



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁶ :

G06F 12/06, 12/16

A1

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 98/15895

(43) International Publication Date:

16 April 1998 (16.04.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/17879

(22) International Filing Date: 3 October 1997 (03.10.97)

(30) Priority Data:

08/727,745

8 October 1996 (08.10.96)

US

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(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, KR, MX, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: EXPANSION OF THE NUMBER OF DRIVES IN A RAID SET WHILE MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF MIGRATED DATA

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for dynamically expanding an N drive RAID set to an M drive RAID set while maintaining data integrity, where the M drive RAID set includes one or more new drives. The method comprises the steps of identifying a destructive zone in the N drive RAID set including destructive zone data (400). Thereafter the destructive zone data is mirrored in the M drive RAID set by copying it to a free location in the N drive RAID set (408) and to a location in a new drive in the M drive RAID set (410). Finally, the N drive RAID set is expanded to an M drive RAID set (414). Data integrity is assured in the N drive RAID set during migration by maintaining mirrored destructive zone data until the expansion step has completed migration of the destructive zone of the N drive RAID set (416).

