



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06F 13/14, H04L 12/28		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/13095
			(43) International Publication Date: 9 March 2000 (09.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/18905		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 18 August 1999 (18.08.99)			
(30) Priority Data: 09/141,837 28 August 1998 (28.08.98) US			
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING NETWORK PROTOCOL COMPLIANT SIGNAL PACKETS OVER A PLATFORM BUS

(57) Abstract

Briefly, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, a platform bus interface unit includes circuitry to divide a received network protocol compliant signal packet into signal packets of a smaller size for transmission over a platform bus of at least a portion of the data provided by the network protocol compliant signal packet. Briefly, in accordance with another embodiment of the invention, an integrated circuit includes circuitry to transmit over a platform bus at least a portion of the data provided by a network protocol compliant signal packet as signal packets of a smaller size. Briefly, in accordance with still another

embodiment of the invention, a method of transmitting at least a portion of the data provided by a network protocol compliant signal packet over a platform bus includes the following. At least a portion of the data provided by the network protocol compliant signal packet is divided into smaller data subsets. The smaller data subsets are transmitted over the platform bus as platform bus protocol compliant signal packets. The maximum amount of data capable of being provided by a network protocol compliant signal packet exceeds the maximum amount of data capable of being provided by a platform bus protocol compliant signal packet. Briefly, in accordance with still yet another embodiment of the invention, a method of combining into a network protocol compliant signal packet at least a portion of the data provided by separate signal packets received over a platform signal bus includes the following. At least a portion of the data provided by the signal packets received is extracted. The extracted data is assembled into a single network protocol compliant signal packet.

