The commands that may be used within the body of the INF files may be optional, required, or conditionally required. In addition, some commands may be for only a component information file or a feature information file. Among the optional commands is the BringUp command. This command is used to identify that the object should be included in a platform BIOS identified in the PLATFORM.CFG file as 'BringUp.' It is used to assist in quickly configuring a BIOS with the minimal objects needed to boot a motherboard. When this command is added to the PLATFORM.CFG file, only the objects required for booting a system to DOS will be installed in the BIOS.

The Class command is a conditionally required command. It provides the name of the class to which the object belongs. Only one class or subclass per INF file is allowed. An object's public procedures are referenced by their function name prefixed with their class.subclass[.subclass ...] path. A component is not required to declare a

class. A feature, however, is required to declare a class or subclass if it's parent object declares a class or subclass. In other words, a Class command in a feature information file is conditionally required depending upon if it's parent object declares a class or subclass.

5 The Classification command applies to component information files only, but is required of all component information files. This command is used for specifying information that allows for sorting and classifying components using, for example, BIOS tools. The Classification command may include one or more field names, such as ComponentType, DeviceVendor, DeviceAlias, PartNumber, and Category.

10 The value of the ComponentType field name is either hardware or software and is always required in the Classification Command. The DeviceVendor field name defines the vendor and is only required and applicable to hardware component types. The DeviceAlias field name defines a commonly known nickname for the component type and is only optional and applicable to hardware component types. The
15 PartNumber field name defines the component part number and is only required and applicable to hardware component types. The Category field name is used to define the category the device or software component fits into and is optional for both software and hardware component types.

 A CompileUsing command is an optional command that identifies a custom
20 compile command to be used in the component's MAKEFILE for the specified extension instead of the default command generated by COMPMKE. This command includes three fields: Command, SourceExtension, and DestinationExtension. The Command field is, for example, a custom DOS command having parameters identifying where specific file information should be located and parameters for other control
25 information. The SourceExtension field provides a file extension of the source code files that should be effected by the custom command. The DestinationExtension provides a file extension of the destination file being created by the custom command.

 A CoreVersion command is a required command that identifies the core versions with which the object is compatible. This command may include one or more values,
30 each representing a compatible core version.

 A Description command is a required command and provides a text comment that may be used by high level interfaces to provide details regarding the component,

feature or option being described. The description may be up to, for example, 512 characters in length.

A LinkUsing command is an optional command that identifies a custom Link command to be used in the component's MAKEFILE instead of the default command generated by COMPMAKE. Like the CompileUsing command, the LinkUsing command includes a Command field, a SourceExtension field and a DestinationExtension field, which provide the same function as described above.

A Name command is a required command and provides the name of the object. An identifier in the Name command, which specifies the name of the object, may be an alphanumeric string of, for example, 40 characters in length, and preferably does not begin with a number or include spaces.

An Option command is an optional command that declares a configurable option and gives it a default value. The designer can change the setting of the option using the PLATFORM.CFG file. This command supports a 'body' section for providing descriptive names of the option's supported values. These names may be used instead of numeric values for declaring the default value or changing the value in the PLATFORM.CFG file. The value name should be defined on a separate line. Exclusion of the body section indicates that only numeric values may be used for setting the value.

In addition to a name field defining the option name, there are several other fields in the Option command. A DefaultValueName field provides a valid 'value name' as defined in the body section and is required when value names have been defined in the body section of the command. A Default_numeric_value field provides a valid numeric value that preferably does not exceed the length specified. Numeric values may not be used as a default when enumerated names exist. A Size field specifies the size of the option space. A RomEditDescription field is an option description string that is save in ROM if 'Romedit' is chosen by the designer in the PLATFORM.CFG file. A ValueName field is a descriptive name that may be used in place of a numeric value when setting the option's value. A Value field represents the specific numeric value to associate with the ValueName. A ValueDescription field provides a textual description of the value's meaning.

An Owner command is a required command that provides a company name of the object owner. This command is used for filtering a customer's components when releasing or replicating core trees to customer sites.

5 A PlatformType command is an optional command that describes when an object should be included in a build by default based on the PLATFORM.CFG file's identification of platform type. This command includes a one or more PlatformType fields, each having a corresponding Usage field. The PlatformType field can be, for example, BasicPC, Desktop, Server, Notebook, PICO or AllOthers.

10 The Usage field is used to describe the conditions for including an object in a build. If it is 'Recommended', an object is brought in by default, but the designer may manually remove the recommended object from the build. If it is 'Test', an object will be included in the build by default for testing purposes, but will be excluded from a product release. 'OnDemand' an object is automatically brought in when needed to resolve hard external references. For 'Explicit', an object is prevented from being
15 included in a build for the associated PlatformType unless it is explicitly added in the PLATFORM.CFG file. 'External Trigger' identifies the name of a Class.SubClass that will trigger an object to be included in a build

A class may combine 'External Trigger' with 'OnDemand' or 'Recommended' for a single platform type. Any other combination of Usage fields for a single platform
20 type, however, is not allowed and will cause a validation failure. Furthermore, only one object for a single class may declare itself OnDemand, Recommended or Externally Triggered within the core files. Otherwise, having more than one default resolution to a dependency will result in a validation failure. Within a single component, only one
25 feature of a specific subclass may declare itself OnDemand, Recommended or Externally Triggered. Having more than one may result in multiple resolutions to a dependency causing a validation failure.

30 A ShieldPrivates command is an optional command that protects an object's private procedures from being accessed by its sibling objects. This command is useful for objects that are used as repositories of miscellaneous objects that are not functionally related. Fig. 41 shows how the ShieldPrivates command further restricts code access beyond the private access level. The diagram illustrates how the access of function calls

is encapsulated to their appropriate level, either public, private, or shielded at any feature level. This applies to dependencies, including procedures, labels, and includes.

A SubClass command is a conditionally required command that provides the name of a subclass to which a feature belongs. Each INF file is allowed only one class or subclass. An object's public procedures are referenced by their function name prefixed with their class.subclass path. As described above with respect to the Class command, a component is not required to declare a class, but a feature is required to declare a class or subclass if it's parent object declares a class or subclass

A Target command is an optional command applicable to component information files only. This command provides the name of a library or binary that should result from building the particular component. The Target command includes a TargetName field and a TypeKey field. the TargetName field defines a character file name. The TypeKey field is a four character code used to identify files of non-standard types. This code is used by the BIOSMAKE utilities for fixup of dispatch tables referencing these files.

A Uses command is an optional command that is used to identify the location of shared code used by an object being described. The build tools may use this command to identify the file as a dependency in the MAKEFILE created for the object. Use of shared files is restricted. In particular, objects may only use files that identify themselves as shared using, for example, a PRIVATE_PROC or PRIVATE_INCLUDE command with the 'Shared' attribute. In addition, an object may only use shared source files that are in sibling directories, or immediate children of upstream directory nodes. The Uses command includes a FilePath field that provides the relative path and filename of the shared file to be used by the object.

Fig. 14 presents the component information file for class CORE 1406. This is the component that contains feature BEEP (Fig. 16), which contains the source code file BEEP.ASM (Fig. 13). This part of the present invention contains commands describing the component and commands used in the configuration of the component (Fig. 15).

The BRINGUP command 1412 indicates that this component should be included as part of the configuration when a customer using the present invention begins to build a new BIOS with minimal functionality to get started quickly.

The PLATFORMTYPE command 1424 indicates that this component may be used when building a product that will run on an IA32 architecture. The ALLOTHERS command 1428 indicates that this component is RECOMMENDED for all platform types that were not explicitly specified in the PLATFORMTYPE command 1424. This
5 CORE 1406 component will be included in all configurations produced by the present invention that run on an IA32 architecture unless it is explicitly forced out.

Fig. 15 shows those commands in a component information file of the present invention that are used in the configuration of the component. Names in bold are keywords, and names not in bold are specified by the designer. The characters “//”
10 indicate that the rest of the line is a comment. All commands residing between the braces {} of a command are considered within the scope of the command.

The PLATFORMTYPE command 1506 specifies the rules under which the component will be included in the configuration. The rules apply to a configuration for a specific PlatformType such as “DeskTop” or “NoteBook” or to any PlatformType not
15 explicitly mentioned (ALLOTHERS). The rules 1516 include RECOMMENDED: include component unless explicitly forced out of the configuration, ONDEMAND: include component if a procedure in the component is referenced by another component already in the configuration, EXPLICIT: include component only if explicitly forced into the configuration, and EXTERNALTRIGGER: include this component if the
20 component or feature specified by the ClassPath is in the configuration.

The OPTION command 1522 defines the name and default value of an option that may be used in the source code files comprising a component. It may also define the names of acceptable values for the option that may be specified in the product configuration (Fig. 22)

25 Fig. 16 presents the feature information file for class BEEP 1602. This is the feature which contains the source code file BEEP.ASM (Fig. 13). This part of the present invention contains commands describing the feature and commands used in the configuration of the feature (Fig. 17).

The BRINGUP command 1612 indicates that this feature should be included as
30 part of the configuration when a customer using the present invention begins to build a new BIOS with minimal functionality to get started quickly.

The PLATFORMTYPE command 1616 indicates that this feature may be used when building a product that will run on an IA32 architecture. The ALLOTHERS command 1620 indicates that this feature is RECOMMENDED for all platform types that were not explicitly specified in the PLATFORMTYPE command 1616. This BEEP
5 1602 feature will be included in all configurations produced by the present invention that run on an IA32 architecture and include the CORE component unless it is explicitly forced out.

Fig. 17 shows those commands in a feature information file of the present invention that are used in the configuration of the feature. Names in bold are
10 keywords, and names not in bold are specified by the designer. The characters “//” indicate that the rest of the line is a comment. All commands residing between the braces {} of a command are considered within the scope of the command.

The PLATFORMTYPE command 1706 specifies the rules under which the feature will be included in the configuration. The rules apply to a configuration for a
15 specific PlatformType such as DeskTop or NoteBook or to any PlatformType not explicitly mentioned (ALLOTHERS). The rules include RECOMMENDED: include feature unless explicitly forced out of the configuration, ONDEMAND: include feature if a procedure in the feature is referenced by another component already in the configuration, EXPLICIT: include feature only if explicitly forced into the
20 configuration, and EXTERNALTRIGGER: include this feature if the component or feature specified by the ClassPath is in the configuration.

The OPTION command 1721 defines the name and default value of a manifest constant that may be used in the source code files of the feature. It may also define the names of acceptable values for the option that may be specified in the product
25 configuration (Fig. 22)

The PLATFORM.CFG file is a text file that specifies the customizations to a build and contains statements which direct the build. It is in the PLATFORM.CFG file that OEMs may include information to identify OEM features, OEM hooks, and OEM file overrides. Also, although the PLATFORM.CFG file is maintained by the user
30 interface 200, it is an editable file that allows the designer to explicitly state configuration parameters.

The PLATFORM.CFG file includes a minimal description of the BIOS. Based on this information, the configurator 700 can derive a more comprehensive description of the BIOS configuration. For example, if a designer explicitly declares that a component should be included in the build, the configurator 700 can determine that another component or feature should also be included in the BIOS, even if it has not been explicitly declared within the PLATFORM.CFG file.

There are several commands associated with the PLATFORM.CFG file. A BuildOption command specifies information that is specific to the build of a particular software product. The commands within the body of the BuildOption command specify the details of the information to be stored. These commands include Type, which specifies the type of build option, Name, which specifies the name of the item to which the build option is being applied, and Value, which specifies a value to which the item is being set.

A BringUpBios command is used to indicate a special configuration override. This special override instructs the configurator 700 to build a minimal BIOS containing only the minimal set of elements needed to bring up the minimal BIOS. The BringUpBios command may only appear once in the PLATFORM.CFG file.

A Classification command specifies platform specific information. This information can define a name or value to a series of platform specific data, including a vendor name, an alias, a platform number, a revision or version number, and a category.

A Component command specifies the addition, configuration or removal of any component from the build, regardless of the intended platform type. A component's configuration is defined by Features, Options, SystemOptions, Files and OverrideFiles that are specified within the Component command. When brought in by default based on the designated platform type, the component is not listed in the PLATFORM.CFG file.

The Component command preferably includes a ForceFlag. This flag specifies whether or not a component is forced into a build, forced out of a build, or set to use the default build inclusion dependencies and triggers. When the flag is set to ForceIn, it will be merged with any existing default definitions for the component. When a component is set to NoForce, it will revert to its default state, meaning it will depend

on other dependency and trigger selections. When a component is set to ForceOut, it is expressly not included in the build.

Each Component command also includes a name of a component to be brought into the system. The name used in the command is derived from the named component's .INF file. Since each component preferably has a unique name, there should be no ambiguity in the component named in the Component command.

All commands residing within a Component command's braces, which delineate what is included in the Component command, are considered within the scope of the named component. Examples of these commands include the Feature, Option, and SystemOption commands. The components themselves may not be placed inside other components. In addition, the Component command can only appear once for each unique component. In other words, there cannot be two or more Component commands describing the same component.

A Feature command allows the addition, configuration and removal of a feature within a given component. The feature named in the command must be valid for the component within which it resides. Like a component, a feature's configuration is defined by Features, Options, SystemOptions, Files and OverrideFiles that are specified within the Feature command. Furthermore, like the Component command, the Feature command includes a ForceFlag that specifies whether a feature is forced into a build, forced out of a build, or set to use the default build inclusion dependencies and triggers.

Although all features must reside within a component definition, features may be defined within the definition of another feature. When a feature is specified inside another feature, the internal feature becomes the child feature and the external one becomes the parent feature. All commands within a feature are considered within the scope of that feature and also within the scope of the component under which the feature is defined. Examples of commands or statements that can be placed inside a feature's braces, which delineate what is included in the Feature command, include Feature, Option, SystemOption, File and OverrideFile.

A File command allows an additional file to be included within a build. This command may only be used within the scope of a component or feature. Parameters included in the File command include a FileName and a FilePath. The FileName

defines the name of the file to be brought into a build. The FilePath provides for the relative physical location of a file to be brought into a build.

An Option command specifies the setting of an option that will be used to generate component and feature include files. The Option command may only be used within the scope of a component or feature. Parameters included in the Option command include a Name, a Value, a RomEditFlag, and a Description. The Name parameter defines the name of an option to change. The Value parameter sets forth any valid value as defined by the option in the .INF file. The RomEditFlag parameter is a Boolean value, which sets forth whether or not a RomEdit is enabled for the option. The Description parameter is an option parameter that provides a description of the option that may be displayed in the RomEdit utility.

An OverrideFile command overrides a component file. A file version allows a warning to be displayed to a designer if the override is stale. This command may only be used within the scope of a component or feature. The name of the new overriding file must be identical to the file being overridden. The parameters in the OverrideFile command include a FileName, which provides the name of the override file, a NewPath, which provides the relative physical path of the override file, and an OriginalVersion, which provides a version of the original file.

A PlatformType command specifies a type of platform for the build. This command is used to bring in default components and features based on the specified platform type. Only one PlatformType command may be used in the PLATFORM.CFG file. Parameters in the PlatformType command include a Name, which defines the name of the platform, and an Architecture, which is determined by the CPU and instruction set and specifies a group of systems that will execute the same code. The Architecture parameter may be, for example, IA32 for the IA-32 instruction set architecture or IA64 for the IA-64 instruction set architecture.

A SystemOption command is used to establish an option that is visible across the entire scope of the build description. Predefined options may be set and reset at different levels of processing, such as a global level, a component level, or feature level. Parameters in the SystemOption command include a Name and a Value. The Name parameter gives the name of the SystemOption to be associated with the build

description. The name must be one of a set of pre-defined Options. The Value parameter sets forth a value to associate with the named SystemOption.

Fig. 18 presents symbolically a representation of the component database 1800 for a source library A. The data for each component is shown contained within a rectangle. Two components, component A 1802 and component B 1804, are shown, with others assumedly also present but omitted for clarity and simplicity. Only the details of the data for the component A 1802 is shown.

Each component has a name and a description (line 1806). Each component has a data options table, which is a table that lists all the user-settable options 1808 that affect source code files within this component. These options are adjusted through use of the user interface (see Fig. 33E, for example), and the option values are actually loaded into the binary image by the product component linker 3600 (Fig. 36) as part of the “fix-up” process when the linker 3600 builds the finished product 1106. Any compilation, assembly, and link options 1810 that are specified for a component are present.

A component may be assigned to a class by its “component.inf” file if its directory contains source code files, but the present practice with the preferred embodiment is to place source code files into feature subdirectories and to have each feature assigned to a class by its “feature.inf” file. Accordingly, every feature is definitely assigned to a class. The several features may therefore be organized by class within the database, as shown. Two classes, class A 1812 and class B 1814, are shown. Within the class A 1812 are two features, feature 1 1816 and feature 2 1818 (no details are shown for feature 2). Presumably, any normal system could have many features, as well as sub-features, etc. The feature 1 1816 has a name and description 1820, a data options table 1822 (essentially the same as that for the component but applicable to the feature source code files), compiler and link options 1824 (if the feature source code files are separately compiled, assembled, and/or linked), the names of the feature source code files 1826, and a complete list of the entries into 1828 and the exits from 1830 those source code files – elsewhere, more precisely, called interfaces and dependencies.

Figs. 19 and 20 are symbolic representations of the data structures contained within the configuration state data 1900, organized similarly to the database shown in Fig. 18. Three components – component A 1902, component B 1904, and component C

1906 are shown, each provided with a “select” or “unselect” flag symbolically represented by a voting square with or without an “X” to indicate whether a given component is selected or not selected for inclusion in the finished product 1106. The flags 1922 and 1930 for the components A and B are shown with “X”s indicating that these components are currently part of the finished product 1106. The flag 1928 for the component B is shown without an “X”, indicating that either by default, or because of system designer intervention, this component has not been selected. The component A has a name and description 1908, and it has two features, feature 1 1910 whose flag 1924 indicates it has not been selected and feature 2 1912 whose flag 1926 indicates (by an “X”) that it has been selected. Feature 1 1910 is shown as having a class assignment 1914, source code files assigned to it 1916, definitions of options 1917, and references 1919 – dependencies and interfaces. (A more detailed view of the structure of this data within RAM is presented in Fig. 32 below, which was described above.)

Fig. 19 simply illustrates that selected components and features data 2000 are taken from the from the configuration state data and passed on to the product make routine 900 when a finished product 1106 is created. As shown, the global constants for the options are passed along to be used as part of the “fix-up” data that is applied to the finished product 1106 by the product component linker 3600. The selected components A 2002 and C 2004 are passed along, together with feature data for each feature selected that is part of a component that was selected. The selected feature 2 2006 corresponds to the feature 2 1912 in Fig. 19 whose selection flag 1926 was set. This feature 2 2006 is accompanied by the names of its source code files 2998 as well as the exits 2008 from those source code files and other dependencies and interfaces, as well as feature-specific constants 2012 to be assigned to feature-specific options.

Fig. 21 presents the Product Configuration Data for a DeskTop platform 2102. This is the configuration that contains component CORE (Fig. 14). This part of the present invention contains commands used in the configuration of the product (Fig. 22).

The PLATFORMTYPE command 2102 indicates that this configuration is for a PlatformType “DeskTop” that runs on an IA32 architecture. All components that contain a PlatformType(IA32) command in their component information file that specify DeskTop(Rule) or AllOthers(Rule) will be considered for inclusion in the configuration according to their Rule. Similarly, all features of components considered for inclusion

that contain a PlatformType(IA32) command in their feature information file that specify DeskTop(Rule) or AllOthers(Rule) will be considered for inclusion in the configuration according to their Rule.

5 The COMPONENT command 2104 allows an additional source file to be configured for component PNP.

The FILE command 2108 allows an additional source code file, MYFILE.ASM from directory \DEVREF\INTEL\440BX in the current component source code library, to be included as part of component PNP in the configuration.

10 Fig. 22 shows a list of the possible commands in a platform configuration file of the present invention. Names in bold are keywords, and names not in bold are specified by the designer. The characters “//” indicate that the rest of the line is a comment. All commands residing between the braces {} of a command are considered within the scope of the command.

15 The SYSTEMOPTION command 2202 is used to establish an option name and value that is usable in any source code file in the product configuration. The FEATURE command 2216 allows the addition, removal, or configuration of a feature within a given component. A features configuration 2212 is defined by the present invention as those Feature, Option, SystemOption, File and OverrideFile commands that are defined within the opening and closing braces {} of that feature.

20 The OVERRIDEFILE command 2216 is used within a component or feature command to override a file of that component or feature by instead using the specified newpath. The OPTION command 2218 is used within a component or feature command to specify the name and new value of an option defined in that component or feature information file. The new value of the option will appear in the feature include files generated for that component or feature.

25 Fig. 23 presents the Feature Include File. This is the Feature Include File that is included when the source code file BEEP.ASM (Fig. 13) is assembled. The D_TIMER_DELAY variable is the defineName that the macros PUBEXT 1312 (Section 2.1 of the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) and EXTCALL 1318 (Section 1.1 of the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) in Fig. 13 are expecting.

30 Fig. 24 presents the component makefile for component CORE. Component CORE (Fig. 14) contains feature BEEP (Fig. 16) that contains the source code file

BEEP.ASM (Fig. 13). A makefile, so called because the make program has historically looked in the current working directory for a file named MAKEFILE by default, contains commands that are interpreted by the make program.

EXTASMS 2404 is defined as a macro that contains the path of each external assembly source file to be assembled. The backslash \ at the end of each line indicates continuation. Generic rule 2436 specifies the assembler command line necessary to convert any file with a .ASM extension into the same file with a .OBJ extension. The COMPONENT_NAME rule 2440 specifies the linker command line that will link the component from the object files produced from all the assembly source files defined by the macros EXTASMS and ASMS. As a side effect, it causes object files that do not exist to be generated from assembly source using the generic rule 2436. The CLEAN rule 2456 must be explicitly specified on the make program command line (Fig. 25). It deletes the files generated by the CORE component makefile so that the next time the CORE component makefile is interpreted, all the files will be regenerated.

Fig. 25 presents the product makefile generated by the present invention and used to build the product containing the component CORE (Fig. 24). The BIOS.ROM rule 2502 goes to the directory containing each component in the configuration and runs the NMAKER make utility program to interpret the component makefile generated in that directory by the present invention. This will produce a linked set of object files, "*.exe" files, for each component. This format allows for execution of the component as a statistical tool, designed to display the declared public interfaces, the dependencies, and the resource usage. These linked files may then be merged into a single ROM image executable file by the product component linker "BINLINK" 3600 (Fig. 36).

The CLEAN rule 2532 goes to the directory containing each component in the configuration and runs the CLEAN rule of each component makefile (Fig. 24), then goes to the directory containing the platform configuration file and cleans up the files generated in the build process so all the files will be regenerated by the next build.

Fig. 26 illustrates the database update routine 400 that scans the component source code library 1200. The search begins 2602 in the root directory of the component source code library 1200 looking for components, which are subdirectories of the root directory containing a component information file named "COMPONENT.INF" 2604. For each component 2606, the file scan routine 2700 is

called upon to scan the component information file 2610 and any source or include files 2612 that may be in the component directory. The search then continues in the component directory looking for features of the component, which are directories subordinate to the component directory containing a feature information file named "FEATURE.INF" 2614. For each feature 2616, the file scan routine 2700 is called upon to scan the feature information file 2620 and the source and include files in the feature directory 2622.

Fig. 27 shows the file scan routine 2700. When called upon by the database update routine (Fig. 26) to scan a file, the file scan routine obtains the date and time the file to be scanned was last modified from the database 2716 and compares it to the date and time last modified from the file itself 2702. If the file has not changed, the database is not updated 2704. If the file has changed or the file scan routine was called upon by the change input routine 206 (Fig. 11), the file is scanned 2706. If the file is a component information file, named "COMPONENT.INF" 2708, the component information 2709 is added to the database 2716. If the file is a feature information file, named "FEATURE.INF" 2710, the feature information 2711 is added to the database 2716. Otherwise, the file is a source or include file 2712. Add information from the parameters of any exit declaration macros, entry macros, include macros and list macros in the file 2714 are added to the database 2716.

Fig. 28 shows the general flow of the configurator procedure 2800, beginning with initial activation 2900 (Fig. 29), continuing through product configure 3000 (Fig. 30) and ending with a report of the configuration state 2806 indicating a valid configuration (Fig. 33A) or incompatible interfaces, missing components and so on (Fig. 33B).

The initial activation 2900 of the configurator procedure 2800 begins by retrieving from product configuration data 2100 the platform type 2102. It then reads 604 from the database 1800 all component information relating to components that are permitted or mandatory on the specified platform type and creates the product configurator state data 1900 in random access memory. The product configurator state data 1900 includes the source files of each feature and the parameters of each PUBLIC_PROC macro and PUBEXT macro in those source files. As each feature is activated (3004, 3008, 3010, 3014) by the product configure routine 3000, the

procedure referenced by each PUBEXT macro in its source files are added to a list of unresolved references. The product configure routine 3000 proceeds with the following steps, taking care 3002 not to activate any object that has been specified force out (3335, 2204, 2210, 2208).

5 At step A 3004, all objects (component or feature) are set in the product configurator state data 1900 that have been specified force in (3333, 2204, 2210, 2208) and their parents to active state. At step B 3006, all recommended component objects (1510, 1514, 1516) are set in the product configurator state data 1900 to active state. At step C 3008, for all active objects in the product configurator state data 1900, all
10 recommended children (1710, 1714, 1716) are set to active state and repeat. At step D 3010, for each component object or child of an active object that has a class specified as an external trigger (1518, 1718), if an object of that class is active in the product configurator state data 1900, the externally triggered object is set to an active state. At step E 3100, external references (Fig. 31) are resolved and a list of unresolved
15 references and mismatched versions of resolved references is maintained. At step F 3014, until no further objects can be set active or no references are left unresolved, if a feature resolves an unresolved reference and is on demand (1716) and all parent objects are active or on demand (1516, 1716), then the object and all parent objects in the product configurator state data 1900 are set to active state and steps C, D, and E are
20 repeated.

 The resolve external references routine 3100 takes a procedure reference that was declared by a PUBEXT macro (Section 2.1 of the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) from a list of unresolved references and finds all the procedures defined 3102 by PUBLIC_PROC macros (Section 3.1 of the Line-by-Line Description of Macros)
25 that have a matching name. The name parameter of the PUBEXT macro and the procedurename parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro that matched are both class paths consisting of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name separated by periods. The class path serves to identify a specific procedure in a hierarchy of components, features and subfeatures that is independent of the location of
30 the source file containing its definition within the component source code library 1200. The class path does not conflict with procedures in other components that have the same name because they would have a different class path. If there are multiple definitions

with the same class path 3104, then if the PUBEXT macro of the definition specified a component name 3106, it chooses the definition in the named component 3108. Also, if the PUBLIC_PROC macro of a definition specified the INTERCEPT keyword 3110, it chooses that definition 3112. Otherwise, it removes the reference from the list of unresolved references and returns an indication that multiple definitions were found 3114. If a matching definition was found 3116 and the definition is in a source file of an active feature 3118 or an inactive feature 3122 designated on demand (1716), the reference is removed from the list of unresolved references and success is returned 3120. If the PUBEXT macro of the reference specified the ALTERNATE keyword 3124, the class path specified by the altname parameter 3126 is used and tried again 3128. If the PUBEXT macro of the reference specifies the OPTIONAL keyword 3130, no definition is necessary, and the reference is removed from the list of unresolved references and no definition is returned 3132. Otherwise, the reference is removed from the list of unresolved references and no match is returned 3134.

Figs. 30 and 31, just described, present a general algorithm of the process of the configuration to decide the active features of the product..

Fig. 32 is discussed above in the context of Fig. 11.

Fig. 33A presents the view that a designer would see while using the present invention to modify source file WORKADDR.ASM 3302 in the “Decompress Manager” feature 3304 of the “POST Services” component 3306 of a “Desktop” platform for the IA32 architecture 3308. This is a logical view of a component source code library (Fig. 12) using icons described in Fig. 33F to show components and features as opposed to a physical view of the component source code library showing the directory heirarchy. The icons show that the “Fdisk” 3310 and “kcManager” 3312 components have been forced out of the build while components “Intel371ab” 3314 and “Intel440BX” 3316 have been forced into the build.

Fig. 33B presents a logical view of the same component source code library as in Fig. 33A that a designer would see while using the present invention with component “Fdisk” 3310 no longer forced out of the build. The icons (described in Fig. 33F) indicate that component “Fdisk” 3310, feature “ata” 3318 and file “FDSKINIT.ASM” 3320 have errors and that the public functional dependencies for function

“protocolTable” in class “fdisk” 3322 and function “SendE01” in class “pic” 3324 have errors.

Fig. 33C presents a logical view of another part of the component source code library shown in Figs. 33A and 33B using icons described in Fig. 33F. This logical view shows what a system designer using the present invention would see by right clicking the override file “EARLYCFG.ASM” 3326 in feature “Memory Configuration” 3328 of component “Intel440BX” 3330. It also shows that file “oemfile.asm” 3332 is a custom file that would have been added using the “Add Custom File” line of the window of the present invention shown in Fig. 33D.

Fig. 33D presents a logical view of part of the component source code library shown in Fig. 33A using icons described in Fig. 33F. This logical view shows what a system designer using the present invention would see by right clicking component “Fdisk” 3310 that has been forced out of the build.

Fig. 33E presents a logical view of a different part of the component source code library shown in Fig. 33B using icons described in Fig. 33F. This logical view shows what a system designer using the present invention would see by right clicking the “CacheLineSize” option 3336 in component “Intel440BX” 3330. The “CacheLineSize” option currently has the value 04 hex. This window allows the system designer to modify the current value or reset it to the default value specified in the component information file.

Fig. 33F presents the icons that appear in a logical view of a component source code library of the present invention as shown in Figs. 33A through 33D. Each icon represents a different element of the logical view and has a lighter color when the element is not included in the BIOS configuration. The icons for components and features that were forced into the configuration show a check mark while the icons for components and features forced out of the configuration have a lighter color and show a circle with a slash through it. Elements that have errors show an icon with an x, and elements that have warnings show an icon with a triangle containing an exclamation point.

Fig. 34 shows the product make routine 800. For each active component 3402 in the product configurator state data 1900, for each active feature of the active component 3404, the routine builds a feature include file 950 (Fig. 35), then, for each

source code file in the current feature 3406, it adds a command to the component “make” file of the current component 3408 explaining how that source code file is to be compiled. When all active features of the current component have been processed, a command is added to the component “make” file of the current component 3410 explaining how the linking is to be done to form a BIOS component. When all active components have been processed, a product “make” file (Fig. 10) is created containing commands to execute each component “make” file plus a command to execute the product component linker 908. The make utility program is then called upon to execute the commands in the product “make” file 1000.

Fig. 35 shows the build feature include file routine 950. For each PUBINC macro (Section 6.2 in the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) in each file of the feature 3502, the routine generates an I_CLASSPATH symbol from its classpath parameter 3504, then adds an assembler statement defining the I_CLASSPATH symbol as the path of the directory containing the include file 3506. If the classpath parameter of the PUBINC macro is “post.dispatcher,” for example, then the PUBINC macro will expect the I_CLASSPATH symbol named I_POST_DISPATCHER to be defined. When all the PUBINC macros have been processed, for each PUBEXT macro in each file of the feature 3508, the routine generates a D_NAME symbol from the name parameter. If the public procedure specified by the name parameter was included in the build, the routine adds an assembler statement defining the D_NAME symbol as TRUE 3514 (Fig. 23), or else adds an assembler statement defining the D_NAME symbol as FALSE and, if the PUBEXT macro specifies the ALTERNATE keyword, generates a D_ALTNAME symbol from the altname parameter of the PUBEXT macro and adds an assembler statement defining the D_ALTNAME symbol as TYPE_RESERVED_TRUE. If the name (or altname) parameter of the PUBEXT macro is “timer.delay” 1312, for example, then the PUBEXT macro will expect the D_NAME (or D_ALTNAME) symbol named D_TIMER_DELAY to be defined.

Fig. 36 presents a flow diagram of the product component linker 3600, a routine assigned the symbolic name “bin_link”. It accepts as input data the “*.exe” executable binary files that are generated when the regular linker(s) is (are) called upon to link together the “*.obj” object code files produced by the compiler(s) and assembler(s). It also accepts as input the “*.map” files, also generated by the regular linker(s), and

learns from them the names of the code segments generated and where they reside within the "*.exe" files. It also receives, directly from the designer, one or more script command files "bios.scr" which contain directives on how it is to proceed with the different executables – in what order are the segments to occupy the final ROM image, the assignment of absolute addresses to some segments, etc. In the preferred embodiment, product component linker "BINLINK" 3600 (Fig. 36), after fixing up the addressing, etc. in all of the executable images and after combining together the pieces of the various named segments extracted from the executables, does not stitch the executables together to form a unified ROM image and perform such tasks as compressing executable images and duplicating images where necessary. These tasks are performed by a routine named "rom_image," which receives the output file "bios.scr" from "bin_link" and then performs these final tasks, as well as the tasks of integrating sound and image files into the actual final ROMable image.

The input control information which flows to the product component linker 3600 is shown in Fig. 37, described below. Starting with a list of the components that are to be included in the finished product, and limiting the "*.exe" files examined to those corresponding to the designer-selected components (typically found in the component subdirectories); and using information obtained from the linker-generated "*.map" files to locate and separate the named segments within each of the "*.exe" files; and by operating directly upon the selected component "*.exe" files, the product component linker 3600 is able to identify, within each "*.exe" file, all of the named code segments, which are hereinafter called "built components" of the finished product 1106.

Executable object code and data destined for inclusion within a single segment in the finished product will frequently be found to be scattered throughout many different "*.exe" executable files. Likewise, data that is intended to control the operation of the product component linker, and that will thereafter be discarded and not included in the finished product 1106, will also typically be found scattered throughout many different "*.exe" files but always placed into the two "fix-up" data segments public segment 3804 (Fig. 38) ("publicSegment"), which contains the names of public procedures, tables, etc.; and external segment 3802 (Fig. 38) ("externSegment"), which contains the names of all the calls, jumps, read, etc. statements the addresses for which must be fixed up by the product component linker by insertion of the addresses of the public entry points,

once the segment and offset addresses are determined and fixed by the product component linker 3600.

Accordingly, as its first step 3602, the product component linker 3600 collects all the built components and sorts them by segment name, merging the segments with the same name into unified segments (which may be called “modules”) even though they were separately compiled and linked, and then linking up the calls to the procedures, etc., to create unified executable program modules assembled from code segment fragments provided by several different components. For example, the calls to initialize the various components, created within many different component source files but assigned to a single segment, can be brought together into a single module to form a unified initialization routine, and can even be sorted into a particular order of command execution automatically.

The majority of segments used to construct modules are simply read from the various component files. However, some segments are created by the product component linker 3600 to contain parts of the final binary image that do not exist until execution of the linker 3600.

In cases where the additional content created by the linker 3600 is to be accessed by ‘near’ addressing methods, the content must reside in the same segment as the reference. This means that the linker 3600 must increase the size of an existing segment to create the room for the additional content. Note that the existing alignment requirements must be preserved when dealing with the new segment size.

When collecting segments together to create modules, the possibility of gaps presents itself. These gaps are the result of maintaining the alignment properties of the individual segments. To reduce the impact of these gaps, the linker 3600 examines the various orders in which the segments can be combined, choosing the order that minimizes the amount of inter-segment gap space. Also, the binary data placed into those gaps can be specified, which may allow an improvement in the compression ratio of modules that are to be compressed.

In some cases, the destination for module placement may not consist of a single, monolithic address range. This can occur when specific addresses within the destination range are reserved for special purposes. This can lead to a situation where no single sub-range is large enough to hold the entire module. The linker 3600 can be

instructed to construct multiple segment groups that are small enough to fit into the available sub-ranges, resulting in a fragmented module.

There are times when the same code must appear at more than one location in the final binary image. The product component linker 3600 has the ability to make a
5 copy of a constructed module, and to place the copy at a different address than the original. This eliminates the need to assemble/compile the source code more than once.

Modules can be placed at specific addresses, or they can be simply packed into an address range. This is accomplished by specifying the region (or address range) that a module is destined for. The use of regions also allows an address range to be
10 specified more than once for use during different phases of execution. Also, a module can be placed into more than one region, allowing use of the module during more than one phase of execution.

To allow a module to be present during more than one phase of execution, and to be located at the same address, the module is marked (in the BIOS.SCR file 3812) for
15 mirrored placement into the desired regions. The linker 3600 will select a location that resides at the same address within those regions.

This is accomplished by creating a 'pool' region object as a temporary data structure (not shown) that contains only those address ranges that are available in all of the target regions. In other words, if an address range is already occupied in any of the
20 target regions, then that range is not available in the pool region. Once the module has been placed into the pool region, the address ranges it occupies are marked as occupied in all the target regions.

When it is necessary for a module to reside at different addresses during different phases of execution, the module is marked (in the file 3812) for copy
25 placement. The product component linker 3600 will determine a location, within each of the regions specified, where the module will be placed.

There are times when specific address ranges within a region need to be reserved for special purposes. These address ranges can be specified (in the public sector 3804) as exclusion blocks, informing the product component linker 3600 that
30 they are not available for the placement of modules.

Next, from the external segment 3802, the linker 3600 reads in (step 3604) the external segment 3802 contents, which names the procedures and/or the label

definitions that the components contain; and the linker 3600 stores their locations in a table for later use when calls and accesses from other built components to these procedures, tables, etc. will be fixed up and assigned these same absolute addresses.

At step 3606, the product component linker 3600 reads in from the public segment 3804 all dependent references to the external definitions of procedures, etc., just described, including calls, jumps, table lookup accesses, etc.; and it stores the addresses of these references for later references as places in the code where absolute addresses will need to be plugged in.

All of these addresses, both the addresses of externals contained within the external segment 3802 and the addresses of the dependencies contained in the public segment 3804, are marked in the source code by the special macros which place absolute addresses into the external or public segment, as is appropriate, so that the precise position within the code of the externals and publics is communicated to the product component linker that will fix up the actual calls and jumps. As can be seen in the macro code explained below, as an extra error check, each macro, in addition to placing offset addresses within these special external and public segments, also inserts these same addresses into the actual code so that the product component linker, when it actually checks for an entry point within the linked object code, finds at each offset a number equal to the offset address.

Next, at step 3608, the linker 3600 generates duplicate instances of both definitions and of references which may be required by the execution-time information, where a piece of executable code is to appear in duplicate in the ROM image or is to be relocated at run time. For example, code may be moved about, or duplicated in different locations, or overwritten, and this may require the duplication of both definitions and of references.

This brings processing to step 3610, the point at which the references and definitions are actually associated and eventually linked together. With reference to Fig. 38, this is where, in the context of the present invention, the final choice is made to link a given call to one procedure or to another, for example; and because the process is done by the product component linker 3600 under the direct control of the macros 3806 (through the intermediary of the external and public sectors 3802 and 3804). But these macros are themselves, through the intermediary actions of the feature include

files 2300, are commanded to edit the source code prior to compilation or assembly (for example, eliminating unwanted "calls" to unselected components and replacing include file class identifiers with the absolute addresses of those include files), and to control what signals are sent to the product component linker by the configuration state data 1900, which reflects commands contained within the product configuration data 2100 and the component and feature information files. Since these files are created, and are under the direct control of the designer through the user interface 200, the designer is thereby given an unusual amount of detailed control over the entire process of determining which components and features are selected, as has been explained.

The association of references with definitions is carried out in a certain order as follows:

First, references (dependencies: for example, "call" statements) directed to a specified component are associated with definitions (externals: for example, "proc" statements) that are found within that named component. If two different components contain procedures having the same name, then the component name determines which is picked as the destination of a given call statement.

Secondly, system-designer-designated "intercept" externals (a substitute procedure that is to "intercept" and take over the functions of a procedure called by the source code), identified as such by the macro-generated "call" information, are linked up to the intercepting references in preference over whatever reference would have been utilized otherwise.

Thirdly, to the extent that the finished product will contain duplicated code, or code generated by the product component linker 3600 (such as sorted tables, etc.), these link references are established next.

And finally, all remaining references are linked to definitions, with all private references scoped to limit the linking to parents and siblings within a given component.

At step 3612, the product component linker 3600 next collects and processes all of the segments that require special handling, such as list references that require sorting and insertion into segments, string segments that must be assembled and placed into the code, non-volatile RAM code which also must be processed specially, relocation tables which indicate different locations where a given procedure may be found at different

times during system boot-up, and ROM stacks needed to serve as subroutine “return” points during RAMless subroutine calls.

Of these, the ROM stacks require explanation: A ROM stack appears as follows in assembler source code, and is generated by the macro CREATE_ROM_STACK:

```

5      returnAddr:
          DW    returnAddr + 4
          DW SEGMENT returnAddr
          jmp bx

```

The macro INIT_ROM_STACK generates the following stack pointer and stack segment pointer default values:

```

      . . .
      mov ss, SEGMENT returnAddr
      mov sp, OFFSET returnAddr

```

The macro ROMCALL that generates the RAM-less CALL function generates the following code at the point of the CALL statement:

```

      . . .
      mov bx, returnOffset
      jmp FAR xyz

      returnOffset:
20      [next instruction beyond the macro]

```

As can be seen, the ROM stack is simply a dummy stack frame to which any standard called procedure may execute a RET instruction. Upon return of program control, the RET instruction loads into the microprocessor’s program code address and segment the address contained within the stack frame, which is the address just beyond the dummy stack frame, “returnAddr +4.” Accordingly, the microprocessor executed the instruction following the dummy stack frame, which is “jmp [bx]” and jumps back into the calling program at the offset specified by the bx register.

This being the return procedure, clearly the special macro that creates the RAMless other segment subroutine call must pre-load the bx register with the return offset address of the next instruction following the calling point, the address “returnOffset,” as shown above. Then the “call” is executed with a far “jmp” command, which does not try and save anything in the dummy stack frame when the call is executed, since the dummy stack frame is already pre-loaded with the return address that is to be used by the RET instruction execution.

In this simple manner, ROM BIOS system initialization routines running in a RAMless environment (before the memory controller of a PC is set up, for example) may call subroutines that are conventional in their design. Note that the product component linker 3600 needs only insert one dummy stack frame into each code segment that requires one, since many different calls (actually jumps) to procedures can share a single dummy stack frame, with the register bx in every case controlling the return and directing it to the right offset within the code.

An alternative approach to implementing far subroutine calls before RAM is available involves the creation of a table of return addresses that are used to return to the calling code at completion of the subroutine. The caller loads a pre-determined register with an index into the table before jumping to the subroutine. At completion, the subroutine jumps to a common dispatch routine that uses the index value to access the return address, and jumps back to the calling code. The linker 3600 creates the table and assigns the index values.

The linker 3600 creates the table of return addresses based on housekeeping information obtained from the components and passed through the public segment 3804.

Next, at step 3614, the modules of code, which now include lists, dummy ROM stacks, strings, non-volatile RAM blocks and code, and relocation tables, may be mapped into the final address space for the entire unified block of code, something that could not be done before this. Within the IBM PC and compatible "real mode," as found on Intel 386 class computers (Pentiums, 486s, etc.), all intra-segment addressing must be based upon real, absolute segment addresses and offsets within those segments. Accordingly, at this time, the product component linker 3600 finalizes the addresses of all externals – all reference addresses. And finally, the linker 3600 actually fixes up the addresses in the code, thereby finally resolving and satisfying all the code dependencies. The code is now completely ready for installation in the final image.

The final step performed by the product component linker, step 3616, is that of writing out the rom modules, symbol maps, and logging information relating to lists, strings, and non-volatile RAM for the system designer to examine and also to pass on to the separate (in the preferred embodiment) "ROM_IMAGE" routine that inputs the ROM modules along with BIOS.SCR and information about image portions that are to be replicated, and performs the final assembly of the ROM code image, including

compressing some portions, adding compressed code for sound and images, and creating the final ROM directory.

Fig. 37 shows the list creation and management process 3700. The LIST_CREATE macro 3704 (Section 5.1 in the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) shown in a code fragment of source code file A 3702, creates a list in the current segment by preserving the list name and entry size specified by its parameters and identifying the current segment at the time it was called. The code fragment of source code file B 3706, contains a LIST_START macro 3708 (Section 5.3 in the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) that specifies and preserves the same list name and entry size as the LIST_CREATE macro 3704 as well as the list entry priority order. The LIST_ENTRY macro (Section 5.5 in the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) in this code fragment 3710 specifies and preserves the data for a list entry, the name of the entry, its sort priority (a number used to sort list entries with the same sort key) and sort key. The LIST_END macro 3717 (Section 5.4 in the Line-by-Line Description of Macros) ends the list entries begun by the LIST_START macro 3708 and allows multiple list entries to be specified. The code fragment of source code file C 3714 illustrates that multiple list entries can be specified in different source code files that may be a parts of different components. The product build process 1000 uses the information preserved by the LIST_CREATE macro 3704 to identify a list name, combines the information preserved by the LIST_START 3708 and LIST_ENTRY 3710 macros, sorts the entry data and puts the sorted entry data into the finished product 3716 in the segment identified by the LIST_CREATE macro 3704.

Each list entry declaration specifies a sort 'key' string 3711 that can be used to determine the order of the entries in the list. When a master sort list (not shown) is provided, the entries in the actual list are ordered to match the sort list order. The master sort list may contain entries that do not have matching entries in the actual list. Each actual list entry must have a sort key that appears in the master sort list (if the master sort list is present), to determine the position of the list entry. If more than one list entry has the same sort key string, then they are further sorted by using the entries sort priority value 3713.

The product component linker 3600 reads the housekeeping segment (included in the public segments 3804 in Fig. 38) that contains the master sort list, starting with the

name of the list to be sorted. Then each sort key string is read, in order, and placed into a container as a list object where the list object (not shown) is a temporary data structure. The actual sorting of the list entries is accomplished by assigning an index value to each entry. First, the index value is initialized to zero. Then, the first sort key string is retrieved from the master list. The container of entry objects is searched for entries that have a matching sort key string 3711. If one or more is found, the current index value is assigned to the one with the highest sort priority value 3713, and the index value is incremented. This continues until no more matching entries are available. This process is repeated for each sort key string from the master list.

When multiple list entries have the same sort key string, or when a master sort list is not provided, the sort priority value 3713 of the list entry is used to determine the order of list entries. The sort priority value 3713 is numeric in nature, and the product component linker 3600 will sort the entries so that smaller values appear in the list before larger values. An error is reported when attempting to sort entries by priority, when the priority values are equal.

List and list entry macros generate housekeeping information that finds its way into the public segment 3804 and that is used by the product component linker 3600 to determine list placement and entry ordering. These parameters control the actual sorting process. Once the sorting has been performed, this housekeeping information can be discarded, thereby reducing the size of the final executable code.

When a list entry data 3709 includes a 'public declaration', then references to it, such as a "call" to it, can be made by name. Since the final location of the list, and the position of this entry in the list, are not known until determined by the product component linker, these references must be resolved after the list location and the list entry location are known and finalized.

This is accomplished in two steps, one for the offset of the entry and one for the segment. The offset of the entry can be determined after the list has been sorted by multiplying the entry's index by the size 3707 of the entry. This produces the distance of the entry from the beginning of the segment. The computed offset value is used, along with a pointer to the list segment object. The segment value of the entry will be identical for all entries in the list and is determined when the list segment is placed into destined region.

A list entry may contain a public definition within its data area that needs to be resolved by the product component linker 3600 to an external reference. These references cannot be resolved until after segment assembly and placement has occurred, and segment placement cannot be completed until all the lists have been created. To address this issue, an association object is created and stored temporarily that contains the original location of the list entry (in the public segment) and the new location of the list entry (in the specified destination segment). As each reference is resolved, a check is made to see if the location of the public definition is within the public segment. If so, the association object for the list entry that contains the definition is found, and the reference is resolved to the new location of the definition within the list entry.

As part of list processing, the product component linker 3600 produces a 'source listing' of the resulting list structure which the user may save as part of the component source code library. This listing (not shown) can be used on subsequent invocations of the product component linker 3600 as a substitute for and override of the macros and data 3704, 3708, 3714 that defined the list to 'lock' the contents and structure of an actual list. When the locked listing is provided, a one-to-one correspondence is enforced on all list declarations (i.e. each list declaration (3704, 3708, 3714, etc.) must match one, and only one, entry in the locked listing).

To reduce the effort required to make a change to a list entry declaration, the original declaration can be left in place, and a new declaration can be created with an override modifier flag appended to its macro. This eliminates the need to modify an existing file (which may be contained in a core directory) when a simple change to a list entry is desired. When multiple list entries are detected with the same name, only the declaration with the highest numeric override value 3705 is used in the creation of the list. Multiple entries (with the same name) that have identical override values cause an error.

An "exact fit segments" feature of the product component linker 3600 eliminates the need for using separate 'start' and 'end' segments just to determine the size and location of a list of entries. By including extra identification information with each list definition, as well as each list entry definition, the source-level list declaration statements can be compiled into the public segment 3804. The linker 3600 can then create new segments of the exact size needed.

After all the list entry definitions have all been read, the required size of the list segment can be determined from the number of entries in the list, and the size of the entries. A segment object is then created, and added to the container of segment objects for the appropriate module.

5 The product component linker 3600 is able to allocate non-volatile RAM space, such as battery backed-up C-MOS space, in sizes ranging from one bit up to 16 bytes, contiguous (closely packed). Anything 8 bits or less is aligned so as not to cross a byte boundary. Anything over 16 bits is rounded up to an integer multiple of bytes. (See Fig. 39).

10 An NVRAM_MEDIA macro 3902 is provided to define a particular media, such as battery backed-up CMOS. This macro assigns a name to the media, specifies its size, and declares the reader and writer subroutines by name that are to be used to read and write the non-volatile media.

15 An NVRAM_ITEM macro 3904 defines non-volatile RAM field by specifying its name, size, default values, flags, media, and address. The flags indicate, for example, whether the field is included in the checksum and whether it requires initialization when the checksum fails or NV-RAM is cleared. The media parameter assigns it to the particular one of several possible media defined by a NVRAM_MEDIA macro. The address and media are both optional. But if an address is specified, the
20 media must also be specified.

 An NVRAM_RESERVED macro is similar but simply reserves space, for example, for the real-time clock.

 NVRAM_STRUCTURE START and NVRAM_STRUCTURE END macros can bracket several NVRAM_STRUCTURE_ITEM macros to define a series of items to be
25 a single, larger data structure item for purposes of retrieval and storage.

 A READNV macro 3906 generates code to read a named NVRAM data item, and a WRITENV macro 3908 generates code to write a named data item.

 The "READNV <name>" macro generates the following code:

30 MOV AX, <16 bit space>
 call read.sub

 which causes some index (inserted later by the product component linker 3600) to call the appropriate subroutine (also inserted later by the product component linker)

to fetch the named value. This macro also generates, in the public segment 3804, a record of the position of this call, an indication that it is a “read” call, plus the name of the NV_RAM field to enable the product component linker 3600 to adjust the inserted code properly. The “WRITE NV <name>” macro works similarly.

5 The product component linker 3600 allocates the NV_RAM to the fields defined by the NVRAM_ITEM macros and maintains a temporary table relating each name to an offset into NV_RAM. This table is then used to adjust the read and write code in the program segments as just explained.

10 STR_DEFINE and STR_DEFINE_END macros 4002 accept a string and assign a name to the string. A string also has a “language” attribute (for example, “US” or “IT”) specified by a STR_LANGUAGE macro as well as an ASCII value specified by a STR_TEXT macro.

15 The linker collects all the strings defined by instances of this macro and associates each with its name and language. The “active” language parameter for a given PC is normally stored in NV_RAM and may be changed by the system designer.

A “LOADSTR <name>” macro 4004 generates the string write preparation code:

MOV_SI, <16 bit space>

20 within a program segment, giving the program a “source index” pointer to the string data (which will be explained below). As in the case of NV_RAM macros, data including the string name, the address of the 16-bit space, and the nature of this instruction are placed into the public segment 3804, thereby enabling the product component linker 3600 to complete this reference.

25 The product component linker 3600 builds a separate table for each language including a string value pointer array and the actual string values for each language. The strings having the same meaning in each different language are pointed to within each table by value pointers stored in corresponding positions within the value pointer arrays. Accordingly, a “source index” value, si, such as “18” identifies within each language table’s string value pointer array an index value to the start of the
30 corresponding string of text. Accordingly, the code that follows the “mov si” <ptr>” code can readily utilize the “si” value, which identifies a particular message, and the

NV_RAM country value, which identifies the language, to find and retrieve the proper message written in the proper language.

Fig. 38 presents, in one view, elements of the invention described elsewhere that participate in enabling the system designer to maintain detailed control over the assembly of features and components into a final finished product 1106.

The designer, through the user interface, views the configuration state data (Fig. 33A) and makes choices about components, features, and dependencies, as has been explained. This user information is preserved in the product configuration data file 2100 and is fed back into the configuration state data. The component source code library 1200 is also scanned, and detailed information about calls, procedures, includes, etc. is gathered into the database 1800, including such things as component designations, class designations, version designations, and other useful information. Also, information concerning components and features, such as which platforms they are compatible with, or are required for, is gathered from the component and feature information files and placed into the database 1800. The contents of the database 1800 are also transferred into the configuration state data 1900.

All of this information, contained within the configuration state data 1900, then determines the configuration of the product, which is presented to the system designer in logical form at the user interface. The designer may modify the configuration by editing the files in the component source code library 1200 or by selecting or deselecting features and components (Fig. 33D) and adjusting options (Fig. 33E) with respect to dependencies and externals using the user interface. And of course, all errors in the way in which the system fits together are signalled directly to the designer by red Xs on the user interface (Fig. 33B).

Once the configuration is done, the product make routine 800 is called upon to create the finished product 1106. First, component and product make files 2400 and 2500 are generated to instruct the assembler, compiler, and linker in their tasks. Next, the feature include files 2300 are generated so the compiler and assembler will insert them into the source code files prior to compilation and assembly. The feature include files should be thought of as signal conduits leading directly from the system designer and the configuration state data into the source code files to actually control the pre-editing of the source code files prior to compilation and assembly, including deleting all

calls to components and features that have been deselected; replacing "class" designations of include files with their absolute addresses within the component source code library 1200; and passing control values to the macros to alter the way in which the macros signal the product component linker as to what is to be finally connected up to what.

The special macros, when executed by the compiler and assembler, generate data for every procedure, label, and table (externals) that is designated for placement into a special external segment 3802, a first dummy code segment. They generate data for every call, jump, option, and global (dependencies) that is designated for placement into a special external segment 3804, a second dummy segment. These dummy segments should be thought of as communication pathways between the individual source code file locations and the product component linker over which may be passed information defining how the final address fix-up operations are to be carried out. Note that this information originates with the system designer. The component and feature information and the source code files are contained within the configuration state data, are partly passed into the compilation/assembly process through the feature include files 2300, and are finally gathered, altered, and sent on to the product component linker 3600 by the special macros 3806.

The compilation, assembly, and linking process is next carried out, generating executable files 1104 which are indexed into separate segments by the linker map files 3808. Accordingly, the product component linker 3600, when placed into operation, can sift through the executable files, sorting their contents out by code segment, so that the contents of all segments are drawn together. In this manner, the public and external segment data 3802 and 3804 is drawn together so that it can control and direct the operations of the product component linker, along with a list of the selected components 3810 and a BIOS.SCR file that specifies absolute sector addresses, the ordering of sectors, and other such things. All of this enables the system designer to maintain an unusual degree of control in the process of linking components and features together into an integrated product, as has been explained.

As previously discussed, the development system is dependent on the collection of data from both source code files, and information files (INF files). INF files and source code files are scanned throughout execution of the development environment.

Specifically, files of either type are scanned and the data placed in the database whenever a file is added to the working directory or an existing file in the working directory is modified. If a file is deleted from the working directory, the associated data is removed from the database. This process ensures the database is always up-to-date. The following paragraphs describe the specific data that is collected from source and INF files, and presents specific uses for this data.

Program source files taking advantage of the development system are required to use a standard set of macros previously presented and described.

INF files represent the preferred embodiment for storing various component and feature information that is not stored in the source code macros but is needed to facilitate many of the functions of the system. Note that the data contained within the INF files could be stored using a variety of other methods, including but not limited to data tables, source files, the PLATFORM.CFG file, or some other file created specifically for that purpose. In the preferred embodiment, every component and feature must have an INF file within its respective directory. INF files use a stringent command language facilitating simple data collection during the scan process for storage in the database.

During the scan process, a number of errors can be identified in the tree. This is useful because the errors are identified early in the development process prior to an attempt to use the source code, build the system, or more importantly, prior to distribution of a compiled BIOS. The errors that can be identified include: 1) identification of inappropriately named components, features, and options by parsing each command to ensure compliance with the command specification. 2) Identification of multiple components or features with the same component name by requiring unique component names upon adding a record to the database. 3) Invalid trigger combinations that could potentially result in indeterminate states during trigger resolution. 4) Identification of incorrect macro usage including syntax errors or invalid data errors that would ultimately result in an assembly errors or runtime errors during the build process.

Additionally, following the initial scanning process, the database is used for real-time evaluation of error conditions arising during the development process. Current state of the art development systems do similar error checking only during the build

process. This invention accomplishes these tasks prior to the build process in an efficient, real-time environment where the user receives immediate feedback (in most cases < 1 sec) on standard personal computer systems (Pentium 400 MHz) if an error occurs. The errors that can be identified include 1) unresolved dependencies, 2) calls that violate access levels such as a call from one component to a private procedure in another component. 3) Calls to procedures that are outside of the appropriate program segments. 4) Use of EXTCALL statements without first declaring PUBEXT or PRVEXT, 5) Near calls to far procedures 6) Far calls to near procedures 7) Unresolved dependencies, 8) Calls to invalid version numbers 9) Stale file overrides. 10) Identification of indeterminate trigger conditions based on user changes in a working tree.

A variety of statistical information is available from the database. This information includes 1) Determination of unused interfaces, labels, or variables. 2) Code flow analysis. 3) The number of public and private interfaces declared for a procedure. 4) Reports on components and features that do not meet minimum functional interface requirements based on the class of the component or feature and others. Figure 55 shows how function tracking can be used.

Information is also available from the configuration to provide filter searches to only include the subset of the source code library that is part of a product. For example, to search for a displayed string, it is less useful to see all instances of that string in the source code library than to see the instances actually used by the product. Reports can be generated giving the developer information such as 1) Features without hard dependencies (optional features), 2) public interfaces available, 3) options and the set values and default values, 4) Features using specified code segments, and many others.

Customization Techniques

The invention supports methods of customization from both the pre-compilation configuration, and the final image creation stage of the Binary Linker. Pre-compilation configuration customizations allow "point and click" customization of the source code libraries. Options, described above allow the user to change values without modifying code. This methodology can be extended to tables. In the case of a BIOS, register and

CMOS tables can be customized without code modification. Source code library files can be overridden, where the original file is physically left intact, but the override resides in custom folders, but is built into the component image. Custom files can be added to a feature, that physically reside in custom folders but also build into the component image. Fig. 42 shows the steps involved in these techniques, illustrating the customization of single items from a table, using the product component linker 3600 to replace the original entry with a customized version, and to adjust the link references.

Customization is supported by the product component linker 3600 and allows for table order locking as well as table entry overriding. Complete entries in the tables can be overridden, and the original data in the code segment can be replaced by the override. The product component linker 3600 also support customization by intercepting the linkage of any callers to Public callees, when the intercept parameter is declared on the Public Procedure Declaration. This method is useful for having custom code execute before or after a Public procedure.

Archives

The development system defines an application programmer interface for interacting with change management systems (Such as PVCS, Dimensions, Visual Sourcesafe, etc). This interface includes the ability to port proprietary information from a component's or feature's INF file directly into the change management system database, thus forgoing the need to force a user to reenter this data into the change management system when checking in new components or features. Information that is ported includes all of the categorization information contained in the INF files. Note however that any additionally information could be ported just as easily with the addition of appropriate interfaces. Once in the change management system, this information can be used for a variety of reporting purposes as well as for locating components or features based on specific criteria. For example, a user of the change management system could query the change management data to locate components or features that support device number "371AB."

The database scanning process also extends to provide support in the area of information archiving and retrieval. In an environment where the software development system is being used to describe a large core set of interchangeable components and

features, it becomes necessary to pick a subset of these components and features for use in a specific project. The current state of the art requires a user to simply pick and choose software parts from standard directory folder listings to accumulate the desired parts, or a more advanced system may provide scripts for simplifying this process. In the invention, the same scanning process previously described is applied to the core set of components and features to obtain a complete database of the available software core set. The graphical user interface (GUI) then uses this database to provide users the ability to choose the components or features needed in a new product. The user interface only needs the database to facilitate this selection process. The database can be local or it can be located on a remote server. Additionally, the GUI is capable of notifying the user immediately upon selection of a particular component or feature if the part is dependent upon other components or features. Theoretically, a user has the capability to choose in entirety all of the components and features needed for new software product without error, prior to downloading a single bit of code from the archives.

Product release typically entails, among other things, creating a baseline label that identifies all parts of the product being released. This labeling process allows for product reproducibility at a later date. Using the state of the art development and change management systems, if an interested party desires statistical information regarding the released product, the information may only be obtained by re-downloading all of the original files required to build the released product and then using these files to compile the needed information. Or the change management system may contain release notes for certain details. The development system provided by the invention improves upon the state of the art by allowing a user to download only the PLATFORM.CFG file and the archived database (two files from a typically large set of files) for the product release to obtain a significant amount of information that would otherwise be unavailable in today's state of the art systems. This information includes complete reporting of all installed components, features, dependencies, interfaces, their version numbers, and any other information that can be obtained from the standard database.

In addition to providing control to the developer using this system, the database of information collected from the codebase can be used for a variety of purposes,

including source library quality management. Many errors in the system are viewable before files are compiled. All dependencies and definitions of the codebase and corresponding versions are captured, allowing for determination of codebase coherency. Reports of all functions not referenced prevents dead code from existing in the codebase. Reports of dependencies not available in the library with compatible version numbers is a valuable tool.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM MACROS USED IN THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The Procedure and Label Declaration Macros consist of the PUBLIC_PROC, PRIVATE_PROC, END_PROC, PUBLIC_LABEL, PRIVATE_LABEL and FBM_LABEL.

The PUBLIC_PROC macro marks the start of a procedure that can be called from other components. It must be matched with an END_PROC macro. Its parameters are name, version and an optional INTERCEPT keyword. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The version parameter consists of major and minor version numbers separated by a period. Callers with different major version number are incompatible. Callers with the same major version number but greater minor version numbers are incompatible. Increasing the minor version number implies backwards compatibility. The optional INTERCEPT parameter indicates that the product component linker will fixup callers to call this procedure if there are multiple definitions.

The PRIVATE_PROC macro marks the start of a procedure that can be called only from within the component. It must be matched with an END_PROC macro. Its parameters are name, scope keyword and an optional version. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The scope keyword parameter must be NEAR or FAR. The optional version parameter is needed only if the private procedure is defined outside of the component, such as a shared file or oem hook. If specified, it is the same as the version parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro described above.

The END_PROC macro marks the end of a procedure and has no parameters. It must be matched with a preceding PUBLIC_PROC or PRIVATE_PROC macro.

The PUBLIC_LABEL macro creates a label that can be used from other components for code execution, for example, creating fixed entry points. Its parameters are name, version and an optional INTERCEPT keyword. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual entry point name, separated by periods. The version parameter is the same as the version parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro described above. The optional INTERCEPT parameter indicates that the product component linker will fixup callers to call this entry point if there are multiple definitions.

The PRIVATE_LABEL macro creates a label that can be used only from within the component for code execution, for example, creating fixed entry points. Its parameters are name and an optional version. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual entry point name, separated by periods. The optional version parameter is needed only if the private entry point is defined outside of the component, such as a shared file or oem hook. If specified, it is the same as the version parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro described above.

The FBL_LABEL macro specifies future binary manipulation (FBM) by the product component linker and does not generate any code. It informs the scan utilities and the product component linker that the label represents data generated by the binary linker at build time. The single name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual entry point name, separated by periods.

The External Reference macros consist of the PUBEXT, PRVEXT, EXTCALL, EXTJMP, EXTPTR, LOADADDR, LOADOFF, LOADSEG, EXTREF and EVALREF macros.

The PUBEXT macro declares an external reference to a public procedure, public label, public list or public list entry. Its parameters are name, version and the optional parameters attribute keyword or component name, altname and altversion. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual entry point name, separated by periods. The version parameter is the same as the version parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro described above. When the optional third parameter is the keyword OPTIONAL, references to the label will be removed if the

specified label does not exist. When the optional third parameter is the keyword SUBSTITUTE, the hexadecimal value FFFFFFFF (far) or FFFF(near) will be used if the specified label does not exist. When the optional third parameter is the keyword ALTERNATE, the fourth parameter is the altname to use if name is not defined and the fifth parameter is the version number of the altname procedure. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to call the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional third parameter.

The PRVEXT macro declares an external reference to a private procedure or label. Its parameters are name, scope keyword, version and the optional parameters attribute keyword, altname and altversion. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual entry point name, separated by periods. The scope parameter consists of the keyword NEAR or FAR. The version parameter is the same as the version parameter of the PUBLIC_PROC macro described above or the keyword NO_VER. The version is specified only if the label is defined outside of the component, such as a shared file or override.. When the optional fourth parameter is the keyword OPTIONAL, references to the label will be removed if the specified label does not exist. When the optional fourth parameter is the keyword SUBSTITUTE, the hexadecimal value FFFFFFFF (far) or FFFF(near) will be used if the specified label does not exist. When the optional fourth parameter is the keyword ALTERNATE, the fifth parameter is the altname to use if name is not defined and the sixth parameter is the version number of the altname procedure.

The EXTCALL macro is used to call a public or private procedure and must be used with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are name, optional codetext string and optional component name. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The optional codetext string contains an instruction to be executed after the call has returned. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to call the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional third parameter.

The EXTJMP macro jumps to a public or private procedure and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are name, an optional register name, an optional codetext string and an optional component name. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The optional register name specifies the 16-bit register that will hold the return address. The optional codetext string contains an instruction to be executed after the call has returned. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to call the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional fourth parameter.

The EXTPTR macro allocates a pointer to a procedure or a label and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are name and an optional component name. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to point to the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional second parameter.

The LOADADDR macro loads the address of a procedure or a label into registers and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are name, an optional segmentreg, an optional offsetreg and an optional component name. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The optional segmentreg parameter specifies the 16-bit register to hold the segment portion of the address (default is ES). The optional offsetreg parameter specifies the 16-bit register to hold the offset portion of the address (default is DI). When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to load the address of the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional fourth parameter.

The LOADOFF macro loads the offset of a public or private label into a 16-bit register and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT

macro. Its parameters are offsetreg, name and an optional component name. The offsetreg parameter names the 16-bit register that will hold the offset (default DI). The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to load the address of the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional fourth parameter.

The LOADSEG macro loads the segment of a public or private label into a 16-bit register and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are segmentreg, name and an optional component name. The segmentreg parameter names the 16-bit register that will hold the segment (default DI). The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to load the address of the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional fourth parameter.

The EXTREF macro is used to fixup a structure member to contain the address of a public or private label and must be used in conjunction with a preceding PUBEXT or PRVEXT macro. Its parameters are name, an optional strucMem name, an optional component name and an optional FORWARD_REFERENCE keyword. The name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual procedure name, separated by periods. The optional strucMem name identifies the structure member to fixup if fixup is far. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes to fixup the address of the original procedure, the name of the original component is specified as the optional third parameter. The optional FORWARD_REFERENCE keyword causes the macro to use a forward referenced anonymous label to calculate offset.

The EVALREF macro allows the address of a label to be used within an instruction. Its parameters are opcode, destination and source. The opcode parameter is the name of the instruction to be generated. The destination parameter specifies a register, label or procedure and the source parameter specifies a register, immediate

value, procedure or label. The procedure or label in the destination or source parameter must be defined using an EXTREF macro enclosed in angle brackets (< >) inline with the EVALREF macro.

The Include File Declaration macros are PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START,
5 PRIVATE_INCLUDE_START, PRVINC and PUBINC.

The PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START macro declares the start of an include file that can be used by other components. Its parameters are classheirarchy and version. The classheirarchy parameter is the class name and zero or more subclass names seperated by periods. The version parameter is the major and minor version numbers of the
10 interface defined by the include file seperated by a period.

The PRIVATE_INCLUDE_START macro declares the start of an include file that can only be used within the current component. Its parameters are classheirarchy and an optional version. The classheirarchy parameter is the class name and zero or more subclass names seperated by periods. The version parameter is the major and
15 minor version numbers of the interface defined by the include file seperated by a period and is used only if the include file resides outside of the component, such as a shared include file.

The PRVINC macro includes a private include file. Its parameters are classheirarchy, filename and an optional version. The classheirarchy parameter is the
20 class name and zero or more subclass names seperated by periods. The filename paramater is the name of the include file. The version parameter is the major and minor version numbers of the interface defined by the include file seperated by a period and is used only if the include file resides outside of the component, such as a shared include file.

The PUBINC macro includes a public include file. Its parameters are classheirarchy, filename and version. The classheirarchy parameter is the class name and zero or more subclass names seperated by periods. The filename paramater is the name of the include file. The version parameter is the major and minor version
25 numbers of the interface defined by the include file seperated by a period.

The Procedure Header macros are DESCRIPTION, INPUT:, OUTPUT:,
30 MODIFIED:, MEM, REG, NONE and OEM_HOOK. None of these macros generate any code, their purpose is to identify the location and type of information describing the

procedure defined by the preceding PUBLIC_PROC or PRIVATE_PROC macro when the source file is scanned.

The Segment Macros are CODE_SEGMENT_OPEN,
DATA_SEGMENT_OPEN, ASSUME_CODE_SEGMENT,
5 ASSUME_DATA_SEGMENT and SEGMENT_CLOSE.

The CODE_SEGMENT_OPEN macro marks the opening of a code segment that must be closed using the SEGMENT_CLOSE macro. Its parameter is an expression of attribute keywords combined using plus (+) that determines the placement and
“lifetime” of the code that follows.

10 The DATA_SEGMENT_OPEN macro marks the opening of a data segment that must be closed using the SEGMENT_CLOSE macro. Its parameter is an expression of attribute keywords combined using plus (+) that determines the placement and
“lifetime” of the data that follows.

The ASSUME_CODE_SEGMENT macro forces the assembler to assume that
15 the specified segment register points to the code segment that contains the specified attributes. Its parameters are the segment register to make the assumption about and an expression of attribute keywords combined using plus (+) that specifies the attributes.

The ASSUME_DATA_SEGMENT macro forces the assembler to assume that
20 the specified segment register points to the data segment that contains the specified attributes. Its parameters are the segment register to make the assumption about and an expression of attribute keywords combined using plus (+) that specifies the attributes.

The SEGMENT_CLOSE macro marks the end of a code or data segment that must have been opened by a preceding CODE_SEGMENT_OPEN or
DATA_SEGMENT_OPEN macro.

25 The Option macros are OPTTEXT, OPTCHK, LOADOPT, DB_OPT, DW_OPT and DD_OPT.

The OPTTEXT macro declares a reference to an option from another component or feature that was declared in the component or feature’s information file. Its
parameters are name and an optional component name. The name parameter is made up
30 of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual option name, separated by periods. When calls to a procedure are intercepted by a second procedure defined as a PUBLIC_PROC with the optional INTERCEPT parameter and this procedure wishes

to reference an option of the original component or feature, the name of the original component is specified as the optional second parameter.

The OPTCHK macro tests the specified option (which must have been declared with a preceding OPTTEXT macro) with the specified condition and value. If true, the truecodetext is executed; otherwise the falsecodetext is executed. Its parameters are optionname, condition keyword, value, truecodetext and an optional falsecodetext. The optionname parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual option name, separated by periods. The condition keyword is one of LE, LT, GE, GT, NE or EQ with the usual and customary meaning. The value parameter is a constant. The truecodetext parameter contains code to be executed if the condition is true and the optional falsecodetext parameter contains code to be executed if the condition is false.

The LOADOPT macro loads the specified destination with the specified option's value. The option must have been previously declared with the OPTTEXT macro. Its parameters are destination and optionname. The destination parameter specifies the memory location or register to hold the option's value and must be less or equal to the option size. The optionname parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual option name, separated by periods.

The DB_OPT, DW_OPT and DD_OPT macros place a byte, word or double word, respectively, in the current segment containing the value of the specified option that must have been previously declared with the OPTTEXT macro. The option name parameter is made up of a class name, zero or more subclass names and the actual option name, separated by periods.

LINE-BY-LINE DESCRIPTION OF THE MACROS

The identifiers that name macros, macro parameters and macro variables in the description of the macros in the preferred embodiment of the present invention that follows, may begin with an upper case (A-Z) or lower case (a-z) letter or a question mark (?) followed by zero or more letters, digits (0-9), underscore (_) or question mark characters. Macro variable names that begin with three question marks (???) distinguish those variables that are defined and referenced solely within the macros. Macro variables referenced within a macro statement are normally replaced with their

current contents. When the macro statement begins with a percent (%), macro variables are replaced with their current contents as normal; then, after replacement, any identifier naming a macro variable that remains is replaced with its current value.

Strings are delimited by less than (<) and greater than (>) signs.

5 IF statements indicate a condition that, if true, cause macro statements up to the matching ELSE or ENDIF statement to be evaluated. ELSE statements cause macro statements up to the matching ENDIF statement to be evaluated if the preceding IF statement was false. The ELSE statement may be combined with an IF to indicate that macro statements up to the matching ENDIF statement are to be evaluated if the
10 preceding IF statement was false and the ELSEIF statement is true. Some of the If statements are: IFE expression – if expression is equal to zero, IFNB <string> ----- if string is not blank, IFDEF variable – if variable is defined, IF expression – if expression is true, IFIDN <string1> , <string2> - if string1 is identical to string2, and IFDIF <string1> , <string2> - if string1 is different than string2.

15 1. Exit Macros

The Exit macros are EXTCALL and EXTJMP described here and ROMCALL described in Section 4. The Exit macros identify points where the flow of control exits the current procedure, goes to the procedure identified by the exit macro and later returns.

20 DEFINE_PREFIX TEXTEQU <D_>
PROC_PREFIX TEXTEQU <P_>

These two textual equates define global macro variables containing the character string prefixes that will be used in the macros that follow.

1.1 EXTCALL macro

25 The EXTCALL macro is used by the present invention to call a public procedure in a different component or a private procedure in the current component. The code generated by the EXTCALL macro depends on the Exit Declaration macro and Entry Definition macro for its procedureName that are scanned by the present invention. The information from these macros in turn, is used to generate a global
30 macro variable for the procedureName in the feature include file produced by the

present invention and included in each source code file that indicates what code, if any, should be generated.

```

EXTCALL MACRO procedureName:REQ, optionalCode, component
    BRANCH_HANDLER    procedureName, call, < optionalCode > , ,
5    < component >
    ENDM

```

The EXTCALL macro generates a call instruction, fixup data for build, and optional code if supplied. Usage: "EXTCALL pci.oprom.init, <jc exit>". Its parameters are:

- 10 procedureName (required) - Name of procedure to be called in dot notation, e.g. "class.subclass.procedure";
- optionalCode - Optional code to assemble, typically a jump on the carry flag set by the procedure; and
- component - May be used to specify the name of the component in which the
- 15 procedure is defined when multiple components define the same procedureName.

The EXTCALL macro is implemented by invoking the BRANCH_HANDLER macro with the appropriate parameters. Note that the fourth parameter of the BRANCH_HANDLER macro is deliberately omitted.

20 1.2 EXTJMP macro

The EXTJMP macro is used by the present invention to call a public procedure in a different component or a private procedure in the current component. The code generated by the EXTJMP macro depends on the Exit Declaration macro and Entry Definition macro for its procedureName that are scanned by the present invention. The

25 information from these macros in turn, is used to generate a global macro variable for the procedureName in the feature include file produced by the present invention and included in each source code file that indicates what code, if any, should be generated.

```

EXTJMP MACRO procedureName:REQ, register, optionalCode, component
    BRANCH_HANDLER procedureName, jmp, < optionalCode > ,
30    < register > , < component >
    ENDM

```


The EXTJMP macro is used to call a public or private procedure. It generates a jump instruction, fixup data for build, and optional code if supplied. Usage: "EXTJMP pci.oprom.init, <jc exit> ". Its parameters are:

procedureName (required) - Name of procedure to be called in dot notation, e.g.

5 "class.subclass.procedure";

register - Optional register to hold the return address.

optionalCode - Optional code to assemble, typically a jump on the carry flag set by the procedure; and

10 component - May be used to specify the name of the component in which the procedure is defined when multiple components define the same procedureName.

The EXTJMP macro is implemented by invoking the BRANCH_HANDLER macro with the appropriate parameters.

1.3 BRANCH_HANDLER macro

15 The BRANCH_HANDLER macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

BRANCH_HANDLER MACRO externName:REQ, branchInstruction:REQ, \
optionalCode, register, component

The BRANCH_HANDLER macro is used to call a public or private procedure.

20 The backslash (\) at the end of the first line specifies line continuation. Its parameters are:

externName (required) - Name of external procedure to be called in dot notation, e.g. "class.subclass.procedure";

branchInstruction (required) - A call or jmp;

25 optionalCode - Optional code to assemble, typically a jump on the carry flag set by the called procedure;

register - Register containing return address offset; and

30 component - May be used to specify the name of the component in which the procedure is defined when multiple components define the same procedureName.

LOCAL ???addr

LOCAL ???retAddr

```

LOCAL    ???defineName
LOCAL    ???procedureName
LOCAL    ???extern

```

These are local variables used by the macro.

5 GET_SYMBOL_NAME <externName> , <component>

The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro returns externName (or component.externName, if specified) in global variable ???symbol with dots (.) replaced by underbars (_); e.g. <pci.oprom.init> is returned as pci_oprom_init.

10 ???defineName CATSTR DEFINE_PREFIX, ???symbol
 ???procedureName CATSTR PROC_PREFIX, ???symbol

If externName is pci.oprom.init; then ???defineName is D_pci_oprom_init and ???procedureName is P_pci_oprom_init.

15 IFNB <component>
 IFNB <optionalCode>
 .ERR <BRANCH_HANDLER: Cannot specify optionalCode with
 component>
 ENDIF
 ENDIF

20 Generate an error if both the component and optionalCode parameters are
 specified.

25 %IFDEF ???defineName
 % IF ((???defineName EQ TRUE) OR (???defineName EQ FALSE))
 % .ERR <BRANCH_HANDLER: The name '!externName!' has not been
 PUBEXT or PRVEXT >
 ENDIF

30 Verify that the externName (pci.oprom.init) has been declared using a PUBEXT
 or PRVEXT macro. This will cause the system to define a global variable
 (D_pci_oprom_init) and give it a value, neither TRUE nor FALSE, indicating its type.
 The percent character (%) at the beginning of each line causes the IF statements to
 reference the value of the global variable specified by ???defineName.

```
% IFE ???defineName AND TYPE_SUBSTITUTE
```

If the value of the global variable specified by local variable ???defineName does not have the TYPE_SUBSTITUTE bit set, externName was not declared with the SUBSTITUTE attribute and code can be generated.

```
%   IFE ???defineName AND TYPE_NOT_INSTALLED
```

5 If the TYPE_NOT_INSTALLED bit is not set, the component or feature containing the definition of externName was included in the build and code can be generated.

```
10            IFNB <register>
              mov register, ???retAddr
          ENDIF
```

Load the return address offset into the register if one was specified.

```
15            %   IF ???defineName AND TYPE_NEAR
              %   GET_SYMBOL_NAME ???procedureName
              %   ???extern CATSTR <???symbol>
              %   branchInstruction ???extern
```

20 If the TYPE_NEAR bit is set, generate the branchInstruction (call or jmp) as a near branch. If the name parameter is pci.oprom.init then ???procedureName contains P_pci_oprom_init, the name of the global variable defined by the PUBEXT macro containing the name of this procedure. The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro is passed the value of this global variable (typically pci.oprom.init) so the PUBEXT macro can use an alternate procedure name when required. The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro returns the ???procedureName in global variable ???symbol with dots (.) replaced by underbars (_); e.g. <pci.oprom.init> is returned as pci_oprom_init, the name of the procedure defined by the PUBLIC_PROC macro.

```
25            ELSE
              IFIDNI <branchInstruction>, <call>
              DB 09Ah                   ; Opcode for far call
              ELSEIFIDNI <branchInstruction>, <jmp>
              DB 0EAh                   ; Opcode for far jump
30            ELSE
              %        .ERR <BRANCH_HANDLER: Unknown branch instruction
              !'branchInstruction!'>
              ENDIF
              ???addr EQU $
35            DW $
              DW $
```

Generate far call (or jmp) code with a procedure address to be fixed up later. An error is generated if the branchInstruction parameter did not contain what was expected. Note the physical address of the fixup location (???addr) will be stored within the fixup location itself. The build tools will use the stored fixup address (referring back to itself) as a sanity check.

```

    %    SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA ???procedureName, TYPE_EXT_FAR,
    ???addr, , component
    ENDIF

```

Call the SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA macro to save the fixup data for this external reference (see below). The percent character (%) at the beginning of the line causes the procedure name (pci.oprom.init) stored in the global variable specified by ???procedureName (P_pci_oprom_init) to be saved as the target of the branch.

```

    ???retAddr EQU $

```

Define the return address that was loaded into a register above.

```

    IFNB <optionalCode>
        optionalCode
    ENDIF
ENDIF

```

Generate optionalCode if it exists.

```

    ELSE
        .ERR <BRANCH_HANDLER: Cannot use the SUBSTITUTE attribute with
calls/jumps>
    ENDIF

```

Generate an error if the TYPE_SUBSTITUTE bit was set.

```

    ELSE
        % .ERR <BRANCH_HANDLER: '!externName!' is not defined>
    ENDIF

```

Generate an error if the global variable specified by ???defineName (D_pci_oprom_init) was not defined.

```

    ENDM

```

End the macro and return to its caller.

1.4 SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA macro

The `SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA` macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```
5      SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA MACRO callProcedure:REQ, fixupType:REQ,  
      addr:REQ, \  
                                     addrOffset, component
```

The `SAVE_EXT_FIXUP_DATA` macro is an internal macro used to save the fixup data specified by its parameters in a specially named segment. Its parameters are:

10 **callProcedure** (required) - Procedure name;
 fixupType (required) - Fixup type, e.g. TYPE_EXT_FAR;
 addr (required) - Address of fixup;
 addrOffset - Address of offset if offset fixup is split from segment fixup; and
 component - may be used to specify the name of the component in which the
 15 procedure is defined when multiple components define the same
 procedureName.

The macro generates the following structure:

	DB	procedure name	
	DB	0	
20	DB	component name	
	DB	0	
	DB	fixup type	
	DW	offset of offset fixup	
	DW	offset of segment fixup	
25	DW	segment for fixups	
	externSegment SEGMENT		
	DB	'&callProcedure'	; Procedure string
	DB	0	; Null terminate the string
	IFNB	< component >	
30	DB	'&component'	; Component to resolve to
	ENDIF		
	DB	0	; Null terminate the string
	DB	fixupType	; Fixup type
	IFNB	< addrOffset >	
35	DW	OFFSET addrOffset	; Offset of offset fixup
	ELSE		
	DW	OFFSET addr	
	ENDIF		

```

IFB <addrOffset>
    DW    OFFSET addr + 2          ; Offset of segment fixup
ELSE
    DW    OFFSET addr
5  ENDIF
    DW    SEG addr                ; Segment for fixups
externSegment ENDS
ENDM

```

10 The structure containing the external fixup data is put in a special segment. The
 callProcedure is stored as a null terminated string. If the component parameter is non-
 blank, it is also stored as a null terminated string. If the component parameter is blank,
 just the null terminator is stored. The null terminator is the ASCII character NUL
 which has the value zero and is used to indicate the end of a character string. If the
 addrOffset parameter is blank then the offset and segment to be fixed up are stored in
 15 adjacent words, at addr and addr+2, respectively; otherwise, addrOffset specifies the
 address of the offset to be fixed up and addr specifies the address of the segment to be
 fixed up.

The fixup data generated by each call to this macro is merged into a single
 externSegment when the source code files containing the calls are compiled, linked, and
 20 processed by the product component linker. The externSegment in each object file is
 merged into a single externSegment when the object files are linked to form the
 component .EXE file. The fixup data in the externSegment of each component .EXE
 file is used by the BIOS Component Linker to fixup the segment and offset of the
 external reference.

25 2. Exit Declaration Macros

2.1 PUBEXT macro

The PUBEXT macro is used by the present invention to declare the name of the
 public procedure that will be referenced by an Exit macro. The PUBEXT macro name
 and its parameters are scanned from the source file by the present invention. The
 30 information from this macro and the Entry Definition macro, is used to generate a
 global macro variable for the procedure name in the feature include file produced by the
 present invention and included in each source code file that indicates what code, if any,
 the Exit macro should generate.

PUBEXT MACRO name, version, attribute, altName, altVersion

The PUBEXT macro is used to declare an external reference to a public procedure or label. Usage: "PUBEXT memctrl.shadow.set, 1.0, OPTIONAL". Its parameters are:

- 5 name - Name of procedure or label in dot notation, e.g.
 "class.subclass.procedure";
- version - Major.minor version of the external interface;
- attribute -
- OPTIONAL -> Code is generated only if public procedure or label
 10 exists,
- ALTERNATE -> Use alternate reference if the public procedure or
 label does not exist,
- SUBSTITUTE -> Store 0FFFFh if public label is undefined, or
- component -> May be used to specify the name of the component in
 15 which the procedure is defined when multiple components define the
 same procedureName;
- altName - Name of alternate public procedure or label; and
- altVersion - Major.minor version of the alternate interface.
- 20 LOCAL ???defineName
 LOCAL ???attrib
 LOCAL ???component

These are local variables used by the macro.

???attrib CATSTR <attribute>

???component TEXTEQU < >

- 25 The overloaded attribute parameter contains an attribute keyword or component
 name. These two local variables are used to hold the attribute keyword and component
 name specified by the attribute parameter. Since the parameter is overloaded, one or
 the other will be blank. Initially, it is assumed that ???attrib contains an attribute
 keyword and that ???component is therefore blank.

- 30 IFNB <attribute>
 IFDIF <attribute>, <OPTIONAL>
 IFDIF <attribute>, <ALTERNATE>
 IFDIF <attribute>, <SUBSTITUTE>
 ???component CATSTR <attribute>

```

        ???attrib TEXTEQU < >
    ENDIF
    ENDIF
    ENDIF
5    ENDIF

```

Check if the overloaded attribute parameter is really a component name. If so, then ???component contains the component name and ???attrib is blank.

```

NAME_VER_CHECKER <name> , <version>
%ATTRIB_CHECKER ???attrib, <altName> , <altVersion>

```

10 The NAME_VER_CHECKER macro verifies that both the name and version parameters were specified. The ATTRIB_CHECKER macro verifies that if the ALTERNATE attribute was specified then both the altName and altVersion parameters were specified as well, or that if the ALTERNATE attribute was not specified then
15 neither the altName nor the altVersion parameter was present. These two macro calls will produce errors if each of the names does not have a corresponding major.minor version number. The version numbers are otherwise ignored by the generated code.

All the parameters from each call of the PUBEXT macro are scanned from the source file and entered in a database. This allows the BIOS Development System to compare the version of the actual procedure interface used by the procedure definition
20 with the version of the procedure interface declared in the PUBEXT macro call and used in the source code file containing the macro call. Since the version numbers of both the procedure declaration and definition are stored in a database, the system can determine if the interfaces are compatible by comparing version numbers before compilation.

25 %GET_EXT_NAME name, ???attrib, altName, ???component

Set bits in the global variable specified by ???defineName to indicate that the public procedure or label has been declared by a PUBEXT macro call and is defined or is to be handled according to the attribute specified. See description below.

```

30    GET_SYMBOL_NAME name
    ???defineName CATSTR DEFINE_PREFIX, ???symbol

```

The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro returns name in global variable ???symbol with dots (.) replaced by underbars (_); e.g. <memctrl.shadow.set> is returned as

memctrl_shadow_set. If name is memctrl.shadow.set; then ???defineName is
D_memctrl_shadow_set.

```
%IFDEF ???defineName
% ???defineName = ???defineName OR TYPE_PUBLIC
ENDIF
```

5

If the global variable containing the various type bits for this procedure is defined, set the TYPE_PUBLIC bit to indicate that it is a public procedure.

The BIOS Development System generates a feature include file that is included by each source code file contained in the source library. It defines a global variable
10 ???defineName, e.g D_memctrl_shadow_set, for each procedure declared by a PUBEXT macro containing various type bits. For instance, if the procedure is declared to be OPTIONAL and the procedure definition is not included in the build then the system will define the global variable with a TYPE_NOT_INSTALLED bit indicating that no code is to be generated for its calls (see the BRANCH_HANDLER macro
15 above).

ENDM

End the macro and return to its caller.

2.2 GET_EXT_NAME macro

The GET_EXT_NAME macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary
20 function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

GET_EXT_NAME MACRO name:REQ, attribute, altName, component

The GET_EXT_NAME macro determines the name of the global variable declared by a PUBEXT macro call and sets bits in it to indicate that the public procedure or label has been declared and is defined or is to be handled according to the
25 attribute specified. Its parameters are:

name (required) - Name of procedure or label in dot notation, e.g.

"class.subclass.procedure";

attribute -

OPTIONAL -> Code is generated only if public procedure or label

exists,

30

ALTERNATE -> Use alternate reference if the public procedure or label does not exist, or

SUBSTITUTE -> Store 0FFFFh if public label is undefined;

altName - Name of alternate public procedure or label; and

5 component -> May be used to specify the name of the component in which the procedure is defined when multiple components define the same procedureName.

10 LOCAL ???defineName
LOCAL ???publicName
LOCAL ???tempDefineName

These are local variables used by the macro.

IFNB <attribute>
IFDIF <attribute>, <OPTIONAL>
IFDIF <attribute>, <ALTERNATE>
15 IFDIF <attribute>, <SUBSTITUTE>
.ERR <GET_EXT_NAME: Invalid !attribute supplied>
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
20 ENDIF

Validate the attribute parameter if non-blank.

GET_SYMBOL_NAME <name>, <component>
???defineName CATSTR DEFINE_PREFIX, ???symbol

25 The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro returns externName (or component.externName, if specified) in global variable ???symbol with dots (.) replaced by underbars (_); e.g. <pci.oprom.init> is returned as pci_oprom_init. If name is pci.oprom.init; then ???defineName is D_pci_oprom_init.

%IFDEF ???defineName

30 If the global variable whose name is specified by ???defineName is defined by the build tools set bits in the global variable to specify the type of the procedure declared.

% IF ???defineName EQ TRUE

If the global variable whose name is specified by ???defineName has the value TRUE, the procedure was included in the build and can be called.

```

    ???publicName CATSTR PROC_PREFIX, ???symbol
%   ???publicName TEXTEQU <name>
5   %   ???defineName = ???defineName OR TYPE_TRUE

```

Construct the name of the global variable that will contain the name of the procedure to be called and store the string <name> in it. If name is pci.oprom.init; then ???publicName is P_pci_oprom_init which contains the string <pci.oprom.init>. Set the TYPE_TRUE bit in the global variable whose name is specified by ???defineName.

```
% ELSEIF ???defineName EQ FALSE
```

If the global variable whose name is specified by ???defineName has the value FALSE, the procedure was not included in the build and its type is determined by the attribute it was declared with.

```

15   IFIDN <attribute>, <SUBSTITUTE>
%   ???defineName = ???defineName OR TYPE_SUBSTITUTE
    ELSEIFIDN <attribute>, <OPTIONAL>
%   ???defineName = ???defineName OR TYPE_NOT_INSTALLED OR
TYPE_OPTIONAL

```

20 If the SUBSTITUTE or OPTIONAL attribute was specified, set the appropriate bits.

```

    ELSEIFIDN <attribute>, <ALTERNATE>
    ???publicName CATSTR PROC_PREFIX, ???symbol
    GET_SYMBOL_NAME altName
25   ???tempDefineName CATSTR DEFINE_PREFIX, ???symbol

```

If the ALTERNATE attribute was specified, construct the name of the global variable that will contain the name of the procedure to be called.

Construct the name of the global variable that contains the type bits for the altName.

```

30   %   IFDEF ???tempDefineName
%   IFE ???tempDefineName AND TYPE_RESERVED_TRUE
    .ERR <GET_EXT_NAME: '!altName!' is not in the build>
    ENDIF
    ELSE
35   .ERR <GET_EXT_NAME: '!altName!' is not defined>

```

ENDIF

If the global variable containing the type bits for altName is not defined or it is defined but the TYPE_RESERVED_TRUE bit is not set, produce an error.

```
5      %   ???publicName CATSTR <altName>
      %   ???defineName = ???defineName OR TYPE_ALTERNATE
      ENDIF
```

Set the name of the procedure to be called to <altName> and set the TYPE_ALTERNATE bit in the global variable containing the type bits.

```
10     % ELSE
      %   .ERR <GET_EXT_NAME: !'name!' was already qualified with PUBEXT
or PRVEXT>
      ENDIF
```

```
15     The global variable containing the type bits did not have the value TRUE or
      FALSE so generate an error.
```

```
      ELSE
      .ERR <GET_EXT_NAME: !'name!' was not picked up by the build tools>
      ENDIF
```

```
20     The global variable containing the type bits was not defined so generate an
      error.
```

ENDM

End the macro and return to its caller.

3. Entry Definition Macros

3.1 PUBLIC_PROC macro

```
25     The PUBLIC_PROC macro is used by the present invention to generate a PROC
statement defining a public procedure that will be referenced by an Exit macro. The
PUBLIC_PROC macro name and its parameters are scanned from the source file by the
present invention. The information from this macro and the Exit Declaration macro is
used to generate a global macro variable for the procedure name in the feature include
30 file produced by the present invention and included in each source code file that
indicates what code, if any, the Exit macro should generate.
```

PUBLIC_PROC MACRO procedureName:REQ, version: = <MISSING> ,
attrib

The PUBLIC_PROC macro defines a procedure that can be called from other components. Usage: "PUBLIC_PROC pci.oprom.init, 1.3" Its parameters are:

- 5 procedureName (required) - Name of procedure in dot notation, e.g.
 "class.subclass.procedure";
 version - Major.minor procedure interface version number, it is given the value
 <MISSING> by default so that a missing version number can be
 detected; and
10 attrib - INTERCEPT, tells the BIOS Development System to call this procedure
 if there are multiple definitions of the same procedureName in the
 configuration.

It leaves the global variable ???procedureName containing the name of the procedure.

15 LOCAL ???addr
 LOCAL ???procName
 LOCAL ???error
 LOCAL ???procType

These are local variables used by the macro.

20 ???error = FALSE
IFDEF ???procedureName
 IFNB ???procedureName
 % .ERR <PUBLIC_PROC: The procedure ???procedureName is open>
 ???error = TRUE
25 ENDIF
 ENDIF

If an existing procedure has not been closed, generate an error. The local variable ???error, set FALSE initially, is used to indicate that an existing procedure has not been closed to prevent the generation of another PROC statement that would cause
30 additional more ambiguous errors.

 IFIDNI <version> , <MISSING>
 .ERR <PUBLIC_PROC: !Version information missing>
 ENDIF
 IFNB <attrib>
35 IFDIF <attrib> , <INTERCEPT>
 % .ERR <PUBLIC_PROC: !'attrib!' is an invalid attribute>

ENDIF
ENDIF

Verify that a version parameter was specified and validate the attribute parameter.

5 IFE ???error

If no errors were detected, define the procedure.

GET_SYMBOL_NAME procedureName
???procedureName CATSTR ???symbol

10 The GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro returns procedureName in global variable
???symbol with dots (.) replaced by underbars (_); e.g. <pci.oprom.init> is returned
as pci_oprom_init. Set the global variable ???procedureName to the procedure name
for the assembler to resolve. If procedureName is pci.oprom.init; then
???procedureName is pci_oprom_init.

15 % ???procedureName PROC FAR PRIVATE
 ???addr EQU \$

Create the public procedure and get its location so calls from other components
can be fixed up.

20 IFIDN <attrib> , <INTERCEPT>
 ???procType TEXTEQU <TYPE_PUBLIC_INT_PROC>
 ELSE
 ???procType TEXTEQU <TYPE_PUBLIC_PROC>
 ENDIF

25 Setup ???procType for the fixup data to indicate whether this is a normal public
(inter-component) procedure or a special procedure that intercepts calls to the normal
procedure with the same name.

 % SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA procedureName, ???procType, ???addr

Call the SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA macro (described below) to save the
fixup data.

30 ENDIF
 ENDM

End the macro and return to its caller.

3.2 SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA macro

The SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

5 SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA MACRO publicLabel, publicType, addr

The SAVE_PUBLIC_FIXUP_DATA macro is an internal macro used to save the fixup data specified by its parameters in a specially named segment. Its parameters are:

publicLabel - Public symbol name in dot notation, e.g.
 10 "class.subclass.procedure";
 publicType - Public symbol type (Enumerated equate); and
 addr - Address of the public symbol.

```

publicSegment SEGMENT
    DB    '&publicLabel'          ; Public string
15      DB    0                    ; Null terminate the string
    DB    publicType              ; Public type
    DW    OFFSET addr             ; Fixup offset
    DW    SEG addr                ; Fixup segment
publicSegment ENDS
  
```

20 The fixup data generated by each call to this macro is merged into a single publicSegment when the source code files containing the calls are compiled, linked, and processed by the product component linker. The publicSegment in each object file is merged into a single publicSegment when the object files are linked to form the component .EXE file. The fixup data in the publicSegment of each component .EXE
 25 file is used by the BIOS Component Linker to fixup the segment and offset of each external reference.

ENDM

End the macro and return to its caller.

3.3 END_PROC macro

30 The END_PROC macro is used by the present invention to do some error checking before marking the end of the procedure begun by the preceeding

PUBLIC_PROC macro with an ENDP directive (i.e., command) required by the assembler.

END_PROC MACRO

The END_PROC macro defines the end of a public procedure.

```
5      IFNDEF ???procedureName
      .ERR <PROC_END: No procedure defined>
      ELSE
      .ERRB ???procedureName, <END_PROC: No procedure currently open>
```

```
10     The global variable ???procedureName contains the name of the current
      procedure. Generate an error if no procedure is defined or no procedure is currently
      open.
```

```
      IFNB ???procedureName
      %   ???procedureName ENDP
      ???procedureName TEXTEQU <>
15     ENDIF
```

If a procedure is currently open, generate an ENDP statement for that procedure and set the global variable ???procedureName to a null string.

```
      ENDIF
      ENDM
```

```
20     End the macro and return to its caller.
```

4. ROM Stack Macros

4.1 CREATE_ROM_STACK macro

```
25     The CREATE_ROM_STACK macro is used by the present invention to create a
      ROM stack. The ROM stack is a mechanism for returning to a caller in a different
      segment while minimizing the impact on memory. It may be used in code that executes
      when the processor is first powered on since no Random Access Memory is then
      available to store the return address until that memory has been initialized.
```

CREATE_ROM_STACK MACRO

```
30     The CREATE_ROM_STACK macro creates the ROM stack and provides a
      small dispatcher to return to the caller. Register BP is used as the offset to return to.
```

```
      LOCAL      returnDispatcher
```


LOCAL romStackLabel

These are local variables used by the macro.

%romStackLabel CATSTR <romStack> , <???currSegmentName>

Create the name of the romStackLabel from the string <romStack> and the
5 current segment name.

```
%     PUBLIC      romStackLabel
%romStackLabel LABEL BYTE
         DW    OFFSET returnDispatcher
         DW    SEG returnDispatcher
```

10 Define the name of the romStackLabel as an externally visible name containing
the far address of returnDispatcher in the current code segment.

```
returnDispatcher:
%     mov    sp, OFFSET romStackLabel
         jmp    bp
```

15 The returnDispatcher resets the stack pointer register to point to the top of the
ROM stack and branches to the return address offset stored in the BP register.

ENDM

20 The ROM stack is a mechanism for returning to a caller in a different segment
while minimizing the impact on memory. It may be used in code that executes when
the processor is first powered on since no Random Access Memory is then available to
store the return address until that memory has been initialized.

25 The CREATE_ROM_STACK macro is called to create a ROM stack in the
current code segment. The INIT_ROM_STACK macro is called to initialize the stack
registers, SS and SP, to point to the ROM stack in the current code segment. The
ROMCALL macro generates a far jmp instruction after the offset of the return address
in the current code segment is saved in the BP register.

30 The called procedure preserves the BP register and returns with a normal far
return instruction that pops the address of returnDispatcher off of the ROM stack, thus
returning to the current code segment. The returnDispatcher code resets the stack
pointer and uses the BP register to return to the caller.

4.2 INIT_ROM_STACK macro

The INIT_ROM_STACK macro is used by the present invention to initialize the stack registers to point to the ROM stack in the current code segment. The ROM stack is a mechanism for returning to a caller in a different segment while minimizing the impact on memory. It may be used in code that executes when the processor is first powered on since no Random Access Memory is then available to store the return address until that memory has been initialized.

INIT_ROM_STACK MACRO

The INIT_ROM_STACK macro initializes the stack registers, SS and SP, to point to the ROM stack in the current code segment.

```
LOCAL    romStackLabel
```

This is a local variable used by the macro.

```
%romStackLabel CATSTR <romStack> , <???currSegmentName>
```

Create the name of the romStackLabel from the string <romStack> and the current segment name.

```
%    EXTERNDEF romStackLabel:NEAR
%    mov    sp, SEG romStackLabel
      mov    ss, sp
%    mov    sp, OFFSET romStackLabel
ENDM
```

Declare the name of the ROM stack in the current code segment as external and initialize the stack registers to point to it.

4.3 ROMCALL macro

The ROMCALL macro is used by the present invention to call a public procedure in a different component using the ROM stack. The code generated by the ROMCALL macro depends on the Exit Declaration macro and Entry Definition macro for its procedureName that are scanned by the present invention. The information from these macros in turn, is used to generate a global macro variable for the procedureName in the feature include file produced by the present invention and included in each source code file that indicates what code, if any, should be generated.

```

ROMCALL MACRO jRoutineName, codeText, jComponent
    EXTJMP jRoutineName, bp, codeText, jComponent
ENDM

```

The ROMCALL macro calls a far routine, jRoutineName, using the ROM stack.

5 It uses the EXTJMP macro to generate a far jmp instruction after saving the offset of the return address in the BP register.

5. List Macros

A List is an array of sorted, same-sized data structures (called List Entries), referenced by a List Name. One component (called the List Owner) creates the list, giving it a name and format and assigning the segment where the list will be placed in the ROM image. Any other component (including the List Owner) may add List Entries to the list using the List Name. The BIOS Component Linker collects all the Lists and List Entries, groups them by their List Names, sorts them and writes them out to the ROM image. The BIOS Component Linker also fixes up references to the Lists and List Entries.

5.1 LIST_CREATE macro

The LIST_CREATE macro is used by the present invention to create a list. It generates information to identify the list that will be picked up by the BIOS Component Linker part of the present invention that builds the list. The LIST_CREATE macro and its parameters are scanned by the present invention so they can be compared to the parameters of the LIST_START macros that define the entries of the list.

```
LIST_CREATE MACRO listName, listVersion, listSize, listAttribute
```

The LIST_CREATE macro creates a list. Its parameters are:

listName - Unique name to represent this list;

25 listVersion - Major.minor version number of list;

listSize - Size of list entry, may be the number of bytes, the name of a qualified type (BYTE, WORD, etc.), or a structure name; and

listAttribute - PUBLIC keyword.

Usage: "LIST_CREATE postList, 1.0, postTaskStruc".

```

30         LOCAL    ???entrySize
           LOCAL    ???listAttr

```

These are local variables used by the macro.

```

    ???entrySize = 0
    IFNB <listAttribute>
    IFIDN <listAttribute> , <PUBLIC>
5      ???listAttr = 1
      ELSE
      ???listAttr = 0
      % .ERR <LIST_CREATE: The attribute !'listAttribute!' is illegal>
      ENDIF
10     ELSE
      ???listAttr = 0
      ENDIF

```

Initialize ???entrySize. Validate the listAttribute, if specified, and translate it into a 1 (PUBLIC attribute) or 0 (no attribute).

```

15     IFNB <listSize>
      IF OPATTR listSize EQ 24h

```

Ensure the listSize is a structure, qualified type (BYTE, WORD, DWORD, etc...), or an immediate value. If not, generate an error in the ELSE statement.

```

      IF TYPE listSize NE 0
20      ???entrySize = SIZEOF (listSize)
      ELSE
      ???entrySize = listSize
      ENDIF
      ELSE
25      % .ERR <LIST_CREATE: !'listSize!' is not a structure, qualified type, or
      immediate value>
      ENDIF
      ENDIF

```

If listSize has a type, it is a structure or qualified type. The SIZEOF function will return the its size. Otherwise it is an immediate value (number) and no special processing is required.

```

      IFNB <listName>
      IFNB <listVersion>
      IFNB <listSize>
35      % SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA listName, ???currSegmentName,
      ???entrySize, listVersion, ???listAttr
      ELSE
      .ERR <LIST_CREATE: Size of list entry is missing>
      ENDIF
40     ELSE

```

```

        .ERR <LIST_CREATE: List version is missing>
    ENDIF
ELSE
    .ERR <LIST_CREATE: List name is missing>
5    ENDIF

```

Verify that the listName, listVersion, and listSize have all been specified. Call the SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA macro, described below, to save the list creation data. The global variable ???currSegmentName contains the name of current segment.

```

        ENDM

```

10 End the macro and return to its caller.

5.2 SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA macro

The SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```

15    SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA MACRO listName:REQ, listSegment:REQ, \
        entrySize:REQ, listVersion:REQ, listAttr:REQ

```

The SAVE_LIST_CREATE_DATA macro is an internal macro used to save the data needed to create a list specified by its parameters in a specially named segment. Its parameters are:

```

20    listName (required) - The name of the list;
    listSegment (required) - Segment name that the list lives in;
    entrySize (required) - Size of list entry;
    listVersion (required) - Version number of list; and
    listAttr (required) - 1 (PUBLIC attribute) or 0 (no attribute).

25    listDeclarationSegment SEGMENT
        DB    '&listName'        ; List Name
        DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
        DB    '&listSegment'    ; List Segment
        DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
30    DW    entrySize            ; Size of list entry
        DB    '&listVersion'    ; Version number
        DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
        DB    listAttr           ; List attributes
    listDeclarationSegment ENDS
35    ENDM

```

The list creation data generated by each call to this macro is merged into a single listDeclarationSegment when the code files containing the calls are compiled, linked, and processed by the product component linker. The listDeclarationSegment in each object file is merged into a single listDeclarationSegment when the object files are
 5 linked to form the component .EXE file. The list creation data in the listDeclarationSegment of each component .EXE file is used by the BIOS Component Linker to generate a list header. The listName will become a (PUBLIC) label, pointing to the list header in the specified segment of the final ROM image.

5.3 LIST_START macro

10 The LIST_START macro is used by the present invention to identify a list to which entries are to be added. The LIST_START macro and its parameters are scanned by the present invention so they can be compared to the parameters of the LIST_CREATE macro that created the list.

LIST_START MACRO listName, listVersion, listType, IOverridePriority

15 The LIST_START macro starts adding entries to the specified version of the specified list. It is used in conjunction with one or more LIST_ENTRY, LIST_DATA, and/or LIST_SORT macros to define the entries and a matching LIST_END macro to end the entries. Its parameters are:

listName - Unique name, declared by a LIST_CREATE macro call;

20 listVersion - Major.minor version number of list;

listType - Data type of list entry, may be the name of a qualified type (BYTE, WORD, etc.), or a structure name; and

IOverridePriority - List entry priority order (CORE, PRODUCT or

PLATFORM keyword). This specifies whether the list entries that

25 follow will replace existing list entries with the same name but lower

override priority. PLATFORM replaces PRODUCT, PRODUCT

replaces CORE and CORE replaces the default.

It initializes the global variables:

???listName - listName,

30 ???listType - listType, and

???listOverride - List entry priority order,
 and opens a specially named segment.

```

IFDEF ???listName
    ???listName CATSTR <LIST_UNDEFINED>
ENDIF

```

```

IFDIFI ???listName, <LIST_UNDEFINED>
5  % .ERR <LIST_START: List !'&???listName!' is already open>
ELSE
    IFB <listName>
        .ERR <LIST_START: List name is missing>
    ELSEIFB <listVersion>
10  .ERR <LIST_START: List version is missing>
    ELSEIFB <listType>
        .ERR <LIST_START: List type is missing>
    ELSE

```

Initialize global variable ???listName if necessary and perform some basic error

checking.

```

    ???listName CATSTR <listName>
    ???listType CATSTR <listType>

```

```

    IFNB <IOVERRIDEPriority>
    IFIDN <IOVERRIDEPriority>, <CORE>
20  ???listOverride CATSTR <0F0h>
    ELSEIFIDN <IOVERRIDEPriority>, <PRODUCT>
        ???listOverride CATSTR <80h>
    ELSEIFIDN <IOVERRIDEPriority>, <PLATFORM>
        ???listOverride CATSTR <010h>

```

```

25  ELSE
    % .ERR <LIST_START: Override priority type !'IOVERRIDEPriority!' is
invalid>
        ???listOverride CATSTR <0F0h>
    ENDIF
30  ELSE
        ???listOverride CATSTR <0FFh>
    ENDIF

```

No errors have been found so far. Initialize all global variables, translating the override priority into a numeric value. When two list entries are found in the build with the same name, this value allows the BIOS Component Linker to choose one. CORE has lowest priority, PRODUCT is higher and PLATFORM is highest.

```

    IF (OPATTR listType) NE 24h
    % .ERR <LIST_START: List type !'listType!' is not a structure or qualified
40  type>
        ???listType CATSTR <ERROR>
    ELSEIF TYPE listType EQ 0

```

```

        % .ERR <LIST_START: List type 'listType' is an immediate value - not a
        structure or qualified type >

```

```

        ???listType CATSTR <ERROR>

```

```

        ELSE

```

```

5         listEntrySegment SEGMENT

```

```

        ENDIF

```

```

        ENDIF

```

```

        ENDIF

```

```

        ENDM

```

10 Verify that listType is a valid structure or qualified type and open the segment listEntrySegment.

5.4 LIST_END macro

The LIST_END macro is used by the present invention to end a list to which entries have been added.

15 LIST_END MACRO

The LIST_END macro ends the entries for a list.

```

        IFDEF ???listName

```

```

            IFIDNI ???listName, <LIST_UNDEFINED>

```

20 LIST_END >

```

            ELSE

```

```

                listEntrySegment ENDS

```

```

                ???listName CATSTR <LIST_UNDEFINED>

```

```

            ENDIF

```

25 ELSE

```

            .ERR <LIST_END: A list has not been opened with LIST_START>

```

```

            ENDIF

```

```

            ENDM

```

30 Verify that the global variable ???listName specifies an open list. Close segment listEntrySegment and set ???listName to indicate a closed list.

The list entry data enclosed by this listEntrySegment is merged into a single listEntrySegment when the source code files containing these segment declarations are compiled, linked, and processed by the product component linker. The listEntrySegment in each object file is merged into a single listEntrySegment when the object files are linked to form the component .EXE file. The list entry data in the listEntrySegment of each component .EXE file is merged and sorted by the BIOS

Component Linker to generate a sorted list in the final ROM image with the list header specified by the LIST_CREATE macro that created the list.

5.5 LIST_ENTRY macro

The LIST_ENTRY macro is used by the present invention to define the entries to be added to a list.

LIST_ENTRY MACRO entryName, entryData, ePriority: = < 8000h > ,
eSortKey, listAttribute

The LIST_ENTRY macro creates a list entry by specifying the data to appear in the list and the information necessary to sort the entry. It must appear after a

LIST_START macro call and before a LIST_END macro call. Its parameters are:

entryName - Name of the individual list entry. Must be unique within the list;

entryData - The data, within (<) and (>), that will appear in the ROM image.

Structure data must be contained within additional curly braces ({) and
(});

ePriority - Number used to sort list entries with the same sort key. Low
numbers are placed ahead of high numbers. Minimum is 0, maximum is
65535 (0FFFFh) and default is 32768 (8000h);

eSortKey - String used to match the list entry to a master reference list. The
entryName is the default sort key; and listAttribute - LABEL and/or
PUBLIC.

It also uses the values of three global variables provided by the preceeding
START_LIST macro call:

???listName - Name of open list;

???listType - Entry type; and

???listOverride - Override priority number (CORE, PRODUCT, PLATFORM,
or none).

Usage: "LIST_ENTRY vgaData, <24h, 45h> ".

LOCAL ???qualifiedType
LOCAL ???dataSize
LOCAL ???eData
LOCAL ???eSortKey
LOCAL ???rawData
LOCAL ???listAttr

These are local variables used by the macro.

```

IFNB <listAttribute>
  IFIDN <listAttribute>, <PUBLIC>
    ???listAttr = 1
5    ELSEIFIDN <listAttribute>, <LABEL>
    ???listAttr = 2
    ELSEIFIDN <listAttribute>, <LABEL OR PUBLIC>
    ???listAttr = 3
10    ELSEIFIDN <listAttribute>, <PUBLIC OR LABEL>
    ???listAttr = 3
    ELSE
    ???listAttr = 0
    % .ERR <LIST_ENTRY: The attribute '!listAttribute!' is illegal>
    ENDIF
15  ELSE
    ???listAttr = 0
  ENDIF

```

Parse the listAttribute parameter and translate it into a numeric value. The PUBLIC keyword causes the entryName to be defined as a public label referencing the entryData. The LABEL keyword causes the entryName to be defined as a label (a PUBLIC LABEL if both keywords are specified) within the list without actually generating a list entry. This attribute is useful if an index into a list is needed when the list is composed of optional entries.

```

25  IFB <eSortKey>
    ???eSortKey CATSTR <entryName>
  ELSE
    ???eSortKey CATSTR <eSortKey>
  ENDIF

```

If the eSortKey parameter is blank, use the entryName parameter as the default sort key.

```

IFB <entryName>
  .ERR <LIST_ENTRY: Entry name for list data is missing>
ELSEIFB <entryData>
  .ERR <LIST_ENTRY: List data is missing>
35 ELSEIFNDEF ???listName
  .ERR <LIST_ENTRY: A list has not been started with LIST_START>
  ELSEIFIDNI ???listName, <LIST_UNDEFINED>
  .ERR <LIST_ENTRY: The open list has already been closed with
LIST_END>
40 ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, <ERROR>
  ELSE

```

Perform some sanity checking on the input data.

```

% ???dataSize = SIZEOF ???listType
???qualifiedType = TRUE
IFIDNI ???listType, < BYTE >
5  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < WORD >
  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < DWORD >
  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < FWORD >
  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < QWORD >
  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < TBYTE >
10 ELSE
  ???qualifiedType = FALSE
ENDIF

```

If we got here then there were no errors. Determine the size of the list type and if it is a structure or qualified type.

```

15  IFE ???qualifiedType
    ???eData CATSTR ???listType, < !< >, < entryData >, < !> >
    ???rawData CATSTR < !< >, < entryData >, < !> >
  ELSE
    ???eData CATSTR ???listType, < >, < entryData >
20  ???rawData CATSTR < entryData >
  ENDIF

```

If the data is not a qualified type then build up the expression "structureName <structureData>" else "dataType data" (e.g. BYTE data).

```

% SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA ???listName, entryName, ???eSortKey,
25 ePriority, \
    ???listOverride, ???listAttr, ???dataSize, < ???eData >, < ???rawData >
  ENDIF
  ENDM

```

30 Call the SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA macro to save the list entry and return to the caller.

5.6 SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA macro

The SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```

35  SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA MACRO listName, entryName, \
    sortKey, sortPriority, overridePriority, \
    listAttr, dataSize, listData, listTextData

```

The SAVE_LIST_ENTRY_DATA macro saves the list entry data specified by its parameters in segment listEntrySegment opened by the LIST_START macro.

```

5      string      DB    '&listName'          ; List Name
              DB    0                      ; Null terminate the
              DB    LISTMGR_ENTRY_TYPE    ; Entry type
              DB    '&entryName'          ; List entry name
              DB    0                      ; Null terminate the
10     string      DB    '&sortKey'          ; List sort key
              DB    0                      ; Null terminate the
              string
              DW    sortPriority            ; Sort priority (multiple entries)
              DB    overridePriority        ; Sort override (CORE, PLATFORM..)
15     DB    overridePriority              ; Data override (CORE, PLATFORM..)
              DB    listAttr                ; List attributes
              DW    dataSize                ; Size of data
              @@:
              listData                      ; Generate the data
20     DB    "&listTextData"                ; Raw list entry data
              DB    0                      ; Null terminate the
              string
              ENDM

```

25 The local label (@@:) defines a location that is filled with the values of the entry data.

5.7 LIST_DATA macro

The LIST_DATA macro is used by the present invention to override the data for a list entry.

LIST_DATA MACRO entryName, entryData, eAttributes

30 The LIST_DATA macro must appear after a LIST_START macro call and before a LIST_END macro call. Its parameters are:

entryName - Name of list entry that will have its entryData changed;

entryData - New data for list entry; and

eAttributes - LABEL and/or PUBLIC.

35 It also uses the values of three global variables provided by the preceeding START_LIST macro call:

???listName - Name of open list;

???listType - Entry type; and

???listOverride - Override priority number (CORE, PRODUCT, PLATFORM, or none).

```

5          LOCAL    ???dataSize
          LOCAL    ???qualifiedType
          LOCAL    ???eData
          LOCAL    ???rawData
          LOCAL    ???listAttr

```

These are local variables used by the macro.

```

10  IFNB <eAttributes>
    IFIDN <eAttributes>, <PUBLIC>
        ???listAttr = 1
    ELSEIFIDN <eAttributes>, <LABEL>
        ???listAttr = 2
    ELSEIFIDN <eAttributes>, <LABEL OR PUBLIC>
15    ???listAttr = 3
    ELSEIFIDN <eAttributes>, <PUBLIC OR LABEL>
        ???listAttr = 3
    ELSE
        ???listAttr = 0
20  % .ERR <LIST_DATA: The attribute '!eAttributes!' is illegal>
    ENDIF
    ELSE
        ???listAttr = 0
    ENDIF

```

25 Parse the eAttributes parameter and translate it into a numeric value. The PUBLIC keyword causes the entryName to be defined as a public label referencing the entryData. The LABEL keyword causes the entryName to be defined as a label (a PUBLIC LABEL if both keywords are specified) within the list without actually generating a list entry. This attribute is useful if an index into a list is needed when the

30 list is composed of optional entries.

```

    IFB <entryName>
        .ERR <LIST_DATA: The list entry name is missing>
    ELSEIFB <entryData>
        .ERR <LIST_DATA: The list entry data is missing>
35  ELSEIFNDEF ???listName
        .ERR <LIST_DATA: A list has not been started with LIST_START>
    ELSEIFIDNI ???listName, <LIST_UNDEFINED>
        .ERR <LIST_DATA: The open list has already been closed with
LIST_END>
40  ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, <ERROR>
    ELSE

```

```
% ???dataSize = SIZEOF ???listType
```

Verify that an open list exists and that all the required parameters are present.

Determine the size of a list entry.

```

5      ???qualifiedType = TRUE
      IFIDNI ???listType, < BYTE >
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < WORD >
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < DWORD >
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < FWORD >
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < QWORD >
10     ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, < TBYTE >
      ELSE
        ???qualifiedType = FALSE
      ENDIF

```

Determine if the list type is a structure or qualified type.

```

15     IFE ???qualifiedType
        ???eData CATSTR ???listType, < !< >, < entryData >, < !> >
        ???rawData CATSTR < !< >, < entryData >, < !> >
      ELSE
        ???eData CATSTR ???listType, < >, < entryData >
20     ???rawData CATSTR < entryData >
      ENDIF

```

If the data is not a qualified type then build up the expression "structureName
<structureData>" else "dataType data" (e.g. BYTE data).

```

25     % SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA ???listName, entryName, ???dataSize, \
        < ???eData >, < ???rawData >, ???listOverride, ???listAttr
      ENDIF
      ENDM

```

Call the SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA macro to save the list override data
and return to the caller.

30 5.8 SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA macro

The SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA macro is an internal macro that provides
a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source
code file.

```

35     SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA MACRO listName, entryName, dataSize,
        listData, \
                                listTextData, overridePriority, attributes

```

The SAVE_LIST_OVERRIDE_DATA macro saves the list override data specified by its parameters in segment listEntrySegment opened by the LIST_START macro.

```

5          DB    '&listName'      ; List Name
          DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
          DB    LISTMGR_OVERRIDE_TYPE ; Override type
          DB    '&entryName'      ; List entry name
          DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
          DB    overridePriority    ; Override priority
10         DB    attributes         ; List attributes
          DW    dataSize           ; Size of data
@@:
          listData                  ; Generate the data
          DB    "&listTextData"    ; Raw list entry data
15         DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string
ENDM

```

The local label (@@:) defines a location that is filled with the values of the entry data.

5.9 LIST_SORT macro

20 The LIST_SORT macro is used by the present invention to change the sort criteria for a list entry.

LIST_SORT MACRO entryName, ePriority: = < 8000h > , eSortKey

The LIST_SORT macro must appear after a LIST_START macro call and before a LIST_END macro call. Its parameters are:

```

25     entryName - Name of the list entry that will have its sort order changed;
        ePriority - Number used to sort list entries with the same sort key. Low
                    numbers are placed ahead of high numbers. Minimum is 0, maximum is
                    65535 (0FFFFh) and default is 32768 (8000h);
        eSortKey - String used to match the list entry to a master reference list. The
30     entryName is the default sort key.

```

It also uses the values of three global variables provided by the preceeding START_LIST macro call:

???listName - Name of open list;
 ???listType - Entry type; and

???listOverride - Override priority number (CORE, PRODUCT, PLATFORM, or none).

LOCAL ???eSortKey

The local variable used by this macro.

```
5      IFB <eSortKey>
      ???eSortKey CATSTR <entryName>
      ELSE
      ???eSortKey CATSTR <eSortKey>
      ENDIF
```

10 If the eSortKey parameter is blank, use the entryName parameter as the default sort key.

```
      IFB <entryName>
      .ERR <LIST_SORT: Entry name for list data is missing>
      ELSEIFNDEF ???listName
15      .ERR <LIST_SORT: A list has not been started with LIST_START>
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listName, <LIST_UNDEFINED>
      .ERR <LIST_SORT: The open list has already been closed with
LIST_END>
      ELSEIFIDNI ???listType, <ERROR>
20      ELSE
      % SAVE_LIST_SORT_DATA ???listName, entryName, ???eSortKey,
ePriority, ???listOverride
      ENDIF
      ENDM
```

25 Do some sanity checking, and if everything checks out, save the new sort data.

5.10 SAVE_LIST_SORT_DATA macro

The SAVE_LIST_SORT_DATA macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```
30      SAVE_LIST_SORT_DATA MACRO listName, entryName, sortKey, \
      sortPriority, overridePriority
```

The SAVE_LIST_SORT_DATA macro saves the list sort data specified by its parameters in segment listEntrySegment opened by the LIST_START macro.

```
      DB    '&listName'                                ; List Name
35      DB    0                                               ;        Null terminate the
string
```



```

                    DB LISTMGR_SORT_TYPE ; Sort type
                    DB '&entryName' ; List entry name
                    DB 0 ; Null terminate the
string
5                    DB overridePriority ; The ultimate entry to use
                    DB '&sortKey' ; List sort key
                    DB 0 ; Null terminate the
string
10                    DW sortPriority ; Sort priority (multiple entries)
                    ENDM

```

5.11 MASTER_START macro

The MASTER_START macro is used by the present invention to start the definition of a master index.

15 The BIOS Component Linker part of the present invention sorts List Entries according to the order of the Sort Keys in the Master Index. There is, at most, one Master Index per List. The Master Index, usually found in the List Owning component, is in a separate assembly source file to facilitate overriding. The Master Index is created with three macros, MASTER_START, MASTER_ENTRY and MASTER_END.

20 MASTER_START MACRO listName, attrib

The MASTER_START macro must be called before any MASTER_ENTRY or MASTER_END macros are called. Its parameters are:

listName - The fully qualified list name (including component path) that this Master Index is associated with; and

25 attrib - LOCKED keyword. If LOCKED, then this is a Locked Index; otherwise it is a Master Index.

A Locked Index is a special form of the Master Index. Instead of using the Sort Key to determine the final ordering of List Entries, Locked Indexes use the List Entry name instead. The MASTER_START macro initializes the global variables:

30 ???masterName - listName, and

???masterAttribs - Master or Locked index,

opens a specially named segment and saves the values of these global variables in this segment.

IFDEF ???masterName

```

    ???masterName CATSTR <MASTER_LIST_CLOSED>
ENDIF
IFIDN ???masterName, <MASTER_LIST_CLOSED>
    masterIndexSegment SEGMENT

```

- 5 Initialize global variable ???masterName, if necessary, perform some consistency checking and open segment masterIndexSegment.

```

    IFNB <attrib>
        ???masterAttribs = 1
        IFDIF <attrib>, <LOCKED>
10    % .ERR <MASTER_START: !'attrib!' is an invalid attribute>
        ENDIF
    ELSE
        ???masterAttribs = 0
    ENDIF

```

- 15 Translate the attrib parameter into a numeric value and set global variable ???masterAttribs to indicate whether a Master or Locked index was specified.

```

    IFNB <listName>
        ???masterName CATSTR <listName>
    ELSE
20    % .ERR <MASTER_START: The list name is missing>
        ???masterName CATSTR < >
    ENDIF
    % SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START ???masterName, ???masterAttribs
    ELSE
25    % .ERR <MASTER_START: Master index list !'&???masterName!' is already
open>
    ENDIF
    ENDM

```

- 30 Store the listName in global variable and call SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START to save the values of the global variables. Generate errors if the parameters or global variables were not consistent.

5.12 SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START macro

- 35 The SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```

SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START MACRO masterListName, attributes
    DB    '&masterListName' ; Master List Name
    DB    0                  ; Null terminate the string

```

DW attributes ; List attributes
ENDM

The SAVE_MASTER_INFO_START macro saves the values of its parameters in the segment opened by the MASTER_START macro.

5 5.13 MASTER_END macro

The MASTER_END macro is used by the present invention to end the definition of a master index.

MASTER_END MACRO

10 The MASTER_END macro ends the definition of a master index. It must appear following a MASTER_START macro call.

```

IFNDEF ???masterName
    .ERR < MASTER_END: A master index was not started with
MASTER_START >
    ELSEIFIDNI ???masterName, < MASTER_LIST_CLOSED >
15    .ERR < MASTER_END: The master index was already closed with
MASTER_END >
    ELSE
        SAVE_MASTER_INFO 0
        masterIndexSegment ENDS
20    ???masterName CATSTR < MASTER_LIST_CLOSED >
    ENDIF
ENDM

```

25 Verify a master list is open. Save a null master list entry to mark end of list. Close the master index segment and mark ???masterName as MASTER_LIST_CLOSED.

5.14 MASTER_ENTRY macro

The MASTER_ENTRY macro is used by the present invention to insert a list entry into the master index.

MASTER_ENTRY MACRO keyName

30 The MASTER_ENTRY macro must follow a MASTER_START macro call and precede a MASTER_END macro call. Its parameter is:

keyName - Name used to create an association between a specific list entry and this master index position. It must be either a Sort Key (Master Index) or List Entry name (Locked Index).

```

        IFNDEF ???masterName
            .ERR <MASTER_ENTRY: A master index list has not been opened with
MASTER_START>
        ELSE
5           IFDIF ???masterName, <MASTER_LIST_CLOSED>
            % SAVE_MASTER_INFO keyName
        ELSE
            % .ERR <MASTER_ENTRY: The master index list has already been closed
with MASTER_END>
10          ENDIF
        ENDIF
        ENDM

```

Check that a master list has been started. Call the SAVE_MASTER_INFO macro to store the Sort Key or List Entry name.

15 5.15 SAVE_MASTER_INFO macro

The SAVE_MASTER_INFO macro is an internal macro that provides a necessary function to the present invention and is never called directly by a source code file.

```

20          SAVE_MASTER_INFO MACRO keyName
            IFDIF <keyName>, <0>
                DB '&keyName'           ; Index name
            ENDIF
                DB 0                   ; Null terminate the string
        ENDM

```

25 The SAVE_MASTER_INFO macro saves the keyName specified by its parameter in the special segment opened by the preceeding MASTER_START macro call.

6. Include Macros

6.1 PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START macro

30 The PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START macro is used by the present invention to identify a public include file. The PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START macro and its parameters are scanned by the present invention so they can be compared to the parameters of the PUBINC macros that include the file.

35 Include files reside in the component that logically "owns" the definitions in them. If the definitions are to be used by other components in other directories, the

include file will declare itself as public by using the `PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START` macro. External components will reference the include file using the class/subclass and filename specified by a `PUBINC` macro. The physical location of the include file used will be determined by the build process.

5 Like interfaces, the usage of a public include file will include the major and
minor version of the "interfaces" (not file version) expected for the file.

PUBLIC INCLUDE START MACRO classPath, version

The `PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START` macro marks the start of a public include file that can be used by other components in other directories. Its parameters are:

10 **classPath** - Class name and zero or more subclass names seperated by periods
 (**.**); and

version - Major.minor version number of the interfaces expected for the file.

IFB <version>

```

15      .ERR<PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START: !Version number for public include
      missing>

```

ENDIF

IFB <classPath>

```
.ERR<PUBLIC INCLUDE START: Class path information is missing>
```

ENDIF

20 ENDM

Verify that both the classPath and version parameters have been specified.

The parameters of each PUBLIC_INCLUDE_START macro call are scanned from the include file and entered in a database along with the include file name and directory path. This allows the BIOS Development System to merge any interface information it scanned from the include file with interface information from the source file that included it, before compilation.

6.2 PUBINC macro

The PUBINC macro is used by the present invention to include a public include file defined in a different component. The PUBINC macro and its parameters are scanned by the present invention so they can be compared to the parameters of the PUBLIC INCLUDE START macro that defines the file.

PUBINC MACRO classPath, fileName, version

The PUBINC macro includes an external include file into the build. The external include file is outside of the current directory and component. Its parameters are:

classPath - Class name and zero or more subclass names separated by periods

5 (.);

fileName - Name of include file; and

version - Major.minor version number of the interfaces expected for the file.

Usage: "PUBINC post.dispatcher, postdisp.inc, 1.0".

LOCAL ???incPath

10 The local variable used by the macro.

IFNB <classPath>

IFNB <fileName>

GET_SYMBOL_NAME classPath

???incPath CATSTR <I_>, ???symbol

15 % INCLUDE ???incPath\\fileName

IFB <version>

.ERR<PUBINC: The include file !version is missing>

ENDIF

ELSE

20 .ERR<PUBINC: The include file name is missing>

ENDIF

ELSE

.ERR<PUBINC: The include file feature path is missing>

ENDIF

25 ENDM

Verify that all the parameters are present. Call the GET_SYMBOL_NAME macro to return global variable ???symbol containing classPath with each period (.) replaced with an underscore (_). Form the name of the global variable containing the directory path of the include file by prefixing the value of ???symbol with an I_. If classPath is post.dispatcher then ???incPath is I_post_dispatcher. Include the file with an INCLUDE directive (i.e., command) that uses the directory path in the global variable.

30

The BIOS Development System generates a feature include file "feature.inc" that is included in each source code file in the source code library. It defines a global variable for each public include file declared by a PUBINC macro call containing the

35

directory path of the include file, e.g. I_post_dispatcher TEXTEQU
<@Environ(MANTICORE)\post\dispatcher> .

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A software development system (100) for developing a finished product (1106) comprising:

product configuration data (2100) defining the finished product (1106);

5 at least one source code library (1200) containing source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) defining one or more objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) that include interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324);

directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) defining the nature of said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214);

10 a configurator (700) which develops configuration state data (1900) from said product configuration data (2100), said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728), and from data (1800) obtained from said source code library (1200);

15 a graphical user interface (200) for presenting a visual, logical representation of the configuration state data (1900) representing the finished product (1106), missing and selected and deselected objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) and options (1524), said interface (200) accepting commands to adjust the finished product (1106); and

routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) from said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) under the control of said configuration state data (1900).

20 2. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) and an object information data set (1400, 1600) containing said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

25 3. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 2 wherein said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) include build directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

4. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one component (1204, 1206) which includes at least one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) that is a feature (1212, 1214).

5. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 4 wherein said components (1204, 1206) and features (1212, 1214) each include at least one source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) and an object information data set (1400, 1600) containing directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) for the corresponding component (1204, 1206) or feature (1212, 1214).

6. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 5 wherein said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) include build directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

7. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

8. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 7 wherein said routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) convert class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) and name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) references for at least some dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) and interfaces (1316, 1322) into name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and library (1200) references as they modify the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300).

9. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 7 wherein at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations encompass multiple objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

10. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 9 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include components (1204, 1206) which include features (1212, 1214), and at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations relate to the interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) of multiple features (1212, 1214).

11. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

12. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 11 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106), as well as version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

13. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 11 wherein said graphical user interface (200) warns of incompatible version numbers in matched interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324).

14. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 13 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106), as well as version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

15. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 which further includes, as part of the data associated with at least some dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324), object specification data, wherein the object specification data causes the corresponding dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) to be linked to an interface (1316, 1322) in a source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) included with the specified object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) in preference to other interfaces (1316, 1322) having identical identifiers.

16. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 15 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

17. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 16 wherein at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations encompass multiple objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

18. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 17 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include components (1204, 1206) which include features (1212, 1214), and at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations relate to the interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) of multiple features (1212, 1214).

19. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 15 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

20. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 19 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with absolute
5 addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106), as well as version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

21. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 19 wherein said graphical user interface (200) warns of incompatible version numbers in matched interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324).

10 22. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 21 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with absolute
15 addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106), as well as version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

23. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 22 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one component (1204, 1206) which includes at least one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) that is a feature (1212, 1214).

20 24. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 which includes source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) designated to run in a RAM free environment, wherein the routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) modify said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) at
25 call or jump dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) insert code that emulates a subroutine jump and return without the need for a RAM-based subroutine stack.

25. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 24 wherein the inserted code at call or jump and return dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) sets up a dummy return stack that does a register branch following a return, and at the point of a call or jump, generates and inserts code that loads the immediate address into said register and then produces a jump to the specified interface (1316, 1322).

26. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 24 wherein the inserted code at call or jump and return dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) preserves the return address, or an index indicating the location of the return address, in a designated register and utilizes the register to perform a return to the proper point in the calling program.

27. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the configurator (700), when encountering a dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) that depends upon the presence of an unselected object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) with a corresponding interface (1316, 1322), automatically selects said object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) for inclusion in the finished product (1106).

28. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 27 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

29. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 28 wherein at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations encompass multiple objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

30. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 27 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include components (1204, 1206) which include features (1212, 1214), and at least some class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations relate to the interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) of multiple features (1212, 1214).

31. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein some interfaces (1316, 1322) may optionally include an intercept designation, and wherein said configurator (700) associates a dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) with an interface (1316, 1322) having an intercept designation in preference over other
5 identically named interfaces (1316, 1322).

32. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 31 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

33. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 31
10 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

34. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 33
15 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

35. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 31 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one component (1204, 1206) which includes at least one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) that is a feature
20 (1212, 1214).

36. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 35 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

37. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 35 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

38. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 37 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

39. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product, when confronted with at least some dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) for which there is no corresponding interface (1316, 1322) due to the non-selection of an object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), and where this is not an error condition, modify the source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) by removing the dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) from the source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) containing the dependency (1312, 1318, 1324).

40. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 39 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

41. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 39 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

42. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 41 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

43. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 39 wherein macro programs 3806 are used to identify dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324), said macro programs 3806 including reference to a controlling argument 2300, set by said configurator (700), which enables the removal of the dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) at the choice of the configurator (700) when the object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) containing a corresponding interface (1316, 1322) is not selected.

44. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 39 wherein said graphical user interface (200) indicates which dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) are to be eliminated due to non-selection of the object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) containing the corresponding interface (1316, 1322) and accepting commands to select or to non-select the corresponding object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

45. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 44 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

46. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 44 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

47. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

48. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said configurator (700) may cause the graphical user interface (200) to give a visual error indication with respect to at least some dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) for which there is no interface (1316, 1322).

49. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 48 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

50. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 48 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with proper absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

51. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 50 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

52. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the data (1210, 1222, 1400, 1600) defining the nature of said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), in at least some cases, includes an indication ("EXTERNALTRIGGER" at 1518) that the selection of one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) is triggered by the selection of another object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214); and said configurator (700), when encountering such data, selects said another object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) whenever said one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) is also selected.

53. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 53 wherein said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) include build directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

54. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 52 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one component (1204, 1206) which includes at least one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) that is a feature (1212, 1214).

55. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 54 wherein said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) include build directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

56. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 54 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have both name ("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316, "TIMER" at 1318) designations which are replaced with absolute addresses prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

57. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 56 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) have version indications ("1.0" at 1312, 1316, 1322).

58. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least some of said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) contain list elements (3704, 3708, 3710), and wherein said routines include a product component linker 3600 that modifies the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) by bringing those list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) together and inserts them into the final product (1106) at a designated point (3716) and establishes linkages to list item references.

59. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 58 wherein said list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) include sort priority specifications.

60. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 58 wherein said list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) include sort key specifications.

61. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 58 wherein said list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) include list entries

62. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 58 wherein multiple lists 3704 may be defined, each list entry 3710 assigned a list name ("ENTRY NAME" at 3710) to facilitate identifying and collecting the elements ("ENTRY DATE" at 3710) of the lists 3704.

5 63. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 62 wherein said list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) include list entries 3710 at least some of which designate sort priority ("SORT PRIORITY" at 3710) as well as sort keys ("SORT KEY" at 3710).

10 64. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) are declared public and are accessible by any dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) in any object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), or are declared private and are accessible only by dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) within the same object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

15 65. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one component (1204, 1206) which includes at least one feature (1212, 1214), and at least some interfaces (1316, 1322) are declared public and are accessible by any dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) in any object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), some are declared private and are accessible only by dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) within the same component (1204,
20 1206), and some are declared shielded and are accessible only by the dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) within the same feature (1212, 1214).

25 66. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least some of said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) contain string elements (4002) defining the text ("STR_TEXT" in FIG. 40) and the language ("STR_LANGUAGE" in FIG. 40) of strings, and wherein said routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) inserts code that permits the proper language strings to be selected by means of a value 3904 stored in non-volatile memory 3902.

67. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said product configuration data (2100) includes data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102).

68. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 76 wherein said data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102) can designate a platform to be desktop.

69. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 67 wherein said data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102) can designate a platform type to be portable.

70. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 67 wherein said data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102) can designate a platform type to be server.

71. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 67 wherein said data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102) can designate a platform type to be desktop, portable, or server.

72. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said routines that generate the finished product (1106) include a product component linker 3600 which permits the provision of override data ("REGISTER TABLE ENTRY #2 OVERRIDE DATA" IN FIG. 42) to replace some items of data in a data table ("REGISTER TABLE ENTRY #1 ENTRY #2 ENTRY #3 ENTRY #4" in FIG. 42).

73. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said routines that generate the finished product (1106) include a product component linker 3600 which establishes intra-segment linkages between separately compiled and linked blocks of executable code.

74. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein code elements 3904 in said source code library (1200) may be designated as resident in non-volatile memory 3902, and wherein said routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) include a product component linker
5 3600 which allocates non-volatile memory 3902 for the storage of such elements 3904 and also inserts into the finished product (1106) the necessary code to give program access (3906, 3908) to such variables (3904) in non-volatile memory 3902 in such a manner that the system designer does not have to be concerned with the nature of the non-volatile memory 3902.

10 75. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 74 wherein at least some of said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) contain string elements (4002) defining the text ("STR_TEXT" at 4002) and the language ("STR_LANGUAGE" at 4002) of strings, and wherein said routines (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) that generate the finished product (1106) inserts code that permits the proper
15 language strings to be selected by means of a value 3904 stored in non-volatile memory 3902.

76. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein said graphical user interface (200) includes an editor for viewing and modifying the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) of objects (1204, 1206,
20 1212, 1214).

77. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 76 wherein an editing window may be opened in said graphical user interface (200) by clicking on one of the elements in said visual, logical representation of the configuration state data (1900).

78. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein macro directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) are used to mark said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324), and wherein code modification is performed by macro programs (3806) driven and controlled by the configuration state data (1900) developed by said configurator (700), such that standard assemblers, compilers, and linkers 1102 may be used in implementing the software development system (100).

79. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 78 wherein said configuration state data (1900) is fed into a product make routine 900 which generates feature include files (2300) and make files (2400, 2500) after which a product build routine (1000) causes compilers and linkers 1102 controlled by said make files (2400, 2500) to combine source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) taken from said source code library (1200) and said feature include files (2300) into built product components (1104) that define the finished product (1106) (1106).

80. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 79 wherein said make files include component make files (2400) and product make files (2500).

81. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 79 wherein a product component linker (3600) transforms said built product components (1104) into said finished product (1106).

82. A software development system (100) in accordance with claim 81 wherein said make files include component make files (2400) and product make files (2500).

83. A method (100) for developing a finished product (1106) comprising:
producing product configuration data (2100) defining the finished product
(1106);

providing at least one source code library (1200) containing source code
5 elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) defining one or more objects (1204, 1206, 1212,
1214) that include interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324);

providing directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) defining the nature of said
objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214);

developing (700) configuration state data (1900) from said product configuration
10 data (2100), said directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728), and from data (1800)
obtained from said source code library (1200);

utilizing a graphical user interface (200), examining a visual, logical
representation of the configuration state data (1900) representing the finished product
(1106), missing and selected and deselected objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) and
15 options (1524), and providing commands to adjust the finished product (1106); and

generating (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) the finished product (1106) from said source
code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) under the control of said configuration state
data (1900).

84. A method in accordance with claim 83 including providing for said
20 objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) include at least one source code element (1220, 1224,
1226, 1300) and an object information data set (1400, 1600) containing said directives
(1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728).

85. A method in accordance with claim 83 including providing at least one
object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) which is a component (1204, 1206) that includes at
25 least one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) which is a feature (1212, 1214).

86. A method in accordance with claim 83 including assigning to at least
some of said interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) both name
("ERRORBEEP" at 1316, "DELAY" at 1318) and also class ("BEEP" at 1316,
"TIMER" at 1318) designations and replacing them with proper absolute addresses
30 prior to the development of the finished product (1106).

87. A method in accordance with claim 83 including assigning, as part of the data associated with at least some dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324), object specification data, and then guided by the object specification data linking the corresponding dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) to an interface (1316, 1322) in a source code element (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) included with the specified object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) in preference to other interfaces (1316, 1322) having identical identifiers.

88. A method in accordance with claim 83 including designating source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) to run in a RAM free environment, and generating (800, 1000, 1102, 3600) modified source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) at call or jump dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) that emulates a subroutine jump and return without the need for a RAM-based subroutine stack.

89. A method in accordance with claim 83 including, when encountering a dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) that depends upon the presence of an unselected object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) with a corresponding interface (1316, 1322), automatically selecting (700) said object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) for inclusion in the finished product (1106).

90. A method in accordance with claim 83 including adding intercept designations for at least some interfaces (1316, 1322) and associating (700) a dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) with an interface (1316, 1322) having an intercept designation in preference over other identically named interfaces (1316, 1322).

91. A method in accordance with claim 83 including modify the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) by removing dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) from the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) when confronted with dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) for which there is no corresponding interface (1316, 1322) due to the non-selection of an object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), and where this is not an error condition.

92. A method in accordance with claim 83 including signaling with the graphical user interface (200) a visual error indication with respect to dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) for which there is no interface (1316, 1322).

93. A method in accordance with claim 83 including designating the selection of one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) to be triggered by the selection of another object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214); and selecting the one object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) whenever the another object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214) is selected.

94. A method in accordance with claim 83 including providing list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) in at least some of said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300), and then modifying the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) by bringing those list elements (3704, 3708, 3710) together and inserting them into the final product (1106) at a designated point (3716) and establishing linkages to the list item references.

95. A method in accordance with claim 83 including declaring some interfaces (1316, 1322) to be public and making them accessible by any dependency (1312, 1318, 1324) in any object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214), and declaring other interfaces (1316, 1322) private and making them accessible only to dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324) within the same object (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

96. A method in accordance with claim 83 including adding at least some string elements (4002) to at least some of said source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300), defining the text ("STR_TEXT" in FIG. 40) and the language ("STR_LANGUAGE" in FIG. 40) of the strings, and inserting code that permits the proper language strings to be selected by means of a value 3904 that is placed into non-volatile memory 3902.

97. A method in accordance with claim 83 including adding to said product configuration data (2100) data defining the type of platform to be built ("DESKTOP" at 2102).

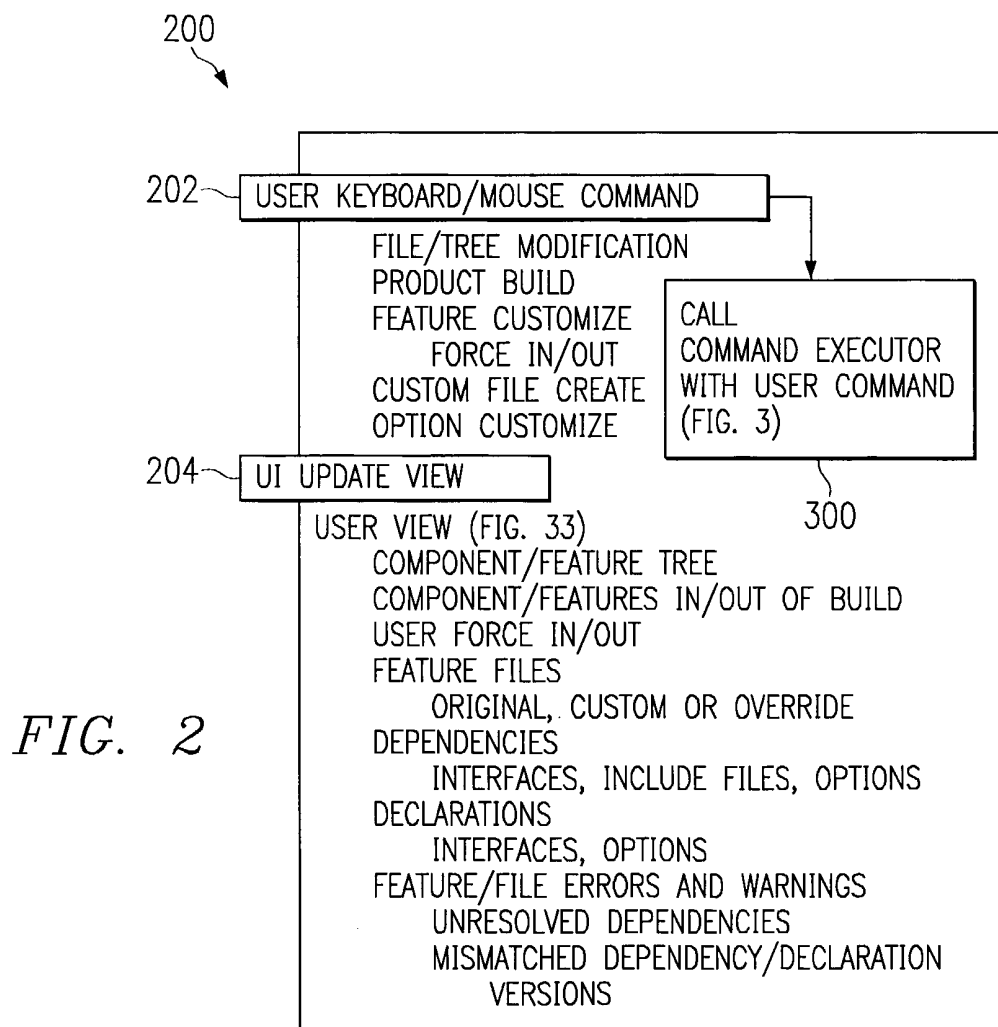
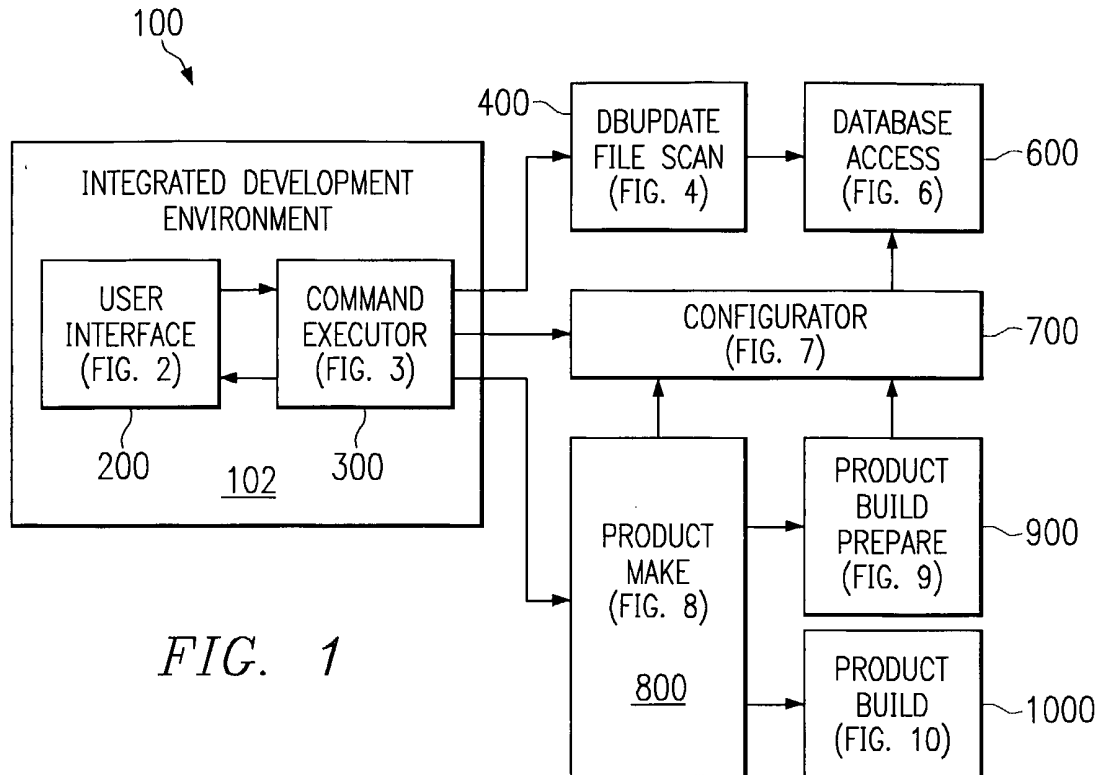
98. A method in accordance with claim including providing at least some override data ("REGISTER TABLE ENTRY #2 OVERRIDE DATA" IN FIG. 42) and having it replace some items of data in a data table ("REGISTER TABLE ENTRY #1 ENTRY #2 ENTRY #3 ENTRY #4" in FIG. 42).

5 99. A method in accordance with claim 83 including following assembly or compilation establishing intra-segment linkages between separately compiled and linked blocks of executable code.

10 100. A method in accordance with claim 83 including designating some code elements 3904 in said source code library (1200) as destined to be resident in non-volatile memory 3902, and later allocating non-volatile memory 3902 for the storage of such elements 3904 and inserting into the finished product (1106) the necessary code to give program access (3906, 3908) to such variables (3904) in non-volatile memory 3902 in such a manner that the system designer does not have to be concerned with the nature of the non-volatile memory 3902.

15 101. A method in accordance with claim 83 including using said graphical user interface (200) to view and modify the source code elements (1220, 1224, 1226, 1300) of objects (1204, 1206, 1212, 1214).

20 102. A method in accordance with claim 83 including identifying with macro directives (1502 to 1532, 1702 to 1728) the interfaces (1316, 1322) and dependencies (1312, 1318, 1324), and then performing code modification by executing macro programs (3806) under the control of the configuration state data (1900) and using standard assemblers, compilers, and linkers 1102 to assemble or compile and link the source code elements.



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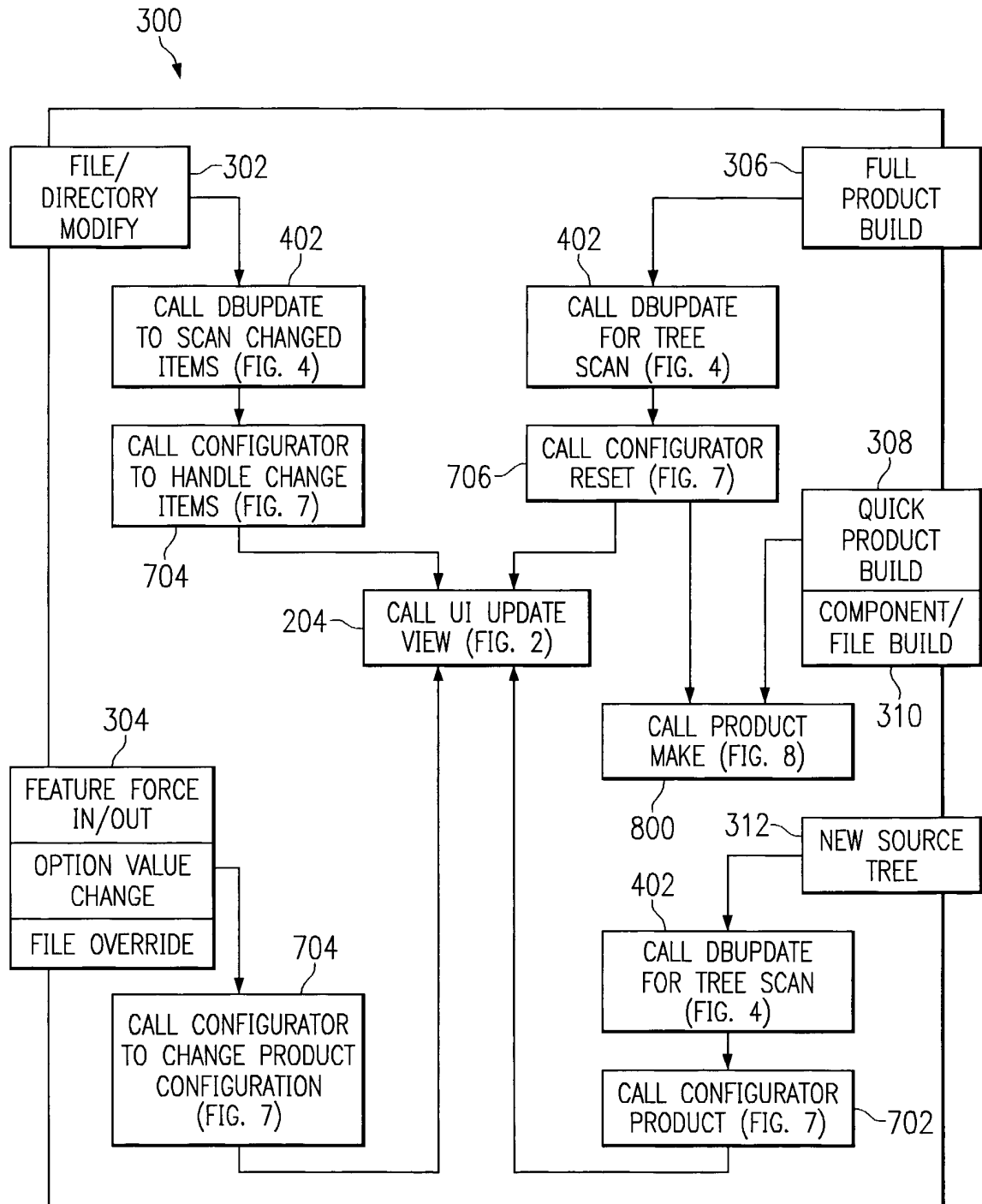


FIG. 3

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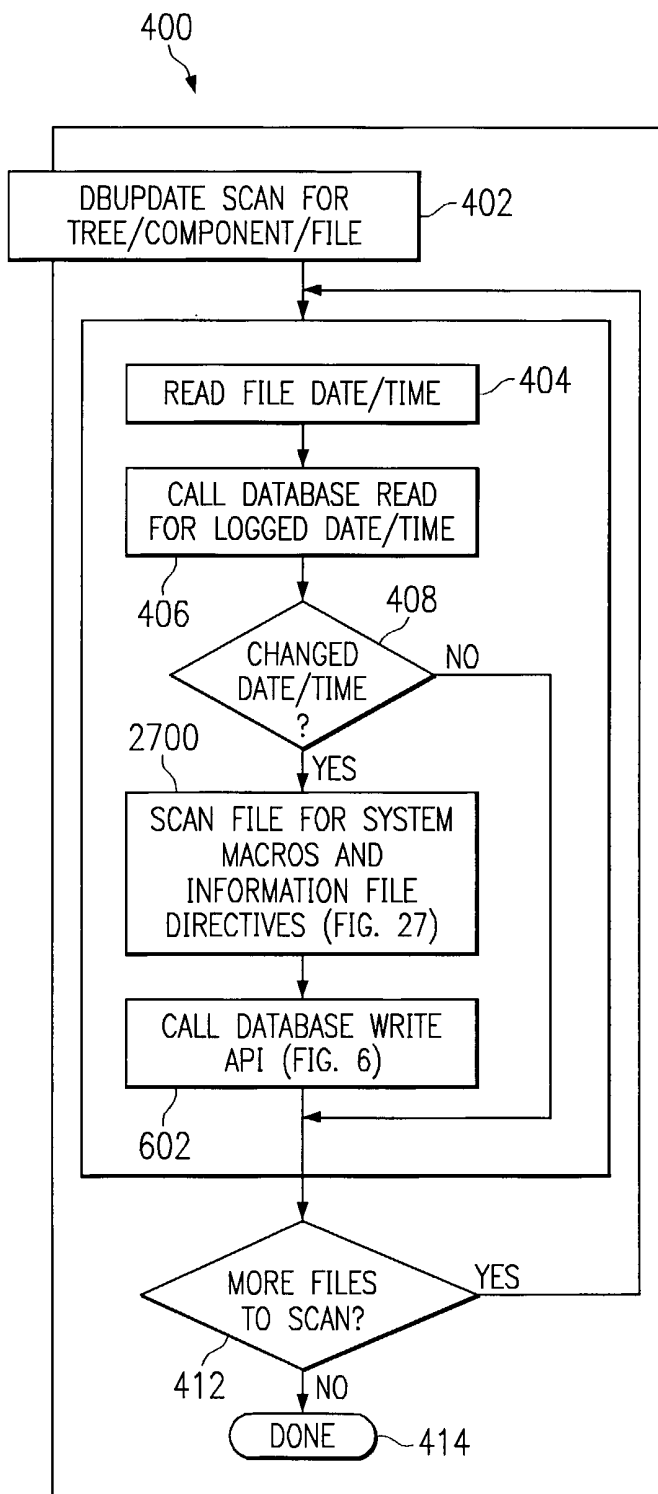


FIG. 4

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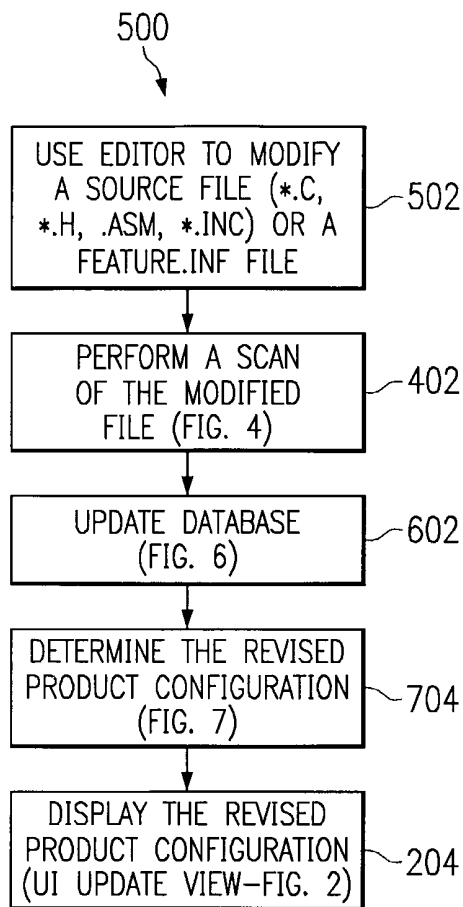


FIG. 5A

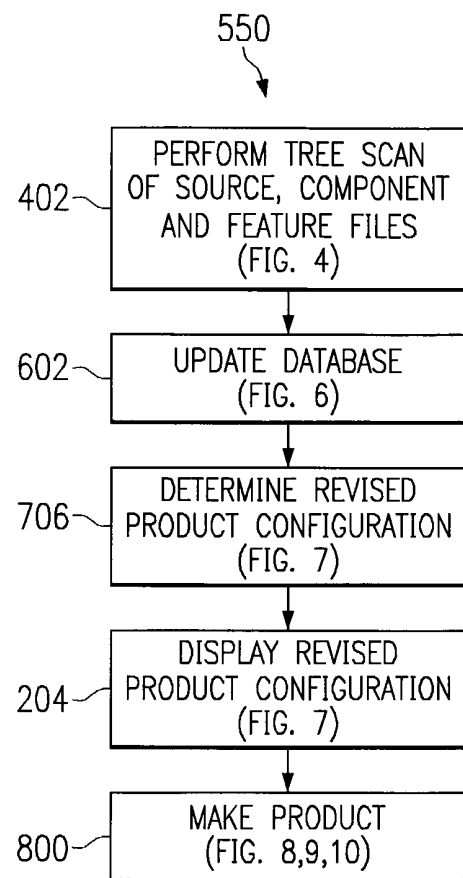


FIG. 5B

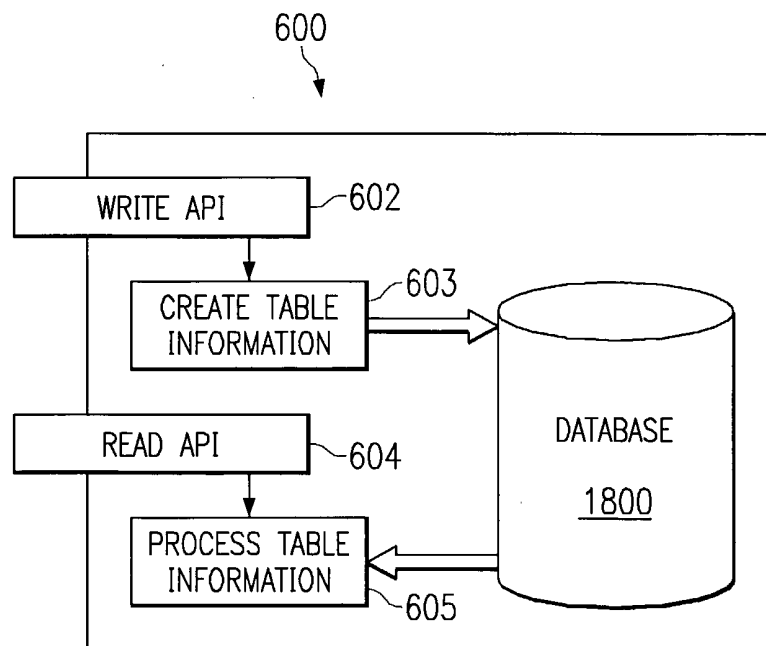


FIG. 6

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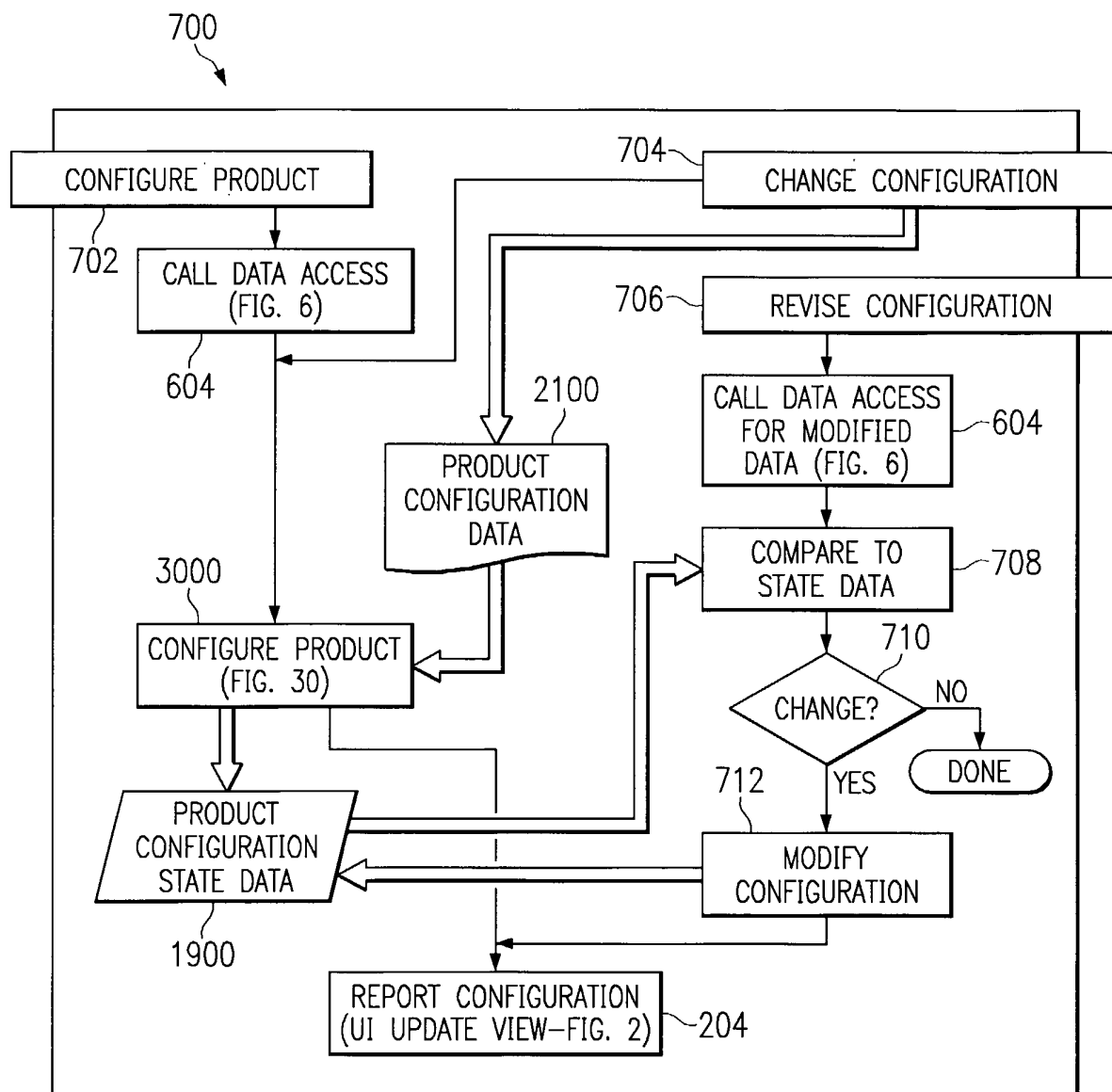
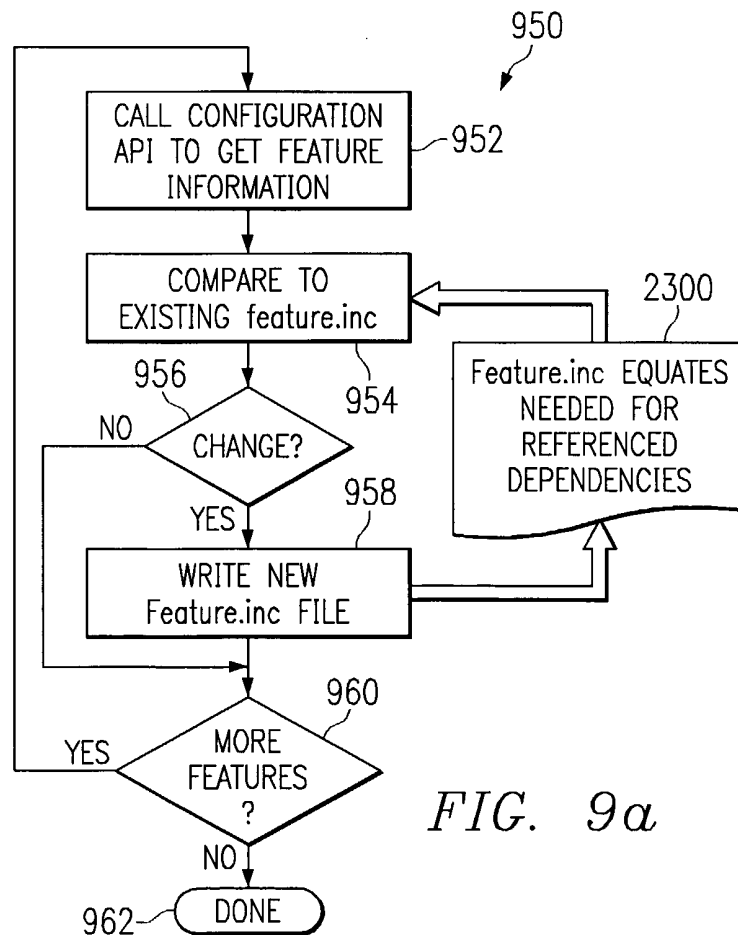
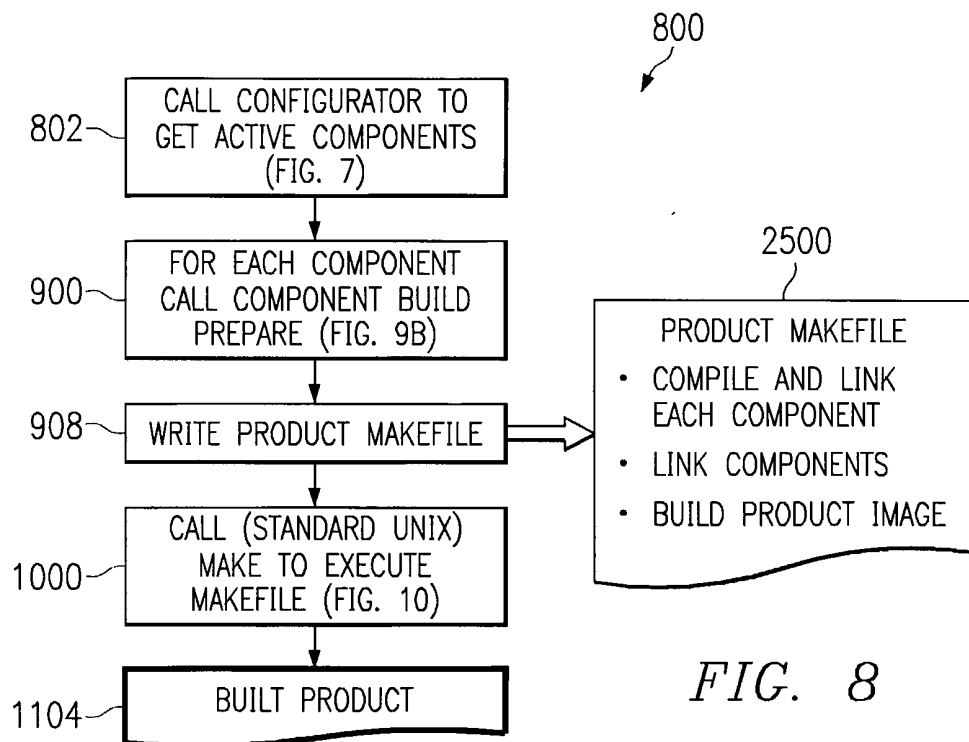
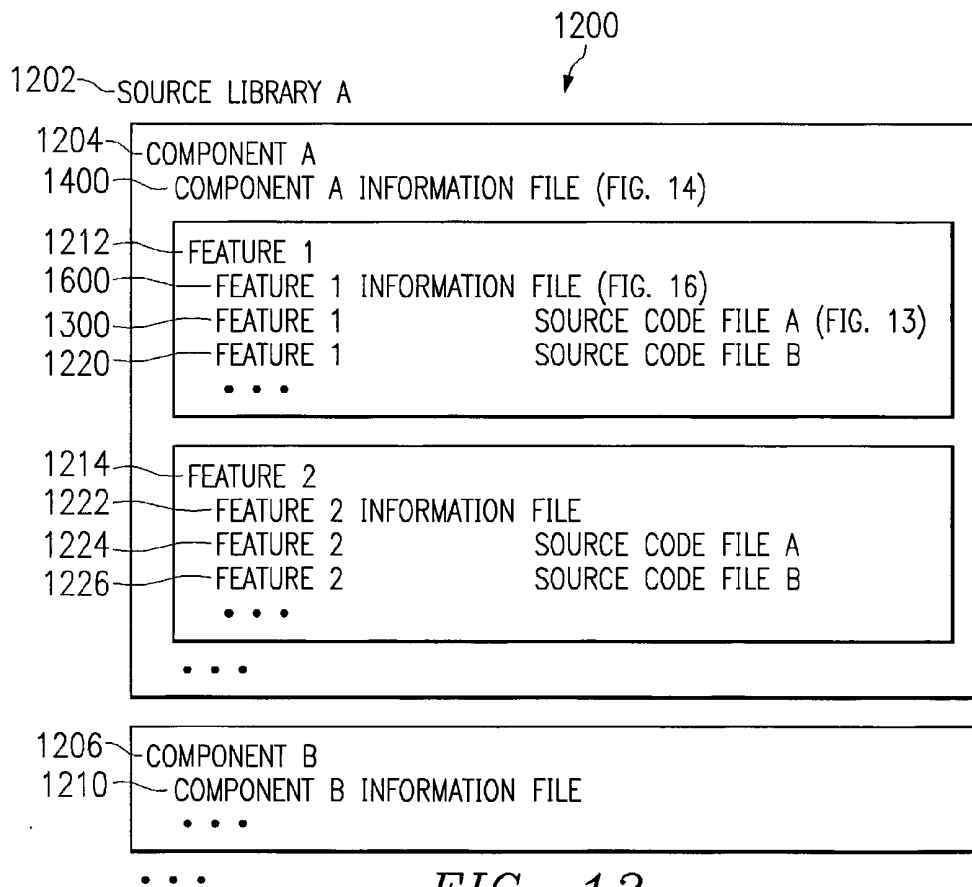
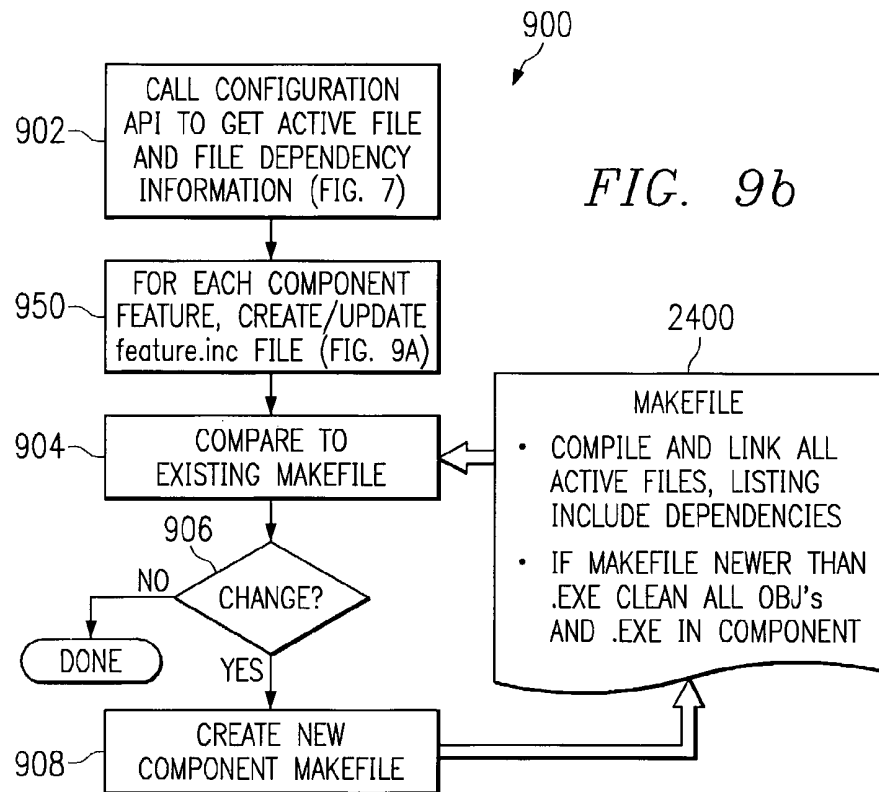


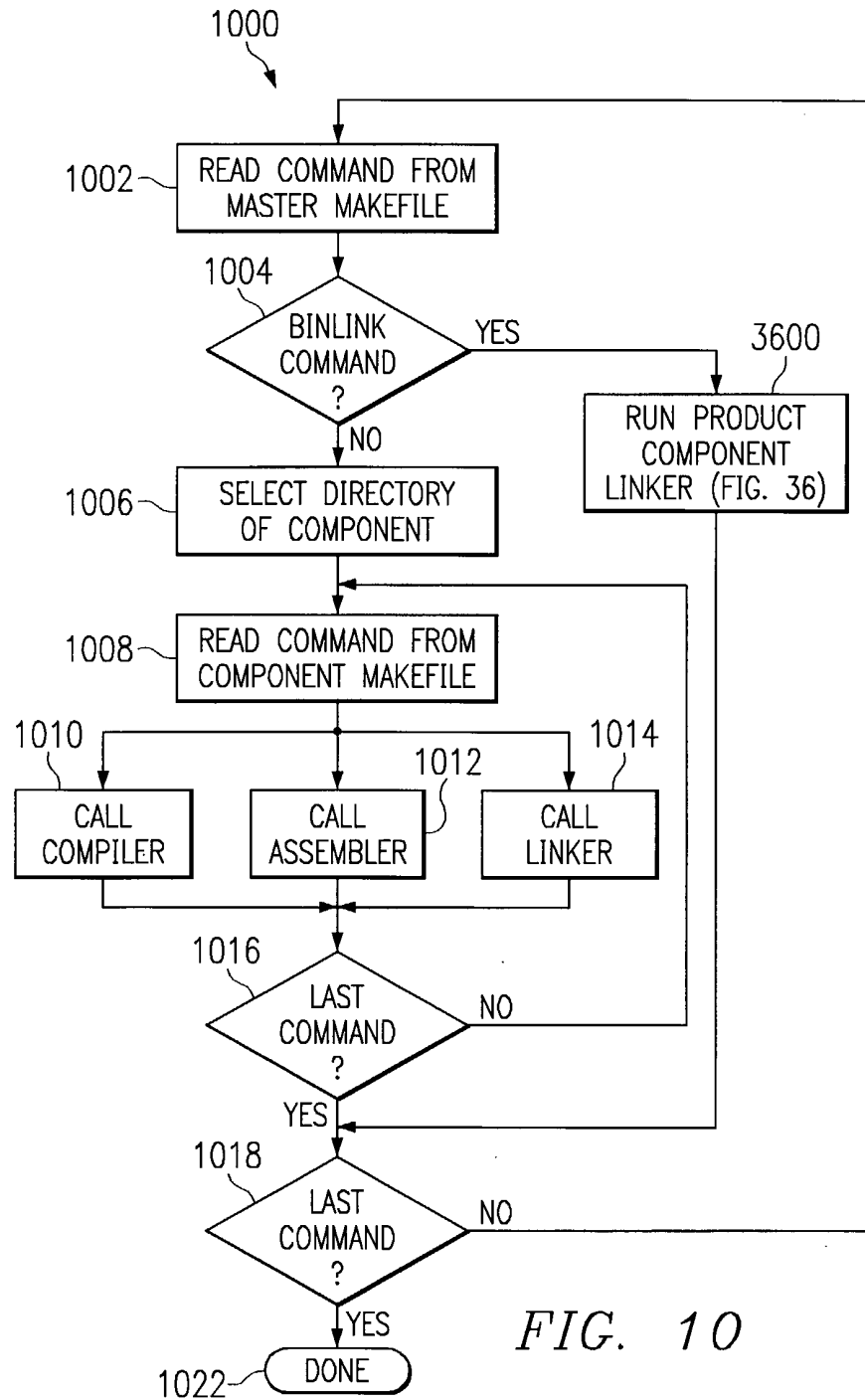
FIG. 7



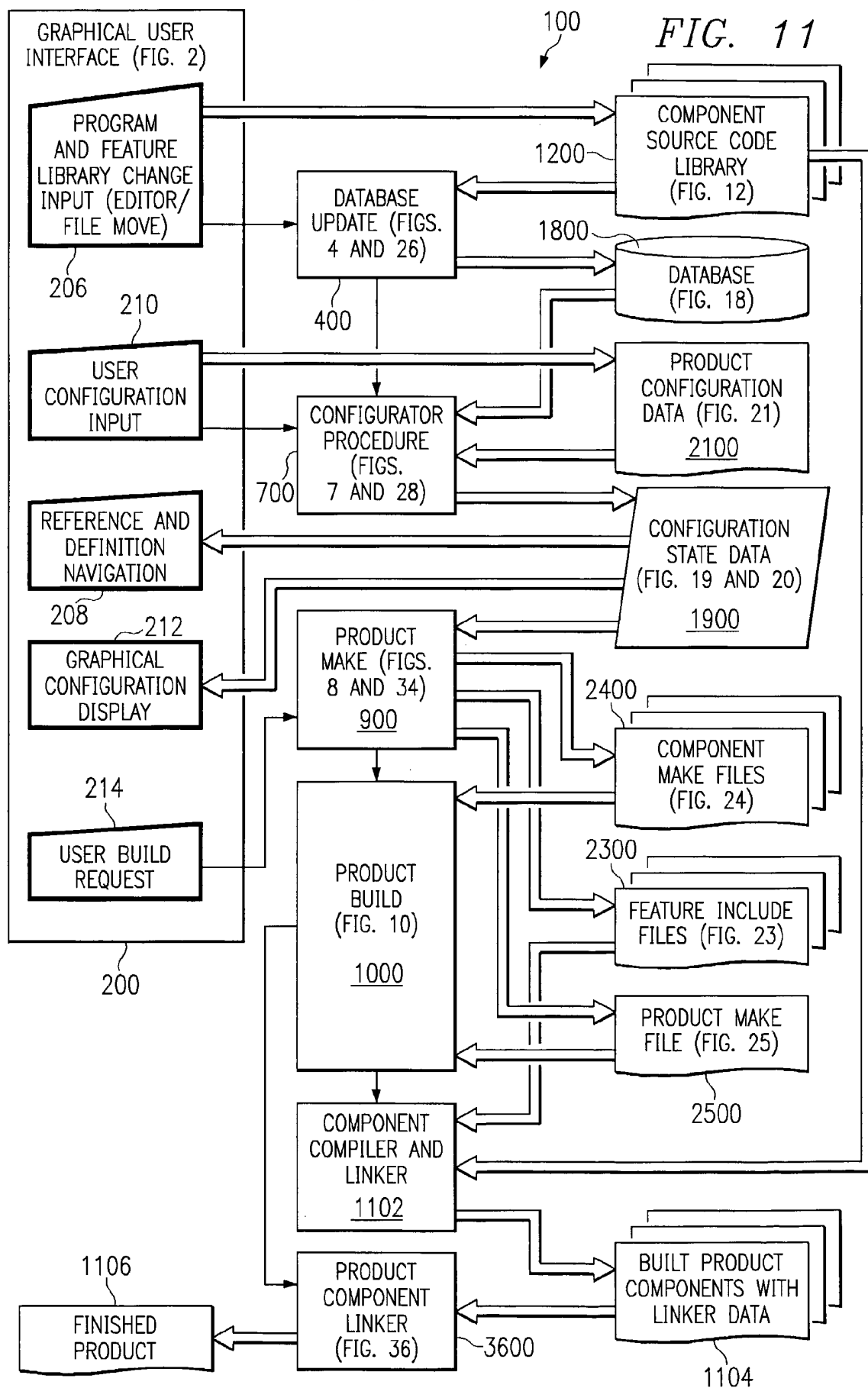
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1300
 1302~SUBTTL BEEP.ASM - BEEPING SUPPORT CODE
 1304~.XLIST
 INCLUDE SYSTEM.INC~1306
 1308~INCLUDE FEATURE.INC
 1310~.LIST
 1312~PUBEXT TIMER.DELAY, 1.0
 1314~CODE_SEGMENT_OPEN POST + RUNTIME
 1316~PUBLIC_PROC BEEP.ERRORBEEP, 1.0
 1317~ . . . ; CODE
 1318~EXTCALL TIMER.DELAY ; GATE TIMER AND WAIT
 . . . ; CODE~1319
 1320~END_PROC
 PUBLIC_PROC BEEP.BEEP, 1.0~1322
 1323~ . . . ; CODE
 1324~EXTCALL TIMER.DELAY ; DURING POWER ON
 1326~DIAGNOSTICS
 1328~ . . . ; CODE
 1330~END_PROC
 1332~SEGMENT_CLOSE
 1334~END

FIG. 13

1600
 1602~NAME("BEEP")
 DESCRIPTION("BIOS BEEP SUPPORT ROUTINES.")~1604
 1606~CLASS(BEEP)
 1608~COREVERSION(7.00)
 OWNER("PHOENIX")~1610
 1612~BRINGUP()
 1614~SHIELDPRIVATES()
 PLATFORMTYPE(IA32)~1616
 1618~{
 ALLOTHERS(RECOMMENDED)~1620
 }
 ~1622

FIG. 16

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1400
 1402 NAME("CORE RUNTIME SERVICES")
 DESCRIPTION("BIOS CORE ROUTINES") 1404
 1406 CLASS(CORE)
 COREVERSION(7.00) 1408
 1410 OWNER("PHOENIX")
 1412 BRINGUP()
 SHIELDPRIVATES() 1414
 CLASSIFICATION 1416
 1418 {
 COMPONENTTYPE(SOFTWARE) 1420
 1422 }
 PLATFORMTYPE(IA32) 1424
 1426 {
 ALLOTHERS(RECOMMENDED) 1428
 1430 }

FIG. 14

1500
 1502 NAME("COMPONENTNAME")
 1504 CLASS(CLASSNAME)
 PLATFORMTYPE(ARCHITECTURE) 1506
 1508 {
 PLATFORMTYPE(RULE) 1510
 1512 . . .
 ALLOTHERS(RULE) 1514
 1516 // RULE := RECOMMENDED | TEST | ONDEMAND
 // | EXPLICIT | EXTERNALTRIGGER (CLASSPATH) 1518
 1520 }
 1522 OPTION(OPTIONNAME,OPTIONVALUE,OPTIONSIZ, "DESCRIPTION
 ") 1524
 1526 {
 VALUENAME,VALUE, "DESCRIPTION" 1528
 . . . 1530
 1532 }

FIG. 15

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FIG. 17

1700

1702 NAME("FEATURENAME")

1704 CLASS(CLASSNAME) | SUBCLASS (SUBCLASSNAME | ..)

PLATFORMTYPE(ARCHITECTURE) ~1706

1708 {

1712 PLATFORMTYPE(RULE) ~1710

1714 ALLOTHERS(RULE) ~1714

1716 // RULE := RECOMMENDED | TEST | ONDEMAND

1718 // | EXPLICIT | EXTERNALTRIGGER (CLASSPATH) ~1718

1720 }

1721 OPTION(OPTIONNAME,OPTIONVALUE,OPTIONSIZ, "DESCRIPTION

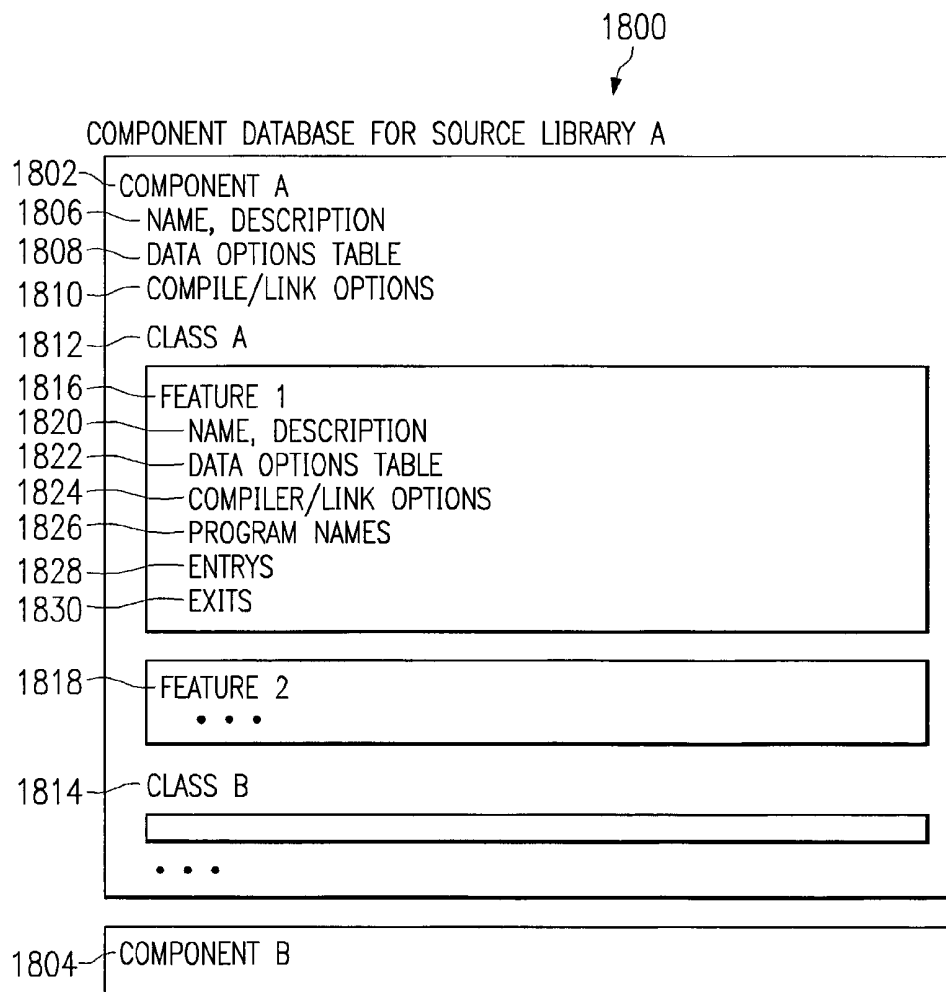
1722 ") ~1722

1723 {

1724 VALUENAME,VALUE,"DESCRIPTION" ~1724

1726 ... ~1726

1728 }

*FIG. 18*

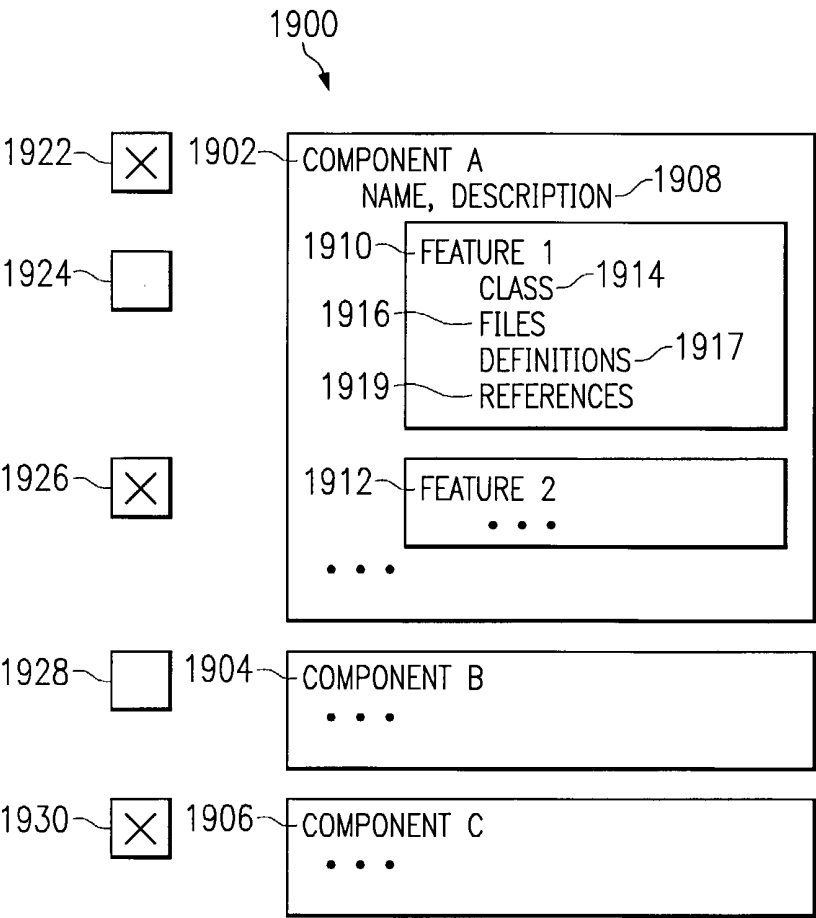


FIG. 19

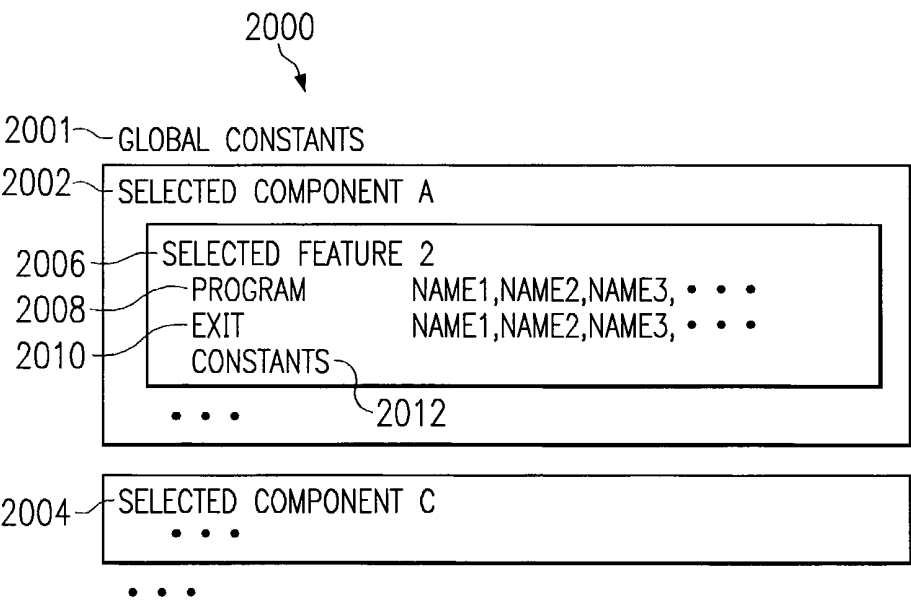


FIG. 20

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2100
 2102 PLATFORMTYPE ("DESKTOP", IA32)
 2104 COMPONENT ("PNP", NOFORCE)
 2106 {
 FILE ("MYFILE.ASM", "\\DEVREF\\INTEL\\440BX") 2108
 2110 }

FIG. 21

2200
 2202 PLATFORMTYPE("PLATFORMTYPE", ARCHITECTURE) 2201
 SYSTEMOPTION("OPTIONNAME", "OPTIONVALUE")
 COMPONENT("COMPONENTNAME" [, FORCEFLAG]) 2204
 2206 { FEATURE/OPTION/SYSTEMOPTION ...}
 // FORCEFLAG := FORCEIN | FORCEOUT | NOFORCE (DEFAULT) 2208
 2210 FEATURE("FEATURNENAME" [, FORCEFLAG])
 { FEATURE/OPTION/SYSTEMOPTION/FILE/OVERRIDEFILE 2212
 ...
 }
 2214 }
 2215 FILE("FILENAME", "PATH")
 OVERRIDEFILE("FILENAME", "NEWPATH", "ORIGINALVERSION") 2216
 2218 OPTION("OPTIONNAME", "OPTIONVALUE", EDITFLAG,
 [, "DESCRIPTION"]) 2220

FIG. 22

2300
 2302 D_TIMER_DELAY = TRUE

FIG. 23

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2400
 2402 ~ ASMS =
 2404 ~ EXTASMS = \$ (MANTICORE) \BUILD\COMPHEAD\EXE.ASM \
 2406 ~ COMPAT\COMPAT.ASM LISTMGR\GETNEXT.ASM \
 2410 ~ BEEP\BEEP.ASM DISPMGR\DISPINTF.ASM \~2408
 2412 ~ DISPMGR\DISPINIT.ASM \
 2414 ~ DISPMGR\MODULE.ASM DISPMGR\SERVICE.ASM \~2412
 2416 ~ DISPMGR\DISPUTIL.ASM \
 2418 ~ DISPMGR\DISPUTIL.ASM \~2416
 2420 ~ VECTOR\FILLINT.ASM \
 2422 ~ UTILS\CHECKSUM\CHKSUM.ASM ~2420
 2424 ~ DIRLIST = BEEP COMPAT LISTMGR DISPMGR VECTOR NVRAMMGR
 2426 ~ COMPONENT_NAME = COMPONENT ~2424
 2428 ~ FILE_LISTING = FALSE
 2430 ~ ML_FLAGS = /FE\$ (COMPONENT_NAME) .EXE /NOLOGO
 2432 ~
 2434 ~ !IF "\$ (FILE_LISTING) " == "TRUE"
 2436 ~ ML_FLAGS = \$ (ML_FLAGS) /FL~2432
 2438 ~ !ENDIF
 2440 ~ .ASM.OBJ:
 2442 ~ @ML \$ (ML_FLAGS) /C /I\$ (MANTICORE) \INCLUDE \$(**)~2438
 2444 ~ \$ (COMPONENT_NAME) .EXE:\$ (EXTASMS:ASM=OBJ) \$ (ASMS:ASM=OBJ)
 2446 ~ LINK /NOLOGO @<<~2442
 2448 ~ \$ (**F: = +^~2444
 2450 ~ \$ (COMPONENT_NAME)
 2452 ~ \$ (COMPONENT_NAME)~2450
 2454 ~ ;
 2456 ~ <<~2454
 2458 ~ CLEAN:
 2460 ~ @DEL \$ (COMPONENT_NAME) .MAP
 2462 ~ @DEL *.LST~2460
 2464 ~ @DEL *.OBJ
 2466 ~ @DEL \$ (COMPONENT_NAME) .EXE~2464
 2468 ~ @DEL \$ (COMPONENT_NAME) .OUT

FIG. 24

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2500
 ↓

2502 ~ BIOS.ROM:
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \CPU\INTEL\PENTIUM ~ 2504
 2506 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \POST ~ 2508
 2510 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \ISA ~ 2512
 2514 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \MEMC\INTEL\440BX ~ 2516
 2518 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \CORE ~ 2520
 2522 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \PNP ~ 2524
 2526 ~ NMAKER
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \DEVREF\INTEL\440BX ~ 2528
 2530 ~ BINLINK >BINLINK.OUT

2532 ~ CLEAN:
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \CPU\INTEL\PENTIUM ~ 2534
 2536 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \POST ~ 2538
 2540 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \ISA ~ 2542
 2544 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \MEMC\INTEL\440BX ~ 2546
 2548 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \CORE ~ 2550
 2552 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \PNP ~ 2554
 2556 ~ NMAKER CLEAN
 CD \$ (MANTICORE) \DEVREF\INTEL\440BX ~ 2558
 2560 ~ DEL *.SCR
 DEL *. ~ 2562
 2564 ~ DEL *.EXE
 DEL *.MAP ~ 2566
 2568 ~ DEL *.ROM
 DEL *.OUT ~ 2570

FIG. 25

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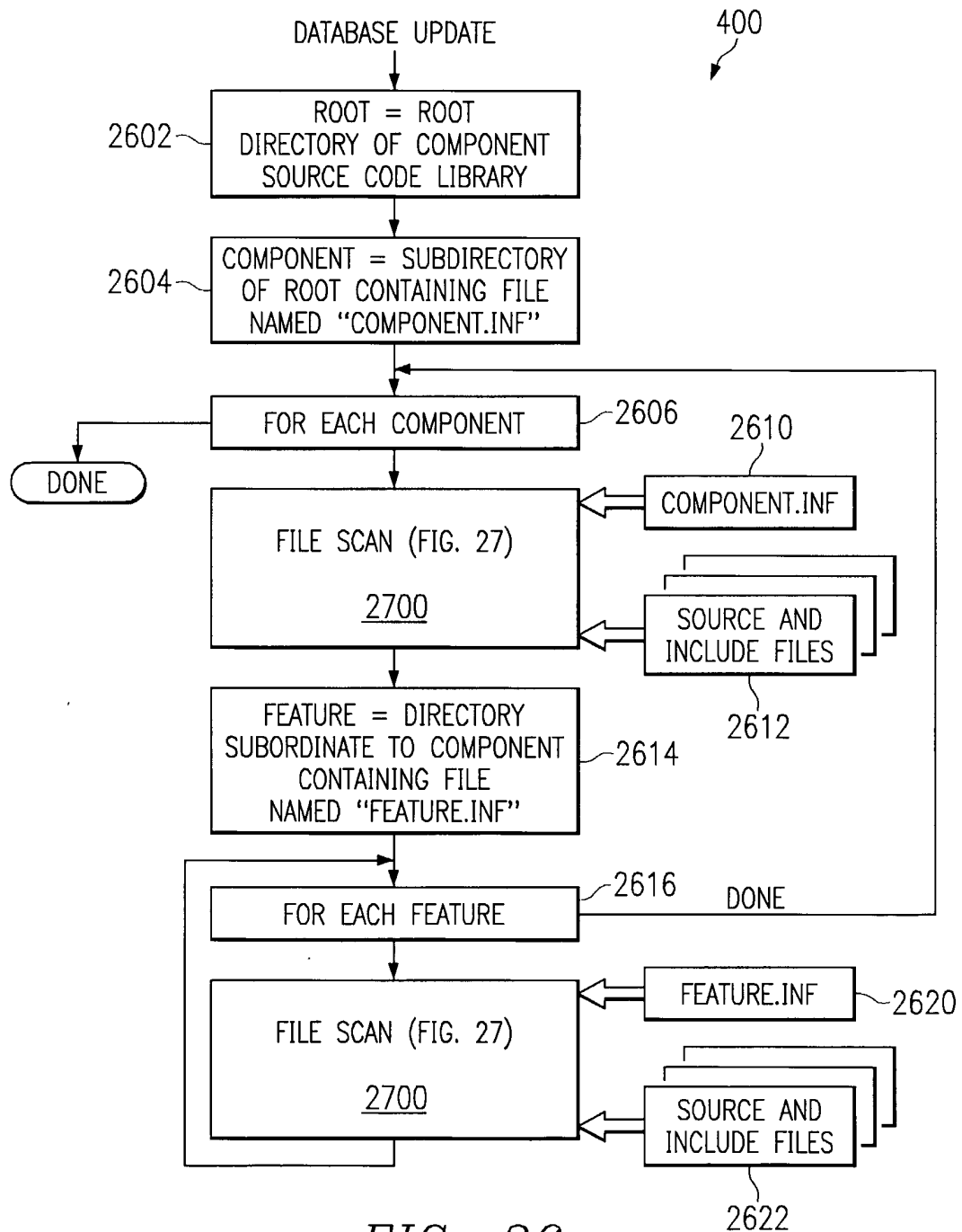


FIG. 26

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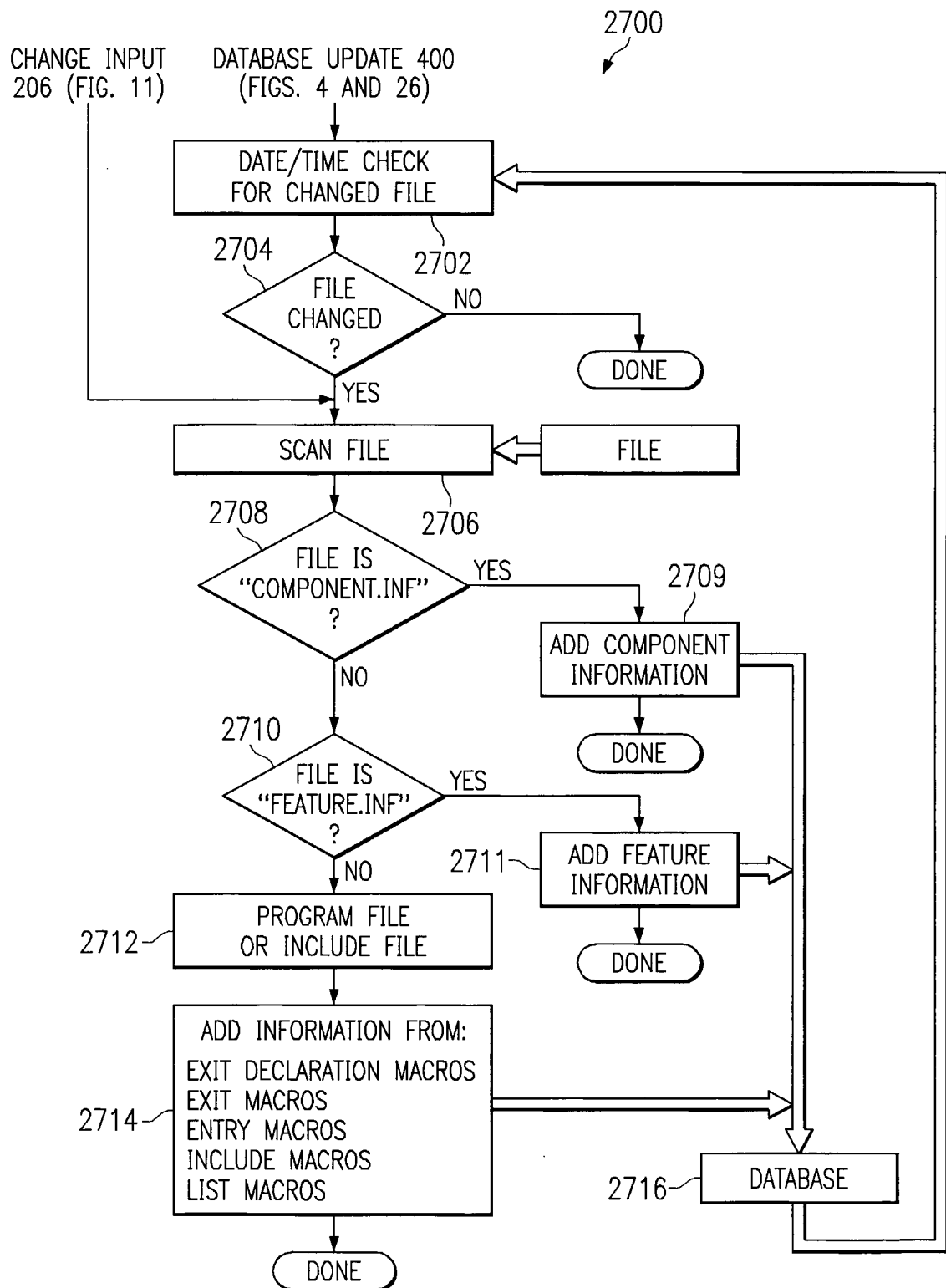


FIG. 27

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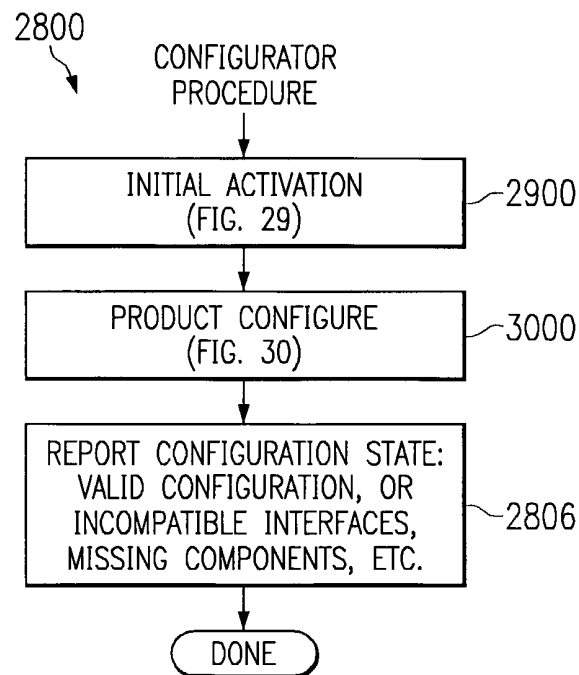


FIG. 28

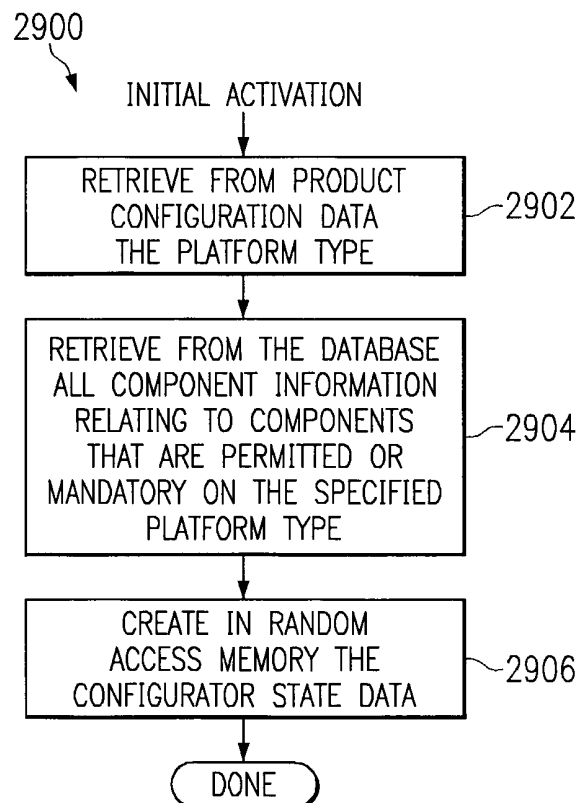


FIG. 29

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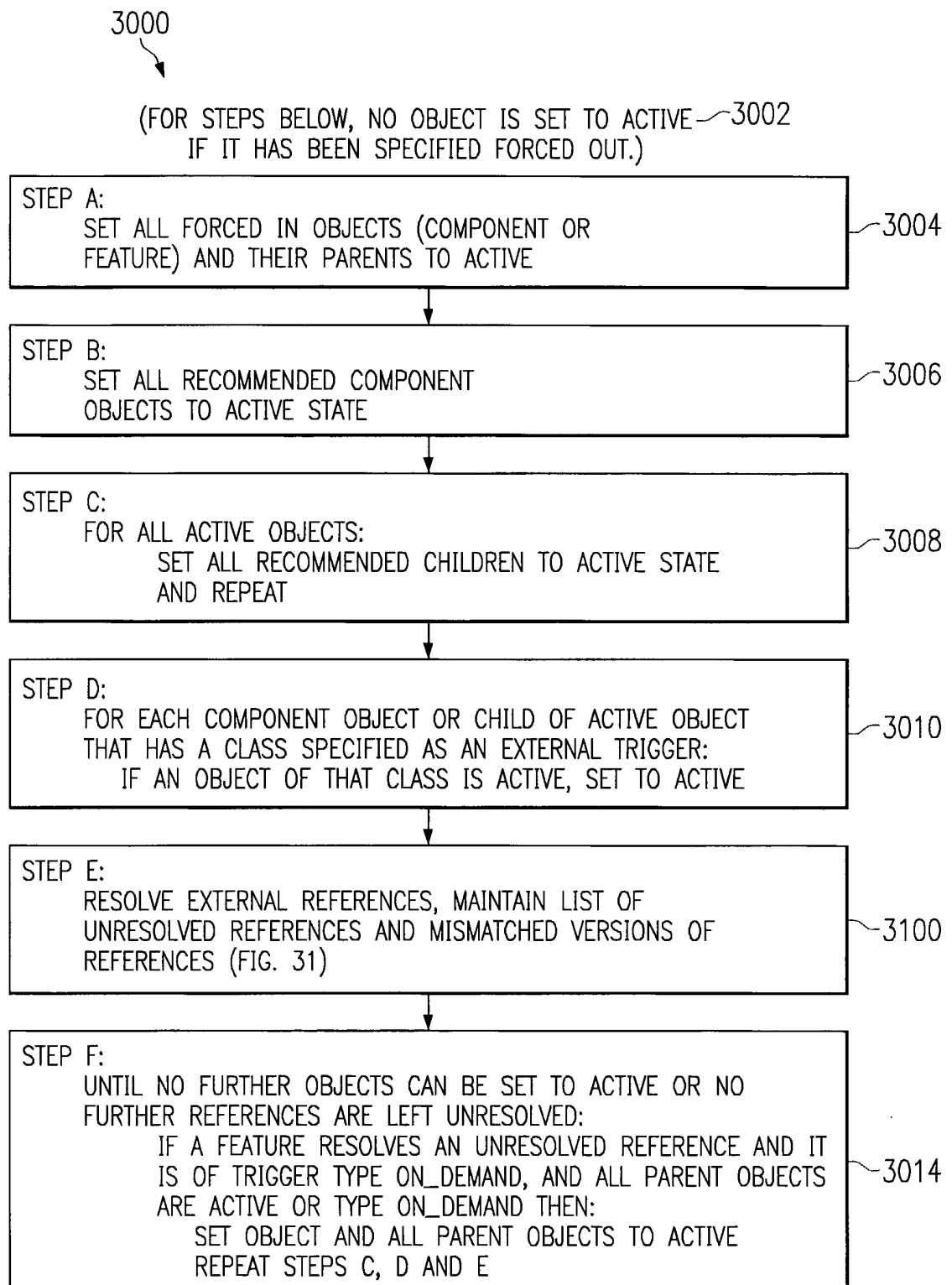


FIG. 30

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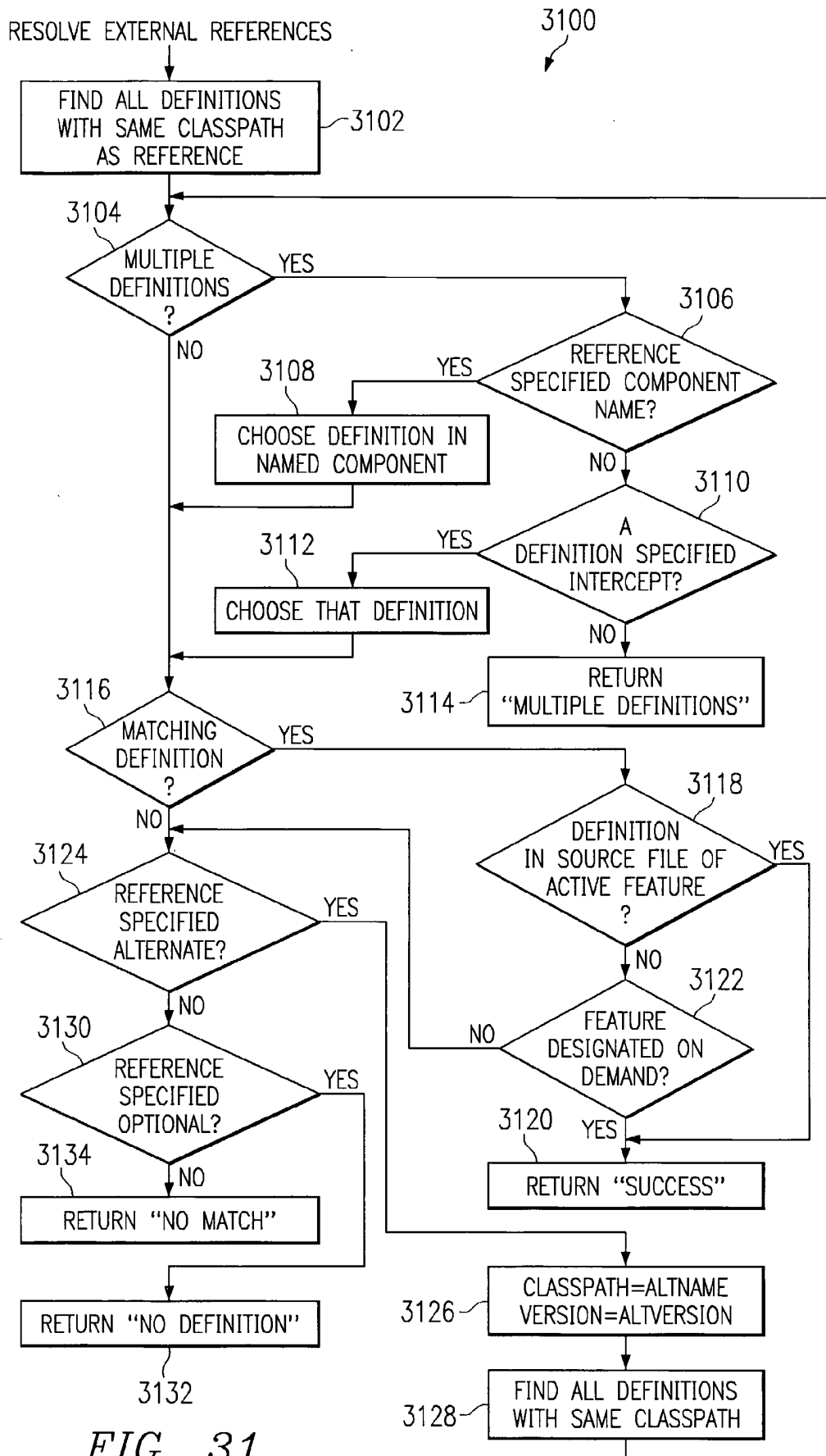


FIG. 31

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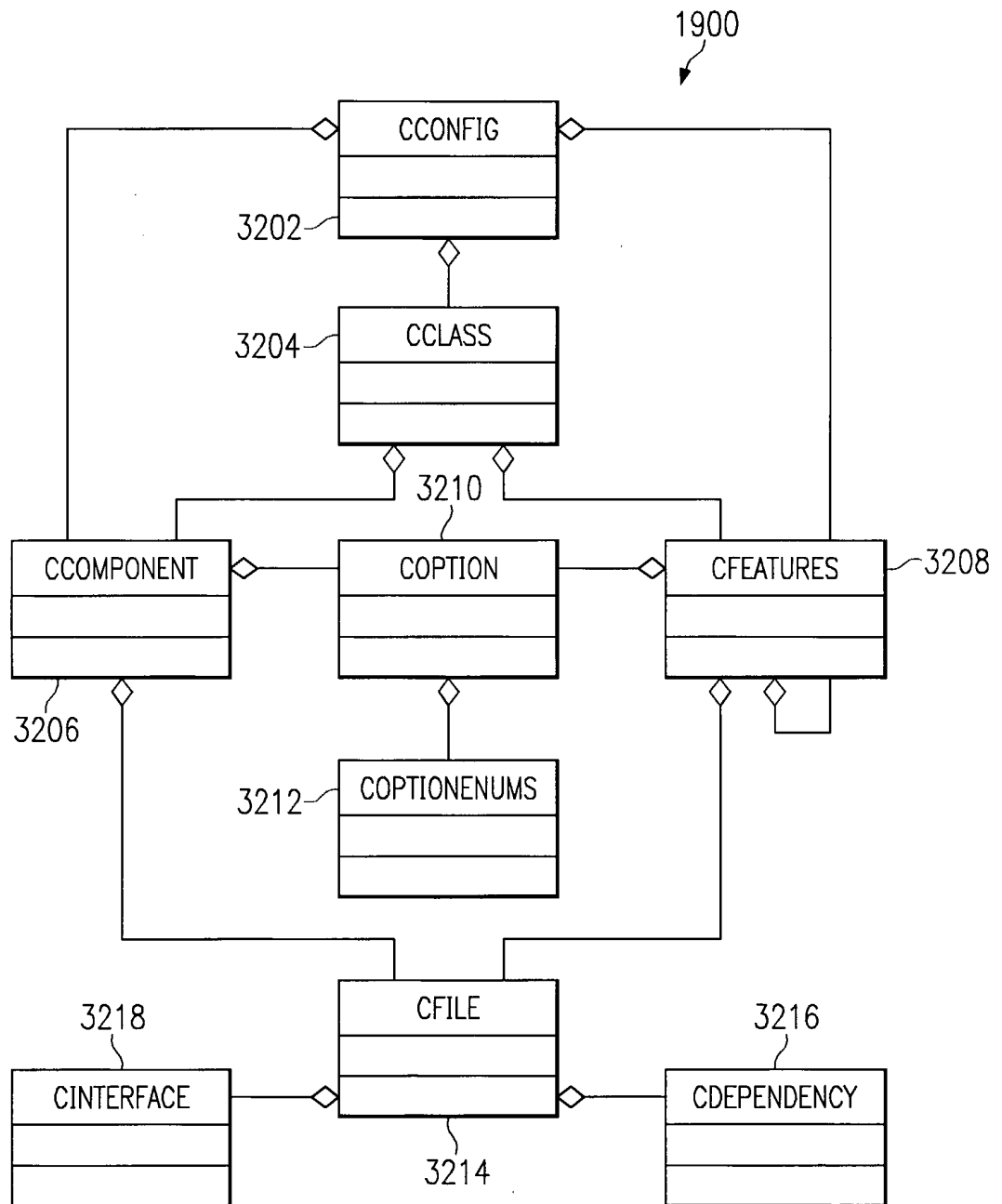


FIG. 32

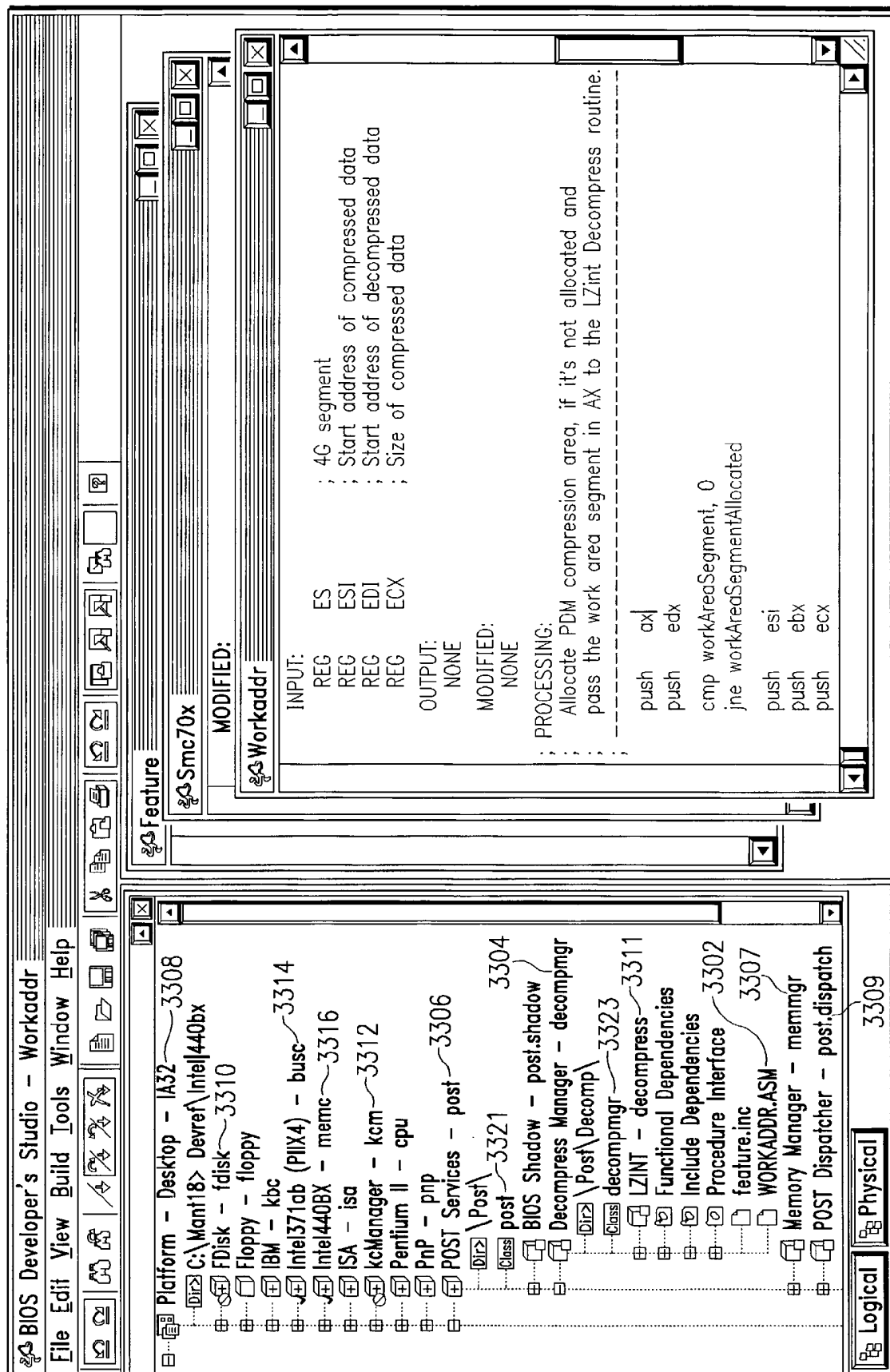


FIG. 33A

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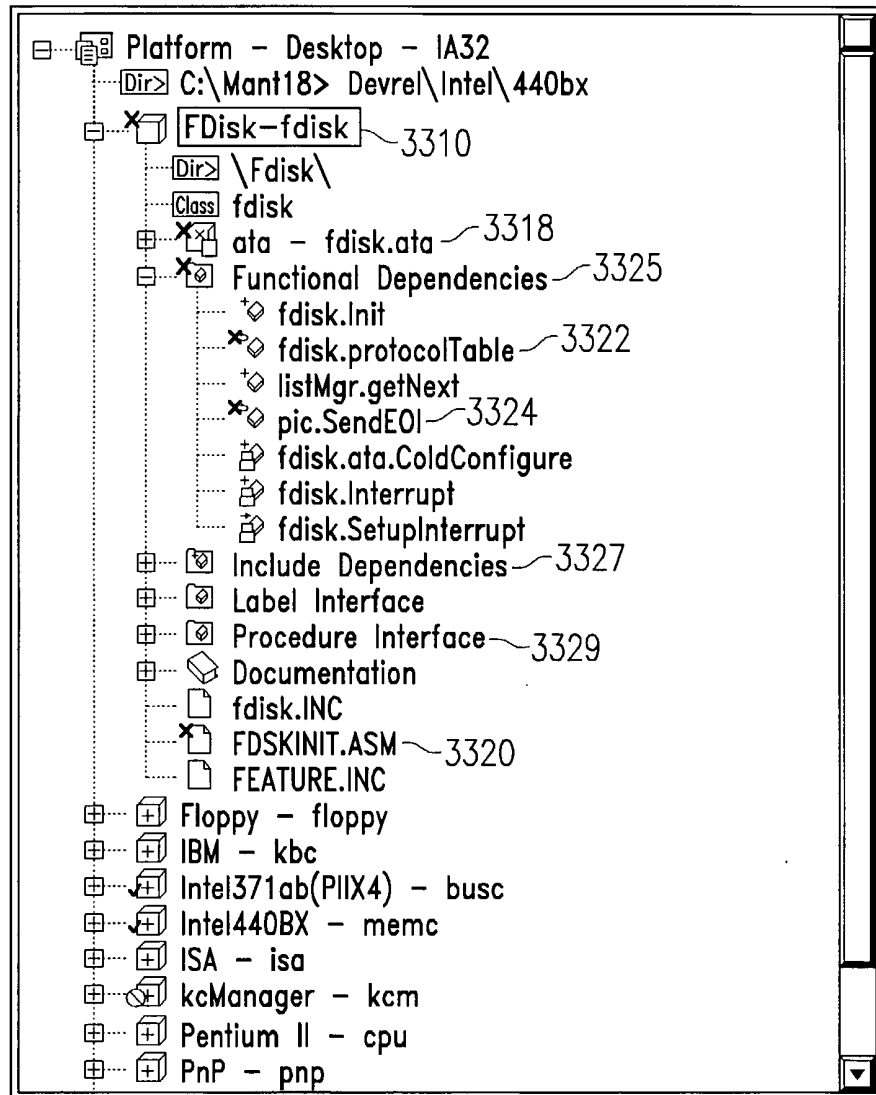


FIG. 33B

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FIG. 33C

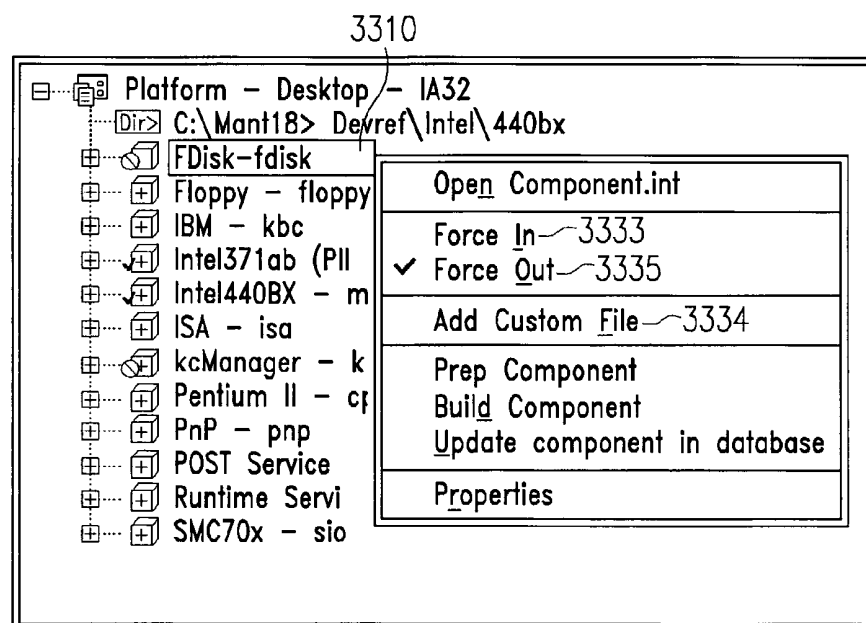
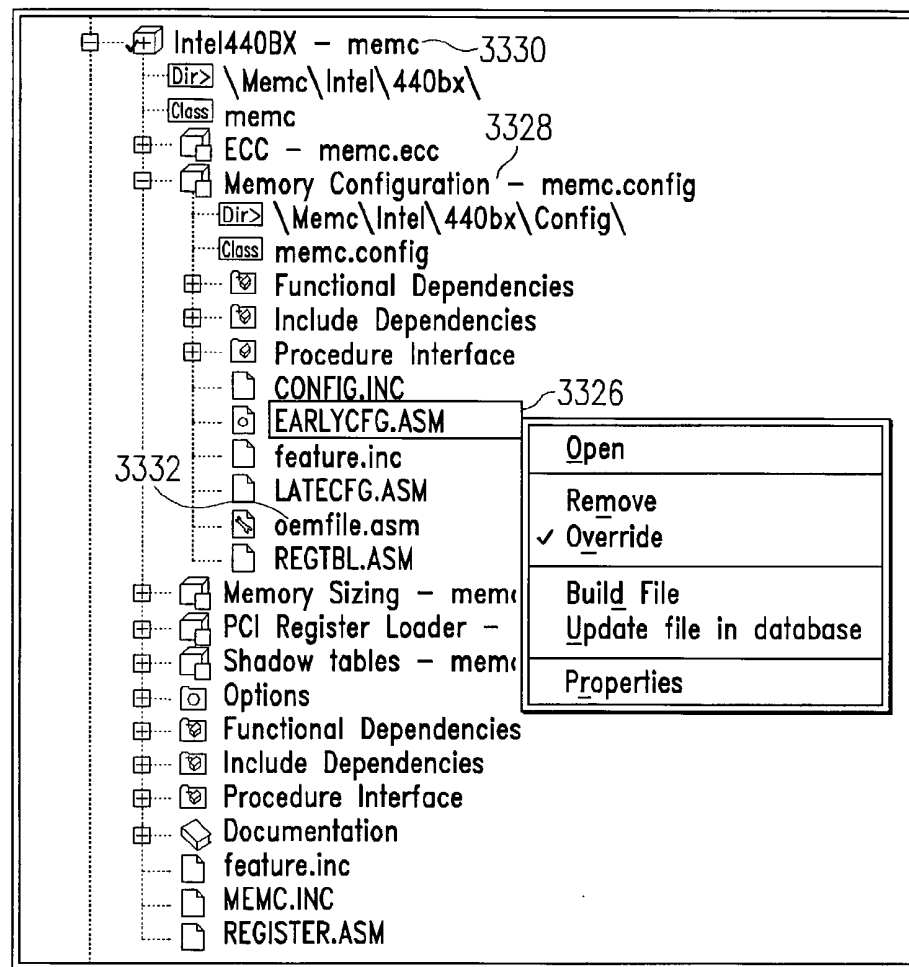


FIG. 33D

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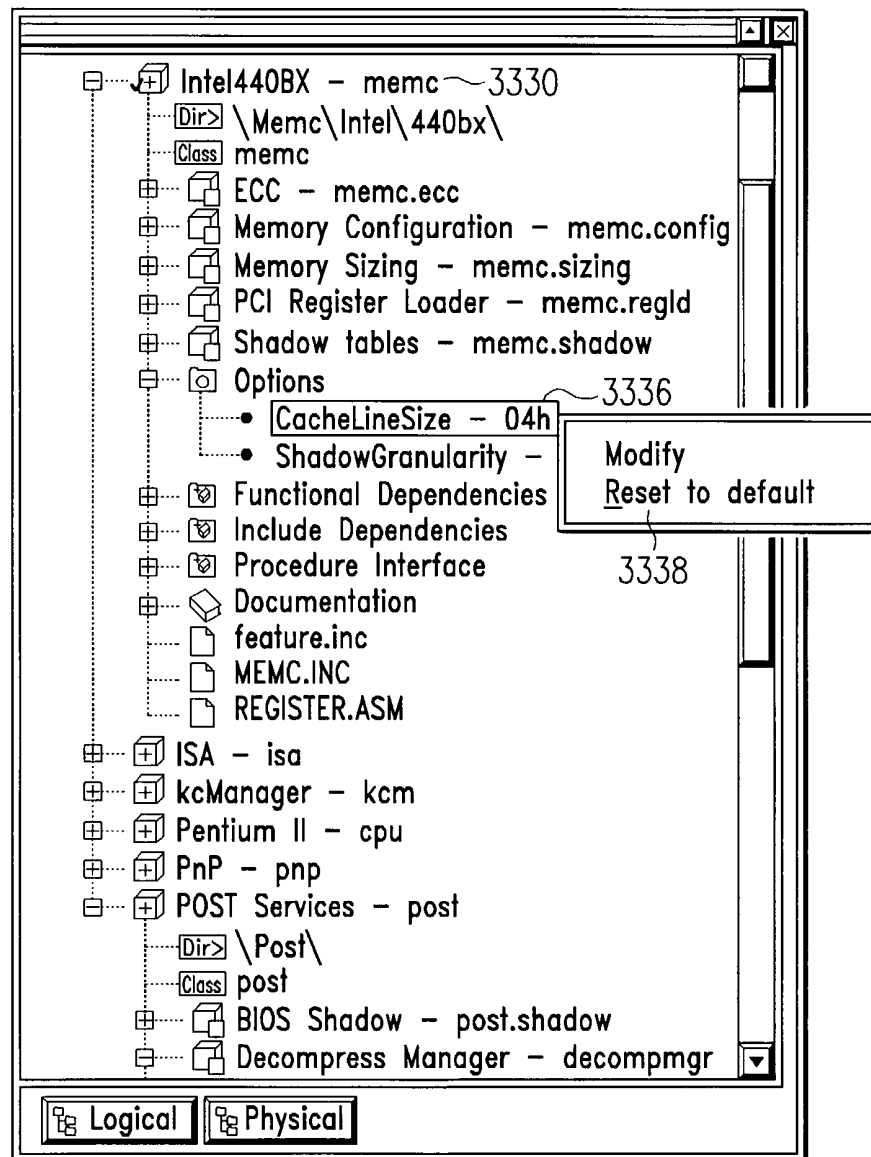


FIG. 33E

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DESCRIPTION OF ICON IN LOGICAL VIEW TREE	IN BIOS	NOT IN BIOS	FORCED IN	FORCED OUT	HAS ERRORS	HAS WARNINGS
PLATFORM						
COMPONENT						
FEATURE						
CLASS						
PATH						
FILE						
OVERRIDE FILE						
CUSTOM FILE						
FOLDER OF OPTIONS						
OPTION						
FOLDER OF INTERFACES						
PUBLIC INTERFACE						
PRIVATE INTERFACE						
FOLDER OF DEPENDENCIES						
PUBLIC DEPENDENCY						
PRIVATE DEPENDENCY						
FOLDER OF DOCUMENTS						
DOCUMENTATION FILE						

FIG. 33F

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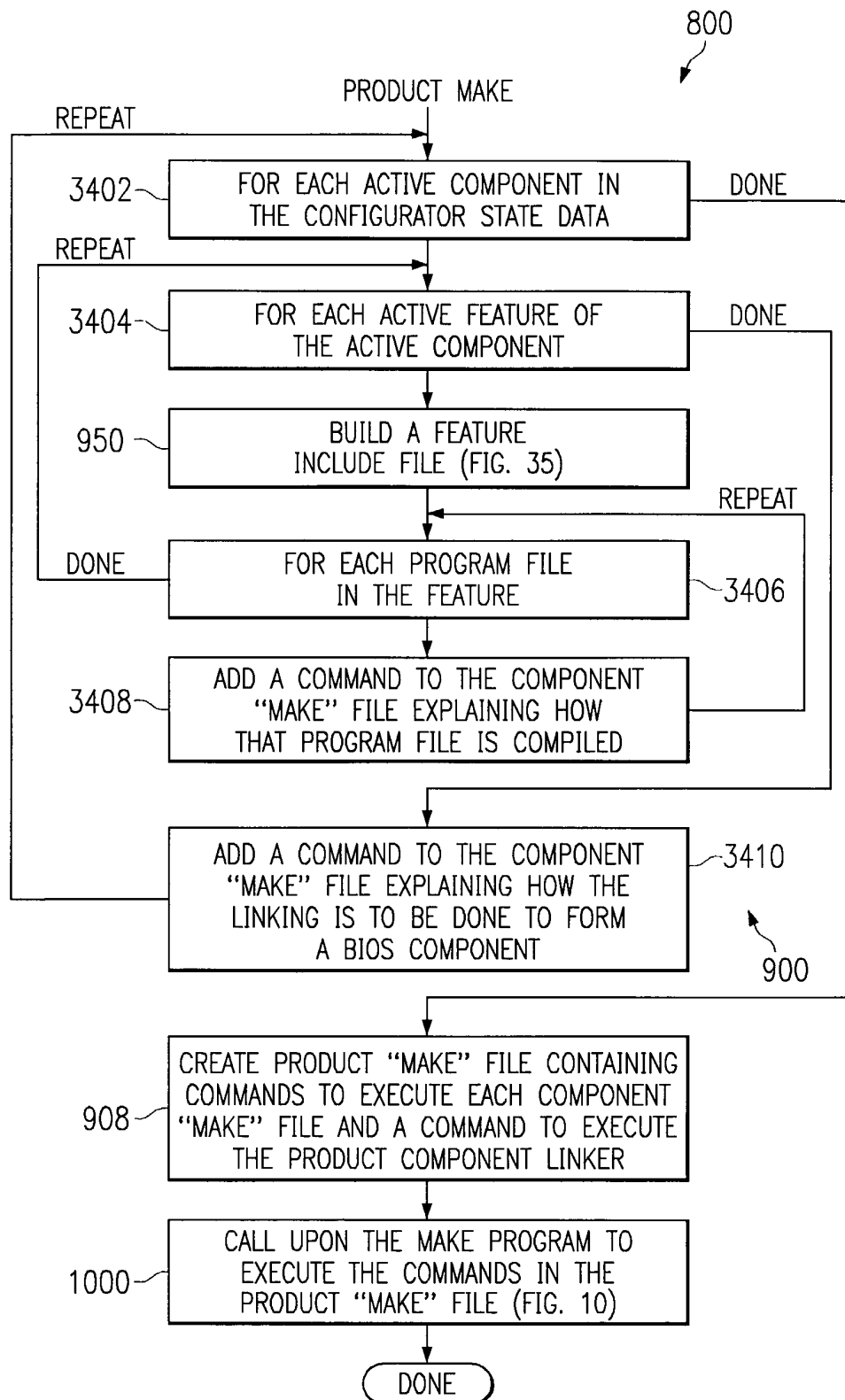
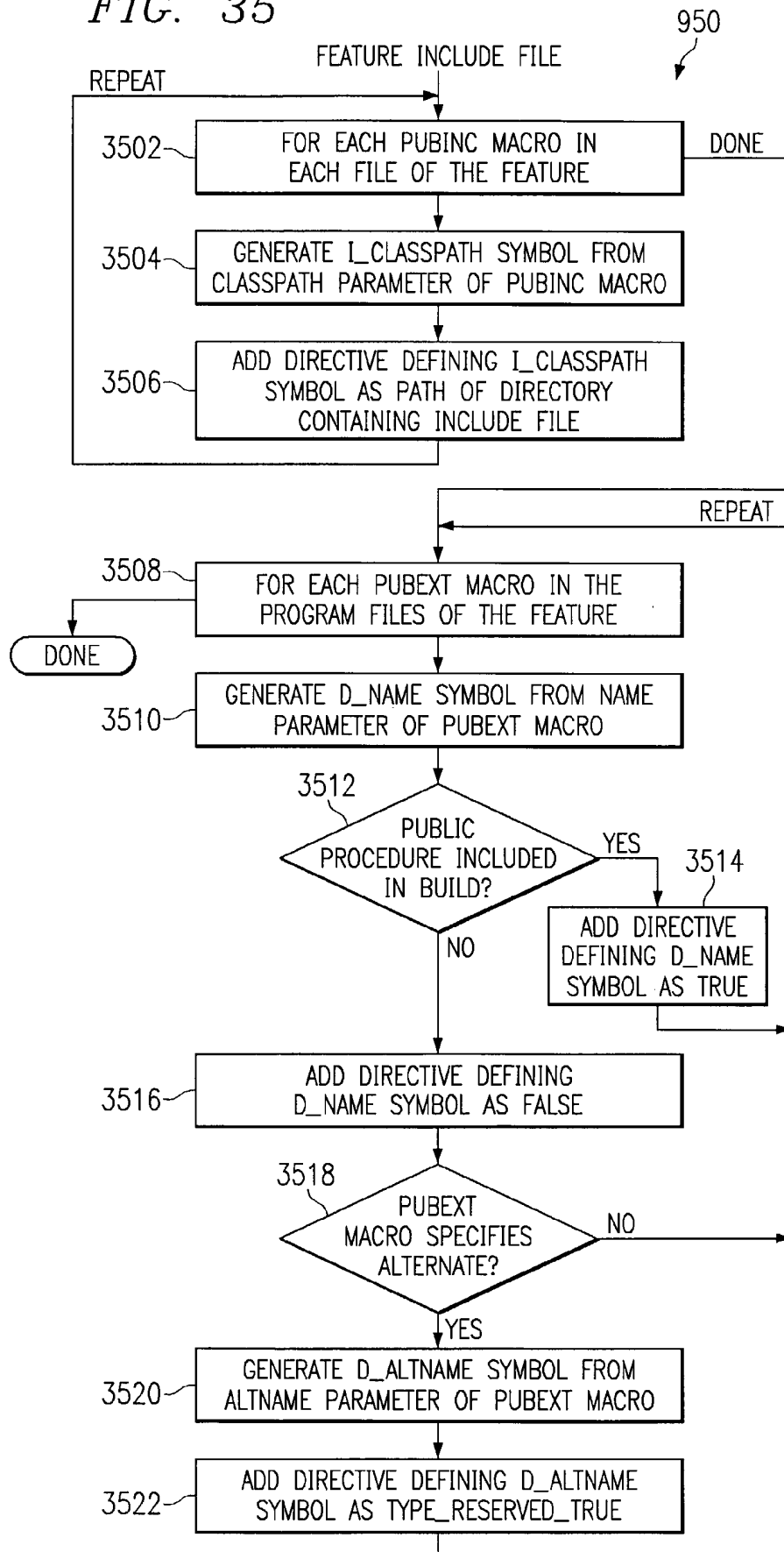


FIG. 34

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FIG. 35



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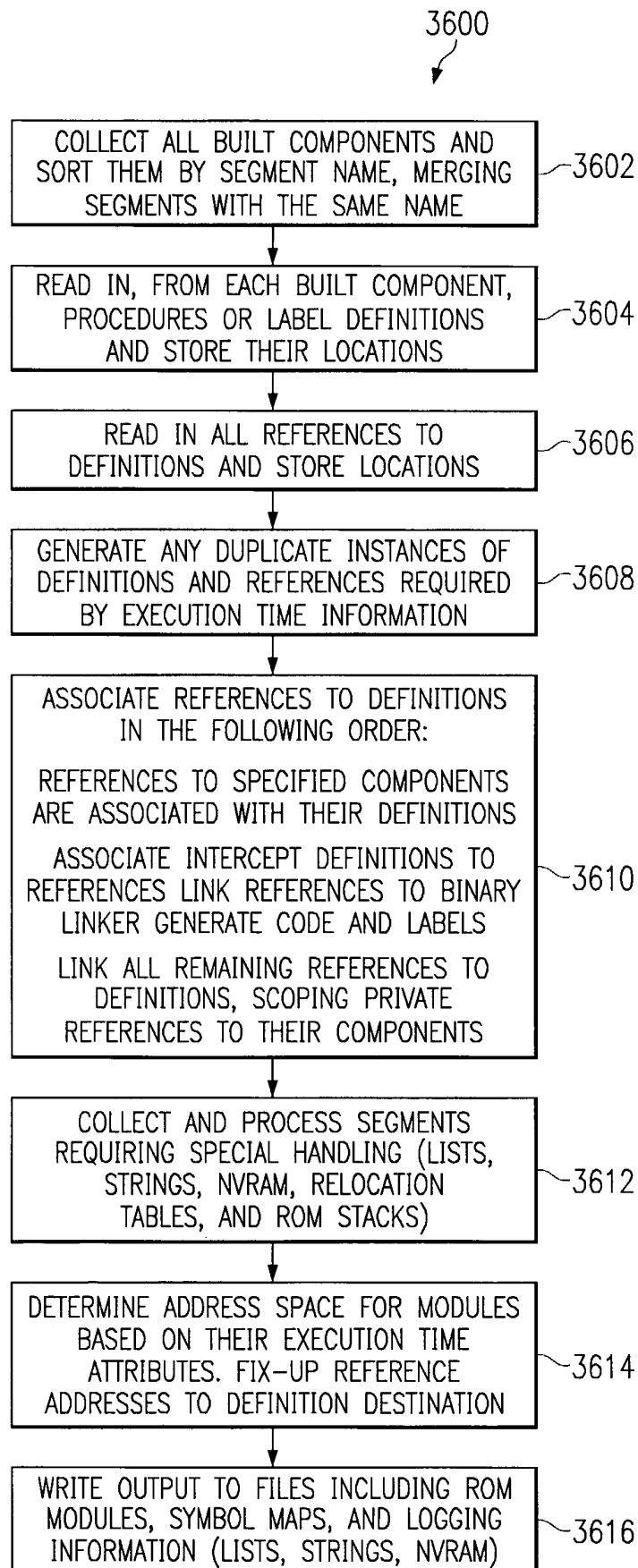


FIG. 36

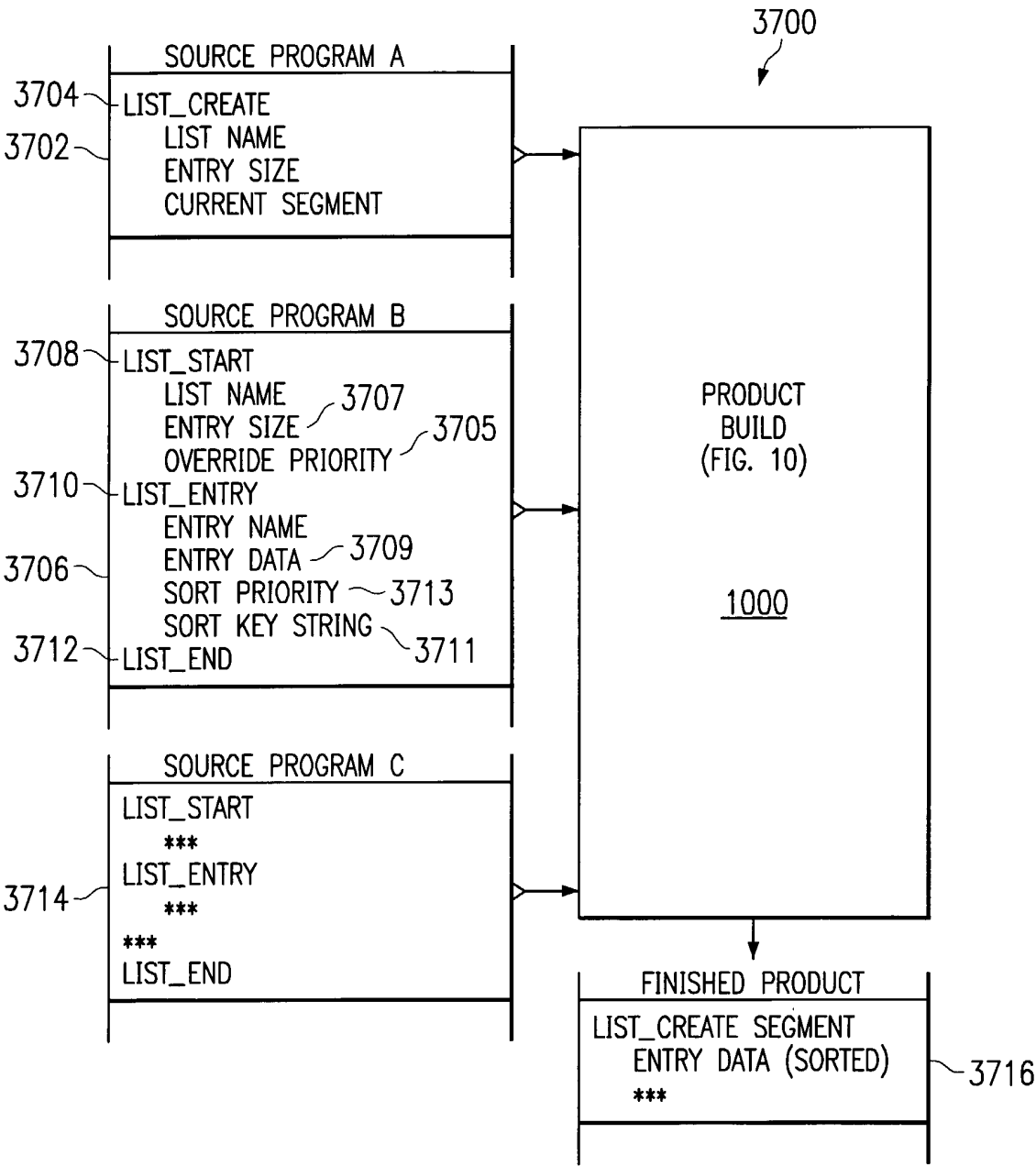


FIG. 37

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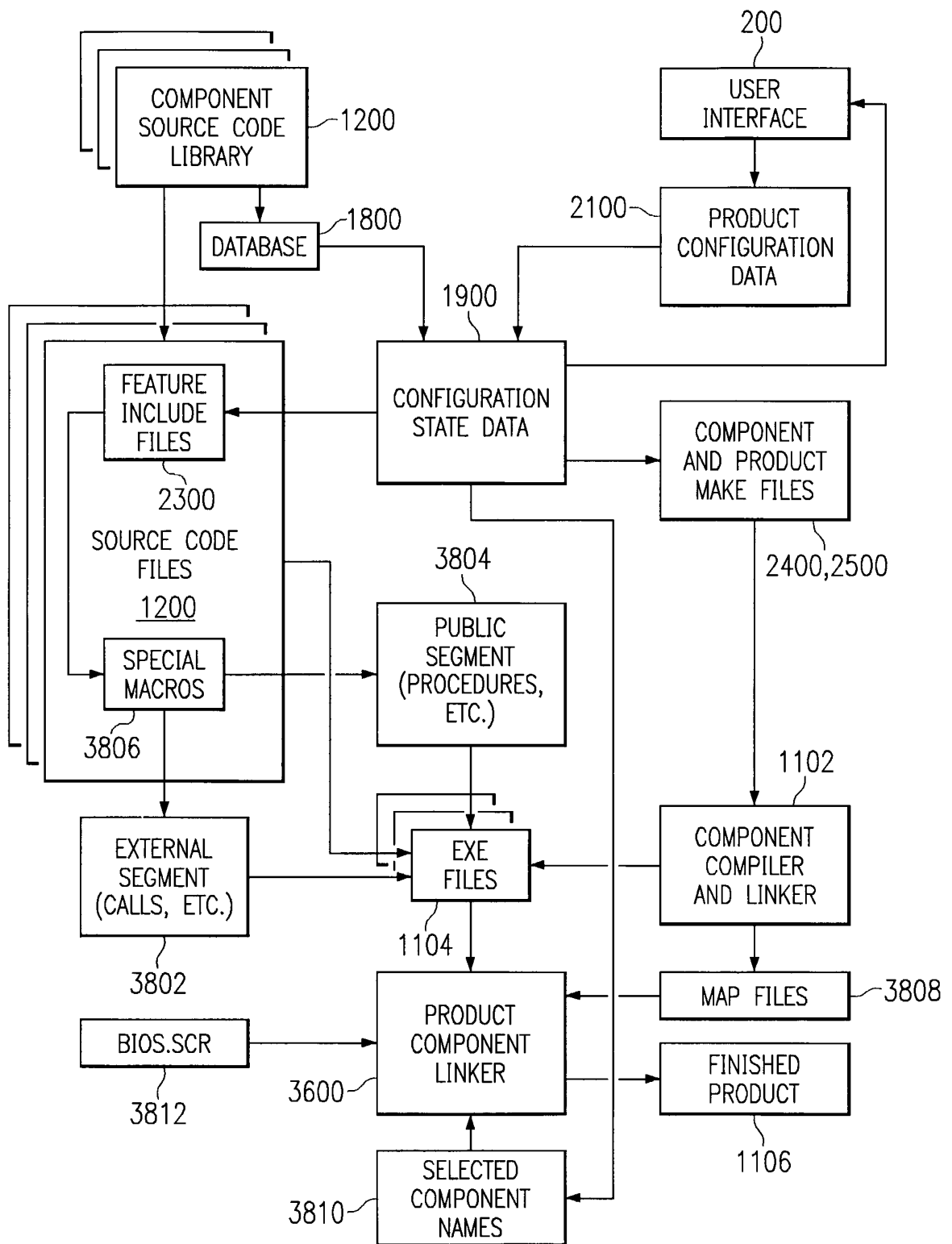
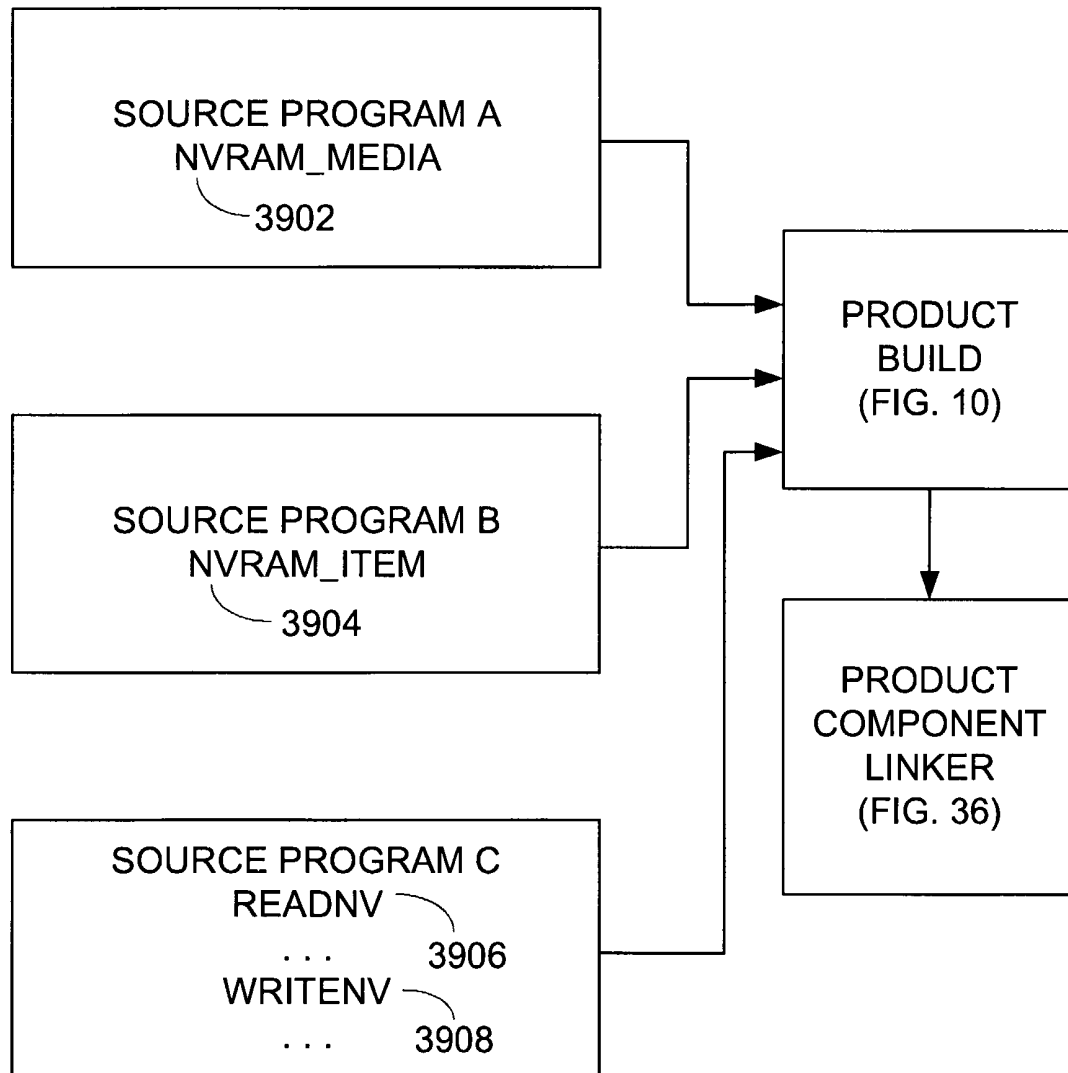
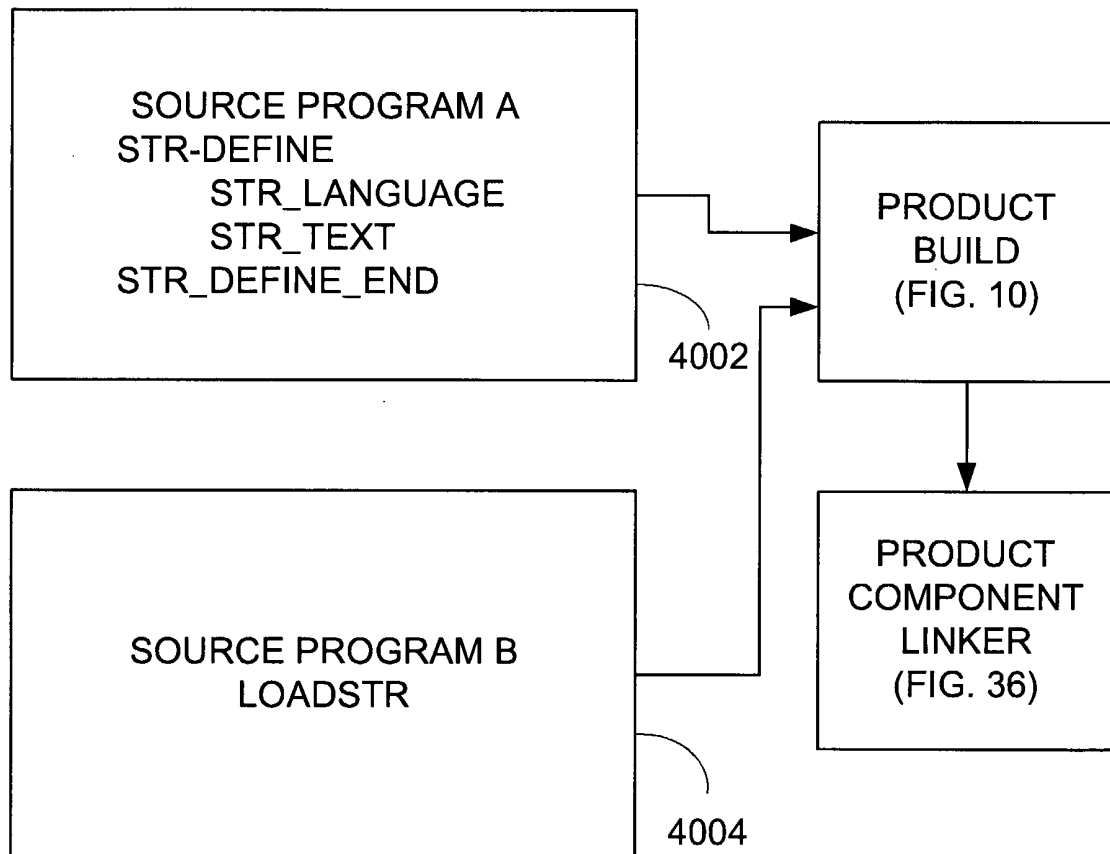


FIG. 38

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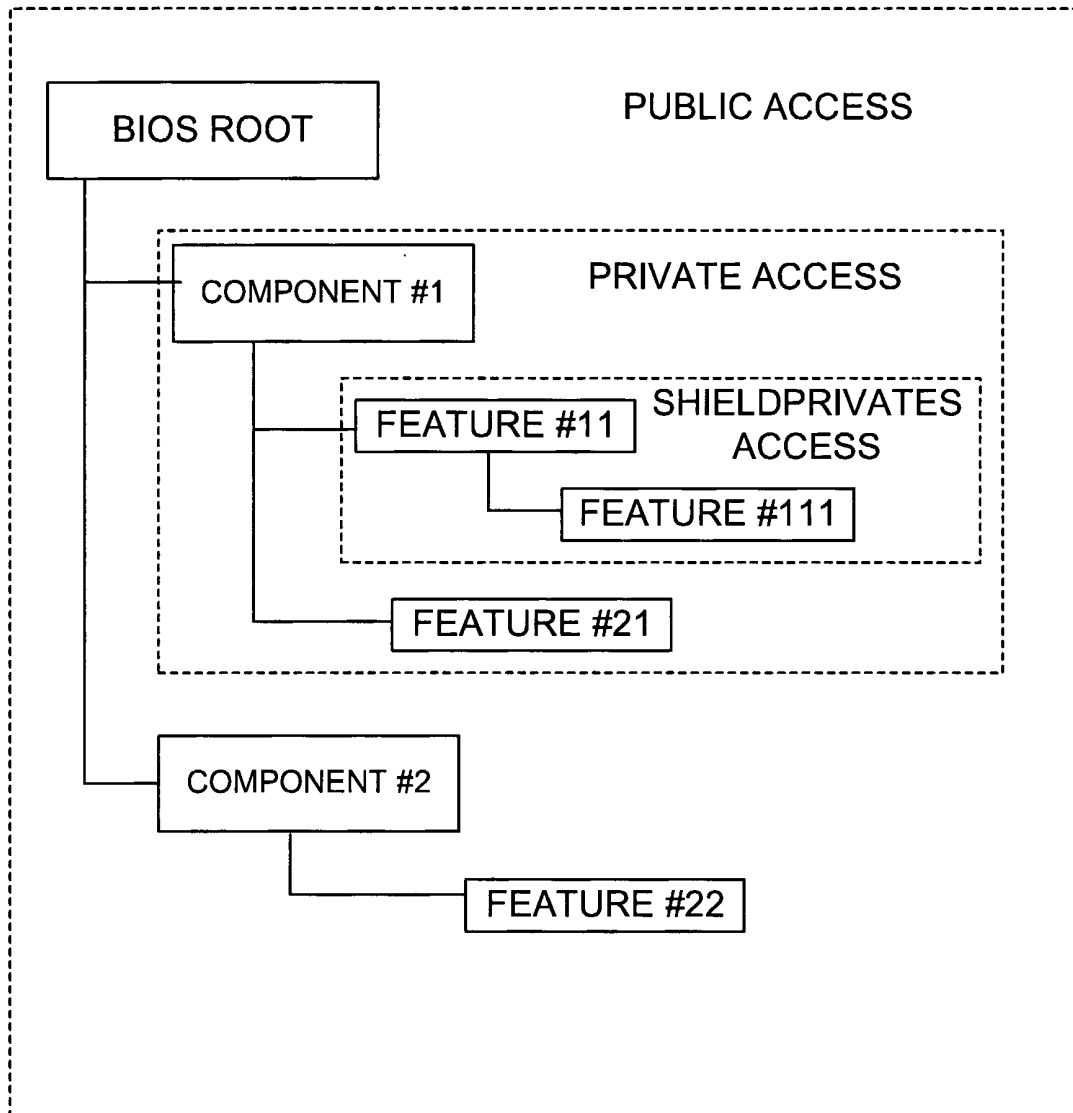
FIG. 39 NVRAM ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT

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FIG. 40 STRING ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT

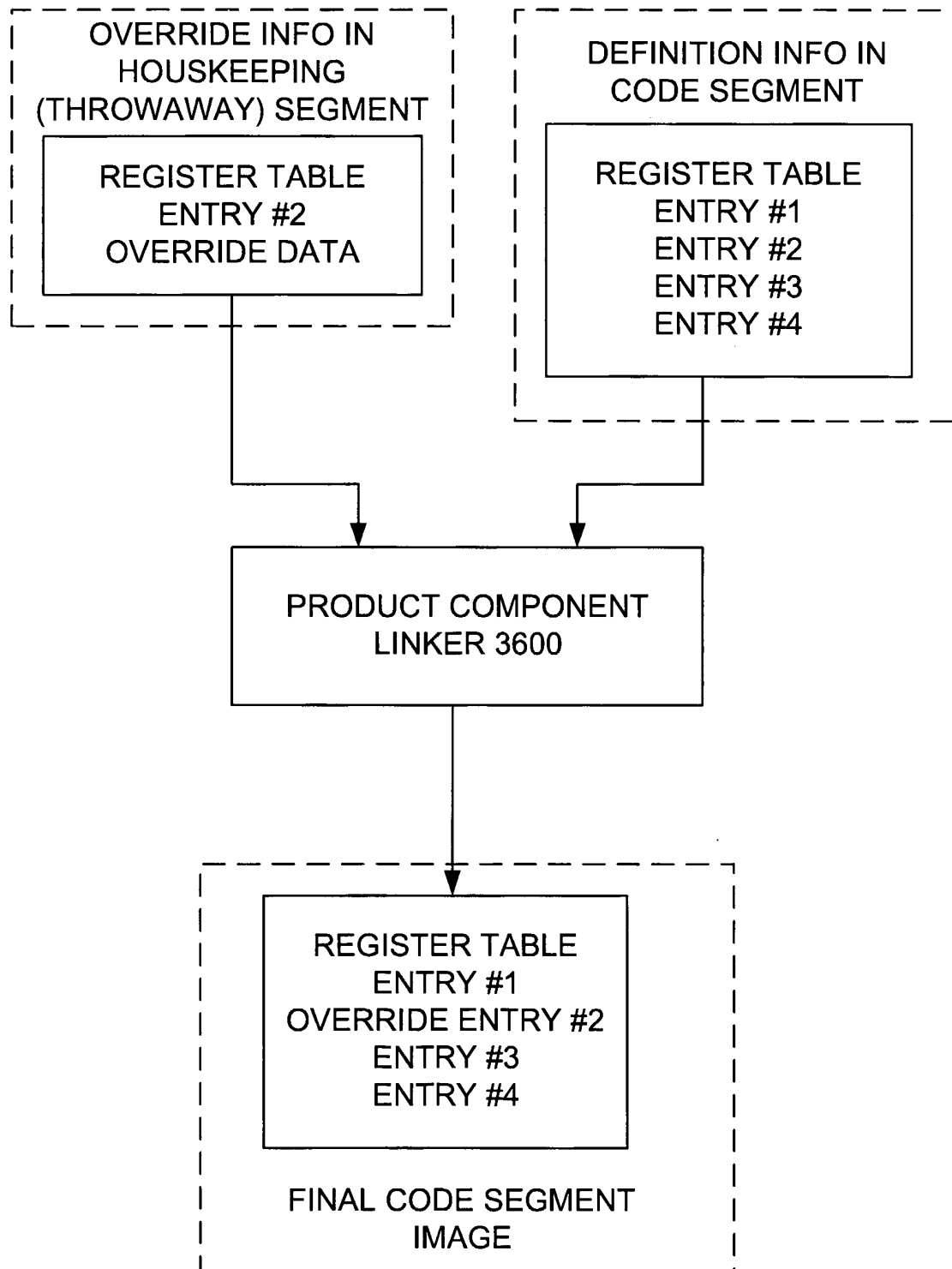
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FIG. 41 HIERARCHICAL ACCESS TO DEPENDENCIES



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*FIG. 42 CUSTOMIZATION OF SINGLE ITEMS
FROM A TABLE*



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter: Application No
PCT/US 00/25928

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 574 918 A (HURLEY DANIEL F ET AL) 12 November 1996 (1996-11-12) column 1, line 36 -column 2, line 21 ----	1,83
A	US 5 325 533 A (MCINERNEY PETER J ET AL) 28 June 1994 (1994-06-28) column 2, line 66 -column 3, line 53 column 5, line 14 - line 33 ----	1,83
A	W0 98 14869 A (DSC TELECOM LP) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09) page 2, line 13 -page 4, line 15 ----- -/--	1,83



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/12/2000


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Authorized officer

Brandt, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern  Application No
PCT/US 00/25928

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KRAMER J ET AL: "GRAPHICAL CONFIGURATION PROGRAMMING" COMPUTER,US,IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY, LONG BEACH., CA, US, vol. 22, no. 10, 1 October 1989 (1989-10-01), pages 53-65, XP000072735 ISSN: 0018-9162 the whole document ----	1,83
A	LOQUES O ET AL: "P-RIO: A MODULAR PARALLEL-PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENT" IEEE CONCURRENCY,US,IEEE SERVICE CENTER, PISCATAWAY, NY, vol. 6, no. 1, 1998, pages 47-56, XP000737884 ISSN: 1092-3063 the whole document -----	1,83

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Information on patent family members

Intern

Application No

PCT/US 00/25928

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