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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