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1 function calls requires the data to be accompanied with
additional control information. The modification is
such that the SPP hardware automatically "consumes" the
control data making the data's existence a requirement
5 for all such function calls by the OS. The OS and SPP
microcode would add this as a required feature. If this
new SPP were installed in a computer system without
updating the OS (i.e., the OS would not have the new
feature defined), the function calls by the OS to the
10 SPP would not contain the necessary control data. The
possible combinations of OS software and SPP microcode
and resulting actions are as follows.

1. If the OS software version does not recognize
the new feature and the SPP hardware/microcode
15 comprises the old hardware and microcode
wherein the feature is not defined, both
OS and SPP behave as before.
2. If the OS software version does not recognize
the new feature but the SPP hardware/microcode
20 has been upgraded to the new hardware and
microcode wherein the feature is defined,
then after exchanging features, the new
feature is not recognized by the OS and
therefore ignored. The SPP, however, returns
25 an error because the feature requires
cooperation by the OS.
3. If the OS software version has been upgraded
to recognize the new feature where the
function calls in the particular class will
30 contain additional control data but the SPP
hardware/microcode is the old hardware and
microcode wherein the feature is not defined,
then after exchanging features, the new
feature is not recognized by the SPP and
35 therefore ignored. The OS, however, returns
an error because the feature requires
cooperation by the SPP.