CLAIMS:

1. A non-transitory computer-readable medium embodying a program stored thereon that, when executed by a computing device, directs the computing device to:

override at least one setting in the computing device to promote a perception that a portable memory device coupled to the computing device provides for a local storage of a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files are stored in a networked storage system that is accessible to the computing device through a network;

initiate storage of a subset of the plurality of files in the portable memory device, the files in the subset comprising a plurality of most recently accessed ones of the plurality of files, and the files in the subset further comprising an earliest saved one of the files;

delete the earliest saved one of the files in response to determining that there is an insufficient space in the portable memory device;

determine whether the network is available to send a respective one of the files to the networked storage system when a write request is obtained for the respective one of the files from a requesting process;

send the respective one of the files to the networked storage system when the network is available;

initiate storage of the respective one of the files in the portable memory device when the network is unavailable; and

flag the respective one of the files stored in the portable memory device to be sent to the networked storage system when the network becomes available.

2. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the computing device is further directed to:

determine whether a requested one of the files is stored in the portable memory device when a read request is obtained for the requested one of the files from another requesting process;

provide the requested one of the files to the other requesting process from the portable memory device if the requested one of the files is stored in the portable memory device;

obtain the requested one of the files from the networked storage system over the network and provide the requested one of the files to the other requesting process if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and a connection to the network is available; and

provide a reply to the other requesting process indicating that the requested one of the files is unavailable if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and the connection to the network is unavailable.

3. A system comprising:

a portable memory device configured to couple to a computing device;

a storage management application stored in the portable memory device, the storage management application being executable by a processor circuit, the storage management application being configured to at least:

provide for an actual file storage in a networked storage system that is accessible to the computing device through a network;

simulate a local file storage within the computing device using the portable memory device;

send a plurality of files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system, the networked storage system being remote to the computing device;

cache a subset of the files on the portable memory device, the portable memory device acting as intermediate storage for the subset, and the files in the subset comprising a plurality of most recently accessed ones of the files; and

maintain a local file directory in the portable memory device, the local file directory listing the plurality of files stored in the networked storage system in association with an account linked to the portable memory device.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application is further configured to at least determine whether one of the files is included in the subset of the files cached on the portable memory device in response to a read request.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application is further configured to at least determine whether one of the files is included in the subset of the files cached on the portable memory device in response to a write request.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application sends each of the files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system upon a write request provided to the storage management application from a requesting process if a network connection to the networked storage system is available.

7. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application is further configured to at least:

initiate storage of one of the files in the subset of the files in the portable memory device in response to a write request provided to the storage management application from a requesting process;

flag the one of the files for storage in the networked storage system if a network connection to the networked storage system is unavailable; and

wherein sending the plurality of files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system further includes sending the one of the files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system when the network connection becomes available.

8. The system of claim 3, wherein the files of the subset further comprises an earliest saved one of the files.

9. The system of claim 4, wherein the storage management application is further configured to at least:

determine whether a network access is available to the networked storage system if the one of the files is not in the subset of the files; and

send a request for the one of the files to the networked storage system if the network access is available.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor circuit is in the computing device to which the portable memory device is coupled.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein an installation application is stored on the portable memory device, the installation application being executable in the computing device to install the storage management application in the computing device.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor circuit is embodied within the portable memory device.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the portable memory device further includes a network connection to the networked storage system.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the network connection further comprises a wireless network connection.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the portable memory device further comprises a memory stick.

16. A computer-implemented method comprising:

establishing a data communications link between a portable memory device and a computing system;

executing an application in the computing system that overrides at least one setting in an operating system executed in the computing system, wherein overriding the at least one setting causes the operating system to simulate a local storage of a plurality of files in the portable memory device while, at the same time, providing for an actual remote storage of the plurality of files in a networked storage system that is accessible to the computing system through a network; and

using the portable memory device for intermediate storage of a subset of the files stored in the networked storage system, the files in the subset comprising a plurality of most recently accessed ones of the files.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the overriding the at least one setting causes the operating system to indicate that the portable memory device has a percentage of storage available equal to a percentage of storage available in the networked storage system.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the files in the subset further comprise an earliest saved one of the files.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, further comprising:

determining whether a requested one of the files is stored in the portable memory device in response to a read request from a process;

obtaining a copy of the requested one of the files from the networked storage system if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and a connection to the network is available to the computing system; and

providing the copy of the requested one of the files to the process.

20. The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further comprising providing a reply to the process that indicates that the requested one of the files

is not available if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and the connection to the network is not currently available to the computing system.

21. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the application is stored in the portable memory device, the computer-implemented method further comprising installing the application in the computing system when the data communications link is first established between the portable memory device and the computing system.

CLAIMS

Therefore, the following is claimed:

1. A non-transitory computer-readable medium embodying a program executable in a computing device, the program comprising:

code that promotes a perception in a computing system that a portable memory device coupled to the computing system provides for local storage of a plurality of files while, at the same time, providing for storage of the plurality of files in a networked storage system that is accessible to the computing device through a network, the code including:

code that stores a subset of the files stored in the networked storage system in the portable memory device;

code that determines whether the network is available to send one of the files to the networked storage system when a write request is obtained for the one of the files from a requesting process;

code that sends the one of the files to the networked storage system when the network is available;

code that stores the one of the files in the portable memory device when the network is unavailable; and

code that flags the one of the files stored in the portable memory device to be sent to the networked storage system when the unavailable network becomes available.

2. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the code that promotes further comprises:

code that determines whether a requested one of the files is stored in the portable memory device when a read request is obtained for the requested one of the files from a requesting process;

code that provides the requested one of the files to the requesting process from the portable memory device if the requested one of the files is stored in the portable memory device;

code that obtains the requested one of the files from the networked storage system over the network and provides the requested one of the files to the requesting process if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and a connection to the network is available; and

code that provides a reply to the requesting process indicating that the requested one of the files is unavailable if the requested one of the files is not stored in the portable memory device and a connection to the network is unavailable.

3. A system, comprising:

a portable memory device configured to couple to a computing device;

a storage management application stored in the portable memory device, the storage management application being executable by a processor circuit, the storage management application comprising:

logic that sends a plurality of files to a networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system, the networked storage system being remote to the computing device;

logic that caches a subset of the files on the portable memory device; and

logic that maintains a local file directory in the portable memory device, the local file directory listing the files stored in the networked storage system in association with an account linked to the portable memory device.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application further comprises logic that determines whether one of the files is included in the subset cached on the portable memory device in response to a load request.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application further comprises logic that determines whether one of the files is included in the subset cached on the portable memory device in response to a write request.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application sends each of the files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system upon a write request provided to the storage management

application from a requesting process if a network connection to the networked storage system is available.

7. The system of claim 3, wherein the storage management application further comprises:

logic that stores one of the files in the subset in the portable memory device in response to a write request provided to the storage management application from a requesting process;

logic that flags the one of the files for storage in the networked storage system if a network connection to the networked storage system is unavailable; and

wherein the logic that sends the files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system is further configured to send the one of the files to the networked storage system for storage in the networked storage system when the network connection becomes available.

8. The system of claim 3, wherein the subset of the files comprises the most recently accessed ones of the files.

9. The system of claim 4, wherein the storage management application further comprises:

logic that determines whether a network access is available to the networked storage system if the one of the files is not in the subset; and

logic that sends a request for the file to the networked storage system if the network access is available.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein an installation application is stored on the portable memory device, the installation application being executable in the computing device to install the storage management application in the computing device.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the storage management application is further configured to simulate a local storage device within the computing device while providing for storage of the files in the networked storage system remote from the computing device.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor circuit is embodied within the portable memory device.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the portable memory device further includes a network connection to the networked storage system.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the network connection further comprises a wireless network connection.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the portable memory device further comprises a memory stick.