

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing data to a computer software application, the method comprising:

intercepting a request made by a computer software application to retrieve a first data set from a first data storage location;

accessing a record, defined in advance of the request, that includes a reference to the first data set and a reference to a second data set;

retrieving the first data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location; and

retrieving the second data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location in advance of a request by the computer software application to access the second data set at the first data storage location.

2. The method according to claim 1 where the intercepting comprises preventing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request.

3. The method according to claim 1 where the retrieving of the first data set is performed if the first data set is not available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.

4. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising storing at the first data storage location any of the data sets retrieved from any location other than the first data storage location.

5. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising allowing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application to attend to the request if the first data set is available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.

6. The method according to claim 1 where any of the retrieving steps are performed in accordance with a predefined rule associated with the record.

7. The method according to claim 7 where the rule indicates that a first portion of a selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved, and that a second portion of the selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved only after the computer software application has received the first portion.

8. The method according to claim 7 where the rule indicates preventing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request prior to retrieving the first data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location, and allowing the operating system to attend to the request subsequent to retrieving the second data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location.

9. A system for providing data to a computer software application, the system comprising:

an interceptor configured to intercept a request made by a computer software application to retrieve a first data set from a first data storage location; and

a manager configured to

access a record, defined in advance of the request, that includes a reference to the first data set and a reference to a second data set,

retrieve the first data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location, and

retrieve the second data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location in advance of a request by the computer software application to access the second data set at the first data storage location.

10. The system according to claim 9 where the interceptor is configured to prevent an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request.

11. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to retrieve the first data set if the first data set is not available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.

12. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to store at the first data storage location any of the data sets retrieved from any location other than the first data storage location.

13. The system according to claim 9 where the interceptor is configured to allow an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application to attend to the request if the first data set is available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.

14. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to retrieve any of the data sets in accordance with a predefined rule associated with the record.

15. The system according to claim 15 where the rule indicates that a first portion of a selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved, and that a second portion of the selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved only after the computer software application has received the first portion.

16. The system according to claim 15 where the rule indicates that an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application is to be prevented from attending to the request prior to retrieving the first data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location, and that the operating system is to be allowed to attend to the request subsequent to retrieving the second data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location.

17. A method for preparing a software application for execution by a computer, the method comprising:

creating a set of core files including a plurality of computer files associated with a computer software application;

~~executing the computer software application on a computer by executing any~~

of the core files;

recording requests made by the computer software application for data from a set of data files associated with the computer software application;

defining blocks of references to data in the set of data files including any of the recorded requests for data;

defining rules for controlling the retrieval of data referred to by any of the blocks; and

associating the rules with any of the blocks.

18. The method according to claim 17 and further comprising adding to the set of core files any computer file associated with the computer software application that is required for stable execution of the computer software application.

19. The method according to claim 18 where the adding is performed if the execution of the computer software application fails.

20. The method according to claim 17 where the creating comprises including in the core set of files any computer files associated with the computer software application that provide processing logic for the computer software application.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing data to a computer software application, the method comprising:

intercepting a request made by a computer software application to retrieve a first data set from a first data storage location;

determining whether there exists a first record that refers to the first data set specified in the request, wherein the first record is among a plurality of records that are defined in advance of the request;

determining whether there exists an association between the first record and a predefined rule,

wherein the association is defined in advance of the request,

wherein the rule is among a plurality of rules that are defined in advance of the request,

wherein the rule indicates that the first data set referred to in the first record and a second data set referred to in a second record are to be retrieved,

wherein the rule includes references to the first record and the second record in advance of application of the rule, and

wherein the second record is among the plurality of records that are defined in advance of the request;

retrieving, in accordance with the rule, the first data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location; and

retrieving, in accordance with the rule, the second data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location in advance of a request by the computer software application to access the second data set at the first data storage location.

2. The method according to claim 1 where the intercepting comprises preventing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request.
3. The method according to claim 1 where the retrieving of the first data set is performed if the first data set is not available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.
4. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising storing at the first data storage location any of the data sets retrieved from any location other than the first data storage location.
5. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising allowing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application to attend to the request if the first data set is available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.
6. The method according to claim 1 where any of the retrieving steps are performed in accordance with a predefined rule associated with the record.
7. The method according to claim 1 where the predefined rule further indicates that a first portion of a selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved, and that a second portion of the selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved only after the computer software application has received the first portion.
8. The method according to claim 7 where the predefined rule indicates preventing an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request prior to retrieving the first data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location, and allowing the operating system to attend to the request subsequent to retrieving the second data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location.

9. A system for providing data to a computer software application, the system comprising:

an interceptor configured to intercept a request made by a computer software application to retrieve a first data set from a first data storage location; and

a manager configured to

determine whether there exists a first record that refers to the first data set specified in the request, wherein the first record is among a plurality of records that are defined in advance of the request, and

determine whether there exists an association between the first record and a predefined rule,

wherein the association is defined in advance of the request,

wherein the rule is among a plurality of rules that are defined in advance of the request,

wherein the rule indicates that the first data set referred to in the first record and a second data set referred to in a second record are to be retrieved,

wherein the rule includes references to the first record and the second record in advance of application of the rule, and

wherein the second record is among the plurality of records that are defined in advance of the request,

retrieve, in accordance with the rule, the first data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location, and

retrieve, in accordance with the rule, the second data set from a data storage location other than the first data storage location in advance of a request by the computer software application to access the second data set at the first data storage location.

10. The system according to claim 9 where the interceptor is configured to prevent an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application from attending to the request.

11. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to retrieve the first data set if the first data set is not available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.
12. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to store at the first data storage location any of the data sets retrieved from any location other than the first data storage location.
13. The system according to claim 9 where the interceptor is configured to allow an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application to attend to the request if the first data set is available to be retrieved from the first data storage location.
14. The system according to claim 9 where the manager is configured to retrieve any of the data sets in accordance with a predefined rule associated with the record.
15. The system according to claim 9 where the rule indicates that a first portion of a selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved, and that a second portion of the selected one of the data sets is to be retrieved only after the computer software application has received the first portion.
16. The system according to claim 15 where the rule indicates that an operating system of a computer that is executing the computer software application is to be prevented from attending to the request prior to retrieving the first data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location, and that the operating system is to be allowed to attend to the request subsequent to retrieving the second data set from the data storage location other than the first data storage location.