

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising a non-volatile storage medium, wherein the low power state includes a state in which context information of the system is stored in the non-volatile storage medium.

17. A system comprising:
first and second operating environments;
a first program active in the first operating environment that controls access to a first set of information;
a second program active in the second operating environment that controls access to a second set of information, the second operating environment active without loading an operating system; and
a synchronization program that synchronizes information between the first and second sets.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising an operating system that provides the first operating environment.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the second set of information is at least a subset of the first set of information.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the first program includes a personal information management application.

21. An article including a machine-readable storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a system to:

determine whether to load any operating system in the system;

present an alternative operating environment if no operating system is to be loaded; and
allow access to predetermined information in the alternative operating environment.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the storage medium contains instructions that when executed cause the system to boot an operating system if the operating system is to be loaded and the system is starting from a powered off state.

23. The article of claim 21, wherein the storage medium contains instructions that when executed cause the system to resume an operating system if the operating system is to be loaded and the system is starting from a low power state.

24. A system comprising:
a storage medium;
at least one operating system that provides at least a first operating environment having features;
a routine to provide a second operating environment without loading any operating system, the second operating environment having less than all of the features of the first operating environment; and
a processor, the routine executable on the processor in the second environment to access data in the storage medium.

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