

TI, Unibrain, Release New 1394b Drivers

Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) and Unibrain have introduced a turn-key 1394b (FireWire®) development kit for use in a variety of peripheral and motherboard applications. TI has licensed Unibrain's ubCore™ version 4.0 FireWire driver suite that will be bundled with TI's 1394b chipset (TSB82AA2 and TSB81BA3). (See www.ti.com/unibrainpr for more information.)

"Software availability and support for 1394b has been one of the key barriers to rapid market adoption of this high-performance serial bus, and we have now eliminated that barrier," said Zephra Freeman, marketing manager, PC connectivity, TI. "To support the growing demand for 1394b and to ensure interoperability, TI is making these drivers available at no charge to our customers."

"We are working very closely with TI and Unibrain to find creative ways to further accelerate the adoption of 1394 for peripheral products as well as motherboards, said James Snider, executive director of the 1394 Trade Association. "We are anticipating large demand for 1394 based products." The Unibrain driver stack, already in use by major motherboard manufacturers, is a set of low-level drivers with a top-down layered structure that provides the physical interface to various 1394 devices. It includes full and native 1394b support at 800Mbps; full 1394b CAT5 (100Mbps) and POF (200Mbps) support; complete 1394a and 1394b SBP2 disk support; and complete 1394a and 1394b IIDC camera support.

The ubCore combined with FireAPI™ (Unibrain's 1394 Development Toolkit), provides software developers a powerful set of functions and tools, in kernel or user mode, to help integrate 1394 technology into products.

"Unibrain is excited to work with the industry leader in interface technologies to deliver a truly complete hardware and software solution for the 1394b protocol," said George Zachopoulos, managing director of Unibrain S.A.

Trade Association Completes Successful Compliance Testing at Apple's WWDC

The 1394 TA took part once again in the annual Worldwide Developers' Conference hosted by Apple Computer in San Francisco in June. TA Chair Eric Anderson presented an update on the benefits of FireWire in emerging



home entertainment applications to some 200 developers, focused on the long-term view of the exciting features and benefits enabled by FireWire.

In addition, for the third year, the TA held a compliance and interoper-

ability workshop at which Apple, the TA, and Quantum Parametrics have joined forces to sponsor the compliance plugfest during the Apple Campus Bash. "As in our past workshops at the WWDC, several innovative FireWire-equipped devices were tested during the Apple WWDC", said Richard Mourn of Quantum Parametrics, which conducts the testing. "It is always interesting to see what will appear at an event like this, and we issued several new compliance logos again this time."

The 2005 WWDC was Apple's best ever, with the highest attendance in 10 years.

1394 and Mass-Storage Support on Solaris Systems

In the Solaris release of October 2004, the 1394 OpenHCI host controller driver has been updated to include support for x86 (Solaris) systems. Previously support for 1394 (FireWire) technology was only available on SPARC systems.

For more information, see the hci1394(7D) main page at <http://cvs.opensolaris.org/source/xref/usr/src/uts/sparc/hci1394/>.

In this release, the scca1394 driver has been introduced to support 1394 mass-storage devices that are compliant with the Serial Bus Protocol 2 (SBP-2) specification. This driver supports both bus-powered and self-powered 1394 mass storage devices. Previously, only 1394 video cameras were supported.

1394 mass storage devices are treated as removable media devices. A 1394 mass storage device can be formatted by using the **rmformat** command. Using a 1394 mass-storage device is no different than using a USB mass-storage device. You can mount, eject, hot-remove, and hot-insert a 1394 mass-storage device.

For more information about using these devices, see the hci1394(7D) main page at <http://cvs.opensolaris.org/source/xref/usr/src/uts/sparc/hci1394/>. See also Chapter 8, "Using USB Devices (Tasks)," in the *System Administration Guide: Devices and File Systems*.

TA Forms Task Group to Review 1394 Over Coax

During the third quarter meeting at Delphi Corporation in Troy, Michigan, the

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1394 Trade Association formed a new task group to review various coax implementations of 1394. The group will be chaired by Hans van der Ven. During upcoming months it will be selecting the best components required to define the 1394 coax standard in a timely fashion for rapid market deployment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 2005

- **DisplaySearch HDTV Conference 2005**
August 23-24
The Beverly Hilton
Los Angeles, California

September 2005

- **CEDIA Expo**
September 7-11
Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 2005

- **Connected@Home 2005**
October 3 –6
Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada
- **1394 TA 4th Quarterly Meeting**
October 2 – 5
Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada
- **2nd European Connected Home Forum**
October 11 – 12
Business Design Center Ltd.
London, England

November 2005

- **EHX Fall 2005**
November 9 – 11
Anaheim Convention Center & Marriott Hotel
Anaheim, California

January 2006

- **1394 TA 1st Quarterly Meeting**
January 23 – 26
Waikoloa Beach Resort
Kona, Hawaii

1394TA Supports Third Annual DisplaySearch HDTV Conference

The 1394 TA will be an association sponsor in the third annual *DisplaySearch HDTV Conference 2005: the Future of Television* August 23-4 at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

The conference will bring together the world's largest TV manufacturers, leading proponents of the Blu-ray vs. HD DVD format debate and top HD content providers. This year's conference will address the future outlook for HDTV content, HDTV content distribution, the TV market, technology, resolutions, different sales channels and television electronics. Representatives from Dell, Hewlett Packard, LG Electronics, Mitsubishi, Panasonic, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, Sony and Syntax will participate as keynotes, invited speakers and panelists at this year's event. The sessions now scheduled include the following:

August 23:

Expanding Current and Next Generation HD (1080p) Content;
Distributing HD Content – Challenges and Opportunities;
Lessons from the Channel;
and The Global TV Market/HD Policy Update and Outlook;

August 24

The Keynote Session will be entitled "TV Brands' HD/TV Market Outlook" and it will feature presentations from executives at Panasonic, Samsung and Sony.

Other scheduled sessions on August 24 include the following:

LCD TVs: When Will They Take Over?

PDP TVs: Will They Dominate the 40"-50" Market?

Rear Projection TVs: Can Rapid Growth Be Sustained?

Display Electronics: Defining the Right Solution

For more information about the DisplaySearch conference, visit <http://www.displaysearch.com/hdtvconference/index.html>