puter, a network switch, a network hub, a network bridge, a router, a router-switch combination, a telecommunications distribution module, or any device that includes multiple connection ports. For example, electronic device **105** is an internet switch with multiple user connection ports, and auxiliary port **140** for internet service provider access and auxiliary port **145** for a universal serial bus (USB) connection.

Faceplate **110** is an enclosure structure of electronic device **105**, typically a front or back side, which includes connection ports, identification of connection ports, and corresponding status indicators in the form of a status light for I/O connection ports. The number of connection ports for faceplate **110** is limited only by the size of electronic device **105** and the physical density of connection ports of electronic device **105**. Faceplate **110** is depicted as having multiple connection ports, including port **115** with port ID **120** which provides identification for port **115**. Port **115** has a corresponding status indicator light, status indicator **125**, which displays various status conditions associated with port **115**.

For example, in one embodiment of the present invention, if port **115** is inactive, status indicator **125** is blank, displaying no light and indicating inactivity. If port **115** is active but not sending output or receiving input, it displays a steady light. When port **115** is sending output or receiving input, it displays a flashing light indicating it is actively sending and/or receiving signals. Faceplate **110** also depicts auxiliary ports **140** and **145** which represent additional connections to electronic device **105**, for example, an Ethernet connection for an internet service provider and a USB connection, respectively. Faceplate **110** may include any type or number of connection ports, and may have multiple status indicators corresponding to a connection port.

For example, the multiple connection ports of faceplate **110** are each identified by designations "A" through "R", respectively. Port **115** is associated with port ID **120** of faceplate **110**, which has the designation "E", and associated with status indicator **125**. Port **115** receives connection of a cable, wire or connection device and provides services associated with the connection. For example, port **115** may provide internet access, telephone service access, wireless service or other service or access to the device connected to port **115**.

Port ID **120** is an identification mark associated with port **115**. Each connection port of faceplate **110** includes an associated identification mark, which may be positioned generally adjacent to the port with which it is associated, such that an observer of faceplate port ID **120** associates the ID mark with port **115**.

Label holder **150** includes label **155**, label indicator **160**, and connection point **185** (not shown). Label holder **150** is a flexible body constructed of a pliable material, typically in the shape and size of the faceplate that it represents, such as faceplate **110**. The pliable material enables label holder **150** to attach to and bend around a cylindrical shaped rod in a spiral orientation allowing label holder **150** to be stored in a retractable enclosure. Label holder **150** includes attachment surface **350** (FIG. **3**B) to which label **155** is attached.

Label holder **150** includes circuitry to enable status indicators, such as label indicator **160**, to display visual status information regarding the actual connections associated with the label status indicator. Label holder **150** makes an electrical connection to a component of electronic device **105** that provides electrical signals indicating the status of connection ports of faceplate **110**, so that the connection port status is displayed via label indicators on label holder **150**.

For example, label indicator **160** displays a steady illuminated light as a status, indicating that port **115**, which is the connection port associated with label indicator **160**, is active, but currently neither sending output or receiving input. The pliable material of which label holder **150** is constructed possesses dielectric properties that insulates low voltage circuitry included on, or within the pliable material. For example, label holder **150** may be comprised of one or more sheets of pliable polyimide material. The polyimide material is processed to include conductive circuitry capable of propagating an electric current, which is on or enclosed within pliable polyimide material.

Label housing **130** is an encasement for label holder **150**, which retracts into label housing **130**, when no pulling force is applied to label housing **130**. The proximal end of label holder **150** is affixed or otherwise attached, by connection point **185**, to an internal component of label housing **130** (discussed further with respect to FIG. **2**A). In one embodiment, label holder **150** is attached at its distal end to surface **117** of electronic device **105**. Surface **117** is a side of electronic device **105** attached on one edge to an edge of top **112**, attached on the opposite edge to an edge of bottom **114** and perpendicular to faceplate **110**. Label housing **130** is held in place at or near electronic device **105** by tension applied to label holder **150** from a retracting device within label housing **130**, for example a coiled spring, when label holder **150** is fully retracted.

Label housing **130** includes a top, generally parallel to a bottom, and has a length, width and a general body shape that accommodates the spiral orientation of label holder **150** when fully retracted within label housing **130**, such as a cylindrical shape or polygon shape. Label housing **130** can be made of one or a combination of metal, plastic, or carbon-fiber materials. Label housing **130** includes housing slot **135**, which is a vertical opening located on a side of label housing **130**, extending a distance between the top and bottom of label housing **130** to accommodate the height of label holder **150**. Housing slot **135** provides a passage for flexible label holder **150** to extend from and retract into, label housing **130**.

In one embodiment of the present invention, grasping and pulling label housing **130** in a direction away from electronic device **105**, aligned with and parallel to the side of electronic device **105** to which label holder **150** is attached, extends label holder **150**. Returning label housing **130** to the position near or in contact with electronic device **105** results in label holder **150** retracting into label housing **130**. In another embodiment, label housing **130** is immovably attached to electronic device **105** and grasping a portion of label holder **150** extending external to label housing **130**, and pulling away from electronic device **105** in a generally perpendicular direction, in the same general plane as faceplate **110**, extends label holder **150**. Relaxing the force to extend label holder **150** results in retraction of label holder **150** into label housing **130**.

Label indicator **160** which is an electronic indicator, electrically connected to label holder **150** and receives electrical signals from circuitry on or within label holder **150**. The circuitry on or within label holder **150** is connected to an electrical component of electronic device **105** that provides the electrical signals indicating the status of corresponding connection ports on faceplate **110**. Signals received by label indicator **160** produce a visual display indicating a status condition of a corresponding connection in electronic device **105**, but presented from an easily accessible label. For example, label indicator **160** is an indicator device connected to label holder **150** and receiving electrical signals though circuitry within or on label holder **150**. The status display of label indicator **160** corresponds to status indicator **125** on electronic device **105**, both corresponding to port **115**, depicted as "A" by port ID **120** of electronic device **105**. In one embodiment of the present invention, label indicator **160**