transport packet data between the directly coupled target devices and the host system.

17. The data system of claim **9**, wherein:

the controller is further operable to provide a pathway identifier field to switch packets to the target device.

18. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a processor of a Serial Attached Small Computer System Interface controller, direct the processor to:

link a Peripheral Component Interconnect Express target device to a Serial Attached Small Computer System Interface expander;

link the expander to the Serial Attached Small Computer System Interface controller;

open a Serial Attached Small Computer System Interface connection between the controller and the expander;

buffer packets of data at an end point in the connection;

issue a number of the data packets to be transferred in the connection; and

transport the issued number of data packets between the target device and a host system through the connection via the Peripheral Component Interconnect Express protocol.

19. The computer readable medium of claim **18**, further comprising instructions that direct the processor to:

exchange Data Link Layer Packets between the expander and the controller.

20. The computer readable medium of claim **18**, further comprising instructions that direct the processor to:

aggregate a plurality of Peripheral Component Interconnect Express target devices and route Peripheral Component Interconnect Express data from the host system to the Peripheral Component Interconnect Express target devices.

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