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handshake, but does wait for at least one bus settle delay time before driving any of the bus lines 7. With specific reference to FIG. 12 of the drawings, the send signal line 11, SEND/SD2, remains asserted from the out-of-band selection phase indicating a data direction from the host 1 to the target 5 or targets. The host 1 places the out-of-band command or data on SD[15:8] 8 according to the bit mapping shown in FIG. 6 of the drawings. The host 1 waits at least one deskew delay time and asserts the host strobe signal line 9, HSTB/SD0, which strobes the data byte 8 into the selected targets. 10 After a minimum of one out-of-band hold time, for example 25 nsec, the host 1 negates the host strobe signal line 9, HSTB/SD0, and then changes the data byte 8 as appropriate. The process of placing the data byte 8 on SD[15:8] and strobing the data byte 8 into the target or targets repeats until 15 all data bytes have been sent.

Modifications that are within the spirit and scope of the present invention will occur to one of ordinary skill in the art. As an example, remapping of data lines for out-of-band operations is applicable to other networks and bus sizes. 20 Discussion of the preferred embodiments does not limit the scope of the invention, the scope invention being defined only by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communicating on a network, the network comprising at least one initiator and at least one target device communicating via a bus, said bus including a predefined set of control lines that comprises a predefined busy line and a predefined select line, said bus further including a plurality of predefined data lines, the method comprising the steps of: 25

winning arbitration of said bus using said predefined busy line and said predefined select line,

selecting at least one target device to receive a command by manipulating at least one of said predefined data lines and not manipulating said predefined set of control lines, 35

sending said command to said at least one target by manipulating at least one of said predefined data lines and not manipulating said predefined control lines, and 40 releasing control of the bus.

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2. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising broadcasting said command on said bus to at least one selected target.

3. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising the steps of launching onto said bus a destination identifier value and then sending said command for receipt by only those targets having a device identifier with a value matching said destination identifier value.

4. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising the steps of launching onto said bus a class code identifier value and then sending said command for receipt by only those targets having a device class identifier with a value matching said class code identifier value.

5. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising the steps of launching onto said bus a class code identifier value to indicate selection of a selected class of device and a destination identifier value, said destination identifier value indicating all targets in the selected class of devices.

6. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of negating all of said predefined data lines to indicate an out-of-band communications mode to said at least one target device.

7. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising the step of utilizing one of said predefined data lines as a host strobe and one of said predefined data lines as a target strobe, said host strobe and said target strobe working in conjunction with each other to transfer data from said host to said target in a closed handshake.

8. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 1, the step of sending further comprising the step of utilizing one of said predefined data lines as a host strobe to transfer data from the host to at least one selected target.

9. A method for communicating on a network as recited in claim 3, the step of launching further comprising utilizing a plurality of bits to represent a binary number for said destination identifier.

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