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in an event that a second manifest exists in the dynamic manifest form, employing the second manifest during runtime of each associated executable entities, such that the second manifest comprises dynamic metadata which is constructed at runtime to collect a plurality of runtime system elements;

analyzing the self-describing software artifacts of the offline system image; reporting results of the analyzing act.

34. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33 further comprising identifying, based upon the analyzing act, the software components in the offline system image.

35. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33 further comprising:

identifying based upon the analyzing act, the software components in the offline system image; determining whether the identified software components in the offline system image are functional.

36. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33 further comprising:

identifying based upon the analyzing act, the software components in the offline system image; determining whether the identified software components in the offline system image contain defects.

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37. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33, wherein each of the self-describing software artifacts has an associated persistently saved manifest comprising declarative descriptions of the manifest's software artifact.

38. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33, wherein each of the self-describing software artifacts has an associated persistently saved manifest comprising primarily declarative descriptions of the manifest's software artifact.

39. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33, wherein each of the self-describing software artifacts has an associated persistently saved manifest comprising completely declarative descriptions of the manifest's software artifact.

40. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33, wherein the software components of the computing system comprise operating system elements and applications.

41. One or more computer storage media as recited in claim 33, wherein the offline system image comprises a persistently saved system manifest having declarative descriptions of the self-describing software artifacts.

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