

TYPE BRIDGES**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Methods, systems, and computer program products for converting an object of
5 one type to an object of another type that allow for the runtime operation of the
conversion process to be altered or customized. The conversion may occur within an
extensible serialization engine that serializes, deserializes, and transforms objects of
various types. The runtime operation of the serialization engine is altered by one or
more extension routines that implement the desired customizations or extensions,
10 without requiring replacement of other existing routines. Based on type information,
identified for an initial object, the object is converted to an intermediate
representation which permits runtime modification, including modification of object
names, object types, and object data. The intermediate representation of the initial
object is modified in accordance with extension routines that alter the runtime
15 operation of the serialization engine, and the intermediate representation is converted
to a final object and type.

Figure 2

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