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- 1 server role in this case. That is, whether  
or not the function is used does not matter  
to the SPP.
- 5 3. If the OS software version has been upgraded  
to recognize the new feature but the SPP  
hardware/microcode includes the old microcode  
wherein the feature is not defined, then  
after exchanging features, the new feature  
is not recognized by the SPP and therefore  
10 ignored. The OS sees that the SPP does not  
support the feature. Since the OS treats  
this as optional, it will not use the  
interface to report statistics.
- 15 4. If the OS software version is upgraded to  
recognize the new feature and the SPP  
hardware/microcode has been upgraded to the  
new microcode wherein the feature is defined,  
then after exchanging features, the new  
feature is recognized by both the SPP and  
20 OS. The OS will therefore use the feature  
to report statistics.

To facilitate the exchange of supported features  
between the OS and SPP microcode, features are represented  
in one or more bit masks. Each bit in the mask represents  
25 a unique feature. If the bit is on (i.e., =1), then  
the feature is either supported (i.e., provided by the  
environment) or in the client/server case, supported  
(server) or used (client). If the bit is off (i.e., =0),  
then the feature is not supported or used.

30 The following rules are utilized for assigning  
a new feature which requires both OS and SPP development.

1. The feature is assigned a unique number.  
Features are numbered sequentially starting  
with one.
- 35 2. The feature is determined to be either  
required or optional. If the feature is  
optional, then an alternate mode of operation