ABSTRACT

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING REAL MODE CARD SERVICES CLIENTS WITH A PROTECTED MODE CARD SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION.

PCMCIA defines a standard interface for small portable computer peripherals. Part of the PCMCIA specification defines a Card Services software layer. The current PCMCIA specification defines a Card Services layer that provides Card Services to clients that wish to use PCMCIA cards. A Card Services Compatibility Driver is defined that ensures compatibility with real mode clients. The Card Services Compatibility Driver is a device driver or TSR that loads near the beginning of the computer system boot procedure. The Card Services Compatibility Driver simulates a full implementation of Card Services by supporting only the functions that are legal when no cards are installed in the system even though cards may be installed in the system. Later, a full protected mode implementation of Card Services is loaded into the system. The Card Services Compatibility Driver transfers all the state information it collects during the computer system boot procedure to the full protected mode implementation of Card Services. After receiving this information, the full protected mode implementation of Card Services takes control and services all later Card Services requests. The full protected mode implementation of Card Services also informs the registered Card Services clients of any cards inserted in the system by making card insertion callbacks.

(Figure 4)