CLAIMS

1. A method for connecting a processing device to a communications network, the processing device having a memory, a display and an operating system with pre-installed generic drivers providing a generic communications protocol for communication between processing device and a class of peripheral devices, the method comprising:

   a) coupling an external peripheral device physically to a port of the processing device, the peripheral device having a transceiver and a connector configured to couple to the port of the processing device;

   b) setting up, by means of a first pre-installed generic audio driver of the operating system, a means for audio communication between the peripheral device and the processing device and by means of a second pre-installed generic driver of the operating system, a means for data communication between the peripheral device and the processing device;

   c) using the peripheral device to connect the processing device to a communications network via the transceiver;

   d) routing audio data between the processing device and the communication network via the means for audio communication and the transceiver to a base node, wherein the first pre-installed generic audio driver is used for transferring the audio data between the processing device and the peripheral device,

   wherein the peripheral device comprises an audio output adapter.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein Step b) comprises presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a human interface device and wherein the pre-installed generic driver is a human interface device driver.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein Step b) comprises presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a mass storage device and wherein the pre-installed generic driver is a mass storage device driver.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein Step b) comprises presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a composite device and wherein preinstalled generic drivers drive different device interfaces independently.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a client application is stored on the peripheral device which when run on the processing device obtains screen scraped data.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the client application is a portable application.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the peripheral device is adapted to analyze an incoming signal from the processing device and if no audio is received, the incoming signal is discarded.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein if audio is received, the peripheral device will initiate an additional TCP/IP socket connection to the base unit through the communications network.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising time-stamping synchronously the audio with the data stream.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising encoding, optionally encrypting the audio data.

11. A system for connecting a processing device to a communications network, the processing device having a memory, a display and an operating system with pre-installed generic drivers providing a generic communications protocol for communication between processing device and a class of peripheral devices, the system comprising:

a) means for coupling an external peripheral device physically to a port of the processing device, the peripheral device having a transceiver and a connector configured to couple to the port of the processing device;

b) means for setting up, by means of a first pre-installed generic audio driver of the operating system, a means for audio communication between the peripheral device and the processing device and by means of a second pre-installed generic driver of the operating system, a means for data communication between the peripheral device and the processing device;

c) wherein the peripheral device is configured in a way to connect the processing device to a communications network via the transceiver;

d) means for routing audio data between the processing device and the communication network via the means for audio communication and the transceiver to a base node, wherein the first pre-installed generic audio driver is used for transferring the audio data between the processing device and the peripheral device,

wherein the peripheral device comprises an audio output adapter.

12. The system of claim 11 further comprising means for presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a human interface device and wherein the pre-installed generic driver is a human interface device driver.

13. The system of claim 11 further comprising means for presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a mass storage device and wherein the pre-installed generic driver is a mass storage device driver.

14. The system of claim 11 further comprising means for presenting the peripheral device to the processing device as a composite device and wherein pre-installed generic drivers drive different device interfaces independently.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein a client application is stored on the peripheral device which when run on the processing device obtains screen scraped data.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the client application is a portable application.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein the peripheral device is adapted to analyse an incoming signal from the processing device and if no audio is received, the incoming signal is discarded.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein if audio is received, the peripheral device will initiate an additional connection to the base unit through the communications network.

19. The system of claim 11 further comprising time-stamping synchronously the audio stream with the data stream.

20. The system of claim 19 further comprising means for encoding, optionally encrypting the audio data.

21. A peripheral device for providing communication connectivity to a processing device which is provided with memory, a display and an operating system with at least one pre-installed generic driver providing a generic communication protocol for communication between the processing device and a class of peripheral devices, the peripheral device comprising a connection configured to be physically coupled to a port of the processing device and a memory in which executable software code is stored for execution on the processing device, said executable software code comprising:

    a first software code portion for setting up, by means of the pre-installed generic driver of the operating system, a means for audio communication between the peripheral device and the processing device;

    a second software code portion for connecting the processing device to a communications network via a transceiver of the peripheral device;

    a third software code portion for routing audio data between the processing device and the communication network via the means for audio communication and the transceiver to a base node, wherein the first pre-installed generic audio driver is used for transferring the audio data between the processing device and the peripheral device,

    wherein the peripheral device comprises an audio output adapter.