

What is claimed is:

1. A method of software installation and setup comprising the steps of:

downloading a plurality of software programs stored on at least one mass storage device onto a hard disk drive in an exploded form, each said software program having an associated file for later execution,

downloading a plurality of compressed different language version modules of an operating system from said mass data storage device onto said hard disk drive,

downloading a first language version operating system, from said mass data storage device onto said hard disk drive, said first language version necessary for booting up a computer system when power is applied by an end user and for running a software setup program, and

downloading said software setup program to said hard disk drive from said mass data storage device, said software setup program being designed to respond to a user selection of a preferred operating language from said plurality of compressed different language version modules by (1) preserving one or more exploded files from said first language version operating system to a temporary file location, such that memory resident portions of said first language version operating system continue to operate, and such that non-memory resident portions of said first language operating system remain accessible, (2) exploding a user selected language version module of said operating system into permanent operating system directories and exploding a user selected keyboard configuration module of said operating system into permanent operating system directories (3) merging said user selected language operating system and language version independent files from said first language version into said permanent operating system directories, and (4) executing each of said files associated with each of said software programs, such that a reboot of said computer system is deferrable until all of said second language version files have been installed.

2. A method of software installation and setup comprising the steps of:

downloading drivers, non-language specific files, and updated files onto a hard disk drive from a mass data storage device in an exploded form, said drivers having an associated file for later execution,

downloading a plurality of compressed different language version modules of an operating system,

downloading a minimal subset operating system, from said mass data storage device onto said hard disk drive, necessary for booting up a computer system when power is applied by an end user and for running a software setup program, and

downloading said software setup program to said hard disk drive from said mass data storage device, said software setup program being designed to perform the steps of: (1) prompting a user to select a preferred operating language from said plurality of compressed different language version modules, (2) prompting said user to select a language keyboard configuration, (3) displaying a percentage of setup completed, (4) moving all exploded files residing in standard operating directories to temporary directories, (5) deleting contents of a Root Directory, (6) exploding a user selected language version module of said operating system into a user selected language operating system and exploding a user selected keyboard configuration module of said

operating system into said user selected language operating system. (7) placing said user selected language operating system into said operating system directories, (8) merging said exploded files into said operating system directories, and (9) executing each of said file associated with each of said drivers.

3. A method of software installation and setup comprising the steps of:

downloading a plurality of software programs stored on at least one mass data storage device onto a first data storage device in an exploded form,

downloading a plurality of compressed different language version modules of an operating system from said mass data storage device onto said first data storage device,

downloading a first language operating system, from said mass data storage device onto said first data storage device, said first language operating system adapted for booting up a computer system when power is applied by an end user and for running a software setup program, and

downloading said software setup program to said first data storage device from said mass data storage device, said software setup program being designed to run under control of said first language operating system, said software setup program being designed to respond to a user selection of a preferred keyboard configuration, said software setup program being designed to respond to a user selection of a preferred second language operating system from said plurality of compressed different language version modules by (1) preserving one or more exploded files residing in standard directories, (2) exploding one or more modules of said second language operating system into said standard directories and placing one or more modules of said selected keyboard configuration into standard directories, (3) merging said second language operating system and said exploded files into said standard directories, (4) executing each of said files associated with each of said software programs, and (5) rebooting said computer system.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said first data storage device is a hard disk drive.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said first data storage device is a Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM).

6. The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of software programs comprise drivers, non-language specific files, and updated files, said drivers having an associated file for later execution.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein said software setup program is capable of prompting a user to select a preferred operating language from said plurality of compressed different language version modules.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein said software setup program decouples user selection of said preferred operating language from user selection of said keyboard configuration.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein said software setup program is capable of displaying a percentage of setup completed.

10. The method of claim 3, wherein said software setup program is capable of moving all exploded files residing in standard operating directories to temporary directories in order to preserve said exploded files.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein said software setup program is capable of deleting contents of a root directory prior to exploding said user selected language version module of said operating system.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein said reboot in step (5) is a warm reboot.