BRIEF DESCRIPTION

[4] In one aspect, a mobile computing device is provided. The device includes a first port configured with a first pinout to support a first data format, a data source configured to provide data in a second data format different from the first data format, and a first multiplexer configured to selectively transmit data from the data source to the first port. The first port is reconfigured with a second pinout to support the second data format. The device further includes a second multiplexer configured to selectively transmit data from one of a data source configured to provide data in the first data format and an output from said first multiplexer that includes data in the second data format, the data selectively transmitted to said first port.

[5] In another aspect, a method of transmitting data from a mobile computing device is provided. The method includes selecting a data source from which to provide data to a first port in the mobile computing device, wherein the first port is configured with a first pinout to support a first data format and the data source is configured to transmit data in a second data format that is different from the first data format, and wherein the data source configured to transmit data in the second format is selected using a first multiplexer. The method further includes selectively transmitting, using a second multiplexer, data from one of a data source configured to provide data in the first data format and an output from the first multiplexer that includes data in the second data format to the first port. The method also includes reconfiguring the first pinout with a second pinout that enables the first port to support the second data format and transmitting data from the second multiplexer through the first port.~~format. The method also includes selectively transmitting the data in the second data format to the first port, reconfiguring the first pinout with a second pinout that enables the first port to support the second data format, and transmitting the data in the second data format through the first port~~.

[6] In yet another aspect, a mobile computing device is provided. The device includes a first port comprising a first pinout that is configured to support a portable digital media interface, a plurality of data sources that are each configured

to provide data in a data format, wherein a bias is selectively asserted on a first pin of said first port to facilitate selecting the data format to transmit to the first port from one of the plurality of data sources, and a multiplexer configured to selectively transmit data from the one of the plurality of data sources to the first port, wherein the first pinout is reconfigured with a second pinout to support the selected data format.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[7] Figure 1 is a front perspective view of an exemplary mobile computing device.

[8] Figure 2 is a back perspective view of the mobile computing device shown in Figure 1.

[9] Figure 3 is a schematic illustration of an exemplary hardware architecture that may be used with the mobile computing device shown in Figure 1.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mobile computing device ~~(10)~~ comprising:

a first port ~~(112)~~ configured with a first pinout to support a first data format;

a data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ configured to provide data in a second data format different from the first data format; ~~and~~

a first multiplexer ~~(140)~~ configured to selectively transmit data from said data source to said first port ~~(112)~~, wherein said first port ~~(112)~~ is reconfigured with a second pinout to support the second data format~~.~~; and

~~2. The device in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising~~

a second multiplexer ~~(142)~~ configured to selectively transmit data from one of a data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ configured to provide data in the first data format and an output from said first multiplexer ~~(140)~~ that includes data in the second data format, the data selectively transmitted to said first port ~~(112)~~.

~~3~~2. The device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said first port ~~(112)~~ comprises a portable digital media interface (PDMI) port.

~~4~~3. The device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the second data format is one of a universal serial bus (USB) data format, a high-definition multimedia interface (HDMI) data format, and a 4-Lane DisplayPort data format.

~~5~~4. The device in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

a second port ~~(114)~~ configured with a third pinout to support the second data format; and

an attachment sensor ~~(118)~~ configured to detect a bias asserted on said first port ~~(112)~~ and configured to command said first multiplexer ~~(140)~~ to selectively transmit data in the second data format between said second port ~~(114)~~ and said first port ~~(112)~~.

~~6~~5. The device in accordance with Claim ~~5~~4, wherein the bias is asserted on at least one pin of said first port ~~(112)~~ to facilitate selecting the data format to be transmitted to said first port ~~(112)~~.

~~76~~. The device in accordance with Claim ~~54~~, wherein said first multiplexer ~~(140)~~ transmits data in the second data format to said second port ~~(114)~~ when a bias is not detected, and transmits data in the second data format to said first port ~~(112)~~ when the bias is detected.

~~87~~. The device in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising at least one power switch ~~(106)~~ coupled to said first port ~~(112)~~.

~~98~~. A method of transmitting data from a mobile computing device ~~(10)~~, said method comprising:

selecting a data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ from which to provide data to a first port ~~(112)~~ in the mobile computing device, wherein the first port ~~(112)~~ is configured with a first pinout to support a first data format and the data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ is configured to transmit data in a second data format that is different from the first data format, and wherein the data source configured to transmit data in the second format is selected using a first multiplexer;

selectively transmitting, using a second multiplexer, data from one of a data source configured to provide data in the first data format and an output from the first multiplexer that includes ~~the~~ data in the second data format to the first port ~~(112)~~;

reconfiguring the first pinout with a second pinout that enables the first port ~~(112)~~ to support the second data format; and

transmitting ~~the~~ data ~~in the second data format~~from the second multiplexer through the first port ~~(112)~~.

~~109~~. The method in accordance with Claim ~~98~~, wherein selecting a data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ comprises detecting a bias on at least one pin of the first port ~~(112)~~.

~~110~~. The method in accordance with Claim ~~109~~, wherein detecting a bias comprises detecting at least one of a ground and a non-zero voltage on the at least one pin, the data source selected based on the bias asserted on the at least one pin.

~~12~~11. The method in accordance with Claim ~~11~~10, wherein detecting a non-zero voltage comprises detecting the non-zero voltage that is supplied to the at least one pin from a second pin of the first port ~~(112)~~.

~~13~~12. The method in accordance with Claim ~~10~~9, wherein selecting a data source comprises selecting a default data source ~~(130, 132, 134)~~ when a bias is not detected on the at least one pin.

~~14~~13. The method in accordance with Claim ~~9~~8, wherein reconfiguring the first pinout comprises allocating at least one pin of the first pinout to support the second data format.

~~15~~14. The method in accordance with Claim ~~14~~13, wherein allocating at least one pin comprises reallocating the at least one pin from at least one pin that facilitated supporting the first data format.