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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INTEL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **WILSON, Todd** [US/US]; 9836 Wesbourne Way, Granite Bay, CA 95746 (US). **CHRISTOPHERSON, Mark** [US/US]; 2317 Tuscany Street, Roseville, CA 95661 (US). **GAFKEN, Andrew** [US/US]; 991 Patrick Circle, Folsom, CA 95630 (US). **DODSON, Tom** [US/US]; 600 Falcons Crest Lane, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 (US). **LOVELACE, John, H.** [US/US]; 1952 Kennerly Road, Irmo, SC 29063 (US).

(74) Agents: **ALTMILLER, John, C.** et al.; Kenyon & Kenyon, Suite 600, 333 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).

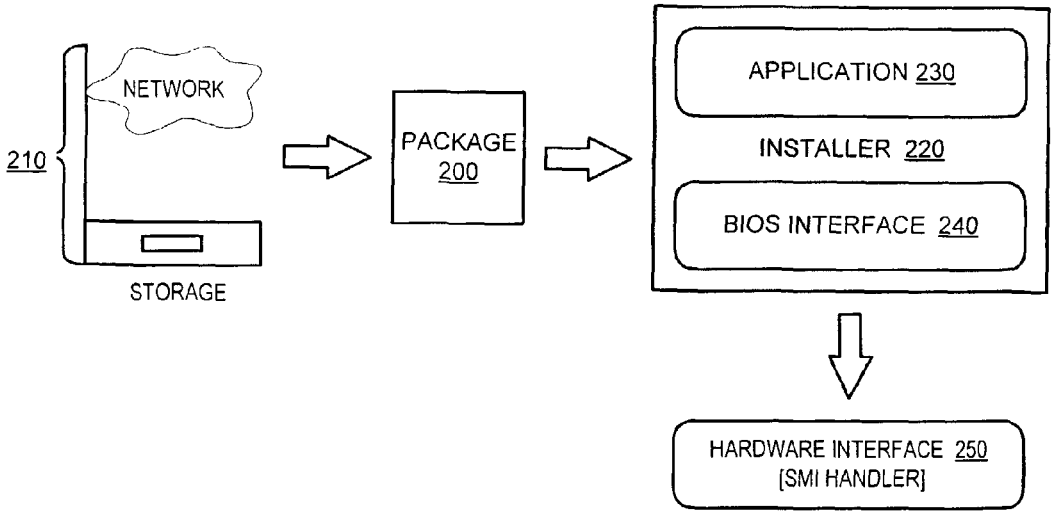
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(54) Title: MODULAR BIOS UPDATE MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A modular BIOS update mechanism provides a standardized method to update options ROMs and to provide video and processor microcode upgrades in a computer system without requiring a complete replacement of the system BIOS. The MBU mechanism provides several advantages. First, new features and BIOS bugs from earlier release may be delivered to an installed base of end-user systems even if direct OEM support cannot be identified. Also, BIOS components may be provided as a validated set of revisions. With resort to a validation matrix, BIOS updates may be managed easily. The modular BIOS update is particularly useful in systems having several independent BIOS's stored within unitary firmware.

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