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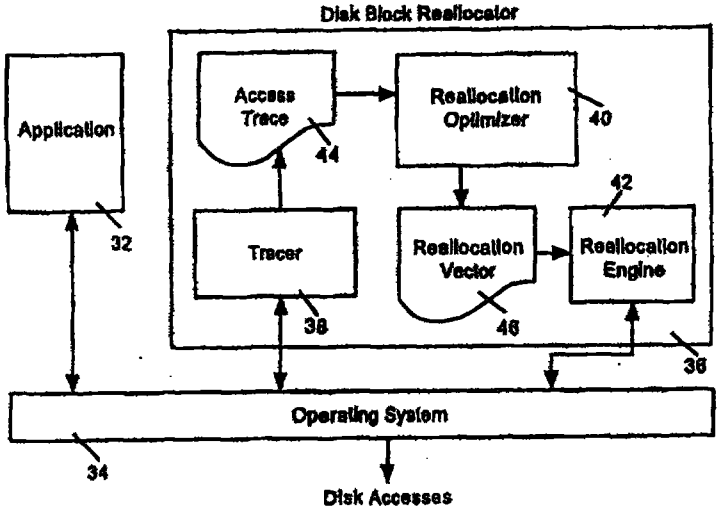
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING DISK DRIVE PERFORMANCE



(57) Abstract

An apparatus (36) is programmed with a plurality of programming instructions for generating, if possible, an alternative disk block allocation (40) for a current disk block allocation (46) that will yield improved overall access time for a sequence of disk accesses. In some embodiments, the programming instructions include the logic (38) for tracing the sequence of disk accesses to determine the current disk block allocation, the logic for generating the alternative disk block allocation, if possible, using the trace results, and the logic (42) for effectuating the alternate disk block allocation, if generated. In one particular embodiment, the logic (40) for generating the alternative disk block allocation employs a random search approach, while in another embodiment, the logic (4) for generating the alternative disk block allocation employs a heuristic approach.