on the data in the split data stream includes coupling at least one split data stream with load address information and target bridge information.

16. The method as recited in claim **11**, wherein directing the split data streams to a plurality of target master ports based on the data in the split data stream includes providing configuration changes to at least one of the split data streams directed to the plurality of target master ports.

17. The method as recited in claim **11**, wherein the master data stream is an SFF-8485 master data stream having a plurality of SFF-8485 data bit sets, wherein the initiator device is an SFF-8485 initiator device and wherein the plurality of target devices are SFF-8485 target devices.

18. A non-transitory computer readable medium storing instructions that carry out a method for transmitting serial input/output (SIO) data between an initiator device and a plurality of target devices, the non-transitory computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving a master data stream from an initiator device;

instructions for splitting the master data stream into a plurality of split data streams based on the data in the master data stream;

instructions for directing the split data streams to a plurality of target master ports based on the data in the split data stream, wherein the split data streams are directed to the plurality of target master ports in such a way that each split data stream maintains the same bit positions as in the master data stream;

instructions for transmitting the split data streams from the plurality of target master ports to a corresponding plurality of target devices;

instructions for receiving a plurality of returning split data streams from the plurality of target devices;

instructions for assembling the plurality of returning split data streams into a returning master data stream based on the data in the returning split data streams; and

instructions for transmitting the returning master data stream to the initiator device.

19. The non-transitory computer readable medium as recited in claim **18**, wherein the instructions for splitting the master data stream into a plurality of split data streams includes instructions for splitting the master data stream into a first split data stream having a first set of data bits, instructions for splitting the master data stream into a second split data stream having a second set of data bits, instructions for splitting the master data stream into a third split data stream having a third set of data bits and instructions for splitting the master data stream into an nth split data stream having an nth set of data bits, and wherein the instructions for directing the split data streams to the plurality of target master ports includes instructions for directing the first split data stream to a first target master port, instructions for directing the second split data stream to a second target master port, instructions for directing the third split data stream to a third target master port and instructions for directing the nth split data stream to an nth target master port.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium as recited in claim **18**, wherein the instructions for receiving the plurality of returning split data streams from the plurality of target devices includes instructions for receiving a first returning split data stream from a first target master port, instructions for receiving a second returning split data stream from a second target master port, instructions for receiving a third returning split data stream from a third target master port and instructions for receiving an nth returning split data stream from an nth target master port, and wherein the instructions for assembling the plurality of returning split data streams into the returning master data stream includes instructions for assembling the returning master stream in such a way that at least a portion of the first returning split data stream is located in a first data bit location in the returning master stream, at least a portion of the second returning split data stream is located in a second data bit location in the returning master stream, at least a portion of the third returning split data stream is located in a third data bit location in the returning master stream and at least a portion of the nth returning split data stream is located in an nth data bit location in the returning master stream.

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