5   Another object is to make it more cost effective for manufacturers to use electronic or other distribution methods that do not require separate packaged physical media for software and other information.

The attainment of these and related objects may be achieved through use of the novel system, method and article of manufacture for product return of software
10   and other information herein disclosed. The present invention provides a system, method and article of manufacture which provides an equivalent to the return of the physical storage medium and is therefore applicable both to packaged software or other information and software or other information that is distributed other than in packaged form. The objects of the present invention are achieved by generating a
15   code, called a return authorization code, that can be entered on a user's system. This code invalidates the previously purchased product on the user's system. Another code is generated on the user's system, which is compared with the code on a vendor system, to provide confirmation to the vendor that the return authorization code has been entered. After this confirmation, the vendor can issue a credit to the user for the
20   return of the product.

A system for product return of software and other information in accordance with this invention has a processor and a memory coupled to the processor. Software or other information is stored in the user data processing system for access by the user. A computer program is stored in the memory and configured to provide, when
25   executed by the processor, a system implemented by the computer program for product return of software or other information. The computer program comprises a first code segment configured to generate a confirmation code that a return code has been entered in the user data processing system in response to the return code in the data processing system. A second code segment is configured to limit access to the
30   software or other information after the return code has been entered in the data processing system.

A method for product return of software and other information to a vendor for credit in accordance with this invention includes entering a return code in a user's data processing system. Access to the software or other information in the user's data
35   processing system is limited in response to entry of the return code. A confirmation code that the return code has been entered in the user's data processing system is