in the random access memory 664 of one or more computer systems 658 configured generally as described in FIGURE 6. Until required by the computer system 658, the set of instructions may be stored in another computer readable memory, for example in a hard disc drive 640, or in removable memory such as an optical disc 644 for eventual use in an optical disc drive 643, or a floppy disc 642 for eventual use in a floppy disc drive 641. The aforementioned input and output files can be implemented as data resident in random access memory 664, hard disc 640, optical disc 644, or a floppy disc 642. Those skilled in the art will note that because computer system 658 is connected to data processing network 692, the random access memory 664, the hard disc drive 640, the floppy disc drive 641, the floppy disc 642,the optical disc drive 643, and the optical disc 644, may reside within the data processing network 692, and therefore, need not be directly connected to the CPU 660 via the bus 662.

[0044] Although the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it should be recognized that elements thereof may be altered by persons skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, the invention is limited only by the following claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A communications system for facilitating communications between disparate system components, said communications system comprising:

   a first application program;
   a coding module in communication with said first application program; and
   a testing module in communication with said first application program and said coding module, said testing module converting data structures interchanged between said first application program and said coding module using an Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) specification, wherein said testing module converts the data structures sent from said first application program pursuant to a first protocol and the data structures sent to said first application program pursuant to a second protocol.

2. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said first protocol is a human readable format.

3. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said first protocol is an ASN.1 Value Notation format.

4. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said second protocol is Binary Encoded Rules (BER).

5. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said second protocol is Packed Encoding Rules (PER).

6. In a software system comprising an application program and a coding module, said application program and said coding module interchanging data structures, a method of testing said application program and said coding module, said method comprising the steps of:

   receiving an Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) specification;
   translating the data structures sent from the application program pursuant to a first protocol; and
   translating the data structures sent to the application program pursuant to a second protocol.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said first protocol is a human readable format.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said first protocol is an ASN.1 Value Notation format.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said second protocol is Binary Encoded Rules (BER).

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said second protocol is Packed Encoding Rules (PER).

11. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied thereon for testing an application program and a coding module, wherein said application program and said coding module interchange data structures, the computer readable code means in said article of manufacture comprising means for:

    receiving an Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) specification;
    translating the data structures sent from the application program pursuant to a first protocol; and
    translating the data structures sent to the application program pursuant to a second protocol.