capacity, the data file **605** should be of smaller size as compared with the extended data file **606** stored in the hard drive **121** of FIG. **1**.

Although detailed background of the invention have been disclosed, it is recognized that variations and modifications, such as modifying the terms used in the specification, or repackaging the programs in a software package according to marketing needs. It is accordingly intended that all such variations and modifications be encompassed by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for a user to operate a computer comprising the steps of:

(1) running a basic input output system (BIOS);

(2) providing at least a first and a second application program; and

(3) providing external memory means enable said user to select an application program to be launched before launching any operating system (OS) of said computer.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein said external memory means stored a control program configured for selecting an application program to be launched in step (3).

3. The method of claim **2** wherein said control program enables a user to select said application program to be launched by initiating a key of said computer.

4. The method of claim **1** wherein said first and second application program are pre-OS application program configured to run in a pre-OS environment before the OS of said computer is launched.

5. The method of claim **4** further providing a step to continue booting said OS while running said application program in said pre-OS environment.

6. The method of claim **4** wherein said computer is configured to allow said user to decide during said pre-OS environment if said OS is to be launched.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein said first and second application program are configured to run after the OS of said computer is launched.

8. The method of claim **1** wherein said first and second application program are configured to run during booting the OS of said computer.

9. The method of claim **1** wherein at least one of said application programs resides in said external memory means.

10. The method of claim **1** wherein the application data derived from running any of said application program resides in said external memory means.

11. The method of claim **9** further comprising a step to provide a program configured to synchronize said application data with one or more data files stored in said computer.

12. A method for a user to operate a personal computer comprising the steps of:

(1) providing multiple application programs;

(2) providing hot keys for enabling an user to select any one of said application programs to run in a pre-OS environment or an OS environment prior to launching any of said pre-OS or OS environments; and

(3) launching the selected application program of step (2) according to the selection of said hot keys after said pre-OS or OS is booted.

13. The method of claim **12** further comprising the step of:

(4) connecting an external memory means to said computer prior to powering up of said computer; wherein said external memory means comprises codes to help defining the nature of said hot keys.

14. The method of claim **13** wherein said external memory means stores codes representing at least one of said application programs.

15. The method of claim **13** wherein said external memory means stores application data of at least one of said application programs.

16. The method of claim **12** further comprising the step of:

(4) providing a step allowing said user to work in said pre-OS environment and to boot to said OS environment from said pre-OS environment.

17. A method for a user to operate a personal computer comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a first pre-OS application program in an external memory means;

(2) prior to booting said computer, connecting said external memory means with said computer;

(3) configuring said computer to detect the presence of said external memory means prior to booting said computer to said pre-OS or OS environments;

(4) when the presence of said external memory means is detected, booting said computer to said pre-OS environment to run said first pre-OS application program;

(5) configuring a second imaging application program to provide enhanced features of said first pre-OS application program;

(6) installing said second imaging application program to reside inside the internal memory of said computer; and

(7) booting said computer to a OS environment to run said second imaging application program.

18. The method of claim **17** further comprising the step of:

(8) storing application data of said first pre-OS application program in said external memory means.

19. The method of claim **18** further comprising the step of:

(9) storing application data of said second imaging application program in a computer readable medium located inside said computer, and

(10) synchronizing the application data of said external means with the application data stored in the computer readable medium of step (9).

20. The method of claim **17** further comprising the step of:

(8) providing a step to allow said user working in said pre-OS environment to boot to said OS environment.

21. The method of claim **20** further comprising the step of:

(9) providing a step to convert said first pre-OS application program to said second imaging application program when said computer is booted from said pre-OS environment into said OS environment.

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