

CONTENT-PROTECTED DIGITAL LINK OVER A SINGLE SIGNAL LINE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to display devices. More specifically, the invention describes a method and apparatus capable of providing a robust encryption of a audio/video data in a packet based transmission environment.

OVERVIEW

- 10 [0002] Protection of proprietary digital content has become an important consideration and more particularly, in high definition (HD), high-bandwidth applications. Especially important for HD, high-bandwidth applications, content protection provides assurances that owners of digitized content are protected from unauthorized use and copying of their proprietary content. A popular high-bandwidth
- 15 digital-content protection scheme developed by Intel Corporation of Santa Clara CA commonly referred to as HDCP has been widely implemented. As currently configured, this particular HDCP protocol is specifically designed for use in Digital Visual Interface (DVI) and High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) based environments.
- 20 [0003] In general, HDCP encrypts the transmission of digital content between the video source, or transmitter -- such as a PC, DVD player or set-top box -- and the digital display, or receiver -- such as a monitor, television or projector. In this way, HDCP is designed to prevent copying or recording of digital content thereby protecting the integrity of content as it is being transmitted. For example, as required
- 25 by the described HDCP protocol, during an authentication phase, the receiver will only be provided with content once it demonstrates knowledge of the authentication keys which the transceiver verifies through computation of a secret value. Furthermore, to prevent eavesdropping and stealing of the data, the transmitter and receiver will generate a shared secret value that is consistently checked throughout the
- 30 transmission. Once authentication is established, the transmitter encrypts the data and sends it to the receiver for decryption.

[0004] The current implementation of the DVI standard requires the use of a set of defined characters based upon a 10 bit transmission protocol. For example, as

currently configured, only 460 characters (out of a possible 1024 available) are used by the receiver for data while 4 characters are used as explicit control signals such as hsync and vsync. In this arrangement, any time the receiver receives and recognizes one of the predefined characters representing data, then the received implicitly defines a data enable signal (DE) as being active thereby indicating that the received data is true data. However, whenever one of the 4 control characters is received by the receiver, then an implicit assumption is made that data enable (DE) is inactive.

[0005] HDCP protocol uses the status of DE, H_{sync} , V_{sync} and another control signal, called CNTL3, to advance its state machine. The DE, H_{sync} , and V_{sync} signals are timing signals associated with raster video transmitted in a "streaming" manner. In a streaming transfer, the pixel data is transferred at pixel rate and the ratio of blanking period to data period is preserved. In case of a packet transfer, these timing signals may not be present. Only the pixel data may be transferred in the packet stream, while timing information is communicated in a different way.

[0006] It would be advantageous from a commercial cost standpoint to be able to support HDCP protocol over cheaper type cables such as coax cable, cat 5 cable, and so on. Unfortunately, however, in order to properly implement the HDCP protocol, a sideband handshake is required in order to at least synchronize the source and the sink devices which in conventional arrangements would require at least two separate data lines. In this way, coax cable, cat 5 cable and the like is unsuitable for implementing the HDCP protocol in a conventional manner.

[0007] Therefore, what is required is a way to support high-definition copy protection that is compatible with existing high definition copy protection protocols such as HDCP over single cable, such as coax cable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] What is provided, therefore, is a packet-based digital transmission medium and protocol that supports high definition copy protection that is backwards compatible with existing high definition copy protection protocols such as HDCP that can be implemented over a single line cable such as co-ax cable or CAT-5 cable.

In one embodiment of the invention, a packet based high bandwidth copy protection method is described that includes the following operations. Connecting a multimedia source device and a multimedia sink device by way of a single line cable; synchronizing the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device over the single line cable; configuring the single line cable as a main link by the multimedia

source device; and passing an HDCP encrypted audio/video (A/V) data stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device by way of the single line cable.

[0009] In another embodiment, a system for providing high bandwidth copy protection in a packet based system over a single line cable. The system includes, at least, a source unit arranged to provide a number of data packets having a hot plug detect (HPD) input node connected to the single line cable by way of a source side bypass line, and a sink unit coupled to the source unit arranged to receive the data packets from the source unit over the single line cable, wherein the source unit and the sink unit are AC coupled by way of a source side coupling capacitor and a sink side coupling capacitor, and wherein the sink unit includes an HPD output node connected to the single line cable by way of a sink side bypass line, wherein the source side bypass line and the sink side bypass line provide a DC signal path between the sink device and the source device, wherein the sink device sets a hot plug detect (HPD) signal to a HPD HI value when the source device and the sink device are not in synch that is communicated to the source device over the single line cable configured as an auxiliary channel by the source device and wherein, when the source and the sink device are in sync, the sink device sets the HPD signal to HPD LO and the source device responds by configuring the single line cable as a main link and sending an encrypted audio/video data stream over the single line cable to the sink device.

[0010] In yet another embodiment, computer program product for providing a packet based high bandwidth copy protection is disclosed that includes, at least, computer code for connecting a multimedia source device and a multimedia sink device by way of a single line cable; computer code for setting a hot plug detect (HPD) signal to a HPD HI value by the multimedia sink device; computer code for passing the HPD HI signal from the multimedia sink device to the multimedia source device; computer code for configuring the single line cable as an auxiliary cable by the multimedia source device in response to the HPD HI signal; computer code for synchronizing the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device; computer code for setting the HPD signal to an HPD LO signal by the multimedia sink device after the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device are synchronized; computer code for configuring the single line cable as a main link by the multimedia source device; computer code for passing an audio/video data stream

from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device by way of the single line cable; and computer readable medium for storing the computer code.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] Fig. 1 shows a generalized representation of a cross platform packet based
5 digital video display interface suitable for use with any embodiment of the invention.

[0012] Fig. 2 shows an encryption system for encrypting audio/video content suitable for use with the system described with respect to Fig. 1.

[0013] Fig. 3 shows a representative encrypted data stream in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

10 [0014] Fig. 4 illustrates a system employed to implement the invention.

[0015] Figs. 5 – 6B illustrate a system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED EMBODIMENTS

[0016] Reference will now be made in detail to a particular embodiment of the
15 invention an example of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the invention will be described in conjunction with the particular embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to the described embodiment. To the contrary, it is intended to cover alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined
20 by the appended claims.

[0017] As currently implemented, HDCP establishes a secure channel in order to verify that the display device is licensed to receive protected content and once established, encrypts the data at the host side and decrypts at the display device in order to prevent ‘eavesdropping’ of the protected content. In addition, in order to
25 identify unauthorized or comprised devices, HDCP relies upon authentication and key exchange, content encryption, and device renewability.

[0018] More specifically, HDCP protects copyrighted digital entertainment content in a Digital Video Interface (DVI) environment by encrypting its transmission between the video source and the digital display (receiver). The video source might
30 be a PC, set-top boxes, DVD players and the like), and the digital display might be an liquid crystal display (LCD), television, plasma panel, or projector in which all authorized devices are given a set of unique secret device keys. During an authentication process, the receiver must demonstrate its knowledge of a number of secret device keys before the protected content is sent. After the receiver

acknowledges the keys, both devices (the sender and receiver) generate a shared secret value that is designed to prevent eavesdroppers from stealing the content. After authentication, the content is encrypted and sent to the receiver that in turn decrypts it.

- [0019] Authentication is a cryptographic process for verifying that the display device is authorized (or licensed) to receive protected content. Both the authorized host and the display device have knowledge of a set of secret keys that consist of an array of forty 56-bit secret device keys and a corresponding 40-bit binary Key Selection Vector (KSV). The host initiates authentication by sending an initiation message containing its Key Selection Vector, AKSV, and a 64-bit value An. The display device responds by sending a response message containing its Key Selection Vector, BKSX. The host confirms that the received KSV has not been revoked. At this point, the two devices can calculate a shared value, which, if both devices have a valid set of keys, will be equal. This shared value will be used in the encryption and decryption of the protected content since authentication has now been established.
- [0020] The present invention provides for high definition high bandwidth copy protection over a single line cable, such as coax cable. In one embodiment of the invention, a source and sink each of which are Hot Plug Detect (HPD) capable are AC coupled by way of a single line cable, such as coax cable. When the sink device has determined that the source device is connected thereto, the sink device sets an HPD signal to an HPD HI value. In response to the HPD signal being set to HI, the source device initiates a synchronization process with the sink device by configuring the single line cable as an auxiliary channel and requesting synchronization information from the sink device. The sink device responds to the source device request by forwarding appropriate synchronization information (such as EDID information, and HDCP authentication information) over the single line cable (configured to act as an auxiliary, or side band, channel). If all information provided by the sink device is deemed appropriate by the sink device, the sink device re-sets the HPD signal to LO and the source device responds by configuring the single line cable as a main link and proceeds to transfer an audio/video (A/V) data stream over the single line cable to the sink device. If at any time the sink device determines that the synchronization has failed, then the sink device re-sets the HPD signal to HI and is then forwarded to the source device. In response to the HPD signal being set HI, the source device halts the transmission of the A/V data stream and the sink device initiates re-synchronization with the source device.

[0021] A particularly well suited packet based transmission system is described with reference to Fig. 1 that shows a generalized representation of a cross platform packet based digital video display interface 100 suitable for use with any embodiment of the invention. The interface 100 connects a transmitter 102 to a receiver 104 by way of a physical link 106 (also referred to as a pipe). In the described embodiment, a number of data streams 108 – 112 are received at the transmitter 102 that, if necessary, packetizes each into a corresponding number of data packets 114. These data packets are then formed into corresponding data streams each of which are passed by way of an associated virtual pipe 116 – 120 to the receiver 104. It should be noted that the data streams 108 – 112 can take any number of forms such as video, graphic, audio, etc.

[0022] Typically, when the source is a video source, the data streams 108 – 112 include various video signals that can have any number and type of well-known formats, such as composite video, serial digital, parallel digital, RGB, or consumer digital video. The video signal can be an analog video signal provided the source 102 includes some form of an analog video source such as for example, an analog television, still camera, analog VCR, DVD player, camcorder, laser disk player, TV tuner, set top box (with satellite DSS or cable signal) and the like. The source 102 can also include a digital image source such as for example a digital television (DTV), digital still camera, and the like. The digital video signal can be any number and type of well known digital formats such as, SMPTE 274M-1995 (1920 x 1080 resolution, progressive or interlaced scan), SMPTE 296M-1997 (1280 x 720 resolution, progressive scan), as well as standard 480 progressive scan video.

[0023] In the case where the source 102 provides an analog image signal, an analog-to-digital converter (A/D) converts an analog voltage or current signal into a discrete series of digitally encoded numbers (signal) forming in the process an appropriate digital image data word suitable for digital processing. Any of a wide variety of A/D converters can be used. By way of example, other A/D converters include, for example those manufactured by: Philips, Texas Instrument, Analog Devices, Brooktree, and others.

[0024] For example, if the data stream 110 is an analog type signal, the an analog to digital converter (not shown) included in or coupled to the transmitter 102 will digitize the analog data which is then packetize by a packetizer that converts the digitized data stream 110 into a number of data packets 114 each of which will be

transmitted to the receiver 104 by way of the virtual link 116. The receiver 104 will then reconstitute the data stream 110 by appropriately recombining the data packets 114 into their original format. It is these data streams that are ultimately encrypted for form a set of copy protected data streams.

5 [0025] Fig. 2 shows an encryption system 200 for encrypting audio/video content suitable for use with the system 100 described with respect to Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 2, a video source 202 is arranged to provide a number of data streams such as the data streams 110 and 112. By utilizing a number of data streams, the system 200 is capable of transmitting video data, for example, consistent with any of a number of
10 video formats concurrently. For example, the data stream 110 is formed of video data consistent with 1024 x 768 at 60 Hz whereas the data stream 112 is formed of video data consistent with 640 x 480 at 75Hz, and so on. In order for a receiver 204 (such as a monitor) to reconstruct the video in the appropriate format, the data streams include in addition the appropriate video data associated attribute data that is used by
15 the receiver to reconstruct the video in the appropriate format.

[0026] Accordingly, the video source 202 includes a number of buffers 206 each of which is used to buffer an associated one of the video data streams. Each of the buffers is, in turn, coupled to a multiplexer 208 that is used to select a particular one of the data streams for transmission to a packetizer 210. The packetizer 210 parses
20 the incident data stream into an associated number of data packets by incorporating a packet ID, optionally performing error correction, and attaching a time stamp and any of the attributes deemed important or necessary for the correct reconstruction of the video raster by the receiver 404. An encryption control generator unit 212 applies an appropriate encryption algorithm to each of the data packets based at least by
25 inserting a control packet that conveys signals such as H_{sync} , V_{sync} , and a particular control character CNTL3 used to flag those data packets that are encrypted (and conversely those data packets that are not encrypted).

[0027] In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the resulting encrypted data stream 214 (a particular example of which is shown in Fig. 3 as a data stream
30 300) is formed of a number of data packets. The data stream 300 includes a number of control packets 302 used to mark those video data packets that are encrypted (or not encrypted) as the case may be. Each video packet has an associated header 304 that includes, in part, the attribute data described above associated with the video data packet 306. For example, in the case shown in Fig. 3, the data stream 300 includes

data packets for the data stream 110 and the data stream 112 conjoined into the data stream 300 such that the traffic between the video source 202 and the receiver 204 is consistent with a constant link environment.

[0028] It should be noted that in the described embodiment, the data stream 300 is time domain multiplexed, those data packets associated with the data stream 110 have a longer duration than those associated with the data stream 112. In these cases, a time-base recovery (TBR) unit 216 within the receiver 204 regenerates the stream's original native rate using time stamps embedded in the main link data packets, if necessary. Referring back to Fig. 2, at the receiver 404, a deserializer unit 218 receives the encrypted data stream 300 that provides input to a decoder unit 220 and a depacketizer 222. The decoder 220 decodes the control packet, thus feeding H_{sync} , V_{sync} , and a particular control character CNTL3 provided to a decryption engine 228 that was previously used to for encryption.

[0029] Fig. 4 illustrates a system 400 employed to implement the invention. Computer system 400 is only an example of a graphics system in which the present invention can be implemented. System 400 includes central processing unit (CPU) 410, random access memory (RAM) 420, read only memory (ROM) 425, one or more peripherals 430, graphics controller 460, primary storage devices 440 and 450, and digital display unit 470. CPUs 410 are also coupled to one or more input/output devices 490 that may include, but are not limited to, devices such as, track balls, mice, keyboards, microphones, touch-sensitive displays, transducer card readers, magnetic or paper tape readers, tablets, styluses, voice or handwriting recognizers, or other well-known input devices such as, of course, other computers. Graphics controller 460 generates analog image data and a corresponding reference signal, and provides both to digital display unit 470. The analog image data can be generated, for example, based on pixel data received from CPU 410 or from an external encode (not shown). In one embodiment, the analog image data is provided in RGB format and the reference signal includes the V_{sync} and H_{sync} signals well known in the art. However, it should be understood that the present invention can be implemented with analog image, data and/or reference signals in other formats. For example, analog image data can include video signal data also with a corresponding time reference signal.

[0030] Fig. 5 illustrates a system 600 in accordance with another embodiment of the invention. System 600 includes multimedia source device 602 AC coupled to

multimedia sink device 604 by way of single line cable 606 (such as co-ax cable) that can take the form of a single differential pair. Source device 602 includes main link transmitter (TX) 608 arranged to transmit audio-video (AV) stream 610 over uni-directional main link 606. Auxiliary channel transceiver (AUX CH TRX) 612
5 transmits and/or receives side-band signal SB (such as control packets) over bi-directional auxiliary channel 614. Hot plug detect (HPD) monitor 616 monitors whether or not sink device 604 is present. When sink device 604 is present, HPD driver 618 sets HPD signal 620 to a high level, otherwise HPD driver 618 sets HPD signal 620 to a low level. In the described embodiment, sink device 604 includes
10 main link receiver (RX) 622 arranged to receive AV stream stream 610 and auxiliary channel transceiver (AUX CH TRX) 624.

[0031] Since source device 602 and sink device 604 are AC coupled, coupling capacitors 626 and 628 are used to connect source device 602 and sink device 604 such that only AC signals can pass while any DC signal is blocked. Therefore, by
15 providing a source side Hot Plug Detect (HPD) bypass line 630 from node A to HPD monitor 616 at source device 602 and a sink side HPD bypass line 632 connecting point B to HPD driver 618 at sink device 604, any HPD signal (that is a DC signal) from source device 602 to sink device 604 is blocked by coupling capacitors 626 and 628 from reaching either the source device 602 except by the HPD monitor 616.
20 Therefore any DC signal that passes between multimedia source device 602 and multimedia sink device 604 is blocked by coupling capacitors 626 and 628. In this way, the status of the HPD signal 620 (either high or low) does not affect the main link transport and/or AUX CH transactions.

[0032] Figs. 6A and 6B show a flowchart detailing a process 900 in accordance
25 with an embodiment of the invention. The process 900 begins at 902 by monitoring the HPD signal. When at 902 the HPD signal is LOW, then both the source and the sink are in OFF state at 904, however, when it is detected at 906 that the HPD signal is going from low to high, the source device enables AUX CH TRX and disables Main Link TX at 908 and the sink device enables AUX CH TRX while disabling
30 Main Link RX (referred to as "SETUP" state) at 910. In the SETUP mode, the following AUX CH transactions take place, at 912, EDID read to understand the sink device capability (e.g., display resolution, color depth, audio capability), at 914 DPCD read to understand the Main Link RX capability (e.g. supported link rate) and at 916 authentication for content protection in order to validate the sink device where

authentication takes place last. Once the authentication is completed at 918, control is passed to 920 shown in Fig. 6B where the Source Device disables the AUX CH TRX and enables the main link TX at 920 and the Sink Device disables the AUX CH TRX and enables Main Link TX and RX at 922 (this state is called "STREAM

5 TRANSPORT"). In the STREAM TRANSPORT state, the Sink Device verifies the CP synchronization between Source and Sink at 924. In the described embodiment, the verification is performed the sink device verifying a validity of "CP synch bit" transported as part of the AV stream. During the STREAM TRANSPORT state, an AV data stream is sent from the source to the sink at 926 until at 928 the AV stream is
10 complete at which point process 700 stops, otherwise at 930 if and when the CP synch is lost or whenever the Sink Device gets out of STREAM TRANSPORT state at 932, the HPD signal goes low at 934, notifying the Source Device of this state change. If on the other hand, neither CP sync is lost or sink device is out of STREAM TRANSPORT mode, then control is passed back to 926.

15 [0033] Upon HPD turning low at 934, both the Source and Sink Devices go to OFF state at 936. When the HPD signal is driven HIGH by the Sink Device at 938, the Source and Sink Devices return to SETUP mode at 904. Using this method, a content-protected AV stream (or streams) can be transported over a single signal line.

[0034] Although only a few embodiments of the present invention have been
20 described, it should be understood that the present invention may be embodied in many other specific forms without departing from the spirit or the scope of the present invention. The present examples are to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, and the invention is not to be limited to the details given herein, but may be modified within the scope of the appended claims along with their full scope of
25 equivalents.

[0035] While this invention has been described in terms of a preferred embodiment, there are alterations, permutations, and equivalents that fall within the scope of this invention. It should also be noted that there are many alternative ways of
implementing both the process and apparatus of the present invention. It is therefore
30 intended that the invention be interpreted as including all such alterations, permutations, and equivalents as fall within the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A packet based high bandwidth copy protection method comprising:
connecting a multimedia source device and a multimedia sink device by way
of a single line cable;
5 synchronizing the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device
over the single line cable;
configuring the single line cable as a main link by the multimedia source
device; and
passing an HDCP encrypted audio/video (A/V) data stream from the
10 multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device by way of the single line
cable.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the synchronizing comprises:
setting a hot plug detect (HPD) signal to a HPD HI value by the multimedia
sink device;
15 passing the HPD HI signal from the multimedia sink device to the multimedia
source device;
configuring the single line cable as an auxiliary channel by the multimedia
source device in response to the HPD HI signal; and
passing synchronization information between the multi-media source device
20 and the multimedia sink device by way of the single line cable as the auxiliary
channel.
3. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
setting the HPD signal to an HPD LO signal by the multimedia sink device
after the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device are synchronized;
- 25 4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
if the source device and the sink device fall out of synchronization,
setting the HPD signal to HPD HI by the sink device;
halting the A/V data stream by the source device;
configuring the single line cable to the auxiliary channel by the source
30 device in response to HPD HI; and
re-synchronizing the source device and the sink device.
5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein synchronizing the source device and
the sink device comprises:

requesting synchronization information from the sink device by the source device; and

passing the requested synchronization information from the sink device to the source device, wherein the synchronization information includes EDID information and HDCP authentication information.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising:

forming a number of data packets at the source device;

encrypting the data packets based upon a set of encryption values;

transmitting the encrypted data packets from the source device to a sink device coupled thereto as the A/V data stream;

decrypting the encrypted data packets based in part upon the encryption values; and

accessing the decrypted data packets by the sink device.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the source device is a video source and wherein the sink device is a video display and wherein the number of data packets include some audio data packets and some video data packets.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the encryption/decryption control signals include a Vsync, an Hsync, and a CNTL3.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein each of the data packets is associated with an particular control packet.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein when the CNTL3 is active, then the corresponding data packet is encrypted and vice-versa.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the single line cable is a co-ax cable.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the single line cable is a CAT-5 cable.

13. A system for providing high bandwidth copy protection in a packet based system over a single line cable, comprising:

a source unit arranged to provide a number of data packets having a hot plug detect (HPD) input node connected to the single line cable by way of a source side bypass line; and

a sink unit coupled to the source unit arranged to receive the data packets from the source unit over the single line cable, wherein the source unit and the sink unit are AC coupled by way of a source side coupling capacitor and a sink side coupling capacitor, and wherein the sink unit includes an HPD output node connected to the

- single line cable by way of a sink side bypass line, wherein the source side bypass line and the sink side bypass line provide a DC signal path between the sink device and the source device, wherein the sink device sets a hot plug detect (HPD) signal to a HPD HI value when the source device and the sink device are not in synch that is
- 5 communicated to the source device over the single line cable configured as an auxiliary channel by the source device and wherein, when the source and the sink device are in synch, the sink device sets the HPD signal to HPD LO and the source device responds by configuring the single line cable as a main link and sending an encrypted audio/video data stream over the single line cable to the sink device.
- 10 14. A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
- an encryption unit coupled to the source unit arranged to encrypt selected ones of the data packets sent from the source unit to the sink unit;
- a decryption unit coupled to the sink unit arranged to decrypt the encrypted data packets; and
- 15 an encryption/decryption values generator arranged to provide a set of encryption/decryption values used to encrypt and decrypt the appropriate data packets.
15. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein the source unit is an audio/video unit arranged to provide audio type data packets and/or video type data packets.
- 20 16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sink unit is a display unit arranged to display processed ones of the video data packets.
17. A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the display unit includes a number of speakers arranged to transmit audio signals based upon processed ones of the audio data packets.
- 25 18. A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the set of encryption/decryption control signals include Vsynch, Hsynch corresponding to the video data packets.
19. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein the set of encryption/decryption control signal further includes CNTL3 to flag those data packets that are encrypted.
20. Computer program product executable by a processor, comprising:
- 30 computer code for connecting a multimedia source device and a multimedia sink device by way of a single line cable;
- computer code for setting a hot plug detect (HPD) signal to a HPD HI value by the multimedia sink device;

computer code for passing the HPD HI signal from the multimedia sink device to the multimedia source device;

computer code for configuring the single line cable as an auxiliary cable by the multimedia source device in response to the HPD HI signal;

5 computer code for synchronizing the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device;

computer code for setting the HPD signal to an HPD LO signal by the multimedia sink device after the multimedia source device and the multimedia sink device are synchronized;

10 computer code for configuring the single line cable as a main link by the multimedia source device;

computer code for passing an audio/video data stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia sink device by way of the single line cable; and

computer readable medium for storing the computer code.

15 21. Computer program product as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

computer code for determining if the source device and the sink device fall out of synchronization,

computer code for setting the HPD signal to HPD HI by the sink device;

computer code for halting the A/V data stream by the source device;

20 computer code for configuring the single line cable to the auxiliary channel by the source device in response to HPD HI; and

computer code for re-synchronizing the source device and the sink device.

22. Computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer code for synchronizing the source device and the sink device comprises:

25 computer code for requesting synchronization information from the sink device by the source device; and

computer code for passing the requested synchronization information from the sink device to the source device, wherein the synchronization information includes EDID information and HDCP authentication information.