DISK DRIVE INCOMPATIBLE FIRMWARE RECOVERY

ABSTRACT

A disk type data storage device (10) is disclosed wherein the control firmware is partitioned with a first portion stored in the control circuitry and a second portion stored in the reserved area of the disk (16). Identifiers are associated with the firmware portions and a copy of the firmware first portion as well as the firmware second portion on the disk (16). The firmware first portion on the disk (16) is normally never accessed and is a version compatible with the firmware second portion on the disk (16). In the event that a portion of the firmware has been replaced and a finding of incompatibility occurs, first portion of firmware stored in ROM (53) is erased and replaced by the firmware first portion stored on the disk (16). The firmware portions are thereupon compatible and drive operation continues without user intervention or awareness of the problem except for a one time, modest lengthening of the power on sequence.

Fig. 3.