

menting the number denoted by the count means of said specified object;

said container transfer means including means for responding to a request to transfer a specified container means to a specified container directory means, said responding means including means for denying a request for a container transfer when said count means of at least one object referenced by said specified container means denoted a value greater than one;

whereby a container means cannot be transferred if any objects referenced by said container means have additional object identifiers.

6. In a multitasking computer system having a central processing unit, memory means for storing data and data structures, and predefined system resources, an operating system comprising:

- a multiplicity of objects comprising data structures stored in said memory means;
- a multiplicity of container means, stored in said memory means, for referencing sets of said objects, each container means including means for storing a multiplicity of object pointers to locations in said memory means for said set of objects;
- a multiplicity of container directory means, stored in said memory means for referencing sets of said container means, each container directory means including a plurality of container pointers, each pointing to the location in said memory means of a corresponding one of said container means; and

process setup means for creating one of said container means, for storing in said created container means object pointers for a multiplicity of objects, and for storing in a first one of said container directory means a container pointer to said created container means;

said process setup means further including container transfer means for transferring said created container means from said first container directory means to a specified container directory means, including

- means for deleting a container pointer in said first container directory means corresponding to said specified container means; and
- means for storing a container pointer corresponding to said specified container means in said specified container directory means;

whereby an entire set of objects referenced by a container means is transferred to a specified container directory means.

7. An operating system as set forth in claim 6, said process setup means including means for creating a new process in said system, said created process having means for accessing said specified container directory means;

whereby a created process is provided a context defined by objects in said created container means.

8. An operating system as set forth in claim 6, each said object including transfer flag means for denoting whether said object is transferable;

said container transfer means including means for transferring a specified container transfer only when said transfer flag of all of said objects referenced by said specified container means is set.

9. An operating system as set forth in claim 6, said each said container means including transfer flag means for denoting whether said container means is transferable;

said container transfer means including means for responding to a request to transfer a specified container means to a specified container directory means, including means for denying a request for a container transfer when said transfer flag means of said container means is clear.

10. An operating system as set forth in claim 6, said operating system further including:

- object identifiers, corresponding to each said object, for referencing said objects; each said object pointer in said multiplicity of object container means corresponding to one of said object identifiers;
- each said object including count means for denoting the number of object identifiers corresponding to said object;
- identifier creating means for creating an additional object identifier for a specified object and for incrementing the number denoted by the count means of said specified object;
- said container transfer means including means for responding to a request to transfer a specified container means to a specified container directory means, said responding means including means for denying a request for a container transfer when said count means of at least one object referenced by said specified container means denoted a value greater than one;

whereby a container means cannot be transferred if any objects referenced by said container means have additional object identifiers.

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