Abstract

A data management system has a basic function configurator to define a generic basic function, whereby the function to be performed is to be depicted in a basic function by means of descriptive attributes and associated values or value ranges necessary for processing the basic function. The function is to be depicted on a data set to which a distribution rule is allocated. A data set, with its associated distribution rules, defines a generic basic function. The data sets which define the generic basic functions, together with their distribution rules for access by a product template configurator, are contained in a basic function list. The product template configurator combines one or several basic functions and transfers these to a product template, in that the generic basic functions are mutated into specific basic functions for the product template concerned by transferring or restricting the values. A product template comprises one or more basic functions belonging to a product. A product template with specific basic functions serves as a basis for a contractual relationship with a partner. The structure of the product template is stored in a product template list for access by a contract manager.