

11. The SAS I/O control system of claim 8, wherein the physical devices comprise redundant array of independent disks (RAID) data storage devices.

12. The SAS I/O control system of claim 8, wherein the SAS expander is configured to allow discovery I/O operations to be completed more quickly by setting at least one of the plurality of configurable I/O control register bits to the second value.

13. The SAS I/O control system of claim 8, wherein, for a particular SAS Phy, the SAS expander is configured to set a first particular configurable I/O control register bit associated with a first SAS protocol to the first value and configured to set a second particular configurable I/O control register bit associated with a second SAS protocol to the second value.

14. The SAS I/O control system of claim 8, wherein each SAS Phy has a set of enabled and disabled SAS protocols.

15. A serial attached small computer system interface (SAS) input/output (I/O) control system comprising:

- a SAS agent;
- a plurality of physical devices;
- a SAS expander connecting the plurality of physical devices to the SAS agent and mediating I/O communications between the plurality of physical devices and the SAS agent;

wherein the SAS expander comprises a plurality of SAS Phys, wherein each SAS Phy is associated with a particular physical device of the plurality of physical devices, wherein each SAS Phy is configured to be responsive to a plurality of SAS connection requests, wherein each SAS Phy is associated with at least two configurable I/O control register bits, wherein each of the at least two configurable I/O control register bits is associated with a particular SAS protocol of a plurality of SAS protocols, and wherein the SAS agent is authorized to operate each configurable I/O control register bit;

wherein each SAS Phy is configured to enable opening of a SAS connection or use of a SAS address when a particular configurable I/O control register bit associated with the particular SAS protocol is set to a first value, and wherein each SAS Phy is further configured to reject the SAS connection request when the particular configurable I/O control register bit is set to a second value;

wherein the SAS expander is further configured to operate each configurable I/O control register bit; and wherein each SAS Phy is configured to return an OPEN REJECT (RETRY) response to a disabled SAS protocol to delay and does not cancel the disabled SAS connection request when the particular configurable I/O control register bit is set to the second value.

16. The SAS I/O control system of claim 15, wherein additional SAS agents are configured to operate the plurality of configurable I/O control register bits.

17. The SAS I/O control system of claim 15, wherein the physical devices comprise data storage devices.

18. The SAS I/O control system of claim 15, wherein the physical devices comprise redundant array of independent disks (RAID) data storage devices.

19. The SAS I/O control system of claim 15, wherein, for a particular SAS Phy, the SAS expander is configured to set a first particular configurable I/O control register bit associated with a first SAS protocol to the first value and configured to set a second particular configurable I/O control register bit associated with a second SAS protocol to the second value.

20. The SAS I/O control system of claim 15, wherein the SAS expander is configured to allow discovery I/O operations to be completed more quickly by setting at least one of the plurality of configurable I/O control register bits to the second value.

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