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1   (which may contain bug fixes) may now include
        new optional and required feature support
        without the need to synchronize such releases.

    3. Incompatibility resulting from feature content
5   between OS and SPP releases is immediately
        detected and reported by the OS during
        initialization.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10   Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram of a
computer system in which the present invention is
embodied. Figure 1 is illustrated in terms of OS and
TCU software entities.

            Figures 2(a) and 2(b) are the MCP procedure
15 declaration for the TCU_EXCHANGE_FEATURES function of
Figure 1 and the parameter definitions thereof,
respectively.

            Figure 2(c) illustrates the manner in which the
parameters of Figure 2(b) are set up for the function
20 call via the hardware 14 and 15 shown in Figure 1.

            Figures 3(a) and 3(b) comprise a flow chart
describing how the interface of the present invention
is used in the environment of Figure 1.

            Figure 4 is a pseudo code description of the
25 feature exchange mechanism of the present invention.
The pseudo code description of Figure 4 functionally
corresponds to the flow chart of Figures 3(a) and 3(b)
but using the more general OS and SPP nomenclature.

30   DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

            Referring to Figure 1, a computer system 10 is
schematically illustrated embodying the present invention.
Specifically, the computer system 10 may utilize a 48
bit word and may be embodied by an A-Series computer
35 system available from Unisys Corporation of Blue Bell,
Pennsylvania. The computer system 10 includes an
Operating System (OS) 11, otherwise denoted as a Master