

Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the invention be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims appended hereto. The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A method for installing a program onto a computer including an operating system, comprising:

providing a dependency object indicating a dependent component on which the program to install depends; processing the dependency object before installing the program; determining an operating system in which the program is being installed; determining an operating system command from a plurality of operating system commands for different operating systems that is capable of executing in the determined operating system; executing the operating system command to determine whether the dependent component indicated in the dependency object is installed in the computer; and indicating that the dependent component is not installed after determining that the dependent component is not installed.

**2.** The method of claim **1**, wherein the dependency object is capable of including an install script to install the dependent component onto the computer, further comprising:

determining whether the dependency object that includes the dependent component that is not installed in the computer includes install script; and enabling the install script after determining that the dependency object includes install script, wherein a user may select to execute the enabled install script to install the dependent component.

**3.** The method of claim **2**, wherein the dependency object is further capable of including a universal resource locator (URL), further comprising:

accessing a file at the URL when executing the install script; and installing the file from the URL on the computer.

**4.** The method of claim **2**, wherein the dependency object is further capable of including install information, further comprising:

determining whether install script is included in the dependency object, wherein the enabling of the install script occurs after determining that the install script is included in the dependency object; and

processing the install information to present the install information to a user after determining that the dependency object does not include install script.

**5.** The method of claim **1**, wherein a plurality of dependency objects are provided for indicating a plurality of dependent components on which the program to install depends, further comprising:

installing the program and file sets therein after processing the dependency objects and determining that the dependent components are installed in the computer; indicating in a data structure the installed program; processing the dependency objects to determine the dependent components from which the installed program depends; and

indicating in the data structure the dependent components determined from the dependency objects for the installed program.

**6.** The method of claim **5**, further comprising:

processing a command to remove the installed program from the computer;

processing the data structure to determine whether the installed program to remove is indicated as a dependent component;

determining from the data structure depending programs that depend upon the dependent components to operate in at least one respect; and

indicating that the installed program cannot be removed until the determined depending programs are removed.

**7.** The method of claim **6**, further comprising continuing with the removal of the installed program after determining that the installed program is not a dependent component for another installed program.

**8.** The method of claim **1**, wherein the dependency object further includes an operating system field indicating the operating system on which the program will be installed, wherein the determined operating system command depends upon the operating system indicated in the operating system field, and wherein executing the operating system command further comprises passing data from the dependency object to the operating system command as parameters, dependent on the type of operating system indicated in the operating system field.

**9.** A system for installing a program, comprising:

a computer including an operating system;

a computer monitor;

a memory device storing a dependency object indicating a dependent component on which the program to install depends;

program logic executed by the computer in communication with the computer monitor and the memory device, comprising:

(i) means for processing the dependency object before installing the program;

(ii) determining an operating system in which the program is being installed;

(iii) means for determining an operating system command from a plurality of operating system commands for different operating systems that is capable of executing in the determined operating system;

(iv) means for executing the operating system command to determine whether the dependent component indicated in the dependency object is installed in the computer; and

(v) means for indicating that the dependent component is not installed after determining that the dependent component is not installed.

**10.** The system of claim **9**, wherein the dependency object is capable of including an install script to install the dependent component onto the computer, wherein the program logic further comprises:

means for determining whether the dependency object that includes the dependent component that is not installed in the computer includes install script; and

means for enabling the install script after determining that the dependency object includes install script, wherein a user may select to execute the enabled install script to install the dependent component.

**11.** The system of claim **10**, wherein the dependency object is further capable of including a universal resource locator (URL), wherein the program logic further comprises: