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 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 is a data source or a data sink which is able to store or emit data, of the functional device 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; and

wherein the processing device is adapted to host a unified communication between two or more processing devices and the first peripheral device is adapted to present the functional device to the unified communication between the two or more processing devices.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein data that is transmitted or received, can be in a raw or unaltered format.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the streaming data carrying images, audio, or similar can be in a raw or unaltered format.

4. The system according to claim 1 to 3, wherein the functional device is connected to or in a base unit of a wireless communications network.

5. The system according to any previous claim, wherein exposure is implemented with descriptor fields.

6. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device can be run with the vendor specific driver alone.

7. 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 devices.

8. The system according to any previous claim, wherein two endpoints are combined and exposed to the processing device as one endpoint.

9. 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 web camera.

10. 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 web camera.

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

12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising means for encrypting the data.

~~13. The system according to any previous claim, wherein the processing device is adapted to host a unified communication between two or more further processing devices.~~

~~14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the first peripheral device is adapted to present a functional device to the unified communication between two or more processing devices.~~

~~15.~~ 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.

~~16.~~ 14.The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device is a second peripheral device.

~~17.~~ 15.The system according to any previous claim, wherein the functional device is a data capturing device.

~~18.~~ 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 where the at least fixed or a configurable endpoint is a data source or a data source or a data sink which is able to store or emit data, of the functional device exposed or made available on the first peripheral device;

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; ~~.~~ and

comprising hosting a unified communication between two or more processing devices on the processing device and comprising the first peripheral device presenting the functional device to the unified communication between the two or more processing devices.

~~19.~~ 17.The method according to claim ~~18~~ 16, wherein data that is transmitted or received, i.e. streaming data carrying images, audio, etc. can be in a raw or unaltered format.

~~20.~~ 18.The method according to claim ~~18~~ 16 or ~~19~~ 17, wherein the functional device being connected to or in a base unit of a wireless communications network.

~~21.~~ 19.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~20~~ 18, wherein the functional devices are run with the vendor specific driver alone.

~~22.~~ 20.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~21~~ 19, wherein exposure can be implemented with descriptor fields.

~~23.~~ 21.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~22~~ 20, comprising transmitting the data from the functional device to at least two processing devices using at least two first peripheral devices.

~~24.~~ 22.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~23~~ 21, wherein two endpoints are combined and exposed to the processing device as one endpoint.

~~25.~~ 23.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~24~~ 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 web camera.

~~26.~~ 24.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~25~~ 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 web camera.

~~27.~~ 25.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~26~~ 24, further comprising encoding, and encrypting the data.

~~28.~~ 26.The method according to any of the claims ~~16~~ 14 to ~~27~~ 25, further comprising encoding or encrypting the data.

~~29. The method according to any of the claims 18 to 28, further comprising hosting a unified communication between two or more further processing devices on the processing device.~~

~~30. The method according to claim 29, further comprising the first peripheral device presenting a functional device to the unified communication between two or more processing devices.~~

~~31.~~ 27.The method according to any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~30~~ 26, 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.

~~32.~~ 28. 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, where the at least one fixed or a configurable endpoint is a data source or a data sink which is able to store or emit data, 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 communications protocol for communication between the processing device and the peripheral device~~.~~; and

wherein the peripheral device is adapted to present the processing device to host a unified communication between two or more processing devices and the peripheral device is adapted to present the functional device to the unified communication between the two or more processing devices.

~~33.~~ 29.The peripheral device according to claim ~~32~~ 28, wherein the communications network is a wireless communications network.

~~34.~~ 30.The peripheral device according to claim ~~32~~ 28 or ~~33~~ 29, wherein data that is transmitted or received, i.e. streaming data carrying images, audio, etc. can be in a raw or unaltered format.

~~35.~~ 31.The peripheral device according to any of the claims ~~32~~ 28 to ~~34~~ 30, wherein the functional device can be run with the vendor specific driver alone.

~~36.~~ 32.The peripheral device according to any of the claims ~~32~~ 28 to ~~35~~ 31, 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 web camera.

~~37.~~ 33. A computer program product for carrying out any of the method steps of any of the claims ~~18~~ 16 to ~~31~~ 27 when executed on a processor.

~~38.~~ 34. A non-transitory signal storage means storing the computer program product of claim ~~37~~ 33.