

Claims:

1. A system for connecting a processing device to a functional device connected to or in a base unit of a communications network, the processing device having a memory, a display
5 and an operating system, the system comprising :
- a first peripheral device being adapted to be coupled to the processing device via a generic communications protocol, the base unit having a transmitter and the first peripheral device having a receiver and at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint of the functional device
10 exposed on the first peripheral device;
- the base unit and the first peripheral device being adapted to transmit and receive data respectively over the communications network from the functional device to the processing device via the at least one fixed or configurable endpoint using the generic communications protocol for communication between the processing device and the first peripheral device.
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2. The system according to claim 1, wherein data that is transmitted or received, optionally streaming data carrying images, audio, or similar can be in a raw or unaltered format.
3. The system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the functional device is connected to or
20 in a base unit of a wireless communications network.
4. The system according to any previous claim, wherein exposure is implemented with descriptor fields.
- 25 5. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device can be run with the vendor specific driver alone.
6. The system according to any previous claim adapted to transmit the data from the functional device to at least two processing devices using at least two first peripheral
30 devices.
7. The system according to any previous claim, wherein two endpoints are combined and exposed to the processing device as one endpoint.

8. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device is any one or more of a microphone, a speakerphone, a speaker, a display, a touchscreen, a projector, a camera, a video camera, a webcam.

5 9. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint of the functional device exposed on the first peripheral device is one of a human interface device, a mass storage device, a composite device, a microphone, a speakerphone, a speaker, a display, a touchscreen, a projector, a camera, a video camera, or a webcam.

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10. The system according to any previous claim, further comprising means for encoding, optionally encrypting the data.

11. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the processing device is adapted
15 to host a unified communication between two or more further processing devices.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the first peripheral device is adapted to present a functional device to the unified communication between two or more processing devices.

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13. The system according to any previous claim adapted to expose the same type of functional device to the processing device as is connected to the Base Unit further comprising at least one driver for the functional device installed on the processing device.

25 14. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device is a second peripheral device.

15. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device is a data capturing device.

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16. A method for connecting a processing device to a functional device connected to or in a base unit of a communications network, the processing device having a memory, a display and an operating system, the base unit having a transmitter and the first peripheral device having a receiver the method comprising :

coupling a first peripheral device to the processing device via a generic communications protocol, providing at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint of the functional device exposed on the first peripheral device;

- 5 transmitting data from the base unit and receiving the data at the first peripheral device over the communications network from the functional device to the processing device via the at least one fixed or configurable endpoint using the generic communications protocol for communication between the processing device and the first peripheral device.

- 10 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein data that is transmitted or received, i.e. streaming data carrying images, audio, etc. can be in a raw or unaltered format.

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the functional device being connected to or in a base unit of a wireless communications network.

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19. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 18, wherein the functional devices are run with the vendor specific driver alone.

- 20 20. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 19, wherein exposure can be implemented with descriptor fields.

21. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 20, comprising transmitting the data from the functional device to at least two processing devices using at least two first peripheral devices.

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22. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 21, wherein two endpoints are combined and exposed to the processing device as one endpoint.

- 30 23. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 22, wherein the functional device provides any one or more of a microphone, a speakerphone, a speaker, a display, a touchscreen, a projector, a camera, a video camera, a webcam.

24. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 23, further comprising presenting the at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint of the functional device exposed on the first

peripheral device as one of a human interface device, a mass storage device, a composite device, a microphone, a speakerphone, a speaker, a display, a touchscreen, a projector, a camera, a video camera, or a webcam.

5 25. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 24, further comprising encoding, and/or optionally encrypting the data.

26. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 25, further comprising hosting a unified communication between two or more further processing devices on the processing device.

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27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the first peripheral device presenting a functional device to the unified communication between two or more processing devices.

15 28. The method according to any of the claims 16 to 27, comprising exposing the same type of functional device to the processing device as is connected to the Base Unit and using at least one driver for the functional device installed on the processing device.

20 29. A peripheral device adapted to be coupled to a processing device via a generic communications protocol, the peripheral device having a receiver and at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint of a functional device exposed on the first peripheral device; the receiver of the first peripheral device being adapted to receive data over a communications network from the functional device and for sending the data to the processing device via the at least one fixed or configurable endpoint using the generic
25 communications protocol for communication between the processing device and the peripheral device.

30. The peripheral device according to claim 29, wherein the communications network is a wireless communications network

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31. The peripheral device according to claim 29 or 30, wherein data that is transmitted or received, i.e. streaming data carrying images, audio, etc. can be in a raw or unaltered format.

32. The peripheral device according to any of the claims 29 to 31, wherein the functional

device can be run with the vendor specific driver alone.

33. The peripheral device according to any of the claims 29 to 32, wherein the at least one
fixed or a configurable endpoint of the functional device exposed on the first peripheral
5 device is one of a human interface device, a mass storage device, a composite device, a
microphone, a speakerphone, a speaker, a display, a touchscreen, a projector, a camera, a
video camera, or a webcam.

34. A computer program product for carrying out any of the method steps of any of the
10 claims 16 to 28 when executed on a processor.

35. A non-transitory signal storage means storing the computer program product of claim
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