



EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

Date of publication of patent specification :
26.10.94 Bulletin 94/43

Int. Cl.⁵ : **G09G 1/16**

Application number : **90305158.9**

Date of filing : **14.05.90**

Display system.

Date of publication of application :
21.11.91 Bulletin 91/47

Proprietor : **International Business Machines Corporation**
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, N.Y. 10504 (US)

Publication of the grant of the patent :
26.10.94 Bulletin 94/43

Inventor : **Sawdon, David**
29 Pine Close,
South Wonston
Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3EB (GB)

Designated Contracting States :
CH DE ES FR GB IT LI NL SE

References cited :
GB-A- 2 162 026
N.T.I.S. TECHNICAL NOTES, April 1988, pages
246, 1-2, Springfield, VA, US; "Interface for
color-video monitor"
RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, no. 256, August
1985, page 414, disclosure no. 25643,
Emsworth, Hampshire, GB; "Monitor-type
sensing circuit"

Representative : **Burt, Roger James, Dr.**
IBM United Kingdom Limited
Intellectual Property Department
Hursley Park
Winchester Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)

EP 0 456 923 B1

Note : Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) European patent convention).

Description

The present invention is related to a display system in which control data is communicated between a computer system and a display device.

The control data includes parameters for specifying the geometry and resolution of an image presented on the display device. In a display system comprising a raster-scanned display device such as a Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) display device, these parameters are determined by the rates and amplitudes of horizontal and vertical scan signals generated for producing the raster scan by electrical circuits in the display device. In order to generate the image, the scan signals are synchronised to video signals from a video source such as a computer system by synchronisation (sync) pulses also generated by the video source.

Some display devices can only operate in a single display mode in accordance with a single set of parameters. Other display devices can be configured to operate in any one of a number of display modes characterised by different sets of parameters. The latter will hereinafter be referred to as multiple mode display devices. In a display device controlled by a computer system it is desirable for the computer system to identify the type of the display device so that appropriate video and sync signals can be generated. Many examples of such computer systems, including the IBM PS 2 range, comprise a video graphics adapter (VGA adapter) having an output port for connecting video and sync signals to a display device. The VGA adapter also has logic responsive to the manner in which identification pins in the output port are terminated when connected to the display device. The logic identifies the type of display device connected to the VGA adapter from these terminations.

UK Patent No.2,162,026 describes an example of a display system employing a multiple-mode display device receiving video and sync signals from a computer system display adapter. The display device can operate in any one of four display modes. The computer system can be instructed to provide sync pulses of either positive or negative polarities. Each polarity combination indicates a different display mode. The display device includes decoding logic for configuring the display device to operate in a particular display mode in response to predetermined sync pulse polarities.

The display systems of the prior art have the disadvantage that the display interfaces of the prior art can identify, and therefore generate appropriate control signals for, only a limited number different display devices. This limitation arises because the number of pins available for display device identification and control is limited by the physical form of the output port.

An object of the present invention is therefore to

provide a display system having a display adapter which is potentially compatible with an unlimited variety of display devices.

In accordance with the present invention, there is now proposed a display system comprising a display device for generating a visual output in response to a plurality of data signals defining the data to be displayed, a display adapter circuit for generating the data signals in a form specified by control data, the control data being unique to the display device, an output port for transmitting the data signals from the display adapter circuit to the display device and for transmitting the control data from the display device to the display adapter circuit, characterised in that the display system further comprises a non-volatile memory located in the display device for storing the extended control data in the form of a plurality of control codes, and communication logic for communicating the control codes between the memory and the output port in response to command signals generated by the display adapter circuit. This has the advantage that, since the control data such as the signal timing requirements of any new display device can now be stored in the form of digital control codes held within the memory of the display device, the display system programming does not require updating every time a different display device is connected to the output port. Instead, the display adapter can now read the new timing requirements from the memory of the new display device for the purpose of generating video and sync signals for correctly driving the new display device.

Preferably, the communication logic comprises a serial data link for communicating the control code between the display device and the output port, device control logic for communicating the control code between the memory and the serial data link, and adapter control logic for communicating the control code between the serial data link and the display adapter circuit. This has the advantage that, where the display system comprises a multiple mode display device, the display adapter circuit can use the serial link to configure the display device to operate in a desired display mode.

An example of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a computer system incorporating a display system including a display device;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of communication logic for communicating display information between the display adapter and the display device; Figure 1 illustrates an example of a computer system incorporating a display system having a CRT display device 88.

The computer system includes a central processing unit (CPU) 80 for executing programmed instruc-

tions. A bus architecture 86 provides a data communication path between the CPU 80 and other components of the display system. A read only memory (ROS) 81 provides secure storage of data. A random access memory 82 provides temporary data storage. Data communication with a host computer system 93 is provided by a communication adapter 85. An I/O adapter 84 enables data to pass between the bus architecture 86 and a peripheral device such as a disk file 83. A user can operate the computer system using a keyboard 91 which is connected to the bus architecture 86 by a keyboard adapter 90. The CRT display device 88 provides a visual output from the display system. A display adapter 92 generates video and sync signals at an output port 94 for enabling the display device 88 to generate the visual output.

In accordance with the present invention, the display device 88 comprises a Non-Volatile Memory (NVM) 9 for storing display information in the form of digital codes. The display information is communicated between the display device 88 and the display adapter 92 along a serial link 3 which is controlled by communication logic 95. The serial link 3 is separate from the lines carrying the video and sync signals from the display adapter 92 to the display device. The communication logic 95 is divided into adapter logic 96 and device logic 97. In operation, the adapter logic 96 initiates commands for both reading and writing data to the NVM 9 and the device logic 97 responds accordingly.

The communication logic 95 will now be described in further detail with reference to Figure 2. The adapter logic 96 comprises a device driver 1 for generating a command code 21 in response to a program instruction. A first serialiser 2 translates the command code 21 into a command bit stream 22 for a first line driver 4 to communicate to the device logic 97 along the serial link 3. The device logic 97 comprises a second receiver 5 for detecting the command bit stream 22. A second deserialiser 6 translates the command bit stream 22 back into the command code 21. A command decoder 7 decodes the command code 21 into an NVM address 8. Address space in the NVM 9 is divided into a personality NVM 10 and a program NVM 11.

The personality NVM 10 contains identification codes for providing the display system with a specification of the display device 88 connected to the display adapter 92. Each identification code is stored in a different address location. The identification codes include coded timing parameters for enabling the display adapter 92 to generate appropriate video and sync signals. Specifically, the timing parameters include sync pulse widths, active video periods, and blanking intervals. Preferably, the identification codes also include a coded transfer parameter for indicating the maximum rate at which the device logic 97 can read or write data to the serial link 3. By read-

ing the transfer parameter before issuing any further commands, the adapter logic 96 can ensure that data is subsequently transferred between the display device 88 and the display adapter 92 at a rate which is compatible with both the adapter logic 96 and the device logic 97. Each timing parameter is stored in the form of a sixteen bit identification code. Fifteen bits of the code specify the value of the timing parameter and the sixteenth bit specifies the polarity. It will be appreciated that less critical timing parameters may be stored in the form of eight bit codes or less. The personality NVM stores several sets of timing parameters corresponding to different display modes of the display device.

The program NVM 11 stores control codes for instructing a display input/output (I/O) circuit 12 to adjust drive signals generated by drive circuitry 13 in the display device. Examples of such drive signals directly affect the height, width, and brightness of the visual output from the display device 88. Each control code is stored in a different address location. By instructing the display I/O circuit 12 with appropriate control codes, the visual output of the display device 88 can be switched between different display modes under the control of a computer program. Preferably the program NVM 11 also stores control codes for instructing the display I/O circuit 12 to generate sample codes representative of drive signal magnitudes at predetermined nodes of the drive circuitry 13. It will be appreciated that such control codes may be used to automate diagnostic methods for testing the operation of the display device 88 after manufacture or repair.

When the adapter logic 96 issues a read command, the device logic 97 responds by placing an appropriate response code 23 on the serial link 3. The response code 23 may either be an identification code 20 from the personality NVM or a sampled data code 19 from the display I/O circuit 12 depending on the nature of the read command. For implementing such a response, the device logic 97 comprises parity logic 14 for adding a parity bit to the response code 23. A second serialiser 15 translates the response code 23 into a response bit stream 24. The response bit stream 24 is placed on the serial link 3 by a second line driver 16. In the display adapter 92, a first receiver 17 detects the response bit stream 24 on the serial link 3. A first deserialiser 18 translates the detected response bit stream 24 back into the response code 23 which is decoded by the device driver 1.

The first serialiser and the first deserialiser of the adapter logic can be combined in a single integrated circuit module, and a similar module can be used to implement the second serialiser and the second deserialiser. The first line driver and the first receiver can also be incorporated in a single integrated module, and a similar driver/receiver module can be used to implement the second line driver and the second receiver.

The adapter logic 96 can be configured to receive a response from the device logic 97 in either a "Handshaking" mode or a "Data-streaming" mode. In the "Handshaking" mode, the device logic 97 waits for the adaptor logic to place an acknowledgement code on the serial link 3 before sending the next byte of the response. In the "Data-streaming" mode, the device logic 97 waits for the adapter logic 96 to acknowledge receiving a block of bytes of the response before sending the next block.

An example of the present invention has been described wherein display information is communicated between the display adapter 92 and the display device 88 by communication logic 95 comprising a serial link 3 which is separate from the lines carrying the video and sync signal from the display adapter 92 to the display device. It will be appreciated however that other communication links and coding methods may be used. Furthermore, the example of the present invention includes a raster-scanned display device. It will be appreciated that the present invention is equally applicable to other display devices such as Liquid Crystal Display device or vector-scanned display devices.

Claims

1. A display system comprising

a display device (88) for generating a visual output in response to a plurality of data signals defining the data to be displayed,

a display adapter circuit (92) for generating the data signals in a form specified by control data identifying the display device (88),

an output port (94) for transmitting the data signals from the display adapter circuit (92) to the display device (88) and for transmitting the control data from the display device (88) to the display adapter circuit (92),

characterised in that the display system further comprises

a non-volatile memory (9) located in the display device (88) for storing the control data in the form of a plurality of control codes, and

communication logic (95) for communicating a control code between the memory and the output port (94) in response to a command signal (21) generated by the display adapter circuit (92).

2. A display system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication logic comprises

a serial data link (3) for communicating the control code between the display device and the output port,

device logic (97) located in the display device for communicating the control code between the memory and the serial data link, and

adapter logic (96) located in the display adapter circuit for communicating the control code between the serial data link and the display adapter circuit.

3. A display system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the adapter logic comprises a first serialiser for translating a command signal (21) into a command bit stream (22), a first line driver connected to the output port for communicating the command bit stream (22) to the device logic along the serial link, a first receiver connected to the output port for receiving a control bit stream from the device logic along the serial link, and a first deserialiser for translating the control bit stream into a control code corresponding to the command signal (21),

and wherein the device logic comprises a second receiver for receiving the command bit stream (22) from the output port along the serial link, a second deserialiser for translating the command bit stream (22) into the command signal (21), a command decoder for translating the command signal (21) into a memory address for accessing the stored control code, a second serialiser for translating the control code into the control bit stream, a second line driver connected for communicating the control bit stream to the output port along the serial link.

4. A display system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the first serialiser and the first deserialiser are combined in a single integrated circuit module, and wherein the second serialiser and the second deserialiser are combined in a single integrated circuit module.

5. A display system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first line driver and the first receiver are incorporated in a single integrated circuit module, and wherein the second line driver and the second receiver are incorporated in the a single integrated circuit module.

6. A display system as claimed in claim 2 and further comprising means for configuring the display device to operate in different display modes in response to mode control signals communicated from the adapter logic to the device logic along the serial link.

7. A display system as claimed in claim 2 or claim 6 and further comprising means for adjusting operating parameters of drive circuitry of the display device in response to parameter control signals communicated from the adapter logic to the device logic along the serial link.

8. A display system as claimed in claim 7 and further comprising means for obtaining digital samples of signals at nodes of the drive circuitry and for communicating the samples from the device logic to the adapter logic along the serial link in response to a data request signal communicated from the adapter logic to the device logic along the serial link. 5
9. A display system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the control codes stored in the memory include digitally encoded data signal timing parameters for the display device. 10
10. A computer system comprising a display system as claimed in any preceding claim. 15
11. A computer system for connection to a display device (88), the computer system comprising:
 a display adaptor circuit (92) for generating data signals in a form specified by control data identifying the display device to produce a visual output on the display device (88); and
 an output port (94) for transmitting the data signals from the display adaptor circuit (92) to the display device (88) and for transmitting control data from the display device (88) to the display adaptor circuit (92); characterised in that the display adaptor circuit (92) includes: adaptor logic means (96) to send, via the output port (94), a command signal to the display device (88), and to receive from the display device (88), via the output port (94), the control data, in the form of a plurality of control codes, sent from the display device (88) in response to the command signal. 20 25 30 35

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Anzeigesystem, das folgendes umfaßt:
 eine Anzeigeeinheit (88) zur Generierung einer Bilddatenausgabe in Antwort auf eine Vielzahl von Datensignalen, welche die anzuzeigenden Daten definieren,
 eine Bildschirmadapterschaltung (92) zur Generierung der Datensignale in einer Form, die von Steuerdaten spezifiziert wird, welche für die Anzeigeeinheit (88) kennzeichnend sind,
 einen Ausgangsanschluß (94) zum Übermitteln der Datensignale von der Bildschirmadapterschaltung (92) an die Anzeigeeinheit (88) und zum Übermitteln der Steuerdaten von der Anzeigeeinheit (88) an die Bildschirmadapterschaltung (92),
 dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Anzeigesystem weiterhin folgendes umfaßt:
 einen in der Anzeigeeinheit (88) befindlichen, nichtflüchtigen Speicher (9) zum Speichern der 40 45 50 55

Steuerdaten in Form einer Vielzahl von Steuercodes, und
 Übertragungslogik (95) zur Übertragung eines Steuercodes zwischen dem Speicher und dem Ausgabeanschluß (94) in Antwort auf ein Befehlssignal (21), das von der Bildschirmadapterschaltung (92) generiert wird.

2. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in Anspruch 1 niedergelegt, in dem die Übertragungslogik folgendes umfaßt:
 eine serielle Datenverbindung (3) zum Übertragen des Steuercodes zwischen der Anzeigeeinheit und dem Ausgangsanschluß,
 in der Anzeigeeinheit befindliche Einheitenlogik (97) zur Übertragung des Steuercodes zwischen dem Speicher und der seriellen Datenverbindung, und
 in der Bildschirmadapterschaltung befindliche Adapterlogik (96) zur Übertragung des Steuercodes zwischen der seriellen Datenverbindung und der Bildschirmadapterschaltung.
3. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in Anspruch 2 niedergelegt, in dem die Adapterlogik einen ersten Serializer zur Umsetzung eines Befehlssignals (21) in einen Befehlsbitstrom (22) umfaßt, einen ersten an den Ausgangsanschluß angeschlossenen Leitungstreiber zur Übertragung des Befehlsbitstroms (22) an die Einheitenlogik über die serielle Verbindung, einen ersten, an den Ausgangsanschluß angeschlossenen Empfänger zum Empfang eines Steuerbitstroms von der Einheitenlogik über die serielle Verbindung, und einen ersten Deserializer zur Umsetzung des Steuerbitstroms in einen Steuercode, der dem Befehlssignal (21) entspricht,
 und bei dem die Einheitenlogik einen zweiten Empfänger zum Empfang des Befehlsbitstroms (22) vom Ausgangsanschluß über die serielle Verbindung umfaßt, sowie einen zweiten Deserializer zur Umsetzung des Befehlsbitstroms (22) in das Befehlssignal (21), einen Befehlsdecoder zur Umsetzung des Befehlssignals (21) in eine Speicheradresse für den Zugriff auf den gespeicherten Steuercode, einen zweiten Serializer zur Umsetzung des Steuercodes in den Steuerbitstrom, und einen zweiten angeschlossenen Leitungstreiber, der den Steuerbitstrom über die serielle Verbindung an den Ausgangsanschluß überträgt.
4. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in Anspruch 3 niedergelegt, bei dem der erste Serializer und der erste Deserializer in einem einzelnen integrierten Schaltkreismodul kombiniert sind, und bei dem der zweite Serializer und der zweite Deserializer in einem einzelnen integrierten Schaltkreismodul

kombiniert sind.

5. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in Anspruch 4 oder Anspruch 5 offenbart, bei dem der erste Leitungstreiber und der erste Empfänger in einem einzelnen integrierten Schaltkreismodul zusammengefaßt sind, und bei dem der zweite Leitungstreiber und der zweite Empfänger in einem einzelnen integrierten Schaltkreismodul zusammengefaßt sind. 5
6. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in Anspruch 2 offenbart, das weiterhin Mittel zum Konfigurieren der Anzeigeeinheit für den Betrieb in verschiedenen Anzeigemodi in Antwort auf Modussteuersignale umfaßt, die von der Adapterlogik über die serielle Verbindung an die Einheitenlogik übertragen werden. 10
7. Eine Anzeigeeinheit wie in Anspruch 2 oder Anspruch 6 niedergelegt, die weiterhin Mittel zum Anpassen der Betriebsparameter von Ansteuererschaltungen der Anzeigeeinheit in Antwort auf Parametersteuersignale umfaßt, die von der Adapterlogik über die serielle Verbindung an die Einheitenlogik übertragen werden. 15
8. Eine Anzeigeeinheit wie in Anspruch 7 offenbart, die weiterhin Mittel zum Abrufen von digitalen Signalabtastwerten an Knoten der Ansteuererschaltungen und zum Übertragen der Abtastwerte von der Einheitenlogik über die serielle Verbindung zur Adapterlogik in Antwort auf ein Datenanforderungssignal umfaßt, welches von der Adapterlogik über die serielle Verbindung an die Einheitenlogik übertragen wird. 20
9. Ein Anzeigesystem wie in einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche niedergelegt, bei dem die im Speicher abgelegten SteuerCodes digital verschlüsselte Signalzeitsteuerungsparameter für die Anzeigeeinheit enthalten. 25
10. Ein Computersystem, das ein Anzeigesystem wie in einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche niedergelegt umfaßt. 30
11. Ein Computersystem für den Anschluß an eine Anzeigeeinheit (88), wobei das Computersystem folgendes umfaßt: 35
 - eine Anzeigeadapterschaltung (92) zur Erzeugung von Datensignalen in einer Form, die von Steuerdaten spezifiziert wird, die für die Anzeigeeinheit kennzeichnend sind, um eine visuelle Ausgabe auf der Anzeigeeinheit (88) zu erzeugen; und
 - einen Ausgangsanschluß (94) für die Übertragung der Datensignale von der Anzeigeadapter-

schaltung (92) zur Anzeigeeinheit (88) und für die Übertragung von Steuerdaten der Anzeigeeinheit (88) zur Anzeigeadapterschaltung (92); dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Anzeigeadapterschaltung (92) folgendes umfaßt: Adapterlogikmittel (96), um über den Ausgangsanschluß (94) ein Befehlssignal an die Anzeigeeinheit (88) zu senden und um von der Anzeigeeinheit (88) über den Ausgangsanschluß (94) die Steuerdaten in Form einer Vielzahl von SteuerCodes zu empfangen, die von der Anzeigeeinheit (88) in Antwort auf das Befehlssignal gesendet werden.

Revendications

1. Système d'affichage comprenant un dispositif d'affichage (88) pour générer une sortie visuelle en réponse à une pluralité de signaux de données définissant les données à afficher, un circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) pour générer les signaux de données sous une forme spécifiée par des données de contrôle identifiant le dispositif d'affichage (88), un port de sortie (94) pour transmettre les signaux de données du circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) au dispositif d'affichage (88) et pour transmettre les données de contrôle du dispositif d'affichage (88) au circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92), caractérisé en ce que le système d'affichage comporte en outre une mémoire non volatile (9) disposée dans le dispositif d'affichage (88) pour mémoriser les données de contrôle sous la forme d'une pluralité de codes de contrôle, et une logique de communication (95) pour communiquer un code de contrôle entre la mémoire et le port de sortie (94) en réponse à un signal de commande (21) généré par le circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92). 25
2. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 1, dans lequel la logique de communication comprend un lien de données série (3) pour communiquer le code de contrôle entre le dispositif d'affichage et le port de sortie, une logique de dispositif (97) disposée dans le dispositif d'affichage pour communiquer le code de contrôle entre la mémoire et le lien de données série et une logique d'adaptateur (96) disposée dans le circuit adaptateur d'affichage pour communiquer le code de contrôle entre le lien de données série et le circuit adaptateur d'affichage. 30
3. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la 35

- revendication 2, dans lequel la logique d'adaptateur comprend un premier sérialiseur pour traduire un signal de commande (21) en un flux de bits de commande (22), un premier circuit de pilotage de ligne connecté au port de sortie pour communiquer le flux de bits de commande (22) à la logique de dispositif sur le lien série, un premier récepteur connecté au port de sortie pour recevoir un flux de bits de contrôle de la logique de dispositif sur le lien série, et un premier désérialiseur pour traduire le flux de bits de contrôle en un code de contrôle correspondant au signal de commande (21),
 et dans lequel le dispositif logique comprend un second récepteur pour recevoir le flux de bits de commande (22) du port de sortie sur le lien série, un second désérialiseur pour traduire le flux de bits de commande (22) en un signal de commande (21), un décodeur de commande pour traduire le signal de commande (21) en une adresse mémoire pour accéder au code de contrôle mémorisé, un second sérialiseur pour traduire le code de contrôle en flux de bits de contrôle, un second circuit de pilotage de ligne connecté pour communiquer le flux de bits de contrôle au port de sortie sur le lien série.
4. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 3, dans lequel le premier sérialiseur et le premier désérialiseur sont combinés en un module de circuit intégré unique, et dans lequel le second sérialiseur et le second désérialiseur sont combinés en un module de circuit intégré unique.
 5. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 4 ou la revendication 5, dans lequel le premier circuit de pilotage de ligne et le premier récepteur sont incorporés dans un module de circuit intégré unique, et dans lequel le second circuit de pilotage de ligne et le second récepteur sont incorporés dans un module de circuit intégré unique.
 6. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 2, comprenant en outre des moyens pour configurer le dispositif d'affichage pour fonctionner dans des modes d'affichage différents en réponse à des signaux de contrôle de mode communiqués par la logique d'adaptateur à la logique de dispositif sur le lien série.
 7. Dispositif d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 2 ou la revendication 6, comprenant en outre des moyens pour ajuster les paramètres de fonctionnement du circuit de pilotage du dispositif d'affichage en réponse à des signaux de contrôle de paramètre communiqués par la logique d'adaptateur à la logique de dispositif sur le lien série.
 8. Dispositif d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 7, et comprenant en outre des moyens pour obtenir des échantillons numériques de signaux à des noeuds du circuit de pilotage et pour communiquer les échantillons de la logique de dispositif à la logique d'adaptateur sur le lien série en réponse à un signal de demande de données communiqué par la logique d'adaptateur à la logique de dispositif sur le lien série.
 9. Système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les codes de contrôle stockés dans la mémoire incluent des paramètres de synchronisation de signal de données numériquement encodés pour le dispositif d'affichage.
 10. Système d'ordinateur comprenant un système d'affichage tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes.
 11. Système d'ordinateur pour la connexion à un dispositif d'affichage (88), le système d'ordinateur comprenant :
 un circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) pour générer des signaux de données sous une forme spécifiée par des données de contrôle identifiant le dispositif d'affichage pour produire une sortie visuelle sur le dispositif d'affichage (88) ; et
 un port de sortie (94) pour transmettre les signaux de données du circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) au dispositif d'affichage (88) et pour transmettre des données de contrôle du dispositif d'affichage (88) au circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) ; caractérisé en ce que le circuit adaptateur d'affichage (92) inclut : des moyens de logique d'adaptateur (96) pour envoyer, par l'intermédiaire du port de sortie (94), un signal de commande au dispositif d'affichage (88), et pour recevoir du dispositif d'affichage (88), par l'intermédiaire du port de sortie (94), les données de contrôle, sous la forme d'une pluralité de codes de contrôle, envoyés à partir du dispositif d'affichage (88) en réponse au signal de commande.

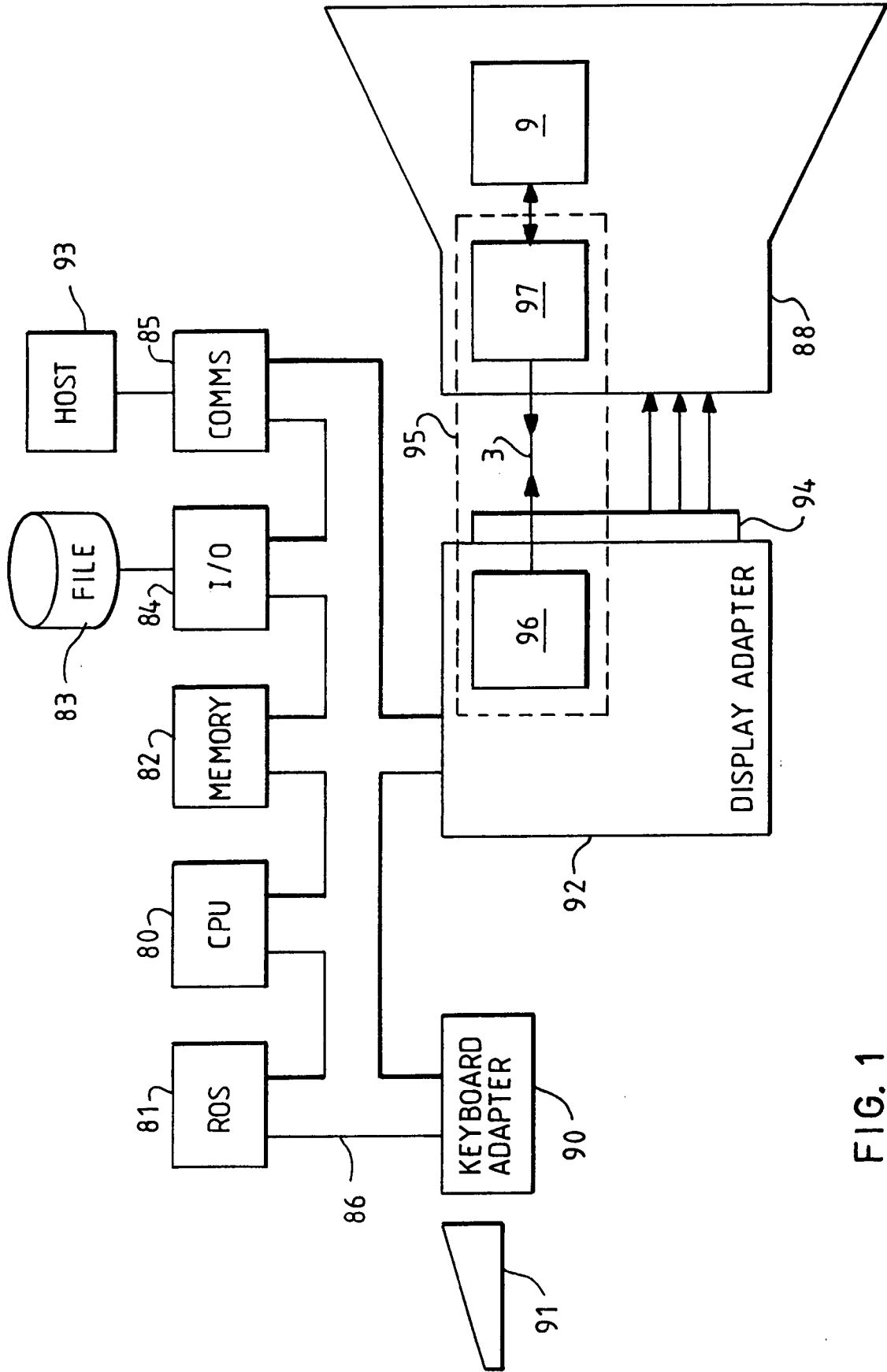


FIG. 1

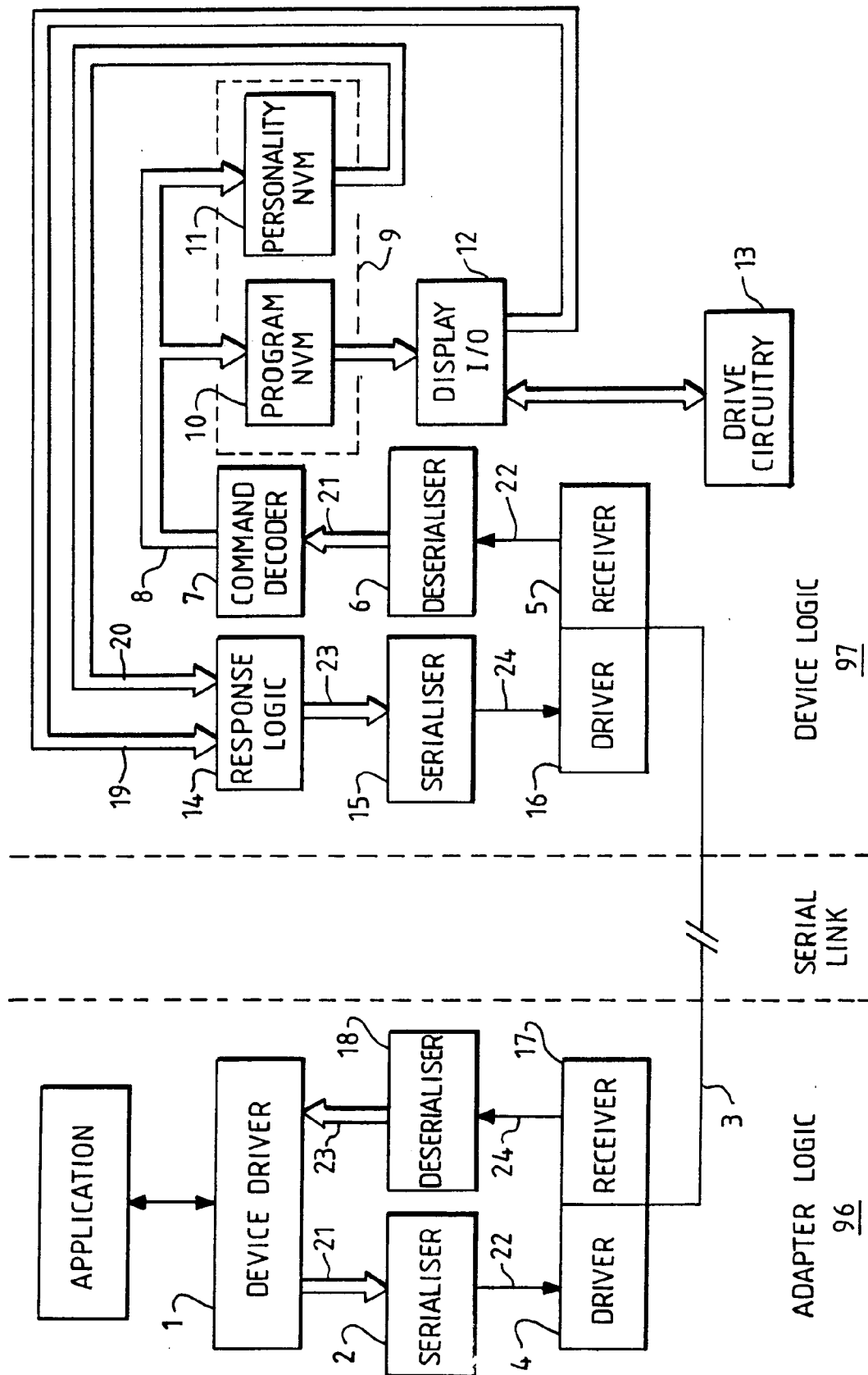


FIG. 2