the indication that the second property of the object is dependent on the first property of the object comprises recalculating the value using the formula.

13. The computer storage memory device of claim **9**, wherein the indication that the second property of the object is dependent on the first property of the object is defined by an extension element associated with the self-describing file.

14. The computer storage memory device of claim **9**, further comprising:

receiving an indication that a third property of the object is dependent on the second property of the object; and

recalculating a value of the third property of the object based upon the indication that the third property of the object is dependent on the second property of the object.

15. The computer storage memory device of claim **9**, further comprising displaying at least one native property of the object by the second application.

16. The computer storage memory device of claim **9**, further comprising recalculating a native property value based upon a second property value of the object.

17. A system for calculating properties of an object defined by a first application, the system comprising:

at least one processor; and

a memory storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, perform steps comprising:

opening, by a second application, a self-describing file created by the first application, wherein the self-describing file comprises:

a first property of the object; and

a second property of the object, wherein the second application does not natively support the second property of the object;

receiving an indication that the second property of the object is dependent on the first property of the object;

receiving a modification to the first property of the object;

recalculating a value of the second property of the object based upon the indication that the second property of the object is dependent on the first property of the object; and

storing the file, wherein the stored file comprises the recalculated value for the second property of the object.

18. The system of claim **17**, wherein the memory further comprises computer-executable instructions to perform steps comprising:

receiving an indication that a third property of the object is dependent on the second property of the object; and

recalculating a value of the third property of the object based upon the indication that the third property of the object is dependent on the second property of the object.

19. The system of claim **17**, wherein the memory further comprises computer-executable instructions to perform a step comprising displaying at least one native property of the object by the second application.

20. The system of claim **17**, wherein the memory further comprises computer-executable instructions to perform a step comprising further comprising recalculating a native property value based upon a second property value of the object.

21. A method for accessing a self-describing file, the method comprising:

accessing, by an application, a self-describing file, the self-describing file comprising:

a first object, wherein the first object is unknown to the application;

an extension element, wherein the extension is a container element for providing information related to the first object; and

one or more child elements of the extension element, wherein the one or more child elements comprise information defining the first object; and

maintaining the first object using the information from the one or more child elements.

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