WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for using computer assisted configuration technology to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the method comprising:

    receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

    processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined
        configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration
        answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

    providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client
        system.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein to determine valid configuration answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes comprises:

    processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference
        algorithm.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system comprises providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system comprises providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration answers to a user.

5.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

    predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated
        with respective configuration answers;

    storing the predetermined values; and

    retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid
        configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer
        to one or more of the configuration queries.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more configuration queries
2 comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from the
3 group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   7.   A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized
2 configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:
3   a processor; and
4   a storage medium having data encoded therein, the data comprising processor
5   executable code for:
6   receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;
7   processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined
8   configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid
9   configuration answers prioritized by one or more
10   predetermined attributes; and
11   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the
12   client system.

1   8.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises
2 processor executable code for:
3   processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference
4   algorithm.

1   9.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least
2 a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code
3 for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration
4 answers to a user.

1   10.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the code for providing at least
2 a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system further comprises code
3 for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized valid configuration
4 answers to a user.

1   11.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the data further comprises

2   processor executable code for:

3   predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated

4   with respective configuration answers;

5   storing the predetermined values; and

6   retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid

7   configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer

8   to one or more of the configuration queries.

1   12.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein the one or more configuration

2   queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the products from

3   the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   13.   A computer storage medium comprising data embedded therein to

2   cause a computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized configuration

3   answers to one or more configuration queries, wherein the data comprises processor

4   executable code for:

5   receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;

6   processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined

7   configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration

8   answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and

9   providing the valid configuration answers to the client system.

1   14.   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further

2   comprises processor executable code for:

3   processing valid configuration answers with an attribute based preference

4   algorithm.

1   15.   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for

2   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system

3   further comprises code for providing a predetermined number of attribute-prioritized

4   valid configuration answers to a user.

1   16.   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the code for
2   providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the client system
3   further comprises code for providing a user selected number of attribute-prioritized
4   valid configuration answers to a user.

1   17.   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the data further
2   comprises processor executable code for:
3   predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes associated
4   with respective configuration answers;
5   storing the predetermined values; and
6   retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a particular valid
7   configuration answer if the particular valid configuration is an answer
8   to one or more of the configuration queries.

1   18.   The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the one or more
2   configuration queries comprise configuration queries to configure at least one of the
3   products from the group comprising: vehicles, computers, and financial products.

1   19.   A computer system to generate one or more attribute prioritized
2   configuration answers to one or more configuration queries, the system comprising:
3   means for receiving one or more configuration queries from a client system;
4   means for processing the one or more configuration queries using a combined
5   configuration rules-attributes model to determine valid configuration
6   answers prioritized by one or more predetermined attributes; and
7   means for providing at least a subset of the valid configuration answers to the
8   client system.

1   20.   The computer system of claim 19 further comprising:
2   means for predetermining values of one or more combinations of attributes
3   associated with respective configuration answers;
4   means for storing the predetermined values; and

5   means for retrieving the stored predetermined values associated with a

6   particular valid configuration answer if the particular valid

7   configuration is an answer to one or more of the configuration queries.