Claims:

1. An electrical outlet unit having multiple components comprising:

at least one sensor for monitoring a given condition;

a power source supplied by AC mains external to said electrical outlet; and

a processor for monitoring and recording information from the sensor and said power source, said processor capable of analyzing the information from the sensor and power source, said processor capable of managing communications of such information to devices outside of said electrical outlet.

2. The electric outlet unit of claim 1, wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a methane sensor, a temperature sensor, a carbon monoxide sensor, a humidity sensor, a light sensor, a motion sensor, an infrared detection sensor and combinations thereof.

3. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, wherein the sensor will be read at a periodic rate.

4. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, wherein the power source may be monitored by said processor for parameters selected from the group consisting of voltage, current, real and apparent power factor, real and apparent power, reactive power, frequency, total harmonic distortion, arc fault, plug loads, and combinations thereof.

5. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, wherein said processor is in communication with external energy consuming devices and said processor analyzes various parameters of said external devices and operates to control said external devices in response to said parameters.

6. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, wherein the processor is in wireless communication with said external devices.

7. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, further comprising a faceplate unit that removably engages the electrical outlet unit to provide a combined faceplate/outlet combination unit having different functionality based upon each different faceplate unit.

8. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein the faceplate unit utilizes the power source from said electrical outlet unit to power said faceplate unit and in turn communicate with devices external to the faceplate/outlet combination unit, wherein parameters and information are received from said external device by said faceplate/outlet combination unit in response to which the faceplate/outlet combination unit operates to control the external device.

9. The electrical outlet unit of claim 8, wherein the faceplate unit includes a powered electrical receptacle in communication with the external device wherein the external device

is powered as a result of said communication and may be activated and deactivated in response to the faceplate/outlet combination unit activating and deactivating the electrical receptacle.

10. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein the faceplate unit further comprises at least one faceplate sensor to monitor a condition different from the condition being monitored by the sensor in the electrical outlet unit, a faceplate processor to manage the functional operations of the faceplate unit and manage communications with the electrical outlet, the faceplate unit and communications with external devices.

11. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein the faceplate unit further includes a WiFi device.

12. The electrical outlet unit of claim 10, wherein the faceplate unit includes at least one wireless communication protocol device that co-exists with the WiFi device.

13. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein there are multiple faceplate/outlet combination unit devices and at least one faceplate/outlet combination unit operates to connect with another faceplate/outlet combination unit forming a network of faceplate/outlet combination units.

14. The electrical outlet unit of claim 13, wherein the network of faceplate/outlet combination units operate to transmit data and commands between the sets of faceplate/outlet combination units.

15. The electrical outlet unit of claim 13, wherein said network interfaces with energy consuming devices, the normal parameters for said energy consuming devices being programed into at least one processor, said network monitoring the conditions of these devices wherein when any one of said energy consuming devices is operating outside of said normal parameters, the network detects this condition.

16. The electrical outlet of claim 19, whereupon the detection of condition outside the norm triggers a response by said network, wherein the response is selected from the group consisting of recording the abnormal condition, reporting the abnormal condition, deactivating the device with the abnormal condition, triggering an alert in response to the abnormal condition, notifying a user of the abnormal condition, and any combination of the foregoing.

17. The electrical outlet unit of claim 1, wherein the electrical outlet unit fits within a standard gang box.

18. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein the faceplate unit functions as an electrical switch.

19. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, wherein the faceplate unit functions as an interface for an electrical fixture.

20. The electrical outlet unit of claim 7, where in both the electrical outlet unit processor and the faceplate unit processor comprise digital signal processors.

We claim:

1. An electrical management system comprising:

a plurality of control units, each comprising at least one circuit board configured to collect and transmit data and execute commands;

one or more coordinators; and

at least one server configured to receive data from at least one of said coordinators;

wherein the control units transmit data to at least one of said coordinators; and

wherein the at least one of said coordinators transmits said data to the server, receives a command from the server, and transmits said command to the control units.

2. The electrical management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one said coordinators initiates a command and transmits said command to the control units.

3. The electrical management system of claim1, wherein the coordinator and the server are a unitary device.

4. The electrical management system of claim 1, the control units further comprising at least one safety mechanism to shut itself off automatically at certain conditions.

5. An electrical outlet unit comprising:

at least one board having a plurality of components; and

a front panel having a plug-receiving portion for receiving prongs of a power plug of an electrical device, the plug-receiving portion having a plurality of electrical contacts constructed and arranged to contact the prongs of the power plug when said power plug is received within the plug-receiving portion;

wherein the board connects to an electrical power source; and wherein the electrical contacts are electrically connected to the electrical power source, such that power flows to the

power plug and to the electrical device when the power plug is received in the plug-receiving portion.

6. The electric outlet unit of claim 5, comprising two or more circuit boards.

7. The electric outlet unit of claim 5, further comprising a transceiver to receive commands and a processor to process commands to control said electrical device.

8. The electric outlet unit of claim 5, wherein the board is designed and constructed to fit within a single gang electric box having an opening, and the front panel is designed and constructed to cover said opening of said electric box.

9. The electric outlet unit of claim 5, further comprising a faceplate having apertures corresponding to said plug-receiving portion of the front panel.

10. The electric outlet of claim 5, further comprising at least one sensor.

11. An electric outlet unit comprising:

at least one board having a plurality of components; and

at least one panel having a receiving portion for receiving a connection to an external device.

12. The electric outlet unit of claim 11, wherein the receiving portion includes jacks to receive a specific cord.

13. The electric outlet unit of claim 11, wherein the receiving portion includes a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port.

14. An electrical switch unit comprising:

at least one board; and

an interface by which a user completes or breaks an electrical circuit of a device connected to the electrical switch unit;

wherein the board connects to an electrical source and supplies power to the device; and

wherein the electrical switch unit controls the power supply to the device by completing or breaking the electrical circuit.

15. The electrical switch unit of claim 14, wherein the board is designed and constructed to fit within a single gang electric switch box having an opening, and the interface is positioned outside of said electric switch box, covering said opening.

16. The electrical switch unit of claim 14, further comprising a transceiver to receive commands and a processor to process commands to control the power supply to the device.

17. An electrical unit for fixtures comprising:

at least one circuit board having a processor and a transceiver;

wherein the circuit board is connected to an electrical power source and supplies power to a fixture connected to the electrical unit; and

wherein the transceiver receives commands and the processor decodes and executes said commands to control the fixture.

18. An interchangeable electrical unit system comprising:

at least one board having a first electric connector, the board configured to connect to an electrical power source;

a plurality of removable front panels having a second electric connector, the removable front panels comprising

an electrical outlet front panel having a plug-receiving portion constructed and arranged to receive a power plug, the plug-receiving portion having electrical contacts constructed and arranged to contact prongs of the power plug when said power plug is received within the plug-receiving portion; and

a switch front panel having an interface by which a user may control a device connected to the electrical unit; and

a locking mechanism constructed and arranged to maintain the board and at least one of the removable front panels at a fixed arrangement when in a locked position;

wherein the first electrical connector and the second electrical connector electrically connect the board and the removable front panel when in the locked position; and

wherein the locking mechanism is a releasable mechanism, such that the board can disconnect from one removable front panel and connect with another removable front panel.

19. An electrical unit comprising:

at least one circuit board having

a power component, which connects to an electrical power source to power the circuit board and any device electrically connected to the electrical unit; and

a processing component, which monitors power usage of said device.

20. The electrical unit of claim 19, further comprising a communication component to receive commands.