CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A computer implemented method for managing software aircraft parts, the computer implemented method comprising:

retrieving a set of software aircraft parts and metadata about the set of software aircraft parts from a library in an aircraft network data processing system to form a set of retrieved software aircraft parts;

storing the set of software aircraft parts in a file system;

storing the metadata in a database; sending the set of software aircraft parts and the metadata to an onboard electronic distribution system, a communications link between an on ground component interface, and the onboard electronic distribution system; and

maintaining status information about activity on the communications link, wherein the status information comprises an identification of whether a software aircraft part in the set of software aircraft parts is ready for installation in a line replaceable unit on an aircraft.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending the status information to the library.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the set of software aircraft parts is a first set of software aircraft parts, the metadata is first metadata, the onboard electronic distribution system is a first onboard electronic distribution system

and the communications link is a first communications link and further comprising:

sending a second set of software aircraft parts and second metadata to a second onboard electronic distribution system through a second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system simultaneously with sending the set of software aircraft parts and the metadata to the onboard electronic distribution system.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a set of commands from the library to form a received set of commands;

sending the received set of commands to a second onboard electronic distribution system through a second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system.

5. The computer implemented method of claim 4, wherein the set of commands comprises at least one of a delete command and a downlink command.

6. The computer implemented method of claim 4 further comprising:

receiving downlink data through the second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system;

storing the downlink data in the file system to form stored downlink data; and

sending the stored downlink data to the library.

7. A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable media;

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for retrieving a set of software aircraft parts and metadata about the set of software aircraft parts from a library in an aircraft network data processing system to form a set of retrieved software aircraft parts;

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for storing the set of software aircraft parts in a file system; program code, stored on the computer readable media, for storing the metadata in a database;

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for sending the set of software aircraft parts and the metadata to an onboard electronic distribution system, a communications link between an on ground component interface, and the onboard electronic distribution system; and

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for maintaining status information about activity on the communications link, wherein the status information comprises an identification of whether a software aircraft part in the set of software aircraft parts is ready for installation in a line replaceable unit on an aircraft.

8. The computer program product of claim 7 further comprising:

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for sending the status information to the library.

9. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the set of software aircraft parts is a first set of software aircraft parts, the metadata is first metadata, the onboard electronic

distribution system is a first onboard electronic distribution system and the communications link is a first communications link and further comprising:

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for sending a second set of software aircraft parts and second metadata to a second onboard electronic distribution system through a second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system simultaneously with sending the set of software aircraft parts and the metadata to the onboard electronic distribution system.

10. The computer program product of claim 7 further comprising:

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for receiving a set of commands from the library to form a received set of commands;

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for sending the received set of commands to a second onboard electronic distribution system through a second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the set of commands comprises at least one of a delete command and a downlink command.

12. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising:

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for receiving downlink data through the second communications link between the on ground component interface and the second onboard electronic distribution system;

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for storing the downlink data in the file system to form stored downlink data; and

program code, stored on the computer readable media, for sending the stored downlink data to the library.