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# United States Patent [19]

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Scholder et al.

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[54] **FLEXIBLE I/O PORT CONFIGURATION AND CONNECTOR LABELING SCHEME FOR COMPUTER CHASSIS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

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A flexible I/O port configuration and connector labeling scheme for a computer chassis. An I/O shield that includes connector cutouts specific to a system motherboard is attached to the system motherboard. The motherboard to which the I/O shield is attached may be installed in a generic chassis that includes cutouts for "standard" connectors, such as VGA, keyboard, audio and mouse connectors, as well as a flexible I/O cutout for receiving custom connectors, such as USB and network connectors. Any connector cutout or portion of a cutout provided in the chassis through which a connector does not extend is filled by the I/O shield. In another aspect, an I/O labeling strip on which are printed icons for identifying the various connectors is press-fit onto the chassis, such that the strip can be easily removed and replaced. Each strip is provided with an alignment code that corresponds to an alignment code stamped on the I/O shield and visible through an unused or partially used cutout of the chassis such that, when the strip is properly positioned relative to the chassis, the codes are also aligned with one another.

[21] Appl. No.: **788,670**

[22] Filed: **Jan. 24, 1997**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **G06F 1/16; H05K 9/00; G09F 3/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **361/683; 361/818; 40/316; 40/663; 439/491**

[58] Field of Search ..... **40/316, 663, 668; 439/607, 609, 488-491, 955; 364/708.1; 361/683-686, 816, 818; 174/35 R; 211/119.003**

[56] **References Cited**

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**12 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**

