



163163



G00002

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND PROCESS FOR USING COMMON PREINSTALLATION ENVIRONMENT FOR HETEROGENEOUS OPERATING SYSTEMS

A system and method is disclosed for the uniform installation of one or more of a
5 plurality of heterogeneous operating systems (operating systems) on a predetermined
information handling system. A common preinstallation environment (CPE) is implemented,
comprising a host preinstallation environment (HPE) and one or more native preinstallation
environments (NPEs). If an NPE is not required for installation, an HPE comprising a
common, bootable kernel generates a bootable operating system image that is installed on the
10 target system. Otherwise, the HPE creates a deployment partition, where it implements the
NPE and generates a metafile describing the hardware drivers supported by the NPE. The HPE
then inventories the hardware components comprising the target system and compares the
results to the metafile. If all required drivers are accessible, the target system boots to the NPE,
which begins native installation of the chosen operating system. Otherwise, the HPE injects
15 the missing drivers into the operating system image generated by the NPE and the resulting
operating system image is then installed on the target system. If the HPE cannot inject drivers
into the NPE, then a stage handler is implemented to relinquish installation control to the NPE
which completes a native installation.

20 Figure 2