

- 5 generated. The confirmation code is supplied to the vendor to obtain credit for return of the software or other information.

An article of manufacture for return of software and other information to a vendor for credit in accordance with the invention comprises a computer readable storage medium having stored therein a computer program. The computer program  
10 includes 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 software or other information after the return code has been entered in the data processing system.

- 15 The attainment of the foregoing and related objects, advantages and features of the invention should be more readily apparent to those skilled in the art, after review of the following more detailed description of the invention, taken together with the drawings, in which:

## 20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of data processing system in which the invention is employed;

Figure 2 is a flow chart illustrating the method employed by the manufacturer to effect a return using the present invention; and

- 25 Figure 3 is a flow chart illustrating the operation of the program in the preferred embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- Turning now to the drawings, more particularly to Figure 1, there is shown a  
30 typical hardware configuration of a computer 100 in accordance with the subject invention. The computer 100 is controlled by a central processing unit 102 (which may be a conventional microprocessor) and a number of other units, all interconnected via a system bus 108, are provided to accomplish specific tasks. Although a particular computer may only have some of the units illustrated in Figure  
35 1, or may have additional components not shown, most computers will include at least the units shown.