

155 to hardware 110 and attachment portion 140 for attaching bracket 155 to rack system 120. Hardware 110 includes mounting surface 160 on the housing for hardware 110. In one embodiment, mounting surface 160 is an interior surface of the housing for hardware 110. In other embodiments, the mounting surface is a front of the housing, or the back of the housing. The device may be mounted horizontally or vertically, or at an angle. The device may be mounted behind a front bezel. In other embodiments, multiple devices are mounted to a single rack system or to a single hardware device.

[0020] System 100 includes base member 130 configured for attachment to a mounting surface. As shown in FIG. 1, base member 130 is attached to mounting surface 160. Grasping tab 135 is shown extending from base member 130. A flexible label is not illustrated in FIG. 1 because the flexible label is in a closed scroll configuration, wherein the only portion of the flexible label that is visible outside the base member 130 is grasping tab 135.

[0021] FIG. 2 illustrates flexible label 170 in an open scroll configuration and extending between the grasping tab 135 and base member 130. Technical information 175 (shown in FIG. 4B) is displayed on at least one surface of flexible label 170. Flexible label 170 is moveable between the closed scroll configuration depicted in FIG. 1, and the open scroll configuration depicted in FIG. 2, as well as any number of intermediate configurations exposing a greater or lesser portion of a surface of the flexible label 170 in which more or less technical information 175 is revealed to a user. Flexible label 170 is attached to a grasping tab at one end in one embodiment. Flexible label 170 includes an attachment end for affixing to a base member opposite the end that may be attached to a grasping tab. Flexible label 170 may be substantially opaque such that information displayed on one side of the label is not visible when viewed from the other side of the label, or substantially transparent such that information displayed on one side of the label is visible when viewed from the other side of the label. Flexible label 170 may be as wide or narrow as design constraints allow, and may be as long or as short as necessary to contain the desired level of information based on a design decision. The flexible label may be made of any thin, flexible, durable material that is configured to receive indelible images of information and be rolled onto, for example, a rod.

[0022] Technical information 175 (FIG. 4B) may include any information relevant to use, operation, and/or repair of hardware 110. For example, technical information 175 includes, without limitation, hardware safety information, hardware service information, agency information, information configured for computer interpretation, IP addresses, host names, contact information, warranty information, serial number, model number, part numbers, replacement part numbers, manufacturer information, and usage instructions. For example, technical information may be inscribed upon flexible label in a fashion not comprehensible to a human eye, such as a bar code, or another machine-readable coding scheme. In such an embodiment, the information is deciphered using a standard or customized technical information reader (not shown) that may be affixed to the storage rack, or be a free standing device. In one embodiment, the most important technical information is printed closest to the grasping tab, while less important technical information is printed closer to the attachment portion of flexible label 170.

Importance of information may be defined in any appropriate fashion. In another embodiment, flexible label 170 includes at least one note portion configured to receive notes from technicians or users in a permanent (i.e. written with a pen) or semi-permanent fashion (i.e. written with, for example, a dry-erase marker). The note portion, for example, may be used to track service histories or pass information from technician to technician.

[0023] FIG. 3A illustrates one embodiment of a grasping tab in accordance with the invention. Grasping tab 135 is configured to be affixed to a flexible label for controlling the configuration of the flexible label between an open scroll and closed scroll configuration. FIG. 3B illustrates another embodiment of a grasping tab in accordance with the invention. As illustrated in FIG. 3B, grasping tab 135 includes an information indicator 136. An information indicator is an icon or other indication that further information is available by use of the grasping tab 135.

[0024] FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate another embodiment of the invention, wherein base member 130 is affixed to bracket 155 at attachment portion 140. Although not illustrated, those of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that the base member 130 may be affixed to the connection portion 150 in other embodiments of the invention. FIG. 4A illustrates flexible label 170 in the closed scroll configuration, while FIG. 4B illustrates flexible label 170 in the open scroll configuration, with technical information 175 displayed on one surface of flexible label 170. FIG. 4C illustrates the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4B, and illustrating technical information 175 displayed on another surface of flexible label 170. As shown in FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C, technical information 175 may be located on one surface of flexible label 170, two surfaces of flexible label 170 (e.g. front and back), or any number of surfaces of flexible label 170.

[0025] FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate yet another embodiment of the invention wherein base member 130 is configured to extend through the housing for hardware 110. FIG. 5A illustrates flexible label 170 in the closed scroll configuration, while FIG. 5B illustrates flexible label 170 in the open scroll configuration, with technical information 175 displayed on one surface of flexible label 170. FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate an embodiment of the invention wherein the base member comprises the computer housing. In one embodiment, the computer housing is configured for use in a computer equipment rack.

[0026] FIG. 6A illustrates a side view cross section of base member 130 including a rod 650. Rod 650 is configured to rotate about pin 660 to wind and unwind flexible label 170 as flexible label travels between the open scroll and closed scroll configurations. The flexible label winds around the circumference of rod 650. Rod 650 is rotatably attached to a computer housing in one embodiment. In another embodiment, rod 650 is rotatably attached to base member 130. In one embodiment, rod 650 is configured as a cylinder, although other geometries are envisaged.

[0027] FIG. 6B illustrates a side view cross section of another embodiment of base member 130 including a rod 650. As shown in FIG. 6B, base member 130 includes a flexible label 170 extending from its position encircling the rod 650, through the body of the housing 130, and culminating in grasping tab 135.