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- 1 12. In a computer system having a first and a second software entity, each supporting one or more features, feature exchange apparatus comprising:
- means for transferring, from said first to said
- 5 second software entity, indications of features supported by said first software entity,
- means for comparing, by said second software entity, said indications of features supported by said first software entity with indications of features
- 10 supported by said second software entity,
- means for transferring, from said second software entity to said first software entity, said indications of features supported by said second software entity,
- said means for transferring from said second
- 15 software entity to said first software entity including means for transferring an error indication if said first software entity does not support a feature required by said second software entity, and
- means for comparing, by said first software
- 20 entity, said indications of features supported by said second software entity with said indications of features supported by said first software entity,
- said first software entity taking an error action if said second software entity does not support a feature
- 25 required by said first software entity or if said first software entity receives said error indication.
13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein
- said indications of features supported by said
- 30 first software entity and said indications of features supported by said second software entity comprise bit masks where a bit thereof represents a feature, and
- each said comparing means is operative to perform a bitwise comparison of said bit masks.