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(57) Abstract

A communication bus system like the USB system operates according to a communication protocol wherein a hub station (20) generates a presence signal on a host connector (26) upon incorporation of the hub station into the system by connection to the host connector. The presence signal is dependent on whether the hub station detects a slave device connected to a slave connector (28a–28c). A new type of apparatus comprises an alternative host port and a hub circuit (22). The hub circuit is arranged to pass communication between the alternative host processor (24) and the slave device via the alternative host port and said slave connector (28a–28c). The hub circuit generates the presence signal simulating absence of a connection to the slave connector when the hub station is incorporated into the system at a time when the alternative host processor uses the slave device connected to the slave connector.

