METHOD FOR REPLACING A DEVICE DRIVER DURING SYSTEM OPERATION

ABSTRACT

A method and system for replacing a device driver during system operation provides for hot-swapping device drivers without shutting down a device driver stack. Particularly useful with file system and file storage devices, the method and system utilise a shell device driver (31) that replaces the physical device driver's entry point interface. The shell device driver (31) has a device driver side interface that calls the physical device driver in response to operating system requests. When an update of the physical device driver is requested, either by an operating system utility or a special upgrade application, the shell device driver (31) receives an update indication. The shell device driver (31) can then finish required tasks, uncouple and unload the existing physical device driver and couple to the new device driver without disrupting the operating system device interface.

Fig. 2