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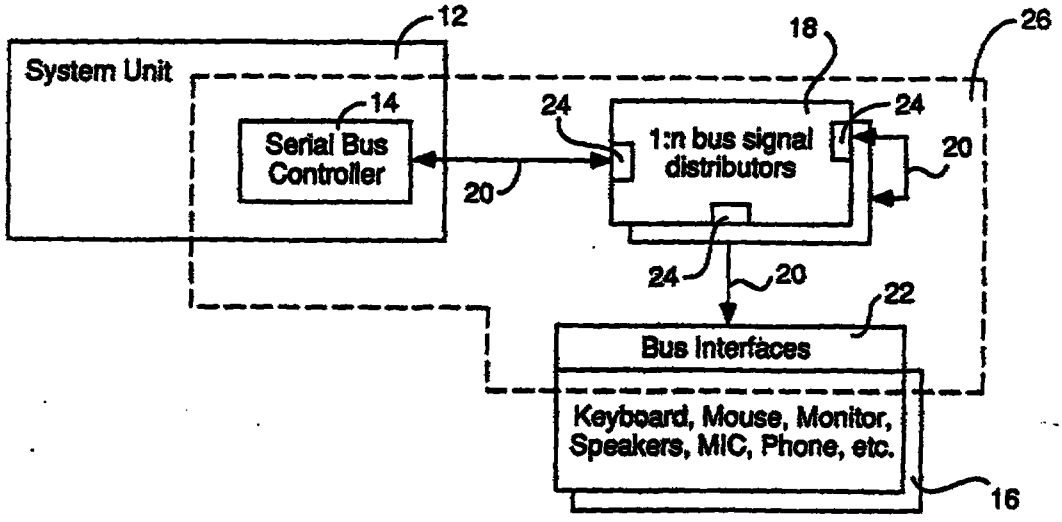
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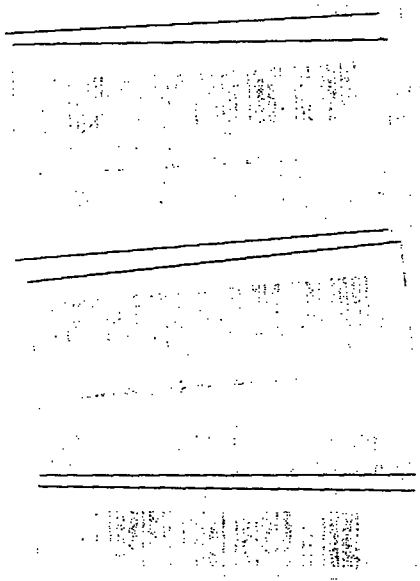
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(54) Title: M & A FOR EXCHANGING DATA, STATUS, AND COMMANDS OVER A HIERARCHICAL SERIAL BUS ASSEMBLY USING COMMUNICATION PACKETS



(57) Abstract

Logic is provided for a bus controller (14), a number of 1:n bus signal distributors (18), and a number of bus interfaces (22) of a hierarchical bus assembly (26) for conducting data communication transactions between bus agents interconnected to the hierarchical bus assembly (26). The hierarchical bus assembly (26) is used to serially interface a number of isochronous and asynchronous peripherals (16c-f) to the system unit (12) of a computer system (10). These serial bus elements implement a number of elemental packets and a number of transaction protocols, employing a master/slave model of transaction flow control. Data communication transactions are conducted using the elemental packets and in accordance with the transaction protocols. In some embodiments, these serial bus elements are also used to conduct connection management transactions between the serial bus elements. The connection management transactions are conducted in like manner as the data communication transactions.



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