

DYNAMIC I/O ALLOCATION IN A PARTITIONED COMPUTER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A system and method for allowing multiple nodes of a multiprocessor system (100) to share a set of I/O devices. A Cabinet Input/Output Controller (CI/OC) (216) is provided which manages communications between the multiprocessor system nodes and the common I/O devices, allowing individual nodes (200) to access one or more of its target devices exclusively. Each of the nodes communicates with the CI/OC via a service processor (214) and the CI/OC interconnects the various I/O devices and a node's USB controller (208).

FIG 1