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(54) Title: PRODUCT INFORMATION IDENTIFICATION IN A HEAD DISC ASSEMBLY

(57) Abstract

An apparatus and associated method are disclosed for improving the operational performance of a disc drive (100) through the identification of vital product information associated with a head-disc assembly (HDA) (101) of the disc drive. The disc drive comprises a printed wiring assembly (PWA) (132) housing control circuitry (136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148) for the disc drive. The HDA is operably coupled to the printed wiring assembly and includes a rotatable disc (106) to which data are written by a controllably positionable head (120). A non-volatile memory device (130) is mounted on the HDA and operably coupled to the PWA so that, when the disc drive is initialized, the PWA verifies the configuration of the HDA (202, 204, 206) before proceeding with the initialization of the disc drive, thereby preventing errors and damage to the disc drive as a result of the installation of a new, replacement PWA in the disc drive, or the downloading of new, incorrect firmware to the PWA.

