

- 8 -

1 Although elements 23, 30, 40 and 50 are described
as lists, it is appreciated that any suitable data
structure may be utilized, e.g., an array or a set of
defines. The term list is used in the claims to denote
5 any such suitable data structure.

The features are defined as follows.

Features provided and used by both the OS and
SPP microcode environments have one or more of the
following characteristics.

- 10 1. The feature may be designed as a client/server
interface such that one environment provides
a service used by the other environment.
The determination of whether the feature
is required or optional is made with respect
15 to the client environment. That is, if the
client can operate without the service
(feature) provided by the server, then the
feature can be made optional. Otherwise
the feature is required.
- 20 2. The feature may be designed such that the
format of an existing data structure which
is shared between the two environments is
modified when the feature is enabled. If
both environments can operate using either
25 the old or new formats, the feature may be
defined as optional. Otherwise the feature
is required.
- 30 3. The feature is designed such that when
enabled, both environments do not interact
to support it. If the feature can be designed
such that an alternate mode of operation
is used if the feature is not available in
both environments, then it may be defined
as optional. Otherwise the feature is
35 required.

An example of a required feature is as follows.
The SPP is modified such that a particular class of