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1   14.   The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein each said bit
     mask includes a reserved bit for said error indication,
            said means for transferring said error indication
     includes setting, by said second software entity, said
5   reserved bit in a bit mask containing said indications
     of features supported by said second software entity.

     15.   The apparatus of Claim 13 further comprising
            a hardcoded list, included in said first software
10   entity, of said bit masks containing said indications
     of features supported by said first software entity,
     and
            a hardcoded list, included in said second software
     entity, of said bit masks containing said indications
15   of features supported by said second software entity.

     16.   The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said features
     supported by said first software entity comprise required
     features of said first software entity and said features
20   supported by said second software entity comprise required
     features of said second software entity.

     17.   The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein one of said
     first and second software entities supports an optional
25   feature, said hardcoded list associated with said one
     software entity including an indication of said optional
     feature and an indication that said optional feature
     is optional.

30   18.   The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said hardcoded
     lists include indications that said required features
     are required.