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Patent Application Serial No. 09/331,002	)	Group Art Unit: 2182
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Filing Date: June 14, 1999	)	Examiner: Du, Thuan N.
	)	
For: Flexible Interface	)	Docket No.: 13189.129
	)	(Formerly 2055/101)
Inventor: Michael Tasler	)	
	)	Paper No.: 8

(stamp: OIPE APR 0 3 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE)

BOX NON-FEE AMEMDMENT
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

This Amendment and Remarks is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2001.

AMENDMENT

In The Claims:

Please cancel claim 5.

Please amend claims 1, 12, 13 and 15 as follows:

1.   (Amended)   An interface device for communication between a host device, which comprises drivers for input/output devices customary in a host device and a multi-purpose interface, and a data transmit/receive device, the data transmit/receive device being arranged for providing analog data, comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

a first connecting device for interfacing the host device with the interface device via the multi-purpose interface of the host device; and

a second connecting device for interfacing the interface device with the data transmit/receive device, the second connecting device including a sampling circuit for sampling the analog data provided by the data transmit/receive device and an analog-to-digital converter for converting data sampled by the sampling circuit into digital data,

wherein the interface device is configured by the processor and the memory to include a first command interpreter and a second command interpreter,

wherein the first command interpreter is configured in such a way that the command interpreter, when receiving an inquiry from the host device as to a type of a device attached to the multi-purpose interface of the host device, sends a signal, regardless of the type of the data transmit/receive device attached to the second connecting device of the interface device, to the host device which signals to the host device that it is an input/output device customary in a host device, whereupon the host device communicates with the interface device by means of the driver for the input/output device customary in a host device, and

wherein the second command interpreter is configured to interpret a data request command from the host device to the type of input/output device signaled by the first command interpreter as a data transfer command for initiating a transfer of the digital data to the host device.

11 12. (Amended) An interface device for communication between a host device, which comprises a multi-purpose interface and a specific driver for this interface, and a data transmit/receive device, the data transmit/receive device being arranged for providing analog data, comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

a first connecting device for interfacing the host device with the interface device via the multi-purpose interface of the host device; and

a second connecting device for interfacing the interface device with the data transmit/receive device, the second connecting device including a sampling circuit for sampling the analog data provided by the data transmit/receive device and an analog-to-digital converter for converting data sampled by the sampling circuit into digital data,

where the interface device is configured using the processor and the memory to include a first command interpreter and a second command interpreter,

wherein the first command interpreter is configured in such a way that the interface device, when receiving an inquiry from the host device as to the type of a device attached at the multi-purpose interface of the host device, sends a signal, regardless of the type of the data transmit/receive device attached to the second connecting device of the interface device, to the host device which signals to the host device that it is an input/output device customary in a host device, whereupon the host device communicates with the interface device by means of the specific driver for the multi-purpose interface, and

wherein the second command interpreter is configured to interpret a data request command from the host device to the type of input/output device signaled by the first command interpreter as a data transfer command for initiating a transfer of the digital data to the host device.

12 13. (Amended) An interface device according to claim 12, wherein in addition to the first connecting device of the interface device, there is a further input/output device at the multi-purpose interface of the host device, and wherein the interface device can communicate directly with said further input/output device via the specific driver for the multi-purpose interface.

14 15. (Amended) A method of communication between a host device, which comprises drivers for input/output devices customary in a host device and a multi-purpose interface, and a data transmit/receive device, the data transmit/receive device being

arranged for providing analog data, via an interface device, comprising:

interfacing of the host device with a first connecting device of the interface device
via the multi-purpose interface of the host device;

interfacing of the data transmit/receive device with a second connecting device of
the interface device, the second connecting device including a sampling circuit for sampling
the analog data provided by the data/transmit/receive device and an analog-to-digital
converter for converting data sampled by the sampling circuit into digital data;

inquiring by the host device at the interface device as to the type of device to which
the multi-purpose interface of the host device is attached;

regardless of the type of the data transmit/receive data attached to the second
connecting device of the interface device, responding to the inquiry from the host device
by the interface device in such a way that it is an input/output device customary in a host
device, whereupon the host device communicates with the interface device by means of
the usual driver for the input/output device, and

interpreting a data request command from the host device to the type of input/output
device customary in the host device as a data transfer command for initiating a transfer of
the digital data to the host device.

REMARKS

The draftsperson has objected to the drawings. Clean formal drawings responsive
to the objections are enclosed.

The Office Action rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, on the
basis of insufficient antecedent basis for "the hard disk" in line 4. This has been corrected
by amendment.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
unpatentable over Applicant's admission of prior art in view of United States Patent No.
5,499,378 issued to McNeill, Jr. et al. Claims 1, 12, 13 and 15 gave been amended, and
this rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended for the

reasons given below. In particular, the data transmit/receive device is arranged for providing analog data. Support for this amendment is in the penultimate paragraph of page 4. Since the second connecting device includes sample and hold circuits 1515 and an A/D converter 1503, it is clear that the data transmit/receive device to be connected to the second connecting device of the subject interface provides analog data. As to the amendment raised with respect to the second connecting device, please refer to FIG. 2 and to the just outlined elements. Regarding the amendment "first command interpreter and second command interpreter", please refer to the last paragraph of page 9. The first command interpreter performs the response to the inquiry from the host device as outlined in the penultimate paragraph of amended claim 1, while the second command interpreter interprets a data request command from the host device; for example, "read file xy" as a data transfer command for initiating a transfer of the digital data to the first device, i.e., of the digital data that have been derived from the analog data of the data transmit/receive device. Support is in the first paragraph of page 10 of the specification (final version to be filed as first preliminary amendment).

McNeill, Jr. et al. discloses a small computer system emulator for non-local SCSI devices. When FIG. 2 is considered, one may compare the initiator with the host device in claim 1, one may compare the magnetic disk 16 to the data transmit/receive device, and one may compare the target device to the interface device in claim 1.

The purpose of McNeill, Jr. et al. is to provide an access to a non-SCSI device via a SCSI bus. In particular, the initiator sends a request to the target, the request being in accordance with the SCSI protocol. The target translates this request into a request suitable for magnetic disk 16 such that the initiator can access to magnetic disk 16 via SCSI commands. This reference does not disclose that the data transmit/receive device is arranged for providing analog data. It is well known that digital data are stored on magnetic disks.

Additionally, the target does not include any sample and hold circuit or any analog-

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