

USER-DEFINED DATA IN AN UNUSED REGION OF DATA STORAGE MEDIA

ABSTRACT

A storage device controller that records user data in a plurality of equal-sized partitions (0 to 15) in parallel liner tracks and records tape format information in a protected region (48) at one end of a track and thereby defines an unused area (5-1 to 5-7) across all the remaining storage media tracks in which user data is not recorded, provides a user accessible supplemental storage area by storing user data in one or more of the unused areas.

Fig. 3.